

Rural Health Project

The Rotary Foundation does wonders that are currently changing our world. People in various continents who are in Rotary understand how The Rotary Foundation tells you to make connections between events happening in your own community right now and lets you see what is going to happen to you in the years to come.

The guidelines for procuring a matching grant has been passed from friend to friend since it first appeared. The work of The Rotary foundation is a work that has come to light at a time when the world deeply needs to understand its existence. The stories written in the annals of The Rotary Foundation are gripping, one of adventure and discovery. The projects done with the assistance of The Rotary Foundation are a guide that has the power to crystallise your perception of why we are where we are in life ... and to direct our steps with a new energy and optimism as we head into tomorrow.

The rural health and education project which was done by Rotary Club of Pune Sinhad Road, RI District 3131 was aimed at providing medical assistance to around 25,000 villagers from the remote areas of Mulshi taluk. The project also aimed to provide comprehensive computer education to students in the schools in that taluk who were studying in the 8th to 10th standard. The project was conceived with the help of Ramakrishna Math, Sinhad Road, Pune. The greatness of the idea can be well understood as the institution believes that helping others physically by fulfilling their physical needs is indeed great, but the help is great according to the need. It is greater if the



A view of the mobile mini-bus equipped with X-ray and sonography machine.

help is far-reaching. If the man's wants can be fulfilled for an hour, it is helping him indeed; if his wants can be fulfilled for an year, it will be more help to him; but if his wants can be fulfilled for ever, it is surely the greatest help that can be given to him.

The rural health project has provided a lasting solution to the needs of the people in the locality. Partnering with the Rotary Club of Dover, Ohio and Rotary Club of Salem, Ohio, USA, RI District 6650, a mobile mini-bus equipped with X-ray machine, sonography machine and printer, computers, furniture and power backup facility was procured. Residents of over 15 villages who had no access to proper medical treatment have now a mobile unit visiting them. The doctors and other paramedical staff who go in the mobile unit attend to patients in every village and this has saved many lives and brought cheer to the people.

The incidence of child mortality has reduced due to this facility as the mothers are now fully aware of the need to maintain hygiene and what precautions to take during pregnancy. Orthopedic surgeons, gynecologists

and experts from various fields visit the homes of the villagers and provide the necessary treatment.

The computer facility set up is enabling the students to have hands-on training and knowledge. The total cost of the project was over US \$ 32,000.

RI President John Kenny who visited Pune during April 2009 when he was the RI President-elect was impressed with the work of the club and the humanitarian work being done by the Ramakrishna Math. I must compliment the efforts of Rtn. Radha Gokhale who took the initiative in putting this wonderful project together.

By highlighting the projects done in India with the assistance of The Rotary Foundation, I hope to help readers intensify and expand the exciting knowledge and help available to us through the Foundation.



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