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VOICE OF WORLD

Annual Report

2010-2011

ADDRESSING THE INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS WHO HAVE BEEN WITH US ALL THE WAY

We are happy to announce that 2010 - 2011 was our 19th year of relentless service to the visually challenged persons - both children and grownups, to impart education and training through our different centers for them to encounter their lives problems with their own strength. It has been VOW's dream to dedicate its entire effort for human development of the visually handicapped, orphans, hundreds of destitute women so that they can be given a fair living opportunity and a safe home. VOW continues to develop the different

centers they are running for the last decade. We take great pleasure in announcing that through those centers, during our tenure of rendering services, some 1600 V.H persons were benefited directly or indirectly through our different programs.

We welcome Sri Shyamal Kumar Sen, Hon'ble. Chief Justice High Court (Retd.) and Former Governor, West Bengal as the president of VOW Blind School Managing Committee.

We are also proud to say that we have received the long awaited Government Order (GO) dated 16th Nov

2010. As per the GO, "Voice of World" Blind School has been accorded State Sponsorship up to class IV. All the members, students, teaching staff were overjoyed for the sanction. I feel sure you will also share our joy.

The officials of the Department of Mass Education Extension Service inspected the premises of VOW and held a meeting.

We Will Remember

The year under review will, henceforth, be sadly remembered as a year of profound grief. Voice of World lost two father figures in quick succession in the month of October, 2010. Sri.Ashok Kumar Sen, the President of 'Voice of World' and Sri.Ashok Chodhury, the President of 'Voice of World Blind School' passed away on 13th October 2010 and 12th October 2010 respectively. Both of them had made immense contribution to bring up the organization to its present state. As a mark of respect the organization postponed all its activities connected with the Durga Puja festival(a major Indian festival) forthwith.

This year we also lost Dr. Saroj Gupta, a world renowned oncologist on 21stMay 2010 who was always with us to share our joy and sorrow. We also lost our two senior Ex-Governing body members Mr Ashim Sen and Tapash Mitra. The losses are inconsolable and irreparable; we know in our heart what we have lost. Let us all pray for the departed souls. A condolence meeting was organized at 4, Nrisingha Dutta Road. The achievements of these men will not go unnoticed.

When we do the best that we can, we never know what miracle is wrought in our life, or in the life of another ---

Helen Keller



Our Achievements this year

“Our task must be to free ourselves from this prison by widening our circles of compassion to embrace all living creatures and the whole of nature in its beauty.” - Albert Einstein

Rescue and Rehabilitation –

On being informed of a destitute handicapped girl, named **Monika** (Polio affected) by a few of our associates, we involved ourselves in searching the said girl and rescued her in our Ambulance on 27th April 2010 (bandh day) from Ichhapur, 24 Pgs(N). The girl is putting up at our Home – ‘Pratyasha’ after completion of official formalities.

We also rescued a visually handicapped girl, **Feli** in June 2010 from Bongaon Govt Hospital for proper rehabilitation and put her up at our Home for destitute at Thakurpukur

On the 5th of February, 2011 a helpless girl was spotted by Mural Bhai of Adyapith, Shankar Maharaj and their companion a renowned Judge. The representatives of Voice of World rescued the girl. They found the girl in abnormal state of mind and in advanced stage of pregnancy. On 27th of Feb 2011 she gave birth to a **boy child**. Namita, a recent widow arrived at Kolkata with one child in arm and another in her womb from Uttaranchal in search of her previous childhood home and eventually found a temporary dishwashing job at a footpath shop at Koilaghata. They were rescued by Secretary VOW and were made inmates of VOW. The woman gave birth to a boy after two months.

Besides vow students and guests, representatives of the Press and Media attended this grand marriage ceremony.

Sri Soumen Lahiri, teacher of VOW Blind School was blessed with a

bride.

Social Rehabilitation - One of the missions of Voice of World is Social Rehabilitation after the end of education of its students. We are happy to inform that one of our blind students Tamanna got a job as a Data Entry Operator at Sriram Group of Industries. Prior to this, she underwent one year course on Computer Training & Office Management organized by Voice of World and approved by Vocational Rehabilitation Centre, Govt of India, Kolkata. Smt. Padma Sarkar, an inmate of our Rishra Centre passed MA in History. She got herself qualified in School Service Examination last year and got the post of a Teacher at Dakshineswar Girls’ High School. Pushpa Maity, another inmate of our Rishra Centre passed MA in Bengali and qualified in SSC Examination this year. She is now awaiting posting. Voice of World prepared the above blind girls in all possible manners.

VOW arranged marriage between two of its orphan sightless students with lots of fun and merriments. Both **Bachhan Shaw** and **Tina Dalui** were staying with us for the last few years.

WE THANK



We take this opportunity also to extend our gratitude and heartfelt thanks to everyone amongst our patrons, donors, corporate houses, associated institutions and the concerned Govt. authorities both Central & State with special thanks to the Govt of W.B.

Ours special thanks to Smt. Jolly Chakraborty an NRI, who had volunteered to help raising our fund through a unique way when she formally requested all the invitees in her son’s marriage in India to divert their ‘marriage gifts if any’ to Voice of World.

Heartiest thanks needs also to be recorded for Mr. Natarajan Ayer of M/s. D. B. Logistic Pvt. Ltd. and Kaushik Roy of East Park Behala for their daily donation in kind, plenty of eatables for our children which is continuing more than a year and is likely to be continued with god grace.

Awareness Campaigns

Fairs - VOW, participated in the Kolkata Book Fair at Milan Mela, Chetana- Science Fair at Hatibagan and two other Socio cultural fairs organized one by the Rishra Municipality and the other by Sarbani, Tarakeswar. The Voice of World was invited to participate in a Fashion Show held at Park Hotel Calcutta. 10 Students of VOW took part in group dance. Some of them wore dresses befitting the occasion.

Environmental Awareness - As part of their social obligation our students takes special interest in any awareness programme on environment by Govt or other NGOs.

Rural Exposer - In our attempts to reach the unreached we were able to make some field surveys for

identification of Handicapped (especially VH and MR) amongst the marginalized people in remote rural areas through distribution of old and new garment which we regularly collect throughout the year.

Anti Drug Campaign - The students of VOW participated in an Anti Drug Campaign jointly by 'Bhalo Aachi' and Dakshin 24 Parganas Body Building Association. Apart from the key persons among the organizers and officials of the KMC, Secretary, VOW delivered a short but significant speech.

CSR - Voice of World received a substantial amount from M/s. Larsen & Toubro as part of their Corporate Social Responsibility. We have also received similar corporate donation from a Govt undertaking M/s Braithwaite & Co, when they donated

to VOW also this year as their 2nd year under CSR scheme for us.

Seminar - The VOW organized a seminar to discuss on the 'problems as well as its solutions relating to Reading and writing of the sightless students'. The VOW attended another seminar at Chandimandir to discuss the problems of physically challenged candidates in various competitive exams.

40 students accompanied the Rally organized by "Atti",



Events & Celebrations

Helen Keller's Birth Anniversary Competition - The students of VOW celebrated 130th birth anniversary of Helen Keller at 'Ganabhaban', Darjipara. A competition of cultural activities amongst all visually challenged students of W.B was organized on 4th July through a day long programme.

Rabindra Jayanti - VOW celebrated the 150th birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore at all its Centres.

Independence Day - VOW celebrated the Independence Day in presence of the local councilor and Interact Club, City of Joy at Sakherbazar and at all other centres.

World Disabled Day - VOW observed World Disabled Day

through Programme held at Birendra Mancha, Shyampukur Street. The Hon'ble former Governor of West Bengal Shri Shyamal Kumar Sen felicitated the students of VOW who passed the Madhyamik / Higher Secondary Examination in 2010.

Picnic - The Voice of World arranged a grand picnic at Saltighat. All the participants enjoyed the day long programme with lunch and dinner.

Sports & Excursions

The students of VOW took part in inter school sports & games at Calcutta Blind School and 16 successful participants were awarded prizes. VOW attended All Bengal Sports Meet for handicapped.

This year we have not been able to organize any excursion in the Himalayas with VH Students excepting participation in a mountaineering expedition by some of us. Yet VH students and beneficiaries made several excursions in small groups to Puri,

where our Puri Centre served as the base camp.

It requires to be mentioned here that the **Indian Mountaineering Foundation**, New Delhi, has provided institutional membership to VOW this year.

Group of students attended a Sports & Games competition at the **Body Guard Line, Alipore** and another took part in the Annual Cultural Programme held by Jamitra Adarsha High School. VOW won the first place and was awarded a trophy at Body Guard Line competition.

Picnic - The Voice of World

arranged a grand picnic at Saltighat. All the participants enjoyed the day long programme with lunch and dinner.

Eight students of VOW attended the national event of **All India Paralympic 2011** at Chandigarh and won 8 Gold, 5 Bronze and 1 Silver medals. Our Miss Shampa Mondol was selected for two events in the next **Paralympic in U.S.A in end 2011**. We are unable to sponsor her participation due to fund crunch.

Cultural Activities

On April 2010 the children of VOW children participated in a cultural programme organized by 'Banchbo', Jadavpur.

30 Students of VOW participated in the **All Bengal Yogashana Championship** for the blind, deaf- dumb & physically handicapped students, held between 25th to 27th June, 2010 at Howrah Sarat Sadan Mukta Mancha, Howrah Maidan. The Programme was organized by the Subash Chakrobarty Memorial Institute.

Milaap 2010 - VOW attended the 'Milaap 2010' organized by Lala Lajpat Singhania School. A two- day's competition of cultural events was held at the School and each participant of VOW was awarded a certificate.

VOW organized 'Viswakarma Puja' on Sep 2010. Students of **Sunny Preparatory School** presented a cultural

programme.

The students of VOW took active part in a cultural programme held at Vidyasagar Park, Balaka, Joka to commemorate the birth anniversary of Iswar Chandra Vidyasagar.

On 10th Oct the students of VOW took part in the cultural programme. The chief of the opposition of W.B Legislative Assembly, Hon'ble Sri Partha Chatterjee graced the occasion as the Guest-in-Chief. Prof. Moushree Basistha, Barasat Kingstone Law College also attended the programme.

VOW participated at the inaugural cultural programme at Nepal Bhattacharjee Lane, Kolkata, wherein Maharaj Shoham Baba, Secretary Hardwar Kumbha Mela was present.

A group of our students participated in a rally at Dharmatola on 10th Dec to commemorate the



Pratibandhi Dibas. Our students attended cultural activities at Chandimela, SakherBazar. They also attended 'Drawing' and 'Dance' competition organized by R.C.F.C 15 students took part in a cultural programme at Serampore.

On Jan 11 a group of students attended a rally at Dhakuria, organized by **International Eye Bank.**

News from the Centres

KOLKATA, Registered Office - 3 Chidam Mudi Lane, Kolkata 700 006

This is where VOW was founded some 19 years ago on the 4th day of Nov 1992, with some sightless children, who later grew up to be healthy and educated and are still with us. From this center all the support services of VOW to the sightless began, like reader, writer service, talking & Braille book library etc. These services were extended later to wherever Voice of World established their centres. This center now houses some 15 sightless students and adults.

Vow has been involved even in Home Based Rehabilitation. As example, a deaf & dumb person is being fed and looked after by this

centre for the last three years.

24 PGS SOUTH, SHAKHERBAZAR - BIKAIMAA HOME FOR THE SIGHTLESS

The first residential school for the sightless of Voice of world started in 1994 with four students only in a small single storied building at Sakher Bazar Behala which is now a 3 storied building with class rooms and hostel facility. The institution has acquired all necessary registration and licenses from state and central Govt. as a recognized Special School. The school now houses 128 Visually Challenged students who are provided education, lodging, food, medical support and other necessities of life absolutely free. We conduct

regular computer classes for students from VIII and upwards Voice of World also encourages meritorious students to go for higher studies and lends support in every form. This year 'Grisma Majlish', was held prior to the Summer Vacation. The VOW Blind School, in collaboration with the Interact Club of VOW Lions Club of Behala Central celebrated Shishu Dibas to commemorate the 121st birth anniversary of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru.

24 PGS SOUTH, BAIDYAPARA - BUDS

Voice of World runs an English medium Kinder Garten School with trained teachers at Baidyapara,

Shakherbazar during the morning hours for the children of the local poor families. The number of students now stands at 100 plus.

24 PGS SOUTH, BEHALA - BRAILLE PRESS

Voice of World has been running a Computerized Braille Press in the some premises for quite some years now. Apart from taking care of Braille printing of our own study materials, this press also prints Braille Ballot Paper during any election period as per specific Govt. Order. We also publish literary items like Saradiya in Braille before Durga Puja every year, where literary work like short stories, poems, articles on various subjects, prepared by V.H. students and eminent Bengali writers are published.

24 PGS SOUTH, THAKURPUKUR - PRATYASHA

This is mainly a Home for destitute girls -VH & Orphans. We have received due recognition in respect of this from the Social Welfare Dept., Govt. of West Bengal under their Cottage Scheme and have started receiving Govt. grant. This Home houses some 25 destitute woman & children. We have recently introduced physiotherapy treatment for the multiple handicapped children by professionals.

24 PGS SOUTH, SALTIGHAT - ANTARALOK

Voice of World owns a land measuring one and half bigha received as donation. A center is being run here since 2003 to accommodate a few V.H. students and some orphan boys. The entire plot is divided into two. We have been able to surround one plot with a 6" high boundary wall complete with an Iron Gate with financial assistance from M/S Larsen & Toubro (Kolkata). Our thanks to L&T for this. We do have a master plan with us to build up

a single point center at Shaltighat where all the major activities of Voice of World will be relocated, such as the Blind School, Home for Destitute Girl, a separate Orphanage and Old Age Home. we have approached major corporate houses to lend their support to us through their C.S.R. programmes to help build this center. We await their decision.

HOOGHLY, RISHRA - LALIT PANKAJ HOME FOR THE SIGHTLESS

It a Home for adult V.H. students pursuing higher studies. It houses some 30 students who live here, pursue their studies, learn computer. We also impart different vocational training here with an aim to make them self reliant. All the above are provided free of cost. We also acknowledge gratefully the grant received a few years back from the Govt. of Japan, through which we could add more floors in the building enabling us to extend our activities now for vocational training. We could add very recently a weaving training course & physiotherapy course especially designed for the V.H. The course is aimed for the V.H and other handicapped persons, who, on completion of this training course, can earn their livelihood.

HOOGHLY, TARAKESWAR CENTER

This center is a combination of a small old age home and an orphanage. It was started in the year 2005. There are plenty of opportunity to develop this center into a multi-function center. We look forward for the right opportunity. Yet fund is a bar.

PURBA MEDINIPUR, NANDIGRAM - JIBANANDA SEBASHRAM

Voice of World runs a K.G school for the children of low income group families. Presently the strength of students is more than 100 in nos.

This center also runs a free homoeopathic clinic. We have here another plot of land (10 kattah app) for future development.

BANKURA - JHANTI PAHARI CENTER

Voice of World owns a plot of land and has a plan of setting up an all round welfare center for the tribal people of this area. At the moment it has an office which regulates and guides the activities of other centers located in Bankura District.

BANKURA - NETKAMLA CENTER

A coaching center is run here for SC/ST students where they are provided free tuition. There are now more than 100 students taking guidance from 5 teachers.

BANKURA, CHINABARI - TARAS CENTER,

This center was commissioned is June 2003 for the children of the local tribal families. A crèche, a coaching center and a library run here free of cost.

BURDHAWAN, JAMGRAM - KIDDYZONE

Voice of World has established an English Medium School for students up to class V mainly for the children of the poor coal miner families. It also runs a training center for teaching the basics of computer. Total no of students now stands at 186.



ORISSA, PURI – DRISTIHEEN PRATIBANDHI ASHRAM

Our first center outside W.B. set up on 24/12/04. Voice of World runs a free primary school with student strength of 80 under guidance of 6 lady teachers. This coaching center is mainly for the children of the local poor fisherman families. Looking at the increased rate of students Voice of World has added more class rooms.

There is also a guest room here. The school building here is Kachha and requires thorough repairing /reconstruction

DELHI – SEVASHRAM

Our Delhi liaison office at Narela is now being frequently visited by VOW members and students and is undergoing minor repairing work.

On March 11 Representatives of USA Rotarians headed by Sr. Officials of Rotary club, Newtown visited our premises. They also conducted a medical camp

Conclusion

Voice of World has, of late, been beset with a number of challenges while rendering its various services. The main challenge is the dearth of suitable personnel with proper training for working in a NGO. This is affecting our administrative services, procuring funding, Machine Servicing/Repair of our Computerized Braille Embossers, operation of Embossers, preparing project reports etc.

Voice of World is widely recognized as a lead Social Welfare organization and has impeccable clean, transparent record in respect of values and accounts. Based on its virtues, the organization is going all out to attract people to enable it mainstream the hapless visually impacted students of this part of the country.

Let us renew the call to our Patrons

and well wishers –

“Come forward with your help Donate, Sponsor, Volunteer”

You will never regret and will have happiness and pleasure instead.