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## THE TEAM

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It has been 62 years since independence, since we made a 'tryst with destiny', since we dreamt of a new India...a country where truth, knowledge and happiness abound, and cries of pain are replaced by joyous laughter...Sadly, we know we do not live in such a country even as we look around us – the poverty is heart rending, the illiteracy pitiful, and the apathy is simply shocking.

India needs to develop – not just economically, but socially as well. It would be wrong to call a country 'developed' unless and until all its children are literate, its population healthy and self sufficient and its women are leading life with respect and dignity. The key to social development is individual development – which includes everything from emotion to action; from self-help to selfless help. What we really need in this country today is a revolution – at the individual level.

*“Until the great mass of the people shall be filled with the sense of responsibility for each other’s welfare, social justice can never be attained.” – Helen Keller.*

Instead of thinking what others are doing for the poverty and illiteracy that you see, you could take a bold step yourself. Teach your servant’s child the alphabet. Hold a cleanliness aware-

ness programme in your society. Instead of wrinkling your nose at the garbage on the streets, try not throwing a single wrapper out the window. Segregate wet and dry waste. Instead of cribbing about pollution, go green! Use paper bags, and not plastic; use less of petrol and diesel. Plant a tree! These are simple things everyone can do, in spite of a busy schedule and personal responsibilities.

The youth of today plays a major role in this process of social development. We, the youth, often forget, in the long run, that we owe a certain responsibility to our country, India – society is incomplete without us. We expect so much from our country, but we overlook the fact that the country expects something from us as well. That is why it is necessary for us to realize our duties and not run away from them but instead face the challenges that come our way. We need to stop the brain-drain, the careless 'Chalta hai' attitude, and exploitation of resources. We need to cultivate sympathy, empathy and kindness. And we can only live in happiness and harmony if each of us takes a step, a step towards a positive change.

...educating  
young minds  
to brighten  
the future of  
India...

## SHIKSHA

Poverty has been the main reason for increase of drop outs in the government schools. Addressing this problem, Nirmaan Goa has come up with PROJECT SHIKSHA . SHIKSHA is a teaching program under the Knowledge operations of Nirmaan Organization, Goa chapter. The objective of this program is to train the 5<sup>th</sup> standard students of Government High School, Zuarinagar for the Navodaya exam, which is an entrance test for Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas. These schools provide its students with 6 years of free and quality education.

A series of brain storming sessions were held in designing the teaching curriculum and schedule.

The project finally kicked off with a Parent Teacher meeting, aimed to raise awareness



about Navodaya Schools among the parents of the students.

Currently, a team of 14 volunteers are visiting Zuarinagar everyday and coaching the students for the Navodaya Entrance Test, scheduled for February 9th, 2010.

## School Adoption Program (SAP)

The government middle school, Zuarinagar, had been chosen last semester for adoption by



Nirmaan after visiting around 7 schools in neighboring areas of BPGC. This semester we came around with a time bound and objective specific plan to transform this school into a model school as mention in Nirmaan-SAP Charter. As part of this, we donated a public address system to the school on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2009(Teachers' Day) in presence of Prof. Suresh Ramaswamy (Chief Warden) and Prof. Meenakshi Raman(Head, Humanities Group). Both of them were touched by this

experience. Prof. Raman congratulated Nirmaan on doing such inordinate work by saying "...only this kind of work would bring noticeable change in our society."

SAP is also working on up gradation of the lavatory facilities of the schools and we have also received sponsorship offers for this project. In the next semester many more infra-structural up gradations in the same school such as construction of shed and upgrading library in the school will be taken up.

Also, GYAAN BODH is started under SAP this semester to teach the students basic concepts of science. Under this program, technological innovations are used in educating the students in government schools and simple experiments are performed in schools to teach the concepts of physics, chemistry and so on. Also there would be an environment club which would work in creating environmental awareness amongst school children and conducting field trips in biologically rich areas of Goa.

## THE PINK RIBBON CAMPAIGN

Nirmaan, in collaboration with *Team Mirchi* (the team from Radiomirchi), *Note India* and *Muskaan* organized the Pink Ribbon Campaign at BITS Pilani Goa Campus on the 28<sup>th</sup> of October, 2009. This campaign was aimed at creating awareness among the women folk about Breast Cancer, which is the most common form of cancer among women, with an incidence rate of more than twice that of other cancers. The session was interactive, and dealt mainly with information regarding how common this kind of cancer is, what precau-

**PINK RIBBON**  
international

tions one must take to reduce the risk of suffering from it and how to identify it at an early stage and seek proper treatment. A presentation depicting the procedure for self examinations and hence early detection of cancer was also shown. The campaign was successful in our campus, due to the presence of our very own faculty members, and a very good response from girl students as well. It was an eye opener for all, and we believe that all those who attended the lecture have greatly benefitted from it.

ACT AS IF WHAT YOU DO MAKES A DIFFERENCE. IT DOES."

~WILLIAM JAMES

## SELF HELP GROUPS

*"The greatest good that you can do for another is not just to share your riches but to reveal to him his own"*

The self help groups of Nirmaan are aimed at empowering the women of Zeri. This provides with income to support their families and gives them a sense of independence as well.

### Paper Bags

This semester, the team began its work with experimenting different kind of papers that can be used for paprebag production so as to enter into a commercial market. . A market survey had been done to learn about the demand and the prices of these paper bags at various shops in Vasco and Panjim. The team also bagged an order of 1500 fancy paper bags from the Organizing Committee, QUARK'10, innovation festival of BITS-GOA.



### Stitching and Embroidery SHGs

An exhibition cum sales stall of the products made by the women in SHG's of Nirmaan was put up during WAVES, cultural festival of our campus. The products that were sold included bandanas, wrist bands, skirts, wallets, pouches and different types of hair bands. The stall was a huge hit with an awesome response and all the products were sold in a matter of few hours. Kudos to the people behind this success !!

INNOVATE  
THE WAYS TO  
MAKE A WAY  
FOR THE  
NEEDY.....

WHERE the mind is without fear and the head is held high  
Where knowledge is free  
Where the world has not been broken up into fragments  
By narrow domestic walls  
Where words come out from the depth of truth  
Where tireless striving stretches its arms towards perfection  
Where the clear stream of reason has not lost its way  
Into the dreary desert sand of dead habit  
Where the mind is led forward  
by thee  
Into ever-widening thought and action  
Into that heaven of freedom, my Father, let my country  
awake.

~Rabindranath Tagore

# *Nirmaan*

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