



THE LOOMBA TRUST ACTIVITY REPORT

31st January, 2004

Profile

The Trust was established in the UK on 26 June 1997. It was created by Raj and Veena Loomba by charitable trust deed, and has a sister charity registered in India. The inspiration came from Raj's late mother, **Shrimati Pushpa Wati Loomba**, who became a widow at the age of 37 and succeeded in educating her seven children single-handed. The Trust aims to educate the children of poor widows throughout India.

The Trust was officially launched in London on 25 March 1998 in the presence of the Prime Minister, **The Rt. Hon. Tony Blair MP**. The Trust also received the support of the Prime Minister of India, **The Honourable Atal Behari Vajpayee**, who inaugurated the Trust in New Delhi on 31 March 1999.

Patrons

Cherie Booth QC

The Rt. Hon. Countess Mountbatten of Burma CBE, CD, JP, DL

Sir Sigmund Sternberg O. St. J., K.C.S.G., J.P.

Joanna Lumley OBE

Sir Mark Tully OBE

Baroness Helena Kennedy of the Shaws QC

The Rt. Hon. Baroness Betty Boothroyd PC

Baroness Jay of Paddington

Lady Williams

Trustees

Raj Loomba (Chairman Trustee, UK)

Lord Dholakia of Waltham Brooks OBE, DL

Lord Slynn of Hadley

Lady Brennan

Shamin Lalji

Veena Loomba

Reeta Sarkar

Roma Loomba

Rinku Loomba

In India, the Trust has four trustees, of whom **Dr L M Singhvi MP, Rajya Sabha** is the Chairman Trustee along with Raj Loomba, S.K. Khanna and S. Malik.

OBJECTIVES

The Trust's objectives are to promote the welfare and **education of children of poor widows, orphaned children, and also children who have lost their mothers, as a result of natural disaster and for other auxiliary purposes as the trustees may determine.**

The Trust aims to expand its education programmes nationwide to all of the **28 States and 7 Union Territories in India**, thus raising awareness of the plight of Indian widows and their children.

EDUCATIONAL STATE PROGRAMMES

Delhi Programme

This programme was started on **31 March 1999**, at the inauguration of the Trust, which took place at the **Prime Minister of India, The Honourable Atal Behari Vajpayee's** residence in Delhi. 49 girls and 51 boys benefit from the Trust and each child will be supported up to their graduation and beyond if they wish to pursue Higher Education.

Orissa Programme

This programme was launched on **5 January 2001**, and was attended by the **Governor of Orissa, HE Shri M M Rajendran**. The programme is run by NSP (Nilachal Seva Pratisthan), an Indian Government accredited NGO. The Trust is funding 100 children who lost their fathers and in some cases both parents, during the devastating 1999 cyclone in Orissa.

Gujarat Programme

This programme was started in **November 2001** and launched by **Mr Edmund Marsden, the Chairman of the British Council in India**. The Trust has selected 50 children from the Bhuj area; the area worst hit by the 2001 earthquake, and the other 50 beneficiaries are from Ahmedabad and surrounding areas.

Rajasthan Programme

The Rajasthan programme was launched on **18 January 2002** in Jodhpur. It was presided over by the then **Union Finance Minister, Honourable Shri Yashwant Sinha** in the presence of 500 guests.

Punjab Programme

This programme started in **July 2002** and was officially launched in the holy City of Amritsar at the Guru Nanak Dev University on April 24, 2003. Both Lord Dholakia of Waltham and Lord Williams of Mostyn from UK, attended the launch. The Trust is educating 100 students who are receiving 500 Indian Rupees monthly for a guaranteed period of five years.

Andhra Pradesh Programme

The Andhra Pradesh programme for education of 100 children was launched in Hyderabad on 6 **January, 2003** by **Ms. Patricia Hewitt, Secretary of State, Trade and Industry, UK.** Shri. Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa, Union Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers and Mr. Mark Runacres, Acting British High Commissioner were also present on this occasion.

Haryana Programme

The Haryana programme was started in July 2003. The Trust is educating 100 students in the State, consisting of 66 girls and 34 boys.

Uttaranchal Pradesh Programme

The Uttaranchal Pradesh programme was launched on 8th September, 2003 in Nainital. The programme was launched by the Hon'ble **Governor of Uttaranchal, HE Shri. Sudharshan Aggarwal** at Raj Bhawan. The Trust is providing scholarships to 110 children.

Tamil Nadu Programme

The Tamil Nadu programme to educate 200 children of poor widows was launched at Raj Bhawan by His Excellency, the Honourable Governor Shri P.S. Ramamohan on 13th January, 2004. The Sriram Welfare Trust, a local NGO has agreed to supervise the programme as well as support it by matching the 100 scholarships to be provided by the Trust. Therefore, there will be 200 children of poor widows benefitting in the state of Tamil Nadu.

Arunachal Pradesh Programme

The Arunachal Pradesh Programme was launched at the residence of the Honourable chief Minister, Shri Geong Apaang on 14th November, 2003. The launch was attended by many state dignitaries, including the Honourable Governor, Shri. Pandey and the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister of India, Shri L. K. Advani, who gave cheques to 12 children of poor widows selected by the Loomba Trust.

FUNDRAISING EVENTS

- 4 November 1999 – The British Indian Diwali of the Century Banquet, at which **HRH The Princess Royal** was Guest of Honour.
- 2000 - **Sir Richard Branson**, Chairman of Virgin Atlantic, supported the Trust through the 'Change for Children' Appeal on Virgin flights, as well as making an Appeal on BBC Radio 4 in support of the Trust.

- 5 November 2000 – London First Diwali 2000 Dinner, at which the **Mayor of London, Ken Livingstone**, was Guest of Honour.
- 18 July 2001 – British Indian Golden Jubilee Banquet in association with Care International UK to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of India becoming a Republic. The banquet was attended by HRH The Duke of Kent.
- 1 November 2001 – London First Diwali 2001 Dinner, at which the **Leader of the Liberal Democrats, The Rt. Hon. Charles Kennedy MP**, was Guest of Honour.
- 22 November 2001 - Reception at the Delhi residence of the British High Commissioner in India, **His Excellency Sir Rob Young and Lady Young**, in aid of the Trust.
- 8 May 2002 – Dinner at the House of Lords, at which the Trust was privileged to welcome **Joanna Lumley OBE** as Guest of Honour and speaker.
- 28 May 2002 – Dinner at the House of Lords on the theme of Corporate Social Responsibility, at which **Countess Mountbatten of Burma** was Guest of Honour and speaker.
- 10 June 2002 – Luncheon at which **Sir Mark Tully OBE** was Guest of Honour and speaker. The Trust's documentary, "World of Widows", which was scripted and narrated by Sir Tully, was shown to great effect to the guests.
- 26 June 2002 – Launch of the Trust in Scotland by **Sir David Steel, the Presiding Officer of the Scottish Parliament**, at The Scotch Whisky Heritage Centre, Edinburgh. The Trust was grateful to Cairn Energy Plc who sponsored the launch.
- 24 October 2002 – Diwali at the Savoy Charity Dinner. The Trust, the Mayor of London and London First co-hosted a charity dinner at the Savoy Hotel held to celebrate the Indian Festival of Light – Diwali. **Baroness Betty Boothroyd**, former Speaker of the House of Commons, was moved by the work of the charity and agreed to become one of its patrons, offering her personal support to widows and their children in India.
- 9 December 2002 - Reception at 10 Downing Street, hosted by **Cherie Booth QC**, in aid of the work of the Trust. Speaking at the reception, Cherie Booth commended the Trust for raising sufficient funds to educate 1000 children of poor widows in India since its launch in 1998.
- 6 March 2003 – 5th Anniversary celebration lunch, hosted by **Lord Dholakia OBE DL** at the House of Lords. The Guest of Honour was **Baroness Jay of Paddington**, who further honoured the Trust by agreeing to become a patron.
- 12 May 2003 – Dinner at City Hall hosted by the **Mayor of London**, to help the Loomba Trust raise the funds necessary to educate at a London university two children, who have already benefited from the Loomba Trust in Delhi. The University of Westminster and London Metropolitan University agreed during the evening to waive tuition fees for a three-year degree course for these two children, additionally Air India and British Airways undertook to support their travel from India

- April 2003 - **Dr Mike Krimholtz, son-in-law of Lord and Lady Dholakia** supported the work of the Loomba Trust by participating in the Polar Race. He walked 350 miles from Resolute Bay in Canada to the North Magnetic Pole and raised over £2,000 for the Trust.
- 26 June 2003 – Lunch at the House of Lords co-hosted by The Loomba Trust and the **Rt. Hon. Lord Dholakia of Waltham Brooks OBE DL**, in order to celebrate India and the Indian Diaspora through a research programme entitled, ‘The Global Position of India 2010’ to be conducted by the Royal Institute of International Affairs (Chatham House). The research programme is expected to start in 2004 and will run initially for two years at a cost of £50,000 per year.
- 16 October 2003 - Diwali at the Savoy Charity Dinner, once again co-hosted by The Loomba Trust, London First and the Mayor of London. A grand total of £106,258 was raised during the evening, out of which amount of £5000.00 has been donated to a London Charity, Project Fullemploy.

OVERVIEW

The Loomba Trust although young, has gone from strength to strength. To date, the Trust has raised over £600,000 and is educating 1100 children of poor widows in India. Each child will receive scholarship guaranteed for a period of five years.

**OUR ULTIMATE AIM IS TO EDUCATE AT LEAST
100 CHILDREN IN ALL 28 STATES AND 7 UNION
TERRITORIES IN INDIA**