

Unposted letter

Build
a young
Brigade

Dear Club Presidents,

Why is that one of the most excellent tools, which Rotary possesses of rendering service to the youth, for the youth and through the youth, so sadly neglected?

We always talk of wanting more hands to work. We are shy of increasing membership in our own clubs and thus, we are always in short supply of volunteers.

Rotaract and Interact are our two partners, who have so many more hands to help us. If Rotarians are unable to spare much time to be actually at the site of a project, what better way can you think of, than attracting the hands of the young? Every Rotary Club in India must have a minimum of one each Rotaract and Interact club. The club will gain many extra hands — enthusiastic hands, young hands and active hands. Moreover, we will be building Rotary's nucleus for the future.

Yes, we need to be thorough, when we establish a new Rotaract or a new Interact club. We need to take precautions, we need to take the right steps, in all earnestness. But we need more Rotaract and Interact clubs. The formation of new clubs, in fact, is not difficult and is a rewarding and satisfying experience. You get a number of willing volunteers. You provide the expertise, the knowledge, the direction and the grounds to work upon. They represent a motivated work force. In India, there are many projects jointly undertaken by Rotaract and Rotary, that have been applauded — and the experience of working together is invaluable. We learn so much from our young partners — enthusiasm, personal participation, fellowship and channelisation of energy.

Let us promote more such “Young People's Brigades” to bring credit and success to Rotary. Therein lies our most priceless treasure.

Rotary may have given our communities many acts of service, but our greatest gift to them is what we have given them - hope - a change in our society - Young People's Brigade.



Rtn. Ashok Mahajan
RI Director 2007–2009