

Shree Prajapati Association (UK)

International Trust Fund committee's Report 2008/2009

It doesn't seem that long since I took over the secretary's role. Twelve months have passed and its time for me to report what has happened in the year. In the past year I have learnt a great deal – the first being that contrary to what I was told before I took the position, this role does demand a lot of time, effort and patience. However, with the help of my committee members further progress has been made towards achieving the goals of ITF.

Listed below are main areas of activity and progress:

Bhajanawali Books

This project completed in 2007. There are approximately 2000 books that are unsold and I request all members to promote the sale of these books. The funds collected will aid the charitable activities of SPA (UK).

Kanya Chatralaya, Shree Prajapati Vidhyarthi Ashram, Navsari

ITF committee recommended to the Pratinidhi that we should donate towards this project which was estimated to be £ 60,000. With god's grace this project started in January 2008 and was completed in December 2008. The opening ceremony took place on the 29th December and Navsari Ashram's 75th anniversary was celebrated on the 30th December. For both celebrations, SPA (UK) was represented by Shri Uttambhai Mistry from Bolton. Present were also members of our community who had travelled for other reasons and were in the area.

A big thank you goes to members of all Branches who worked tirelessly to raise funds for this project. Some donation has been received from branches towards this project.

Education Assistance

The ITF committee has taken on a project to create a working programme to assist young members from poor families in Gujarat to further their education. This would enable successful students to complete the course and be successful in their working career. This is currently at a discussion stage and once finalised will be presented to the Pratinidhi committee.

SPA (UK) Link with South Gujarati Prajapati Organizations (SGPO)

A letter and a questionnaire were sent to all known SGPO with a view to establish communication channel and to find out whether organization had the same aims and objectives as UK. Of the fifteen organizations contacted, ten had replied and we have identified organizations that could help SPA (UK) to further its initiatives.

Small Grant for Non Prajapati Projects

This document was created bearing in mind that a lot of our young Prajapatis' are participating in various charity deeds whereby they give up their personal time, skills and effort to teach, to help the poor and needy people in the world and thereby making a small change for the betterment of peoples' lives. A small fund has been set up specifically for this activity.

New Fund Applications

We have received a high number of applications for education grant. In the meeting of 15.06.2008, eight education grant applications (6 x India and 2 x UK) were discussed. In the meeting of 25.01.2009, fourteen grant applications (13 x education and 1 x organization) were discussed. In the meeting of 19.04.2009, thirty five grant applications (2 x organization, 2 x individual, 30 x education India and 1 x education UK) applications were discussed. These applications have kept me very busy.

Due to lack of understanding, reading and writing of English most of the Education Grant Application forms received from Gujarat were incomplete or necessary documentary evidence were not attached. In order help the applicant fill the form in correctly, guidance notes in English have been prepared. This guidance notes are being translated into Gujarati.

All the grant application forms – Education Grant, Grant (Individual) and Grant (Organization) have been updated and will be posted on the website at the earliest opportunity.

My sincere gratitude to Shri Uttambhai, Shri Jamnadasbhai, ITF core committee members and Smt Jasuben for guidance in fulfilling the role of secretary and SPA (UK) Trustee committee members for progressing SPA (UK)'s charitable objectives.

Prakash P Mistry,
Secretary, International Trust Fund (2008_09)