



Sewa



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INTERNATIONAL

News Letter of Sewa International
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Charity Commission's Inquiry - Conclusion

On February 3rd 2005, the Charity Commission for England and Wales published a statement of the results of an inquiry it had conducted examining the administration of the funds collected by Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh (UK) and its service project Sewa International (UK) for the Gujarat Earthquake Appeal.

The report effectively clears Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh (UK) and Sewa International (UK) of misuse of funds collected in the UK and spent in India for rehabilitation after the earthquake in Gujarat in 2001.

Issues

Following concerns expressed over the administration and expenditure of the appeal, an Inquiry was opened on 4th October 2002. The purpose of the Inquiry was to establish whether the funds raised had been properly applied in accordance with the terms of the appeal.

Findings of the Inquiry

The Charity Commission has reported that:

- Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh (UK) produced evidence that all the funds raised as a result of the appeal were sent to an established Indian Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) known as Sewa Bharati.
- Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh (UK) produced a detailed breakdown of the application of funds by Sewa International (UK) in India.
- The Commission is satisfied that the Trustees of Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh (UK) have taken sufficient steps to ensure funds have been applied in

accordance with the appeal. In January 2004, Sewa International (UK) arranged for a delegation of 30 people from major donors to visit Gujarat to view the completed rehabilitation projects. The delegates produced a report which confirms they were satisfied that the funds had been spent in accordance with the Gujarat appeal.

- The Commission is satisfied that the funds have been properly expended.

OUR RESPONSE:

Campaign of Calumny:

During the last two years, a systematic campaign of calumny, innuendoes and disinformation was launched by prejudiced groups supported by some of the media to defame our organisations. Various dubious tactics were applied to try and influence the inquiry and to try and pressurise the Charity Commission to deregister Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh (UK) and Sewa International (UK) operating as a registered charity in the UK. The conclusion of the Inquiry is a strong rebuttal to these malicious campaigns.

Shanti Mistry, Chairman of Sewa International (UK) commented that "we welcome these categorical findings of the inquiry report. Sewa International (UK) pledges to continue its' mission of serving the society whilst ensuring that our activities continue to remain within the legal, accounting and governance framework established by English charity law and regulated by the Charity Commission for England and Wales".

Sewa International would like to take this opportunity to thank all well-wishers, sympathisers and supporters whilst the Inquiry was under way.



Sewa International - Serving Humanity

A service project of Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh (UK) Regd. Charity No. 267309

Trek Kilimanjaro

The Roof of Africa

“as wide as all the world, great, high, and unbelievably white in the sun”
Hemingway

Mount Kilimanjaro is the highest mountain in Africa and one of the largest freestanding mountains in the world. Climbing Kilimanjaro is a challenge to say the least and is one of the mountains almost every trekker and mountaineer in the world wants to conquer.

"An almost perfectly shaped volcano rising sheer from Tanzania's far north-east plains, Mt Kilimanjaro is one of Africa's most magnificent sights. Snow-capped and not yet extinct, at 5895m (19,335ft) it's the highest peak on the continent. From cultivated farmlands on the lower levels, the mountain rises through lush rainforest to alpine meadow

and finally across a barren lunar landscape to the twin summits. The rainforest is home to animals including elephant, buffalo, rhino, leopard and monkey. You may also stumble across herds of eland on the saddle between the summits of Mawenzi and Kibo. It's a traveller's dream to scale the summit, watch dawn break and gaze out over a truly great expanse of bushland - but scaling a 5895m monolith is no Sunday school picnic."

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Rashtrorathana Vidya Kendra

A residential school at Neeralkatti village, near Dharwad, Karnataka (India)

The project is aimed at building an education centre accessible for the entire North Karnataka Region and one which is aimed to run as a non-profit organisation.

Although North Karnataka boasts some of the best higher educational institutes, intellectual and cultural centres, there is an acute shortage of good institutions providing the much needed primary education and value based cultural upbringing.

Sewa International UK has agreed to assist in this worthy project by taking on the sponsorship of providing a fully functional Health Care Centre at this facility. This is expected to cost in the region of £ 31,000 The facility will provide the medical needs of the establishment and also be available to the poor and the needy of the surrounding villages.

Please take this opportunity of contributing towards this worthy project.



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Further information is also available at

www.vidyakendra.net



Sewa International UK Tsunami Appeal - Update

Background

Sewa International along with its partner organisations working in the Tsunami-hit areas immediately entered the affected areas within hours of the Tsunami attack on 26th December 2004. In some areas our volunteers plunged into relief work even while there was a severe threat of a second Tsunami attack.

Relief Work

During the first few days of the disaster, the relief work was carried out throughout the night. All the deceased bodies were removed and disposed of and given a dignified funeral in accordance with the various religious beliefs of each victim. During the early days of the disaster the concentration was mainly on the identification of bodies and handing them over to their relatives. The relief activities were carried out in co-operation with the Revenue, Police and Health Department Officials.

Various relief materials and medication were collected by our volunteers from all over the world and sent to our base camp



at Nagapattinam.

Since the fatal day, our Aid Workers have been working in over 54 Relief camps that had been set up in Tamil Nadu's Nagapattinam District, Kerela, Andhra Pradesh, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Pondicherry together with 12 villages in Sri Lanka. These workers have been providing food, water and shelter to all the victim regardless of colour, class, creed or religion.

In addition, more than 60 doctors, split into teams, have conducted Medical camps in all the coastal villages and the Relief camps. Medical service is also being rendered to the non-Tsunami affected areas in order to prevent an outbreak of epidemics.

Recently, in some areas permanent medical centres have been built and have started functioning to provide long-term medical assistance.

Sewa International has installed a mineral water plant in Nagapattinam to provide safe drinking water for the city. This plant is supplying 20,000 litres of pure drinking water free of cost to the affected people on a daily basis. Sewa International's volunteer Trauma Counsellors have been working in the relief camps in order to help and counsel the victims of the Tsunami, especially the very young who have been orphaned due to the disaster. Our volunteer counsellors have reported that many of the victims are suffering from post traumatic stress disorder and severe depression.



Rehabilitation Activities

As part of our second stage of the rehabilitation we have constructed houses for providing temporary shelter to the inhabitants of all the villages that we are working in. A comprehensive study was conducted to ascertain the volume of damage in the villages and to understand the requirements of the people in order to bring them back to normality.

More than 2,000 volunteers made up of men and women, doctors, nurses, engineers, carpenters, builders, advocates, accountants and auditors are continually taking part in the relief and rehabilitation activities.

Long-Term Plans

Sewa International UK's long-term plans include rebuilding villages, community centres, places of worship, schools and medical projects in Tamil Nadu, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Kerala and Sri Lanka.

A total of 200 houses within 4 villages will be built as part of the rehabilitation program in Sri Lanka by our partner organisations. The families who will be receiving these houses have been selected and Bhoomi Puja (Foundation stone laying ceremony) has already taken place in all the 4 respective villages which was attended by local dignitaries, local village Development officers, MPs and villagers. Each village will have 50 houses and one Community Hall and one Vocational Training Centre. The 4 villages that we have selected are: Thiruchendur and Kallar of Baticola District, and Neelavani and Pandierupu of Amparai District.

Details of Tsunami House Project

- The total area construction is 610 square feet per householder, of which we will pay for 400 square feet. The remaining part will be funded by the land owner using their compensation money that has been given to them by the Government of Sri Lanka.
- A total of 50 houses will be constructed in each village.
- Construction of houses will be only for those Tsunami victims whose devastated house was situated beyond 200 metres from sea.

Cost to build one house in Sri Lanka = £3,345

Cost to build one Community Hall = £17,653

Cost to build one Vocational Training Centre = £26,480

Sewa International UK will also be funding and facilitating other rehabilitation projects in order to build further houses, schools, community halls and medical centres in the Tsunami-affected areas of Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Kunyakumari.

All the activities of Sewa International are being done with full cooperation of the various Government authorities.



A thank you to all the volunteers at the shop in Birmingham

Report by *Bharat Vadukul*

On Saturday 30th May 2005, 30 people gathered at the Sewa International shop on the Stratford Road in Birmingham. These 30 being the volunteers and their partners who run and manage the shop week in and week out.

No sooner had they gathered, than they were on their way to Leicester to the Indigo Restaurant on the Melton Road. Here they were joined by members of the Sewa International team from Leicester.

After exchanging pleasantries, everyone took their places in a wonderful outdoor marquee that the restaurant had prepared for the meeting. A DVD presentation of the completed work following the Gujarat Earthquake was shown followed by a brief report of the latest situation

with the Tsunami appeal.

Following these presentations, the financial report for the shop 2004-05 was given. Total takings were in excess of £13,000 - up by some 14% from the previous year and the number of volunteers also increased from the year before. This was then followed by some excellent food and impromptu Antakshri and general merriment. The evening finally came to an end at around 11.00pm. Everyone left with vigour and enthusiasm to carry the work forward for another year.

The success of the shop has been made possible by the very generous donation of new clothes and items from the public, but a special mention to Gangotri Enterprise of Nottingham for providing new jackets and coats and Rana Textiles of Birmingham, who so very generously gave bags full of new adult and children's clothes.

Any venture is only as successful as the people it has, and if that venture is run purely by volunteers who dedicate their time, effort and resources, then the success is even sweeter. Without the dedication of these volunteers the shop would not be what it is today and so the praise rightly belongs to these volunteers who have stuck to the task over the last few years ensuring the success of this project. We are confident that we will go from strength to strength in Birmingham in the coming years and hope that these people are an inspiration to others in different parts of the country.



Sewa International UK Website

Over the last 5 months the Sewa International UK website has continually been updated and enhanced. The site now provides comprehensive details, articles and reports of all the fund raising activities that are held across the UK. In addition, full reports are also featured about the relief work that we are funding for the Tsunami Appeal in India and Sri Lank together with updates of all the other ongoing appeals and projects that we fund.

Various links have also been inserted which enables everyone to view various Short Videos and a

Presentation regarding the work done by Sewa International UK for both the Tsunami Appeal and the Gujarat Earthquake Appeal directly from the website. This is an excellent opportunity for us to direct donors, well-wishers, sympathisers and organisations to visit our dedicated website: www.sewainternational.com in order to find out the latest and up-to-date information about our organisation.

Please take a few minutes of your time to visit our website. Thank you.



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Urgent Appeal To Help Sundeeep

Report by Sanjay Jagatia

Surgeons at a leading UK burns centre are treating a Kenyan woman who experienced horrific injuries in an acid attack. Sewa International UK has agreed to support this appeal and are requesting people to raise funds and send directly to the support group who are doing the appeal. The appeal is published on our website www.sewainternational.com

Sundeeep Hunjan, 23, from Nairobi was driving home from work with her father in February when they were attacked.

She suffered extensive scarring on her face and neck - her eyelids were so damaged she cannot close her eyes.

Sundeeep is being treated at the McIndoe Surgical Centre in East Grinstead, West Sussex.

She needs operations to repair her



damaged eyelids.

In the first of these, doctors used a skin graft to replace the lower eyelids, and to treat the heavy scarring on her neck.

Sundeeep will undergo a second operation where a second skin graft will be used to replace her upper eye lid.

She is likely to need many more operations over the next two years.

At the time of the attack, she was looking forward to her wedding, planned for April this year.

The total cost of her treatment is likely to be around £100,000. Her family need to raise around £50,000 from community events.

However, the McIndoe Burns Support Group is collecting money to help Sundeeep. The telephone helpline for credit and debit card payments is 0870 0818000.

Appeal To Help Rajan

Sewa International UK were approached by our organisations/workers from USA to help find a suitable bone marrow match for a 6 year old boy, Rajan, who is suffering from leukaemia.

June 16, 2005

Our brave and strong Rajan has begun the next and most significant portion of his difficult journey. Rajan has received his cord blood stem cell transplant-it was a 5/6 match and is progressing.

The one constant that has sustained Rajan and our whole family has been the unbelievable outpouring of support and love. Countless donor drives have been held on his behalf to help our mission, and we know that this was a result of everybody's hard work and dedication. So many people



contributed many hours of their own personal time - weekends, evenings, holidays - to help in the efforts to find a donor match for Rajan. Your sacrifices and your generosity have touched us all so deeply.

We will forever be grateful to have had the experience of knowing what you have all been able to do, not just for Rajan, but for so many countless others, who will benefit from the thousands of additional committed marrow donors you have helped to register with the

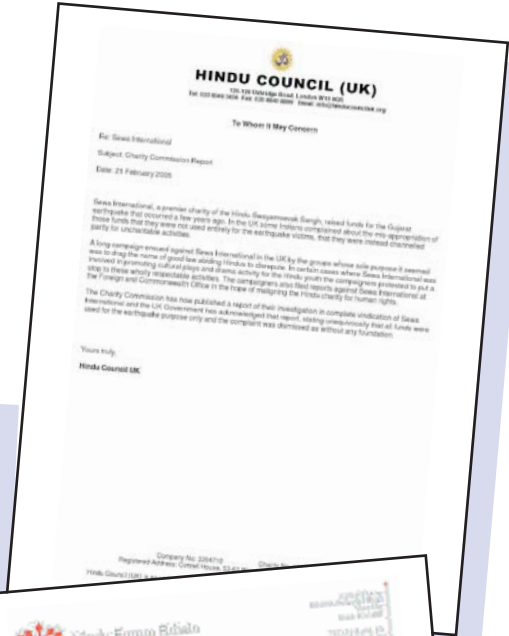
NMDP. That is undoubtedly an accomplishment of which we should all be proud!

We are also very thankful for the great support and prayers we have received from our friends and family outside of the US in places such as England, Australia, Germany, and of course India.



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