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# **B.P.A.** *newsletter*

**RESEARCH AND NEWSLETTER  
BLIND PEOPLE'S ASSOCIATION  
(Formerly Blind Men's Association)  
VASTRAPUR, AHMEDABAD-380 015.**

**YEAR XVII  
VOLUME III  
JULY, 2008**

*(This Newsletter available on website : [www.bpaindia.org](http://www.bpaindia.org))*

## **SAMMILIT PATHSHALA**



BPA has started the first integrated Primary Schools with permission of the Department of Education from 15th June, 2008. 60 children have been enrolled in the school and the ratio of disabled to non disabled is 40:60. This School is an experiment and BPA will research whether such a regular Primary



School is effective in integrating disabled and non disabled children. The regular curriculum will be taught and disabled children will be helped to cope with the curriculum. Special Resource Teachers will handle the Special Educational needs while the regular class teacher will handle the academic part for all children.

Two such schools have been started initially one in the NAB premises at Bavla on the Ahmedabad-Rajkot Highway. The second school has been started at the BPA-MSM premises at Naaz.

## EXPERIENCE IN DISABILITY



For services for disabled to become a regular part of government spectrum, it is necessary that the personnel working in these departments are sensitized and made aware of the needs and rights of disabled people. A Training programme for the health personnel in the Government Sector in dealing with disability issues at community level was conducted by Blind People's Association-CBM AusAID project at Bareja Eye Hospital from 23-25 June, 2008. Health personal were made to experience disability by being blind folded, by restricting them to a wheel chair and by tying their limbs to limit movement. At the end of the session, people were visibly moved by the experience and vowed to be more sympathetic.

## KCRC SANCTION

The BPA and Spandan Unit at Bhuj called the "Kachchh Comprehensive Rehabilitation Centre (KCRC)" has received sanction from the Department of Social Defence, Government of Gujarat for setting up of a Special Centre for Children with severe multiple disabilities. This Unit became functional from July, 2008 and 45 children are benefitting from the services.



## POWER PACKED PUNANI

DIVYA BHASKER  
AWARD  
AS ONE OF  
100 POWER  
PERSONS OF  
GUJARAT  
ON 26 JULY, 2008

## SAGP DISTRIBUTION FUNCTION

The BPA implements a scheme funded by Helpage India for providing support to poor and destitute elderly people. The Grannies are given grains; medicines, clothing, and house hold items as also cash. A lot of material was collected from donors and distributed to these grannies on 24 July 2008 at BPA campus.



## PLACEMENT

- 26 May to 14 June, 2008 : Jaimin R. Dave, Jagruti Dekavadiya, Jayneel Parikh and Richa Nawab Students of Law, Nirma University did an assignment regarding provisions of Employee's Provident Fund Act, 1953 as applicable to training and educational institutes
- 19 June 2008: Mr. Sidharath Kakkar, 3rd year student of NIFT Gandhinagar met blind people to find out how important touch is in selection of fabrics as part of his Project on "Emotive Fabrics"
- 1-31 July, 2008 : Mr. Karan Vasa did voluntary work at the Deafblind Unit
- 8-28 July, 2008 : Ms. Hiteshree (Hitu) Nayak, student of Stuart Country Day School of the Sacred Heart, Princeton, New Jersey (NJ) did voluntary services in BPA Mental Hygiene Unit for children with mental retardation
- 21 July to 2 August, 2008 : Meghna Jani, student of Stuart Country Day School of the Sacred Heart, Princeton, New Jersey (NJ) did voluntary services in BPA Mental Hygiene Unit for children with mental retardation
- 18 June to 31 July 2008 : Ms. Laurence Admont, from France since last 7 years working with Kutch Vikas Trust done her Internship in BPA Early Intervention Centre, Deafblind Unit and Cerebral Palsy Centre.

## VISITORS

- 15 May, 2008 : SaGP Distribution, Visitor, Ms. Nirja, Deputy Director Programmes (Western Region) HelpAge
- 23-24 May, 2008 : Mr. Nirad Bag Programme Officer & Mr. Syed Sarfaraz, Advocacy & Public Relations Officer Cbm Saron, Bangalore from 26-27 May'08 visited cbm funded projects BPA-ATCB Project No.233 & N&H Eye Hospital, Bareja Project No. 2323
- 23-24 May, 2008 : Ms. Brinda Crishna and Ms. Nicky from Sense International, UK for discussions with deafblind project staff and the management and visit homes of deafblind children in CBR.
- 11 - 13 July, 2008 : Executive Members of Keshav Seva Sadhna, Goa Visit for orientation in deafblindness
- 8-12 July, 2008 : 2 Teachers from Navshakti Vidyalaya, Rajkot at BPA Early Intervention Centre
- 16 July, 2008 : 38 Faculty Development Programme participants from Management Schools of different Universities and private management schools including four from neighbouring countries organized by Prof. Raghavan, Incharge-FDP, Indian Institute of Management, Vastrapur, Ahmedabad for visited BPA for understanding activities and contribution to the social cause
- 26 July, 2008 : A team of Advocates, Doctors and Government Officials of Senior Citizens Cultural Group, Ellisbridge, Ahmedabad. They were impressed with BPA activities after visiting the organisation and interacted with disabled persons. They also donated a contribution of Rs. 40000.

## ACTIVITIES/VISITS DONE BY STAFF OF MAHARISHI ASHTAVAKRA DEPARTMENT

| DATE          | DETAILS   | PARTICIPATED BY                   |
|---------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| 2 May, 2008   | Orientation of Various laws and Disability - A session at DD at Godhra                        | Kinnari Desai                     |
| 9 May, 2008   | Ashtavakra meeting - Reports and Targets at Gandhinagar                                       | Kinnari Desai & Jyotish Chaudhary |
| 12 May, 2008  | Ashtavakra visit to Shihor and Umrada project   | Kinnari Desai & Jyotish Chaudhary |
| 12 May, 2008  | Ashtavakra project head meeting of Bhavnagar Dist. With SDO                                   | Kinnari Desai & Jyotish Chaudhary |
| 13 May, 2008  | Ashtavakra visit to Vallbhipur project  | Kinnari Desai & Jyotish Chaudhary |
| 23 May, 2008  | Ashtavakra visit to Fatehpura with Director SD  | Hitesh Chaudhary                  |
| 6 June, 2008  | DAG meeting at AMA for planning and reporting   | Kinnari Desai                     |
| 13 June, 2008 | Meeting at HI for planning of "Training of Laws" on 24th to 26th July'08                      | Kinnari Desai                     |
| 16 June, 2008 | Ashtavakra meeting at Gandhinagar for Nadiad project  | Jyotish Chaudhary                 |
| 23 June, 2008 | Lectures in Sensitization program - PHC-CHC training program at Bareja funded by AUSAID,CBM - | Kinnari Desai                     |
| 24 June, 2008 | Lectures in Sensitization program- PHC-CHC training program at Bareja funded by AUSAID,CBM -  | Kinnari Desai                     |
| 27 June, 2008 | Ashtavakra Evaluation meeting at Gandhinagar with all project partners                        | Ashtavakra team                   |
| 2 July, 2008  | Sayla visit for AUSAID  | Kinnari Desai                     |
| 27 July, 2008 | Keynote address on DAG legal awareness program at Vapi  | Kinnari Desai                     |

## WORKSHOPS/EVALUATIONS/SEMINARS/MEETING BY BPA STAFF

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>DR. BHUSHAN PUNANI, Executive Director</b>        |   |
| 15 & 27 May, 2008                                    | EFAVI campaign in Madhya Pradesh, State Central Library   |
| 29 May, 2008   | Expectations from U.N. Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Gujarat level workshop, organized by ActionAid, Ahmedabad   |
| 5 June, 2008   | EFAVI campaign in Uttar Pradesh, State Central Library  |
| 6 June, 2008   | CBM SARO North Advisors & Staff Meeting on the subject of SARON regional strategy and role of advisors at Mobility India, Bangalore   |
| 20 June, 2008  | National Workshop of Coordinators and Directors of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (Education for All Program) from all over India at Shahibaug   |
| 21 June, 2008  | Board Meeting of Sense International at Ahmedabad 23 June, 2008 Visit to Hydrabad for seeing venue of the ICEVI World Conference  |
| 11 July, 2008  | Visit to Delhi for arrangement of forthcoming in 2011 Dbl World Conference  |
| 22 July, 2008  | EFAVI Campaign in State Central Library in Karnataka  |
| 25 July, 2008  | Sustainability - a Success Story of BPA, Entrepreneurship Development Institute, Bhat, Ahmedabad.   |
| 27 July, 2008  | Keynote address on DAG legal awareness program at Vapi  |
| 29 July, 2008  | Meeting of Credibility Alliance, Ahmedabad  |
| <b>NANDINI RAWAL, Project Director</b>               |   |
| 2-5 June, 2008                                       | Sight Savers Evaluation visit to Varanasi, Basti and Bangalore  |
| 6 June, 2008   | CBM SARO North Advisors & Staff Meeting on the subject of SARON regional strategy and role of advisors at Mobility India, Bangalore   |
| 12 June, 2008  | V&V Board Meeting at NAB India Office, Mumbai   |
| 16-17 June, 2008                                     | Interview for selection of Coordinator for Integrated Education for Disabled Children organized by and at Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Gandhinagar  |
| 20 June, 2008  | National Workshop of Coordinators and Directors of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (Education for All Program) at Shahibaug   |
| 23 June, 2008  | Visit to Hyderabad for seeing venue of the ICEVI World Conference   |
| 2 July, 2008   | CBM AusAid Meeting at Sayla   |
| 22 July, 2008  | EFAVI Workshop in Karnataka   |
| <b>VIMAL THAWANI, Project Manager</b>                |   |
| 16-17 June, 2008                                     | Interview for selection of Coordinator in Integrated Education for Disabled Children organized by and at Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Gandhinagar   |
| 23-24th May, 2008                                    | External Evaluation - BPA, Idar Ms. Brinda Krishnan, Ms. Nichole, Mr. Bjiu Mathew   |
| <b>MR. VANRAJ CHAVDA, Project supervisor</b>         |   |
| 27- 28, June, 2008                                   | National Mental Health Care Givers' Training Workshop at BAIF Campus, Pune. Parents and staff of BPA Deafblind Unit   |
| 13 & 14 June 2008                                    | Regional Meeting (West Zone) of the National Network of families (PRAYAAS), teachers (ABHI-PRERNA) at NAB, Nasik sponsored by Sense International, India  |
| <b>AMRUT ASHAL, Low Vision, Coordinator</b>          |   |
| 7 June, 2008   | Presentation on "Education and Rehabilitation of Low Vision Persons: in a workshop on LOW VISION -CAUSES AND MANAGEMENT by Stitching Shared Vision- A Dutch Foundation of the Netherlands , Branch office Jodhpur at Hotel Shree Ram Excellency, situated opposite Medical College, Jodhpur |
| <b>NEELAM GUPTA, Project Coordinator, CBM AusAID</b> |   |
| 12-13 June, 2008                                     | Visit to DIC BHUJ   |
| 2 July, 2008   | CBM AusAid Meeting at Sayla, Dinesh Bahl, Fund Raising Asst. & Arindam Ray, Project Manager, KCRC   |
| 9 July, 2008   | Gujarat State Council meeting at KHAMIR, Behind BMCB Social City, Kachchh   |
| 23 July, 2008  | Visit to MSJ&E, New Delhi for BPA 35AC Renewal  |

## ACTIVITIES/VISITS DONE BY STAFF OF MULTIPLE DISABILITIES DEPARTMENT

| DATE              | DETAILS  | SUPPORTED BY                                 | PARTICIPATED BY  |
|-------------------|--|--|--|
| 12-24 May, 2008   | Refresher workshop on Deafblindness/ multiple disabilities                                     | Sense International, India                   | Vimal Thawani, Nagma, Krupa  |
| 13-14 June, 2008  | Abhiprerna & Prayaas Meeting at Nasik  | Sense International, India                   | <i>Teachers</i> : Ms. Jigna, Ms. Kavina, Ms. Ushma, Ms. Dipti, Mr. Mihir Jani.<br><i>Parents</i> : Ms. Nailini Raval with Juhi, Ms. Parul patel, Mr. Tejendra & Mr. Durgesh Shah |
| 26-27 June, 2008  | Central Zone Advocacy Event  | Sense International, India under RLC Project | Vimal Thawani, Krupa, Nagma, Kavina  |
| 27 June, 2008     | Drawing competition at BPA   | Kotak Mahindra Life Insurance                | All multi disabled children  |
| 30 June, 2008     | JHALAK-Orientation Programme on Deafblindness for College Students at BPA                      | Sense International, India                   | Vimal Thawani, Nagma, Krupa  |
| 2 July, 2008      | JHALAK-Orientation Programme on Deafblindness for College Students at BPA                      | Sense International, India                   | Nagma, Krupa   |
| 2-12 July, 2008   | Visit for development of Madhyapradesh Ujjain, Sagar, Devas, Bhopal, Gwalior, Shivpuri, Indore | Sense International, India                   | Krupa, Nagma   |
| 5 & 12 July, 2008 | Training Programme Parents on Autism   | National Trust                               | Vimal Thawani  |
| 7-9 July, 2008    | UDAN-Adult Deafblind Network Meeting   | Sense International, India                   | Nitin, Dipali, Juhi, Jasmita, Gaurav, Charles  |

### BPA STAFF ABROAD

| DATE                      | DETAILS  | PARTICIPATED BY                      | SUPPORTED BY                              |
|---------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|---|
| 23-29 June, 2008          | Dar-e-Salam, Tanzania for for conducting 2 lectures on Breaking Barriers within the Rehabilitation Services & Social & Economic Rehabilitation | Dr. Bhushan Punani                   | Christoffel blindenmission                |
| 21- 26 July, 2008         | Kathmandu Mentoring Visit  | Mrs. Krupa Velani & Mrs. Jigna Joshi | Hilton Perkins International Program, USA |
| 26 July to 1 August, 2008 | St. Nicholas Home, Penang, Malaysia for mentoring visit  | Mrs. Vimal Thawani                   | Hilton Perkins International Program, USA |

### EXECUTIVE MEETING OF ALL TRUSTS

28 JUNE, 2008 : EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING OF SRD, BPA & ATCB

## **CRE PROGRAMME IN THE FIELD OF HEARING IMPAIRMENT/ MENTAL RETARDATION/VISUAL IMPAIRMENT**

| DATE             | TITLE OF COURSE   | NAME OF ORGANISATION  | FIELD | PARTICIPANTS |
|------------------|---|---|-------|--------------|
| 17-21 June, 2008 | Integrated Education of children With Visual Impairment                             | NAB, Junagadh Branch  | HI    | 25           |
| 17-21 June, 2008 | Parent-Infant Programme and Mothers Training  | S.G. Brahmabhatt Badhir Vidyavihar run by Rotary Club, Nadiad | HI    | 25           |
| 17-21 June, 2008 | Prevention of Early Intervention and Early Identification                           | V.S. Gandhi Charitable Trust, Kapadwanj                       | MR    | 25           |
| 17-21 June, 2008 | Early Childhood Special Education   | NAB Jamnagar Branch   | MR    | 25           |
| 17-21 June, 2008 | Teaching of Science to VI   | Andh Kanya Prakash Gruh, Ahmedabad                            | VI    | 25           |
| 17-21 June, 2008 | Training programme for Hearing Impairment   | Kachchh Comprehensive Rehabilitation, Bhuj                    | HI    | 25           |
| 24-28 June, 2008 | Assistive Devices for Persons with Mental Retardation                               | Kachchh Comprehensive Rehabilitation, Bhuj                    | MR    | 14           |
| 24-28 June, 2008 | Emerging Technologies and Computer aided software for screen reading like JAWS etc. | NAB, Junagadh Branch  | VI    | 25           |
| 24-28 June, 2008 | Rehabilitation of People with Low Vision  | V.S. Gandhi Charitable Trust, Kapadwanj                       | VI    | 25           |
| 1-5 July, 2008   | Teaching of Mathematics to VI   | NAB Sabarkantha Branch, Idar                                  | VI    | 25           |

## **WORKSHOPS/SEMINARS/MEETING AT BPA**

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| 6 May, 2008      | Orientation of CBR to a Head of NGO from Jodhpur  |
| 15 May, 2008     | SaGP Distribution   |
| 21 May, 2008     | Started Artificial Jewelry classes for disabled ladies with help of Pritiben by Kinnari Desai   |
| 12-24 May, 2008  | Refresher workshop on Deafblindness/multiple disabilities Supported by Sense International (India) and sponsored by European Commission Db Training by Sense International  |
| 24 May, 2008     | Presentation of Ashtavakra for CBM visitors - kinnari   |
| 31 May, 2008     | State Branches Meeting of NAB GSB   |
| 2-13 June, 2008  | 12 days Orientation Training in Community Based Interventions for Persons with Visual Impairment funded by Sight Savers International, North-West India Area Office, Jaipur |
| 16 June, 2008    | 1 month SSI training of CBR for Allahbad and Indor Teams  |
| 2-28 June, 2008  | Intensive CBR training programme for 15 field workers of Dr. Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital, New Delhi   |
| 20 June, 2008    | National Workshop of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan  |
| 4-5 July, 2008   | Autism Workshop   |
| 12 July, 2008    | NGO Meeting   |
| 12 July, 2008    | Autism Workshop   |
| 12 July, 2008    | A documentary film for "Jeevika 2008" South Asia Livelihood competition on Visually Impaired Children by Students of Nirma Institute of Management, Ahmedabad.              |
| 15 July, 2008    | Jit Mehta Meeting   |
| 16th July, 2008  | SSI module-2 CBR 1 month training of Jabalpur and Chhatisgadh   |
| 21-22 July, 2008 | Advocacy and Empowerment 2 days orientation training for AusAid field staff   |

## A Tribute to MIKE COLLINS Hilton Perkins International Programm, USA

Mike shall be remembered for his exemplary services for promoting services for persons with multiple disabilities and deafblindness. We had the fortune of meeting him and working very closely with him during the meeting and conferences of the Deafblind International, ICEVI and HPI. Apart from being an outstanding professional worker and leader in the field, he was a great human being and always very considerate to follow members and co-workers. Meeting him and learning from him was a matter of great joy. He will always be remembered for depth of knowledge, zeal to promote services for the children with multiple disabilities around the world and to promote human resources across the globe. All the persons who attended various programs at the Hilton Perkins International would always remain indebted to him.



### VISITORS' RESPONSE

--- Original Message ---

**From:** Pathik B. Variya

**To:** bpaiceviad1@sancharnet.in ; blinabad1@bsnl.IN ; bpaIndia@satyam.net.in

**Sent:** Friday, July 18, 2008 1:02 AM

**Subject:** Hello

Respected Madam,

I was one of the visitors who had come on July 17, 2008 from IIMA's FDP programme to visit BPA. I was very impressed by your work, style of work and the commitment. I have posted one blog on my visit. Its link is:

<http://pathikvariya.blogspot.com/2008/07/visit-to-blind-peoples-association-and.html>

The motive of the blog is to simply spread the message of your activity to my circle and it is just a humble effort.

I congratulate you and your team for this.

Thank you.

Yours faithfully,

**Prathik B.Variya**

Lecturer (HRM/OB Area)

Centre for Management Studies

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College Road, Nadiad-387 001

Gujarat, India

Mobile: +919427496231

Email: pvariya@gmail.com

Blog: <http://pathikvariya.blogspot.com/>

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Website: <http://www.ddu.ac.in>

--- Original Message ---

**From:** "Nikhil Parekh" <nikhilparekh99@gmail.com>

**To:** "Bhushan Punani" <blinabad1@bsnl.in>

**Sent:** Saturday, May 03, 2008 5:18 PM

**Subject:** Re: Sharing release of my books in the United Kingdom-Happened today!

Your blessings and inspiration are always cherished Sir. They mean a

lot to me and my heart gets smoothened every time I receive them from a

man of your humility, stature and pioneering such a bountiful effort

via the BPA. Service to humanity is true service to God, nothing more

aptly demonstrated in reality than at BPA; where boundless lives are

touched by human effort and endeavor; where boundless despaired lives

are given the light and optimism to live—with you at the helm.

I sincerely salute BPA's every humanitarian endeavor from the

innermost realms of my heart and cherish your responses, enlightenment

as one milestone in life's journey

Thank you for the inspiration,

God bless,

**Nikhil Parekh**

Three-Time World Record Holder Poet

Ambassador for International Goodwill Treaty for World Peace

For my complete poems, works, books, world records please visit me at:

[www.nikhilparekh.com](http://www.nikhilparekh.com) or [www.authorsden.com/nikhilparekh](http://www.authorsden.com/nikhilparekh)

## The World of the Defenseless - Dr. Einar E. Helander

Helander, Einar, PhD (2007): *The World of the Defenseless*, Ahmedabad: Blind People's Association (India), P. 207, Indian Edition, Price Rs. 250 only

**About the Author :** Dr. Einar E. Helander graduated as MD in 1953, and took a PhD in Biochemistry in 1957. He has held positions as University Professor in Sweden. He has been Scientist at the U. S. National Institute for Health, Bethesda, Md. In 1974, he was recruited to the World Health Organization HQ in Geneva as Chief Medical Officer for the Disability Prevention and Rehabilitation Programme. He has also held senior positions at the FAO and UNDP. For four years, he was a Visiting Professor at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi. He is well known for his initiatives in creating community based health and social programmes.

He known around the world for his very famous publications "Prejudice and Dignity" (II Edition) (1999)

**Book Review :** By Poojan Parikh, Student, Ahmedabad International School

"*The World of the Defenseless*" is a publication that spreads awareness on the different issues related with the exploitation of children. Child abuse is a proliferating concern for the world's economy. This book addresses the problem with a stepwise prevention programme. To achieve universal solidarity and fulfilled human rights is one of the paramount aims of the book.

Alleviating and reducing global poverty will be a major step that our economy will take. To know that child violence has victimized half the world's population is staggering. The author gives his own perspective on the harmful consequences of childhood violence, such as their health and the damages that occur to their brains.



The author frankly talks about the erratic behaviors of different Governments. These Governments strongly restrict independent inspections and interventions of their so-called "orphanages".

The author analyses the human condition and gives frank comments on the wrong direction the world economy is heading towards. To see a municipal hospital in a dilapidated condition is a sin to the eye. The main focus of the book is about the violence experienced by children under the age of 18. It talks about the vast proportions of child neglect confronted by the growing poor child population. The author has put in 30 years of thorough effort in making this book.

The book is designed for students and practitioners who work with children. This book can prove useful for the general public also. The main problem remains the same, whether you are a professional governmental authority or a regular layman labourer: childhood violence affects us all, in some or the other manner. This book will make you aware of the scar that childhood violence is making on the globe.

**Mail Order :** Send payment of Rs. 270 (Price Rs. 250 + postage Rs. 20 as money order, bank draft or core banking cheque in favour of Blind People's Association at the address: Blind People's Association, Jagdish Patel Chowk, Vastrapur, Ahmedabad 380 015 India

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**Phone :** (079) 26305082, 26304070, 26303513

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### BOOK POST

To,