

International Projects – 2017/18

There are currently two International Projects being organised.

1. Bodhi Tree School

With India's population touching 1.3 billion, there are still 2.9 million children with disabilities of which close to 1 million between the ages of 6-14 years are out of school. The percentage of children with intellectual disabilities, speech impairments and multiple disabilities are staggering. Under the Right to Education Act in India all children have the right to go to school. Children with disabilities and special needs also have the right to education just as normal children do. However, these children feel marginalised, some of the common issues facing these disabled children are the lack of flexibility in curriculum, their inability to fend for themselves, being bullied by others in the class and not getting adequate attention from the teacher. Affordability, awareness on the kind of choices available and lack of special needs schools to cater to these marginalised children exacerbates the situation.

The Bodhi Tree Educational Foundation (BTEF) at its Bodhi Tree Campus, Shiripur Village, Bodhgaya in the state of Bihar, India in its agenda for education for equitable development and social justice has established a school catering to the special needs of children with disabilities from the poorer and backward class sections of society.

A donor from Melbourne is keen to support this cause pledging substantial financial aid and has sought the assistance of Rotary Australia World Community Services (RAWCS) to appoint a project manager to manage funds transfers. Prior to this commitment, the donor has requested that a Rotary Club member nominated by RAWCS visit BTEF Bodhgaya and assess whether BTEF has effectively created an environment to support such a special needs school targeting the disadvantaged children from the nearby rural areas.

The donor has furnished RAWCS with information received from BTEF to undertake the assessment. Accordingly Ish Prasad an RCAP member visited the school on 18-19 March 2017 and conducted the assessment.

The Bodhi Tree Special School was set up in late 2016 for Children with Developmental Disability. These disabilities include Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation, and Multiple other disabilities that cannot be cured by drugs or surgery. The children admitted to the school are from economically downtrodden and lower/backward class communities and who are experiencing extreme denial and deprivation.

At this Special School, students are classified according to the nature of their mental retardation – mild/moderate/severe mental retardation, Down syndrome, epilepsy, cerebral palsy, birth asphyxia, hyperactive etc. They are then further classified according to their requirements of special care/needs like speech problem, language problem, therapy, meningitis etc.

Ish Prasad has recommended that since the school is already in operation, the success of the programs, outcomes and impact to the community during the first 3 years would be a key determinant in the long term financial viability of the project.







2. New Global Grant Project - Wash IN Schools

We shall be supporting the Rotary Club of Bhubaneswar Meadows RCBBSR, Bhubaneswar, Odisha, India on a Girls' project - Wash IN Schools – Water, Sanitation and Health.

PRIMARY HOST:

D3262 Rotary Club of Bhubaneswar Meadows RCBBSR, Bhubaneswar, Odisha, India

INTERNATIONAL PARTNER:

Rotary Club of Albert Park RCAP – D9800

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

- WINS projects – Wash IN Schools – Water, Sanitation and Health
 - Installation and Maintenance of Sanitary Toilets, Drinking Water Facilities, and Hand Washing Facilities in Government/Government Aided Schools in the State of Odisha, India
 - Target No. of Schools: 34 benefiting over 3,500 school children
- To provide 34 bricks and mortar construction safe and hygienic biological sanitation facilities at schools to prevent open defecation and drop out of school children from schools due to lack of toilets.
- To install and maintain drinking water facilities to provide safe drinking water in 34 schools.
- To provide hand washing facilities to prevent children from contracting diseases in 34 schools.

OBJECTIVES:

- Ensure proper hygiene and sanitation in schools.
- Reduce girl students' absenteeism.

- Stop open defecation.
- Eradicate water borne diseases transmitted through faecal contact.

JUSTIFICATION:

- 73% of girls' schools in India are without toilets (UNICEF).
- 50-60% of girl students in rural India do not go beyond their primary schooling.
- According to the Ministry of HRD, Government of India, 50 million girl students in rural India are dropouts due to lack of toilet facilities, facing humiliation and embarrassment due to loss of privacy while defecating in the open.
- Open defecation is the cause of several diseases like diarrhoea, helminths disease, respiratory infections etc.





