



# NABINDIA

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*Honorary Secretary General*

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## NAB Advocacy Department

**Sharing Expertise:** Ms. Asha Bhatia, Dy. Director, NAB Dept. of Rehabilitation and currently In-charge of the Advocacy Dept. made a presentation on 'Role of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in Ensuring Inclusive Growth, Content and Expertise', at a Zonal Consultation Meet for the 12th Five Year Plan with CSOs, held at Mantralaya on June 28, '11.

**Meeting with RBI:** Mr. Suhas Karnik, Hon. Secretary, NAB Advocacy Dept. and Ms. Asha Bhatia attended a meeting convened by the Reserve Bank of India on June 24, '11 to gain better understanding of the problems faced by the visually impaired (VI) while handling currency notes.

## NAB Sir J. Duggan Braille Press

NAB Braille Press brought out 30,309 Braille volumes and dispatched 21,589. Forty-three new publications - three textbooks (two in Marathi and one in English), 28 periodicals (17 in Marathi, one in English and 10 in Hindi) and 12 general books (11 in Marathi and one in English) - were published.

Some general books released were: Dyaneshwari - Kathin Ovyanche Artha, Pariyavaranchya 21 Goshti, Maharashtra Darshan, Shri Uma Swami Rachit Moksha Shastra and Aple Vichar Vishwa, in Marathi and Samai Ki Chunauti Hame Sweekar Hai, in Hindi.

Bhartache Sanvidhan, Samgralakshi Arthashastra, Sukshmalakshi Arthashastra, Ashiyacha Itihas, Vyavaharik Marathi, Nivadak Rajakiya Vichar were some of the college-level textbooks produced.

**Significant orders executed:** Data Entry of eight Marathi titles in word and Braille, for Saksham Trust, New Delhi (worth Rs.1,19,000); supply of Braille soft copies of 23 existing Marathi, English and Gujarati titles to Saksham (income Rs.9,200); typing, proofreading and daisy formatting of nine titles for MHD Project of IIT Kharagpur (worth Rs.60,895); printing of "Vishwakosh Khand 2" in Braille for the Maharashtra Rajya Marathi Vishwakosh Nirmiti Mandal, Mumbai (worth Rs.1,78,500); supply of 24,652 volumes of Marathi medium Std.I-VIII Braille textbooks (meant for VI children studying under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan) to the Maharashtra Prathamik Shikshan Parishad, and their delivery to 32 districts in Maharashtra (worth Rs.28,87,091.90).

The Braille Press attended to 222 clients.

## NAB Client Service Department (CSD)



**Mr. Hemant Patil, Asst. Director, NAB CSD presenting educational aids to a student.**

**Low Vision (LV) Assessment:** Usha Dhiraj Charitable Trust sponsored LV Assessment Camps conducted at NAB Alpaiwalla Complex at Reay Road, Mumbai and NAB Unit Maharashtra, Nashik on Feb 26 and Apr 4-5, '11 respectively. These camps organized in association with Lotus Eye Hospital, Juhu, Mumbai benefited 256 individuals.

**Educational Aids to Students:** Lalji Mehrotra Foundation and the Association for Senior Citizens sponsored educational aids for 117 children of underprivileged blind parents. These children studying in grades V-XII were provided school bags, water bottles, lunch boxes and stationery.

Four newly blind students pursuing college education were given MP3 voice recorders to help them with their studies.

**Housing Needs met through Indira Aawas Yojana (IAY):** Efforts put in by the Dept. to raise awareness about IAY yielded results when two VI persons - one from Vadavali, District Thane and other from Mahalunge, District Kolhapur received financial assistance of Rs.75,500 each under IAY, for constructing their own houses. IAY is a Govt. scheme to meet housing needs of the rural poor.

**Self-employment:** 17 VI persons interested in making a living through self-employment were provided sewing and popcorn-making machines and a weighing scale.

In association with CPL Aromas, UK and Blind Persons' Association, Mumbai, CSD examined the possibility of employment/self-employment opportunities for VI persons in the aroma industry. The Dept. coordinated Odour Identification Test conducted by CPL, on 292 VI persons. Sixty-six among the candidates passed the test and are awaiting CPL's response.



**A VI persons trying his hand at operating a popcorn-making machine given to him.**

## NAB Department of Education

### Rural Camp for MDVI children



Fourteen Multi-Disabled Visually Impaired children of Mumbai Program participated in a rural camp organized during Apr 14-17, '11 at Veral in Ratnagiri District (Maharashtra). Sobti Parents' Association and the Dept. jointly supported the camp. Activities included orientation to rural houses, dance, music, group games and sightseeing.

**Summer Camp**



Fifteen VI children of Mumbai Integrated Education program participated in a Summer Camp organized during Apr 11-30 '11. The emphasis was on developing special skills like Braille reading and writing, use of special devices, orientation & mobility etc. Parents too were engaged in learning these skills and preparation of educational material. Other occupations included a community-based activity and an outing.

**Para-professional Training Courses:** Two courses - one at SNDT University's Churchgate Campus and the other at NAB (I) HO - were conducted during Apr-May and May-June '11 respectively. Whereas the course at SNDT had 16 undergraduate students of the University, the one at NAB saw 20 participants comprising parents of VI children, special teachers and volunteers. The training covered theoretical and practical aspects of education of the VI, MDVI and those with low vision.

**Functional Training Course:** This course on education of VI children was conducted during May 2-31, '11 at NAB HO for in-service/newly recruited untrained itinerant teachers of IE programs supported by the Dept. in different parts of the country. Lectures and practical training in Braille, orientation & mobility, use of special devices, preparation of educational materials etc. was organized for 29 participants from 10 implementing agencies in seven States. Visits to different Depts. of NAB and home visits to Mumbai IE/MDVI programs were also arranged.

**Functional Training Course on Education of MDVI Children:** 27 in-service



Trainees of Functional Training Course on Education of MDVI Children learn to prepare low-cost aids.

itinerant teachers of IE/MDVI programs (from 17 implementing agencies in 7 States) supported by Sightsavers and the Dept., in different parts of the country, attended this course during June 6-24, '11 at NAB HO. Sightsavers deputed 16 participants. Course contents covered orientation to various disabilities, functional assessment, educational strategies, preparation of

Individualized Education Plan, low cost assistive devices and exposure visits to Helen Keller Institute, Mumbai MDVI program of the Dept., Sobti Centre at Thane etc.

**Computer Training Course:** This three-year project funded by Charities Aid Foundation (CAF) India concluded in Nov '10. However, CAF consented to extend the project for one more year, considering the unutilized grant of Rs.4,15,000. During Mar-July '11 six courses were organized. In all there were 52 participants. Assistance was also received towards purchase of one more computer taking the total number of computers at the Centre to eight.

**NAB Department of Employment**



**LEAD PROJECT:** Under the aegis of Girivihar Adventure Club, a Workshop on Trekking was organized on June 11, '11 at CBD Belapur Artist Village, Navi Mumbai, for 18 VI persons and staff and volunteers of NAB Dept. of Employment. This undoubtedly was one team-building exercise to bring out leadership skills of the participants.

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Mr. K. Ramkrishna, Hon. Secretary General, NAB (I); Mr. Suhas Karnik, Hon. Secretary, NAB (I) and NAB Dept. of Employment and Ms. Pallavi Kadam, Dy. Director, NAB Dept. of Employment attended on Apr 29, '11 a special meeting called by the Hon'ble High Court, Mumbai, to discuss petitions filed

by NGOs working for the VI, on various employment related issues. The court directed the State Govt. to strictly adhere to the Central Govt.'s list of identified jobs, while recruiting VI persons and make available latest technology to those already in employment. A sub-committee was set up to delve into availability of the technology and its feasibility in terms of price and usage. Also, the disability commissioner was directed to furnish an action plan in this regard.

**NAB Finance Raising Committee (FRC)**

**Braille Embosser launched**



(L-R) Mr. Sudhir Vaudeva, Director (Offshore), ONGC - inaugurating Braillo, Mr. K. Ramkrishna, Hon. Secretary General, NAB (I) and Ms. Rama Das, Hon. Advisor, NAB (India).

On May 2, '11 Mr. Sudhir Vasudeva, Director (Offshore), Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) Ltd. launched the Braillo 440 Braille Printer at the NAB Sir J. Duggan Braille Press at NAB HO. ONGC supported purchase of the printer costing Rs.62 Lac. Senior officials of ONGC and office bearers, dept. heads and staff of NAB (I) attended the function that followed after the inaugural. Addressing the gathering, Mr. Vasudeva expressed deep satisfaction over ONGC's

association with a noble cause and also offered services of the ONGC Officers Mahila Samiti for any suitable assistance NAB may need in future.

**School Project:** The three schools that collected the highest funds for NAB this year were Delhi Public School, Nerul, Navi Mumbai - Rs.10,83,030, Maneckji Cooper Education Trust School, Juhu, Mumbai - Rs.6,90,350 and Poddar International School, Nerul, Navi Mumbai - Rs.2,75,651.

Rihaan V. Jhaveri of HVB Academy, Marine Lines, Mumbai; Pratik V. Singhavi, Shreerang Vidyalaya English Medium (Sec.), Thane and Tsewang D. Bodh, Delhi Public School, Nerul, Navi Mumbai were the three students who collected the highest funds for NAB (I) - Rs.23,112, Rs.22,000 and Rs.20,851 respectively.

**Resource Mobilization:** The State Bank of India donated Rs.5,71,000 for procuring a Power Press Machine to be installed at NAB IDBI Polytechnic, Ambarnath.

Noted architect **Mr. Hafeez Contractor** donated Rs.1 lakh for the *Atoot Bandhan* Project of NAB Committee for Advancement of the Status of Blind Women. Mr. Contractor has been a regular donor to NAB (I).

**NAB Louis Braille Memorial Research Centre (LBMRC)**



Mr. Jagdish Chauhan, Principle Coordinator of the Project and Course Coordinator of the Teacher Training Centre of NAB, presented the results of the Study.

LBMRC organized a Seminar on June 20, '11 for disseminating the findings of the Project "A Study of the Status of Teaching Braille in the Universities Offering B.Ed. Special Education Courses with Specialization in Visual Impairment," taken up by the Centre, for the National Institute for the Visually Handicapped, Dehradun. Around 23 persons including NAB office bearers/officials and individuals representing schools/institutions for the VI attended the seminar.

The Centre also brought out the Annual Report of NAB (India) for the year 2010-11 besides the print editions of the April issue of "Blind Welfare" magazine and NABINDIA Newsletter. The NAB LBMRC Library has a collection of about five thousand print books and periodicals on blindness and related issues.

## NAB Department of Rehabilitation



A session in home economics during the Basic Rehab Course.



BRC trainees enjoying themselves at a picnic.

**Basic Rehabilitation Course (BRC):** The 107th Batch of this Course concluded with the passing out function held on Apr 15, '11. The chief guest Ms. Sangeeta Ahir - a noted social worker - presented the certificates besides prizes to best performers and winners of various competitions held during the course. She also donated Rs.44,000 to 25 successful trainees.

The course covered topics such as social graces and basic life skills, home science, vocational trade, orientation & mobility, communication etc. Other activities included health and eye check-ups, workshops and lectures on a variety of interesting topics, sports and talent competitions, educational visits and so on.

**Short Term Course for Teenagers:** 28 students - primarily those who appeared for grade X and XII or equivalent exams enrolled for this training. Through lectures and workshops information was imparted on subjects like health & hygiene, facilities available to the VI, career, goal setting, social etiquette, sex education, different training courses obtainable, stress management, motivation & personality development and many other general areas.



A student of the training course for teenagers being felicitated at the valedictory function.



Trekking for students of the course for teenagers, organized through Girivihar Adventure Club.

Extra-curricular activities included trekking, rappelling and training in dance and self-defence conducted by Ms. Kanchan Sontakke of Natyashala Academy and Ms. Shanta Narsian respectively.

The students and staff of DOR also attended a Lok Pal Bill Rally held in Mumbai. Mr. K. Ramkrishna, Hon. Secretary General and Ms. Parimala Bhat, Hon Secretary, NAB (I) were also present at this meet. Students sang the opening song at the gathering, besides participating in a debate.

The valedictory function of the training course was held on June 1, '11.

**Workshops:** These included Jewellery and Envelope-making Workshop organized by Citi Bank in which 16 students participated, a Workshop on Trigger Points conducted by a practising physiotherapist Mr. Salman Shaikh which had 25 ex-students of the physiotherapy course, and a Workshop on Communication/Soft Skills organized by Amway Opportunity Foundation. Braille watches were presented to the 30 participants of this Workshop.

## NAB State Branches Department (SBD)

**Visits & Visitors:** Mr. Pravin C. Dandia, Hon. Secretary, NAB SBD and Mr. Arvind Narvekar, Head of Dept., along with Rtn. Dr. Vijay B. Rathi visited NAB Manipur State Branch and NAB West Bengal State Branch, Kolkata during Mar 24-31, '11. Mr. Dandia and Mr. Narvekar also visited the NAB Gujarat State Branch, Ahmedabad in May '11.

The newly appointed Development Officer for the North Bengal Unit of NAB West Bengal State Branch, Kolkata visited NAB (I) on Apr 6, '11.

Mr. Suryakant Salunke, Vice President, NAB Unit Maharashtra visited NAB (I) on Apr 20, '11 in connection with a proposed seminar of NAB District Branches of West Zone.

**New District Branch in UP:** Under the aegis of NAB Uttar Pradesh State Branch, the Dept. established a District Branch at Meerut in Apr '11.

**Donations:** NAB Uttarakhand State Branch received US \$11,100 from Mr. S. K. Mehta and Ms. Rosanne J. Mehta of USA.

NAB West Bengal State Branch received a donation of Rs.4,00,000 from Mohata Coal Company Pvt. Ltd., Kolkata.

Through courtesy of Ms. Najoo Mehta, a former office bearer of NAB (I) and an ardent supporter of the VI, a donation of Rs.5 lakh was received from a generous Parsi family.

## NAB M. P. Shah All India Talking Book Centre

The Centre recorded in Digital/Daisy format, 67 titles in English, Hindi and Marathi. Some of the books recorded were: 'Only Time Will Tell' by Jeffrey Archer, 'The Law of Cricket' by the Board of Control for Cricket in India and Std. IX and X (English medium) Science & Technology textbooks, Hindi B.Ed. (2nd year) textbooks and some popular Marathi titles like 'Goandarane' by Shankar Sakharam, 'Toch Mee' by Prabhakar Panshikar, 'Bakula' by Sudha Murthy, 'Kale Pani' by V. D. Savarkar besides 15 books on Naturopathy by Dr. Kumud Bedarkar.

49 titles from our archives were converted into digital form and are now available on MP3 CDs as well - to name a few, 'Mee Kasa Zhalo' by Acharya P. K. Atre, 'Oza' by Vyankatesh Madgulkar, 'Cheers' by V. P. Kale and 'No Problem' by S. N. Navre in Marathi, and 'Shrimad Bhagwat Gita' by Iswarchandra Patel in Hindi.

The Talking Book Library collection grew to 5,810 titles. Among these, 1,288 titles are available for circulation on MP3 CDs. The Library has an enrolment of 1,313 members. 2,160 visits made by members - to exchange cassettes/CDs or get audio books loaded on their MP3 players, mobiles etc. - were dealt with by the Library.

## Rediscover the Joy of Reading

"The Economist" - a weekly news magazine on international affairs - is keen on a tie up with NAB (I), to start the "Read Aloud" initiative across India. To begin with, this program will look at three NAB Centres - in Mumbai, Delhi and Bangalore. "The Economist" will generate volunteers for reading out to the visually impaired and NAB will focus on enrolling the target audience - VI persons in age-group 16-35. The articles - a mix of heavy and light content - will be selected by "The Economist", keeping in mind the audience. The content will be in English. Interested "Listeners" may contact: Ms. Asha Bhatia, Dy. Director, NAB Dept. of Rehabilitation, Anand Niketan, King George V Infirmary, Dr. E. Moses Road, Worli, Mumbai 400 011 • Phone: 2494 2795 / 2494 5108 • Email: nabdor@hotmail.com / Veena Rangnekar, Editor, NABINDIA Newsletter.

## Awareness



Accompanied by teachers and volunteers, 60 children of Akanksha Foundation visited NAB (I) on July 7, '11. They showed keen interest in the Braille Press, Talking Book Centre and the "Drishti" Call Centre. They also interacted with the VI Call Centre executives. Akanksha is a non-profit organization committed to education of underprivileged children. Such visits are aimed at creating awareness among normal children about the abilities and requirements of the VI.

**NAB Activities**

**NAB Rehab Centre , Mt. Abu, Rajasthan**



VI inmates of the NAB Phiroze & Noshir Merwanji Rehabilitation Centre for the Blind joined with students of other schools in Mt. Abu to spread the 'green message' on the occasion of World Environment Day 2011. They distributed pamphlets to tourists and sang songs urging them to save the environment.



VI inmates escort blindfolded volunteers through the tiny hill town - Mt. Abu.

During the past few years, overseas volunteers have been visiting the Centre through FSL (Field Service & Learning) India, Bangalore - a non-profit NGO promoting world peace through youth mobility. This year too these volunteers kept date with their VI friends at the Centre. For two weeks, the visitors - school and college students and working people from Europe and South Korea - extended their service to the Centre in a variety of ways like painting walls, planting trees and even cooking for the VI. They visited temples, hotels, hostels, homes etc. with the VI and also presented a play.

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Redeemer of Gods, a four-act historical play written by Dr. Arun Kumar Sharma, Hon. Secretary of the Centre has been accepted by the Library of Congress (LOC), USA. The play published as a book is about Emperor Akbar's defeat at the hands of the valiant king of Sirohi, Maharao Surtran. LOC has given the book five star rating. The book has also been able to raise Rs.1.5 lakh for the Centre, through a bulk order placed by the Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation, Govt. of India.

**NAB Branches**

**NAB Andhra Pradesh State Branch**

Around 150 individuals were screened and spectacles given to some 50 needy villagers at an Eye Screening Camp organized by the Branch on Apr 7, '11 in Patel Gudem Village, Aler Mandal, Nalgonda District. Eighteen individuals were referred to hospitals for cataract surgeries.



The Eye Camp organized by NAB Andhra Pradesh Branch in collaboration with Lions Hospital, Secunderabad and Lions Club of Hyderabad Airport.

**NAB Kerala State Branch**

**Training at CDAC:** Trainees of the Amway Opportunity Foundation (AOF) supported Computer Training Centre were deputed for two-week training at the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (CDAC), Thiruvananthapuram. They were oriented to the Malayalam text reading software being developed by CDAC and involved in identifying the challenges in correcting the software.



Ms. Lida Jacob, Retired IAS Officer and Chairperson, Commission for Right to Education Act, Kerala inaugurating the Consultation.

In association with the Human Rights Law Network, the Branch organized on Mar 9-10, '11 a **State Level Consultation on Draft PWD Act 2011**, in Thiruvananthapuram. Sixty-one representatives of agencies working for various disabilities in 14 districts of Kerala attended the Consultation.

**Helen Keller Day 2011:** To commemorate the birth anniversary of Helen Keller, the Branch jointly with AOF, organized quiz competitions on June 27, '11 at two schools in Thiruvananthapuram, where blind children are receiving education under the IE program of the Branch.

**NAB Gujarat State Branch**

The Branch organized a seminar of District Branches of NAB in Gujarat, on July 23-25, '11 in Bhavnagar. On the occasion, the Late Shri Bhikabhai C. Shah and Late Dr. Jagdishbhai K. Patel Awards were presented to persons who made outstanding contribution to the field of blindness, during the past five years.



Mr. Pravin C. Dandia, Hon. Secretary, NAB (I) felicitating an awardee.

**NAB Tamil Nadu State Branch**



Inaugural of the Seminar by the chief guest - renowned ophthalmic surgeon Dr. Mohan Rajan, of Rajan Eye Care Hospital (P) Ltd. (3rd from left) and the guest of honor - the Consul General of Japan in Chennai Mr. Masanori Nakano (2nd from left).

NAB Tamil Nadu Branch had organized several programs through the year, including a Car Rally and Chess Tournament, to commemorate its Golden Jubilee. The Celebrations concluded with a Seminar hosted by the Branch on July 16-17, '11 at Hotel Savera, Chennai. The theme of this event was SEARCH signifying Social Inclusion, Early Intervention, Awareness & Advocacy, Research & Development, Career Opportunities and Habilitation & Rehabilitation.

Presentations were made by representatives of NAB (I) and its Branches besides various other organizations in the field. In a session called "Reflections" many successful VI persons shared their experiences. The Seminar had over hundred participants.

**Obit**

Mr. R. Raghunath Chari (IRS), former Hon. Treasurer, NAB (I) departed on Aug 12, 2011. Mr. Chari was associated with NAB (I) as Hon. Treasurer for almost 17 years. He was also the former Commissioner of Income Tax, Trustee of Krishnamurthy Foundation, India and the Founder Director of Centre for Advancement of Philanthropy.

Mr. Zarire Kothawala, Chairperson, NAB Lions Home for the Aging Blind, Khandala passed away on May 16, 2011. Mr. Kothawala a dynamic visionary and a philanthropist at heart had been associated with the Lions Home for almost four decades.

May the departed souls rest in peace.

Donations to National Association for the Blind (India) are entitled for 100% Income Tax Exemption u/s 35AC of the Income Tax Act 1961.

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