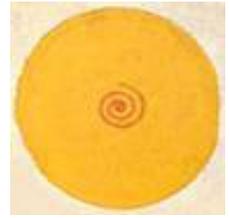


SARVASHUBHAMKARA



*“All the joy of this world derives from the wish for another’s joy;
all the suffering of this world derives from the wish for one’s own joy.”*

[C8th Bodhicharyavatara VIII:129]



CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF SARVA

Autumn 2015

Dear Friends and Supporters,

How time flies! Sarva is now entering its tenth year, which seems the perfect opportunity to take stock and review our work to date, none of which would have been possible without your continuing interest and support.

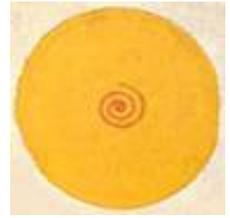
Since our founding, we have worked with people who are socially ostracised because of extreme poverty, ‘untouchability’ or the stigma of leprosy. We continue to focus our projects in two states of northern India, along the Nepalese border.



Over these years, Sarva’s projects have included:

- Running daily wound clinics in leprosy colonies
- Providing access to clean water and medical supplies
- Organising the building of a 1,400-foot wall and provided seeds to enable a leprosy colony to become self-sufficient in vegetables, lentils and spices
- Overseeing the rebuilding of three leprosy colonies, providing their very first water and sewage systems, with indoor kitchens and bathrooms *[left]*
- Creating a library of books and educational games for a hostel for children from leprosy colonies
- Providing vocational training to home-bound Muslim girls
- Supporting the education of hundreds of children in slums and poor mountain villages
- Providing human contact to people long excluded from normal social interaction.

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Through our varied fundraising events, donations from David's books and our 34 regular donators, since our founding we have spent £140,000 on our projects.

This year's funds have been boosted by two new events:

- supporters **Rebecca** and **Giusi** raised money for Sarva with sponsored bike rides around the country
- and Brighton's **Chilli Pickle** restaurant nominated Sarva as its chosen charity for a public film night, 'Slumdog Millionaire', with fabulous food on Brighton beach.



We remain proud of the fact that we have no employees, do not take any form of salary ourselves, and that not one penny donated is lost to administration or expenses.

EDUCATION – the lasting path to change

Over the years, our primary focus has become our education projects. Only by breaking the pattern of illiteracy, unemployability, poverty, disease and exclusion can we secure significant and lasting change.

To date, of our students from a leprosy background

- 5 have chosen to take a 3-year degree in Hotel Management
- 1 has completed her Masters degree and has been selected out of 20,000 applicants for the post of State Bank Officer
- 21 have chosen to take a 3½-year degree in General Nursing & Midwifery. Two of these have gone on to take further specialist training, one in Cardiac Nursing
- And this month, our very first Physiotherapy student has begun her studies

A reminder of why we continue in our work is the figures for new cases of leprosy in India: 126,913, of which 12,041 are children.

These leprosy-affected children are particularly vulnerable. They often have to resort to early marriage, drugs or prostitution to survive. Sarva offers an alternative, by providing educational support that leads to secure employment for every child in the colonies where we work. Since our founding, not one girl or boy has had to make any of these former choices.

All those who have completed their studies are now in fulltime employment, with Hotel Management graduates working in 5-star hotels in the main tourist centres and Nursing graduates all with secure positions in private hospitals in India.



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A handful of examples of our students:

AJAY is one of our Hotel Management graduates. He has now fulfilled his dream of becoming a qualified chef, and is the first of four generations of his family to escape life in a leprosy colony. Just last month, he wrote:

“I got a job in Kuwait in multi concern restaurant. They are paying well, with accommodation and transport. It is good, is it not? I want to tell you because you supported me every time. Really you are like my family members. All credit goes to you [Sarva].”



SUNANDA has just completed her 3½-year nursing training at medical school:

“I have secured 1st division in my last year of training and have my diploma too. Moreover I have been working in a cardiac hospital as a cardiac nurse. It’s a 50-bedded hospital and I have been learning many new things. I am also planning to do post BSc nursing in the coming year ... This could not be possible without you. Thank you so much for believing in me.”



RAM has achieved a 78% average in his final exam results this year. He is top in the school for Maths. He has now been awarded a place at college to study Maths, Physics and Chemistry. The cost of all his fees, books and expenses is just £600 per year. He writes,

“I am very thankful for your help and support, and for making our future bright. I cannot express your support in my words. From the core of my heart I am very thankful.”



RAJNI is Sarva’s newest student. She comes from a poor ‘untouchable’ family, yet has long had the dream of becoming an orthopaedic nurse. Her marks are excellent and therefore she has just been awarded admission to medical school.

“It is very difficult for me to write because my English is not good. I will try my best. I am very thankful to you for my training help.”

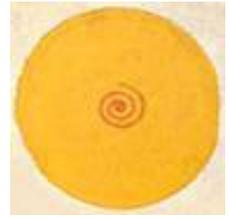


SONU is another of our students from a leprosy colony, who gained an excellent Hotel Management degree and is progressing wonderfully well in a five-star restaurant.

“The good news is that I’ve got promotion in just a year. I joined as Senior Steward and now I am Food & Beverage Executive, thanks to your support. I also took an HR test in Telephone Etiquette and (the amazing thing) I was top scorer. Company has three restaurants, 2 Indian/Pakistani cuisine and 1 Authentic Italian, and I topped all 3. It always gives happiness to me to do something which makes you proud, coz none of it was possible without you.

“Again thanks for your generous help that made me able to reach here. In the Hospitality industry you learn the lesson of life, how to behave, how to sit, how to talk, how to eat with people that are very high above your level (specially for me). You have given me a chance to re-live and grow up with the society that is being advanced everyday. And all this happened just because of you and Sarva. Thank you again.”

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More great news this year has been the marriage of one of our first Sarva nursing students, **SUSHILA**. Having come from a leprosy colony, where her



widowed mother still lives, she is now flourishing in full-time employment in a private hospital, as an equal with her peers. She is earning sufficient money to not only fully support herself, but also to help her mother, who until now has had to survive by begging. She has also helped us support her younger brother through university over the past four years.



A second marriage, which we attended, was for another of our first intake of students, **SANDEEP**, whose 'untouchable' family are extremely poor, living on the slum's open sewer. We supported Sandeep through college and his choice of military officer training. He is now a Communications Officer, which has enabled him to marry above his caste, to a family of school teachers.



We have also spent time with our upcoming intake of 23 students from the leprosy hostel, whose progress we shall be following closely. To cover the cost of their education in the coming years, we still need to raise a further £20,000.

One way you can help us spread the word is to share amongst your friends and colleagues our new website www.sarva.org.uk, designed by our supporter Simon Cooper. You will be able to read about the impact of leprosy and the projects we undertake to make a lasting difference. You can also read more student biogs on the Education page and see the impact your donations are making to change lives.

Sarva may be small, but we are deeply grateful for any support you can offer that enables us to ensure at least a few hundred of the thousands of needy cases are secured an education that leads to good quality employment and freedom from what would otherwise be life-long stigma and exclusion.

With heartfelt gratitude, as ever, for your continuing interest and support, without which none of this would be possible,

David & Bernard
Founders & Trustees

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SARVASHUBHAMKARA is a small organisation that works with 'forgotten people'.
Our mission The relief of poverty, sickness and distress of those in need and to advance the education for children and young people in India and Nepal, including the award of scholarships and bursaries

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