

Report of the Secretary General

Dear Readers, it gives me immense pleasure to present Secretary General Report for the year 2019-2020 to you, more so that you contribute greatly to the success of the organization that it could achieve throughout the year. I must admit that it was your active participation that enabled the organization to reach to such great heights. Though, this year the organization has taken up less projects comparatively, but I think the implementation is commendable, and so is the impact that we have managed to create in the society in highlighting problems faced by blinds in day-to-day life and the zeal and potential possessed by blinds to overcome them and achieve success as any able individual would. It is worth mentioning that the organization reached out to the blind schools in Maharashtra directly through the agreement reached with the South Korean Dotmini Company and the publication of Braille guide for Standard Xth students. You shall find detailed information about all these activities further in the report. The rest of the activities are as mentioned below.

State Level Rapid Chess Competition for Blinds - The first event of the year was held on 13th and 14th April 2019 at Laxmi Narayan Mangal Office, Swastik Chowk in association with Shantikumar Memorial Trust, Ahmednagar. Altogether 62 players from all over the state participated in this tournament. In fact, the competition was originally stated for the blinds, but chess is a game where blind and able person can play together and a blind, with all those shortcomings of physical attributes, still can beat an able person with his acumen and intelligence. Therefore, after a round of the competition, top 10 blind players of this competition were pitted against the top 10 sighted chess players of the city. In this round, some blind individuals won the match against sighted persons. The prize giving ceremony of this competition was held on 14th April at 4 pm in the presence of Shri. Narendra Firodia and famous Ophthalmologist Dr. Prakash Kankaria. During the competition Shri. Narendra Firodia saw the enthusiasm of the contestants and encouraged them. He was pleased to see that even blinds play chess perfectly. He pledged to hold such a competition for blinds at the national level. At this time, Dr. Kankaria also thanked the organizers for taking this unique initiative to the city of Ahmednagar and assured his continued support to the organization for the good initiatives. Milind Samant achieved the first place while Vaishali Salvakar won the second place and Atul Deshmane received the third prize. The winning contestants were honoured with cash prizes at the hands of the dignitaries present. The participants were given incentive prizes on behalf of the Shantikumar Trust of the dignitaries present. Mr. Arun Bharaskar and Mrs. Sapna Chandak and Ashutosh Ghanekar and Umesh Gandhi of Firodia Trust worked hard for the success of this program.



1. Marriage Ceremony and Distribution of Educational material - For the past 12 years our organisation has continuously extended a helping hand to blind people. In the period of 12 years the organisation has successfully tied nuptial knots of 30 couples. With this gesture organisation proved that blinds also deserves a married life as any sighted person, and can enjoy the bliss of togetherness. In this year also we have celebrated a marriage ceremony on 07 July 2019 of 02 couples in the presence of Ms Pratibhatai Holkar, Hostess of Shrikrushna Lawns, Pune Road, Nashik. Couples to tie wedding knots were Sonali Surose with Rajendra Patil and Najima Shaikh with Abdul Dastagir by the testimony of the dignitaries present. On behalf of Maratha Mudra Mahila Mandal, all worldly items were given to these married couple. In the same program,

educational materials were also distributed to the children of 80 needy blind persons. This included water bottles and study materials. Nashik Municipal Commissioner Radhakrishna Game, MLA Devyani Farande Mahindra & Mahindra Vice President Hiranman Aher, Nashik businessman Ajit Bane and all office bearers of Maratha Mudra Mahila Mandal were present as chief guests at the event. MLA Devyani Farande informed in her speech that a tender has been submitted to Nashik Municipal Corporation for a grant of Rs. 17 Crores so that the training centre for the disabled can be started soon. Such initiatives should be implemented on a large scale. While expressing his opinion, Mr. Radhakrishna Game said that the government has reserved 5% fund for the disabled and it should be fully utilized. He vouched that Govt. shall make continuous effort to provide employment opportunities to the disabled by conducting trainings, workshops, mentoring camps on behalf of the Municipal Corporation. Honorary President Kalpana Pandey gave the introductory speech. President Arun Bharaskar informed about the activities of the organization. The entire expenditure of the program was borne by Director Pratibha Holkar and Maratha Mudra Mahila Mandal. The board also distributed school items to all the children and gave household items to two newly married couples. Mayur Jewelers and entrepreneur Ajit Bane also collaborated in this initiative. All the office bearers of Mahila Mandal were present on this occasion. Mrs. Vijaya Dabe and Mrs. Sapna Chandak worked hard for the success of this project.



2. Scholarship Distribution Ceremony – Scholarships are given every year by the organization to promote the education of needy and meritorious blind students. Our organization has firm belief that money provided in the form of scholarship help promote education in blind society and hence organization has continued this project uninterruptedly for past so many years. This year on 13th July 2019 at Islam Gymkhana in Mumbai among 122 blind students were distributed Scholarship cheques amounting to Rs. 1500/-. The event was organized in Mumbai on the initiative of Antyodaya Pratishtan and Lions Ramshankar Zanwar. In this event MLA and president of Antyodaya Pratishtan Mr Prasadji Lad and District Governor of 3231-A Lions Club Kamleshji Dalal, Lions Club Walkeshwar, Mumbadevi Trust, Lions Club of Churchgate and all the presidents of Millennium were present on the stage. All Scholarship cheques were handed over to each student by dignitaries.

In his speech, Mr. Lad appreciated all the scholarship holders. He testified that the organization should continue this benevolent act uninterruptedly and Antyodaya Pratishtan would stand by the organization for such commendable activities. Also the Lions Club shall always support the organization and the organization should suggest these kind of good initiatives in future also. District Governor Kamleshji Dalal appreciated organization for implementing such initiatives without any government grant. On this occasion, on behalf of Lions Club, scholarship cheques of 60 blind students were handed over to the organization. Mrs. Vijaya Dabe, Treasurer of the organization Mrs. Sapna Chandak, General Secretary Datta Patil, Hanif Sheikh of Islam Gymkhana contributed for the success of this program.



3. Felicitation Ceremony – It's a human nature that they crave for compliment and a pat on the back for good work done. Same applies for the students. A word of appreciation boosts their confidence, which further motivate them to earn good marks by studying throughout the year. But sadly, our society turns a blind eye towards some students who are not appreciated for their hard work. Our organization has spotted this prevalent trend in society and a merit program was initiated and religiously organized every year wherein we search such neglected and deprived students and felicitate them. For the past 12 years, the organization has been trying to bring such students to the forefront by praising them at the hands of guests. In fact, the organization also wants parents of such meritorious students to see achievement of their child, despite physical shortcomings. But for some reason some parents can't make it to such programs, hence number of charitable organizations doing social work are invited to fill the gap. In fact, the event is held together with them. Organizations like Jain Social Platinum Group or Rotary Club are more helpful who have a large number of members. These kind of events are true reflection of potential possessed by blinds people and such events also raise social awareness about difficulties faced by blinds. On this occasion, the felicitation program was organized in Nashik and Thane respectively.

The event was organized on 25th August 2019 at Shrikrishna Lawns, Nashik in the presence of Jain Social Platinum Group. The event was held in the presence of NIMA President Shashi Jadhav, MLA Balasaheb Sanap, President of Jain Social Platinum Group and Kiran Khabia, Ajay Gupta of Jogging Club and many dignitaries. Apart from Mumbai and Thane, 139 students from the rest of Maharashtra were felicitated by the guests. The students were given cash, white stick and Atal Vishwas poetry collection as gifts. In the speech, MLA Balasaheb Sanap praised the blind students who have achieved excellent marks from class 10 to post graduation and expressed his surprise at the zeal of learning in them despite being blind. He was all praise for blind students who without eyes could get such good marks! He further said that they are an ideal and role model for the students and the society. He stated that children who commit suicide out of fear of failure or getting low marks should always keep in mind the ideal of these blind children. NIMA President Shashi Jadhav and Jogging Club's Ajay Gupta also appreciated the children who secured good marks in 10th standard and wished them further education. President Arun Bharaskar introduced the organization and gave information about the activities. Honorary President Kalpana Pande thanked the dignitaries present and Vice President VB Gaikwad explained the purpose of the event. Treasurer Vijaya Dabe and Sapna Chandak worked hard for this event.

A similar program was held on 08 September 2019 at NKT College Thane with the special initiative of Rotary Club of Hiranandani. It is noteworthy that despite the torrential rains, a large number of students from Mumbai, Thane and Pune were present. Mr. Hiranandani Club President Namrata Srivastava and Pradip Thakur organized the event with special efforts and all the expenses incurred for the event were borne by Hiranandani Club so that the organization didn't have to ask for help from anyone else and there was no financial stress on the organization. The students were honoured with cash, a white stick, pen drive and an English grammar book. 90 blind students were felicitated in this program.

Rotary President Namrata Srivastava had deliberately invited other Rotary members of the club and dignitaries from Thane to congratulate the successful students and at the same function, Mrs. Rita Vora and Namdev Bhalerao were honoured as ideal teachers. A Lunch was arranged for the students who came for both the events. Scholarship forms were also distributed to the students at the same event. Vijaya Dabe and Dinesh Musle worked hard for the success of this program.

4. Braille Guide Publication Ceremony – The organization has always been working towards imparting quality education to blind students. Every year, some new projects are taken up for implementation and efforts are made for the holistic development of blind children. This year, the organization has printed the 10th standard guide in Braille script to make syllabus easier for them, thereby help increase the percentage of 10th standard students. For this, Kotak Mahindra Bank provided financial assistance. The Braille Guide was released on September 11, 2019 at the Spestic Society in Bandra, Mumbai by the then Education Minister Ashish Shelar and officials of Kotak Mahindra Bank. Representatives of all blind schools in Maharashtra were invited and distributed at the hands of the Minister. Also in the same program, ideal teachers of 15 blind schools in Maharashtra were felicitated. In the speech, Ashish Shelar appreciated the organization for printing a guide in Braille for blind students of std. XII even without government aid and promised to provide 1 Braille printer to the organization.

One set of 23 books costs about Rs. 6500/-. But on behalf of the organization and with the cooperation of Mahindra Kotak these books were distributed free of cost to all blind schools in Maharashtra. About 350 sets were given as per the demand form received through the school. This initiative of ours' turned out to be a massive help for all blind schools. The headmaster of the schools praised and thanked our organization for this initiative. The program was anchored by Arun Bharaskar. Honorary President Kalpana Pandey introduced the organization. The vote of thanks was taken by Hiranman Aher, an honorary member of the organization. General Secretary Datta Patil, Treasurer of the organization Vijaya Dabe, Mrs. Sapna Chandak, Namdev Shendge, Valmik Bhadange worked hard for the success of this program.



5. Braille Dotmini Device – Till date, the organization has implemented various activities for the blinds in the fields of education, sports and self-reliance in the last 12 years. But going beyond that, the organization has tried to do a solid and sustainable work for the blind brothers in keeping with the changing times. Like last year, in March 2019, for the first time, the organization had organized a sports festival outside Maharashtra. This year, in search of better educational support system, the organization reached out to foreign countries to get the educational and extra reading knowledge for the blind. The occasion was the launch of the Braille Dot Mini, a device developed by Dot In Corporation in South Korea. The device was designed to make audio memory, school book reading, music, general knowledge and stories easily accessible to blind people, students in Braille or through audio. The company wanted to distribute it to blind people and students in our country and for that they needed an organization like ours that is aware of Braille and works for the blind. So an agreement was reached between our organization and Dot In Corporation of Korea. According to the agreement, demonstrations of the device should be held in blind schools in Maharashtra to inform students about its usefulness in imparting education. Presently this device operates in selected few languages such as English, Spanish, Japanese, and Korean. Demonstration of the device was done at organization's office for committee members on August 3, 2019 by Mr. Ahum Chohi, Director, Korea Dot Mini Company.

This device is so simple that it can be easily handled by any class 3 student or an old person, but the main drawback is the languages it supports. If we want to demonstrate it to blind schools and encourage blind people in India to use it, we need to have Hindi and Marathi language in the device, which is predominantly used in our county and state respectively and this very shortcoming of the device, has been observed by our organization president. Understanding all this and explaining it to blind people was a big challenge for the organization. For this, the organization visited blind schools all over Maharashtra and asked every teacher of the school to provide information and demo about this device and also to educate the students. For this project KTHM College in Nashik also helped us. V B Gaikwad, Vice President of the Society also participated in this initiative. Arun Bharaskar, the

president of the organization, is studying the success of each and every task. In order to find out how many schools and teachers could understand operating procedure of the Korean device, 4 tests of Dot mini device were conducted on the initiative of visiting blind schools all over Maharashtra. Their average score percentage was calculated. The organization also sent all these reports to the Dot Mini Company. In terms of learning, there is no shortage of blind children and teachers, but if these blind schools and blind people in India are to use the device, as predicted by our organization President, Device need to have Hindi and Marathi languages incorporated in it because English language is not a primary medium of study here in India. Therefore, the organization requested the company to make this device that supports English and Marathi language. Again, Organization played a lead role and also provided services of software engineers to Korean Company. In addition, the organization took the initiative to create an information booklet in Braille Marathi and Hindi regarding handling of Dot mini device and a book "Braille Classroom" that provides information about buttons of the Device in it. Copies of this book were given free of cost to all the blind schools in Maharashtra. In addition, 150 Dot mini devices were also distributed to all schools free of cost. The cost of one device is Rs. 35000. Whole project was completed in about four months, from August 2019 to November 2019. Some blind students from KTHM College, President Arun Bharaskar, Vice President of KTHM college Mr. V B Gaikwad, Headmistress of Dadar Blind School for Varsha Jadhav and Sapna Chandak worked hard for this initiative. In the future, the organization will try to make it easier for all types of blind people to handle the language deficiencies and some minor shortcomings in the Braille Dot mini device. The organization is moving in that direction.

6. White stick and And the distribution of Diwali Snacks – Actually by order of the United Nations Organization, October 15 is celebrated all over the world as White Stick Day. However, in view of the Assembly elections and examination period and the approaching Diwali festival, the event was held together on 25th October 2019 at 12 noon at Lions Club Hall, Pandit Colony, Nashik on the occasion of Dhantrayodashi, courtesy of Lions Club Corporate Nashik. This program was attended by 139 blind brothers from Nashik division. Each person was given a white stick, Diwali snacks. On the initiative of the organization's director Arjun Mudda Raymond's shirt piece and pants piece were distributed to brothers and sarees were given to the blind sisters on the initiative of Anil Nahar. At the same event, Raju Gangurde and Namdev Hyalij were given six-by-six metal stall in association with Rahul Shah and Mukund Kurumbhatti of Lions Club Corporate Nashik, which is priced at Rs 45,000 each. At the initiative of Ajay Gupta Mr. Raju Gite and Gopal Padewar were given Agarbatti packets for business purposes. Aditya Bhagwat, Neha Mhaske, Raju Gangurde, Raju Kothavade, Vaishnavi Kshirsagar, Dattu Korhale, Archana Singh, Rukmini Badsal and Pushpa Shewre were given rations on this occasion. Saurabh Shah, a benefactor of the organization, made a special contribution for this; in fact, it would not be an exaggeration to say that it was all possible because of him. In addition, educational materials were distributed to 10 blind students in the same program.

This whole event was held in very pleasant atmosphere, wherein being a Diwali Festival, melodious Mangalam song was played initially. The main attraction of the event was the atmosphere of joy everywhere, lanterns and sky lanterns, rangoli adorned with rainbow colours. The Opening Ceremony of Deep prajwalana lit by Nimba Bhamre of Mahindra Logistics, Manager Prasad Naik, President of Lions Club of Nashik Corporate Raju Vyas, Zonal Chairman Sunil Patil and other office bearers. The program started with the singing of Diwali song. Diwali snacks, sweets, white sticks as well as dresses for men and sarees for women were distributed to make everyone happy on the occasion of Festival.

Nimba Bhamre, Manager, Mahindra Logistics, Prasad Naik wished Happy Diwali to the blind couple and appreciated the activities of the organization. In his speech he lauded the initiatives and good activities of the organization to create a consciousness in the life of the blinds. He vouched that Mahindra Company will always help them to implement such initiatives. Raju Vyas, President of Lions Club of Nashik Corporate and Sunil Patil, Zonal Chairman of the organization testified that Lions Club of Nashik Corporate would work shoulder-to-shoulder with Blind Welfare Organization in conducting Eye donation camp henceforth and wished all a happy Diwali. The program was conducted by Arun Bharaskar. Honorary President Kalpana Pande introduced the organization. Treasurer Vijaya Dabe thanked the guests. Sapna Chandak, Dinesh Musle and Lions Gayatri Koshti worked hard for the success of the program.

7. State level cricket tournament held at Nashik –

Organization very well understands that like any ordinary able person even blinds possess liking for sports, a player's attitude and latent qualities are hidden in them as well. All they need is a stage to show the skill they possess and an opportunity and encouragement. With this in mind, the organization organizes various sports competitions every year. Even blind players seem to be waiting for such an opportunity. This year the state level cricket tournament was organized for the 13th consecutive year at Chhatrapati Shivaji Stadium High School Ground in Nashik on 24th and 25th December 2019 jointly organized by Lions Club of Nashik Corporate and the organization.

The tournament was inaugurated in the presence of Nashik Constituency MP Shri Hemant Godse, Nashik District Sports Officer Ravi Naik and Lions Club office bearers. At the inauguration ceremony, the players gave a salute to the dignitaries through march-past on the beat of the band to fill enthusiasm in the blind players. Maharashtra captain Prashant Jagtap and blind international Amol Karche led the procession with torches. MP Godse inaugurated the tournament by releasing balloons in the air and wished the players all the best for winning the Trophy. On this occasion, Shri Ravi Naik administered oath to the players to play with sportsmanship and discipline. Hemant Godse, Arun Bharaskar, Lion Rajubhai Vyas showed their playful attitude by hitting one ball each and made the blind players realize that they are with them.

Teams from 8 divisions from all over the state including Nagpur, Amravati, Nanded, Marathwada, Nashik, Mumbai, Pune and Kolhapur participated in this competition. The tournament was played in knockout format. The teams were divided in two groups and the first match was played between Nashik and Pune in Group A, Kolhapur and Vidarbha in Group B. The final match was played between Vidarbha and the rest of Maharashtra. Students and Teachers of Cambridge School in Nashik were also present along with the audience to watch this match.

Batting first, Vidarbha scored 91 runs for the loss of 7 wickets. However, chasing this score, the rest of the Maharashtra team could only score 51 runs and were all out. Thus, for the 5th year in a row, Vidarbha emerged victorious and the rest of Maharashtra had to settle for the runner-up position.

Actress Varsha Usgaonkar and President of All India Chemists Association and MLA Appasaheb J Shinde distributed the prizes. On this occasion, Varsha Usgaonkar said, "Everyone has the right to dream and make it come true." Despite being blind, these cricketers showed skill and perseverance, which inspires, us sighted. It is not the name but a deed that portrays a true personality of a person and that's all that matters. She further said that today after experiencing the hard work and skills of visually impaired players, it convinced her importance of vision for a person. She expressed her opinion that everybody has some social responsibility and people should contribute towards it. She also told some funny stories of her life and admitted that she was watching the competition of blind players for the first time. On persuasion of blind players, she rekindled old memories by singing the song 'Mala Pariche Pankh Milale' from her famous film.

Appa Saheb Jagannath Shinde, President, All India Chemists Association, who presided over the function, said that it was the need of the hour to provide education and employment to the underprivileged. He further said that eye donation and organ donation are the ultimate kind of donation human can do. He confessed to the dignitaries present that he was attending the competition for the second time. He further said that cricket is a game that blind players play perfectly. As budding players are nurtured from such competitions, the organization such competitions should be held uninterruptedly every year and he pledged continued support and cooperation from him and the Chemists Association. He congratulated winners and wished them well for the journey ahead.

The winning team, Vidarbha, bagged the trophy, Rs. 11,000/- and the Rest of Maharashtra team, runners-up trophy and Rs 7,500 in cash. Akshay Chaudhary of Nagpur bagged the Man of the Series award. The program was anchored by Arun Bharaskar. Rajubhai Vyas clarified the purpose of organizing the competition. For the success of the program, Dr. Ghatge, Kalpana Pandey, Vijaya Dabe, Dhanesh Musle, Sapna Chandak, Lions Gayatri Koshti worked hard.



8. Visit and Small trip to Pandharpur –

These days life is very hectic, demanding and full of stress, be it a job or bussiness. Everybody is affected by it and blind persons are no exception to it. Our organization has found out a novel solution to counter it. For the last 12 years, the organization has been organizing trips and visits to Pandurang with the aim of getting rid of the daily stressful life and enjoying life freely. This helps to recharge us and generate more enthusiasm and energy for further work. This year the trip was organized on 27th December 2019 on the initiative of Gangadhar Jadhav, a benefactor of the organization. The journey started from Kailas Math to Swami Samarth Akkalkot. From there we reached to Pandharpur Vitthal temple were all the blind brothers stood in queue, chanted hail Panduranga and paid obeisance to Vitthal. From there we headed to Narasobachi Wadi, Mahalakshmi of Kolhapur and Ganpatipule. We enjoyed beach bath at sea there. There was excitement on every man's face while experiencing the atmosphere there. The entire cost of the trip was borne by Shri. Z. K. Jadhav and Shri. Ganesh Geete himself hence organization did not incur any financial burden. The main beneficiaries were blinds who truly enjoyed the trip.. !! On behalf of the organization, General Secretary Datta Patil and Treasurer Vijaya Dabe took special efforts.



9. Grand Organizing of National Cricket Tournament in Mumbai (Siyaram Cup) –

Cricket is very popular not only in India but all over the world. So the fan base of that game is also huge. Popularity of the cricket can be judged by the fact that there are more cricket viewers than mobile gamers. The difference is that mobile game is played as a time pass, while cricket fans and big entrepreneurs take time to enjoy the match. When there is a final match between India and Pakistan, people prefer to take a holiday and have fun at home. This match is like a feast for cricket fans. How can blind players be an exception to it!! Our organization has rich history of providing opportunities to budding blind players and if we look at the history of the last 3 Cricket World Cups, many blind cricketers have started their game from the tournament organized by the organization. Such players need to be provided a platform, following the same thread, the organization has been organizing national cricket tournaments for the last 12 years. We get a satisfaction of moulding new cricketers and in the process newcomers also get opportunities.

This year the competition was held at Wilson Gymkhana Marine Drive Mumbai and Islam Gymkhana Mumbai from 20th January to 22nd January 2020 with special courtesy of Rotary Club of Bombay Queen City and special collaboration of Rotary Club of Thane. This national competition for the blind was organized for the 13th consecutive year. There were 8 teams from all over the India like Maharashtra, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi and Uttaranchal. These tournaments were played on a league basis.

The tournament was inaugurated on January 20, 2020 at 9.30 am in the presence of former cricketer Praveen Amre, MP Arvind Sawant, Siyaram Group chief Ramesh Potdar, cine actress Varsha Usgavkar and other dignitaries. Balloons were released into the air as a symbol of the start of the competition. Former cricketer Praveen Amre and MP Arvind Sawant inaugurated the tournament by batting. The Rotary Club of Bombay Queen City and Rotary Club of Thane Central, President Arun

Bharaskar and Director Arjun Mudda emphasised that this is a right opportunity that has come by the way of participating blinds cricketers and they must clinch it with both hands. Everyone must strive to win.

The first match was played between Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan in Group A, Maharashtra and Delhi in Group B. The final match was played between Delhi and Gujarat on the basis of run rate. However, for the 12th year in a row, Gujarat retained Championship. Former cricketers Sanjay Bangar, Sanjay Abrahini, Vaman Kendra, former IPS officer Mr. Madhukar Shinde, Siyaram's proprietor Ramesh Potdar and Gangadhar were present on the stage for the award ceremony. Former cricketer Sanjay Bangar handed over Rs. 21,000 and trophy and runner-up team Rs. 15,000 and was honored with a trophy. Rest all teams are awarded by Cash and Trophy. Seven players who played in International Cricket were also given Rs. 10000 cash and Trophy. In the speech Siyaram's President assured that this event will be conducted regularly. Player of the Series was award to Naresh Tumbada. Jina keari was the Best Batsman, Best Bowler was Hitesh Patel and Best Fielder was Chandan from Uttaranchal. Treasurer Vijaya Dabe, Bhagwan Pawar, Sapna Chandak, Valmik Bhadange, Islam's Hanif Shaikh took special efforts for the success of the event.



Finally, it's a bare fact that a blind person cannot live the life as any sighted person can. In this harsh world, to survive and prove him blind person has to be educated. Here our organization has been playing a major role and by providing means of achieving more knowledge, we are making it easier for the blinds to live life like the sighted. In keeping with this aim we have, over the years, provided them English Grammar books, Dnyaneshwari, Attal Poem book, Arogya Sanjivani, Guide for 10th Standard and this year a Device like Dot mini, which would help them achieve their goals. For a survival in this new age of Computer, one has to remain constantly updated, and that's why our Organisation has put more efforts and concentration towards the field of Education this year.

Our organization has emerged as a lotus flower grows out of the mud. In the past few years our organisation has faced many difficulties in serving blinds and helping them achieve their dreams, but we have come out flying colors and I am so proud of it. The success achieved in completing our goal of filling life of blind persons with joy and purpose and the wide range of work done in various fields by the organization is a testimony to our achievement. Our organisation has illuminated many blind person's life in this journey. We have put efforts in almost all fields like Education, Self-Employment, Arts, culture and Sports etc. Though the organization is at the forefront and gets lauded for its efforts, this journey would not have been possible without an active participation of you all benefactors who have selflessly worked towards our success. I must admit that all this would not have been possible without your active participation. We have received contributions from organisations who understands their responsibility towards society such as Mahindra, Kotak, Siyaram Group, Bharat Petroleum, many Corporate Banks, Rotary Club, and Lions Club etc. Also, Mr Narendra Firodia, Ulhas Debadwar, Keshav Varkhedkar, Krishnakumar Goyal have been a backbone of our organisation since its inception. There is a big contribution of Social media as well. They have recognized our hard work and from time to time have highlighted our good work. We are thankful to all those people who are always our well-wisher.

In future, we have a dream project of Rehabilitation Center for needy people. This would mainly be for the people who unfortunately lose their sight in the later period of life. And I am sure that with your contribution and support we will definitely turn this into reality one day.

We took up 9 purposeful events this year and could successfully complete all of them. Though, comparing to previous years, the organization carried out less programs this year, the programs we

took up were progressive and helpful for blind people. Ultimately when I reflect through the past, then when we had begun this organization, it was a small plant of hope, which now has blossomed into a big tree that is providing shelter and support to many blinds people in the society.

Thanks!!

General Secretary Dattatreya Shankar Patil

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