



asha

Annual Report

2013-2014

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Mission Statement

The mission of Asha is to work with the urban poor to bring about long term and sustainable transformation to their quality of life. Through a practical expression of the Christian values of faith, hope and love, we aim to provide holistic community-based healthcare, empowerment, financial inclusion, education and environmental improvements by training, resourcing and encouraging the community to receive and enjoy their basic human rights.

Asha also aims to influence the lives of its international audience by sharing local practice, experience and vision and facilitating partnerships where awareness and association between different cultures can impact and change individuals globally.

Our History

Founded in 1988 by Dr Kiran Martin, a paediatrician, Asha has travelled the journey from providing primary healthcare to a single slum, to today serving the interests of 500,000 people in over 60 Delhi slums through our holistic approach to slum development. Our groundbreaking community development programmes in health, education, empowerment, environment improvement and financial inclusion have placed us firmly at the forefront of urban community transformation in the developing world and beyond.

Committed to empowering slum communities to work in partnership with both state and national governments, we have seen much progress through developing this relationship. Having already secured the provision of safe water supply and drainage systems for a number of slums, under the leadership of Dr. Kiran the 1990's saw Asha collaborate with the Government of Delhi to pioneer a slum housing project which resulted in slum dwellers being awarded their own land titles and permanent brick housing. Through widely praised initiatives such as this, government policy has been greatly influenced to the benefit of hundreds of other slum residents, and Asha has enjoyed fruitful working relationships with various state government officials at all levels.

The 2000's brought with them the exciting endeavour of facilitating slum dwellers' access to banking services through our highly successful financial inclusion scheme for the urban poor. Devised in partnership with the Government of India's then Minister of Finance, the launch of this initiative heralded a previously unimaginable increase in slum communities' financial security. The subsequent availability of education loans opened the doors of higher education to our slum children who were beginning to complete their schooling as a result of the interventions of the Asha Team. The first initiative of its kind, our Higher Education programme has to date seen over 900 slum children gain membership at some of the country's most prestigious educational institutions, each year gaining more remarkable results than the last, and topping their well-off peers in academic ability and skills.

In recent years Asha has welcomed prominent political figures, most notably the Hon. Mr. L.K. Advani, Former Deputy Prime Minister of India; Hon. Mr. P Chidambaram, India's Former Finance Minister, and the Former Minister for Education the Hon. Mr. Kapil Sibal, to witness the transformation in their constituency's slums, for which they have since become strong advocates. Numerous overseas visitors have also accompanied Dr. Kiran on slum visits to Asha project areas and enjoyed a similar experience. These have included Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs, Ms. Julie Bishop MP, Canadian First lady, HE Sharon Johnston, Japanese Ambassador, HE Mr. Takeshi Yagi, Member of New Zealand Parliament, Mr Todd McClay as well as diplomats from Ireland, Australia, Canada and New Zealand.



A photograph from early days of Asha's work: Dr Kiran interacts with then Slum Commissioner, Mr Manjit Singh (right) as Slum Lord of Ekta Vihar looks on

Global support has been garnered for Asha through the establishment of formal and registered Friends of Asha societies in Great Britain, Ireland, the USA and in Australia through which supporters regularly fundraise and spread news of our work.

Dr. Kiran has lectured at some of the world's leading universities and presented the Asha model at the US House of Representatives and the British House of Commons. In 2002, the President of India presented Dr. Kiran with one of India's highest civilian awards, the Padma Shri. This year as Asha completes 26 years, its contribution to the field of urban development continues to gain recognition worldwide.

Asha Values

The Asha values are an expression of the radical Christian message of individual and community transformation, along with social justice. These also form the core of human values, and reflect the contemporary notions of human rights, civil society, and governance. Through a practical expression of these values, Asha aims to provide access to holistic community-based healthcare, education, environmental improvements and financial services to some of the world's poorest communities. Beyond the improvements to circumstances that come about through their application, these values bind us together - they define our identity and that of our communities.

Dignity consists not in possessing honors, but in the consciousness that we deserve them. Dignity is an essential part of every human being and it can never be separated from other essential aspects of the human person. It comes not from control, but from understanding who you are and taking your rightful place in the world.

Empowerment is enhancing the capacity of individuals or groups to make choices and to transform those choices into desired actions and outcomes. Empowerment enables the true potential of every individual to be unleashed for the benefit of communities and our world.

Justice means challenging oppressive social structures and responding to injustice through non-violence and active peacemaking. Social justice also requires equal distribution of the opportunities and benefits of development. It insists on the rights of all people to reach their individual potential.

Non violence essentially means abstention from all forms of violence. This includes not just physical violence, but also verbal violence and violence of thought. There is a complete rejection of aggression and confrontation, of thought, of words and of actions. It is based on the conviction that forgiveness can change even an enemy into a friend.

Compassion means 'to suffer with'. It is a deep concern for the needs of others. It is a recognition of and identification with the suffering of others. Compassion helps one to look past racial and cultural differences, and see people as one. It is a fundamental path of human love, and a cornerstone of greater social interaction.

Gratitude is not just a feeling of thankfulness in response to a gift or a kind gesture. Gratitude is a way of life. It is a conscious choice to focus on life's blessings rather than on its shortcomings. It magnifies goodness, and therefore blocks toxic emotions such as envy, resentment or depression that destroy one's optimal well being.

Generosity is the act of giving freely because of the desire to, and not because of expectation of something in return. Generosity is motivated by love and always intends to enhance the well-being of others. It enriches life, and makes one feel content with one's share in life. Generosity allows one to partake of a bigger consciousness that admits prosperity, abundance, and wealth to all.

Optimism changes the boundaries of one's heart and mind, and the outlook on one's environment. It helps a person to see more possibilities. This openness of hearts and minds obey the warmth of positivity. It changes one's ability to see the common humanity with others.

Joy is a settled state of contentment, confidence and hope. It does not indicate a temporary feeling of pleasure or happiness, but rather a constant state of well being, a continuous journey of flourishing. Its high energy clears one's thinking, disperses worry and other negative emotions making the person more creative, more trusting and more trusted.

Simplicity gives one a singleness of purpose, and sincerity and honesty within. It allows a person to remove exterior clutter, irrelevant to the chief purpose of our lives. It means ordering and guiding of energy and desires, a restraint in some directions in order to secure greater abundance of life in other directions. It involves deliberate organisation of one's lives for a purpose.

We Believe that

- All human beings are created in the image of God, and are of equal worth. Therefore the poor have the same inherent dignity, and rights that deserve our protection.
 - Every person has a right to affordable healthcare that will allow them the best possible chance of living a productive and fulfilling life.
 - Every child has a right to an education that will give them the opportunity to reach their potential, earn a living and grow in self-esteem.
 - Shelter, safe water and sanitation should be available to all, regardless of their background or status within society.
 - Women have equal rights to those of men, and those rights should be protected by both men and other women.
 - Communities working together are capable of achieving great change, and can influence others to also strive for change.
 - The poor deserve the chance to improve their financial status and their quality of life, and to break free from the cycle of poverty.
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We are Committed to

- Working among the poor without discrimination of any kind such as that based on sex, caste, religion, language, race, colour or other status.
- Being at the forefront of the pursuit of justice and peace for the poor, and dealing with the systems that make and keep poor people in poverty.
- Challenging oppressive social structures and responding to injustice through non-violence and active peacemaking.
- Empowering the poor to lead full and meaningful lives, and building vibrant communities through the advance of love, neighbourliness, forgiveness and reconciliation.
- Practicing a liberating generosity towards the poor and giving them the opportunities they deserve.
- Demonstrating earnestness in prayer for the needs of the poor and for all our partners.
- Valuing diversity and the skills and gifts of each team member.
- Maintaining excellence in the quality of our programmes.
- Exhibiting good stewardship of limited resources.
- Fostering effective partnerships with the government, funding agencies and other NGOs.
- Becoming a force for liberation and transformation of poor communities.

Director's Report

Dear Friends,

I am writing to you at the end of yet another exciting year for us here at Asha. We have been able to further expand our higher education programme, and to increase the access to healthcare for the slum communities in which we work.

Our students continue to inspire us with their unwavering dedication, which has resulted in remarkable high school results, such as Chandan, who obtained a score of 89%. With our students achieving such high results, Asha has now enabled over 900 students to access higher education since 2008, breaking the cycle of poverty that is experienced by so many families in our slums. All of these students form the core of our family here at Asha, and make us incredibly proud.

It is not only the vision of Asha to enable students to study at University, but also to support and guide these students throughout their degrees, to ensure successful completion. Our Mentorship programme continues to provide our students with this guidance, and we would like to thank the new mentors who joined the programme this year.

In the last year, we have been able to take the Higher Education Programme further by launching the Asha Ambassador Programme. The programme comprises students and graduates from different slum colonies who work as peer leaders within the community to motivate and encourage other students. The launching of this programme was only made possible by the generosity of the graduates that were initially helped by Asha. This exemplifies the values that we teach to our students, and is a demonstration of their own gratitude and compassion towards others. The student Ambassadors also serve to represent the success of Asha's Higher Education Programme at various events.

Our internship programme has entered its second year, providing students with essential skills for the work place; including punctuality, professional dressing, language and communication development and confidence building. This has given our students a great sense of independence and potential job opportunities. I would sincerely like to thank our employers for enabling our students to experience, often for the first time, a professional working environment.

One of the main highlights of this year has been witnessing the students that first entered University getting employed. It is a joy to see them working as nurses, lab technicians, tax assistants, marketing executives, animators, graphic designers, accountants and administrative assistants in some of the highly reputed organisations in Delhi.

It is with thanks to our new partnership with TEAR fund, New Zealand, that Asha has been able to enter new slum colonies this year. This work is of the utmost importance as some of these slums lack even the most basic amenities such as running water, electricity and concrete roads.

Since starting Asha over 26 years ago, our healthcare programme has always been at the heart of what we do. It gives me great pleasure to inform you that the infant mortality rate continues to be 16 this year as well, and 98% of children from the slum colonies in which we work were vaccinated according to the WHO recommendations.

Our continually expanding internationally based Friend's of Asha network has been a vital support this year. I would like to express my gratitude to Friends of Asha GB, Ireland, Australia and USA for organising various events and inviting supporters and dignitaries to celebrate Asha's 25th Anniversary in 2013. It was an amazing opportunity to meet everyone that has supported Asha in its work to transform the slums. I would like to thank all donors, hope-



givers, funding agencies and volunteers who have been so vital in supporting Asha with their generosity. Your contributions, big and small, mean a lot to us and we are extremely grateful for the unwavering support that you have always extended.

I would like to personally thank Mrs Sharon Johnston, Canadian First Lady; Ms Julie Bishop MP, Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs; Mr P Chidambaram, Former Indian Finance Minister; Mr Salman Khurshid, Former Indian External Affairs Minister; and Mr L.K. Advani, Former Deputy Prime Minister of India and Senior Leader, BJP Parliamentary Party, for their support of Asha in visiting various slum communities. I would also like to express my appreciation to the Embassies and High Commissions in New Delhi, as well as the Slum Department, who have supported Asha's programmes.

As I reflect on this year, I am moved by the incredible way in which God has provided for us, and enabled Asha to fulfil its purpose. Together with my team, I have had the opportunity to help those who have nowhere else to turn, and to witness the changes and developments in the urban slum communities as a result of Asha's programmes. I'm deeply grateful to them for their diversity, dedication and broad range of skills.

We are continually striving for more, but I am so grateful for all that we have achieved. As you are reading this report, I hope that you too are inspired by the people in our communities who have been empowered, and through this are changing their own lives.



Dr Kiran Martin
Founder and Director

Healthcare



An Asha Community Health Volunteer conducts a health awareness workshop with the community in Jeewan Nagar slum colony

In India, the public healthcare system has focused primarily on rural areas. With the rapid urbanization that India has witnessed over the past decades, public health problems in the country are increasingly assuming an urban dimension. This is especially true for the estimated one fourth of the urban population who live in slums. There are growing indications that this segment of urban India is more disadvantaged in various aspects of health and well-being.

India has a population of 1210.2 million people and 377.1 million (31.16%) of these live in the slums [Census 2011]. Delhi has the second largest slum population in India after Mumbai.

The health hazards of the urban slum dwellers are directly related to poverty and a polluted and unhygienic environment. They are more prone to communicable diseases and malnutrition and as they are often employed as unskilled workers, are at the same time exposed to greater risks of accidents at work. In the absence of healthcare facilities, the slum dwellers rely on either quacks or have to pay high fees for both

consultation and medicine to private doctors.

Over the past 26 years, Asha has been providing safe and affordable healthcare services to the slum dwellers. Our healthcare model, that works in partnership with slum residents, has been recognised by numerous institutions across the world.

Asha has trained women who live in the slums to work as Community Health Volunteers, or CHVs. They are ideally placed to keep a watchful eye on the health of the communities - particularly the pregnant women, the elderly, children under 5 and TB patients. Asha provides 6 months of intensive training that enables

them to provide first aid, oral rehydration solution for diarrhoea, and treatment for other common ailments. They also create awareness about health, nutrition, reproductive health and family planning and also encourage the slum residents to immunise their children. For more complicated cases, the CHVs refer them to the Asha clinics.

Many Asha communities have a health centre staffed by part-time doctors, nurses and paramedical staff. They are able to diagnose and treat patients, perform ante-natal checks and immunise children against preventable diseases. Asha's mobile clinics enable the slums without an Asha health centre to receive an equally high level of care.

For more advanced healthcare, the Asha polyclinic has a sophisticated laboratory, ECG, ultrasound and X-ray equipment among many other facilities. A doctor and visiting consultants provide an excellent level of service at a fraction of what patients would pay elsewhere. In addition, Asha staff and CHVs have developed links with local hospitals and health institutions so patients, who need treatment that is not available at the polyclinic, can be referred for appropriate treatment.

Asha's health-care staff conducting an ante-natal checkup in Mobile Healthcare Van at Saraswati slum colony in South Delhi



Felicitation Programme for Community Health Volunteers

Asha's Community Health Volunteers (CHVs) are the primary health promoters and healthcare providers in the slums. They provide primary healthcare, antenatal, natal and postnatal care and support to mothers. The CHVs give them nutritional supplements, medications and appropriate counselling in various aspects of safe motherhood and care of the newborn.

The work of these CHVs is integral to the success of Asha's healthcare programmes and their commitment towards their communities is deeply inspiring.

In January, Asha organised a felicitation programme to appreciate the efforts of the Community Health Volunteers working for Asha in different slum communities.

The event also provided a platform for the CHVs from different slum colonies to meet each other and share their experiences.

During this event, merit prizes - based on internal evaluation conducted in November 2013 - were given to the Community Health Volunteers to encourage and thank them for their efforts.



Dr Kiran presents the first prize to Sameena, CHV from Seelampur slum colony for her work during the previous year

Through sheer hard work and determination, they have not only transformed the lives of thousands of people and but have also earned a name for themselves in their communities.

Gratitude and selfless service go hand in hand.

When we live in gratitude, compassion becomes the foremost

emotion when dealing with others. Gratitude has the power to heal, to energise and to change lives.

Launch of Telemedicine facility

Asha has partnered with TEAR Fund, New Zealand and MedTech Ltd, a New Zealand based company to provide health management and telemedicine solutions that give remote access to doctors and address the absence of healthcare services in the slums.

Presently, the telemedicine facility is being provided in Seelampur and Trilokpuri slum colonies. Both the areas are overcrowded colonies created in 1976 when slum clearance drives in Delhi were promoted.

The telemedicine system combines real-time video and clinical data collection using equipment such as

e-stethoscopes, blood pressure monitors, blood glucose monitors and a two-way video conferencing system in a small portable box to enable remote monitoring of patients. The doctor, who sits at the Asha Polyclinic, is able to directly interact with the patient and then direct the medical assistant at the slum based health centre to provide appropriate treatment.

Along with enabling access to affordable healthcare services for slum dwellers, the technology also reduces the load on the local hospitals, improving their secondary and tertiary service

delivery. Additionally, every visit to the clinic is recorded on a database, enabling cost-efficient planning and monitoring of the health of the community.

Apart from infrastructural set-up in the slums, a major challenge the project faced was getting the community accustomed to interacting with the doctor via digital media. During the initial 6 months of this project, while the Asha Team was being trained and the systems were getting streamlined, Asha was able to successfully examine 96 patients through the telemedicine technology.



Healthcare staff in Seelampur receive training to use the telemedicine set-up



Doctor at Asha Polyclinic examines a patient from Trilokpuri slum colony through the VitelMed Technology



Doctor at the Asha Polyclinic examining a patient

Highlights from Asha's Healthcare Programme

Asha staff and Community Health Volunteers (CHVs) are trained to encourage expectant mothers to visit the community based health centres for early antenatal care. The health indicators of the current year clearly demonstrate the progress made.

- The proportion of pregnant women who had at least 3 antenatal checks has remained 100% compared with 75% nationally.
- 88% of children born in Asha slums were of normal birth weight and 99% of them were breastfed within the first six hours after delivery .
- 98% of children from Asha slums are vaccinated according to WHO recommendations compared with 63.2% in India
- The infant mortality rate in Asha slums is 16 compared with 46.07 across India in 2013
- Maternal mortality ratio in India in the year 2007-09 was 212. However, in Asha slums there was only one maternal death this year.

The meaning of compassion is to recognise the suffering of others then take action to help. It is a fundamental path of human love, and a cornerstone of greater social interaction.

Asha CHV sets an Example of Compassion

Nasreen (21) and her husband Farihad (25) live in Zakhira slum colony. The young couple was overjoyed when they came to know about Nasreen's pregnancy last year and excitedly started to plan for the welcome of their first child. It was only after Nasreen visited the Asha healthcare centre in her slum colony that she came to know about the complications in her pregnancy.

Even during the first trimester she was complaining of weakness, erratic breathing and swelling in her feet. After check-ups she was found to have low haemoglobin levels and also had an extremely high blood pressure. Knowing this to be a high-risk pregnancy, CHV Shazda took the young mother-to-be in her charge and monitored her progress keenly like an elder sister. She was given iron supplements to help with her low haemoglobin levels. Shazda also took her to the nearby hospital to get her registered for delivery and treatment for her blood pressure and breathing problems.

In August 2013, Shazda was called by Farihad as Nasreen was having severe difficulty in breathing. Shazda immediately rushed her to the hospital where she remained under medical care and supervision for one week.



Shazda (right) with Nasreen and baby Ayaan

Throughout the week, Shazda visited her at least twice a day, not only to monitor Nasreen's progress but also to give the emotional support that the young couple much needed. Despite all this, Nasreen's condition did not stabilise. The doctors then advised them to opt for a caesarean section delivery and Nasreen's son Ayaan was born weighing 2.8 kg.

Today baby Ayaan is healthy for his age and is receiving all his vaccinations from Asha, and Nasreen has also recovered from her hypertension problem.

This is just one example of the amazing work and efforts of the CHVs and the compassion with which they serve their communities.

Volunteer Doctors at Asha

This year, once again, we had the privilege of welcoming volunteer specialist doctors from various parts of the world to examine patients from Asha communities. This was a great opportunity for the slum residents as similar consultations would have been very expensive outside. The visiting doctors spent a lot of time at Asha's slum based health centres - examining patients and providing expert guidance, advice and counselling.

From diagnosis of patients to advice on the day to day functioning of Asha clinics, their inputs have been of invaluable support to Asha's healthcare staff. Their dedication, care and concern for the patients was amazing. Even the difference in language and cultural background didn't come in the way, their zeal to serve truly surpassed all the hindrances. We sincerely appreciate their time and efforts as they worked tirelessly to make lives better for those living in the slums.



Dr Asha Sharma, Retired Physician from the UK spent four weeks volunteering at Asha. She travelled to different communities and held clinics at Asha's slum based healthcare centres and Mobile Healthcare Vans



Dr Richard Banks, Nephrologist from the UK spent nearly three weeks with Asha communities in June 2013. He also conducted a workshop with Asha's healthcare staff on renal problems.



Dr Mary Hutchinson from New Zealand holding a workshop on mood and anxiety disorders with Asha's healthcare staff to help them develop their understanding of these illnesses. Accompanied by her husband, she spent almost two weeks working with Asha communities.



Dr Kate Milne, General Physician and Dr Elaine Smith, Rheumatologist from the UK at Asha's slum based health centre in Kusumpur Pahari slum colony. They spent almost a week conducting Rheumatology and general medicine clinics in the Asha communities.

Community Empowerment



Women's group meeting in Asha's Mobile Healthcare Bus

Empowerment, in its most general sense, refers to the ability of people to gain understanding and control over personal, social, economic and political forces in order to take action to improve their lives.

Community empowerment is a process where people work together to make change happen by having more power and influence over what matters to them.

Asha identifies women and children from within the slum community and organises them into networks that are trained to bring about change in residents' attitudes and the slum environment.

The networks of women, called Asha's Women's Groups, also identify TB patients, malnourished children, pregnant women and the elderly, monitoring their condition

regularly.

The impact of their work can be seen within the individual members, their families and in the community - a kind of ripple effect that emanates from an individual and spreads to the family in particular and society in general. Women, who were once powerless, are now vocal and confident. They are now aware of their rights, and they have a voice that positively influences the health and environment of the slums.

Asha's Children's groups in the slums consist of children aged 6-14 years. They elect their own office bearers (President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer) and meet with members of the Asha team for training in basic health and social issues, and for activities such as drawing, dancing and singing. The members of these groups gain greater self confidence, a renewed sense of responsibility and self respect.

Highlights from the Women's Empowerment Programme

- Last winter, a fire broke out in one of the houses in Dr Ambedkar Slum colony leading to burning of all the household goods. The women's group organised a donation drive and the community generously donated clothes, utensils and other essential commodities to help the affected family.
- Women's groups in Seelampur, Kusumpur, Trilokpuri and other slum colonies have been regularly helping out elderly and seriously ill residents by providing them with

nutrition support when their families are not able to manage.

- Women's groups from all the slum colonies celebrated Independence Day, Women's Day, Diwali, Christmas and

other festivals.

- Mahila Mandals in all the areas organise a joint lunch once a month to foster unity and harmony in the community.

Inspired by the efforts of the women's and children's groups, college students from Peeragarhi donate provisions to a destitute old lady



Highlights from Children's Groups

The Asha children's groups are based on the belief that children should have the power to assert their rights. The children play an important part in developing their communities and simultaneously develop their own personalities and set a good example to their peers and neighbours.

- Members of children's groups from all Asha slums organised health and education rallies to raise awareness amongst people of the community.
- Children's groups in all areas celebrated Diwali, Christmas, Children's Day, Independence Day and Republic Day.
- During Diwali, the children decorated and sold clay lamps

known as *diyas* to raise money to give the traditional Diwali sweets to the poor elderly living in their community.

- The children's association members have continued to hold weekly sanitation drives and have advised community members on how to reduce areas of standing water that create breeding grounds for mosquitoes.
- The children's association members have also been working hard to encourage other children with their schooling and tackling the problem of school dropouts. They are keenly participating in the English Literacy classes as well.



One of the office bearers leads the weekly meeting of the children's group in Kanak Durga slum colony

New Water Pipelines installed at Mayapuri

Scarcity of drinking water was a huge problem for the residents of Mayapuri slum colony. They had to either fetch drinking water from far off places or depend on the mercy of nearby colonies. The problems worsened during summers with temperatures going higher than ever each year and water supply being generally low in the city.

Last year, the women's group in Mayapuri decided to intervene and solve the issue. Together with the Asha Team, they went to the Jal Board office (Water Board) and presented their problem.

The officials took immediate action and decided to send one water tanker everyday to Mayapuri. Although the water tanker began coming every day, it was not sufficient to meet the needs of the people in such a densely populated area.

Once again, the women's group along with Community Health Volunteers and the Asha Team went to meet the Jal Board officials. They requested for more tankers as one tanker a day was unable to fulfil even the minimum requirement. They also suggested a more sustainable solution - water pipelines - so that the problem could be sorted out permanently.

The efforts of the women's group and Asha team did not go in vain and finally the Jal Board took a decision to install 11 water taps in the area.

The respite from the water problem has brought much happiness and relief to the community. With this basic need taken care of, they can now concentrate their energies and attention towards other issues.



A girl uses one of the 11 newly installed water taps in Mayapuri slum colony

Empowerment is enhancing the capacity of individuals or groups to make choices and to transform those choices into desired actions and outcomes.

Education



On behalf of the Asha Team, Community Health Volunteer Sameena presents a student with reference books in Seelampur slum colony

Asha believes that every child has a right to an education that will give them the opportunity to reach their potential, earn a living and grow in self-esteem. In slum areas, as families struggle to survive, many children are forced to work to

supplement the family income, or older children take care of their younger siblings so both parents can go out to work.

Asha reduces educational obstacles by involving committed community groups in gaining school enrollment for slum children.

Members of women's and children's groups take note of children who are not in school, or who have dropped out, and visit their parents to explain the importance of education. Links with schools allow community volunteers or Asha team members to discuss attendance problems directly, and ease the admission process.

The team members and volunteers also assist families in gaining access to government schemes that help with the cost of school uniforms and textbooks. In addition, Asha enriches slum children's education by providing English lessons and basic computer courses, and access to computers, the internet and libraries with books, newspapers and magazines in English and Hindi. Resource centres are based within slums, giving children a safe place to play and to learn.

Highlights from Asha's Education Interventions

- This year, 45 high school students from slums across Delhi have scored over 70% marks, including 9 students whose results were in the eighties. The top achievers are Chandan from Jeevan Nagar and Riya from Savda slum colonies who both scored an impressive 89%.
- Having successfully completed their courses, the first batch of nursing students from 2008-2009 is now well settled and employed with reputed healthcare organisations in Delhi.
- In Seelampur slum colony, three of our students, Naushad, Danish, and Shakir, have begun a coaching centre to provide tuition classes to school children. They are the first generation

from their families to have ever attended universities and are now regarded as role models in the community.

- The Corporate Social Responsibility arm of GMR Group, in collaboration with Asha, has provided free vocational training to almost 50

students from various slums in Delhi. They have been trained in courses like computing, refrigeration, air conditioning, cargo and health therapy. We are delighted that almost all of these students have been recruited for jobs at organisations like Delhi Airport Authority, Voltas and Schneider.

Dr Kiran with high school students just before they filled out their college admission forms



The Higher Education Programme

The Asha Higher Education Programme was launched in the year 2008 and thus far we have been successful in enrolling over 900 slum students in tertiary education.

Our vision is to send 5000 slum children to higher education in the next 5 years. We care about the welfare and future of each and every student and so have developed a system that provides support for the child at each stage of their higher education journey.

Support begins when the child is young through sensitising their parents on the importance of allowing them to regularly attend school. As the child gets older and the pressure of family life weighs more heavily on his/her shoulders, motivating them to study hard to meet the demands of

the high school curriculum is given impetus. Asha also counsels parents, encouraging them to see the benefits of sending their children to university.

To bring the students from the slums up to par with their financially better-off counterparts, Asha organises workshops on exam preparation and stress management, as well as provides textbooks for them, which are excellent study resources in the absence of good teachers. Career counselling, that Asha provides, gives the child an idea of the options available once they complete their final exams.

Asha guides the students through all the practicalities involved in the university admissions process from selecting the right course to writing their application. Asha



Asha's Associate Director, Freddy Martin, with students who have completed their professional courses

provides financial assistance to needy families for textbooks, college fees and other educational expenses. With the guidance, motivation, and support that students receive from Asha, an increasing number of slum children are pursuing college-level education and many of them are now employed in well-paying jobs.

Chandan - Setting New Standards for Entire Community

Little would one realise that the quiet and soft-spoken Chandan is the Asha topper with a whopping score of 89% (A grade).

Hailing from Jeevan Nagar slum colony, 19 year old Chandan is the son of a daily wage labourer and the eldest amongst three siblings. Chandan's tryst with Asha began about seven years ago on a casual note. "I guess that my involvement with the Bal Mandal (children's associations) and its activities was a natural progression arising from the comfort levels that I had started sharing with the centre and its team", says Chandan.

A diligent student all along, Chandan has now secured admission and is pursuing a degree course in mathematics from the prestigious Shri Venkateswara College (amongst the top ten colleges under Delhi University).

In an atmosphere characterised by dilapidated roofs, poorly ventilated overcrowded rooms and lack of basic sanitation facilities, it has not been easy for Chandan to find time and space to devote to his studies.

But dedication and perseverance have paid off to pave the way towards better prospects in life. Not the one to take the easy way out, Chandan wants to carve out a career in actuarial sciences.



Chandan studying at his home

Dignity is a central principle in the conception of worthiness of a person. The expression of this dignity is only possible through empowering the poor to live full and meaningful lives.

Asha's Internship and Mentorship Programmes



Babita from Dr Ambedkar slum colony speaking to her mentor Ms Brenda Beck during a mentor orientation meeting at the Asha headquarters

The Asha Mentorship Programme, launched in the year 2012 is a pioneering initiative of matching college students from the slums with professionals in Delhi to provide advice, guidance and leadership as those students prepare to go forward on their career journeys. The mentors and mentees are matched according to the educational qualifications and work experience of the mentor and also the college course and aim of the mentee. Our students are also trained by their mentors in their respective fields.

Under the Internship Programme, college students from various Asha slums walk into offices across Delhi and Gurgaon to do a month-long internship during the summer break from college. The students learn how to write a concise email, answer a telephone, or greet their colleagues in a professional manner.

While working in an office environment, they also receive the opportunity to observe how others operate and take on those positive attributes, whether it's communication, behavior, or office etiquette.



Mr Rajbir Singh (centre, in blue) and his colleague from RJ Corp with their interns from 2012 and 2013 at the launch of Asha Internship Programme 2013

We flourish when we have a strong network of relationships around us, with family, friends, co-workers, and other people in our lives.

When we share our joy with those we love, we feel even more joy.

Akhlaq Excels at New Zealand High Commission

Akhlaq lives in Chanderpuri slum colony. He is a final year student at Dyal Singh College pursuing History honours. He joined Asha, when he was in his 10th standard. Akhlaq is very enthusiastic when describing his association with Asha. He proudly says that he has learned Computer basics along with English for free at Asha's slum based resource centre.

Right from class 10th onwards, Asha stood with him at every step towards his career journey. Akhlaq was provided with test papers and text books for his class 10th and 12th board exams preparation. He would study at the resource centre in order to avoid the noisy environment in his slum. Akhlaq was always a regular at career counselling and personality development workshops that Asha organised.

Akhlaq's hard work and enthusiasm towards his career journey opened a new door for him. Under the Asha Internship Programme, he interned at the New Zealand High Commission in Delhi. The one month internship at the High Commission helped him to learn many new skills.



Akhlaq at his desk at the New Zealand High Commission

From the very first day, Akhlaq threw himself into his job with enthusiasm. He spent time with all the departments at the High Commission – the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, New Zealand Trade and Enterprise, Education New Zealand, and Immigration New Zealand. Amongst the many other tasks, Akhlaq did a lot of research work, produced spreadsheets, acted as the relief receptionist, and took photographs at official receptions.

"Akhlaq became an unofficial 'Kiwi' while here – his cheerfulness, enthusiasm and active participation in the daily life of the High Commission were sorely missed when his month was up and he finished here," says Mr Mark Westenra, First Secretary (Management) and Consul, New Zealand High Commission.

Being exposed to the office environment and meeting working professionals on a regular basis has helped Akhlaq to become a more confident individual and has given him an added career focus.

Students' Meet and the Launch of the Asha Student Ambassador Programme

Asha set yet another landmark in its Higher Education Programme with the launch of the Asha Student Ambassador Programme in December 2013. The event was attended by almost 300 students from slum communities across Delhi. This exciting new programme brings together some of Asha's brightest and most enthusiastic students who are willing to volunteer their time to spread awareness for the need of education amongst slum residents.

Presently, the programme comprises nearly 50 university students and graduates from slums across Delhi who work as peer leaders within their communities and represent the success of Asha's Higher Education Programme at various Asha events.

The Student Ambassadors assist the Asha Team in conducting regular meetings with High School students from their communities to help and guide them on issues like attempting exam papers, disseminating information about courses and colleges to apply for after school and career prospects ahead. They lead by example in demonstrating how university education has transformed their lives - giving them a renewed sense of self-worth as they step into the professional world with confidence. With more and more high school students and their parents looking up to them for advice and guidance, the Ambassadors are now role models in their communities.



Dr Kiran addressing the students at the first Students' Meet in April 2013



Asha Student Ambassadors pledge to uphold the Asha values and promote education amongst slum residents



Dr Kiran with High School Toppers from Asha slums at a Students' Meet organised earlier in June 2013

Throughout the year, Asha has been organising **Students' Meets** for college and high school students from Asha communities. These events have served a two-fold purpose; for the students to share their experiences on a common platform, and for Asha to discuss the problems they faced in their day-to-day life and to encourage them to continue working hard.

Financial Inclusion



Former Indian Finance Minister Mr P Chidambaram presenting a loan cheque to a borrower at Asha's Celebration of Learning 2013

Reserve Bank of India defines Financial Inclusion as "the process of ensuring access to appropriate financial products and services needed by all sections of the society in general and vulnerable groups such as weaker sections and low income groups in particular, at an affordable cost, in a fair and transparent manner, by regulated, mainstream institutional players".

Financial Inclusion is important not only from the perspective of the benefit it provides to the poor but also from the perspective of overall stability of the social and economic system of the country. There is a potential for transforming the lives of these excluded groups by providing access to formal banking services. This enables the poor to create assets, generate stable income, build resilience to meet macro-economic and livelihood shocks and bring about an improvement in their financial condition and living standards.

With the rapid growth of big cities, slums have become the breeding grounds of urban squalor and poverty. Generally the slum dwellers take up non-contractual and non-permanent jobs, such as,

house help, security guards, daily wage labourers, hawkers, beggars staying on the streets and petty workers working in and around the industrial areas in cities.

Their savings are usually low. Reasons for their low savings could be attributed to their low earnings, bigger family size with a single earning member and poor money management skills.

With regards to their borrowing behaviour, they borrow money primarily for treatment of self or family members, followed by their borrowing for social obligations like weddings and for meeting expenses for their house; building work, repair or purchasing of plots. They

tend to borrow from loan sharks at exorbitant interest rates - often as high as 10-15 per cent per month. The lender usually lives within the borrowers' community and knows their financial situations, constraints and the crisis.

But the story in Asha slums is a very different.

Asha, in collaboration with the Ministry of Finance, Government of India, launched its Financial Inclusion Programme in the year 2008 to address the problems faced by the slum residents in Delhi. This was a consequence of the then Finance Minister of India, Mr P Chidambaram's visit to an Asha community in 2008. Due to Asha's intervention, banks and financial institutions who were initially reluctant to extend their services to slum dwellers are welcoming them with open arms.

Now most of the slum residents, including women, have their own bank accounts. They are aware of different types of saving schemes and go for recurring and fixed deposits as well, in order to get good interest on their savings. The Programme has also been able to facilitate business and education loans from leading public sector banks for slum residents.



Dr Kiran with the first batch of nursing students from all Asha communities. Having successfully completed their courses they are paying back their loans

Highlights from Financial Inclusion Programme

Many slum dwellers have seen dramatic improvements in their financial status and quality of life as a result of the scheme. Some have opened or expanded businesses, purchased vehicles that improved their employment options, entered higher education or improved their homes.

- Devendra Singh, a fruit seller from Ravidas slum colony took a loan of Rs. 10,000 to expand his business. Later he took a second loan of Rs. 40,000 and the bank also readily sanctioned the amount considering his credit worthiness. His business is now flourishing.
- Santosh from Anna Nagar slum colony took a loan of Rs 15000 to expand the business of her grocery store. The loan has enabled her to include a small cosmetics' section in her shop which has helped her increase the profits. After repaying the present loan she wishes to apply for a second loan and expand the business further.
- Ramjanki, a bright student living in a south Delhi slum, wanted to pursue a course in nursing after completing school. At that point, Asha stepped in and facilitated her bank loan of



Santosh and her daughter at their shop

Rs. 2.41 lac. She has now completed her course and is working as a staff nurse in a reputed public health organisation. She has repaid the entire loan amount to the bank.

Social justice requires equal distribution of the opportunities and benefits of development in the society. It insists on the right of all people to reach their individual potential.

Bank Loan Brings Renewed Hope to a Family

Asha lives in Hanuman slum colony with her family. She has two daughters. Her husband is paralysed. The illness has rendered him unable to work, forcing Asha to be the sole provider for the family.

The only source of income for them is a small grocery shop that Asha runs in the slum. Despite the shop being operational for many years, Asha was not able to save enough to expand the business. She always felt the need for further capital to invest, but was extremely wary of approaching slum based money lenders.

Being closely associated with the women's group in the slum, Asha was one of the first in the community to hear about the Financial Inclusion Programme. She was quick to get in touch with the Asha Team and narrate her

problem. They told her to apply for a loan and helped her through the entire process. Soon, she was sanctioned a business loan of Rs. 50,000.

With careful investment and planning, not only was Asha able to expand her business but was also able to save enough to get her

house renovated. She has also repaid the entire amount and is able to take care of her family very well. Today she is able to save almost Rs 5000 per month and looks forward to the future with a great deal of hope.



Asha attends customers at her grocery store in Hanuman slum colony

Environment



Slums are often characterised by extremely limited water supplies, one water pump may be shared between 1000 people

Slums have numerous environmental problems such as housing that leaks when it rains providing few barriers to heat or cold; muddy lanes and poor drainage; and scavenging animals sharing space with humans. Basic amenities like access to clean and safe water and toilets, clean and paved streets with street lighting, covered drainage, solid waste disposal sites, and police check posts are practically non-existent in a slum colony.

Slum residents often do not have access to metered electricity connections, making electricity tapping a common practice. Usable toilets, if present, serve an average 125 people each. People are left with no choice but to defecate in the open - a practice that is both unsafe and unhygienic.

Such environmental conditions lead to poor health, which aggravates poverty and often results in loss of income owing to sickness, disease, and more spending on healthcare.

Adding to this is a lack of initiative and participation from community members towards the development

of their surroundings. This lack of interest only increases the apathy that the civic bodies generally hold towards slum dwellers, worsening the problems even further.

But conditions in an Asha slum are different. Stepping into an Asha slum one can see clearly what can be achieved if the community decides to change the way they live.

The Asha model of participatory development has always encouraged association between

the community, public health authorities and local government bodies. Two of the major agents of change in Asha's work to develop these communities have been the children's and women's groups. They have been trained by the Asha team on a variety of issues such as community cleanliness, prevention of air and water pollution, waste disposal, and household safety measures.

The women's and children's groups are also trained to approach government officials, police and sanitary officers, Municipal Councillors, Members of State Legislatures and Members of Parliament to improve their environment and opportunities for education. They also urge residents to care for their surroundings.

Clean and paved streets, unblocked drains, legal electricity meters in every home, functioning water pumps at the end of every street and spotless public toilet complexes are just some of the improvements that have been introduced in Asha communities as a result of the efforts of these advocacy groups.



Women's group in Seelampur slum colony conduct a sanitation drive to raise awareness about cleanliness and hygiene and to encourage people to be active participants in the development of the community

Highlights from Asha's Interventions

- The toilet complex at Anna Nagar was in a dilapidated state with no significant standard of hygiene. The Women's group from Anna Nagar wrote an application to the Councillor describing the situation and also personally met him to discuss the problem. After many such meetings and persistence of the women's group, the renovation of the toilet complex began and it is now fully functional.
- In Sanjay Amar Colony, the roads were in poor condition. The members of the children's association held a meeting to discuss the issue and decided to approach the local Legislator. The children's group members accompanied by Asha's

Community Volunteers and the slum lord met the MLA and submitted the application. The construction work has been completed and there are now concrete lanes in this area.

- To overcome the problem of inadequate lighting at Chanderpuri slum colony, the women's group of the slum liaised with authorities to get street lights installed across the slum. The area is now well-lit and much safer in the evenings, specially for women and girls.



Noted politician and then Member of Parliament, Ajay Maken accompanied by Mrs. Barkha Singh, then Member of the Legislative Assembly of R.K. Puram visited the Ekta Vihar slum colony in July 2013 for the inauguration of the new sewer line. The residents of Ekta Vihar, where Asha began its operations way back in 1989, had always suffered because of the lack of a drainage system leading to water logging and the spread of water-borne diseases. With the inauguration of the new sewer line, the inhabitants of Ekta Vihar can now hope to take care of these issues.

Women's Group gets a New Drain for Anna Nagar

In Anna Nagar slum colony, the condition of drains was pathetic. In the rainy season, drains would overflow and the water would enter the homes. Further worsening the problem, it would also become a breeding site for flies and mosquitoes spreading diseases like malaria and dengue fever.

The members of the women's association discussed the matter in their meeting. They wrote an application mentioning the problem and sent it to the Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) of their area. But there was no development.

Seeing no action being taken, they decided to speak to the MLA. Veena and Kamla, two of the senior members of the women's associations, took the initiative, and went to meet the MLA along with a few other members of the

women's group.

Not only did the MLA listen to them patiently but also assured them of immediate action. And within a week, the renovation of the drains began.

The work has now been completed and the drain is completely

covered. Thanks to the relentless efforts of the women's group, the community enjoys much higher levels of cleanliness and hygiene.



Members of the women's group stand proudly at the site where the overflowing drain was - making it difficult to even pass by

*When the goal is not
to defeat the enemy,
but to win them over,
love and understanding
can be created
between all. Active
peacemaking leaves
open the possibility of
conversion.*

Friends of Asha



Friends of Asha (GB) Coordinator, Phil Leighton with Darren Ellsmore, Andrew Evans & Mark Monksfield with the children's group members from Kanak Durga slum colony during their visit to Asha in March 2014

Individuals who have visited Asha or have been drawn to the Asha values have been so inspired that they have set up Friends of Asha organisations to support Asha's work from abroad. These independently registered bodies, run completely voluntarily, are

currently operating in the UK, Ireland, USA and Australia.

Some of the key aspects in which these bodies help Asha are:

- To increase the support base of Asha in the respective region.
- To draw in professionals from different walks of life who are

interested in issues related to urban poverty and its alleviation through Asha.

- To look for and support volunteers who can come and work with the Friends of Asha and the Asha Team in Delhi.
- To increase the means of support and funds raised for Asha through expansion of Asha's support base and potential volunteers and by providing requisite organisational support (publicity material, presentations, photographs etc.) to existing donor groups.

They also make it possible for people to make tax-efficient donations. The Friends of Asha organisations specifically in the United Kingdom and Ireland also let UK based supporters gift-aid their donations to Asha.

Getting in Touch with Friends of Asha

Below are the details for Friends of Asha in Great Britain, Ireland, the USA and Australia. The coordinators can help you to donate tax efficiently, let you know about any local events being held to raise funds, and give advice on ways in which you can help.

Friends of Asha (GB)

Mr Phil Leighton, Co-ordinator, Friends of Asha (GB)

"Woodlands", 34 Knoll Road, Sidcup, Kent DA14 4QU, UK | Email: foasha.leighton@tiscali.co.uk

Web: www.justgiving.com/friendsofasha | Charity Registration No. 1085071

Friends of Asha Ireland (For Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland)

Mrs Daphne Wright, Friends of Asha (Ireland)

3 Altona Manor, Holywood, Co Down, N Ireland BT18 9BX, UK. | Email: wgw70@yahoo.com

Charity Registration No. XR 37459

ASHA (USA)

Mrs Louanne Hempton, American Society for Health for All (ASHA)

96 Sweetwater Ave #6, Bedford, MA 01730, USA. | Email: lhempton@hotmail.com

ASHA (USA) is a 501 (C) 3 registered charity, EIN #01557632

Australian Friends of Asha for Slums Limited

Mr Richard Leder, Secretary and Coordinator, Australian Friends of Asha for slums

Australia India Institute, The University of Melbourne, 4th Floor, Arts West Building, Parkville VIC 3010, Australia

Email: richard.leder@corrs.com.au | Website: www.australianfriendsofashaslums.org.au

Charity Registration Number ACN 161 085 650

Inspiring Hope: a Celebration of 25 Years of Service in the Slums of Delhi in the UK

On 23rd November, Friends of Asha (GB) hosted guests from across Great Britain at a celebration of Asha's 25th Anniversary at Westminster Central Hall, London. Many long standing friends of Asha's work joined new friends and potential partners to celebrate the past 25 years and look to the future with a renewed sense of excitement.

Throughout the morning, guests were treated to a choice of engaging seminars and exhibition stands, including a discussion on 'Poverty in Great Britain' by Asha supporters and the former Chief Executive of the Church Urban Fund, Fran Beckett, OBE.

In the afternoon, guests gathered together for a formal celebration with key note speeches from The Right Reverend, Andrew Watson, Bishop of Aston and Dr. Kiran. During his address, Bishop Watson praised the work of Asha noting that its success comes from a wonderful mix of the professional and amateur; 'professional in the sense of using our heads, developing good strategies, appointing competent people, networking with those who can make a difference, amateur in the sense of doing things out of love (because that's what the word 'amateur' means): a love of people, a love of God, a love of life itself.'

Dr David Finch, Chair of Trustees for Friends of Asha GB, closed the day by thanking supporters for their commitment over the years and encouraged them to remain an active part of Asha's future, inviting them to join him again at Asha's 50th Anniversary Celebration!



Bishop Andrew Watson addressing the gathering

Asha Ireland: Asha Celebrating 25 Years

On Saturday 16th November, Dr. Kiran and Freddy Martin were welcomed to the Borough by the Mayoress, Audrey Wales MBE, at a reception with local dignitaries, where Dr. Kiran gave a summary of her 25 years with some of the poorest people.

Later on, there was a buffet reception for around 150 Friends of Asha from various parts of Ireland and, afterwards, numbers swelled to over 1,000 for the evening celebration at Wellington Street Presbyterian Church. Friends from England and Scotland were also in attendance.

The celebration worship music, provided by the 120-strong Voice of Hope choir and Raise the Roof children's choir (conducted by Asha supporter Alyson Reid), was a highlight of the evening, along with a walk-past by representatives of 27 teams from

Ireland that had visited Asha over the past 12 years. Rev Simon Richardson shared experiences of his expedition to Delhi with the Parish team last autumn. He especially highlighted his visits to the women's groups where he and Jim Cheshire learnt about their work, and his dialogue with Freddy Martin (his interpreter in Delhi) was especially poignant, yet greatly encouraging.

The keynote speaker was Dr Kiran who spoke about the values and ethos of the organisation, expressing justice for the poor of our society, compassion and the love of God. Dr Kiran also spoke in Hollywood Parish Church on the Sunday, and expressed her sincere thanks to the members of the congregation for their generous support to Asha through the partnership with Zakhira slum colony. A replica of a slum hut had been erected by Noel Henderson in the chancel of the church. The children really loved it as Dr. Kiran explained to them that it showed exactly the situation 25 years ago when Asha first became involved, but went on to confirm how much better the situation is today.



Freddy and Dr. Kiran with Steven Montgomery, Deputy Lord Lieutenant of County Antrim and Mrs Montgomery



Evening reception at the beautiful Wellington Street Presbyterian Church

A Dinner Reception at Australia



L to R; Katrine Hilyard, (CEO Together SA)
Dr Kiran Martin(Founder and Director Asha),
Liz Chapman (Board Member Tomorrow Today
Foundation, Benalla Vic)

The Tenzo Foundation, Macquarie Group Foundation and Australian Friends of Asha Slums, recently co-hosted an evening of dinner and conversation around regional insights into community led, collective impact change models.

During the event at the Macquarie Bank offices in Melbourne, Dr Kiran Martin spoke about the work of Asha in transforming lives of over 500,000 slum residents in Delhi, and the internationally recognised and acclaimed change model developed and applied in this work. Seri Renkin, CEO Tenzo Foundation discussed the emergence of similar change models in Australia and the opportunities and challenges that funders, practitioners and service providers face in using these models to drive transformational change for Australia's most vulnerable children and young people.

A discussion around the role of Business in enabling and supporting this social change work was then had, with reflections shared by Bendigo Bank Chair, Robert Johanson and Macquarie Group Foundation Manager, Heather Matwejev. Collectively these conversations continued dialogue between Indian and Australian leaders in social change and deepened respective understanding of our shared challenge of tackling issues of entrenched disadvantaged.



L to R; Caroline Chernov (Exec Dir tenzo Foundation),
Geoff Dober (Chair Tenzo Foundation), Vinod Kumar,
Dr Kiran Martin, Robert Johanson (Chair Australian
Friends of Asha Slums/ Chair Bendigo Bank), Seri Ren-
kin (CEO tenzo Foundation)

Asha Day at Napa Valley, California



The 13th annual Napa Valley ASHA Day Fundraiser was a big success thanks to the help and support of Rep. Mike Thompson and his wife, Janet Thompson, Rohit Patel, Kailash and Gisela Chaudhary, and the numerous donors and volunteers who participated. The event was graciously hosted by Craig and Kathryn Hall at the beautiful Hall Winery in St. Helena. This year the event also celebrated Asha's 25th anniversary.

US Congressman Mike Thompson and his wife Janet Thompson hosted Asha Day on 7th September 2013. The event was graciously hosted by Craig and Kathryn Hall at the beautiful Hall Winery in St. Helena. In its 13th year this year, the fundraiser began after Jan Thompson, a nurse, visited Asha while accompanying her husband on a congressional visit to New Delhi almost 14 years ago. This year the event also celebrated Asha's 25th anniversary.

In attendance were long time supporters of Asha along with many new ones as well. The Congressman described the long association of Napa Valley supporters with Asha's work, particularly to aid the children of the slums.

The event included an interview with Dr Kiran, a silent auction, wine tasting and a delicious Indian lunch. Speaking to those present, Dr Kiran recounted Asha's journey over the past 25 years and how she is continuing to work to improve the lives of slum dwellers in Delhi.

Asha would like to extend sincere thanks to Congressman Mike Thompson and Mrs Janet Thompson for hosting Asha Day in support of children living in New Delhi slums. We are also thankful to Mr Rohit and Mrs Mridula Patel, Mr Kailash and Mrs Gisela Chaudhary, Chaudhary &

Associates and the other organisers for their incredible hard work in putting this event together. We are thankful to all the supporters, attendees and donors for making the day a huge success.

Highlights from Friends of Asha



Fair trade baby carrier KangaWrap supports the work of Asha through a portion of their sales each month. During Asha's 25th Anniversary Celebrations in Westminster, KangaWrap presented Asha with a donation towards its maternal and newborn health programme in the slums. (In Picture) KangaWrap founder Sarah with Dr Kiran at the event.



Moyra Richardson organised a book reading event, celebrating author David Park and his latest novel, 'The Light of Amsterdam', attended by almost 150 people to fund the upcoming trip of students and teachers from Wallace High School to Asha.



Darren Ellsmore organised a Chamber Music recital at the New Generation Church, Sidcup to raise funds for Asha. The event was a great success.



Dr. Praveen and Dr. Nalini Prasad hosting an Asha event at their residence in Sacramento as a part of Dr. Kiran's US trip.



Ranjit Rao from Australia took part in the 23rd Hamilton Vitality Fun Run Half Marathon Event to raise funds for Asha's Higher Education Programme. "In the last few kilometers, when I had exhausted all reserves it was the thought of the worthy children who now had the opportunity of a university education that carried me across the finish line," he says.



During her trip, Dr. Kiran was invited to a coffee morning hosted at the home of Asha supporters Jim and Sandy Jones from Napa Valley

Volunteers and Teams at Asha

Asha welcomes volunteers from all over the world, regardless of their skills or the length of time that they have to spare. By just contributing their time and talents, they have helped us transform lives of thousands of individuals in Delhi slums. Their enthusiasm and spirit of working for others is deeply inspiring. We are truly grateful for the donations they have made, the helping hand they have extended and most importantly, the love that they share with the community.



Ms Genevieve Clune, wife of the Deputy Australian High Commissioner Mr Bernard Philip has been teaching English to college and high school students at Zakhira twice a week



Anita and Dan from Canada with students from Dr Ambedkar slum colony



Jo Murphy with her students to whom she taught English for over seven weeks at Jeevan Nagar slum colony



Lisa McCumisky from the UK, volunteered with Asha for over seven months. Along with helping the team at the Asha Headquarters, she also taught English at Kanak Durga slum colony



Dr Jonathan Boston from New Zealand conducting a workshop with Political Science students from Asha communities



Meghana Agni from the USA teaching English to students at Asha's community based centre in Jeevan Nagar slum colony



A team from Ballymena Academy visited Asha in October to volunteer at Tigri slum colony. During their time here, they organised English conversation workshops with the college and high school students, and art and crafts for the younger children from the slums, along with painting the Asha centre there.



A team of 8 members from Monash University, Australia visited Jeevan Nagar slum colony during the month of February. They spent a week painting the Asha centre in the slum and meeting with the community.



A team led by Gwen Montgomery from Ireland visited Mayapuri slum colony in the third week of February. They decorated the walls of the children's resource centre in Mayapuri by painting beautiful murals on them.

One of the highlights of the team's visit was a workshop on 'Rabies and its Prevention' with Asha's Community Health Volunteers organised by veterinarian Peter Wedderburn.



A team comprising Mr John Furste, Ms Sara Furste and Ms Caroline Park from The River New York, USA spent 10 days working with the children's group in Jeevan Nagar slum colony. During their stay, they absolutely enthralled the kids by narrating stories, conducting music and dance sessions and playing educational games with them.



Asha had the pleasure of welcoming once again a team of students and teachers from Methodist College Belfast. While at Asha's centre in Kalkaji slum colony, they were engaged in a wide variety of activities with students and also visited some of the students in their homes. The experience left the students feeling appreciative for the many blessings in their own lives.



A team comprising 6 members from Davis and Sacramento, California spent a week at Asha's community centre in Tigri slum colony during the month of January. It was a time of endless joy, laughter and learning as they held art and craft sessions, English conversation classes and moral education workshops with the children who were only too eager to learn.

Visitors and Supporters at Asha

After an incredible year, Asha would like to acknowledge our amazing supporters, without whom our work wouldn't be possible. With your continued assistance, we are seeing wonderful progress in the ability of slum dwellers and their communities to lift themselves out of poverty. We thank you for your deep commitment to enhancing the quality of life of Delhi's slum communities, and for enabling us to build on the successes of last year.



College students from Asha communities, accompanied by Dr Kiran, met with Mr L.K. Advani, Former Deputy Indian Prime Minister and narrated stories of their higher education journey.



Member of New Zealand Parliament, Mr Todd McClay was warmly welcomed by Dr Kiran Martin, founder and director of Asha, the slum residents and Asha Team at the Asha centre in Kanak Durga slum colony



Noted politician and Member of Parliament (MP), Ajay Maken visited the Ekta Vihar slum colony on Saturday, the 6th July, 2013. He was accompanied by Mrs. Barkha Singh, the Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) of R.K. Puram and Mr. Dharamvir Singh, the area Councillor.



Canadian High Commissioner, HE Mr. Stewart Beck and his wife, Ms. Brenda Beck visited Asha to acquaint themselves with the various components of Asha's work and life of the people living in the slums



Japanese Ambassador, HE Takeshi Yagi with Kanta from Dr. Ambedkar slum colony who has taken a loan to set up her grocery shop



The Irish Ambassador HE Mr. Feilim McLaughlin and members of his team visited Jeewan Nagar slum colony in May 2013. While speaking to the students, he congratulated them on their success and also shared experiences from his own life.



Acting High Commissioner, New Zealand, HE Michael Appleton visited Asha and had an interactive exchange with Dr Kiran and the Asha community. He was pleased to hear the stories of transformation that has taken place in their lives



Deputy Australian High Commissioner, Mr. Bernard Philip visited Dr. Ambedkar slum colony. He was accompanied by Ms. Alexas Mcleod, Member of Committee, Direct Aid Programme, Ms. Caitlin Bell, Second Secretary (Political), Australian High Commission and his partner, Ms. Genevieve Clune.



Deputy High Commissioner, Singapore, Mr Jonathan Tow visited Asha with his wife, Ms Chui. He was accompanied by his Political Counsellor, Eirliani Abdul Rahman. After speaking to the community members, he also visited a few members of the community in their homes to gain an insight into their lives.



Asha had the privilege of welcoming dynamic Asha supporter from Australia, Dr Ranjit Rao. Accompanied by his wife Kanchana and two children Arjun and Samika along with his father-in-law Mr. D.R. Kaarthikeyan, Former Director, Central Bureau of Investigation, he visited Asha's community centre in Dr. Ambedkar slum colony.



Chris White, President & Group CEO at Varun Beverages, PepsiCo's bottling business partner in India, with Asha interns at PepsiCo - Surender, Sunil and Dilip. After successfully completing his internship with PepsiCo in 2012, Sunil is now employed at the organisation.



Dean McCumisky, CEO, BAE Systems India with Dr Kiran and Asha college students, Krishna, Mahesh and Usha.



A team from British Charity Committee, British High Commission, with college and high school students from Kanak Durga slum colony



John Horne, Sue Moyle and Richard Barter from TEAR Fund, New Zealand with Associate Director Freddy Martin



Team from Stanford University with Dr Kiran and college students from Asha communities



Members of Rotary Club of Delhi South End presenting a cheque to Asha's Healthcare Programme. The Rotarians have been valued supporters of Asha over a number of years and we look forward to working with them again on future projects.



Rio Tinto employees generously decided to forego their Diwali gift from the company and instead donated the funds to Asha to assist students from underprivileged areas. As a token of appreciation, the company doubled its staff's donations, meaning many more university places can be funded as a result of the generosity of Rio Tinto and its team across India.

Rio Tinto has provided internships to Asha students for two years. Eight students from the slums, who have never before stepped into a multinational corporation, have thus been taught the nuances of corporate life.



Representatives of Financial modeling firm, FiF9, interacting with the community in Seelampur slum colony during their visit in April 2013.



Asha had the honour of welcoming Mr Robert Johanson, Chairman of Bendigo Bank and Chairman of Australian Friends of Asha to Kusumpur slum colony in November 2013. He met with the women's and children's group members and university students from the community and spent a long time speaking to them and noting the progress the Asha communities have made over the past years.



Rohit Patel, a dynamic Asha Ambassador and primary organiser of Dr. Kiran's US trip in 2013, and his wife Ms Mridula at Seelampur slum colony during their visit to India in early 2014.



Asha was privileged to have the opportunity of welcoming Professor Sue Elliot, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Engagement), University of Melbourne; Mr Bill Burdett, Member of Board of Directors, Australian Friends of Asha; Mr Wayne Lewis, Commissioner to India, State Government of Victoria; Ms Gonul Serbest, Executive Director-Trade, Government of Victoria; Mr Howard Ronaldson, Secretary, Department of State Development-Business and Innovation and Mr Amitabh Mattoo, Director, Australia India Institute during the month of March 2014.



In March, a team of 26 students and four teachers from the American Embassy School, New Delhi visited Kusumpur Pahari slum colony. As a part of their population studies project at the school, the students were interested in learning about the life of the urban poor in Delhi.



Gordon Wright and Dr Kiran with Lord Diljit Rana during Dr Kiran's visit to Northern Ireland in 2013



Mr Kailash Chaudhary; Mark Richmond, President Kiwanis Club of Napa, California, Dr Kiran and Mr Rohit Patel during Dr Kiran's visit to California in September 2013



Mr Chidambaram lights the inaugural lamp to mark the commencement of the event

Asha's Celebration of Learning 2013

In October 2013, Asha's annual Celebration of Learning was organised to celebrate the remarkable achievements of nearly 1,000 students from Asha's slum communities who have been accepted to university. The evening was graced by the presence of the then Minister for Finance, Government of India, Mr. P. Chidambaram as the Chief Guest.

It was a proud moment for Asha as some of the top achievers for this year took to the stage to accept a certificate, scholarship and memento from the Honourable Minister. The evening was interspersed with tales of inspiration as children from the slum communities shared their stories of hopes, dreams and victories despite the insurmountable odds against them.

Mr P. Chidambaram, was impressed with the merit and hard-work displayed by these students and said that given the opportunities these children are capable of great heights. This statement is brought to life by Asha students like Chandan Singh, who is the Asha topper with 89% marks in the standard XII board examination or Sunil, who is now employed with PepsiCo.

The evening also celebrated the success of Asha's Financial Inclusion Programme with the heads of Canara Bank, State Bank of India and Punjab National Bank presenting loan cheques to the Asha loan beneficiaries.

The cultural performances for the evening included a folk dance performance by children, for many of whom it was their first time on stage. One of the highlights of the evening was the vocal music performance by Guru Vinod Kumar, Director and Principal of Bhaatkhande Sangeet Vidyalaya and the multi-talented Dr. Kiran Martin.



Mr P Chidambaram presents the certificate and memento to an Asha topper



Mr. P. Chidambaram with Mr. Brajesh Varma, Deputy General Manager, State Bank of India; Dr. Kiran; Mr. R. K. Dubey, Chief General Manager, Canara Bank; Guru Vinod Kumar; Mr. K.R. Kamath, Chief General Manager, Punjab National Bank



Bala, loan borrower from Jeevan Nagar slum colony receives her loan cheque from Mr Chidambaram and Mr. R.K. Dubey

One thing that strikes me at every Asha function is that all these children ask for, is an opportunity. They are not asking for crutches, they are not asking for doles, they are not asking for any special favour; all that they want is an opportunity which is being denied to them because of poverty. Just a little watering of that seed and you see them flowering into school leaving children, graduates, post-graduates, interns, a regular job holder and now today, a proud owner of a car. I warmly compliment the Asha team headed by Dr. Kiran Martin and I thank all friends, well-wishers and donors of Asha for the tremendous support that you have been giving for the last many years.

Excerpt from Mr Chidambaram's speech at Celebration of Learning 2013

British High Commissioner Celebrates the Success of Asha Students

In October 2013, the British High Commission celebrated the achievements of nearly 1,000 students from the slums of Delhi who have secured admission to university. The event comprised a spellbinding Indian classical dance presentation by college and high school students choreographed by Bhaatkhande Sangit Vidyalaya. This was a one-of-a-kind opportunity for the students from the slums to perform before a distinguished audience which included diplomats and the capital's elite.

Another first for Asha students was participating in a fashion show organised by the Sushant School of Design, a well-known design school in Delhi. Also organised at the venue was an exhibition of photographs celebrating the work of Asha accompanied by the book "A Journey of Hope" that was available for purchase. The evening ended with a beautiful ghazal rendition by Dr. Kiran and Guru Vinod Kumar, Director and Principal, Bhaatkhande Sangit Vidyalaya, a premier institute of Indian classical music and dance.



Mahinder, engineering student from Ekta Vihar slum colony, spoke about his journey, "I am the first in my slum colony to ever go to college. I never thought that one day I would be interning in companies like Macquarie and BAE Systems."



Dr. Kiran sums up Asha's Higher Education Programme. "Our Higher Education Programme aims to ensure that our students have the opportunity to go to university and to seek professional jobs," she said

The event brought new support for our students, including a scholarship for a Masters in Design, and seven new organisations offering internship places, one of them the British High Commission. Inspired by the stories they heard, new mentors and teachers also stepped forward, Thanks go to Sir James and Lady Bevan and to our sponsors, for such a magical evening with so many important outcomes for our work.



Sir James and Lady Bevan with Dr. Kiran, Asha students and members of the Asha team after the event



Indian classical dance performance by Asha students before a distinguished audience which included diplomats and the capital's elite

Canadian First Lady visits Asha

Asha had the honour and pleasure of welcoming the Canadian First Lady, Her Excellency Mrs Sharon Johnston to Dr Ambedkar slum colony in the month of February. She was accompanied by Ms Brenda Beck, wife of Canadian High Commissioner HE Stewart Beck, and her team. She was greeted with great warmth and enthusiasm by Dr Kiran Martin, founder and director of Asha, the slum residents and the other members of the Asha Team.

Mrs Johnston's visit was primarily focused on meeting with the community to know more about two of Asha's path-breaking initiatives in the area of slum development- the Asha Healthcare Programme and the Asha Higher Education Programme.

At Asha's community based centre in the slum colony, she had a freewheeling session with the Asha's university students and women's group members as they exchanged stories and experiences.

Mrs Johnston listened with great interest as Asha's Community Health Volunteers (CHV's) spoke about the early days of Asha and their achievements in the past 25 years. She also discussed health issues such as depression, which is a common mental illness in slums. Speaking in fluent English, university students from Asha communities talked about their higher education journey.

In step with the Asha values of gratitude and compassion, Mrs Johnston stressed on the importance of giving back to the community while addressing the students. "Whenever you take one step up in life, always remember to take someone with you," she told them.



Dr Kiran welcomes Her Excellency Mrs Sharon Johnston to Dr Ambedkar slum colony



Mrs Johnston congratulated Dr Kiran and the Asha team on their achievements over the past 25 years. "If you think about what Dr Martin is doing, would you not say that she is not just serving, but loving," she remarked while addressing the community.



Usha, a Political Science graduate from Delhi University spoke about the experience of interning at the Canadian High Commission and thanked Her Excellency for the support the Canadian Government extended to Asha.

Over the 4 years that my husband has been the Governor General, I think my visit here has been one of the most insightful visits I ever had. The actualisation of young people, who otherwise without this programme would have no hope and now have so much hope; the mentoring; and the success of these young people going to university will make the leaders of your country. This model is something I would like to take home to our country to deal with people who are disadvantaged. You have a great model. Dr Martin is an extraordinary person. She is inspiring and she has inspired me. I hope that Asha would come to Canada. It's been a wonderful day.

Excerpt from Mrs Johnston's remarks after her visit

Samaavesh, a cultural evening to promote young talent from slum communities

The 6th of July, 2013 turned out to be an evening of celebration of talent for the children of Delhi slums as more than fifty students took to the stage at Shri Sathya Sai Auditorium to perform before a packed audience including Mr. Salman Khurshid, Former Minister for External Affairs, Government of India as Chief Guest. Joining as Guests of Honour for the evening were Mr. Suresh Goel, Director General, Indian Council of Cultural Relations and Mr. Kajal Ghose, Chief General Manager, State Bank of India.

The musical event titled 'Samaavesh' was hosted by Asha in association with Hindi Sangeet Institution. Since January, Asha, in collaboration with the prestigious Bhaatkhande Sangit Vidyalaya (run by the Hindi Sangeet Institution), has been providing free classes in performing arts to students from the slums.

The performances included a set of songs and dance pieces by these young talents interspersed with Asha tales of challenges, hope, dreams and victories. These were followed by the spellbinding ghazal performance by Dr. Kiran and Guru Vinod Kumar, Principal of the Bhaatkhande Sangit Vidyalaya.

The end of the programme saw the Asha toppers (Standard XII) being presented with certificates of achievement by Mr. Khurshid who appreciated the sincere efforts being made by Asha and encouraged the children to relentlessly pursue their goals.



(Left to Right) Mr Suresh Goel, Director General, Indian Council for Cultural Relations; Guru Vinod Kumar, Principal and Director, Bhaatkhande Sangit Vidyalaya; Mrs Goswami, Vice President, Hindi Sangeet Institution; Mr Kajal Ghose, Chief General Manager, State Bank of India; Mr Salman Khurshid, Hon'ble Minister for External Affairs, Government of India; Dilip Singh, university student from an Asha community and Dr Kiran Martin



Mr Khurshid presenting merit certificates to High School toppers from Asha communities



An all girls group from Asha slums perform a Rajasthani folk dance

The work that you [Dr. Kiran Martin] are doing is something we [political leaders] also want to get involved in. But when we do it people feel we are doing it to get their votes. Sadly, trust is at a tremendous deficit in the political sector. I hope that the children who have grown-up under your influence and guidance, to whom you have given an identity and strength to stand on their feet, will have trust towards humanity. Thank you so much for inviting me to be a part of this evening. I hope that this inspiration will last a long time and hopefully some of us [political leaders] will be able to touch these children in the same way as you have.

Excerpt from Mr Khurshid's speech



Ms Bishop speaks to a young woman from the community

Asha welcomes Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs, Ms. Julie Bishop MP

It was a morning filled with much excitement and flurry of preparations as the Asha team and community in Dr. Ambedkar slum colony got ready to welcome the Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs, Ms. Julie Bishop MP in the month of November. She was accompanied by the Australian High Commissioner, HE Mr. Patrick Suckling and Secretary of the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Mr. Peter Varghese.

Ms. Bishop's visit was primarily focused on gaining an insight into the lives of slum residents and to hear more about the Asha Higher Education Programme. She spent a lot of time interacting with the university students and women from the community. The women excitedly narrated their journey towards empowerment, the college students shared about their experiences at university and during internships. She also presented a cheque of Rs. 1,000,000 to provide scholarships for slum students pursuing tertiary education.

Visits such as these go a long way in strengthening the relationship that Asha has shared with the Australian government. Asha is immensely grateful for the generous support that the government and people of Australia have extended to its work.



Babita, a recent political science graduate from Delhi University, said "I remember being a shy and hesitant girl. I didn't even think that I would go to a college. But that was before Asha and the High Commission stepped in. Interning at the Australian High Commission opened up my horizons and made me more confident. Now, I have hopes and dreams, and enough confidence to go out and accomplish them."

[In picture] Ms. Bishop congratulates Babita for her achievements.



Asha Team and community at Dr. Ambedkar slum colony welcome the Hon'ble Minister



Asha students and team members with Ms. Bishop

I pay tribute to everyone who has been involved in supporting the people who live here [in slums] to have a better life. Young people now have an opportunity to have an education, the women are becoming more self confident and are able to take the role in their destiny. It is often said that if you educate a man, you have educated one person, if you educate a woman, you educate an entire family, indeed a village. And so, I am very pleased to see the number of women who and girls taking up the opportunities, to be educated.

Excerpt from Ms Bishop's address to the community

Independent Audit Report



R. MEDIRATTA & ASSOCIATES
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF
ASHA COMMUNITY HEALTH & DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY

We have audited the attached Balance Sheet of **Asha community Health and Development Society** as at 31st March 2014 and also the Income & Expenditure Account for the year ended on that date, annexed thereto and report that:

We conducted our audit in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in India. Those Standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material mis-statement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

We report that:

- a) We have obtained all the information and explanations, which to the best of our knowledge and belief were necessary for the purposes of our audit;
- b) In our opinion, proper books of account as required by law have been kept by the Society so far as appears from our examination of those books.
- c) In our opinion and to the best of our information and according to explanation given to us the said accounts give a true & fair view.
 - i) In the case of Balance Sheet of the state of affairs of the above named Society as at 31st March 2014.
 - ii) In the case of Income and Expenditure Account of the Excess of Income over Expenditure for the year ended on that date.

For R. MEDIRATTA & ASSOCIATES
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS



Rakesh Mediratta
(RAKESH MEDIRATTA)
FCA
PROPRIETOR

PLACE: NEW DELHI
DATE: 24/06/2014

ASHA COMMUNITY HEALTH & DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY**FINANCIALS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2014**

S.NO	PARTICULARS	AMOUNT	
A	SOURCES OF FUNDS	(In Rs.)	(In Rs.)
A.1	Capital Fund	127932576	
	Less: Application towards Fixed Assets	100769932	27162644
A.2	Restricted Funds		68762563
A.3	Staff Gratuity Fund		5499035
	Total		101424242
B	APPLICATION OF FUNDS		
B.1	Change in Working Capital		
B.1.1	Current Assets & Loans and Advances		
	→ <u>Current Assets</u>		
	Closing Stock	63878	
	Cash & Cash Equivalents	99653236	
	→ <u>Loans And Advances</u>	2320829	
	Total	102037943	
B.1.2	Less: Current Liabilities & Provision		
	Security Deposit(Salary)	613420	
	Provident Fund (CHDP)	281	101424242
	Total		101424242

FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR 2013-14

S.NO	PARTICULARS	AMOUNT	
C	REVENUE	(In Rs.)	(In Rs.)
C.1	Income from All Contributions, Donations and Grants	66674616	
C.2	Clinic Receipts	2770618	
C.3	Interest (From Bank & Income tax Refund)	6923292	76368526
D	EXPENSES		
D.1	Running & Maintenance Of Clinics/Centers	26283128	
D.2	Welfare/Empowerment of Women	1067922	
D.3	Awareness Camps/Seminars/Workshops/Meetings/Conferences	7724843	
D.4	Welfare of Children	8385028	
D.5	Asset Procurement	5416256	
D.6	Administrative Expenses	1677176	
D.7	Other Expenses	140612	
D.8	Depreciation on Assets	2581180	53276145
E	Excess of Revenue over Expenses		23092381

Signed in terms of our report of even date

For R. MEDIRATTA & ASSOCIATES
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTSRakesh Mediratta
(RAKESH MEDIRATTA)
FCA
PROPRIETORFor ASHA COMMUNITY HEALTH &
DEVELOPMENT SOCIETYK. Arun
(DIRECTOR)

(TREASURER)



Thank you to all our supporters, campaigners, staff, and volunteers for your support during the year and for sharing our ambitions for a world of equality.

Asha Community Health and Development Society

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Website: www.asha-india.org | Director's Blog: drkiranmartin.wordpress.com



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Asha Community Health & Development Society is registered under the Societies of Registration Act of 1860. The Registration Number is S/20849 of 1990.

Asha is authorised to receive funds under the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act, FCRA Registration Number: 231650841. Contributions to Asha are exempt under Section 80G of the Income Tax Act. Asha is granted Income Tax exemption under Section 10 (23c) (6a).