



Shantilal Muttha,
Founder, BJS

eBULLETIN

Founder's Day Special Issue

Dear everyone,

Wish you all a happy 70th Independence Day! I am very happy to release the special ebulletin issue of the August month. This is a significant month for all of us to celebrate two main occasions, one is for 70th Independence Day of India and other is the birthday of our founder Shri Shantilalji Muttha. At the very outset, I want to salute & remember those martyrs and freedom fighters who dedicated their presents for creating a better future for us.

On this festive season & occasion of our founder's 62nd birthday, to celebrate this bigger than life personality of Shri Shantilalji Muttha, we have dedicated the ebulletin of August month for presenting the unique traits of his persona. Born on 15th August, 1954 Shri Shantilalji Muttha has freedom in his blood since his childhood. He too is a freedom fighter in a unique way who is releasing people from natural adversities, social chaos, poverty and ignorance. When he was a child, the extravagant marriages of the Jain society created a deep impact on his young mind and he decided to work against it. He started an adventurous journey to make himself eligible to work for the society & people. Gradually he started getting supports of people and now, a nationwide network of committed volunteers is his real strength.

BJS vision of nation building with progressive development of society is practically implemented with many humanitarian projects because of strategy, determination, strong planning and foresightedness of Shri Shantilalji Muttha. On his birthday, we are praying for his long life. Introducing concept like "Jains for India", he oiled the philanthropic community to work more steadily for the good of the society.

In this August edition unlike other edition, we are focusing on discovering & enlightening the rarities in unique personality of Shri Shantilalji Muttha. With the aim to inspire & mobilize people around the country, we once again pray the almighty to give us more energy to work with him to build a strong nation.

Prafulla Parakh,
National President, BJS

From the desk of National President

Ambitious approach
BRAVE CAPTAIN
COMMITMENT TO THE CAUSE
Delegation skill
Efficient leader
FAITHFUL TO PEOPLE
Good hearted soldier
Honest in endeavors
Integrity of thought & action
JUDICIOUS CHOICES
Knowledge savvy
LAWFUL FIGHTER
MODEST SIMPLICITY
NAURAL MOVER
Observant change agent
Positive thinker
QUICK DECISION MAKER
Responsible social activist
Socializes with sense of humor
TEMPTED BY CHALLENGES
UNPARALLELED SELF DRIVE
Vibrant thinking
WORKAHOLIC TITAN
Xenodochial
YOUNG IN 60s
Zestful task master

The ABC of Blessed to Serve

Salute to this personality for whose description A to Z alphabets are not enough.



A Man Who Broke Stereotypes With Bold Decisions

Extravaganza & luxurious weddings ignited a young mind long back and that day the child promised himself to change the scenario in the future. With this aim, Shri Shantilalji Muttha started his social works by solving marriage related issues with the introduction of **Mass Marriage concept in 1986**. This concept became a movement around the country and accepted by all people irrespective of religions and castes. When he and his team of volunteers were working in the remote areas to solve marriage related issues, they have discovered that there were many problems even to fix relationship or to find right partners. Then this visionary person introduced **"Parichay Sammelans"** to provide a public platform for family purpose.

Earlier, parents played important roles in fixing relationship for marriages. But gradually, he studied and found that increased divorces are due to absence of compatibility between partners and this is affecting the very

first root of society i.e. family. By introducing theme like **"Nayi Pidhi, Nayi Soch"**, BJS Founder Shri. Shantilalji Muttha launched another path breaking idea in front of thousands of community members in BJS National Convention of 2014. He strongly promoted an idea of **shifting the ownership of initiating the marriage fixing process from parents to candidates** thus advocating that it's unfair for educated boys and girls if their parents and elders follow the same age old process of finding suitable candidates through their own parameters. As a person, Shri Mutthaji believes in empowering the new generation by giving them power to choice life decisions.

Shri Mutthaji understood long time back that family is the root of society and healthy & happy family leads to a happier society. Rarely any social entrepreneur apart from Mutthaji understands this fact better!



A Man Whose Mission Is Emotional Empowerment Of Girls

Our founder Shri Shantilalji Muttha has a special space for the girls in his heart. An advocate of girl's education & freedom, Shri Mutthaji understands the importance of girls in molding the society. His sensitivity towards girls reflects in program like Empowerment of Girls (EoG) that endeavors to empower adolescent girls emotionally. Shri Mutthaji is upset within to see girls being treated as an inferior gender and fights to empower them as individuals with full right to

control & live lives on their own terms. He has a visionary perspective to teach parents about perfect parenting that allows a free & friendly family bonding with daughters. He believes that we cannot change the deteriorating social scenario, but we cannot create barrier for our daughters to get education or sending them outside homes.

In his own language, **"we should train our daughters like firefighters who can live a happy & content life without getting into fire of the 21st century"**.



Top 5 Approaches Of Shri Shantilal Muttha To Respond Natural Disasters: Quickly & Intelligently



From 1993 onwards, Shri Mutthaji has been active in the field of disaster response in a unique way by complementing to all other government and non-government agencies' role. He demonstrates **visionary approach & out-of-box thinking** while responding to critical situations. These reflect his extra-ordinary personality traits that we must know:

#1 Latur earthquake 1993:

- Shri Shantilal Muttha is a man of **practical & sensitive approach**. During the Latur earthquake in 1993, he and his team of volunteers reached the affected areas within 24 hours despite of heavy rain with trucks full of generators & diesel so as to work day & night for quick relief.
- He couldn't watch the orphan & devastated children roaming around and brought 1200 of them to Pune for educational rehabilitation.

#2 Melghat Malnutrition 1997:

- He knows how to educate tribal children to conserve their culture & root with more education. As **a visionary leader** he not only works for the mainstream India but also tries to create practical approaches for tribal development in remote areas with **long term sustainable solution**.
- He adopted 350 boys from tribal community in Melghat for 10 years for educational rehabilitation with a vision of generating change agents from within community for community empowerment.

#3 Gujarat Earthquake 2001:

- One of the most important aspects of his personality is the **"Speed" of relief works** during any disaster. In addition to this, it's rare to see the foresight of **recycling** the building construction materials from one disaster affected location to another location. The quick and clever decisions of taking ownership of prefabricated buildings with the sole purpose of using them in the next disaster show his **deep passion for helping people**.
- He reconstructed 368 semi-permanent schools within 90 days in Gujarat saving one educational year of 10th and 12th std students and also recycled the same construction materials in Jammu & Kashmir during 2005 earthquake in the valley.

#4 Empowering Next Generation (Educational Rehabilitation) 2015:

- Being **a leader**, Shri Mutthaji never hesitates to **enhance the plans** and work in a **progressive manner** for more positive changes.
- Farmers' suicide is a prolonged problem of rural Maharashtra which has been a victim of short rainfall & drought since many years. When the drought scenario was worsening in Maharashtra and farmers' suicides are crossing the exceptionally high number, Shri. Mutthaji decided to focus on the next generation in farmers' families. He believes that we can empower such families through providing education to their children. Under his leadership, BJS brought around 1000 children (both boys & girls) from these families and tribal areas.
- Till now, BJS used to bring only boys from for educational rehabilitation in Wagholi Educational Rehabilitation Center (WERC), Pune. But looking at the direct need to focus on education of farmers' daughters, in 2015-16, girls are also brought families affected by farmers' suicides from all districts of Maharashtra. At WERC, these children will complete their education from (5th standard upto class 12th) with fully equipped facilities (fooding, lodging, boarding and mental health) for their holistic development.

#5 He is **one man on whom even the government system trusts** for delivering quick relief at the site of natural disaster anywhere in the country. In 2005, NDMA (National Disaster Management Authority) signed its first MoU with BJS for such collaborative works. Without any political background, **winning the trust of government only through honest & true humanitarian work is rarely seen.**

- **Determination, strong planning, quick decision taking, foresightedness and strategy** are the four main pillars of this humble personality who never leave no stone unturned to make disaster affected life quickly relieved.



A Thoughtful Educationist

Since Latur earthquake in 1993, educational rehabilitation of disaster affected children has been a major part of BJS's endeavors. In addition to this, in 2000, education enthusiastic Shri Shantilalji Muttha stepped into the field wholeheartedly with the aim to improve the quality in both private & government sectors. Right from forming Federation of Jain Educational Institute (FJEI) to implementing programs like EDUQIP and Mulyavardhan, Shri Mutthaji is a thoughtful educationist who has been tirelessly working for overall development of the school education sector. He believes in empowering the next generation through proper education

and guidance. Born & brought up in tough situations, Shri Mutthaji has an especially soft corner & high concern for children and their education. His journey from 2000 to 2016 in the field of education can be seen in raising consciousness & working to promote morality & values through well-researched curriculum & revamping teaching methods.

Shri Mutthaji is a real dreamer who wants to reach all 14 lakh schools in India through well-designed programs for the benefit of each and every child born in this country.



Formation of FJEI

Education is the fundamental right now in India and with it, the importance & consciousness of education is increasing at a fast pace among children & parents. Irrespective of economic statuses, everyone wants his or her children to get the best of education in the finest institute now-a-days.

Jain is a community that established many educational institutions for philanthropic causes since pre-independence era in India. This community has a long legacy and heritage of advocacy for education and renders it for the needy children. But, quality and charity never go together! Shri Shantilalji Muttha created Federation of Jain Educational Institute (FJEI) in 2000 to bring all the Jain educational institutions under one umbrella and so as to improve the "quality" of the education. Presently, there are more than

2500 educational institutes under this umbrella.

With the introduction of Education Quality Improvement Program (EDUQIP), these institutions are guided to improve the quality of education by optimum utilization of infrastructure and modernization of curriculums and teaching methods. Trainings for teachers, principals and trustees are a major part of this program. The futuristic need of the community can only be envision by a personality like Shri. Mutthaji who can think beyond to use these organizations as common platforms to work during disaster responses, spread government policies about minority benefits, skill development of youth, etc. He is a smart worker and knows how to accomplish strict goals with strategic planning to make a win-win situation.



Founder's Day Special :
The ABC of Blessed to Serve;

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Corporatization of Social Work

The very first thing comes to our mind when we think about social workers is a typical "unglamorous" image and people are used to belittling them as *zolawallas*. Social work is a specific field which most of the time revolves around the unorganized sector of volunteers. BJS also operated only with the strength of Jain volunteers from its inception in 1985 till 2002. The founder of BJS, Shri Shantilalji Muttha started social work by solving marriage related problems and gradually discovering solutions for many other epidemic problems of the society. He evolved his vision towards nation building and with the passage of time; he felt the need of professional team to have specialized expertise, specific role and responsibilities, accountability, research based

approach, program designing and target oriented projects in order to accomplish big scale sustainable impact.

Today, BJS, an NGO, is almost a corporate house with strong system orientation having the perfect fusion of a professional team and a nationwide committed volunteer network. Only a personality like Shri Shantilalji Muttha can think about the versatility of mixing professionalism & strength of volunteers in the best possible ways. This visionary knowledgeable person is the proof of dynamic persona, who knows how to change with time. Maximum utilization of skills makes him a unique social entrepreneur of the country.



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We would appreciate your feedback and comments

Please write to us on info@bjsindia.org for your feedback

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