



# Annual Activity Report 2018-19

**SOCIAL EDUCATION VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION  
TRUST  
SEVA TRUST UK (INDIA)**

Public Charitable Trust No. 3615

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## **OUR MISSION AND VISION**

Education – For the public benefit to promote the education of students from underprivileged communities in northern India and elsewhere in India in such ways as the charity trustees think fit, including, but not limited to:

- (1) awarding to such persons scholarships, maintenance allowances or grants tenable at any university, college, school or institution of higher or further education;
- (2) providing coaching, mentoring to furtherance of that education, guidance for higher studies, oversees studies or for entry to any occupation, trade or profession on leaving any educational establishment.

Health & Wellbeing – For the public benefit to promote health & wellbeing among underprivileged communities in northern India and elsewhere in India including, but not limited to:

- (3) coordinating health awareness (including mental health) and yoga sessions;
- (4) arranging or assisting in organising health checks.

Environment - To promote for the benefit of the public the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment among underprivileged communities, farmers and pollution affected areas in northern India and elsewhere in India in such ways as the charity trustees think fit, including, but not limited to:

- (5) coordinating sessions to raise awareness of ecological and environmental sustainability, local and global environmental issues and challenges;

arranging or assisting in environmental monitoring and sharing the findings with the local communities and the appropriate bodies; promoting eco-friendly and sustainable lifestyles including helping to explore renewable energy sources such as solar and wind power.

## Main Activities:

### Education

We have provided scholarships, educational grants and financial support to 56



*Figure 1 Recipients of Educational Grant*

students in Punjab, India from low income and underprivileged communities. Over 75% of grant recipients were girls from rural communities' where gender inequality still is a big challenge.

We have provided an educational grant for special needs school called EkNayiUmeedSpecial Needs School, Raikot, Punjab. This school supports 25 children from low income families and is run by charity support. We have visited this school, met with the children and the management.

Seva Trust of UK and Global Girls Power of Canada are NGOs being run by and Lucky Gill respectively, who have roots in Ludhiana. On Friday, the NGOs adopted four girls – Sapna Rani, Prabhjot Kaur, and another girl (the daughter of HIV parents) — who are meritorious students. However, due to their financial conditions, they are facing hurdles to pursue further education.

Sub-divisional magistrate (SDM-Raikot) Kanu Thind distributed cheques of Rs 20,000 each to the four girls on Friday. A cheque of Rs 20,000 was also given to Kamaljeet Singh a student of class VI of Sahli village — who writes with his foot.

SEVA Trust UK issued educational grants to 20 students (15 girls and 5 boys) to fund their degree courses from low income families who are academically strong but unable to cover their costs due to poor economic circumstances of their families. Further 38 students of various villages of Pakhowal Block who took top 3 positions in each class (class 1 to 12<sup>th</sup> class) received financial support and special prizes.

## Success Stories

Working in houses to studying in college Manpreet Kaur (21) is certainly not living an easy life. Her day starts by working in houses as a domestic help, followed by her college, and ends again working in the houses of her village.

Manpreet's mother Paramjeet Kaur is separated from her husband for long. Paramjeet has been working as a domestic help in the village to earn for her family, and

later, both her daughters also joined her. For the past two years, Manpreet has been working as a domestic help and studying simultaneously. Fighting all odds, she managed to score 70% marks in class 12. However, after that, she could not arrange money for her admission in college. Then, with the help of a college professor, she got admission in a college where she is getting a fee concession. "I, my mother, and younger sister earn a total of Rs 4,000 a month. In this income, we can hardly earn a meal for three times. With the help of a professor, I managed to get admission in BA-I. However, I have been paying transport fee and examination fee. But with our total income, I am not even able to pay for transport." She wakes up at 5am, and starts working in houses from 6am to 7am. By 8am, her college bus comes to pick her up. She returns from college by 3.30pm, and again works as a help in houses till 6.30pm. She said: "At times, we don't have enough food to eat, and in this condition, how could I get an education. I am so thankful to Seva Trust and Global Girls Power for sponsoring my education. I want to become a teacher and support my family. I don't want my younger sister to work in houses to arrange money for my education."

### Two Foreign NGOs Adopt Them And Sponsor Their Education

Prayal.Dhawan@timesgroup.com

Making best efforts to provide girls education, two UK and Canada-based NGOs being run by NRIs have adopted four girls of Barundi village. Manpreet Kaur (21) is certainly not living an easy life. Her day starts by working in houses as a domestic help, followed by her college, and ends again working in the houses of her village. Manpreet's mother Paramjeet Kaur is separated from her husband for long. Paramjeet has been working as a domestic help in the village to earn for her family, and later, both her daughters also joined her. For the past two years, Manpreet has been working as a domestic help and studying simultaneously. Fighting all odds, she managed to score 70% marks in class 12. However, after that, she could not arrange money for her admission in college. Then, with the help of a college professor, she got admission in a college where she is getting a fee concession. "I, my mother, and younger sister earn a total of Rs 4,000 a month. In this income, we can hardly earn a meal for three times. With the help of a professor, I managed to get admission in BA-I. However, I have been paying transport fee and examination fee. But with our total income, I am not even able to pay for transport." She wakes up at 5am, and starts working in houses from 6am to 7am. By 8am, her college bus comes to pick her up. She returns from college by 3.30pm, and again works as a help in houses till 6.30pm. She said: "At times, we don't have enough food to eat, and in this condition, how could I get an education. I am so thankful to Seva Trust and Global Girls Power for sponsoring my education. I want to become a teacher and support my family. I don't want my younger sister to work in houses to arrange money for my education."

### WORKING IN HOUSES TO STUDY IN COLLEGE

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## Four village girls fight all odds to PURSUE HIGHER STUDIES



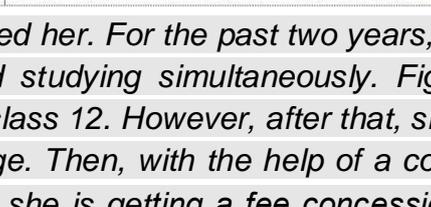
**WOBLE CASE:** Students accepted cheques sponsored by NGOs being run by NRIs. Two UK and Canada-based NGOs have adopted four girls of Barundi village, for their education

### DAUGHTER OF HIV-AFFECTED PARENTS IS STUDYING BBA

She scored 72% marks in class XII. However, recently when her father met with an accident, he was diagnosed with HIV. After that, her mother also got her tests done, and she too was found HIV positive. The girl's father was a truck driver. But since the time he was diagnosed with HIV, he left the house, and he has not returned home for the past nine months. Meanwhile, his wife has been working as a labourer in village farms. She said: "My mother is getting her treatment in hospital, but by working as a labourer in farms, she is not able to earn enough for my education." She got admission in BBA last year, and is now getting sponsorship for her college fee.

### HARDSHIPS CANNOT WEAKEN HER DETERMINATION

Prabjit Kaur (16) studies in a school affiliated to CBSE. However, two years ago, when her father fell into depression, hard times started for her family. Prabjit's father Subhinder Singh lost his land and transportation business last year, following which he fell into depression. He also attempted suicide. The family also lost their elder son, a taxi driver, who was killed by robbers in Delhi. "I study in Class X and my monthly fee is Rs 1,000, while my brother's monthly fee - who studies in Class IV - is Rs 1,500. After my father went into depression, it was hard for us to pay even our monthly fees. Then, my mother started stitching clothes to earn a living. Besides, my aunt and uncle helped us by sending rations and some cash." Prabjit said her family was planning to shift both children to a government school. She says she wants to pursue commerce stream next year, and earn money for her family.



### MEET THE SCHOOL DROPOUT WHO WANTS TO BECOME A BANKER



Sapna Rani (17), who had cleared Class 10 in 2016-17 with 85% marks, had to drop further studies as her family could not arrange money. Sapna's parents work as labourers in the village. To support her family, her elder brother also started working after class 5. She said: "We are four siblings. My two brothers work with my father as labourers, and my younger sister studies in school. I wanted to study further after school, however we had nobody. I felt really bad when I went to school to get my detailed marks card, and everyone was asking if I had got admission in a college. For the past one year, I am at home helping my mother in household chores." However now, with the help of NGOs, Sapna is getting admission in BCA in a private college. She said: "After graduation, I will pursue a Masters Degree, and want to become a banker."

School dropout who wants to become a banker Sapna Rani (17), who had cleared class 12 in 2016-17 with 69% marks, had to drop further studies as her family could not arrange money. Sapna's parents work as labourers in the village. To support her family, her elder brother also started working after class 5. She said: "We our four siblings. My two brothers work with my father as labourers, and my younger sister studies in school. I wanted to study further after school, however we had nobody. I felt really bad when I went to school to get my detailed marks card, and everyone was asking if I had got admission in a college. For the past one year, I am at home helping my mother in household chores." However now, with the help of NGOs, Sapna is getting admission in BCA in a private college. She said: "After graduation, I will pursue a Masters Degree, and want to become a banker." Her mother stitches clothes;

she wants to pursue Commerce Prabhjot Kaur (16) studies in a school affiliated to CBSE. However, two years ago, when her father fell into depression, hard times started for her family. Prabhjot's father Sukhwinder Singh lost his land and transportation business last year, following which he fell into depression. He also attempted suicide. The family also lost their elder son, a taxi driver, who was killed by robbers in Delhi. "I study in class X and my monthly fee is Rs 1,530, while my brother's monthly fee — who studies in class IV — is Rs 1,160. After my father went into depression, it was hard for us to pay even our monthly fees. Then, my mother started stitching clothes to earn a living. Besides, my paternal uncles helped us by sending rations and some cash." Prabhjot said her family was planning to shift both children to a government school. She says she wants to pursue commerce stream next year, and earn money for her family.

Daughter of HIV-affected parents is studying BBA She scored 72% marks in class XII. However, recently when her father met with an accident, he was diagnosed with HIV. After that, her mother also got her tests done, and she too was found HIV positive. The girl's father was a truck driver. But since the time he was diagnosed with HIV, he left the house, and he has not returned home for the past nine months. Meanwhile, his wife has been working as a labourer in village farms. She said: "My mother is getting her treatment in hospital, but by working as a labourer in farms, she is not able to earn enough for my education." She got admission in BBA last year, and is now getting sponsorship for her college fee.

Extending partnerships with local NGOs, SEVA Trust UK awarded financial grant to EkNayiUmeed Special Needs School that supports educational needs for special need children and also supported & trained Special Olympics Gold Medal winner for India in cycling Ms Shamli Sharma. EkNayiUmeed is also helping low income girls & women. SEVA Trust awarded Shamli a special medal for her achievement.

Zila Yuva Vikas Sanghathan (ZYVS), Ambala based NGO that supports children with special needs, working on girls, women & youth empowerment in Haryana state also received financial grant from SEVA Trust UK.

## Health & Wellbeing

SEVA Trust UK helped the medical treatment of severely injured girl from acid attack in Ludhiana from low income background. We donated Rs 50,000/- for her treatment.

The teenager acid attack survivor -who has been fighting with her medical condition and horror of attack- has got help from SEVA Trust for her treatment. The teenager's family, who are migrant labourers, were struggling to get funds for their daughter, who was undergoing treatment in Dayanand Medical College and Hospital (DMCH). When the localites and even the administration remained aloof from the acid attack victim who needed money for her treatment, NGOs Seva (Social Education Voluntary Association) Trust UK and Global Girl Power of Canada came ahead and lent a helping hand by donating Rs 50,000 for her treatment on Friday. Importantly *The Times of India* had reported on April 7 about the teenaged survivor who was in need of money.

While speaking to TOI over phone, Seva Trust UK's founder and chairman Charan Kanwal Singh Sekhon said: "Through *The Times of India*, we came to know about Anjali, who is an acid attack survivor. It is horrifying that a man has attacked her with acid just because she refused to marry him. However, it is even sad that her family is unable to get her treatment done. When I read in the paper about her, I decided to raise funds for her. When we made an appeal to other NGOs to raise funds, Canadian-based NGO Global Girl Power came up and donated Rs 50,000. Today, we transferred the money to the hospital for the girl's treatment," he added.

However, it is even sad that her family is unable to get her treatment done. When Chairman Charan Shekhon read in the paper about her, he decided to raise funds for her. Then they made an appeal to other NGOs to raise funds, Canadian-based NGO Global Girl Power came up and donated Rs 50,000. Today, we transferred the money to the hospital for the girl's treatment," he added.

Sekhon and the Global Girl Power's founder Lucky Gill - based in Vancouver (Canada) belong to Barundi village of Ludhiana district.

On Friday, Seva Trust district coordinator RK Kulwant Singh, Global Girl Power representative Baljodh Singh Sidhu, and social activist Harjinder Singh Kukreja reached hospital to meet the family. On March 27, a man threw acid on the 15-year-old girl after she refused to marry him. The accused trespassed into her house in the wee hours and attacked her while she was sleeping with her mother. The girl sustained burn injuries on her face, neck, chest, and right arm, while her mother also received minor injuries.

### 2 NRI groups to fund treatment of 15-year-old acid attack survivor

Payal Dhawan  
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**Ludhiana:** The teenager acid attack survivor — who has been fighting with her medical condition and horror of attack — has got help from NRIs for her treatment. The teenager's family, who are migrant labourers, were struggling to get funds for their daughter, who is undergoing treatment in Dayanand Medical College and Hospital (DMCH).

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#### SPURNED LOVER ATTACKED HER

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Importantly, Sekhon and the Global Girl Power's founder Lucky Gill — based in Vancouver (Canada) belong to Barundi village of Ludhiana district. Gill said: "Through Seva Trust, we came to know about the case of the acid attack survivor. Our

NGO works for empowering girls and women at the international level. The acid attack is an unfortunate and horrendous incident. However, we are standing by the girl to help her in all ways."

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The representatives of UK and Canada-based organizations donate money to acid attack victim's mother, Bimla Rani

old girl was attacked with acid by a man when she refused to marry him. The accused trespassed her house in the wee hours and attacked her with acid while she was sleeping with her mother. During the attack, the girl sustained burn injuries on her face, neck, chest, and right arm, while her mother also sustained minor burn injuries. The teenager's mother Bimla Rani said: "I am thankful to these people who have no relation with us, but are helping us in such a situation. I cannot thank them enough for this."

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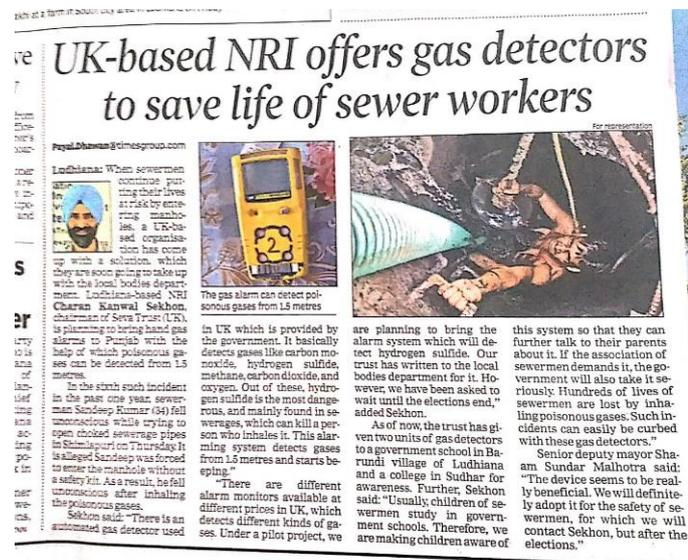
## Environment

Our team handed over environmental monitoring and scientific equipment to rural schools and colleges in India for their labs to aid educational experiments and to help in raising awareness about dangerous environmental conditions and personal safety. The UK Environment Agency provided us the gas alarms used for personal safety free of cost,

When sewermen continue putting their lives at risk by entering manholes, a UK-based organisation has come up with a solution, which they are soon going to take up with the local bodies department. Ludhiana-based NRI Charan Kanwal Sekhon, chairman of Seva Trust (UK), is planning to bring hand [gas alarms](#) to Punjab with the help of which poisonous gases can be detected from 1.5 metres. In the sixth such incident in the past one year, sewerman Sandeep Kumar (34) fell unconscious while trying to open choked sewerage pipes in Shimlapuri on Thursday. It is alleged Sandeep was forced to enter the manhole without a safety kit. As a result, he fell unconscious after inhaling the poisonous gases.



Figure 2 Handing Gas Alarms to School



There is an automated gas detector used in UK which is provided by the government. It basically detects gases like carbon monoxide, hydrogen sulfide, methane, carbon dioxide, and oxygen. Out of these, hydrogen sulfide is the most dangerous, and mainly found in sewerages, which can kill a person who inhales it. This alarming system detects gases from 1.5 metres and starts beeping.



ਲੜਕੀ ਦੀ ਮਾਤਾ ਨੂੰ ਮਦਦ ਦੀ ਰਾਸ਼ੀ ਭੇਟ ਕਰਦੇ ਹੋਏ ਸੇਵਾ ਟਰਸਟ ਯੂ.ਕੇ., ਗਲੋਬਲ ਗਰਲ ਪਾਵਰ, ਕੈਨੇਡਾ ਦੇ ਮੈਂਬਰ ਤੇ ਹੋਟਲੀਅਰ ਹਰਜਿੰਦਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਕੁਕਰੇਜਾ। ਅਜੀਤ ਤਸਵੀਰ

## ਤੇਜ਼ਾਬ ਹਮਲੇ ਦੀ ਪੀੜਤਾ ਦੀ ਮਦਦ ਲਈ ਅੱਗੇ ਆਏ ਹੋਟਲੀਅਰ ਕੁਕਰੇਜਾ

ਲੁਧਿਆਣਾ, 16 ਅਪ੍ਰੈਲ (ਭੁਪਿੰਦਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਬਸਰਾ)-ਬੀਤੇ ਦਿਨੀਂ ਸ਼ਹਿਰ ਵਿਚ ਤੇਜ਼ਾਬ ਹਮਲੇ ਨਾਲ ਗੰਭੀਰ ਰੂਪ ਵਿਚ ਜ਼ਖ਼ਮੀ ਹੋ ਗਈ 15 ਸਾਲਾ ਪ੍ਰਵਾਸੀ ਪੀੜਤ ਲੜਕੀ ਜੋ ਦਯਾਨੰਦ ਹਸਪਤਾਲ ਵਿਖੇ ਜ਼ੇਰੇ ਇਲਾਜ ਹੈ। ਉਕਤ ਪੀੜਤ ਲੜਕੀ ਬੇਹਦ ਲੋੜਵੰਦ ਪਰਿਵਾਰ ਨਾਲ ਸਬੰਧਤ ਹੈ, ਇਸ ਨੂੰ ਦੇਖਦੇ ਹੋਏ ਬਰਤਾਨੀਆ ਤੋਂ ਸੇਵਾ ਟਰਸਟ, ਕੈਨੇਡਾ ਤੋਂ ਗਲੋਬਲ ਗਰਲ ਪਾਵਰ ਤੇ ਲੁਧਿਆਣਾ ਦੇ ਪ੍ਰਮੁੱਖ ਹੋਟਲੀਅਰ ਹਰਜਿੰਦਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਕੁਕਰੇਜਾ ਨੇ ਹਸਪਤਾਲ ਵਿਖੇ ਜਾ ਕੇ ਪਰਿਵਾਰਕ ਮੈਂਬਰਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਪੰਜਾਹ ਹਜ਼ਾਰ ਰੁਪਏ ਦੀ ਰਕਮ ਇਲਾਜ ਲਈ ਭੇਟ ਕੀਤੀ। ਇਸ ਮੌਕੇ ਪੀੜਤ ਲੜਕੀ ਦੀ ਮਾਤਾ ਨੇ ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਦੀ ਮਦਦ ਲਈ ਪਹੁੰਚਣ ਵਾਲੇ ਦਾਨੀਆਂ ਦਾ ਧੰਨਵਾਦ ਕੀਤਾ। ਸੇਵਾ ਟਰਸਟ, ਯੂ.ਕੇ. ਦੇ ਚਰਨਕਮਲ ਸਿੰਘ ਸਿੱਖ ਤੋਂ ਗਲੋਬਲ ਗਰਲ ਪਾਵਰ ਦੇ ਲੌਕੀ ਗਿੱਲ ਅਤੇ ਹਰਜਿੰਦਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਕੁਕਰੇਜਾ ਨੇ ਕਿਹਾ ਕਿ ਗੁਰੂ ਸਾਹਿਬ ਦੇ ਦਰਸਾਏ ਰਸਤੇ 'ਤੇ ਚੱਲਦਿਆਂ ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਵਲੋਂ ਮਨੁੱਖਤਾ ਦੀ ਸੇਵਾ ਲਈ ਇਹ ਉਪਰਾਲਾ ਕੀਤਾ ਹੈ।

**ਅਜੀਤ**

17-Apr-2018  
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<http://epaper.ajitjaladhar.com/edition/20180417/8/9.cms>