



Page 2 Benevolence of Networking

## Bharatiya Jain Sanghatana

Page 3 BJS Network

Page 4 Personality of the Month

Dear Friends,

I hope everybody is marching ahead in life with positive energy, hope and hard work. Friends, life is a journey where we have to keep ourselves moving ahead by listening to the sounds of life, enjoying the variety of challenges to maintain the spirit of life and caring about our larger surroundings and distant future.

I am very happy to announce that "Networking" is the main theme of February E bulletin. This theme is meticulously decided after lots of thoughts & discussions to inspire and empower "Volunteers' Network" and to salute the networking spirit.

Networking can be initiated with a humble faith, vision as well as idea. It is the most reasonable way & stage to disseminate important message through compatible people. The strength of strong networking can be seen in the success of projects at the grass-root levels.

Social work is an elaborated area where 'networking' has the most compelling role in accumulating people's power for social development. Networking is triggered by relationships with other similar minded people for accomplishing common goals. The constructive power of networking lies in creating common platforms & building alliances. One of the prime strengths of BJS is its network that helps in implementing big scale projects successfully in each & every nook and corner of India.

Inspiring & motivating the 'Young Generation' which is largely isolating from social scenario can also be a vital part of networking. Channelizing them through various programs as well as bringing them together for a common social is a way to make them realize the true purpose of life. Thereby we can encourage the "youth power" to contribute in social works which is an essential duty of every responsible citizen. There are people who have left the luxuries of life for empowering youth in the remote areas. Dr. Abhay and Dr. Rani Bang are such great people who after their life-long mission through SEARCH have initiated "Nirman" to guide the youth for channelizing their social sensibilities and building strong awareness towards variety of social challenges. We are proud to select Nirman - an empowering initiative for the youth - as the initiative of the month. 

Prafulla Parakh, National President, BJS

#### Benevolence of Networking

"Many great ideas go unexecuted, and many great executioners are without ideas. One without the other is worthless." -Tim Blixseth

Great ideas & great executioners must go together for a perfect implementation. But, implementation on big scale is something very important to make the mission reach to every nook & corner of the targeted area through a well-knitted network of people.

Networking has been a prime factor since the primitive time when human started to live in families and gradually in societies. Basic necessities like food, shelter, security, and needs brought people together in the pre-civilization time forming various tribes. With the evolution, the needs & requirements have been changed into totally new forms. But the concept of community and then "networking" has remained the same. To begin with it was used for livelihood and functional purpose. Now, it has been used for either commercial purpose or for social purpose. There is also a synthetic of the both; a concept of networking used for joint purpose of commercial & social endeavors.

Networking can be started with a simple belief, dream and concept. This is the most costeffective way & platform to spread a message through like-minded people. The end result is reaching and impacting more and more people.

Social work is a vast area where 'networking' plays the most vital role in uniting like-minded community for a specific cause & development. Networking also involves relationships with other professionals who share same thoughts or area of interest. It helps in creating own community a n d building alliances. Opportunities to work together towards achieving a common goal are provided by a strong networking ability. Networking is not just about personal benefits such as for examples asking someone for a job or getting better deal. It is about developing contacts and building long-term relationships. Networking is not a one-way street. Sometimes it is like "Karma", what we put into it is exactly what we will get out of it. We have to be proactive in communicating with the people as well as inspiring them to work for the goal.

Maximum numbers of social organizations rely on "Human Networking" for accomplishing their big visions. They educate, train, mentor, coach and provide other ancillary supports to create leaders in their networks. Creating leadership in targeted grass-root areas is not an easy job. Rational Mobilization of unorganized people is a crucial to work in a systematic way for every organization.

We need to empower people first to make them ready to work for moving forward the mission. Thus, creating a chain of empowering people further helps in inspiring as well mobilizing for the right purpose. A well-coordinated & committed network is a prime strength for any entrepreneurship; be it commercial or social.

4

Apart from this, attracting the 'young generation' for social cause is a by-product of networking. Inspiring the youth for bending their lives towards more humanitarian orientation is as crucial as creating a web of people. Many organizations are working towards empowering the youth and BJS is one of the prominent one.

> Lets' strengthen our network by empowering each & every individual in the nooks and corners of India and make BJS an organization for all!

### **BJS Network**

Bharatiya Jain Sanghatana is proud of its pan India level network for which it has been emerged out as an NGO working for all communities irrespective of religion, caste, creed and languages. Envisioned by BJS founder, Shri Shantilal Muttha, this committed volunteer base has been built day by day by similar minded community people coming under this single organization irrespective of their sects and sub-sects. Our network is powered by more than 20,000 office bearers actively carrying out BJS responsibilities with relentless commitment and lakhs of volunteers supporting them.

#### The Core Strength (Speed & Scale)

The volunteers' network is the real strength of our organization. Having such a network till grass-root level with the commitment of time and resources for the social cause, we **Organizational Structure of BJS Network** 

The volunteers' organizational structure of BJS network

is governed through multi-layered bodies of office bearers: BJS National Council

State Councils in each State

**Regional/District Councils** Local City/Village Committees and Chapters

Activities to mobilize our network

We carry out the following activities to mobilize our network and to reach to larger community:

- National Executive Council Meetings
- State Executive Council Meetings
- Tours of National and State office Bearers for Community Connectivity
- Office Bearers Training Program till District level
- National and State Level Conventions
- Annual Program Calendar of the well-researched and centrally design programs for end level benificieries
- Locally planned and organized programs as per local needs

BJS volunteers are the intriguing parts of the whole network having such a committed force till the grass-roots level serving for the social cause. BJS demonstrated the power of executing projects or many seemingly uphill tasks with speed and scale only because of the back-bone of this network.

BJS has participated in Disaster Response activities in all major disasters since 1993 major earthquake of Latur -Osmanabad in Maharashtra. There onwards, BJS worked in Jabalpur (Madhya Pradesh) earthquake – 1996, Gujarat earthquake - 2001, Akola (Maharashtra) floods - 2002, Andaman & Nicobar tsunami – 2005, Jammu & Kashmir earthquake – 2005, Bihar floods – 2008, and Maharashtra drought - 2013 & 2016. Presently, BJS is determined to join hands for making Maharashtra drought Free.

BJS focused on educational rehabilitation of disaster affected children since 1993 earthquake. From Latur & Osmanabad, BJS rehabilitated 1200 students and took complete responsibility of their education from standard 5th till their graduation. BJS established a permanent facility -Wagholi Educational Rehabilitation Center (WERC) near Pune in 1997. WERC has been hosting tribal students from Melghat (Amravati) and Kosbad (Thane) of Maharashtra since 1996. From November 2015, BJS took responsibility of rehabilitating children from suicide affected farmers' families of Maharashtra. In 2016-17 academic year, 287

tribal boys and 653 boys and girls of farmers' families are hosted at WERC for their education where all facility for their co-curricular development, sports and especially physical and mental health are provided with utmost care.

3

On the other hand, BJS through its network of volunteers strategizes to elevate personal issues / family problems from the individual domain to a social platform. There is a conscious effort to gear up community activities to address social issues. Instead of making these activities event oriented, BJS believes in creating a mass movement from these activities. BJS through its decentralized network of volunteers possessing a strong sense of ownership and with a judicious mix of "professionalism" and "activism" gathers input for identifying issues and concerns, devising suitable solutions, rolling them out as pilot at the wide-spread grass root level, and gathering feedback for refinement of solutions and scaling up implementation for wider society. BJS focuses on creating programs at various levels so as to cover entire family through different interventions providing vital social, educational and career inputs at critical milestones in life.

We are very proud of our innumerable field volunteers who are committed to BJS's objectives and its large humanitarian approach. This team of army gives us the confidence & hope to march towards nation building.

organizational structure in the following regions: Rajasthan Gujarat • North-East • Haryana

Presence

tasks with speed and scale.

- Punjab • West Bangal
- We are active in 11 states now where we are concentrating on network developing & mobilization of office bearers for a target-driven annual calendar to reach to lakhs of beneficiaries at far-end locations.

have the power of executing projects or many seemingly uphill

The BJS volunteers' network is substantially active in states like

Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh,

Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. Also, recently,

we have invested our efforts in developing a strong

# Personality of the Month Nirman: Youth for Purposeful Life

"We are what our thoughts have made us; so take care about what you think. Words are secondary. Thoughts live; they travel far." -Swami Vivekananda

India is country where realizing the power of "youth" is not a new story; it has been realized before many years when the country & its' culture was represented by Swami Vivekananda in 1893 at the Art Institute of Chicago as part of the World's Columbian Exposition. The power of 'youth' is magical and convincing. Being aware of the history and legacy of thoughts, with contemporary perspectives and willing introspections youth can cultivate more liberal as well as rational thoughts for benefiting the society. an untamed box full of potentialities. Converting this energy into the right way for constructive thoughts is crucial. "Nirman" is an initiative solely taken for identifying, nurturing and organizing the young change makers to address various social challenges. This is an educative initiative that is designed to train the 'youth' to tackle social problems. Nirman is a unique program that offers guidance, expertise as well as environment to instill selflearning for taking strong social action.

Youth is an unorganized power, a limitless energy and



The Nirman participants generally take up one of the following five work options:

- Be a social entrepreneur and start one's own venture
- Work with different non-profit organizations with an explicit social mission
- Join the government system and serve the people
- Avail certain fellowships to work on a definite project and
- Work in the private sector and contribute part time for some social cause

The success of the program can be traced with the enrolment of seventh batch which is currently going on. Till now, 700 youths have been associated in last six batches from 31 districts of Maharashtra. They are from various professional backgrounds like doctors, engineers, lawyers, journalists, filmmakers, teachers, farmers, science-artscommerce graduates, etc. In few words, Nirman enlightens youth about the purpose of life. This program encourages searching for self and development of mission of life in an intellectually stimulating way. Inspired by the principles of Mahatma Gandhi & Vinoba Bhave, NIRMAN aims to bridge gap between traditional & modern education system and achieve education through real problem solving abilities. This education is for life, through life and throughout the life. 4



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