



VRI
VOLUNTEERS FOR
RURAL INDIA

Chair's Annual Report

2011-2012

Samta Patel
7th August 2012

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 at last year's AGM and progress made against each is set out below:

- Give at least three presentations to universities on the Project Visitor Scheme
 - Although no presentations were given, a considerable amount of work has gone in to drafting suitable material. Universities will be contacted once this material is finalised.
- Increase the number of followers on Twitter by tweeting once a week
 - Although "tweets" were not written once a week, the number of followers has increased on both Twitter and Facebook.
- Increase VRI membership and the number of Project Visitors
 - There have been a number of initiatives to raise awareness via "tweets", Facebook entries, an interview for local radio and articles in the local press. However, the number of Project Visitors and consequently VRI membership has not increased.
 - Therefore, a change in the structure of the Project Visitor Scheme is being developed to offer more specific experiences such as cooking, yoga and Hindi.
- Organise one fund-raising event
 - Although this objective was not achieved, funding continues to be received.
- Raise funds for at least two health camps at Amarpurkashi and for Jafarpur High School
 - This objective was achieved
- Hold two social events for trustees and other members
 - This objective was achieved

Project Visitors (PV)

Two visitors, one from the UK and one from Canada, successfully participated in the scheme last year. The feedback received from them was positive.

Two past PVs also returned for a visit. One returned with her two small daughters and was a PV in October 1996 and the other, returning for her third visit, was a PV in November 2003.

Membership

Annual membership increased this year from 7 to 13 and life membership increased from 78 to 80.

Fund-raising

Two generous donations were received, one through the “Big Give” website and one through the “VRI” website, which totalled over £2,000 and a new fundraising initiative using Music Magpie to sell old CDs and DVDs has raised a further £223.

Further details of funds received are given in the Treasurer’s Report.

David Blair, our fundraising co-ordinator has moved to New Zealand and so has unfortunately had to resign his position with us. His hard work has successfully raised thousands for the charity and he leaves with our thanks and warmest wishes.

Use of Funds

This year, funds were used as follows:

- A free eye camp was held in November 2011. A total of 354 patients were examined of which 33 were identified for possible cataract operations, while all other patients were treated and given free medicines for a minimum of 3 days. After checks on blood pressure and sugar levels, 12 men and 14 women were accepted for surgery for lens transplants. They were then given free glasses to protect their eyes and stayed at Amarpurkashi for the night under constant care and medication. They were provided with liquid food and in the morning their eyes were checked and given medicine for twelve days. The patients returned after 2 weeks to have their bandages removed and their eyesight checked. Each patient was given a supply of medicines and a number of precautions to follow. They were told to return in 21 days time for a final check. There were no complications.
- A free health camp was held in October 2011. A total of 384 patients were seen from 30 local villages. The doctors, who came from private practices in Moradabad, included 3 gynaecologists and a specialist in children’s illnesses. Medicine for 3 days was given to every patient according to the advice of the doctor and they were told that if they had any further problems, they could go to the doctor’s clinic in Moradabad where they would be treated for free.
- Vitamins for the primary school.
- One classroom was built and furniture provided for Jafarpur High School.
- Teachers’ training was given on the Amarpurkashi campus to the secondary school teachers.
- A 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 £22,094 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.

	Name	Office	Elected
1.	Samta Patel	Chair	2011
2.	Shobhana Snow	Vice-chair	2011
3.	Jyoti Singh	General Secretary	2011
4.	Janet Wilson	Website Manager	2011
5.	Hari Dhanoo	Treasurer	2009
6.	Mukat Singh	Field Director	2011
7.	David Blair	Fund Raising Co-ordinator	2011
8.	Pushpa Devi	Executive Committee	2009
9.	Anita Duggal	Executive Committee (Co-opted)	2010
10.	Sunil Gupta	Executive Committee	2009
11.	Lizzie Monks	Executive Committee (Co-opted)	2010
12.	Monica Morawietz	Executive Committee	2010
13.	Stephen Ostrowski	Executive Committee	2011
14.	Karen Padley	Executive Committee (Co-opted)	2011
15.	Deepak Paretha	Executive Committee	2009
16.	Fatema Paretha	Executive Committee	2010
17.	Pawan Rawal	Executive Committee	2011
18.	Aditi Shah	Executive Committee (Co-opted)	2011
19.	Nayan Shukla	Executive Committee	2011