



VRI
VOLUNTEERS FOR
RURAL INDIA

Chair's Annual Report

2010-2011

Samta Patel
7th August 2011

REGISTERED OFFICE
Volunteers for Rural India,
(formerly known as IVCS – Indian Volunteers for Community Service),
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Registered Charity No. 285872

AIMS and OBJECTIVES

- To relieve poverty in India, particularly by undertaking voluntary work and fundraising, to assist village development schemes of a charitable nature
- To educate the public in the United Kingdom about Indian culture and tradition and other aspects of Indian life
- To undertake voluntary work in the United Kingdom in education, social services and similar charitable activities, particularly for the benefit of persons of Indian origin

The governing document is the VRI Constitution last amended in June 2010.

Partner Development Project in India

Society for Agro-Industrial Education in India,
Amarpurkashi Village (APK),
PO Bilari, District Moradabad – 202411,
Uttar Pradesh, India

Patron

Robert Evans, former MEP

Chair's Report

This year, we continued our focus on increasing the number of Project Visitors to our partner development project in India and this was reflected in the objectives that were set at the beginning of the year.

Objectives

The objectives set were:

- Give at least three presentations to universities or schools on the Project Visitor Scheme
- Increase the number of followers on Twitter by tweeting once a week
- Increase the number of Facebook members to one hundred
- Organise one fund-raising event by June
- Raise £1,500 to build another classroom at Jafarpur

One presentation was given at Buckinghamshire New University in October 2010. The Executive Committee agreed that further presentations should be given in September ready for the intake of new students.

The remaining objectives were successfully achieved.

Project Visitors

A total of eight visitors successfully participated in the scheme last year. The feedback received from them was positive. They included one from France, one from Scotland, one from Germany and one from Estonia.

Fund-raising

The popular "Buy a Brick" campaign continued to raise funds and has now raised over £2,000 for new classrooms at Jafarpur.

A new VRI fund-raising event, "Swing Night for India", was held in Watford on Saturday 9th April. A half hour lesson was followed by individual dancing, a raffle and a cabaret show. The event proved to be great fun and raised over £750.

Further details are given in the Treasurer's Report.

Use of Funds

This year, funds were used as follows:

- A free eye camp was held in November 2010. 450 patients were seen of whom 68 were successfully operated on at the Rotary Sunder Lal Hospital in Chandausi. Post operative medication and glasses were provided as well as two follow up examinations.
- Free health camps were held in December 2010 and April 2011. A total of 463 patients were seen from 35 villages. The majority had eye problems but other ailments included nose, throat, eye, breathing and dental problems. Two days' medicine was given free to all patients.
- Salary of a school co-ordinator for the primary school. The role includes administrative work, following up pupil absences, liaising with parents, recruiting pupils at the beginning of the school year, overseeing teachers and part-time teaching.
- Two classrooms were built for Jafarpur High School.
- Teachers' training was given on the Amarpurkashi campus to the secondary school teachers.
- Science Fair which attracts teachers and pupils from schools in nearby villages and towns. It is a great opportunity for pupils to put science into practice and also encourages people from the towns to come to the village and see the excellent work being done there. Funds go towards the hire of marquees and stalls, materials for displays and experiments, refreshments for staff and students and prizes for the best exhibits.
- Publication of the International Journal for Rural Studies, a twice-yearly journal focusing on rural issues.

The level of reserves is £21,545 at the end of June 2011. There is no reserves policy in place.

Trustees

VRI is governed by an Executive Committee (as listed below), who are also the Trustees and are elected by its members for a term of three years. The governing document is the VRI Constitution last amended in June 2010.

The Executive Committee met three times this year. All Trustees receive a small welcome pack including the Charity Commissions' booklet "CC3a – The Essential Trustee : An Introduction" and some advice on where to obtain further information. In addition, an informal Trustee training session was held this year.

	Name	Office	Elected
1.	Samta Patel	Chair	2008
2.	Janet Wilson	Vice-chair	2008
3.	Jyoti Singh	General Secretary	2008
4.	Hari Dhanoo	Treasurer	2009
5.	Mukat Singh	Field Director	2008
6.	David Blair	Executive Committee	2008
7.	Pushpa Devi	Executive Committee	2009
8.	Anita Duggal	Executive Committee	2010
9.	Sunil Gupta	Executive Committee	2009
10.	Neel Lakhani	Executive Committee	2008
11.	Tom Lloyd	Executive Committee	2008
12.	Lizzie Monks	Executive Committee	2010
13.	Monica Morawietz	Executive Committee	2010
14.	Stephen Ostrowski	Executive Committee	2008
15.	Karen Padley	Executive Committee	2011
16.	Deepak Paretha	Executive Committee	2009
17.	Fatema Paretha	Executive Committee	2010
18.	Pawan Rawal	Executive Committee	2008
19.	Nayan Shukla	Executive Committee	2008
20.	Shobhana Singh	Executive Committee	2008