



Shraddha Rehabilitation Foundation

For the mentally - ill destitutes of India

Registration with the Charity Commissioner Maharashtra E-13686 dt. 22/01/1992

Exemption u/s 80G of the Income Tax Act. 1961 valid from December 1991

Registration under the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA), 1976, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, No.083780583 dt. 5/3/1997 valid thru till 30/6/2027

Maharashtra State Mental Health Authority (MSMHA) - Permanent Registration No. 114/2024

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Shri Gajendra Ganla
Ex-Chairman, Indian Water Works

July 2025

Dear Friends,

The greatest gift given by the Gods above to Mankind is Compassion. The capacity to empathize with the suffering of fellow human beings. True Kindness is a natural corollary to that very quality of Compassion. By default, there is no supposedly gain in it. But in the case of Shraddha, the emotional satisfaction of seeing a lost one reunited with his/her family, his loved ones, his neighborhood, his village, his community is the gain which has kept the Shraddha going the distance. From January to June 2025, in 6 months flat, we reunited 687 recovered destitutes with their families. Averaging 114 Reunions a month, touching a figure of almost 4 reunions a day. And the bulk of these were emotional welcomes, giving us that gain, that momentum, that emotional high, to keep going.

The unfiltered truth is that one single disappearance of a human being, under the influence of mental illness, leads to an emotional holocaust and scarring of the family, their neighborhoods and often of their village communities, intertwined as communities are, in rural India. Unseen, unheard, unexpressed, un-ventilated, the emotional holocaust exists. There is no catharsis and there is no closure. Until Shraddha, with these 687 reunions in the span of 6 months, brought about catharsis and emotional closure.

Citing a case in point. Brought in by Mumbai Dadar Police, Bamo was a patient inside Shraddha for a good 5 years. Almost mute, we ourselves were at a loss as to why we had sheltered him that long. Perhaps it was his innocence, a quality which comes naturally to the roadside wandering mentally ill. Perhaps it was our hope that someday the case would crack, us being hardcore optimists. Anyways, Providence being what it is, there was a Musical Programme held inside the Karjat Centre for the entertainment of the patients, kind courtesy one Celebration Group of a certain Yogesh Ruparel, and Bamo ended up attending the musical programme and interacting with our Odisha Social Worker, Sunil Das, who was also there attending the same. While earlier Bamo had never spoken a word of Odiya, this time he did. Perhaps the live musical programme helped loosen him up. Something stirred inside Sunil. Sunil Das felt that Bamo might be from Orissa, and requested us to transfer Bamo to our Shraddhwan Center in Nagpur, where Sunil had been posted. In Shraddhawan, Bamo told Sunil Das about one festival (Chaiti Festival, a local Tribal festival in Rayagada District of Odisha) and also mentioned Kashipur Rath Yatra. Then Sunil searched in Google about Kashipur Rath Yatra and coincidentally One Vlogger (Saroj

Kumar) had posted on Instagram about Kashipur Rath Yatra. Sunil sent Saroj Kumar a message regarding Bamo and asked him to share Bamo's photos and trace out his family. The Vlogger Saroj Kumar circulated the photo and finally one aged person recognised Bamo and the Vlogger Saroj Kumar (an entity unknown to Shraddha, or to Bamo until a few days before) made contact with Bamo's family. The Vlogger Saroj Kumar called our Social Worker Sunil Das and shared this good news with him. Both of them now emotionally charged up, Saroj Kumar and Sunil Das left for the very same Rayagada District of Odisha and reached at the same time, and Bamo's family of 2 elder sisters and the whole village welcomed Sunil Das and Saroj Kumar with a garland procession. It was unbelievable. Bamo had left his house when he was 11 years old, had gone to visit Visakhapatnam with his friends but unfortunately had gone missing from there. 20 years later, with 5 years of sheltering in Shraddha thrown in, a chain of events starting with a musical programme and ending with a hitherto unknown Vlogger Saroj Kumar pitching in, had led to the most emotional Reunion of the Year. The Gods could and did weave their magic wands. The news went viral in the whole of Odisha, with every newspaper and TV channel covering it. Shraddha and Sunil Das, were over the moon.

The second instance was of one Adilaxmi, sheltered in Pune Yerwada Mental Hospital since October 2016, now aged and in a wheelchair. Giving credit to our Team led by Associate Psychiatrist Dr Swarali Kondwilkar in selecting an elderly inmate on a wheelchair for attempted reunion with her family, she was brought to our Karjat Center. Our Kannada RMO, Dr Srinivas More, interacted with her and confirmed that she was from Bellary in Karnataka. Given that she was elderly, and in a wheelchair, we had to attempt the Reunion in Shraddha Ambulance. Taking 10 recovered destitutes (7 males & 3 females), Shraddha Ambulance set off for a Maharashtra-Telangana-Andhra Pradesh-Karnataka sojourn. Some people identified Adilaxmi as having been spotted sitting outside a temple in Bellary years ago (the female wandering mentally ill often finding subconscious solace and security in temple areas). But no one knew the whereabouts of her family. Alas, she was brought back to Karjat and handed over back to Pune Yerwada Mental Hospital. But in the meantime, her photo taken by some well-wishers on the streets of Bellary hit social media, and finally found its way to her children. The children recognized their mother, but did not know how to contact Shraddha. The son, ingenuity striking his sensibilities, started scouring the CCTV footage of camera placed in the public areas of Bellary, which could have captured the movements of Shraddha Ambulance traversing them, and finally succeeded in accessing both the address and the mobile number of Shraddha from the CCTV captured screenshots. A couple of confirmatory calls and the son and 2 daughters were on their way from Bellary in Karnataka to our Karjat Center in Maharashtra. In the meantime, Shraddha Team went and brought Adilaxmi from Pune Yerwada Mental Hospital to Karjat. And lo and behold, when they reached Karjat, the children were already there to welcome her. Reunited after 22 years, the children disclosed that every year during the mourning 'Shraadh' period, they used to take out their mother's personal 'saree' and do 'puja' with it, in her memory, presuming their mother was no more. And today, to find her alive and well, was for them Nirvana achieved. From presumed dead to definitely alive, was Heaven entered, for the children.

As professionals, the vexing psychological question remains as to when does a family stop waiting for the arrival of a loved-but-disappeared and perhaps-no-more relative and when does it move on to true emotional closure. This, when the harsh gut-wrenching truth all along, is that the mentally-ill destitute is alive in his/her own parallel universe created by his/her own wandering, unnamed, unseen, unheard, in an unknown region altogether.

Last but not the least, was the miraculous Reunion of Manta. Manta had left home from Motihari in East Champaran District in distant Bihar in a post-partum psychotic state, tragically with her new-born daughter and her 4 year old child in tow. She reached Nanded somehow in her mentally disturbed condition and was providentially apprehended by Nanded Police, who following protocol gave the

custody of the children to Child Welfare Committee, Nanded and Manta to the nearest Govt Mental Hospital viz. Pune Yerwada Mental Hospital, which, six months of treatment later, reached out to Shraddha to help find her antecedents. She was reunited with her husband in Bihar, then immediately brought along with the husband to Karjat by our Team of Bikash Rajak & Maria for further reunion with her children sheltered by CWC Nanded. Dr Prathamesh Hemnani & Neelam Shirsath led the efforts in procuring the children's custody from Nanded CWC. Newbie Shraddha Associate Psychiatrist Dr Prathamesh put the experience into words 'The emotions I felt after seeing both the daughters with their parents, especially the handover, was phenomenal, will be etched in my memory forever. Two months into joining Shraddha, but the day before yesterday I felt I had contributed something. Did some meaningful work. Because sometimes, healing is not just clinical – it's human.' Dr Rajwantsingh Kadamb, the Chairman of CWC Nanded, went out of his way to ensure the smooth transition of the children's custody from CWC Nanded to the parents, and sent us an official letter of praise to boot (attached herewith), for Shraddha's proactiveness in the entire matter.

Moving further, we forged a collaboration by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Manavsewa Ashram, the leading NGO in Nepal, the MoU being signed in the presence of The Consul General of India, Shri Devi Sahai Meena. These cross-border collaborative efforts were spearheaded by the proactive efforts of our senior Social Workers Bikash Rajak and Kabita Tirkey. They had already transferred 69 Indians (yes, Indians) who were rescued off the roads of Nepal in a mentally ill wandering condition, to our Karjat Center in Maharashtra, even before the signing of this MoU. Out of the 69 Indians transferred, 64 have already been reunited with their families in India. Apparently, there are approximately 300 odd mentally ill Indians sheltered within their different branches in Nepal.

Our efforts over the years towards the cause of the wandering mentally ill were acknowledged by no less a person than **The President of India, who invited me over for an 'At-home' Reception at Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi on January 26th, the Republic Day of India, 2025 and, as it turned out, I was the only doctor invited from the State of Maharashtra.**

While this was a Red-Letter day in the annals of Shraddha, the bottom line remained that Poverty, Homelessness, Un-Employment, Lack of Awareness of Mental Illness, Discrimination, Stigma and Non-Availability of Professional Psychiatric Care across swathes of Populations and Districts were issues that existed across the entire country and could not be brushed under the carpet.

The words of Vinoba Bhave, give us continued inspiration 'We talk of & try to inculcate values of no attachment, no virtues and no vices. It is considered enough if there is only peace of mind, whatever the circumstances may be. But the golden question is this, how can there be peace of mind, when the world abounds in so much of suffering? A socio-economic equality (has to exist) in which the emphasis is as much on the pain of one section of society, as on the pain of an entire society. Liberation of a single self cannot happen, by leaving the pain of all the lesser men behind.'

Regards and Respects,



Dr Bharat Vatwani
Team Shraddha
Ramon Magsaysay Awardee 2018



सत्यमेव जयते



On the occasion of the Republic Day

The President of Bharat

requests the pleasure of the company of

Dr. Bharat Vatwani

to

'At-Home' Reception

at Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi

on Sunday, January 26, 2025 at 1600 hrs.

R.S.V.P. : 23012960, 23018345, 23015321 Extension 4229, 4479
e-mail : invitation@rb.nic.in

Dress : Formal/Winter Ceremonial Dress



BAMO REUNION AFTER 2 DECADES



ପ୍ରମେୟ

THE PRAMEYA
 PRINTED AT BHUBANESWAR SAMBALPUR PANKOJI JEYPORE
 18 PAGES | ₹7.00
 VOLUME 14 | ISSUE 289 | JEYPORE
 19 FEBRUARY 2025 | WEDNESDAY



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ମାନସିକ ଭାରସାମ୍ୟ ହରାଇ ନିଶ୍ଚୋକ ଥିଲେ

୧୫ ବର୍ଷ ପରେ ଘରକୁ ଫେରିଲେ ବାମଦେବ

→ ମୁମ୍ବାଇର ଦାଦର ଷ୍ଟେସନରେ ଅସହାୟ ଅବସ୍ଥାରେ ପଡ଼ିଥିଲେ, ଜୀବନ ବଞ୍ଚାଇଲା ଶ୍ରଦ୍ଧା ପାଇଝେସନ

ଡିଜିଟାଲ(ଆପ୍): ଦୀର୍ଘ ୧୫ ବର୍ଷ ପରେ ଘରକୁ ଫେରିଛନ୍ତି କାଶୀପୁର କଲୋନିଆଲର ବାମଦେବ ନାୟକ । ମାନସିକ ଭାରସାମ୍ୟ ହରାଇ କେଉଁଆଡ଼େ ଚାଲିଯାଇଥିଲେ, ମୁମ୍ବାଇର 'ଶ୍ରଦ୍ଧା ପାଇଝେସନ', କାଶୀପୁର ସାମାଜିକ କର୍ମୀ ସୁନୀଲ ଦାସ, ପଟ୍ଟୋଗ୍ରାଫର ସରୋଜ କୁମାର ଏବଂ ସାମ୍ବାଦିକ ଚୁଲିଆ ମଣ୍ଡଳଙ୍କ ସହଯୋଗରେ ବାମଦେବ ତାଙ୍କ ନିଜ ଘରେ ପହଞ୍ଚିଛନ୍ତି । ହଜିଲା ପୁଅକୁ ପାଇବା ପରେ ପରିବାରରେ ଖୁସି ଖେଳିଯାଇଛି ।



ହରିଜନପଠା ସ୍କୁଲ ଏବଂ ସୁନବେଡ଼ା ବବାଦରେ କହିଥିଲେ । ସାମାଜିକ କର୍ମୀ ଶ୍ରୀ ଦାସ, ପଟ୍ଟୋଗ୍ରାଫର ସରୋଜକୁ ସାମାଜିକ ଗଣମାଧ୍ୟମରେ ଯୋଗାଯୋଗ କରିଥିଲେ । ସମସ୍ତ ଚର୍ଚ୍ଚା ଜଣାଇଥିଲେ । ଏହାପରେ ବାମଦେବ କାଶୀପୁରର ବୋଲି ଜଣାପଡ଼ିଥିଲା । ସାମ୍ବାଦିକ ଶ୍ରୀ ମଣ୍ଡଳ ମୁମ୍ବାଇର ଉଚ୍ଚ ପାଇଝେସନ ଏବଂ ବାମଦେବଙ୍କ ପରିବାର ମଧ୍ୟରେ ଲିଡ଼ିଓ କଲରେ ସଂଯୋଗ ସ୍ଥାପନ କରିଥିଲେ । ଚିହ୍ନା ପରିଚୟ ପରେ ସମ୍ପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ସଂସ୍ଥା କର୍ମକର୍ମୀ ବାମଦେବଙ୍କୁ ଘରରେ ମୁମ୍ବାଇକୁ କାଶୀପୁର ଅଣିଥିଲେ । ଘରେ ପହଞ୍ଚିବା ପରେ ସମସ୍ତଙ୍କ ଆଖିରେ ଆନନ୍ଦର ଅଶ୍ରୁ ବହିଯାଇଥିଲା । ସମସ୍ତଙ୍କୁ ପରିବାର ସଦସ୍ୟ କୃତଜ୍ଞତା ଜଣାଇଥିଲେ । ଔଷଧ ସେବନ, ମାନସିକ ରୋଗୀଙ୍କ ଦାୟିତ୍ୱ ବାବଦରେ ପାଇଝେସନ କର୍ମକର୍ମୀ ଦୁଃଖାଇଥିଲେ । ଏମିତିକି ଆଗକୁ ସମସ୍ତ ଔଷଧ ଯୋଗାଇ ଦିଆଯିବ ବୋଲି ପ୍ରତିଶ୍ରୁତି ଦେଇଥିଲେ ।

ବାପାମାଆଙ୍କ ମୃତ୍ୟୁ ପରେ ବାମଦେବ ଏକଟିଆ ହୋଇଯାଇଥିଲେ । ଲୁଇଁ ସଦା ଏବଂ ରଞ୍ଜନ ତାଙ୍କୁ ପୁଅ ଭଳିଆ ପାଳିଥିଲେ । ମାନସିକ ସତ୍ତ୍ୱଳନ ହରାଇବା ପରେ ୨୦୧୦ ମସିହାରେ ବାମଦେବ ଘରୁ କେଉଁଆଡ଼େ ଚାଲିଯାଇଥିଲେ । ପରିବାର ଏବଂ ସମ୍ପର୍କୀୟ ଚାରିଆଡ଼େ ଖୋଜାଖୋଜି କରି ନିରାଶ ହୋଇଥିଲେ ।

ସନ୍ଧାନ ନମିଳିବାରୁ ସମସ୍ତେ ଆଶା ଛାଡ଼ିଦେଇଥିଲେ । କୌଣସି ପ୍ରକାରେ ପହଞ୍ଚିଥିଲେ ମୁମ୍ବାଇରେ । ମୁମ୍ବାଇର ଶ୍ରଦ୍ଧା ପାଇଝେସନର କର୍ମୀଙ୍କ ପୂଜନ

ଅନୁଯାୟୀ, ୨୦୧୯ ମସିହାରେ ଦାଦର ଷ୍ଟେସନ ପାଖରେ ବାମଦେବ ଦଉନାୟ ଭାବେ ପଡ଼ିରହିଥିଲେ । ତାଙ୍କୁ ଉଦ୍ଧାର କରିବା ପାଇଁ ମନଃସୂଚିତ ତାଙ୍କର ଭଉଟ

ଭଟ୍ଟାଚାର୍ଯ୍ୟଙ୍କୁ ଦେଖାଯାଇଥିଲା । ଚିକିତ୍ସା ଜାରି ରହିଥିଲେ ବି ସେ ୫ ବର୍ଷ ପର୍ଯ୍ୟନ୍ତ ନିଜ ସମ୍ପର୍କରେ କିଛି କହିପାରିନଥିଲେ । ଗତ ଜାନୁଆରୀରେ କାଶୀପୁର ରଥପତ୍ର,





महाराष्ट्र शासन

कार्यालय - बाल कल्याण समिती, नांदेड

कमला नेहरु कन्या शाळेसमोर, श्रध्दा कॉलनी, छत्रपती चौक, नांदेड-४३१६०५.

Email Id-cwcnanded@gmail.com Mo.No.७०२०९२२३४२/९९२२०३१०००/८८८८९५६२५८/९४०३७४७१५/८८८८५७८९८/८८०५०४१०

जा.क्र./बा.क.स.नां/

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दिनांक

22/07/2025

(कृतज्ञता पत्र)

प्रति,

आदरनीय डॉ. भरत वाटवानी सर,

संस्थापक विश्वस्त,

(यांना २०१८ सालचा रेमोन मॅगसेसे पुरस्काराने विभूषित केले)

श्रध्दा रिहॅबिलिटेशन फाऊंडेशन,

श्रध्दा, वेणगाव दहिवलीच्या नंतर,

कर्जत (पुर्व) जिल्हा रायगड - महाराष्ट्र.

आदरनीय डॉ. भरत वाटवानी सर सादर प्रणाम !

हमारे नांदेड में एक महिला उसके दो बेटिया समेत बिहार से गलत ट्रेन मे बैठने की वजह से नांदेड पहुंच गयी, इस वजह से उसे दिमाग पर गहरा प्रभाव हुआ, उसकी एक बीटीया उन्ही के साथ और दुसरी पुलीस को दुसरी जगह मिली हमारे पास पुलीस व्दारा महिलाको एवमं उसके बेटियों को दिनांक १९.०८.२०२४ लाने पर महिला की दिमागी हालात ठिक नहीं होणे की वजह से सिवोल हॉस्पिटल मे भर्ती कराया गया, उनके दोनो बेटियों की हमारे व्दारा बालगृह मे प्रवेशित किया गया!

महिला को और उपचार की जरूरत होनी की वजह से न्यायालयीन आदेश प्राप्त कर दिनांक ११.०९.२०२४ येरवडा पुणे मे प्रादेशीक मनोरुग्णालय मे भर्ती कराया गया हम येरवडा मनोरुग्णालय के अधीक्षक मॅडम से समय समय पर महिला की उपचार संबंधी जानकारी लेते रहे!

येरवडा मनोरुग्णालय के डॉक्टरोंने उसे आगे मानसीक उपचार की जरूरत के लिए आपके पास भेजने की बात कही, और आपके यहा दिनांक ०२.०५.२०२५ को भेजा, आपने इस महिला का मानसीक उपचार करने के पश्चात महिलासे बातचीत कर उसके परिवार का पता लगाया, बिहार के छोटो से गाव जाकर महिला एवमं उनके बेटियोंसे संबंधीत पुरा रेकार्ड प्राप्त कर हमसे संपर्क कर दिनांक ०९/०७/२०२५ को हमारे समक्ष इस महिला एवमं उसके पती को लाया गया, हमने महिला एवमं उसके पती से बात कर, सभी दस्ताएवंजो की छानबीन कर इस महिला एवमं उसके पती को उनके दोनो बच्चो सौपने के लिए बालगृह को आदेशीत किया!

आपके फाऊडेशन के डॉ. प्रथमेश नेमानानी एवमं एक महिला कर्मचारी निलम राणा सिरसाट ने उन्हे बालगृह से उनके बेटियों को लेने के लिए गाडी की व्यवस्था की उसके पश्चात महिला व उसके पतीव्दारा बेटियों बालगृहसे लेने के उपरान्त उन्हे बिहार तक उनके गांव भेजने के लिए पुरी व्यवस्था एवमं पैसे भी आपके व्दारा दि गये!



इस तरह आपने एक परीवार जो बिखर चुका था उसे फिर से एक जगह लाने मे जो योगदान दिया वह सिर्फ प्रशंसा के पात्र नहीं बल्की हमने आपके इस कार्य का किस तरह धन्यवाद व्यक्त करना यह प्रश्न हमारे सामने है!

डॉ. प्रथमेश हेमनानी हमसे मिलने पर हमने उन्हे कहा की आपका कार्य बहोत ही उल्लेखनीय है हम आपको प्रशंसा पत्र देगे पर जब आपके कार्या की विस्तृत जानकारी प्राप्त की तो ऐसे लगा की आपका कार्य प्रशंसा के परे है और हमने आपको प्रशंसा पत्र देना यह हक्क हमे नहीं बनता इसलिये हमने आपका धन्यवाद व्यक्त करने के लिए यह कृतज्ञता पत्र भेज रहे है!

हमने, बहोत NGO देखे है उसमे कुछ अच्छा कार्य करते है कुछ का सभी को पता है पर आप जैसे दिल से सच्चा कार्य करने वाले बहोत कम है! आप जैसे सच्चे लोगो की समाज को आवश्यकता, आपका कार्य सराहनीय से परे है इसलिए हम आपके कार्य के लिए कृतज्ञता व्यक्त करते है !

धन्यवाद !

आपका सेवक

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नांदेड

PHOTO OF THE SIGNING OF THE MOU WITH MANAVSEWA ASHRAM, NEPAL IN THE PRESENCE OF THE CONSUL GENERAL OF INDIA, SHRI DEVI SAHAI MEENA

