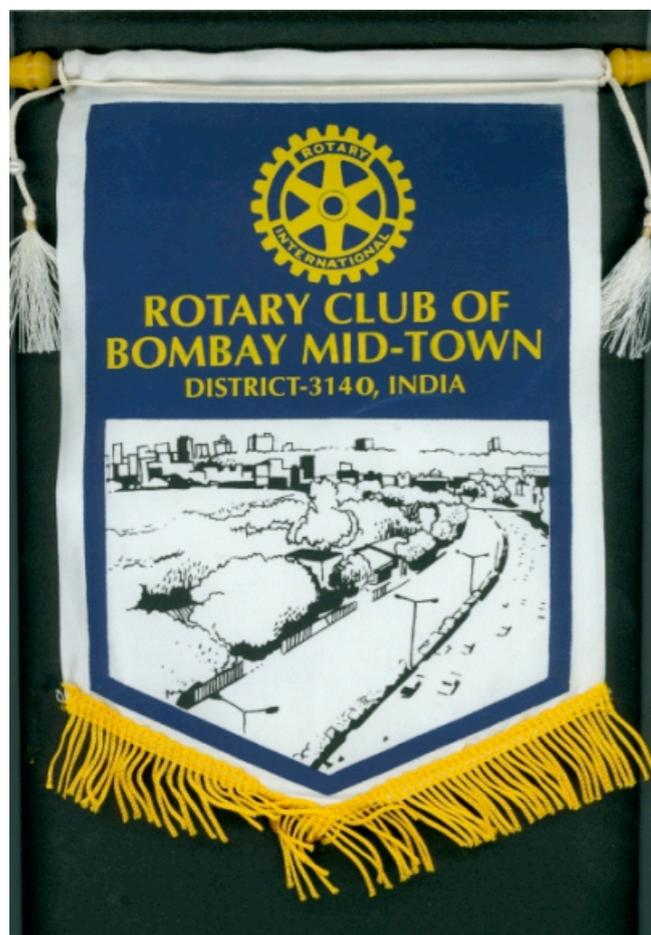


SHARED FUTURES: BUILDING SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES





An International Service Project designed and executed by Rotarian Arrow Sinha Roy from the Rotary Club of Bombay Mid-Town, India

in collaboration with the Rotary Clubs of Parker; Boulder Valley; Centennial; Denver; Denver LoDo; Evergreen; Longmont; Longmont St.Vrain; Longmont Twin Peaks; Westminster 7:10 (D 5450); Seattle # 4 (D 5030); Zurich Nord (D 2000); and Charlotte Hall (D 7620).

And with contributions and participation from *Growing Hearts, Growing Minds*, a student organization at Allegheny College, in Meadville, Pennsylvania (USA)



FACTS



- Today, 1.1 billion people out of total 6 billion lack access to safe, clean drinking water.
- A further 2.6 billion lack access to basic sanitation facilities.
- The two combined, help accelerate the spread of deadly water borne diseases, killing more people than through warfare.

INDIA'S GREATEST VULNERABILITY

672,000
villages—
where 70% of
Indians live



The water scarcity in summer is incredible...



Add to this, the challenges associated with abject poverty ...



Above: A typical tribal hut in remote rural Maharashtra (a State on the west coast of India)

This is a typical hut in Baste and Potkal villages that Allegheny College students saw during a study tour to India in summer 2009



Profile of Baste and Potkal Villages

- 65% of the villagers are landless migrant laborers
- No proper concrete shelters or schools
- No cows or poultry to add protein to a meager subsistence diet
- No formal education or vocational training for young people
- No cash -- hand-to-mouth existence



Conditions are pitiful from February until June (when the monsoons arrive)



- Wells run dry, and women typically walk three miles (one way) to fetch potable water for the home
- Because of no other means to irrigate the fields, farmers were heavily dependent on one crop/year if rains were good
- Heavy deforestation has affected the rainfall in these areas



Safe drinking water -- a luxury in many parts of the world!

- In the summer, villagers and animals share the same source of water
- High rate of disease and infant mortality



These are some of the kids who survived
the “Summer of 2009”



3 out of 10 did not!

“Growing Hearts, Growing Minds” Gets Involved



ALLEGHENY COLLEGE
SUMMER EXPERIENTIAL STUDY TOUR
MAY 2009



Students going on a study tour to India in summer 2009, decided to join hands with the Rotary Club of Bombay Mid-Town (India) and learn first-hand about global citizenship.



The 2009 India EL group with Rtn.Arrow Sinha Roy, (2nd from right in the last row)

WHAT IS “GROWING HEARTS, GROWING MINDS?”

- An Allegheny College student outreach organization whose goals are public diplomacy and global citizenship.
- The goal is to enhance the image of Americans abroad through student ambassadors from Allegheny College who are willing to participate in study tours to, and community-building efforts in India.
- In promoting a collaborative partnership between need-based communities in India and students on this campus, there is a reciprocal model of empowerment – one in which we learn from the communities we support.



BEFORE THE 2009 INDIA STUDY TOUR: Raising Campus Awareness about Lives Half-way Across the World, and Fund-raising

India EI 2009:
Growing Hearts Growing Minds:
Fundraiser for Village Children



Your purchase of a \$15 T-shirt will be used to provide:

- A meal plan for thirty children in Bastar village, India
- Basic educational supplies such as a blackboard, chalk, teaching aids, books, pencils, erasers, and art supplies
- Umbrellas so children don't fall sick from getting wet in the monsoons
- Petromax lamps to enable adult education classes at night,
- A PVC pipe from a nearby dam directly to the village, so women do not need to walk 3 miles to fetch water.



Shirt Styles



Anvil Men's Cotton T
Sizes S, M, L, and XL



Anvil Women's Cotton T
Sizes S, M, L, and XL

Available Colors



Charcoal
(men's sizes only)



Royal Blue



Black



Heather
(women's sizes only)

Transforming Lives through Education....

US Students Visit Watershed Village; Donate \$3,700

May 18, 2009 was an unforgettable day for 20 junior college students and two professors from Allegheny College, Pennsylvania. Ever since they signed up for a 21-day cross-cultural experience tour to India and saw pictures of Baste village, the new Balwadi and the club's Watershed Area Development Project at Baste and Potkhal village, they spontaneously thought of a fund-raising drive to do something for the village community. They were led in this initiative by their Communications professor (PP Arrow Sinha Roy's daughter, Ishita). The students split into four groups, arranging a 'Bollywood Dance Night', designing and selling a special India motif T-shirt, getting parents to buy special 'exam-time kits' they sourced and passing the hat around to everyone – including the Dean. This effort raised around \$3,700 for Baste village and its children.

After a brief stop at Potkhal, the students arrived at Baste to a rousing reception. The throng of excited villagers, all decked up in their best, showed the students around the new Balwadi, in its last phase of completion, and its amenities. The students were also invited to local homes to see how villagers lived, where they slept and their kitchens still fueled by wood fire. The group gathered for a long interaction session with villagers where they were treated to special welcome dances (the students ended up teaching the villagers a few American grooves), impromptu acts by individuals and a long questioning of the ways of life. The experience was an emotional one for the students as villagers of all ages showered them with love and blessings.

The Allegheny fund-raising team leaders handed over 50 sets each of five basic textbooks as well as 30 sets each of slates and chalk for the students of the four Balwadis of Potkhal and Baste. Through our service partner NGO, NIRID, they donated Rs. 66,000 for a new water supply pipe scheme for Baste *pada* that will benefit about 300 households and save women hours of long, arduous walking to get water. "We walk in the dark of the night to a far-off well, because that is when water gathers at the well bottom. We have to brave snakes and scorpions on our way, as we cannot afford torches," said one housewife. The Allegheny team is consulting our Watershed Project Rotarians

to decide how exactly the balance amount can be spent for the welfare of the community.

A special 'Home Beautification' contest was organised and winners were judged on the best Rangoli designs put up by each hut. The students donated Rs. 1,000 for the prizes.

As the day came to an end, a tinge of sadness crept over party. In just a few hours, people who lived across continents had become like family to the villagers of Baste and vice versa. As the coach left for Mumbai, the villagers bid a fond farewell to the students, shouting their good wishes in return for their generosity. The students are determined to create a foundation when they get back, so as to continue making an annual contribution for Baste and its inhabitants.

(Article & photos by PP Arrow Sinha Roy)



A general view of the interactive session



A welcome dance performed by Baste villagers

May-June 09 | MID-TOWN MUSINGS | 17



Above: The school house before and after

AFTER THE 2009 INDIA TRIP: ON RETURNING HOME

Since 2009, the revolving student members of “Growing Hearts, Growing Minds” have raised money for educational supplies, salaries for the village school teachers, a PVC pipeline to bring potable water to the village, and funds for a meal plan for school kids in Baste village.

They also continue to do intercultural programming and generate interest among students in studying about and visiting India.



India Experiential Learning Tour Summer 2012

- Students from an interdisciplinary First-Year seminar (FS 101) collaboration (humanities + natural sciences) on global sustainability will be given first preference to travel to India on the 2012 EL trip and study and participate in the watershed project in Baste village
- Continued partnership with Rotary Club of Bombay Mid-town through Allegheny College's "Growing Hearts, Growing Minds" student organization, and the students traveling to India in 2012
- Goals: Apply learning outcomes from FS101 courses to Experiential Learning process in the Baste village sustainable development dialogues; address new sustainability initiatives to support in Baste



A Few Highlights from the
Rotary Club of Bombay Mid-Town's Watershed Project
with the Baste villagers' Watershed Committee





'Gully Plugs' (mini-dams of boulders) to hold back top-soil & water at each contour level of hill slopes.



320 'Gully Plugs' completed in two years. Major water courses covered.



80,000 saplings were selected and planted during a “Reforestation” drive.

3000 + “Contour Trenches” were dug to reduce velocity of rain water on steep hill slopes and minimize top soil erosion.



Empowering the Villagers to Become Caretakers of the Environment

- From 2012 onwards, 1/4th of the firewood trees will be cut each year & the affected area will be replanted.
- Enough wood for villagers.
- Surplus will be sold.
- Money thus earned, sustains the Watershed project.



Converting Trees into Green Currency

- These 80,000 trees will neutralize 320,000 tons of carbon dioxide emission every year...and help improve the micro-climate.
- Future plans to earn Euros by selling these 'Carbon Credits' and thus providing additional funds to the 'Watershed Committee'.



From a dry river bed to a dam that catches rain water and provides irrigation for year-round farming



300 women now have flourishing kitchen gardens in 30' X 30' plots and they are empowering other women by teaching them how to put food on the table, and make money by selling the surplus vegetables....



This Rotary Club of Bombay Mid-Town watershed project in Baste was selected as one of the top 16 global projects in the world and highlighted at the WASRAG panel at the 2010 International Rotary Convention in Montreal.

Professor Sinha Roy's father (Rotarian Arrow Sinha Roy) is the mastermind behind this amazing sustainability project, and thanks to this family connection, we will be working at the watershed site during the next India EL study tour in summer 2012.



Rtn.Arrow Sinha Roy on extreme left in both pictures



A GLOBAL LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE FOR SAFE WATER

Learning from the Giving Spirit of the Truly Generous

- Laxmi Dive, a poor widow in Baste village, depends on her small plot of land for growing what she needs to eat
- She has donated this small plot to the village community so that a vocational training school can be built for the youth
- Thinking beyond one's own needs for the good of the community is something we can all learn from



SOME FUTURE GOALS
for
GROWING HEARTS, GROWING MINDS ON
THE ALLEGHENY COLLEGE CAMPUS

अहन्यहनि बोद्धव्यं किमेतत् सुकृतं कृतम्॥

Everyday one should think, "Have I done anything good?"

CONTINUING TO EMPHASIZE THE
LESSON OF "ME" TO "WE" IN THE
PRACTICE OF GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP

SOME FUTURE GOALS for “GROWING HEARTS, GROWING MINDS” IN BASTE VILLAGE, INDIA



- Building the vocational school
- Funding much-needed free medical camps
- Continued support of ongoing education initiatives and meal plan for the school children in Baste
- Internships and scholarships for training students in larger cities
- Support for women’s cooperatives and self-employment schemes

