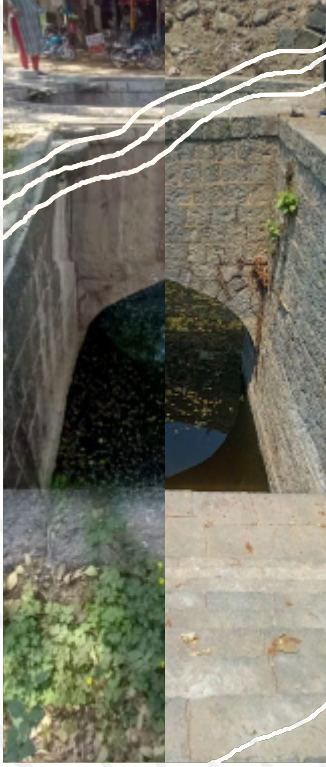


सेवावर्ती

SEVA VARTA

ISSUE 2

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Sevavardhini- A Trusted Partner!

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1. Editor's Note

Namaste,

It is always a joy to reach out to you once again through *Sevavarta*. Every issue gives us an opportunity to share inspiring journeys of organizations working tirelessly for society.

In this edition, we bring you stories of two such initiatives-one from the bustling city of Pune and the other from the remote tribal belts of Telangana. *Surajya Sanstha*, with over 25 years of work across 43 communities, has touched lives through education, women's empowerment, entrepreneurship, health, value-based learning, and economic self-reliance. Their journey is a testament to what sustained commitment can achieve.

On the other hand, the challenges in remote tribal regions are often tougher. Yet, *Eklavya Foundation* has stood strong for more than two decades, driving change through self-reliance and sustainable development. The way they have transformed the lives of thousands of farmers and students offers valuable lessons for us all.

We also revisit the extraordinary legacy of *Manda Tai Amte* and her five decades of service at Hemalkasa through *Lok Biradari*. Equally inspiring is the story of *Nasima Hurzuk*, who, despite being differently abled, has pioneered rehabilitation initiatives for people with disabilities. Her journey is a powerful reminder of what determination and confidence can build.

This issue also explores poultry farming-not just as a small household activity but as a potential rural enterprise that can strengthen local economies. With the right planning, such projects can bring lasting benefits to villages.

Along with these stories, we have included other important insights for social organizations. We hope they add value to your work and spark new ideas.

As we celebrate the festive season, let us not forget those affected by recent natural calamities in Maharashtra and North India. While Diwali is brighter with GST reforms, our duty lies in extending support to our fellow citizens in need. Many organizations, including *Sevavardhini*, are actively engaged in relief efforts-we invite you to contribute as per your capacity.

Wishing you and your family a joyous Vijayadashami and Diwali!

- Vikram Pandit
Executive Committee Member,
Sevavardhini.

2. Seva Prerana

The Exemplary Work Done by Voluntary Organizations

2.1 Surajya Sarvangin Vikas Prakalp

Founded in 2001, the Surajya Sarvangin Vikas Prakalp has emerged as a significant social initiative in Pune district. Inspired by the Late Nana Palkar Memorial Committee and led by the deep social commitment of Mr. Vijay Shiwale, the organization took shape with a vision to empower marginalised communities and instill self-confidence among them.

Even today, countless families in rural areas and urban slums continue to struggle for basic needs such as education, healthcare, cultural values, and economic self-reliance. Surajya has addressed these challenges by charting a new course for social development.

Over the past two decades, the organization has not only worked at the grassroots in various settlements but also introduced innovative development models across Pune city and its surrounding areas. The early years were not without difficulties—people often needed time to accept new ideas. Yet, through persistent efforts, a genuine spirit of service, and the dedication of its volunteers, Surajya has grown into a symbol of trust and credibility in society.



Surajya's Vision and Mission:

The vision of Surajya is rooted in clarity and purpose—reducing social and economic inequality within society. The organization is committed to preparing every child, boy or girl, to succeed through education; empowering women to achieve self-reliance; and guiding the youth towards meaningful participation in social development. For the marginalized, Surajya envisions creating equal access to the tools and opportunities necessary to secure their place in a changing world and realize their dreams.

When defining its mission, the organization identified key priorities: combating illiteracy, ignorance, and addiction; enabling economic and professional empowerment among women; and uniting youth groups to nurture leadership for social change. Building and mentoring new social workers has remained an integral part of this mission.

The Journey from the Beginning:

Surajya began its journey in 2001, starting with just six communities. In those early days, the greatest challenge was convincing local residents about the need for such an initiative. Dropping out of school was common, women had little knowledge of financial matters, and many young people remained unemployed and disengaged. In this backdrop, Surajya dared to dream-not just of education, but of broader social transformation.

By 2025, Surajya has grown to work in 43 communities. Its initiatives now reach 18 settlements in Yerwada, 13 in Vadgaonsheri, 7 in the Viman Nagar area, and 5 in other localities across Pune. This steady expansion has been built on three strong pillars: the trust of the local people, the tireless efforts of volunteers, and the integrity of the organization's dedicated team.

Work in the Field of Education:

Education has always been Surajya's first and most important area of focus. To support students from Grade 1 to Grade 10, the organization started after-school study guidance centers. Children living in slums often lack a proper study environment at home, and their parents are usually less educated. As a result, many students struggle to understand their school lessons and eventually drop out. Surajya's study centers were established to change this reality.

These centers go beyond academics-they include value education, cultural learning, science experiments, personality development, essay writing, drawing, drama, and many other activities. The primary goal is to instill confidence, spark curiosity, and guide students towards the right career path.

Over the past two decades, nearly 18,000 students have benefited from these centers. Most remarkably, the dropout rate has reduced from 60% to just 5%, a true testimony to Surajya's impact in the field of education.





Women Empowerment:

Surajya's contribution to women's empowerment has been truly transformative. The women's self-help groups (SHGs), launched in 2001, changed the lives of thousands of women. Financial literacy for them meant not just saving money, but also learning how to invest wisely, understand family needs, and actively participate in decision-making. Today, more than 5,000 women are part of these SHGs. In

2019, Surajya established women's training centers. Here, women received training in tailoring, bag-making, snack preparation, beauty services, nursing, and even cake and chocolate making. Building on this success, in 2023, Surajya set up a Women's Enterprise Center. At this center, women produce bags, T-shirts, and track pants, which are then marketed and sold. This initiative has provided women not only with financial independence but also with new opportunities in entrepreneurship.

Youth and Competitive Examinations:

Youth are the future of the nation. With the right guidance, they become the strong backbone of society. Recognizing this, Surajya established a Competitive Examination Guidance Center in Pune in 2021. The center provides high-quality coaching at very affordable fees. So far, many students have achieved remarkable success-15 have joined the police service, while students like Vedika Sajne are serving in important administrative positions.

Beyond academics, Surajya also organizes personality development workshops, health camps, legal counseling sessions, and de-addiction campaigns for youth. These initiatives have significantly improved both the mental and physical well-being of young participants, preparing them to lead society with confidence and responsibility.

Adolescent Development:

Adolescence is a crucial turning point in life. At this stage, young boys and girls undergo significant physical and emotional changes, making proper guidance essential. Surajya has made special efforts in this area. Awareness campaigns were conducted to prevent early marriages. Regular sessions with doctors, health check-ups, and legal counseling have helped address the issues faced by adolescents.

In addition, workshops on rangoli, cooking, creative arts, and self-defense have brought about noticeable positive changes in their personalities. These activities have boosted their confidence and encouraged them to take their education and career paths more seriously.

Other Initiatives and Balanandan Library:

Surajya has nurtured children's creativity through the Balanandan Library and play centers, benefiting over 600 children so far. Activities such as educational trips, science exhibitions, sports festivals, cultural programs, and celebrations like Rakshabandhan have contributed significantly to the holistic development of students.

Special guidance classes for differently-abled students, vocational training, and educational visits to banks, post offices, and police stations have helped children gain practical knowledge and life skills, preparing them for real-world challenges.

Results and Success Stories:

The impact of Surajya's two decades of work is evident today. Educational standards in the settlements have risen significantly. Students from slums are now employed across diverse fields such as IT, nursing, teaching, engineering, accounts, HR, and administration. Women have launched small enterprises, created employment opportunities, and gained confidence and self-respect.

One example illustrates this best—a woman in Yerwada started a small business through a savings group. Today, she provides employment to other women in her community. This is not just a success for her family, but a transformative story that is shaping the future of the entire settlement.

Future Directions:

Surajya's work does not stop here. In the coming years, the organization plans to expand its study centers to more settlements, establish large-scale industrial training centers for women, and implement employment-generation projects for youth. Initiatives in digital education, online guidance, healthcare services, and de-addiction campaigns are also on the horizon.

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2.2 Eklavya Foundation – A Journey to Reach the Marginalized

Today, the Eklavya Foundation stands as a beacon of dedication, persistence, and community-driven development in India's social sector. In 2006, visionary leader and social worker Mr. P. Venugopal Reddy established the organization in the remote tribal village of Utur in Adilabad district, Telangana. Faced with challenges such as poverty, illiteracy, and a lack of resources, the foundation set out with a clear mission: to empower neglected communities and extend support to the marginalized. Their goal was not merely to provide aid, but to enable self-reliance and sustainable development so that communities could continue to progress independently even after external help ends.

From its inception, Eklavya Foundation has operated on the principle that villagers should not be passive beneficiaries of aid but active architects of their own future. This participatory approach became the cornerstone of their work. Local communities were encouraged to identify priorities and participate in decision-making, ensuring that interventions were practical, culturally relevant, and sustainable. By focusing on grassroots governance, the foundation created a strong pathway for long-lasting change.

In its early years, the foundation made its mark through projects in water conservation, tribal upliftment, and agricultural improvement. By 2007, six water conservation projects were approved by NABARD—a significant milestone demonstrating their credibility. Over the years, their work has expanded into education, agriculture, natural resource management, women's empowerment, and strengthening community institutions.

One of their most effective governance innovations is the Gram Vikas Samiti (GVS) model—village development committees that hold monthly meetings to plan and monitor developmental activities. This structure has enabled democratic participation, accountability, and transparency at the grassroots level, nurturing a sense of unity and collective responsibility among villagers.

Growing Impact and Achievements:

Eklavya Foundation's influence continued to expand, and by 2017, it gained national recognition when the National Centre of Organic Farming (NCOF) designated it as a Regional Council for India. This role enabled the foundation to share its expertise in organic and sustainable farming with thousands of farmers. The recognition was more than a milestone—it validated the foundation's holistic approach, which combines environmental awareness with livelihood creation.

By 2021, Eklavya Foundation became a key contributor to the national initiative to establish 10,000 Farmer Producer Companies (FPCs), assisting in the creation of 15 FPCs. These efforts helped farmers benefit from collective bargaining, better market access, and access to technical and financial resources.



The scope of the foundation's work is remarkable. Over 15,000 farmers have been empowered through improved agricultural practices and efficient resource use. More than 88,971 students have been supported through educational initiatives, providing opportunities to children from marginalized backgrounds. In terms of natural resource management, the foundation has worked on 52,530 acres of land, preserving ecological balance and promoting sustainable livelihoods.

Today, with the dedicated efforts of over 500 volunteers and 50 staff members, Eklavya Foundation directly benefits 15,000 families and 60,000 students across more than 600 villages.

The leadership of Mr. P. Venugopal Reddy has been instrumental in shaping the vision and approach of Eklavya Foundation. His core belief—that true development occurs only when communities are empowered to progress on their own—has laid the foundation for every initiative undertaken by the organization.

Under his guidance, the mission of “reaching the marginalized” has transformed into tangible, life-changing outcomes for thousands of people who remain on the periphery due to social, economic, or geographic barriers. Whether it is ensuring water security in drought-affected villages, supporting women's groups to achieve financial independence, or creating platforms to secure tribal rights, the foundation has acted as a bridge between neglected communities and opportunities for growth, turning vision into meaningful action.



Recent Milestones and Global Expansion:

In 2024, Eklavya Foundation achieved a landmark recognition as the second non-profit organization (NPO) in India to be listed on the Social Stock Exchange (NSE). This acknowledgment reflects the foundation's transparency, accountability, and innovative approach to fund management.

This milestone not only provided the foundation with a platform to expand its work but also inspired other NPOs to adopt models that integrate social impact with financial sustainability.

In 2025, the foundation took its first step toward global outreach by establishing an international branch in the United States, marking the beginning of its global expansion. This move underscores their commitment to taking India's community-driven development model to the world and contributing to the global dialogue on sustainable and inclusive development.

What Makes Eklavya Foundation Unique:

What sets Eklavya Foundation apart is not merely the breadth of its programs, but its ability to integrate them into a coherent, holistic development approach. Education, agriculture, water management, healthcare, and women's empowerment are not separate silos—they are interconnected facets of a larger ecosystem that enhances the quality of life in rural and tribal communities.

For instance, water conservation projects do more than boost agricultural productivity—they reduce women's workload, improve nutrition, and increase school attendance among children. Similarly, supporting Farmer Producer Companies does more than raise income—it fosters confidence and leadership among farmers.

Nearly two decades of the foundation's journey is an inspiring story of how vision, integrity, and community participation can transform society. From initial work in a few tribal villages, Eklavya Foundation has become a force that influences policy, mobilizes resources, and inspires other organizations to adopt similar models. Looking ahead, the foundation envisions expanding its impact, deepening interventions across sectors, and fostering partnerships so that every village it touches becomes a model of self-reliance and sustainable living.

As Mr. Venugopal Reddy emphasizes, the ultimate goal is to create communities that are not just beneficiaries, but true architects of their own future.

In essence, Eklavya Foundation is more than an organization—it is a movement, rooted in the heart of tribal India and symbolizing hope and transformation. Its non-partisan, inclusive, and sustainable approach has earned it a place among the most respected names in the development sector. By empowering farmers, children, natural resources, and local institutions, it proves that lasting change is possible when communities are trusted, empowered, and united. The story of Eklavya Foundation is a reminder that meaningful impact is created not by charity alone, but through collaboration, vision, and the collective strength of people committed to a better future.

3. Profitable Poultry Farming

Agriculture is the primary occupation in 140 countries worldwide, and India is an agriculture-dominant nation. Farming in India is deeply traditional and closely linked with various allied activities such as animal husbandry, dairy, poultry, goat and sheep rearing, pig farming, duck rearing, sericulture, and fish farming-practices that date back centuries. Agriculture, livestock, and human life are tightly interconnected. Grains, fruits, and vegetables from farming feed us, while leftover straw, husks, and vegetable waste nourish livestock. In turn, livestock provide milk, meat, and eggs, and their waste-manure, urine, and slurry-enriches the soil for cultivation. In essence, farming exists because of livestock, and livestock thrives because of farming. Our very survival depends on this symbiotic relationship.

Humans require three basic necessities to live: food, clothing, and shelter. All three rely heavily on agricultural and livestock products. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), an individual needs about 300 ml of milk, 23 grams of meat, and 1 egg daily-adding up to 365 eggs per year. In reality, production falls short, providing only 210 ml of milk, 11 grams of meat, and 91 eggs per person annually, highlighting a significant nutritional gap.

Proteins are the most crucial component of the human diet, and milk, meat, and eggs are the richest sources. Poultry provides both meat and eggs. Despite a common misconception that eating eggs daily may increase body heat, research and practical examples-such as high-protein diets during the COVID-19 pandemic where individuals consumed 7-8 eggs daily-prove this belief unfounded. The **National Egg Co-ordination Committee** even recommends: "Sunday ho ya Monday, Roj Khao Ande"

Globally, dairy is the largest agricultural enterprise, followed by poultry farming, and then goat and sheep rearing. India ranks second in poultry farming and egg production, after China, and is among the top countries in the world in this sector. These allied farming activities are profitable, require minimal labor and investment, and generate results in a short period, making them ideal for rural livelihoods.





For instance:

- Incubation period for eggs: 21 days
- Time for hens to start laying eggs: 5 to 5.5 months
- Continuous egg-laying period: 2.5 to 3 years
- Average lifespan of a hen: 5 to 7 years

This combination of short-term returns and long-term sustainability makes poultry farming an attractive and lucrative rural enterprise.

Poultry farming has been practised traditionally for thousands of years and is well-known in rural India as a household-based enterprise. Millions of families have historically relied on chickens and eggs for their daily livelihoods. Income from poultry meets daily household needs, making it a cornerstone of rural economies.

From a scientific perspective, the Earth formed around 4.5 billion years ago, and life emerged approximately 3.5 billion years ago. Chickens, as egg-laying creatures, trace their origins back millions of years. The Jungle Red Fowl, which developed in dense forests, is considered the ancestral species of modern chickens. Even today, wild chickens can be found in thick forests.

Modern poultry research began in Western countries, and gradually, improved breeds spread to India and other nations. Among the highest egg-producing breeds is the White Leghorn, originally from Italy. Other important breeds developed alongside it include Brown Leghorn and Black Leghorn. Additionally, Western countries have popular breeds such as Rhode Island Red (RIR), Crac Minarka, Australorp, Ancona, New Hampshire, Plymouth Rock, Cornish, and Wyandotte.

In India, native breeds like Kadaknath and other local varieties are widely reared. Through crossbreeding, several innovative breeds have been developed. Government and private institutions in India have introduced many egg- and meat-producing breeds, including Vanaraj, Giriraj, Suvarnadhara, Namkal, Nandnam, Gramaniya, Karisham, Carrinirbhik, Sonali Satpuda, and Sahyadri.

The pioneer of poultry farming in India, Dr. B.V. Rao, played a pivotal role in developing high-yielding egg-laying and meat-producing chickens. He founded the company Venkateshwar and conducted extensive research, resulting in hatcheries such as Sagun and Baramati Agro. Today, poultry farming serves as a primary source of livelihood for millions of families in India. With consistent demand and relatively short production cycles, it remains a profitable and sustainable rural enterprise.

1. **Anyone Can Start** – Poultry farming is simple and requires minimal expertise.
2. **Small-Space Operation** – It can be managed in backyards or small courtyards using traditional methods.
3. **Free-Range Benefits** – In rural areas, chickens roam freely, feeding on grains, insects, grass, and kitchen waste. They drink freely, resulting in zero feed costs.
4. **Traditional Incubation** – Eggs can be hatched at home using simple methods.
5. **Regular Income** – Eggs and chickens can be sold at weekly markets, covering household needs. Poultry is far more affordable than goat meat, making it accessible for low-income families.
6. **Eggs for Vegetarians** – Eggs are a rich source of protein and are widely consumed by vegetarians, making them a nutritional boon.
7. **Healthy Meat Source** – Chicken is low in fat and cholesterol, rich in vitamins (thiamine, niacin, riboflavin, ascorbic acid) and minerals (calcium, phosphorus, magnesium, iron, iodine, potassium). 100 grams provide about 151 kcal of energy.
8. **Manure Utilization** – 40 chickens produce about 1 ton of manure. Processed chicken waste can be used as organic fertilizer or animal feed.
9. **Biogas & Energy** – Chicken manure can also generate biogas and electricity, adding value.

Contract Farming Model:

Poultry farming today operates mainly for meat and eggs. The contract farming model allows farmers with limited capital to rear chickens with company support. Farmers must have sheds, electricity, and basic facilities. The company provides chicks, feed, medicines, vaccination, and technical guidance. After 40–42 days, chickens are weighed and purchased by the company, solving market access issues. Farmers also earn from leftover feed and manure, averaging ₹10–12 per bird, making poultry a sustainable source of income for small and large farmers alike.

Government Support:

The government provides free eggs and chicks (1–3 months old) to vulnerable communities, along with training in vaccination and care. Common vaccines like Marek's, Gumboro, Ranikhet, and Coccidiosis are available at minimal cost in government hospitals. With these measures, poultry farming has become a highly profitable and accessible rural enterprise.

**- Dr. Uddhav Rasale,
Pandharpur**

4. Basic Information on Voluntary Organizations (NGOs)

NGO stands for **Non-Governmental Organization**.

An NGO is a registered organization that operates on a not-for-profit basis, focusing on addressing issues related to children, poverty, and the environment. Such organizations work toward empowerment of people and social development.

Let us see **how an NGO is registered**.

An NGO can be registered as a **Trust, Society, or Company**:

- **Trust** – Registration can be done under the **Trusts Act, 1860**.
- **Society** – Registration can be done under the **Societies Registration Act, 1860**.
- **Company** – Registration can be done under **Section 8 of the Companies Act**.

Let us see which documents are required to establish an NGO.

The necessary documents include the draft of the constitution and the list of members of the organization.

Documents required to establish an NGO:

- Memorandum of Association (MOA)
- Articles of Association (AOA)
- Full name of the organization and its address
- List of all members with their full names and addresses
- List of all members of the Executive Board with their consent letters

The Memorandum of Association must clearly state the objectives of the organization, including examples. The objectives should be clear, lawful, and must not violate any government rules or laws. Typically, the objectives are socially useful, selfless, service-oriented, or aimed at public welfare. The NGO should not aim to earn profit.

The objectives should be clearly classified, for example: social, educational, cultural, water conservation, forest conservation, agriculture, spiritual, health-related, etc. The memorandum must be certified, and the certificate should be filed with the appropriate authority.

Let us look at the **Rules and Regulations of an NGO**.

The Rules should include:

- The full name of the organization and its registered office address.
- A list of the office bearers such as President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and other executive members.
- The area of operation of the organization should be clearly stated. For example,
- whether the organization will operate at the village, taluka, district, state, or national level.

Membership rules should be clearly defined:

- Any Indian citizen above 18 years, male or female, can become a member.
- The procedure for applying for membership, paying the fee, and obtaining membership must be described.
- The Executive Board will review applications, and its decision will be binding. The Board has the right to reject membership.
- Rules regarding termination of membership must also be defined.
- Types of members, such as life members and general members, should be clearly mentioned.

General Body Meetings (GBM):

- The rules should define annual general meetings, their functions, notice requirements, and quorum.
- Special general meetings and their functions should also be defined, including who is bound by the decisions made there.

Executive Committee / Board:

- The composition of the Executive Board should be clearly mentioned.
- The tenure of office and election procedure should be specified.
- Roles and responsibilities of office bearers (President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer) should be clearly written to achieve the objectives of the organization.
- The structure and roles of other executive members should be defined.
- Powers and duties of the Executive Board must be explained.
- Rules for Board meetings and requisitioned meetings, including notice and quorum requirements.
- Rules for elections and filling of vacant positions should be mentioned.

Funds, Property, and Finance:

- The management of the organization's funds and assets must be specified.
- Sources of income and procedures for using funds for organizational objectives should be defined.
- If assets are to be acquired or transferred, approval from the Charity Commissioner must be obtained.
- Guidelines for loans, deposits, and purchase/sale of immovable property should be included.
- The organization's bank account should be with a nationalized or scheduled bank, and any transaction should require signatures of two office bearers. Payments should preferably be made through cheques.

Additional Provisions:

- Procedures for updating the membership list.
- Procedures for amending the Memorandum or Rules & Regulations.
- Procedures for changing the organization's name or objectives.
- Procedures for dissolution of the organization.

All these documents must be submitted to the Sub-Registrar or Company Registrar for official registration. After registration, the NGO must register on the NGO-Darpan portal of NITI Aayog to be eligible for government grants and schemes.

After registration, the NGO must submit annual reports and comply with other applicable laws. Reporting should include government fees and professional charges.

The Rules and Regulations mentioned above can be amended appropriately over time. In case of any disputes or difficulties, the original template and information documents will be considered authoritative. Therefore, the objectives and interests of the organization must be clearly defined.

Members should not violate any provisions of the Rules and Regulations, as doing so can cause loss, damage the reputation of the organization, or even make it defunct.

To achieve the ultimate goals of the organization, all members must act in unity and in an organized manner, with clarity in resolutions and decisions. The operations of the organization must be conducted in accordance with the Rules and Regulations and for the benefit of the organization.

- Milind Mahajan, Advocate
Mobile No.: 98500 07270

5. Seva Prerana

5.1 Smt. Mandakini Amte – A Dedicated Social Worker

Nagpur Medical College graduate Mandakini Amte, with postgraduate education in anatomy, a well-educated middle-class family background, and a charming personality, could have easily led a comfortable and prosperous life. However, destiny had assigned her a unique and extraordinary path of service.

After marrying Dr. Prakash Amte in 1972, Mandakini Amte began providing medical services in 1973 to the remote forested region as part of the "Lok Biradari" project. At the time of her marriage, she had assumed she would work on the Lok Biradari project similarly to the "Somnath" infrastructure project established by her father-in-law, Dr. Baba Amte, in Mul taluka. However, she had no idea that the Lok Biradari project would be located in such a remote area with almost no basic facilities.

Leaving her government job at the Ayurvedic College in 1974, Mandakini Amte began building medical services in Hemalkasa, a forested region with extremely harsh conditions. With minimal resources, she started her married life and service work in a small hut, along with a few dedicated workers.

Accepting the enormous responsibility of service with courage and supporting her husband's social initiatives, her extraordinary contribution was truly divine. Without expecting a normal household life, Mandakini Amte embarked on a fifty-year-long journey of family and community service, which continues even today.

Working in the early years at the project was like living in exile—a challenge that this modern-day Sita bore with resilience. Despite the lack of entertainment, a handful of colleagues, loneliness, and harsh conditions, she started her work with complete dedication. Over time, initial differences among the workers diminished, and they became like one family.

To provide free medical services to the tribal population, the couple set up a hospital in Hemalkasa. Initially, superstitions, influence of local shamans, language barriers, and mistrust of outsiders kept patient numbers low. However, as the locals saw that modern medical treatments were effective, patient visits increased. Mandakini Amte received significant support from trained nurse Renuka and early workers Baban Panchal and Vilas Manohar.

The government-run hospital at Bhamragad also became part of the Lok Biradari project, and patient numbers continued to grow. Since it was difficult to hire doctors or nurses from the city for health camps in nearby villages at a reasonable cost, the Amtes trained local youth in healthcare, establishing eight primary health centers in Bhamragad, which operated successfully for the next fifteen years. Mandakini often recalls with regret that such a highly beneficial service is no longer in operation.

Mandakini, though not a fully qualified specialist at the time, treated all types of patients who came to Hemalkasa, consulting medical books and discussing cases with Dr. Prakash Amte. Surgeries were performed by lantern light, and with the help of all staff, various medical services were provided. They treated injuries from wild animal attacks, falls from trees, malnutrition, eye diseases, and complicated pregnancies. Initially, distressing procedures like destructive surgery were necessary, but later, with the arrival of a gynecology specialist, both mother and child were saved.

While providing healthcare services to the tribal population, Mandakini Amte also had to address other serious issues. Government employees, forest officers, contractors, and traders often exploited the tribal people. To counteract this and ensure that women could access government schemes, Mandakini took proactive measures. She personally liaised with the local cooperative board and began selling sarees—provided on a non-profit basis—to tribal patients. She also conducted vaccination campaigns for about twenty years.

Malnutrition was a major cause of poor health among the tribal population. To combat this, the Lok Biradari project encouraged agriculture, provided seeds, fertilizers, and technical guidance. To empower tribal children through primary education, a school was started on the project site in 1976. The curriculum included practical lessons such as recognizing plants, basic medicinal knowledge, vegetable cultivation, and bandaging techniques. The initiative received excellent response, and the small school, initially with twenty-five students under a tree, eventually grew to accommodate over seven hundred children in a residential school. This was a remarkable example of holistic service, not limited to medical care. Today, this initiative receives funding from government grants as well as contributions from domestic and international donors.

In addition to these initiatives, with the help of Shri Gopal Phadnis and his wife Smt. Prabha, Mandakini supported projects such as creating a Marathi-Madia (local language) dictionary and running orphanages for wild animal cubs. Although Mandakini is a strict vegetarian, she patiently arranged proper care for animal cubs. Her ability to balance her principles while pursuing her goals is a fine example of pragmatism in service work.

Mandakini's service at Hemalkasa has now spanned over fifty years. During this period, there has been a transformation in the lives of local people, infrastructure, and technology. Mud houses were replaced with concrete homes; a three-story school building replaced the school under a tree; an operation theater was established; expert doctors from India and abroad became available; tribals learned modern agricultural techniques; and children increasingly attended school. Mandakini has witnessed all these changes firsthand.

Having spent so many years with the tribal community, Mandakini deeply understands their character. The community is straightforward and rarely expresses gratitude even when lives are saved. Many tribal patients leave anonymously. Mandakini has come to understand this as part of their culture.

Now, Mandakini's elder son, Dr. Digant, and his wife, Dr. Anagha, actively participate in the project, lightening her responsibilities. Extensive literature has been published about the Lok Biradari project. Her younger son, Aniket, with an engineering background, manages the project, and his wife, Sameeksha, oversees the schools. Children educated at Lok Biradari are now becoming doctors, teachers, and nurses. The remarkable life journey of Mandakini and the Amte family has received recognition nationally and internationally. In 1995, Monaco honored the couple with the title “Schweitzer couple of India” and issued a commemorative postal stamp. In 1998, Mandakini received the Baya Karve Award, and in 2008, the couple was awarded the prestigious Magsaysay Award.

Apart from being an extraordinary social worker, Mandakini was a loving mother. She endured not being able to provide comforts for her children, imposing a life of poverty, keeping them away from normal childhood experiences for education, and raising them without pampering. She was often distressed when tribal children fell ill, knowing she could not do much. She expresses gratitude that her children understood the ethos of service and joined her and her husband in their work.

Mandakini is soft-spoken, calm, and selfless. She never sought personal gain or comfort. Her book notes: "...While Sita was tempted by the golden deer, Mandakini was never swayed by temptation. She undertook her husband's challenging service work solely out of dedication." Her extraordinary qualities of selfless service, patience, and compassion for the neglected define her life. The Lok Biradari project is a shining example of what great work can be achieved when spouses share a common goal and support each other. To all involved-Smt. Mandakini Amte, Dr. Prakash Amte, their children, and colleagues-we owe profound respect.

Mandakini's exemplary work was built upon the values instilled by her mother during childhood, inspiration from Maharshi Karve and other spiritual sources, and the combined vision and philosophy of the Amte family.

Reference: Article by Dr. Karuna Gokhale from the book "Kartya-Karvitya," prepared by the Baia Karve Women's Study Center, Maharshi Karve Women's Education Institute, Pune.

5. Seva Prerana

5.2 Mrs. Dr. Naseema Mohammed Amin Hurzook... The Soaring Leap

“Mookam karoti vachalam, pangum langhayate girim, yatkrupa tamaham vande paramananda madhyam!”

We have been reciting this verse since childhood, but when we experience the challenging life journey of Naseema Hurzook, we truly understand that it embodies the divine power that inspires one to give life its true meaning. When we come into the presence of Naseematai, this power takes on a tangible, living form.

With a gentle face, a constant smile, curly hair, a simple salwar kameez, socks on her feet, and seated on her wheelchair... this is Naseematai's simple appearance. Yet, once one learns about her life and work, the immense strength of her spirit becomes evident.

Naseematai was born on 2nd September 1950 in Solapur, into a large, cultured Muslim family. Her parents, along with seven siblings (four half-siblings), created a warm, nurturing environment. Her father, a government officer, was a man of impeccable character who taught all his children to live honestly. Her childhood was filled with joy and learning. (ya Karve Stree Abhyas Kendra, Maharshi Karve Stree Shikshana Sanstha, Pune).

However, when she was in the seventh grade, a tragic incident changed her life. During the school's annual function, while her group was performing a dance, part of the stage collapsed and fell on her back. Neglect at the time caused her condition to worsen, leaving her completely paralyzed below the waist. Despite undergoing surgery, the expected recovery did not occur, and she was destined to live her life in a wheelchair. At the age of sixteen, just six months after becoming paraplegic, her father passed away, adding further hardship to her family. Refusing charity, she acquired a wheelchair using money from her father's office rather than accepting donations. This marked the beginning of her journey of self-respect and determination. It was this extraordinary resilience that gave her family the strength to support her through all the battles that lay ahead.

Reading Naseema Hurzook's writings, one is deeply moved by how a sudden, unexpected incident transformed her previously healthy youth into a challenging reality. Her family members, rather than feeling burdened, devoted themselves to her care. With little awareness of natural processes, they tended to her daily needs: changing her bed, turning her on the mattress, and using fragrances to reduce odors in the room. Naseematai gratefully notes that this selfless care prevented her from succumbing to mental distress over her disability. She endured many medical procedures with remarkable patience.

he had founded institutions for the differently-abled, organized large workshops, and initiated sports competitions for them. Through him, Naseematai learned to navigate challenges and manage her medical care, allowing her to focus on her studies. She overcame threats posed by bacteria, bowel issues, and bedsores common among paraplegics, eventually completing her B.A. degree with Babukaka's support. In him, she found a guardian angel for her life.

Naseematai began working at an institution for the differently-abled in Kolhapur but left due to internal conflicts. To establish her own organization, she closely studied Babukaka's Bengaluru model and, in 1972, founded the "Apang Punervas Sanstha" (Disabled Rehabilitation Institute). Her journey of service had begun. In 1973, she competed in sports events organized by the Mumbai Paraplegic Foundation, winning medals in several disciplines, and was subsequently selected to participate in the "Stock Mendville Games" in England.

In 1977, she joined the Customs Office, later working at Central Excise. By 1980, she, along with women from the Kagal royal family, started the "Helpers of the Handicapped" initiative. Surveys conducted through the NSS helped determine where and to whom wheelchairs should be provided. Due to financial constraints, the distribution of wheelchairs was delayed, sometimes leading to the death of a needy child, prompting Naseematai to first raise funds before organizing camps. Despite the challenges of balancing employment with service, supportive officials enabled the programs to succeed. She also experienced some strange proposals from men but steadfastly refused them, unwilling to burden others with her life.

Naseematai resolved to start a training center and sports competitions for the differently-abled in Kolhapur. She personally learned skills such as making chalk, crafting clay boxes, and sculpting figures with Plaster of Paris, later training others in these crafts. She lived for some time at a paraplegic center for her treatments. Her initiatives encompassed rehabilitation from childhood through surgery, prosthetics, education, arts, sports, vocational training, and eventually marital rehabilitation. Initially volunteering, then becoming a member of the organization, she gained loyal, dependable supporters. Today, the institution has three main divisions: workshops, schools, and hostels. Workshops produce essential aids such as walkers, wheelchairs, calipers, and field commodes, mostly crafted by disabled individuals under expert supervision.

At Uchgaon, near Kolhapur, the school and hostel boast a spacious four-story building, large playgrounds, and vibrant, encouraging spaces. The work continues relentlessly through community contributions, though government support has been minimal. From the outset, Dr. Lavate provided valuable guidance. Marital rehabilitation programs, however, have been limited due to societal prejudice against the differently-abled, highlighting the need for expert guidance in such matters.

The organization's work gained international support. The Maharashtra Seva Sangh in Canada led initiatives, with collaborations extending to Italy, Spain, Japan, the U.S., England, and other countries. Subsequently, Naseematai expanded her work in Sindhudurg District, establishing the "Swapnanagari Hostel and Rehabilitation Center," combining regular rehabilitation with agricultural projects, crop and fruit production, and a cashew-processing unit, providing training and employment. Despite these initiatives, government enthusiasm was lacking.

Disabled and able-bodied individuals study together, gaining life skills in an ideal learning environment. Specialized tools are developed by trained disabled technicians. Homes for orphaned or disabled children have been built, and many disabled individuals lead happy, married lives, as Naseematai envisioned. If realized fully, her dream would mark the pinnacle of her life's work. From the tragedy of her accident, she turned her life into an exemplary journey, dedicating nearly four decades to uplifting others with similar challenges. Naseematai commands our heartfelt respect, her divinity shining through her unwavering service.

This article is adapted from Bharti Pandey's piece in "Kartya-Karvitya," prepared by the Baya Karve Women's Study Center, Maharshi Karve Stree Shikshan Sanstha, Pune. he differently-abled, highlighting the need for expert guidance in such matters.

6. Seva Varta

6.1 Extension Granted by Charity Commissioner

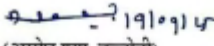

महाराष्ट्र शासन
धर्मादाय आयुक्त महाराष्ट्र राज्य, मुंबई यांचे कार्यालय

धर्मादाय आयुक्त महाराष्ट्र राज्य मुंबई
यांचे कार्यालय दुसरा मजला, साऊथ विंग
सस्मिरा ईमारत, सस्मिरा मार्ग, वरळी, मुंबई-४०००३०
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संदर्भ क्र/अंदाज शाखा/ ५४०५ /२०२५ दिनांक १९ SEP 2025

परिपत्रक क्रमांक ६२० / २०२५ दिनांक १९/०९/२०२५

सर्व नोंदणीकृत न्यासांचे विश्वस्ताना सूचित करण्यात येते की, महाराष्ट्र सार्वजनिक विश्वस्त व्यवस्था अधिनियम, १९५० चे कलम ४१ (क) अन्वये परवानगी प्रकरणे वगळता नोंदणीकृत न्यासांचे सन २०२४-२५ या आर्थिक वर्षाचे वार्षिक हिशोबपत्रके Charity.maharashtra.gov.in या संकेतस्थळावर ऑनलाईन, ऑफलाईन पद्धतीने दाखल करण्यास दिनांक ३१ ऑक्टोबर २०२५ पर्यंत मुदतवाढ देण्यात येत आहे. सर्व सार्वजनिक न्यास नोंदणी कार्यालय यांनी नोंद घ्यावी.


(अमोघ श्या. कलोटी),
धर्मादाय आयुक्त,
महाराष्ट्र राज्य, मुंबई.

प्रत:-
१. सर्व सार्वजनिक न्यास नोंदणी कार्यालयांना माहितीस्तव.
२. अंदाज शाखा, मुख्यालय, मुंबई.
३. संगणक शाखा, मुख्यालय, मुंबई.
४. परिपत्रक धारिणी, मुख्यालय, मुंबई.

Circular No. 520/2025, dated 19/09/2025, has been issued by the Office of the Charity Commissioner, Maharashtra State, Mumbai. The circular informs all trustees of registered trusts that, under Section 14(a) of the Maharashtra Public Trusts Act, 1950, every registered trust must submit the annual accounts for the financial year 2024–25 online or offline via the website Charity.maharashtra.gov.in by 31st October 2025.

All public trust registration offices are directed to maintain these records. This process aims to promote financial transparency among trusts and ensure proper government record-keeping. Trustees are reminded that failure to submit accounts within the prescribed timeline may lead to legal action. Copies of the circular have also been sent to all public trust registration offices, audit branches, and circular repositories.

The government's objective is to ensure proper use and accountability of funds meant for public welfare. Timely submission of accounts is therefore a legal and ethical responsibility of every trust. The online submission system will make the process more convenient and transparent. This circular from the Charity Department encourages financial discipline and responsibility among social organizations, enhancing their credibility and impact on public welfare initiatives.



SEVA VARTA

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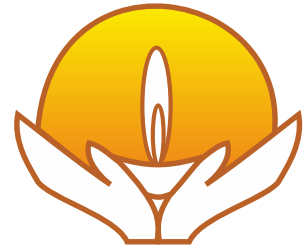
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