

2018
Issue #3

SEED Report



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

SEED - USA

- ❖ OUR MISSION
- ❖ SEED ANNUAL MEETING 2018
- ❖ NEW CHAPTERS



UPDATES FROM THE GROUND

- Conference on Rural Sustainability and Social Awareness
- Healthy Villages/Healthy India
- Computer education for rural children
- Bharat Uday Gurukul



Our Mission

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!

Annual Meeting:

SEED annual dinner was organized on 24 Feb. 2018 in San Francisco bay area. All associates of the SEED foundation were invited. Another SEED event was organized on 10th March 2018. In these events, Dr. Ravi Kant Pathak updated the progress of ongoing groundworks and projects at the grassroots in India. In 2018, Mr. Lakshmikant Mamileti has joined the SEED board and he will also serve as new secretary and co-treasurer. Mr. Madhur Bobde will continue as President with additional charge of co-Treasurer. In the annual board meetings, the board has endorsed the new board appointments, chapter coordinators, verified previous year expenditures and approved the Budget for 2018. In 2017, SEED had used \$70k in total, i.e. \$50k for the infrastructure development of the upcoming Gurukul campus in India and \$20k for promotion of organic farming activities and social awareness campaigns in rural Bundelkhand region. We promise to maximize the impacts of your support on the ground in India and benefit the last man of the society. **2018 Annual budget is US\$100k:**

- Bharat Uday Gurukul Project: US\$70k for education of 30 students and infrastructure
- Organic Farming and food processing unit development: US\$30k

**New Chapters of SEED:**

We are very happy to share that this year we have had a very encouraging kick-off. The SEED Foundation is expanding within USA. In his recent visit, Dr. Ravi Kant Pathak (CEO-groundworks of SEED in India) has visited several States in US and met 100s of like-minded people. There is heartening response and a warm welcome for our vision of transformation of rural India through education and organic farming. Thus, we have initiated the following 6 chapters of SEED with lots of support, assurance and synergizing efforts together.

1. **SEED NY/NJ:** Coordinator: Deepak Gupta(+1-201-249-242); dgupta70@gmail.com
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Please connect with coordinators of your area and become part of the change through our activities of giving back to society.



Updates from the Ground...

CONFERENCE FOR RURAL SUSTAINABILITY

This conference was a two-days get-together, where people from different fields presented their work and shared their experiences on sustainable rural transformation and prepared a roadmap for implementation. The key agenda included promotion of organic farming and quality education for rural folks through Gurukul education system. The issues related to caste and gender biases and addictions prevailing in villages were also discussed for holistic transformation of the villages.

In 2017, KARMAYOGI SAMMAN – a Life-time Achievement Award was institutionalized annually by the Bharat Uday Karmayogi Ashram. It is to honor people who have devoted their entire life and worked tirelessly in any field for the rise of India. Mrs. **Chandra Kunwar Pathak** – co-founder of the organization, presented the citations and trophies to three recipients. Three KARMAYOGI SAMMAN recipients for year 2017 are:

Dr. Bhartendu Prakash (75 years) – former IIT Kanpur faculty. He gave up his career at IITK and devoted his entire Life for the promotion of organic farming in rural India.

Umesh Datta Chaturvedi (67 years) – served the electricity state board of M.P. India, as a superintendent Engineer. He has struggled life long against the prevalent corrupt practices in Government sector in India. Served the society/nation with utmost integrity and established an example of impeccable integrity in public service.

Sharda Prasad Johri (92 years)– served as an upper divisional clerk in the U.P. state irrigation department. Life long he served the people with utmost sincerity and he witnessed suffering of rural folks. After his retirement, he devoted all his resources and time and tirelessly served the society in area of sanitation, health and organic farming.



We also honored organic farmers of Bundelkhand, who use traditional methods in the interest sustainable methods. We promised to support them under all adverse climatic conditions and guide them for their better incomes through better farming technology, weather predictions, food processing units and marketing support. We got 50+ farmers certified as organic growers under our organization. We are continuously trying to enhance their margins.

COMPUTER EDUCATION FOR RURAL STUDENTS:

Today, rural students are far away from the computer knowledge and internet applications. Therefore, we initiated computer education project for rural students from the economically deprived section of the society. We aspire to promote younger generation as they are the only hope of their parents in a very hostile environment for education. In total, 105+ students have been enrolled. There is a great willingness and enthusiasm among the students to learn new skills.



Updates from the Ground..

HEALTHY VILLAGES / HEALTHY INDIA

The practice of Yoga is an essential part of healthy life style and self-control, which also purifies body and mind. Although Yoga was invented in India, it is largely absent in rural India today. Folks in rural Uttar Pradesh have completely forgotten the benefits of Yoga practices, rather they have become preys of intoxicants, e.g. tobacco, alcohol and other drugs. Bharat Uday Kamrayogi organized several free 5-days yoga comps during September 2017 in the neighboring villages. In these camps, Yoga instructor from patanjali – Mr. Lavkush Swadeshi taught various techniques of Yoga. It was attended by 100s of the villagers including a good amount of youth and women. It began with a rally of awareness in the whole village. Yoga camp was also held in the primary school and children participated with great energy and enthusiasm.



Rural youth have low self-esteem, lack of proper direction and unutilized energy. The yoga can help them experiencing inner peace and better health. The yoga camp organized by Ashram has a great impact as the people started practicing yoga in the villages. After the yoga camp, a new enthusiasm is being seen in these villagers. It is a great pleasure to be a part of such transformation.

Also, Ashram has been organizing at least two **health camps** every year since 2011. The main objective of these health camps is to undertake health education of the rural community on preventive measures. In the rural area where health care facilities are primitive, blindness is more pronounced.

In every camp, about 200-250 people were examined by health and eye experts. We are in collaboration with Shri Sadguru Seva Sangh Trust. It is an eye hospital located in Jankikund, Chitrakoot, District Satna (MP). A team of experts visits our Ashram and provides a proper medication to the patients. We as the organizers, distribute the lunch packs to all the patients. Our Ashram sends patients to the hospital in Chitrakoot where their surgeries are performed free of cost. Such initiatives are helpful for poor and needy people who cannot afford expensive surgeries and medicines. In these years, we have treated thousands of patients and got eye surgeries done for 500+ patients.





Updates from the Ground..

GURUKUL SYSTEM OF EDUCATION

–An initiative for inquiry based learning and character building in children

Our motivations:

The present primary and secondary education system in India, excludes a number of most important skills required for leading a happy, enriched and fulfilled life, e.g. lack of a practical, values based learning that promotes mutual understanding and tolerance, innovative thinking and compassion. Moreover, it discourages ingenuity and original thought, kills initiative; promotes mediocrity, encourages mindless conformity, and does nothing to ensure a sound character and moral fabric. Therefore, a new system of education that focuses on instilling humanitarian values in children is essentially needed. SEED foundation in collaboration with Bharat Uday Mission have taken such initiatives of the educational reforms through founding “Bharat Uday Gurkuls” at the grassroots in India. Our inspiration is derived from deep research about the ancient India’s Gurukul education system, where students and teachers lived together in natural settings in an enriching life style and education was essentially based on practicing of humanitarian values in own life for building a humane character and learning was primarily through inquiry – methods including discussions, practical, logic and explorations, unlike today’s system of cramming for grades in examination and competition.

A school with difference (Gurukul):

The Gurukul is a non-commercial residential school that emphasize on the character building in students and provides a safe, secure and dynamic, environment preparing students –from entry level at age group 5-7 years to graduation level at 17-19 years, for a successful future. Gurukul encourages its students to become democratic, responsible, knowledgeable and compassionate humans, who are capable of interacting positively and productively with others. Gurukul aims to offer an education and learning/enquiring environment that balances academic, creative, social and personal growth and achieves critical thinking, informed decision making and purposeful action and inspiration for peaceful coexistence.

The first “Bharat Uday Gurukul” campus has been established in village Ruri Para, district Hamirpur, U.P. India. A new campus has been build by reviving a barren and unproductive piece of land ravines of Betwa river, which spreads in more than 60 acres with essential infrastructure, amenities and plantations.



The other essential components needed for versatile learning environment are IT tools, performing arts, craft, music, sports and agriculture infrastructure. We invite like minded people to join hands and spread this across the nation. Our vision and mission includes holistic educations for every child. We appeal you to support/sponsor current 30 students for year 2018-2019. The minimum support needed for **each student’s one year education is 1.5k USD**. One can also support in the development of infrastructures; **one room (3k USD), one cow (1k USD); one brick (1 USD); One computer/e-slate (300 USD); a book (10 USD); a set of uniforms/child/year (200 USD); a set of music instrument (500 USD); A memorial lecture theatre (100k USD); A memorial multipurpose hall (100k USD); A Memorial new Gurukul 100 acres campus (1 Million USD)**.

MARTYRDOM OF THE LEGEND

— A REAL KARMAYOGI



Chandra Kunwar Pathak is not only a name among the ground team of Bharat Uday, it's an inspiration for "giving back to the society". She is respected mother of Dr. Ravi Kant Pathak. She martyred on 17 August, 2017. Her legendary life tells us –how to live a meaningful life and live beyond mortal body – by living for others. In 2007, she donated her all personal property for the public charitable works and co-founded Bharat Uday Karmayogi Ashram in the village Chheri Basayak of hamirpur district U.P., India. Not only she donated all that she had, but also she became fulltime volunteer at the age of 58 years. Despite her old age, she worked tirelessly 24x7 under unimaginably hostile social-political scenario and drastic climate of Bundelkhand region in India.



She managed not only grassroots work of organic farming, but also handled social, administrative and political meetings of the organization and she participated in implementation of the vision and think tank's decision. She was enormously courageous grassroots leader, who stood for the women's voice in the society. She led public meetings and managed organic food entrepreneurial tasks. Her life was truly a life of Kamrayogi – action with no attachment.

She worked with utmost devotion and did whatever was needed for the establishment of the Bharat Uday Mission at the grassroots. She stood all the way for sustainability and organic farming for welfare of entire world.



She stood firm in all odds of life and emerged as a great fighter. She was managing whole Ashram by herself. She always had strategies for execution of works at the ground. She boycotted marriages ceremonies that involved dowry. She never compromised with ideals for selfish gains. She embraced everyone without any discriminations.. She devoted her last phase of life for the welfare of the farmers, women and villages. Her life will always inspire us. She set up an example of bravery, independence, leadership and compassion. We salute her for devoting her life for the mission. We commemorate her contribution for society from the core of our heart. She is a legend who will stay in our heart and will show us light of Goodness.



“One day my passion will bring the result,
Through the dark sea shall erupt the radiance!”



May soul rest in peace !!

Om Shanti shanti shanti!!!

SEED & You...

The SEED Board & Executives:

Shalabh Raj – The President & Treasurer:

IITian, Senior Technology Professional,
San Francisco, Bay area, CA

Vikram Mehton – Treasurer: VP BlackRock
Inc. San Francisco, Bay area, CA

Dr. Ravi Kant Pathak – Director: IITian,
Professor of air pollution and Climate Change,
University of Gothenburg, Sweden,

Gaurav Shrivastav – Secretary & Director:
IITian, Sr. Manager, Google. Bengaluru, India

“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 \$5000 USD/year to support the organization’s projects & a volunteer time of 1hr/month.

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 \$1000 USD/year 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. Suggested contributions from Associates are dollar a day to support the organization’s projects & volunteer time of 4hr/month.

HOW YOU CAN CONTRIBUTE

