



Genesis of MAITRI

In the summer of 1997 many people in Maharashtra were moved with the news of nearly 1,500 child deaths in Melghat due to malnutrition and lack of proper health care. It was a shock of its kind. That was the beginning.

Melghat is the hilly region of nearly 350 small villages and is known to be one of the most underdeveloped regions in the state. The main population is of Korku tribe, which is primitive and marginalized from development processes.

In the rainy months of 1997, nearly 265 volunteers from 11 districts of Maharashtra went to live with those children and work with them to save these vulnerable children. The campaign was remarkably successful and volunteers realized that there is a need to have a permanent structure, which could respond to such emergencies. Fund raising and volunteer mobilization was found to be the core activity.

With this need MAITRI, a trust was formed with a view to mobilize resources for the situations where people suffer due to poverty, ignorance and lack of proper care.

The real drive and force of MAITRI is its volunteers who provide the distinct character to the organization. The trust, MAITRI, acts as a custodian to the money and resources raised.

Over the last sixteen years, the volunteers of MAITRI made lot of difference at various levels.

- In Melghat, the work is going on to provide village level primary and critical health care with support of health education. It also has emphasis on education and providing income generating opportunities to the parents of these children. Sanitation and provision of safe drinking water is another component where the programmed is having focus on since last few years.
- Initiative and support of local people is one of the strong characteristics of Melghat Mitra's work.
- Other projects in Melghat
- Melghat Health Program for avoiding neonatal and infant death.
- Melghat agricultural Program for improving agriculture pattern and in turn the production.
- Melghat Primary Education Program.



MAITRI in emergency

Gujarat Relief Work (2001- 2002): Voluntary effort with the help of local NGO named Unnati.

Tsunami Relief Work (2005): Relief and Rehabilitation work with volunteers based in Pune and local NGO Women's Collective.

Konkan Flood Relief and Rehabilitation (2005 – 06): Voluntary activity with the help of local organizations.

Bihar flood Relief (2008- 09): Volunteers reached in batches and did work with local voluntary organizations. Medical students organized diagnostic camps and distributed blankets to more than 1000 needy people

Leh Cloud Burst (2010): Assessment within a week and was the 1st voluntary organization to reach to affected people in Leh. Raised donation and note-books, library books from school children. Plan to work after February 2011 for land improvement.

Uttarakhand flash floods (2013): Relief and rehabilitation work in affected villages with local NGO 'ARPAN'. **The work is still ongoing.** As immediate relief food, clothing, ration and medical help was provided. Then after MAITRI volunteers are providing support for repairing damaged houses and erecting temporary tin shelters.

Other activities held

- Booklet published on 'Noise Pollution in Pune City' to generate awareness on this issue.
- MAITRI Saunskritik: Organized cultural programmers to generate awareness about Maitri activities and to generate funds for various programmers.
- MAITRI Samvad: Organized lectures on social issues and encourage discussions.

MAITRI has the donor base of nearly 1500 people spread over Pune, Mumbai, US, UK and elsewhere. They are from all age groups and with tremendous diversity in terms of their experiences and social orientations.

Cheques can be given in the name of MAITRI

For online donations:

HDFC Bank, Mayur Colony, Pune. A/c No: 01491450000152

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MAITRI is a trust registered under the Public Trusts Act (# E 2898)

Donations to MAITRI are exempt under section 80(G) of the Income Tax Act.