

NEWS UPDATE

June 2024



"Our prime purpose in this life is to help others. And if you can't help them, at least don't hurt them."

- DALAI LAMA



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INTRODUCTION

HISTORY OF M S INTERNATIONAL, INC.

Manu and Rika Shah founded MSI in 1975, in the basement of their home in Ft. Wayne, Indiana. MSI is now the largest importer and distributor in the world of Premium Surfaces including granite, marble, porcelain and ceramic tiles, slate, travertine, limestone and other natural stone products from 37 countries. Most notably, MSI provided the granite for the Vietnam Memorial in DC.

Manu and Rika Shah established Sarva Mangal Family Trust (Sarva Mangal means 'let all be happy' in Sanskrit) over 20 years ago with compassion as their driving force for philanthropy. Manu's vision for SMFT is to act as a catalyst, challenge status quo, nurture passionate change-makers and support leapfrogging ideas that are scalable and sustainable. Today, all members from the Shah family are involved in social impact initiatives that are undertaken by SMFT. Manu supports VOSAP – Voice of Specially Abled People, which has created over 10,000 change makers and rated over 18,000 buildings rated for accessibility. He also supports Lend a hand India, which provides digital vocational training to over 300,000 students in 20,000 schools.

In 2007, Mr. Manu Shah was named Ernst & Young's national Entrepreneur of the Year in the distribution, manufacturing, and security category.

ABOUT SARVA MANGAL FAMILY TRUST

Established in 1994 by the Founders of M S International, Inc. The mission of the Sarva Mangal Family Trust is to improve and strengthen the health, education and theyllness of communities and help them prepare for global jobs of the 21st century. Sarva Mangal is a Sanskrit word which means Goodness to All.

To advance this mission, the Sarva Mangal Family Trust has donated to and is continuing to work with various organizations and programs in health promotion and prevention, assisting victims of domestic violence, empottheyring seniors, entrepreneurship, technological literacy, community activism, and children's education.

MONTHLY HIGHLIGHTS



SMFT DONATES RESIDENTIAL BUILDING FOR VISUALLY IMPAIRED IN MORBI

Sarva Mangal Family Trust (SMFT) has donated to Pragnachakshu Punarvasan Kendra to establish a residential building in Morbi for visually impaired married couples. This facility will provide housing and support for 56 couples, each in a one-room flat with a kitchen, throughout different stages of life. Pragnachakshu Punarvasan Kendra will facilitate marriages, support parenthood, and offer care into old age, aiming to build confidence and independence among the visually impaired. The facility will also provide vocational training and promote employment opportunities [\(Continued on Page 4\)](#)

NGO VISIT – PRAGNACHAKSHU PUNARVASAN KENDRA

June 2024 – The Sarva Mangal Family Trust proudly announces its support for the construction of Pragnachakshu Punarvasan Kendra in Morbi, a pioneering residential complex designed to support visually impaired married couples. This state-of-the-art facility will serve as a home for 56 couples, each provided with a one-room flat complete with a kitchen, ensuring a comfortable and independent living environment. The Trust is committed to creating spaces where visually impaired couples can live with dignity and independence.

Pragnachakshu, the esteemed organization spearheading this initiative, plays a crucial role in the lives of these couples by facilitating their marriages, supporting them through parenthood, and offering care into their old age. Their holistic approach ensures that visually impaired individuals receive the comprehensive support they need throughout their lives. Pragnachakshu's dedicated efforts provide a seamless support system that fosters stability and emotional well-being for these families.

Beyond providing housing, Pragnachakshu is deeply committed to the upliftment of visually impaired people. The organization focuses on building their confidence and eliminating feelings of inferiority, fostering a sense of self-worth and independence. Understanding the importance of employment for a fulfilling life, Pragnachakshu offers vocational and rehabilitation training, equipping visually impaired individuals with the skills necessary to lead independent and productive lives.

This initiative reflects the Sarva Mangal Family Trust's dedication to supporting inclusive and empowering projects. By partnering with Pragnachakshu, the Trust aims to make a lasting impact on the lives of visually impaired couples, ensuring they have the resources and opportunities to thrive. The collaboration embodies the Trust's mission to promote social welfare and enhance the quality of life for underserved communities.



NGO VISIT – PROJECT LIFE

June 2024 – The SMFT team recently visited the Sarva Mangal Family Trust Primary Schools in Vaghpar and Gundakhada to observe and support various educational initiatives. At Vaghpar Primary School, the team was impressed by the digitalization efforts in Grade 5, where tablets and smart classrooms have been introduced to enhance learning. This initiative, generously supported by SMFT, aims to modernize the educational experience and provide students with access to advanced learning tools. The team also inaugurated the second phase of the Addiction-Free School & Village Project, an effort recommended and supported by Rika Shah. This project now covers 108 schools and focuses on creating addiction-free environments, promoting healthy lifestyles, and educating students on the dangers of substance abuse.

In addition to these initiatives, the team launched a scholarship distribution program to support ranker and needy students, encouraging academic excellence and providing financial assistance to those in need. They also distributed hygiene kits to students of the SMFT School in Vaghpar, emphasizing the importance of personal hygiene and health. These efforts are part of SMFT's broader mission to improve the educational infrastructure and overall well-being of students in the region.

During their visit to Gundakhada, the team inspected the new Sarva Mangal Family Trust Primary School, which is currently under construction. Once completed, this school will serve more than 350 children, offering them a modern and conducive learning environment. The team also visited the old, dilapidated school building, which has been in use for 75 years, underscoring the need for the new school's timely completion.

The visit concluded with an interactive session with 215 students from the SMFT School in Gundakhada. The team engaged with the students, discussing various topics and encouraging them to share their experiences and aspirations.



NGO VISIT – MADHI FOUNDATION

June 2024 – The SMFT team recently visited the Madhi Foundation in Chennai to explore potential collaboration aimed at expanding education support in the southern part of India. The visit focused on understanding the foundation's two primary programs: Early Years Education and Community Building, both of which have shown significant promise in enhancing educational outcomes in the region.

The Early Years Education program, initiated in 2016 in collaboration with the Tamil Nadu Government, targets children in grades 1 to 3. This initiative aims to enhance early education by creating tailored educational content for young learners, assisting in the establishment and improvement of school facilities, and providing regular training sessions for teachers in subjects such as English, Math, and Computer Science. The program's comprehensive approach has contributed to a more enriched learning environment for young children in government schools.

The Community Building project, started in 2022, focuses on supporting 2000 families in rural Tamil Nadu. The project employs two methods of delivery to strengthen community involvement in education: a personal approach and a technology approach. The personal approach involves monthly activity-based group classes that include games and quizzes, each session lasting 60 minutes. The technology approach uses WhatsApp to disseminate educational content, ensuring that learning continues even outside the classroom. During their visit, the SMFT team observed these methods in action and interacted with the parents' community to understand their experiences and feedback.

In addition to visiting rural areas, the SMFT team engaged with local families to discuss the effectiveness of the Community Building project. They assessed the dual-method teaching approach to gauge its success and identify areas for improvement. The interactions with parents and community members provided valuable insights into the program's impact and potential for scalability.



Chennai City Municipal School



Activity Based Class for Mothers Group



Mothers Group Class



Education Tool Kits for Kids

NGO VISIT – WELFARE ASSOCIATION FOR REHABILITATION OF DISABLED

June 2024 – The SMFT team recently visited the Welfare Association for Rehabilitation of Disabled and Society (WARDS) in Bangalore to explore potential collaboration. Established in 1992 by Mr. C.M. Kathavarayan, who is visually impaired, WARDS is dedicated to supporting individuals with autism, cerebral palsy, multiple disabilities, and intellectual disabilities. WARDS focuses on providing comprehensive support through various programs, currently serving 120 children aged 6 to 25 years and 8 adults from diverse socio-economic backgrounds. The NGO's mission is to enhance the quality of life for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

WARDS offers a range of programs tailored to meet the unique needs of individuals with disabilities. The Special Education program is led by a team of RCI Certified Special Educators and includes an Individualized Education Program (IEP). This program features an academic curriculum covering reading, writing, basic math, coloring, fine and gross motor activities, storytelling, and concepts like money and time, and communication skills. Additionally, the non-academic curriculum focuses on pre-vocational activities such as gardening, social skills, and self-help skills.

Therapy programs at WARDS offer various therapeutic interventions to support the physical and mental well-being of individuals. The Digital Skills Training program aims to enhance digital literacy and skills among children and adults, preparing them for a more technology-driven world.

Vocational Training at WARDS encompasses activities like weaving, handicrafts, candle making, paper cover and envelope making, block printing, paper plate making, vegetable peeling and chopping, sprout making (soaking, measuring, weighing, packing, and selling), and Xerox training. These activities not only provide valuable skills but also promote self-reliance and confidence.



NGO IN FOCUS FOR JUNE'24 – BHANSALI TRUST

Registered in 1969, Bhansali Trust was established by seven brothers of the Bhansali family (Bhansali & Co). Since its inception, the trust has been engaged in a variety of activities across **Medical, Educational, Income generation, Micro-credit, De-addiction, and other Socio-economic fields**. Additionally, it has undertaken relief projects during natural calamities. The trust focuses its efforts on one of the most socio-economically backward regions of Gujarat, bordering the Rajasthan and Bihar Mushar communities.

Geography: Dang, Gujarat

SMFT Funded Medical Support

Since 2020, SMFT has partnered with Bhansali Trust to make a significant impact on healthcare in Dang District, Gujarat. Approximately **1.7 Million** patients have been treated by the team of **590** paramedical workers. Additionally, **56,000** patients have received care through a mobile clinic that conducts 50 camps per month.

In 2022, the Bhansali Trust opened a permanent SMFT clinic staffed by 12 members, including two qualified doctors: Dr. Shyamsundar (MD - PSM) and Dr. Apeksha (Physiotherapist). This clinic has treated approximately **12,919** outpatients and provided physiotherapy to **3,035** patients.



NGO IN FOCUS FOR JUNE'24 – BHANSALI TRUST (Cont.)

SMFT Funded Chashma Project

Since April 2022, Bhansali Trust has been diligently working through the Chashma Project to create a significant impact on eye health in the community. This initiative has made remarkable strides, examining 116,339 cases, which include both children and adults. The project has successfully distributed 36,006 pairs of glasses and treated 1,793 cataract cases, greatly enhancing the quality of life for many individuals.



In addition to these achievements, Bhansali Trust is now focused on a major expansion project involving the construction of two new eye hospitals. These hospitals will be located in Banswara, Rajasthan, and Jhabua, Madhya Pradesh. The land for both facilities has been purchased, and construction is currently underway. These new hospitals are set to provide accessible and high-quality eye care services to underserved regions, furthering the mission of Bhansali Trust to improve vision and transform lives.

The Chashma Project exemplifies Bhansali Trust's commitment to enhancing eye health. With a large number of cases examined, glasses distributed, and cataract surgeries performed, the project has made a tangible difference. The upcoming hospitals in Banswara and Jhabua will play a crucial role in continuing this important work, ensuring that more individuals receive the eye care they need.



NGO IN FOCUS FOR JUNE'24 – BHANSALI TRUST (Cont.)

SMFT Funded Community Health Programs

- **Traditional Birth Attendants (DAIs):** In many areas, a significant percentage of deliveries still occur at home and are conducted by local **DAIs (Traditional Birth Attendants)**. Recognizing the crucial role these attendants play, Bhansali Trust has initiated training programs focusing on **hygiene** and the importance of **hospital-based deliveries**. These training programs aim to **reduce maternal deaths** and prevent deformities caused by unsafe delivery methods. To date, Bhansali Trust has successfully **trained 271 traditional birth attendants**, empowering them with the knowledge and skills necessary to ensure safer deliveries.
- **Supplementary Nutrition Program:** Bhansali Trust has also been a key player in addressing malnutrition among children, pregnant women, and lactating mothers. Operating through anganwadis (K.G. Schools) under the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), this program has achieved a significant reduction in malnourished children from **10% to 1.3%** over the past 14 years. Currently, the program benefits **340 pregnant and lactating mothers, 454 children, 81 adolescent girls, and 87 TB patients**.
- **Hygiene Kits:** The trust prioritizes community health by distributing menstrual hygiene kits to 8,621 individuals and mosquito nets to 7,000 families. These efforts promote women's health, prevent vector-borne diseases, and enhance overall well-being in Dang.



SMFT Funded Community Aid Programs

- **Self-Help Groups (SHGs):** In an effort to prevent exploitation and promote financial independence among tribal communities in Dang, the trust has established **1,081** Self-Help Groups (SHGs). These groups play a crucial role in providing micro-credit facilities that were previously unavailable or offered at excessive interest rates ranging from 6% to 8% per month. Comprising a total of **11,683** women members, these SHGs have collectively saved **Rs. 3, 35, 75,439**. The trust ensures that these savings are not only secure but also grow through interest income, resulting in a combined capital of **Rs. 5, 58, 63,842**. Moreover, SHGs disburse loans to their members at a significantly reduced interest rate of 1% per month, empowering local women economically and fostering community resilience.
- **Monthly Aid to Extremely Poor Families:** Across villages in the region, the trust identifies and supports **573** extremely poor families with essential monthly aid. This humanitarian initiative transcends barriers of caste, creed, and religion, ensuring that those most in need receive support without discrimination. The aid, amounting to **Rs. 3, 86,100** monthly, provides critical assistance such as food supplies and basic necessities. Families benefiting from this program are regularly re-evaluated every 8 to 12 months to assess their ongoing needs and to sustain the support provided, thereby creating a sustainable framework for poverty alleviation.
- **Agricultural Support:** Recognizing the importance of sustainable agricultural practices, the trust actively promotes local farming by distributing seasonal seed packets and fruit plants to communities in Dang. During the monsoon season of 2022 alone, the trust distributed **26,000** packets of Monsoon seeds and **6,300** fruit plants to households. These efforts not only encourage self-sufficiency but also enhance nutritional diversity within local diets. By equipping families with the means to grow their own vegetables and fruits, the trust contributes to food security and economic stability in the region, thereby empowering communities to thrive.



NGO IN FOCUS FOR JUNE'24 – BHANSALI TRUST (Cont.)

The Bhansali Trust has initiated a new program to support the Mushar community in Mohanpur, Dist. Gaya, one of the most backward communities in the country categorized as "maha dalit." Founded by Mr. and Mrs. Ashok Bhansali, the trust has been assisting 250 Mushar villages in Bihar since 2012. From 2024, in partnership with the Sarva Mangal Family Trust, the support has expanded to include another 150 villages, covering approximately 56,280 people at Mohanpur Dist. Bihar. This complete project will provide assistance in medical care, education, income generation, micro-credit, de-addiction, and various other socio-economic fields.



Geography: Mohanpur, Bihar

SMFT Funded Medical Support: Bhansali Trust has made a significant impact on healthcare in Mohanpur District, Bihar. Approximately 43,149 patients have been treated by a team of 95 paramedical workers. By August 2024, this team is expected to expand. Additionally, 9288 patients have received care through a mobile clinic.



NGO IN FOCUS FOR JUNE'24 – BHANSALI TRUST (Cont.)

SMFT Funded Community Health Programs: The trust also prioritizes community health by distributing menstrual hygiene kits to 3,112 individuals.

SMFT Funded Community Aid Programs: To prevent exploitation and promote financial independence among tribal communities in Mohanpur, the trust has established 149 Self-Help Groups (SHGs). These groups play a crucial role in providing micro-credit facilities that were previously unavailable or offered at exorbitant interest rates ranging from 6% to 8% per month. Comprising a total of 2,238 women members, these SHGs have collectively saved Rs. 39, 81,410.

SMFT Funded Education Programs: In education, Bhansali Trust is actively working to uplift the new generation by re-enrolling dropout kids and providing coaching classes. Currently, 7,027 children are attending 137 coaching classes.



SUCCESS STORY – BHANSALI TRUST

Empowering Local Physiotherapists to Serve Remote Villages

Bhansali trust is proud to announce the success of their initiative to train and deploy local girls as physiotherapists in remote villages. This program not only provides much-needed healthcare services to underserved communities but also empowers local women by offering them professional training and employment.

Training and Deployment: They have successfully identified and trained their third candidate to become a qualified physiotherapist. Each trainee undergoes a few months of intensive training before being posted at centers.



Community Impact: Bhansali Trust's approach has significantly benefited the local communities. Patients now have access to professional physiotherapy services without the need to travel long distances. The fact that physiotherapists are local and speak the local language further enhances the effectiveness of the treatments, as patients feel more comfortable and understood.

Unique and Successful Model: Their model of training and employing local girls as physiotherapists and integrating home visits into their routine is unique. It addresses the healthcare needs of poor patients in remote villages while simultaneously creating employment opportunities for local women. The success of this initiative is evident in the increasing number of patients benefiting from their services and the positive feedback from the communities.

Conclusion: This program exemplifies their commitment to innovative and sustainable healthcare solutions. By leveraging local resources and talents, they have created a win-win situation for both the healthcare needs of the community and the professional growth of local women. The success of this initiative encourages them to continue expanding and refining their approach to serve more remote villages in the future.

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