

TIDE

(Tribal Integrated Development & Education Trust)



Our country has over 120 million tribals living in approx. 135000 villages. There are 537 different tribes and Sub-tribes, each having their own culture, language, costume, food habits, thinking etc. Being poor and illiterate these innocent tribals have been exploited for hundreds of years.

TIDE was formed by a group of 10 likeminded friends in 2003 for the upliftment of the poor and needy tribal people. First four years the progress was slow as the work was in very remote places in different states. Gradually the work has expanded and now TIDE has projects in 16 states. Since last four years TIDE has also started working with the Mushar community in Kishanganj Dist. Bihar.

PROJECT AREA

The work covers +6,000 villages in following states:

<i>Kerala</i>	<i>Tamil Nadu</i>	<i>Karnataka</i>	<i>Meghalaya</i>
<i>Gujarat</i>	<i>Rajasthan</i>	<i>Jharkhand</i>	<i>Bihar</i>
<i>Madhya Pradesh</i>	<i>Andhra Pradesh</i>	<i>Orissa</i>	<i>Chhattisgarh</i>
<i>Assam</i>	<i>Sikkim</i>	<i>Manipur</i>	<i>Tripura</i>

The biggest projects are in the states of Assam (1,800 villages) and Gujarat (800 villages). Whenever more funds become available, TIDE expands its projects to the remaining needy areas.

The project was started by 10 friends. Gradually, more donors from various industries joined.

While all the donors contribute equally each year, Mr. Ashok Bhansali (Partner, Bhansali & Co and Trustee, Bhansali Trust) looks after the project full time.

The Primary Objectives

*The continual, overall enrichment of the lives of the tribal masses, whilst conserving, simultaneously, their centuries-old culture and heritage, is one of the key, long-term goals of the Trust. The Trust is of the belief that in order to achieve this important goal, it needs to adopt, necessarily, an **Integrated Development** approach.*

*Keeping this in view, the Trust has defined, as a matter of planned strategy, the following **Primary Objectives** for the benefit of the tribal masses in areas supported by the Trust:*

- A. *Healthcare*
- B. *Education*
- C. *Income Generation*
- D. *'Satsang Mandals' and Vyasana Mukti (De-addiction)*
- E. *Preservation of Indigenous Faith and Culture*
- F. *Promotion of Rural Technology*
- G. *Help to the Needy*

*Elaborated below are details of the work that is being **done or planned** for each of the above-mentioned Objectives.*

A. Healthcare:

This objective is categorized and being implemented as follows:

1. Curative Healthcare:

The curative aspects of healthcare are being approached in the following manner and as per the following sequential flow:

- **Paramedical workers and Outreach camps:**
 - ❖ Primary level treatment is rendered to patients, at their very doorstep, by the Trust's own, vast **Network of Paramedical Workers**.
(These Paramedical Workers who have generally completed school-level education ranging from 8th to 10th Standard are trained by the Trust to treat, at the village level, common ailments such as Fever, Diarrhoea, Malaria, Scabies etc. They are able to treat by themselves, quite successfully, 8 out of 10 cases encountered by them.)
 - ❖ Patients who need the attention of a Doctor are referred by the Paramedical Worker to an **Outreach Camp** organized by TIDE or partner NGO.

Paramedical worker



Outreach Camp



- ❖ Patients who need to be investigated / treated further are referred by the Doctor on Outreach Duty to a nearby **Hospital**.



- ❖ Patients who need more specialized attention are referred by the Hospital to a **Super-speciality Hospital** (for example, for Cardiac Care, Neurological Care etc.).



- ❖ Patients suspected of having Cataract are referred by the Paramedical Worker to a nearby Outreach Camp for Eye Care. Patients diagnosed for Cataract are then referred to a nearby hospital for Cataract Surgery.
- ❖ Family Planning Camps are conducted on a regular basis:
 - ~ to make young couples aware of the various methods available for 'spacing' out the birth of their children and to motivate them to actually do so and
 - ~ to motivate couples, whose children have grownup and who therefore no longer harbour any fears arising from infant mortality issues, to undergo Laparoscopic Surgery for family planning.

2. Preventive Healthcare:

This aspect of Healthcare covers the following programmes:

- ❖ **Immunization** for preventing and controlling Communicable Diseases such as Polio, T.B., Tetanus, Whooping Cough, Diphtheria, Measles etc.



- ❖ Distribution of **Vitamin A** capsules for preventing Night Blindness and Blindness.



- ❖ Making available, through various means, easy access to water
 - ~ that is **safe** for **Drinking**, thereby **preventing Waterborne Diseases** such as Diarrhoea, Worm Infestation, Typhoid, Jaundice etc.
 - ~ that can be used for **Bathing**, thereby **preventing Skin Diseases** such as Scabies.



- ~ The supply or repair of Hand Pumps is one of the means adopted for this purpose.

- ❖ Reducing Maternal and Infant Mortality through various means such as
 - ~ **Identifying 'At-risk' Mothers & Children** and referring them to the nearest Centre for appropriate medical attention
 - ~ **Training of Dais** (i.e., Traditional Birth Attendants) and



- ~ **Providing Supplementary Nutrition to Malnourished Pregnant and Lactating Women and Children.**
- ❖ Spreading awareness through **Health Education.**



- ❖ Making available **Smokeless 'Choolas'** for preventing and controlling Respiratory Problems.
- ❖ Identifying patients suffering from **Chronic, Non-communicable** and **Hidden Diseases** such as Diabetes, Hypertension, Heart Diseases, Asthma, Epilepsy, Obesity etc. and putting them on regular treatment, in order to prevent complications that are likely to arise from these diseases; complications such as Heart Problems, Paralysis, Kidney Failure, Diabetes related Blindness etc.

B. Education:

This objective is being met through the following schemes:

1. **Small Help** for Primary School Students who have passed Standard VIII but whose parents are reluctant that they continue their education in a High School.

This reluctance generally stems from varied reasons such as lack of money, High School located far away etc. etc.

All such students are identified through door-to-door surveys, their problems understood, appropriate solutions offered and the parents motivated to encourage their children to join a High School and continue their education.

Solutions offered are generally in the form of **Small Help**, given in kind, by providing Bus Passes, Books, School Uniforms, Bicycles etc.

2. **Coaching Classes** for school going children.

These are extra classes, conducted after regular school hours, for 2½ to 3 hours. These Coaching Classes, besides focusing on education, devote around:

- ~ half an hour to **games** and
- ~ 15 minutes to teaching of **values** through storytelling and discussions.



3. **Coaching Classes** for high school students

The schools' teaching standard all over India is extremely poor. Most of the students go for tuitions but the poor students cannot afford it and lag behind. We have taken up a new project of conducting free coaching classes for poor tribal students. This will be for class IX, X and XI, XII.



4. Setting up of **Dry Hostels** for providing accommodation to High School students who are unable to obtain accommodation in School Hostels. The concept of Dry Hostels is explained towards the end of this note.



C. Income Generation:

This objective is aimed at promoting, for the tribal people, self reliance and economic independence, thereby providing them with freedom from debt and also preventing their temporary migration to urban areas for earning their livelihood. It is met by implementing the following schemes:

1. Formation of Cooperative Societies for:

- ❖ production of Bamboo Craft
- ❖ weaving work
- ❖ production of food stuffs such as *Nachni khichiya*, *Karamda Jam* etc.
- ❖ collection of Jungle Products such as Gum, *Mahuva*, *Sitafal*, Medicinal Seeds like *Kuvadiah* etc.



And to make available, for these Cooperative Societies, suitable work space, production facilities, training where applicable and help for marketing their products.

2. Disbursal of interest-free Loans to Purchase Diesel Oil Engines and Construction of Check Dams for Water Management:

Under this Scheme, interest-free Loans are disbursed for purchase of Diesel Oil Engines, one Engine for each group of 5 to 7 families, to enable them to pump water from a nearby water source such as a well, a dam, a river or its tributary, for **Irrigating** their fields, especially for a second, winter crop. Also, for the same purpose, it is planned that small Check Dams are constructed under the existing Gujarat Government Scheme. (These Check Dams have an added advantage: *they help in raising the **Ground Water Level** in general*).

Judicious management of water helps the tribal people to generate extra revenue through agriculture, in their home village itself. More important, this stops them from migrating temporarily to towns/cities to earn their livelihood through manual labour. These seasonal, temporary migrations are important to prevent as they wreak havoc in their lives. They are forced to live in squalid slums in the urban areas that they temporarily migrate to. And the education of their children is completely disturbed, especially during the period of the temporary migration and consequently also after their return to their respective home villages.



3. Formation of Self Help Groups:

These are groups of socially and economically disadvantaged women, up to 20 per group. Each member of a Group starts saving every month, a small, pre-determined sum of money ranging from Rs. 20 to 50. The sums so saved go into a Savings Account of the Group. The Group then applies for and obtains a Bank Loan for a certain amount which is added to the amount in the Savings Account. The government too supports this Scheme by making a one-time contribution of Rs. 5,000 [APL group] & Rs. 10,000 [BPL group] to the amount so collected by each Group.

Individual Members of the Group are then disbursed loans (micro-credit) from the Savings Account for meeting various individual needs: to help them purchase a cow or a buffalo, to help them start their own business, to pay for medical treatment of self or family, to fund higher education of their children, to purchase seeds etc. etc. This helps in promoting economic independence and more important, it helps in bringing the Members out of the vicious cycle of 5 ~ 10 % interest per month charged by village money lenders.



Self Help Groups serve another important purpose:

They provide a ready and a convenient platform for launching new projects pertaining to important issues such as Family Planning Measures, Immunization Drive, 100 % Literacy Drive, Hygiene Awareness etc.

4. Distribution of Vegetable Seed Packets:

At the beginning of each monsoon season, 4 lakh packets containing mixed vegetable seeds and costing Rs. 10 each are distributed to tribal families of various states at a subsidized rate of Rs. 2. During good monsoons, these seeds which are normally sown in the backyard help in producing vegetables that are enough to meet the regular consumption of the tribal people for a period of 2 to 3 months.



*The seed packets offer an added advantage to the tribal people:
They help in forming a habit for consuming vegetables, leading to a healthier diet.*

D. 'Satsang Mandals' and Vyasana Mukti (De-addiction):

Simple Musical Instruments worth Rs. 800 ~ 1,000 are given by the Trust to each village. These Instruments are available for use by the Village Bhajan Mandlis, which normally meet around twice a month. Generally, the entire village participates in these functions which often continue late into the night.



This activity helps to channel the energy of the Mandal Members and the village folk towards creative pursuits and thereby

- ❖ promotes peace of mind
- ❖ generates a feeling of wellbeing for all concerned
- ❖ promotes social harmony and unifies the village
- ❖ increases their faith in their own religion and culture
- ❖ reduces, automatically, any addiction to tobacco chewing and alcohol
- ❖ builds for their children, right from their birth, a strong faith in religion and inculcates in them a sense of values (*sanskara*), which would stand them in good stead, for the rest of their lives – *this is one of the most important spin-offs provided by the 'Satsang Mandals'.*

E. Preservation of Indigenous Faith and Culture:

Here, emphasis is laid on the following:

1. Organizing **Cultural Programmes** to promote, nurture and propagate the rich, ancient and traditional **Folk Arts** of the tribal people.
2. Building **Artistic Houses** and **Villages** that are modelled on **Traditional Lines**.



3. Forming and Promoting Satsang Mandals as mentioned above.
4. Ensuring, carefully, that whilst implementing any scheme or programme, **nothing is done** that would go **against** the **Indigenous Faith and Culture** of the tribal people. ***In fact, extreme care is exercised that each activity that is carried out does not, in any way, harm their centuries-old, rich, vibrant culture.***

F. Promotion of Rural Technology

A number of schemes are on the anvil, as outlined below, to enhance the quality of the lives of the underprivileged tribal people by utilizing simple, innovative rural technology.

1. Ball Bearing Equipped Grinding Wheels:

Simple, single-ball type of ball bearing assemblies, costing Rs. 50 will be made available for fitting onto the existing grinding wheels of the village folk. These will be supplied at a subsidized rate of only Rs. 20. The fitting would be carried out by a trust-trained local technician. The ball bearing loaded grinding wheels would considerably reduce the manual effort required for grinding grain and prove especially convenient for the old and the infirm.



2. Smokeless 'Choola' & 'Jal Shitak':

'Choola'

Smokeless 'Choola' costing Rs. 90 will be supplied at a subsidized rate of Rs. 35. These 'Choolas' which would be manufactured by trust-trained local potters, would be 90 % smoke free and help in preventing and controlling Respiratory Problems.

The Smokeless 'Choolas', because of their efficient design, consume lesser wood compared to conventional 'Choolas', leading, apart from the main benefit mentioned above, to 2 other side benefits:

- ~ efforts required for collecting wood will be lesser and
- ~ deforestation will reduce

'Jal Shitak'

'Jal Shitak' is a local substitute for refrigerators. They would be manufactured by trust-trained local potters and be supplied at a subsidized rate of only Rs. 20, as against cost of Rs. 60. These 'Jal Shitaks' are most useful for storing and preserving perishable foodstuff such as milk, curd, vegetables, leftover cooked food etc.

These simple, rural technology driven devices are very eco-friendly. Besides enhancing the quality of the lives of the village folk, they will help village technicians and potters to generate income for themselves.



G. Help to the Needy:

The following measures are being adopted under this objective:

1. **Needy Families** are identified and sent a **Money Order** every month for a prefixed sum of money.



Dry Hostels

Generally, in the rural or tribal environment, there is only one High School per 30 to 40 villages. Only some of these High Schools have one Government-run or NGO-run hostel for boys and maybe one for girls. Further, these hostels have very limited capacities.

In almost all cases, hundreds of students who are unable to get hostel accommodation make their own arrangements. They get together in groups of 4 to 5 and rent accommodation. Unfortunately, this arrangement is generally restricted to boy students since local customs and traditions prevent girl students from organizing their own accommodation in a similar manner. For this arrangement, each student would need on an average, around Rs. 100 per month towards rent and another Rs. 100 per month for purchasing vegetables, cooking oil and fuel for cooking food which they would carry from their respective villages in raw form (rice, dal etc.). So, this arrangement is possible only for boy students and that too for those who can afford to pay around Rs. 200 per month.

As a result, many children, especially those from villages far away from the High School who find it impractical to commute daily to the High School and who are unable to get accommodation in a school hostel or who are unable to organize their own accommodation are unfortunately forced to discontinue school.

A Dry Hostel is a unique and an innovative concept of the Bhansali Trust that is being introduced for the benefit of these students. On a piece of land, located at a convenient distance from a High School, a cluster of huts, built on traditional lines, will be set up and offered to the students free of charge. Each hut will be shared by a group of 5 to 6 students. These students will carry their own grain and do their own cooking. Students who are particularly disadvantaged will be provided with a predetermined monthly quota of grains, free of charge.

This 'complex' of huts which provides students with accommodation, common facilities for cooking, bathing and toilet, free coaching classes and a playground, but makes no provision for food, is what has been termed as a Dry Hostel. There will be a Dry Hostel for girls too, quite separate and spaced away from the Dry Hostel for boys.

Each Dry Hostel will be adequately staffed, supervised by a Hostel Warden and run and managed like a regular Hostel.

It is envisaged that these Dry Hostels would allow many bright children to pursue High School education; children who otherwise would have been forced to discontinue their studies, for want of hostel facilities.

As compared to accommodation organized by students themselves, these Dry Hostels which would be built at low-cost:

- ❖ would be **more economical** for the students,
- ❖ will be available **for girl students too** and
- ❖ will have in place basic **disciplinary measures** regarding **timings, morning/evening prayers** etc., as are generally enforced in regular hostels **for the overall benefit of the students.**

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Contact Person:

Mr. Ashok Bhansali, Trustee, TIDE

Tel: +91 22 4286 6866

Email id: ashok@bhansali.biz

Address:

Mr. Ashok Bhansali

TIDE

C/o. Bhansali & Co

EE 7010, Bharat Diamond Bourse

Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (East)

Mumbai 400 051