

## Divya School - a Residential school to provide an education to Children with Special Needs

*Real education is that which enables one to stand on his own legs. – Swami Vivekanand*

### Current educational status of children with disabilities in India

The lives of PWD (people with disabilities) are largely marked by poverty and marginalisation from mainstream social processes. A recent study by the World Bank (2007), noted that children with disability are five times more likely to be out of school than children belonging to scheduled castes or scheduled tribes (SC or ST). Moreover, when children with disability do attend school they rarely progress beyond the primary level, leading ultimately to lower employment chances and long-term income poverty.

Illiteracy levels are high across all categories of disability, and extremely so for children with visual, multiple and mental disabilities (and for children with severe disabilities across all the categories).

NGOs have played a central role in the development of educational provisions for children with disabilities across the globe and more so in developing economies, such as India. Not only has their involvement been historically revered as bringing the concerns of this marginalised group into the spotlight, they continue to have a significant impact on current practices.

In 2011, following conclusive examination of all the facts and our due diligence, **sewaUK** decided to build a residential school for children with special needs in Jawhar, Maharashtra and so give these children a chance to better their future

I am proud to say that the school building was completed in January 2015. The handing over of the building took place on January 20<sup>th</sup> 2015. Work continues on the residential block which will be ready in March 2016.



From here





### **A glimpse of the journey so far**

**2011** - sewaUK asked sewa International India to compile a list of suitable projects that cater to people with special needs

**2011** - sewaUK team visits India to look over and gather information on suitable projects.

4 projects are shortlisted. Detailed information and due diligence is carried out on the proposed projects.

**2012** - Due diligence reports and information received by sewaUK.

Sewa UK adopts the building of a school for children with special needs in Jawhar

**2013 June** - sewaUK / Gurudev Trust and sewa India sign a MoU (memorandum of understanding)

- Blessing ceremony of the land – performed by Chairperson of sewa India

**2013 August** – contractors are appointed. Work starts

**2015 Jan** - School building completed. Children move into the new facility

**2015 Jan** – professional team of architects, contractors and surveyors propose a new design for the residential block as the gradient of the slope is very great. To continue with original plans will not be prudent use of financial resources sewaUK agrees to the new plans

- Full report of work to date received by sewaUK. Also receives proposals for the remaining work ie

- Building of residential quarter
- Completion of rainwater harvesting system
- Completion of landscaping to include play areas for the children

Completion date for the entire project is anticipated for March 2016

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=p\\_6Zv24RLo4](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p_6Zv24RLo4)

Click on the link above to see the video of the school

## January 2015



## From the start



## Getting There





Construction of the compound wall



area where the residential building will be



The children, teachers and trustees in their new surroundings



## Memorandum of Understanding

This Memorandum of Understanding dated 1<sup>st</sup> June 2013 is between the following parties -

(a) **Sewa International UK (Sewa UK)**, a company limited by guarantee (company number 6976220) and registered charity (registration number 1135425) whose registered office is 110 High Street, Edgware, Middlesex HA8 7HF UK authorised representative:

And

(b) **Shri Gurudev Bhahuudeshiya Samajik Sanstha**, a multipurpose social Trust of Thane, Maharashtra, registered charity; registration number 295/03/Thane, whose registered office is :103 Dhanalakshmi Apartments, Mahadco Road, Jawhar, Thane District.

### Whereas

- (i) The principal activity of the Sewa UK is to support those less fortunate than us.
- (ii) The principal activity of the Shri Gurudev Bhahuudeshiya Samajik Sanstha is the provision of free hostel and educational facilities to tribal boys and girls with special needs.
- (iii) The parties agree to work in co-operation to implement the building of residential school at the plot owned by Shri Gurudev Bhahuudeshiya Samajik Sanstha and located just outside the town of Jawhar, on the Jawhar – Nashik Road.

### 1. Introduction

1.1. In this Memorandum of Understanding, the following expressions have the following meanings:

- |                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| 1.1.1. "MOU"                      | This Memorandum of Understanding  |
| 1.1.2. "Services"                 | The services provided by the parties to the MOU   |
| 1.1.3. "Date of Commencement"     | Shall mean 1 <sup>st</sup> June 2013 (date when agreement starts)   |
| 1.1.4. "Clients"                  | Shall mean tribal boys and girls with special needs who receive education and shelter.  |
| 1.1.5. "Confidential Information" | Shall mean any and all information, whether in writing or otherwise, that is disclosed by any party before, on or after the commencement date including, but not limited to, financial information, marketing data, procedures, business plans, lists of funders, personnel data, business relationships, current products, services and anticipated products and |

*Approved*  
*After*  
*XAM*  
*(M)*



**Present Trustees**  
Shree Gurudev Bahuuddeshiya Samajik Sanstha  
(Shree Gurudev Multipurpose Social Trust)

No	Name	Profile
1	<b>Shri Sashidhar Joshi</b>	Chairman of the Trust. Resident of Thane. Voluntarily retired from Navy. Now LIC Officer.
2	<b>Ms. Premila Kokad</b>	Secretary. Served for 22 years as Special Teacher and retired as Head Mistress in 2006. Recipient of President's Medal. Founded the Gulmohur School with meagre personal savings.
3	<b>Shri Shrikant Joshi.</b>	Treasurer. Resident of Pune. Retired Bank Officer.
4	<b>Shri Suhas Kokad</b>	Resident of Thane. Mechanical Engineer by qualification. Businessman.
5	<b>Shri Vijay Miriyal</b>	Resident of Pune. Advocate by profession.
6	<b>Shri Ameya Patki</b>	Resident of Thane. Businessman.
7	<b>Shri Dinanath Champanerkar</b>	Resident of Jawhar. Retired school teacher. Social Worker since 40 years.

**Trustees to be co-opted**

No	Name	Profile
1	<b>Shri Bimal Kedia</b>	Resident of Mumbai. Businessman. Social Work experience of 45 years.
2	<b>Shri Sharad Wadekar</b>	Resident of Wada. Businessman.
3	<b>Shri Manohar Lal Singhania</b>	Resident of Mumbai. Industrialist.

sewaUK is now reaching out and asking for donations so that we can complete the building of the residence. Please support us generously

**By Post**                      Or donate in-person to

Sewa UK  
1100 Stratford Road  
Hall Green  
Birmingham  
B28 8AD

sewa UK  
46-48 Loughborough Road  
Leicester  
Leicestershire  
LE4 5LD

Or visit our website where you can donate online – [www.sewauk.org](http://www.sewauk.org)