

NHSF (UK) NATIONAL CHARITY DIVYA SEVA FOUNDATION (DFS)

“If one sows
goodness,
one will reap
goodness”

DSF is a UK registered charity committed to empowering and working with UNDERPRIVILEGED and MARGINALISED communities in less developed countries.

The Foundation works with disadvantaged children, orphans, the elderly and the destitute to provide them with better EDUCATION, HEALTHCARE, CLOTHING and an improved COMMUNITY LIFE.



INSPIRATION

Laxmi Parmar- a bright and ambitious young girl from a small village called Ladkui in Gujarat, India.

Laxmi was born without any arms and has had to manage all her daily activities with only her legs. Despite her disability she remains intent on completing her education, writing all of her notes and taking her tests using only her feet.

“Laxmi is a very unique child; she has a lot to teach me and the rest of the world about determination, resilience, optimism and love”



1) CHILD EDUCATION

Factors that lower girls' school attendance include: fees for tuition; transport; books or uniforms; cultural biases; lack of female teachers; lack of sanitary towels; sexual harassment or abuse; and child marriage.

DSF has 'adopted' 5 schools in the Anand district of Gujarat (West of India) collectively teaching 1000 students.

DSF have committed to meet the fundamental requirements these schools need, including safe drinking water, wheelchairs for children with disabilities, school uniforms, school bags, tables & benches, stationary, books and computers.

Did you know of
the 104 million
6- 11 year old
children not in
school, 60 million
are girls!



2) FREEDOM FOR GIRLS

During a visit to India, DSF realised that less girls were not attending school, and therefore not achieving their goals.

There were 2 main reasons for this:

- 1) Parents did not send girls to school
- 2) Due to monthly cycle girls were missing 5 days of school per month

DSF quickly realised that girls were told not to go to school during their monthly cycle, and if they did go they had to sit in the corner.

There was a complete lack of education regarding the menstrual cycle and why it happens.

They did not have any knowledge on sanitary products and instead used old rags, leaves and even cow dung.

Freedom For Girls aims to raise awareness about the sanitary situations of girls and young women, through

- promoting education, good health and hygiene
- teaching proper disposal of used sanitary towels.

It also strives to provide the young girls with knowledge and skills aimed at making them aware of the physical changes that occur during adolescence.

DSF launched the project in Gujarat, 2009 with the distribution of 1,000 packs of sanitary towels and underwear to girls from underprivileged schools in rural areas.

3) MOTHER & BABY SURVIVAL KIT

More children under the age of five die in India than in any other country in the world, and largely from avoidable causes.

To address these challenges, DSF has developed a 'survival kit' in conjunction with local doctors and nutritionists, to provide the essentials to give new borns a chance at survival.

For Babies: a warm wrapping blanket, changing mat, baby grows, cotton nappies, hats, mittens, bibs, clean towels, soap. Baby powder, baby oil

For Mothers: night gowns, under garments, head scarves, slippers, nutritional packs, sanitary towels and a warm blanket.

These kits are distributed to expectant mothers in rural areas of Gujarat.

DID YOU KNOW?
Of the 27 million babies born in India annually, 3.6 million are born prematurely.



4) COMMUNITY CENTRE- 'ANAND DHAM'

In 2012 DSF recognised the need to have regular activities and a base in the communities they serve.

DSF built a community centre to create a space where all were welcome and a place where they could gain care.

Activities include;

- daily medical clinic > local doctor is on call every day
- weekly dental camps > free check ups, treatments and medicines
- eye camps > check ups for cataracts and free spectacles
- women's empowerment programmes > 20 sewing machines for classes
- feeding & clothing programmes > provide food and necessities twice a week
- local community events > weekly Hanuman Chalisa and inspiring lectures
- Gaushala > care for the needs of ten cows

In this life we cannot do great things. We can only do small things with great love.

- Mother Teresa