

# e-bulletin

From the desk of National President

Every CLOUD has a SILVER lining...  
Every END has a NEW beginning

Friends, I am very happy to connect with you through this last issue of the year with a bright hope of seeing you from next month with a new zest for life bringing happy colors for all of us.

This is a combined issue for the month of November and December and you must be surprised because this has happened for the first time since inception of this mode of our regular meeting. I am sure you all will be very proud to know the reason.

When the situation is getting worse and the dark cloud is hovering over, when most of the time the ball is thrown in another court to find suitable solutions, one person, our respectable leader Shri. Shantilal Muttha, Founder, BJS gets into an action and gears the entire machinery to challenge the situation from an all together different angle, with unimaginable speed and for an unbelievable scale. Dear friends, as you will know in detail through this issue, BJS has taken over responsibility of educational rehabilitation of 193 children - 118 boys and 75 girls after a survey of households affected because of Farmers' suicides from Marathwada region of Maharashtra. From conceptualizing a long term intervention for these children's educational rehabilitation to a scientific survey of every affected household, data analysis, report, detail interaction with family members, villagers and all other stakeholders, identifying eligible children for 5th to

12th std education, bringing them to Pune from villages of 8 districts, settling them by taking care of their physical, emotional and psychological needs, providing them a conducive social and educational environment and starting their formal education is done just within a span of 1 month of November.

While we were amazed with Shri. Muttha's zeal for such a hugely impacting humanitarian vision and his belief in making things happen against all odds, we were happy to listen to the success stories of his past interventions of educational rehabilitation. Hearing the orphan children rehabilitated by him after 1993 Latur Earthquake, sharing their life stories of successful careers and the tribal children rehabilitated from Melghat malnourished affected areas talking about their dreams in front of an august audience gathered to welcome farmers' children, we hope to give a life-time opportunity to even these children and seek your blessings and best wishes for their future. At the same time it is imperative that all of us are conscious of the environmental imbalance, debt crisis, and extreme poverty and vouch for our role in preventive possibilities, if any.

**Wishing you all once again a very happy, healthy and successful year ahead!**

**Prafulla Parakh,**  
National President

Empowerment of next generation



Give me some sunshine...  
Give me another chance

Empowerment  
of next generation

A day out

Settling  
the children  
at WERC



Give me some  
sunshine..  
Give me  
another  
chance..

Kavitha Iyer in an article titled '**Marathwada: India's emerging farmer suicide capital**' (Indian Express dated Sept 13, 2015) states, "2014 recorded 574 farmer suicides in the region, the tally for 2015 has already touched 628." Indian Express (Dec 9), reported the Marathwada suicide toll reaching beyond 1000 this year till date.

As Ms. Iyer rightly says the human loss and damage to farmer morale is more incalculable. The magnitude of this problem of farmer suicides is nothing short of a disaster and there is a potentially bigger problem emanating from this scenario in a manner which holds the promise of having a long lasting impact on the lives of the survivors of the suicide victims, especially the children.

The loss of a loved one and especially an earning member always deals a cruel blow to the kith and kin of the victim. Matters become worse for the impoverished and the marginalized sections of the society; the economic impact of the tragedy gets compounded by the psychological impact on the traumatized family members. At such times children belonging to such families become the most vulnerable of the lot and nothing can prepare them enough for the multitude of challenges that come in the wake of such a tragedy. It is extremely crucial to provide a conducive psychosocial environment to such children in order to prevent them from succumbing to cycles of trauma, depression and loss of purpose in their early lives.

To constructively engage them and channelize their minds in the proper direction when such tragedy strikes, early and good quality educational rehabilitation is, by far, the only means to shape the lives of these children and keep them from going astray.

It is with this intention; Bharatiya Jain Sanghatana conducted a survey of \_\_\_\_\_ households affected by Farmer Suicides from Beed, Latur, Osmanabad, Aurangabad, Jalna, Parbhani, Hingoli, and Nanded districts to get detailed information about various socio-economic factors and to specifically identify potentially eligible children who can participate in BJS educational rehabilitation program. After a systematic data analysis and detail interactions with all the stakeholders 193 children, 118 boys and 75 girls have been sent by their families to stay at BJS' Wagholi Educational Rehabilitation Center for their education from 5th std till 12th. With this long-term intervention BJS will take the responsibility of the holistic education with a focus on co-curricular development, food, accommodation, daily needs, counseling, healthcare and nutrition of all these children.



After facing an irreparable personal trauma, instead of probable alienation, these children will get the integrated educational environment by co-habitation with Urban, Semi-urban, and Tribal students who are enjoying the conducive environment for their personal, social and educational development at WERC. This model of education support has immense possibilities for the restoration of normalcy into the devastated lives of farmers as it equips their children to be masters of their destinies giving them another chance after a major blow.

*"kabhi dhoondh lega yeh caaravaan,  
woh nayi zameen  
nayaa aasmaan "*

– Javed Akhtar







26 -30 October 2015

Evolution of idea,  
Plan prepared for implementation of the  
project Empowerment of Next Generation  
Survey teams finalized.  
Survey forms, brochures, guidelines, FAQs  
printed and handed over to the head office  
research team for further planning and action.  
Interactive training sessions conducted for all  
survey team members



22 November 2015

Stay healthy, fitness checkup  
A complete medical checkup and screening



21 November 2015

Students received a warm welcome  
after arriving at WERC at morning 10 AM



23 November 2015

A fresh start, a beautiful new beginning  
Clothing and educational materials  
handed over to students



# Empowerment of Next Generation



# Settling the children at WERC

It was a heartening picture to see small boys and girls with their smiling faces walking to take their seats in front of dais with India's flag in their hands, confidence in their posture and twinkles in their eyes. The event was specially organized for the children who had been through the experience of a suicide in immediate family in the recent past. Children had travelled for the first time from their respective places to a city like Pune after a day long journey and a night halt at Ahmednagar. Their journey to new life had begun with Shri. Shantilal Muttha joining them in a bus. These hours that they got to spend with him itself helped them feel reassured about their future at WERC. As they heard the feelings of past students of WERC - those who are grown up now after Latur earthquake - telling these children how after a personal loss WERC became their home and Shri. Muttha and his team their parents they could come over the trauma and achieve their dreams. Similar feelings expressed by Melghat students - past and present - telling them that they are all there at WERC to support them for a new beginning.

Veteran Leader Shri. Sharad Pawar, Guardian Minister of Pune Shri. Giriah Bapat, Education Commissioner of Maharashtra Dr. Bhapkar were specially present to welcome these children. Shri. Pawar narrated his experience of Shri. Muttha's presence in every disaster and the scale of BJS work. Shri. Bapat shared his memories of Shri. Muttha's early days work. Dr. Bhapkar elaborated on education department's plans towards giving meaningful education to every child.



Shri. Muttha while informing about the project, told that from the first time, BJS has undertaken responsibilities of educational rehabilitation of girls too. It is imperative he said for the progress of Marathwada to educate and empower girls.

Young girl Aditi from Chincholi of Beed district moved the crowd by her emotional speech when she expressed her determination to get educated and be an officer to take care of mother and brother who don't have any one else at home after her father's suicide. It was all the more touching when she appealed that families should not be after getting their daughters marry at very early age without educating them just because of their family heads are no more.

Children have started school, have been through a medical check up from the experts as well as a residential medical team at WERC, a mental health care team is being specially set up and have started taking care of observing and helping with every minutest and clinical psychological needs of the children. Children have started opening up with Shri. Shantilal Muttha, WERC team and their teachers asking them for various needs and wishes. As per children's wish, on the holiday of Guru Nanak Jayanti, children were taken to Pune's most endearing Ganesha Temple. After singing prayers and aarati there they spent a day out happily visiting historical and popular places from Pune.

A second batch of children, who joined them on 2nd December and those who are coming in till now are having a very eased out settling process because of the first batch. A very strong system of processes, monitoring and evaluation and auditing is in place at WERC to take care of all possible details for such a sensitive and complex project which is going to offer different life for farmers' families for generations to come.







25 November 2015

A day out

(Guru Nanak Jayanti holiday)

Visit to Dagdu Seth Ganapati,  
Agakhan palace, Katraj Snake Park,  
Peshwe Park, Saras Baug, & other attractions.







**21 November 2015**  
 A grand welcome by  
 Honorable Shri Sharad Pawar and  
 Honorable Shri Girish Bapat (Minister, GoM)  
 & Dr. Purushottam Bhapkar  
 (Ed. Commissioner, GoM)  
 Many eminent personalities  
 from the society attended the function.



**LEAVING BEHIND THE PAST**

**SARASWATI'S FIRST DAY IN SCHOOL**



**BJS**  
 Bharatiya Jain Sanghatana

**Gaikwad family from Beed which lost its breadwinner took a strong decision to send their daughter Saraswati to BJS School, Pune. This has shown immediate results; identifying her strong leadership qualities, Saraswati has been appointed as the monitor of the children who have come to BJS.**



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**Bharatiya Jain Sanghatana**

Muttha Towers, Loop Road, Near Don Bosco Church, Yerawada, Pune 411006  
 Tel.: 020 4120 0600, 4128 0012, 4128 0013  
 Website : [www.bjsindia.org](http://www.bjsindia.org) E mail : [info@bjsindia.org](mailto:info@bjsindia.org) Facebook : [www.facebook.com/BJSIndia](https://www.facebook.com/BJSIndia)