



Friends Society
(Established 1969)

ANNUAL REPORT: 20-21

(July 1, 2020 to 30 June 2021)



Petit Library, Opp. Parsi Agiyari; Fatehganj, Vadodara 390002, India
Phone: 0265-2750629; Email: friendsociety813@gmail.com; Website: www.fsvadodara.org
Registered Under Society Registration Act 1860 - Reg. No. Guj/351/Vadodara
Bombay Public Trust Act 1950 - Reg. No. Vadodara F-109

CONTENTS

Summary of Contribution	3
Activities during Pandemic	5
Individual Activities - Details & Photos	
<u>Activities for children and adults with disabilities</u>	
Sunday School	6
<u>Activities for School Children and Youth</u>	
Programme for Future Leaders (PFL)	6
Programme for University Youth (PUY)	7
<u>Activities for Patients</u>	
Blood Donation Programme	7
<u>Activities for Fatehganj Community</u>	
Balwadi	8
Public Reading Room and Library	9
Sewing and Embroidery Classes	9
<u>Assistance to Individuals</u>	9
<u>Other Activities</u>	10

SUMMARY OF CONTRIBUTION FRIENDS SOCIETY

For more than 50 years, Friends Society has been making a significant **difference in the lives of hundreds of people every year** – those who attend our activities (beneficiaries) as well as volunteers who conduct these activities.

DURING THIS YEAR (2020-21):

(Note: This year was an unprecedented year in which FS could not carry out most of its ongoing social service projects due to pandemic situation world over. Therefore, the annual report would be brief.)

SCOPE of our work (activities)



- **605 beneficiaries** (66% were patients benefiting from blood donation, 20% were disabled benefiting from support for education, medical and livelihood need, remaining were youth, women and other people in the community)

▪ **304 units of blood** were collected in various blood donation camps organized in communities and industries in Vadodara. We estimate that at least 390 patients in the SSG Hospital benefited from this blood collection.



- Around **50 people** from the surrounding communities used the reading room and the library that FS operates. The Petit library was open for **111 days** and the reading room for **222 days**.

- **42 volunteers**, who were mostly college students, conducted service activities and participated in various FS initiatives.



IMPACT of our work during the year

Children with disabilities or from low income communities: (Cheer Up, Sunday school, Youth Club, Balwadi)

- A Sunday school girl child beneficiary was admitted to K G Patel Children hospital. Her total medical expenses were Rs 1, 20,000/-. A member of FS used his goodwill with K G Patel hospital and requested for subsidizing the bill. An amount of Rs 50000 (28000 for Cryo Precipitate 80 pouches and Rs 22000 for transfusion charges) was waived off by the hospital. Chirag Chokshi, our coordinator for Sunday school activity, had arranged to renew her registration with the state government NIRAMAYA scheme. Under the scheme she became entitled to receive free medical treatment up to Rs 100000/-
- One of our Sunday club beneficiaries has chronic kidney disease and has been on regular dialysis twice a week for the last few years. He is also suffering from Hepatitis C. He was having Acute Urinary Tract Infection. He was hospitalized in the third week of December 2020. An appeal was made to FSites to contribute to support him financially to foot the hospital bill of Rs 43000/-. Promptly (within four days) old and current FS members contributed the entire amount.
- Supported Balwadi children through online activities

Patients at the SSG Hospital: (Blood donation camps)

- Make available blood for medical treatment to the patients at the government general hospital (SSG)
- Educate people on the value of blood donation and debunk any misinformation they may have

- Guidance and education of those who are not able to donate blood due to health conditions such as low hemoglobin

Individual assistance to children and adults with disabilities:

- Beneficiaries were able to get education and obtain degrees, received medical assessments and treatment, and get jobs through the work of the FS field worker
- The school children who volunteer as writers for exams for visually disabled / impaired students got exposed to the special needs sector of society, this motivated several to help even more, and to join FS when they grow up

Reading Room and Library for local residents:

Local area residents got a safe and quiet place to read newspapers and magazines, and opportunity for young and old alike to borrow books from the library on large variety of subjects and in different languages

Student Volunteers: (Participation in governance at FS and planning; PUY - Program for University Youth; self-development)

- Opportunities to experiment, learn from mistakes, and develop skills helpful throughout their lives. Volunteering at FS is life altering and career enhancing experience. The FS motto is "Self-development Through Service;" volunteers have often said, "I have gained far more from Friends Society than what I had given"
- Opportunities to spend their spare time in constructive activities, develop a sense of social responsibility, better understand the situation of those who are less fortunate
- Opportunities for them to socialize and make new friends and have fun



Manisha Bharat Makwana, Dharmaj started her own Xerox centre with the Laptop, Printer and router provided by FSites.

Priti Parmar from Bochasan started imitation jewelry business with initial investment made by our well wisher

ACTIVITIES DURING PANDEMIC

FS distributed 10 finger pulse oximeters each to SSG Hospital, Gotri medical hospital, Our Lady of Pillar hospital, Narhari Hospital, Trust for reaching the unreached, Kashiba Children Hospital, Mental Hospital and Sevathirth. And 5 each to Red cross and Sahyog Kushth Rog Nivaran Sangh. 10 are retained at FS to cater to our own beneficiaries / staff and their family in the case of need.

Face masks made by our sewing class staff were distributed at a very nominal charge - we distributed 2000 masks.



Distributed 100 corona kits received from a donor (masks, sanitizer bottle, face shields and gloves) in Narhari hospital, and SSG Hospitals Baroda - Fatehgunj area auto rickshaw drivers and maids-security guards in some housing localities.

Food support: Monthly ration kit (15 Kgs) distribution on every third Saturday of the month to needy visually impaired beneficiaries, mostly girls coming from Anand, Bharuch apart from local Vadodara.



Scribes for writing exams: 29 scribes were arranged to assist visually impaired in recruitment and competitive exams. Scribes were arranged for Vadodara, Ahmedabad, Gandhinagar, Surat, Mehsana and Rajkot centres.

FS paid fees for 9 visually impaired beneficiaries. The total amount of fees so paid is Rs. 81437/-

Employment and livelihood support: A visually impaired female beneficiary from Surat, was supported financially and with logistic support for an interview at New Delhi for Navodaya Vidyalaya music teacher interview.

Hand cart (Haathlaari) provided to five visually impaired beneficiaries. They hail from Hansot, Padra, Dharampur, Vadodara and Anand.

A deaf and mute beneficiary was provided with a beauty parlor kit. And an orthopedically handicapped beneficiary a sewing machine.



ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN AND ADULTS WITH DISABILITIES

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday school in normal time has been conducted every Sunday, 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM, at the FS campus since 1983. Objectives are to facilitate supplementary education, medical rehabilitation, mobility improvement, and social integration of non-institutionalized children with disabilities who live across Vadodara. They are in the age range of 10 to 25 years. A charitable organization provides free lunch for them. Children are brought to the campus and returned home by auto rickshaws hired by FS. Attendance at each event is around 25 to 30.

This year we could not carry out activities on campus. Our volunteers home delivered kites and other accessories prior to Uttarayan to enable them to celebrate the festival.



ACTIVITIES FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN AND YOUTH

PROGRAMME FOR FUTURE LEADERS (PFL)

This programme is intended to enable high school students develop into socially responsible, effective, and efficient leaders of tomorrow.

During the year, "Reach Youth to Teach Youth" initiative was launched to provide online education support to students from low income group families. 15 volunteers came forward who provided online education support to 15 students in total 373 sessions of one hour each between September 2020 and November 2020.

PROGRAMME FOR UNIVERSITY YOUTH (PUY)

This program is intended to increase knowledge and awareness of young volunteers on variety of topics of interest to them. Volunteers come up with the ideas for different topics, and coordinate speakers and manage communications. This program was started in 1970.

During the year, four book reviews, two webinar sessions (one on cyber security and other on Anemia awareness) one training session on street harassment were held, each attended by an average of 20 students. Additionally 19 sessions on excel working were conducted by Aman Sharma, FSite. Nine participants took advantage of the same. A debate competition on Reservation in India was organized. All activities were carried out virtually.



ACTIVITIES FOR PATIENTS

BLOOD DONATION

This program is aimed at collecting blood that can be used for the low-income patients at the Sayajirao General Hospital (SSG) and also aims to increase awareness about the value of donating blood, providing guidance to those who cannot donate blood due to some reason (such as low hemoglobin), and to help dispel myths about blood donation that people may have. This program was started in 1969, the year the FS was established.

During the year: four blood donation camps were organized - 2 in industries and two at residential societies. Total **304 units** of blood were collected. A few days before each camp, volunteers would canvas the people at the location of the camp, hold talks with them to educate, and encourage them to attend. During a camp, lasting from 3 to 6 hours, volunteers coordinate with blood bank staff and the organization that is hosting the camp, organize the room, register people, and provide guidance to those who could not donate blood.





ACTIVITIES FOR FATEHGANJ COMMUNITY

BALWADI (“Ankur Balwadi”)

Balwadi was started in 1982 to provide opportunities to low-income families to get their pre-school children on the right path from an early age. The children are 3 to 5 years old. The program was designed with the help of early childhood education specialists from the M.S. University. It has developed a reputation of being one of the best Balwadi in the community.

During the year, Balwadi operated 122 days for 3 hours each day. Enrollment was 12 children. Two teachers and a helper run it. Balwadi staff provided online support / education to students during the lockdown period.

PUBLIC READING ROOM AND LIBRARY

For more than 50 years, FS has been operating the reading room and library for the local area residents.

They come to read newspapers and magazines six days a week, 3 hours every morning.

The library has 5,000 books in three languages and on a large variety of subjects. It is open for two hours, three days a week and many of the 40 library members visit to exchange books.

One part-time staff member and 2 to 3 volunteers help with library transactions as well as with cataloging, organizing, and maintaining books.



SEWING AND EMBROIDERY CLASSES

VOCATIONAL TRAINING CLASSES

These classes are designed to provide skills to women from lower socio-economic communities – the skills and certificates which can help them increase their earning potential to supplement family incomes. In addition, various activities are aimed at their educational and social development. The beneficiaries are 16 to 45 years old. Classes are held two hours a day for five days. Sewing and embroidery classes are yearlong and vocational training classes (mehndi and beauty parlour) are one-month long. Typically, each sewing class includes around 20 students and vocational training classes have around 5 to 6 students. This year FS could not run the activity but the sewing class teaching staff members made masks and other items as per requirement.



ASSISTANCE TO INDIVIDUALS

Individualized assistance, help that is not a part of group activities, was provided to more than 204 adults and children with various disabilities. Key assistance activities:

- ✓ One full time field worker (Chirag Choksi) visits homes, hospitals and clinics, schools, other NGOs, etc. (almost 180 visits in a year). He coordinates for individual medical assessment and treatment and related financial assistance, school admission, tuition assistance, and so on.
- ✓ Few members (mostly Ami Patel, Meena Patel and a couple of youngsters) have found writers for writing exam papers for around 29 college students and others with visual disabilities and those who take competitive exams for the possibility of getting jobs. This year, all exams were around 3 hours long, so the writers spent a significant amount of time providing this help. Ami and some of her friends have been doing this activity for more than 30 years.
- ✓ Assistance in terms of logistics and finance was extended to enable six visually impaired beneficiaries to seek employment and to other six by providing them Haathlari (handcart) with saleable goods stock during the year.
- ✓ An amount of Rs. 81437 was spent on payment of fees for nine visually impaired beneficiaries

- ✓ Thirty One children from youth club were distributed education stationery (big book, note book, pencil box, pen)
- ✓ Every month ration kits of 15 Kg is distributed to on an average 40 needy visually impaired beneficiaries

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Flag hoisting was carried out on 15th August 20 with minimum participation and keeping social distance. Also on the same day, a renovated accessible toilet block with financial support from L&T was inaugurated by Mr. Sudhir Nambiar, CSR Head of L&T Hydrocarbon.



On the republic day, (26 January 21) Ms. Bhavnaben Mehta, dean, Faculty of social work, MSU, Vadodara graced the occasion as chief guest. She appreciated the efforts of Friends Society over several years to provide a platform for self-development to university youth while carrying out social service projects. She inaugurated Sahiyari Mela (exhibition cum sale of items made by sewing class trainees).



We welcome Manisha Chavda, Bharat Choudhary, Mukesh Pasi, Vijender Rathod, Bharat Bhatt, Hetal Shah, and Nikhil Bhatt as our new life members during the year.

Friends society is Vadodara based voluntary youth organization for community service. Donations to friends Society are exempted from Income Tax under section 80(G) 5 of Income Tax act, 1961. Cheque may be issued in the name of Friends Society.

For online transactions the details are given hereunder.

Name of the account: Friends Society,

Name of the bank: Bank of India, University Road Branch, Vadodara

Bank Account Number: 250510100007809,

IFSC code: BKID0002505

Please mail on friendssociety813@gmail.com details of the transaction id, amount, name and postal address of the donor, mobile number and PAN details to enable us to issue the receipt.

-- END --