

2007
AN OVERVIEW OF THE MULTIFARIOUS
WELFARE ACTIVITIES IN INDIA OF
THE WZO TRUST FUNDS
&
THE WORLD ZOROASTRIAN ORGANISATION TRUST

The WZO Trust Funds and The World Zoroastrian Organisation Trust are proud to present before their esteemed donors and community members all over the world, a synopsis of the major welfare activities undertaken in India, during the course of the calendar year 2007.

Rehabilitation of Zoroastrian Farmers	The rehabilitation of 11 Zoroastrian farmers was initiated. The inputs provided have been sinking tube wells, providing submersible pump sets, levelling fields, providing pipelines, seeds & fertilisers.
Rural Housing	19 huts have been replaced with cottages made from brick & mortar.
Self Employment	70 Zoroastrians located at 27 different urban, semi urban & rural centres have been supported towards their self employment endeavours in diverse disciplines such as plying of commercial vehicles, setting up small workshops, electronic data processing units etc.
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) 55 students were sponsored at different institutions. b) Numerous applications were recommended to various donor Trusts for consideration.
Financial Rehabilitation (Medical)	310 individuals were supported to the tune of Rs.124,64,000 towards meeting their medical expenses by raising funds from donor Trusts.

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Financial Rehabilitation (Relief from Poverty)	224 elderly / indigent Zoroastrians were supported through disbursement of payments on a quarterly basis. The total amount disbursed was to the tune of Rs.63,18,000.
Mobed Welfare	<p>a) An amount of Rs.300,000 was spent to meet the shortfall of the 'Athornan Mandal / WZO' full time Mobed support scheme.</p> <p>b) An amount of Rs.456,000 was expended towards extending support to 38 mobeds.</p> <p>c) Navar / Martab ceremonies were sponsored for 3 Athravan children hailing from economically challenged families.</p>
Economy Housing at Navsari	The construction of our 7 th building situated at Kanga Street, Navsari was taken in hand. Total cost expected to be Rs.69,43,000/=

A detailed version providing the full gist of our multifarious activities is given hereunder. Some of the projects have been ongoing over various years.

1. Rehabilitation of Zoroastrian farmers (Project of World Zoroastrian Organisation Trust)

The massive ongoing project to rehabilitate poor Zoroastrian agrarians has been operational since August 1990. Since that time, we have reached out to provide practical training, and thereafter-necessary agricultural inputs to more than **381** families spread over **165** villages.

Assistance by way of the following has been provided:

01. Wells sunk/deepened/repared	114
02. Electric pumps/diesel engine sets supplied	184
03. Pipelines laid (for no. of families)	165
04. Fields levelled (for no. of families)	107
05. Bullock (pairs) supplied (no. of families)	15
06. Seeds/fertilisers supplied (no. of families)	74

07. Dairy livestock given (no. of families)	29
08. Grocery shops established	18
09. Poultry farms established	33
10. Pump houses built	19
11. Houses repaired/shifted/built	74 new; 21 repaired
12. Sewing machines supplied	140
13. Flour grinding mills supplied	26
14. Motor garage opened	1
15. Cycle shops opened	1
16. Mini Tractors supplied	4
17. Land clearing / digging canal	2
18. Cycle rickshaws repairs	2
19. Refrigerators supplied for plying trade	3
20. Cycles supplied.	12
21. Light fixtures supplied.	2
22. Kusti 'jantors' supplied	3
23. Forest Nurseries established	5
24. Gobar Gas plants established	15
25. Sugarcane grinder supplied	1
26. Tea Stalls set up	3
27. Brick klins established	3

Institutions and individuals from all over the world have been funding this project.

2. Rural Housing - the changing horizons *(Project of World Zoroastrian Organisation Trust)*

Many of the Zoroastrian agrarians live in huts made from mud & cow dung. These huts require a fresh lick every few months, failing which the walls dry up and shrivel.

From funds raised during the period January 2007 to December 2007, financial support has been extended to **19** Zoroastrian families to replace their huts with cottages the walls of which are made from bricks and plastered with cement, the floors made from stones and the roof from tiles. A total of **74** huts have been replaced by cottages so far.

The replacement of huts by cottages presently cost Rs.250,000 (Rupees two hundred fifty thousand) each; this project has begun to change the sky line in the rural areas.

The principal donors for this project have been the Trustees of Bai Maneckbai P. B. Jeejeebhoy Deed of Settlement Fund of Mumbai, the Zoroastrian

Charity Funds of Hong Kong, Canton & Macao, Erach & Roshan Sadri Foundation of UK, Executors of the Estate of Dennis William Richards of UK and Trustees of Mancherji E. Joshi Memorial Trust. Some individuals have also contributed towards this project.

3. Self - employment (Project of WZO Trust Funds)

There are many in our community who are very keen to be self employed in disciplines of their choice, but are unable to pursue the same due to lack of requisite funds.

A 'self employment' scheme was launched in 1996 under which '**interest free**' financial support is extended to Zoroastrians who are keen to start their own modest ventures.

The generous Trustees of Bai Maneckbai P. B. Jeejeebhoy Deed of Settlement Fund, Mumbai funded this project from 1996 to 2000. From 2001 onwards the scheme is being sustained from the repayments that are received.

During the year under review, **70** Zoroastrians from **27** different urban, semi-urban, rural locations have been provided funds to pursue self employment disciplines of their choice in diverse disciplines of their choosing such as transport, trading, manufacturing / workshops, electronic data processing etc. So far **605** Zoroastrians, from **79** different locations have been assisted thus.

4. Education - an essential investment for the future. (Project of World Zoroastrian Organisation Trust)

Academic

Education - in India as well as overseas – has always been regarded as an essential investment and not an expense. A good education ensures sound future for our youth and thereby the community. Keeping this philosophy in mind, we encourage the pursuit of education by using our good offices with donors recommending financial support to those of our youth who are willing to put in efforts to excel.

Generous support is extended to students for pursuing post graduate and higher studies in specialised disciplines from our own **Daulat Kreshasp Dastur Education Fund** established by Mr. Sam Kersasp Dastur of Ahmedabad within the World Zoroastrian Organisation Trust.

Institutional

Zoroastrian youth from indigent families are supported in their pursuit for education through a student sponsorship scheme, under which we encourage sponsors from all over the world to contribute towards the educational pursuits of such children and thereby provide an opportunity to the children to receive a sound education.

The details of assistance provided during the year under review have already been mentioned in the synopsis. The principal donors have been Zoroastrian Charity Funds of Hong Kong, Canton & Macao, Rena & Behram Baxter of USA and the Zoroastrian Association of Western Australia. Many individuals also extend support towards the pursuit of education.

Vocational

Support for encouraging education is not restricted to academic education alone. Equal priority is given to encouraging vocational education as well, as also for developing and honing inherent skills in our youth who wish to pursue technical disciplines such as carpentry, plumbing, sculpturing, painting etc.

5. Medical support.

(Project of World Zoroastrian Organisation Trust)

Ours is ageing as well as an ailing community. With the economic graph of the community showing a consistent downtrend, the increasing abuse of the environment producing new ailments, and medical treatment becoming increasingly expensive, the need for funds towards medical support have shown a many fold increase.

We use our good offices to raise and disburse funds, wherever and whenever possible, to help members of the community in meeting hospitalisation and medical expenses. The details of assistance provided during the year under review have already been mentioned in the synopsis.

The principal donors that extend support are Zoroastrian Charity Funds of Hong Kong, Canton & Macao, FEZANA USA, World Zarthushtrian Trust Funds - London, Dr's. Shirinbanoo & Sohrabji Kutar Medical Benevolent Fund - London & WZO London's Noshiwan F. Cowasjee Medical Benevolent fund who extend generous support whenever requests are sent to them. Many individuals also extend support towards this cause.

In addition to providing support for medical expenses in India, WZO, London have established 'Noshirwan F. Cowasjee Medical Benevolent Fund', which provides financial support to Zoroastrians from third world countries who have to travel to the west for medical treatment not available in their own countries.

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So far **19** Zoroastrians from India were extended support in meeting their medical expenses for treatment overseas – UK, USA & Australia.

6. Relief from Poverty.

(Project of World Zoroastrian Organisation Trust)

Financial support is extended to individuals who due to their age and various ailments live in penury, and are unable to work. **224** such individuals are presently supported by disbursing between Rs.1000 to Rs.3000 per family per month. The Zoroastrian Charity Funds of Hong Kong, Canton & Macao extend their generous support for this scheme. Regular support towards this cause is also forthcoming from Mrs. Zarin A. Wadia of Mumbai and other individuals. The details of assistance provided during the year under review have already been mentioned in the synopsis.

7. Holidays for the Poor.

(Project of World Zoroastrian Organisation Trust)

Groups of senior citizens who are economically challenged, or have been ill and in need of change, are sent for holidays in the hills around Mumbai, with all expenses being paid for, from the time they leave home and return back being paid for.

This has been possible due to the donations received from Late Dr. Mrs. Shirinbanoo S. Kutar and Mr. Mehraban Zartoshty of USA.

8. Mobeds.

(Project of WZO Trust Funds)

- a) With a view to encouraging young mobeds to take to mobedi as a full time profession, *The WZO Trust Funds* in association with Athornan Mandal launched a scheme that would provide fair returns to young full time mobeds.

In 1996 we successfully raised an amount of **Rs. 103,00,000** (including Rs.5,000,000 being received from the Trustees of Bai Maneckbai P. B. Jeejeebhoy Deed of Settlement Fund) that has been capitalised and the income there-from is being used for rewarding young full time mobeds participating in our scheme, based on the type of ceremonies performed. Each of the 55 beneficiaries covered under this scheme receives amounts ranging between Rs. 1000 to Rs. 4500 every month. The amounts received are in addition to the regular income that these young mobeds earn.

- b) Support is also extended to initiate young athravans from indigent families as 'Navars & Martabs'.
- c) Elderly mobeds who have professed mobedi as a full time profession and having retired or being close to retirement and yet living in indigent conditions are supported by way of doles.

The details of assistance provided during the year under review have already been mentioned in the synopsis.

9. Centres for Senior Citizens.

(Project of WZO Trust Funds)

Our Bai Maneckbai P. B. Jeejeebhoy Centre for Senior Citizens became operational at Navsari in January 1998. This is a very vibrant institution, where senior citizens live independently in happy surroundings, spending the evening of their lives with their peers, with self-respect and dignity.

This centre is a pioneering effort in our community.

Rena & Behram Baxter, residents of USA, whilst on a short visit to Navsari in early 2003 were so impressed with the management and various facilities of the Centre and seeing it not only full to capacity, but happiness writ large on the faces of the residents, they immediately volunteered to fund the creation of a second senior citizens centre on similar lines.

Thus came into being from 15th December 2005 onwards, our second facility for senior citizens, "Dolat & Hormusji Vandrewala Senior Citizens Centre".

Both our centres for senior citizens are very popular and much sought after institutions.

Sir Ratan Tata Trust provides very generous support towards the day to day running of the institution which enables us to provide quality services to our residents. Mr. Dinshaw Dossabhoy Mehta of Pune also donated a generous amount in 2004 towards the upkeep of the institution. Many other individuals have from time to time also extended support.

10. Economy Housing at Navsari.

(Project of WZO Trust Funds)

Reposing faith and confidence in our work, some residents of Navsari have donated their ancestral properties to us for redevelopment. We have successfully undertaken the development of such properties by raising funds

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from which apartment buildings are constructed, in which flats are allotted to economically challenged Zoroastrians at modest license fees.

The generous Trustees of Bai Maneckbai P. B. Jeejeebhoy Deed of Settlement Fund contributed towards the construction of four buildings in 1998, 2001 & 2002. We received as a donation in 2007 yet another building for which the Trustees of Bai Maneckbai P. B. Jeejeebhoy Deed of Settlement Fund have recently (January 2008) provided us with funds to undertake the construction of a fifth building which will commence shortly.

In 2005 from the funds received from the generous Trustees of Behramji Nowroji Gamadia Parsi Hunnar Shalla Trust, *Behramji Nowroji Gamadia Building No. 1* - was constructed.

Also in 2005 from the funds received from the generous Trustees of Zoroastrian Charity Funds of Hong Kong, Canton & Macao, *Hong Kong House No. 1* – was constructed

WZO Trust Funds now owns 6 residential buildings at Navsari with construction of the 7th building scheduled to start sometime in March 2008 as soon as the necessary permissions are in place.

11. Sanatorium at Sanjan. (*Project of WZO Trust Funds*)

The Trustees of Bai Maneckbai P. B. Jeejeebhoy Deed of Settlement Fund provided us with funds in 1997 to purchase a sprawling bungalow in dilapidated condition with 4.5 acres of land. Funds for purchase of the property adjoining the '*Memorial Column*' at Sanjan were made available with the intent to ensure that the property remained within the community at Sanjan and was put to good use for the community. Thus came into being from September 2001 onwards, our well-laid out Bai Maneckbai P. B. Jeejeebhoy – WZO Sanatorium having comfortable rooms, serving sumptuous meals. Within a short time of it becoming functional, the sanatorium has become a popular community resort. It is a haven for those wishing to enjoy holidays in idyllic surroundings and a pollution free environment at extremely moderate rates of Rs.250 per person per day for full board and lodge.

We have always followed a policy of being open and transparent in all that we do, with full accountability being provided to all our donors at all times. This policy has endeared our Trusts to a legion of donors, who have willingly given generous donations on a regular basis.

We extend our sincere gratitude to **all our donors** big and small for their munificent support and co-operation. It is natural that we must acknowledge with immense gratitude the continuous support extended towards our multifarious activities by the Trustees of Bai Maneckbai P. B. Jeejeebhoy Deed of Settlement Fund, Trustees of Zoroastrian Charity Funds of Hong Kong Canton & Macao, Sir Ratan Tata Trust, Behramji Nowroji Gamadia Parsi Hunnar Shalla Trust, Rena & Behram Baxter of USA, Erach & Roshan Sadri Foundation of UK, and the Executors of the Estate of Dennis William Richards who have been the main pillars of encouragement, motivation and support for the various welfare projects undertaken.

Whilst we are proud of what we have done, we recognise the fact that very much more needs to be done. It is for this reason that we seek the continued support of our donors from all over the world to enable us to sustain and enhance our welfare activities.

Donations for any of our projects are very welcome and may be forwarded to us by way of cheque / draft. The name of our Trust undertaking a specific welfare project has been mentioned under each of the 11 welfare headings.

Donations may please be forwarded to: -

<p>The World Zoroastrian Organisation Trust, Shanti, 5th floor, 6, Banaji Street, Fort, Mumbai 400 001.</p>	<p>The WZO Trust Funds, Shanti, 5th floor, 6, Banaji Street, Fort, Mumbai 400 001.</p>
<p>[Donations are exempt under section 80G(5) of Income tax act 1961; permission valid till 31 March 2011.</p>	<p>[Donations are exempt under section 80G(5) of Income tax act 1961, permission valid till 31 March 2009].</p>