



Shantilal Muttha,
Founder, BJS

eBULLETIN

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Dear Friends,

Hope all of you are doing great in your respective fields. I am very glad to inform you that Bharatiya Jain Sanghatana Samachar (Hindi Print Edition) will be circulated to 20,000 community members this month onwards. The intention to share thought-provoking ideas with you all remains the same through both these platforms and your views and opinions are welcome.

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world”. This quote was rightly christened by the great political leader Nelson Mandela in one of his speeches. From a primitive & barbarian society to a civilized society, the journey of mankind can be epitomized at every step with the exquisite crafting of brain development, education and social development.

Although in the Indian context, after independence, 69 years are not enough time for a nation to grow as a fully developed country. But 74.04% literacy rate (2011 census) is also not a happy number for us to celebrate. The problems are diverse in a multi-linguistic, multi-cultural, multi-community and multi-religious country like India. Problems are needed to be faced and solved with practical interventions.

In this issue, we are emphasizing on quality education and to modernize educational institutions for catering to the needs of new generation in a smarter way. Today, education is seen from the investment point of view as no parents want to do compromise in their child's education. So it's a need of the hour to establish or to renovate the old institutions to provide quality education to the new generation. The Jains have been in the forefront of contributing to the academic sector for philanthropic causes. But charity and education cannot go together and the model should shift from charity to quality of education. As a leader, we can inspire this movement of **'quality education'** to a greater extent.

Our achiever of the month is an institution this time - **Vigyan Ashram** is a unique schooling model from Pabal - a place nearby Pune that has done a fundamental work for skill development. We take this opportunity to know more about its founder Late Dr. Shrinath Kalbag who enlightened the lives of many school dropout students by educating them about cost effective technology to create alternative solutions through skill development.

Prafulla Parakh,
National President, BJS

From the desk of National President



Charity to Quality: A much Required Paradigm Shift

Educating children is an undeniable priority of any parent. People don't give a second thought towards spending their hard earned money on children's education and finding the best of the educational institutions. It is an investment. The word "investment" can be explained here from both sides i.e. one side from the parents for investing on the children's future by enrolling them in good schools and another is investing on creating educational institutions in keeping with the demand of the market. From both the perspectives, investing for the next generation is quite essential as it is the main pillar of the society.

Quality in education encompasses the purpose of education, emotional growth & cognitive development of learners. Apart from this, according to other schools of thoughts, quality education can be defined through overall development of the children. But the traditional education system has not succeeded so much to render quality education to children through the institutions.

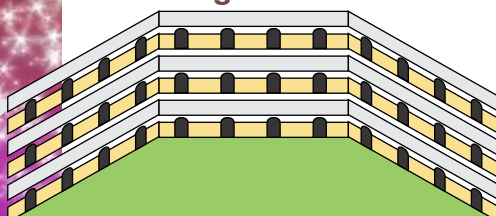
The Jain community has a proud legacy for contributing to the education sector for philanthropic causes since years. According to 2011 Census reports, the Jain community has a higher literacy rate of 94.1% in comparison to the national literacy rate of 74.4%. Jains have been and can be in the forefront in the contribution towards the education sector by establishing quality educational institutions for elementary, secondary as well as higher education. The Jain legacy of charity can now be extended to provide quality education towards contributing to societal needs and nation building.

If everybody of us takes the responsibility for building a sensible new generation with the best quality education, nobody can stop India to achieve 100% literacy rate in real sense and reaping on the demographic dividends in the years to come.

Apart from the parental demand for quality education, policy and regulations are also generating conducive environment and giving us opportunity to be in the forefront for building quality educational institutions. Minority managed institutions have sizable privileges for running institutions and enhancing the infrastructure. Government programs like Make in India, Start up India, and Digital India are also creating the need for three-tiered human resource skills – (a) for research and knowledge generation, (b) for professional as well as service competencies and (c) for skilled work force.

According to a report of National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) just for the state of Maharashtra, more than 1.5 crore skilled human resources will be required by the year 2022.

To sum up, we can say that it is very much required to revitalize the academic institutions that will make the community strong and next generation stronger. Let's play our role as parents to demand for such institutions and let's plan as the community leaders to fulfill those demands with collective strategies and common will.



BJS in Education

BJS has been working in the field of education since 1993 by undertaking students from disaster affected areas for educational rehabilitation. This rehabilitation was done through adopting affected children for their educational rehabilitation in Pune and constructing school infrastructure in the disaster affected areas. In 2001, we built 368 schools in Gujarat after the earthquake for 1, 20,000 students. Likewise, we constructed 11 schools in Tsunami hit islands of Andaman & Nicobar in 2005. Wagholi Educational Rehabilitation Center is established as a permanent rehabilitation center since 1997 and has housed thousands of affected children as well as tribal children for their education and complete up-bringing.

In the changing course of time, we have also realized the importance of value-based quality education which is essential to empower the next generation. We learnt that it is a tough job for the government to drive quality initiatives along with managing the administration in the academic sector. BJS took it upon itself as a mission to create large-scale replicable intervention in school education. Some of the BJS interventions are:

EDUQIP (Educational Quality Improvement Program):

Being a basket of programs, EDUQIP contains various programs for all stakeholders including school system, decision maker, teachers and students. School assessment & accreditation, Measurement of Teachers Effectiveness, Value Education Programs are name to few. All these well-researched programs have reached Jain managed schools in pan India level as these institutions were ready platform for piloting EDUQIP programs. So in 2002, BJS formed FJIEI (Federation of Jain Educational Institutes) by bringing many such institutes under one umbrella.

FJIEI (Federation of Jain Educational Institutes):

It was formed as an established network of more than 1800 Jain Institutes in 2002. FJIEI has been constantly supporting these Institutes for education improvements and creating awareness to look at various opportunities.

Also emphasizing at the scope of the works that can be done through the network of FJIEI, it is a need of the hour to revitalize the network to work with optimum speed. Starting from accurate vocational training to minority rights awareness, we can use these schools as communication medium in the community.

SAP (Student Assessment Program):

This is a multidimensional test especially designed for 4th standard students. SAP is designed to measure the emotional, social, physical and intellectual growth of the students as in the present time it is quite difficult for the parents to gauge the multi-faced growth of their children. Acknowledging the potential talents as well as aptitudes of children is essential. These help them to take the right track for their future destination. This program has four fold benefits for students, parents, schools and teachers. Till now, we have successfully implemented SAP in various private & governmental schools around many states.

Empowerment of Girls (EoG): This program has reached to around 23,000 girls since 2008. We are in the process of up-scaling the reach through government and private educational institutions across the country. The program gets an overwhelming response not only from parents and teachers but more importantly from girls themselves. The unique content of the program helps girls opening up and building their emotional strength. Through this platform we bring parents and girls together to make them aware about both side emotional needs, challenges, unique situations and family bonding.

Minority Awareness: BJS has inspired a dream in the minds of thousands of volunteers from a handful of community – Jains who are one of the smallest minority community – to work for society at large that is plagued with innumerable problem areas and is waiting for all possible help and support to deal with those problems. Having given the opportunity to extend helping hands on a huge canvas of disasters and poverty covered land, thousands of Jain volunteers of BJS from all across the country practice the real meaning of Jainism through Ahimsa, Satya and Anekantwad (non-violence, truth & pluralism).

BJS is in the process of forming a collective vision given the opportunities being created because new government policies and various growth and developmental initiatives announced by the government.

As a broader vision, we want to ensure that every child in India gets access to quality education at schools as well as higher education institutions. To conclude, we can say that the institutions must be revived to exploit the opportunities that can be provided through the network of FJEL. Strengthening of this network will not only help us to emerge as a strong community but also fuel the philanthropic cause by adding must needed value like quality education, empowerment of next generation and work for all to facilitate individual pursuits and societal growth.



Personality of the Month

Vigyan Ashram: An institution that set a benchmark & the person behind it

Located at the drought affected village called Pabal in Maharashtra, Vigyan Ashram is a hermitage type of education institute completely dedicated to provide vocational training to the school dropout students. It was established in the year 1983 and has been acting as a center of Education under (Indian Institute of Education, IIE, Pune). Vigyan Ashram's program IBT (Introduction to Basic Technology) is widely adopted by more than 122 high schools across 4 Indian states.

This institute was established with a holistic approach of skill development in the rural sector. In addition to this, emphasis is given upon innovation of cost effective technology with an aim to make rural life better. The innovations done by the student of Vigyan Ashram are Egg incubator, Biogas based electricity generation, Hearing Aid, 2W Solar Charger and many more.

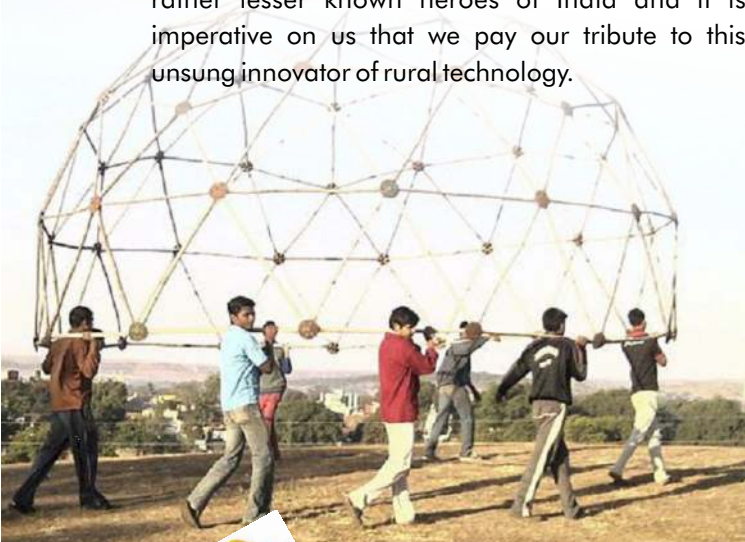
A thinking brain behind this institute, Dr. Shrinath Kalbag is a great personality who's rather lesser known heroes of India and it is imperative on us that we pay our tribute to this unsung innovator of rural technology.

When the whole world was rushing into new ideas, technologies and innovations in state-of-the-art laboratories, some people like late Dr. Shrinath Kalbag were working silently away from the mainstream for rural development. Dr. Kalbag worked in a drought proven village called Pabal in Maharashtra despite being educated in USA to develop a model institution for skill development.

Dr. Shrinath Kalbag was widely known as "Rural Technology Innovator" for proving the fact that rural engineering & innovation can bring light to the many school dropouts on whom the systems left hope forever. He also justified that innovation not always meant for big works or discoveries but also can be realized and appreciated in tinkering small but essential & substitute inventions that are cost effective & sustainable.

Born and brought up in the dream city Mumbai, Mr. Kalbag had a scientific bend of mind since his childhood. After completing B. Sc. from Royal Institute of Science, Bombay, he went to USA in 1953 to study at the University of Illinois, Chicago for doing Ph. D. in Food Technology under Prof. Kumaroe. During this time he was deeply influenced by the utilization of science & technology by the farmers there and he saw a dream and "Vigyan Ashram" is the sheer realization of this dream.

He took volunteer retirement in 1982 as the head of Engineering Science Department to work on this dream project. Vigyan Ashram was established by him to empower rural technologies. Mr. Kalbag believed that only technological evolution can uplift the rural lives of India.



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