



FOREWORD

Welcome to our very first newsletter. We have not completed one year yet but so much has happened (and so much needs to happen!) that I feel it is now appropriate to review, reflect and consolidate on our accomplishments so far. For the uninitiated, a brief resume on the background...

November 2002- Three trustees of Polio Children visited Sucheta Kriplani Shiksha Niketan (SKSN, a school/hostel run specifically for four hundred physically disabled children in Jodhpur, India). The facilities there were basic with water and electricity very scarce and good nutrition non-existent.

December 2002- Polio Children charity registered in the U.K.

January 2003- Nutrition programme started at S.K.S.N by Polio Children.

April 2003- 2nd visit to SKSN by Mayoore Patel (trustee) and Subhdra Patel (Field Consultant) to review what Polio Children can do.

May 2003- Plans to build a hostel for one hundred physically disabled girls at SKSN given approval and work commenced. (See photos).

Polio Children provides a generator (for basic electricity needs) and funds for a tube well (600 feet deep) to SKSN.

July 2003- 2nd visit to SKSN by Arun Patel (trustee) to review progress and inaugurate hostel facilities for fifteen students taking up university courses. (All physically challenged SKSN students)

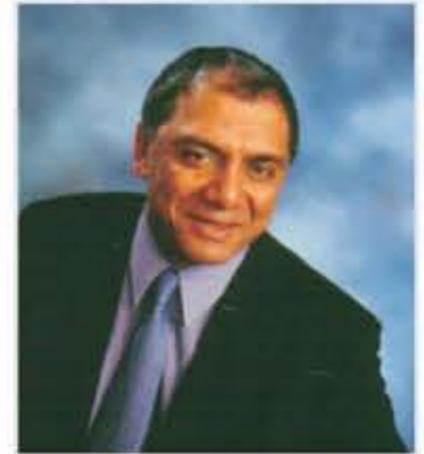
Whilst the rest of the newsletter will bring you up to date with all that is happening as a result of your wonderful support, I would personally like to share two precious moments with you. When I first visited SKSN last November, there were two categories of students who had showed a lot of apprehension and deep concern about their uncertain future. One group was the girls who were temporarily housed in a dangerous environment (part of a deaddiction centre). There were no hostel facilities for them and providing education to girls in that part of the world has been the lowest of all priorities and for disabled girls- even lower. The second group was that of the 12th graders. These children were about to complete their studies at SKSN and would be facing a bleak future of going back to their villages. There was no support for them to continue with university education. On my return to SKSN in July 2003, those two groups were the happiest and most vibrant - Thanks to Polio Children's initiatives (see the following pages)

The second precious moment which gave me immense satisfaction was when I witnessed a complete change in attitude (for the better) towards physically challenged girls from everyone, and I mean everyone! - parents, relatives, friends and the society as a whole. This started with the girls winning fifteen gold medals in the 'U.K. Disability Sports' in May 2003 (right). Girls with physical disabilities are now seen as precious human beings who will create a future for themselves. It is an unbelievable change!

We at Polio Children are creating new social waves that will have a significant impact not only on the future of those young, devastated lives but also on everyone associated with them. A lot still needs to be done. There is a considerable shortfall in a number of our major projects. But for the moment let us congratulate ourselves for starting this wave of change. Long may it continue and far, far may it spread!

God bless you all.


Arun Patel



Arun Patel Chairman



Vice President Of India Applauds Polio Children's Initiatives

On 11th July 2003, Polio Children's Chairman Arun Patel was invited to New Delhi by the Vice President of India, Shree Bhairon Singh Shekhawat who conveyed his deep appreciation for all the work and effort put by Polio Children in helping the four hundred disabled children at SKSN Jodhpur, India.

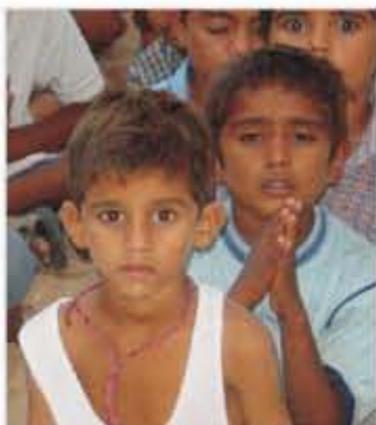


Professor Manaklao (founder of SKSN) looks on while Arun Patel (centre) is in conversation with the Vice President Shree Bhairon Singh Shekhwat (right)



Work in progress on the construction of a girls hostel for 100 physically challenged girls (left) scheduled for completion in October 2003 and new intakes (right) who will reside therein.

JOINING SKSN



FUTURE UNIVERSITY ENTRANTS

LEAVING SKSN

A new innovative project undertaken by Polio Children to enable fifteen well deserving physically challenged children (all from extremely poor families) to complete their university education.

It costs approximately £600 per annum (for 3 years) to pay for their fees, food, accommodation, books, stationery etc. Polio children need eight more sponsors.



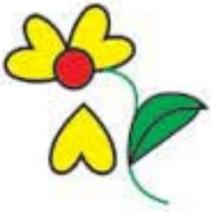
MANY THANKS TO:

- (a) Everyone who has contributed towards our projects the list is huge but we have posted it on our website www.poliochildren.org (honours list). Please let us know if we have overlooked you for some unknown reason.
- (b) Everyone who made our Accomplishments Party on 15th May 2003 at The Carlton Suite, Ilford such a huge success! We raised over £24,000 for the Girl's Hostel. It was also captured on Zee TV and if you would like to see it we have recorded it on VCR.
- (c) Everyone who continues to spread the message and vision of Polio Children i.e. help these young devastated lives to get back into mainstream society. Manjit Kaur (on Radio), Sikh Mission Society (community gatherings), Paul Chakravati (at Lions Club), D. Ghadavi (at schools) and Sudhaben Patel (at social gatherings) are some of the many who have started making a big impact on behalf of Polio Children. You are our shining ambassadors. Many many thanks and keep up the good work. Please keep us informed about your accomplishments no matter how big or small!
- (d) Doctors and pharmacists who kindly donated medicines I. Birdi, P. Mayor, J. Shah, V. Patel and Dr. N.R. Patel. Your generosity makes a big difference to the lives of the needy.



LOOKING AHEAD What Can We Do Now?

- 1) Support a child scheme - (for 50p a day price of a cup of coffee) You can support a child that would change her life for good. Please ask us for further details.
- 2) Fund Raising Activities
 - a) Collection Boxes 500 boxes to be installed in various shops and retail outlets we need field support and volunteers.
 - b) One major event for 2003 Dinner & Dance with a difference any suggestions?
 - c) Greeting cards designed and produced by SKSN students. These would prove to be excellent Diwali cards. Ask us for details and prices or why not visit our website www.poliochildren.org
- 3) Polio Children in U.S.A starting in September 2003. Some youngsters have already made start there by collecting US\$ 250. Do you have any connections in the US?



POLIO CHILDREN REQUIRE

£48,000 to complete the Girls' Hostel project

£12,000 to complete an in-house dairy project so that 400 children can have a glass of milk every day.

£4,800 (per annum) to support the children going to university.

£4,000 (per annum) to have an "in-house" doctor at SKSN so that every day between 20-40 children with varying illnesses can be properly and promptly attended to.

And finally, why not visit Jodhpur and see for yourself what Polio Children is up to?? You can tie it up with a beautiful holiday in Rajasthan, India. SKSN will make all the arrangements for you to have a very enjoyable stay there.



Polio Children

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