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Issue #2

SEED Report

“The Future of India Lies in Its Villages” –Mahatma Gandhi

SEED - USA

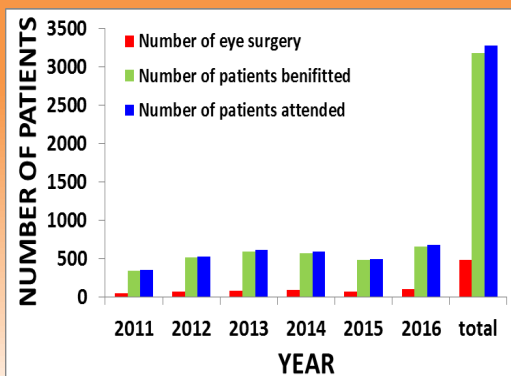
Our Mission

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Our Mission



SEED FOUNDATION

Transforming
Villages in India

A 501 (c) (3) Non-Profit
Organization

India made its Tryst with Destiny in 1947, at the stroke of midnight. An oppressive colonial regime gave way to a free India, governed by its own. Unfortunately, the promises of that midnight are still a distant dream for a vast majority of villages in India.

Rural India is very diverse and complex. At the same time, it is poor, unskilled, and under-served. A vast majority of the rural population is dependent on agriculture for sustenance. However, the profitability and sustainability of agriculture has greatly diminished over time due to faulty economic models, mismanagement of natural resources and a lack of technological intervention. To make matters worse, the rural communities across India are significantly vulnerable to environmental and climate changes (e.g. disruption in monsoon cycle and persistent floods and droughts). Several communities are on the verge of collapse due to this perfect storm of economic, environmental and climatic challenges.

Our team at SEED Foundation believes that without a holistic rural transformation, the vision of a developed India can never be realized. This transformation needs a self-sustaining model of development which requires innovations in technology, economic models, education and health care. We believe that the hi-tech community in USA can contribute significantly in this endeavor through its skills in technology, project execution and startup incubation.

SEED provides a platform for all such interested individuals to get together, collaborate, and make a visible impact on the grounds in India.

To help achieve the rural transformation, SEED Foundation envisions establishing SKIL (Sustainability, Knowledge, Innovation and Learning) centers amidst a cluster of villages. The SKIL centers will facilitate rural economic development through a farm to fork strategy based on sustainable agriculture (organic & natural farming). The SKIL centers will also impart a value and inquiry based education which will combine the best of traditional Indian Gurukuls with the latest in modern pedagogy. In addition, the SKIL centers will be a hub of the rural lives and will provide valuable skill development, life-caring services, and technology transfers into rural India.

SEED has a SKIL center under development in Hamirpur district of Uttar Pradesh. Our team (including collaborators) consists of experienced scientists, educationists, engineers, doctors, managers, entrepreneurs, bankers from various international organizations. There is also a strong ground team with strong support from local rural communities. The learning from our on-going projects in the Bundelkhand region would create a good example that can be transferred to other regions in India. Please join us in this journey of Change... Together we can!

SEED Annual Meeting 2017

SEED annual meeting was organized on March 4th, 2017 in Mountain View, CA. Dr. Ravikant Pathak travelled to the US for this meeting and presented the progress and challenges of the ongoing work in India. With more than twenty members and well wishers present, we had a pretty good turn-out accompanied with an excellent discussion and sharing of experiences. This was followed by board member meetings during the weekend to plan the budget and projects for 2017. Some key highlights are listed below:

❖ All board members have agreed to continue to serve in their current roles for the year 2017. In addition, we would like to welcome Dr. Niti Garg to the board serving as a technical advisor. Niti is a PhD. in Chemistry from Carnegie Mellon University and currently employed with Intel Corp. She is also a dedicated to social causes & has contributed her time & money to several charitable causes.

❖ Thanks to all our donors, well wishers and supporters, we achieved a spectacular fundraising in CY 2016! The total collection has already crossed 6 figures in US\$ and is well beyond our original targets. This would not have been possible without your generosity!

❖ 2017 Annual budget was finalized:

- Establishment of Bharat Uday Gurukul : \$65000
- Sponsorship of 25 students for the first year : \$25000
- Purchase of Packaging tools for Organic Fresh produce : \$20000
- Marketing and Advertising : \$5000

❖ Expansion of SEED to other regions: We are actively looking for members who will expand SEED initiative in their cities through local chapters. Please contact us if you are interested in taking this organization to the next level! Some of the key areas we are looking into:

- New York / New Jersey
- Phoenix
- Boston
- Seattle
- Florida
- Canada

❖ Expansion of Corporate Matching : We are actively working towards expanding corporate matching programs to more companies. Current corporate engagements include Apple, Intel, IBM & Google



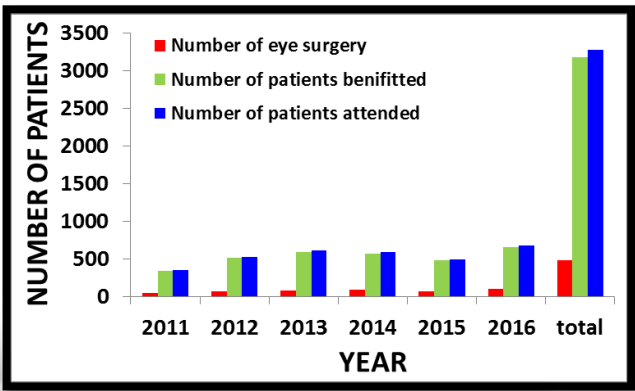
Updates from the Ground..

HEALTH CAMPS IN BUNDELKHAND VILLAGES

Since 2011, we have regularly organized health camps for the rural communities of Hamirpur district in Bundelkhand. Our health camps include dental care, gynecological checkups, BP measurements and diabetes testing. This is followed by a prescription and distribution of generic medicines.

In addition, a couple of major health camps have been organized every year with a special focus on eye care. This is really needed due to a high prevalence of eye diseases and a lack of health facilities in the villages of Bundelkhand. Due to atmospheric pollution, the villagers have a very high exposure to dust and allergic substances. Women and children are impacted further

due to exposure to thick smokes from biomass burning for cooking. As a consequence, almost every other person over 40 years is suffering from some sort of an eye ailment. If not treated, these eye ailments can lead to permanent blindness. Under these circumstances, the Ashram has decided to intervene to bring timely medical support to the rural communities, in collaboration with charitable and private eye hospitals from Chitrakoot and Gwalior. Our camps include eye checkup, medication, as well as surgery. Thousands of poorest, old and needy villagers from the surrounding communities have got their vision back. Smile on their faces is our highest award.



Updates from the Ground..

BHUMI POOJAN OF NEW SITE FOR GURUKUL ASHRAM

We are very happy to announce that a new site has been chosen for starting another Bharat Uday Gurukul Ashram based on the model of the first Ashram in Hamirpur, Bundelkhand: We got 30 acre land free of cost for establishing a new Gurukul in a beautiful location on the bank of DHASAAN river near village Chauka boarding Jhansi, Mahoba, and Chhatarpur districts. Bhoomi poojan was conducted on June 27th 2017. Mr. Biplab Talapatra , an architect from New Delhi, visited the site and volunteered to prepare the master plan. This Gurukul will aim to provide a world class education to the under privileged children from ten nearby villages. The total expenditure for setting up the Gurukul campus and sponsoring first batch of students is estimated to be 150k USD. We aim to get this campus up and running in the next five years. The local graduate and donor of the land is our full time volunteer who will work 24×7 for the establishment of this new Gurukul. This endeavor has also got a huge support from other like minded organizations in Bundelkhand. The wheel of positive transformation has begun!



Updates from the Ground...

(from the pages of Ashram's dairy, *Glimpses of Seva Works 2010*)

SWACHCHH BHARAT : Endeavors of clean villages

Although SEED Foundation was officially set up in 2016 in California, our core team began work on the ground in India almost a decade ago. Here we provide glimpses of Seva works that we have been doing towards SWACHH BHARAT (Clean India).

At the entrance of the village Chheri Basayak (district Hamirpur U.P.) and in front of the Govt. School some villagers had illegally occupied the land. They used it to dump all their household and cattle waste. This resulted in huge heaps of filth over the years as can be seen in the photo (before). On 15th Aug. 2010, we took a bold step to clean up the village and demolish these heaps of filth and solid waste.

As we started the clean up work, we immediately met with resistance from a mob. But we dealt with them boldly and humanely to make them understand that they illegally possessed the public land. We assured that if they cooperate with us, we can get them allotted plots for disposing the waste. Thus a lingering problem of dirt and filth in a public place was solved permanently.

Later with the help of land revenue department, a piece of the village society land was allotted to needy people for the disposal of their home and animal waste.

Despite these initial achievements, the village still appears dirty, and more efforts are needed to clean it up. We are determined to turn our village into a model of cleanliness for rural India.



CONSTRUCTION OF ROADS:

There was no proper path from the village to nearby forest area and the village pond. People approached these places passing through deep natural trenches as shown in the photo (Before).

Ashram took initiatives for constructing the connecting roads. After meticulous efforts, this construction was approved under the MGNREGA scheme of the Govt. of India.

We gained lots of experience and confidence by getting such projects executed for the village development. We shall continue our efforts of nation building by cooperating with the government, and in turn, receiving help from them.



SEED & You...

The SEED Board:

Madhur Bobde – The President & Secretary:

VP Alpha & Omega Semiconductor
San Francisco, Bay area, CA

Atul Mishra – The Treasurer:

Sr. Manager Intel ;San Francisco Bay area, CA

Gaurav Shrivastav – Executive Director:

Sr. Manager, Qual Comm. Bengaluru, India

Dr. Ravi Kant Pathak – Executive Director:

Professor of air pollution and Climate Change,
University of Gothenburg, Sweden

Yajnesh Rai – Advisor:

Realtor Keller Williams Realty Inc. San
Francisco, Bay area, CA

Dr. Niti Garg – Advisor:

Sr. Process Engg. Intel Inc. Pheonix, Arizona

“Happiness doesn’t result from what we get, but from what we give”

SEED foundation team firmly believes in caring and giving a hand of compassion to fellow human beings in order to build a better world. SEED is a platform for transforming your ideas into impact at the grassroots in rural India. We welcome you to join hands in this endeavor of environmental sustainability, transforming villages, and building sustainable communities in India. Here are some options for your consideration:

YOU CAN:

Donate and drive donation campaigns for funds raising through own and social media networks, your employers donation matching, volunteer hours reporting and CSR schemes etc.

- Own and remotely manage the projects at grassroots
- Provide expertise support in organization management, project management, technology transfer and sustainability innovations
- Become part of the think tank and provide a helping hand to the ground teams in solving real life problems
- Design your own sustainability solutions and SEED will work hand in hand with you to secure external funding

- Engage in hands on work at the grassroots level in the villages

PATRONS are the key doers in the organization. They are the owners in true sense as they are responsible for the management of all projects, outreach of the foundation and financial matters. They are also involved in the think tank with the Board of Directors. Suggested contributions from Patrons are \$1000 USD/year to support the organization’s projects & a volunteer time of 2hr/week.

ASSOCIATES are responsible for planning and execution of funds raisers and support for the project. They are also involved in the think tank with Patrons and Board of Directors for specific projects. Suggested contributions from Associates are \$1 USD/day to support the organization’s projects & volunteer time of 2hr/month.

VOLUNTEERS are the backbone of the foundation and the key human resource for events and activities. They are responsible for networking for funds raisers, membership drives and executions of events and activities. They will receive regular updates from the organization about its activities and upcoming events. Any donations from volunteers for general funding or specific projects are highly appreciated.

HOW YOU CAN CONTRIBUTE

