Dear Friends,

In our 38th year, we are pleased to tell you that PPI is continuing to support a variety of projects all over India. In the following pages, you will read about our nine new projects and nine continuing ones that focus on varied issues such as youth livelihood, tree planting, tribal and child welfare, women’s empowerment, traditional arts revival, and bio-sand water filters for water purification and rural health.

At the same time, we have to share with you the news that we are compelled to make significant change in the way we operate because of changing circumstances. When PPI was founded, almost 40 years ago, there were few NGOs in India working to help the poor and underprivileged, and few organizations in the USA supporting them. PPI was one of the pioneers. Our ambition was to support a wide variety of projects with a broad geographical distribution.

Things have changed. In the last two decades, NGOs have proliferated all over India. And there are now several organizations in the USA that fund projects in India. Unlike some of these organizations, we have no staff in India who can evaluate the worthiness of an NGO or a project. Consequently, we have decided that we will restrict our funding to a group of established NGOs with whom we have worked, whom we can visit, and with whom we have good lines of communication. This will mean narrowing our scope—but it will give us more confidence that our funds are being used effectively. It may still be possible to add an NGO to the approved list, if one of us or one of you has personal knowledge of an organization and can make site visits. These changes will take effect as of New Year’s Day.

The other change has to do with the fact that the small core of volunteers that has carried out the actual work of running PPI is being depleted by career relocation, growing families, and aging. We are now down to a critical level, and it is not clear how much longer we can continue unless new people are willing to take some responsibility. So we need to deal with the future possibility of bringing PPI to a dignified conclusion. For the present, we will restrict the duration of our projects to two years in 2016, and starting 2017, we will fund projects for one year at a time. This policy may change if a new team takes over the management of PPI.

We are very grateful for your continued financial support. However, at this time our most critical need is your participation. You can help review projects, make site visits, and assist with routine tasks. We are a 100% volunteer organization without paid staff. We need you to attend our monthly meetings. We need you to join us in carrying out PPI’s mission. It can be hard work but very rewarding! Can we count on you?

Sincerely,

PPI Volunteer Team
New Projects

1) Education of Stone Quarry Children
   
   *Institute of Research and Development for the Rural Poor (IRDRP)*; Chennai, Tamil Nadu
   
   Contact: Dr. Irudayasamy
   
   April 2015 – April 2018
   
   Budget: Total: Rs. 1,261,250; 2015: Rs. 488,750

   This is a continuation and expansion of our previous project (2012-2014) to support the education of the children of quarry workers. 100 older children from that project will be enrolled in supplementary education and vocational training classes, and a new group of 100 children from 3 new villages will receive educational supports (counseling and school equipment) and take classes in IRDRP’s Convenient Education Centers. Among the vocational students are 17 student nurses, who assisted at a successful medical camp at Trisulam last August.

   ![Dormitory in the Solar Heated Rehab Center. Project #2](image)

2) Solar Power for Child Rehabilitation Center
   
   *Vikasana*; Tarikere, Karnataka
   
   Contact: Mr. Varghees Cleatas
   
   April 2015
   
   Budget: Rs.90, 000

   Last year we funded an extension of Vikasana’s bridge school for orphans in Duglapura (Project #27). We are now funding the installation of solar power units for generating lighting and hot water at the school. The solar lighting is now operational, providing welcome independence from the unreliable power grid. Work continues on the water heater.

   ![Bio-sand Filters spread across states. Projects #4-6, 11 & 20-22](image)

3) Sustainable Agriculture for Kheria Sabars
   
   *Moyrabandh Gram Bikash Kendra (MGBK)*; Bankura, West Bengal
   
   Contact: Mr. Uday Narayan De
   
   May 2015 – May 2018
   
   Budget: Total: Rs.530, 000; 2015: Rs.185, 000

   This is our third project with MGBK to assist the Kheria Sabar tribal people of Purulia district in various ways. This one focuses on training in improved agricultural practices. In the first year, 300 beneficiaries are receiving training in nursery raising, vermi-composting, and rainwater harvesting.

   ![Kheria women of Bankura learn about techniques of sustainable agriculture. Project # 3](image)
4) Bio-sand Water Filters

*Social Awareness Through Human Involvement (SATHI)*; Sirmour, Himachal Pradesh
Contact: Dr. Anil Kumar
August 2015 – August 2018
Budget: Total: Rs. 653,600; 2015: Rs.220, 500

5) Bio-sand Water Filters

*Aakansha Seva Sadan (ASS)*; Muzaffarpur, Bihar
Contact: Ms. Bandana Sharma
October 2015 – October 2018
Budget: Total: Rs. 658,850; 2015: Rs.254,750

6) Bio-sand Water Filters

*Pragathi*; Mysore, Karnataka
Contact: Mr. B. Sharanappa
October 2015 – October 2018
Budget: Total: Rs.1,312,350; 2015: Rs.524,850

Our work to promote the use of bio-sand water filters to provide safe, clean drinking water to rural communities continues with these three projects. The first two are outgrowths of the multi-NGO project we funded last year (Project #22), and the third continues our long association with Pragathi. They will manufacture and distribute 160, 150, and 323 filters, respectively, to underprivileged communities in Himachal Pradesh, Bihar, and Karnataka, along with training in their use and maintenance.

7) Tree Plantations and Environmental Education

*Aakansha Seva Sadan (ASS)*; Muzaffarpur, Bihar
Contact: Ms. Bandana Sharma
September 2015 – September 2018
Budget: Total: Rs. 490,480; 2015: Rs. 250,280

8) Community Tree Plantations

*Dr. M.L. Dhawale Memorial Homeopathic Institute (MLDMHI)*; Thane, Maharashtra
Contact: Ms. Ujjwala Pendse
September 2015 – September 2018
Budget: Total: Rs.829,690; 2015: Rs.264,530

9) Tree Plantation Maintenance

*Chinthana Foundation*; Ajjampura, Karnataka
Contact: Mr. G. Channappa
September 2015 – September 2018
Budget: Total: Rs. 317,700; 2015: Rs. 144,700

Our longtime support of tree-plantation projects in Karnataka is now spreading to other parts of India. The new projects with ASS and MLDMHI were proposed at our invitation following a large donation from a supporter interested in environmental projects. The first one features the involvement of the students at three high schools near Muzaffarpur in planting and maintaining 740 trees of useful species, along with educational programs for the students on environmental issues. The second one will implement the planting and maintaining of 1834 trees in several villages as a community project, with the cooperation of women from self-help groups and local farmers. Meanwhile, because of continuing drought conditions, we approved additional funding for Chinthana Foundation to extend the care of trees planted under our three earlier projects with them (see Project #19), including installation of a drip irrigation system at three schools.

![Bio-sand water filter demonstration in Sirmour. Project #4](image)

![Student tree planters learn about the environment…](image)
Continuing Projects

10) Tree Plantation Maintenance
Vikasana; Tarikere, Karnataka
Contact: Mr. Varghees Cleatas
April 2013 – April 2016
Budget: Total: Rs. 210,900; 2015: Rs.70,300

11) Environmental Education and Tree Plantings
Chinthana Foundation; Ajjampura, Karnataka
Contact: Mr. G. Channappa
June 2014 – June 2017
Budget: Total: Rs. 336,000; 2014: Rs. 84,100

These two projects are outgrowths of earlier projects to establish plantations of useful species of forest trees such as teak and neem and fruit trees such as sapota and mango. Besides providing harvestable materials, the objectives are to improve the use of degraded land and educate the villagers in horticulture and ecological issues. Vikasana is continuing to monitor the growth of about 7000 trees planted several years ago. By fostering community involvement in watering and protecting the trees, especially through the development of Tree Grower Committees, they have achieved a sustainability rate of 86-90%. Chinthana Foundation’s latest project to develop tree plantations in association with schools is now in its second year. They have instructed 50 children in 3 schools in environmental awareness and tree care, then planted 770 saplings on the school grounds. The trees are being nurtured by fencing, watering, mulching, and pruning, as well as the construction of water percolation pits. In addition, kitchen gardens have been established at all 3 schools, providing a supplement to the midday meals.

12) Bio-sand Water Filters
Chinthana Foundation; Ajjampura, Karnataka
Contact: Mr. G. Channappa
April 2013 – April 2016
Budget: Total: Rs. 679,500; 2015: Rs. 211,000

In its second year, Chinthana’s water filter project has constructed and distributed 55 bio-sand filters in three villages of western Karnataka: 50 to individuals and 5 to schools. Along with this, they have conducted orientation meetings and intensive awareness workshops on the advantages and maintenance of these filters, and they have carefully monitored the filters in use. They have also developed additional publicity to disseminate information to the public and to local governments, and they have sold 7 filters to members of the public.

13) Women Farmers Livelihood Development
Baikunthapur Tarun Sangha (BTS); Baikunthapur, West Bengal
Contact: Mr. Susanta Giri
July 2013 – July 2016
Budget: Total Rs. 527,000; 2015: Rs. 188,000

This is a three-year project to improve the life-status of vulnerable women and their families in villages in the Sundarban Reserve forest areas of the Ganges delta. In the second year they have continued to give the women training in sustainable practices for goat, duck, and poultry rearing, and to provide support and startup funds for women’s self-help groups.
14) Warli Art Project  
*Dr. M.L. Dhawale Memorial Trust (MLDMT), Thane, Maharashtra*  
Contact: Ms. Ujjwala Pendse  
October 2013 – October 2016  
Budget: Total: Rs. 1,085,000; 2014: Rs. 280,000  

![Warli artist shows a painting. Project #14](image1.png)

In its second year, this project to promote the work of tribal artists based on their traditional art forms has experienced both successes and difficulties. On the negative side, there have been problems in adapting the artisans’ ways of working to the ethic of running a business, and attempts to create an international market through e-commerce have not been successful so far. However, they have done well in developing new products and product designs, improving product quality, and finding new sales channels. The work continues to create a reliably profitable business.

15) Vocational Training for Poor Women  
*Aakansha Seva Sadan (ASS)*; Muzaffarpur, Bihar  
Contact: Ms. Bandana Sharma  
January 2014 – January 2017  
Budget: Total: Rs. 550,250; 2015: Rs. 171,950

![School dropouts learn livelihood skills. Project #16](image2.png)

The goal of this project is to provide 6-month training programs in embroidery, tailoring, and beautician work to 270 poor women and adolescent girls (90 for each skill) in the Muzaffarpur area. The first three sets of programs have now been completed. The trainees of the first two are now all successfully self-employed using their acquired skills; the Rotary Club has donated six sewing machines to assist with this. The third batch is now being established in their trades.

16) Livelihood Development Centre in Raipur  
*Kherwadi Social Welfare Association*; Mumbai Head Office  
Contact: Ms. Mrinalini Kher  
July 2014 – July 2017  
Budget: Total: Rs. 660,000; 2015: Rs. 220,000

![Hands-on experience for Aakansha trainees. Project #15](image3.png)

A Livelihood Training Centre was established in Raipur, Chhattisgarh. Here, short-term employment-oriented courses are being offered for youth. This year skill training was conducted in much in demand skills such as Computer Basics, Tally Software and Beautician skills. To date, 212 people who were previously unemployable have been mobilized through PPI funding. This project is part of the NGO’s Yuva Parivartan program which has more than 35 livelihood development centers in Maharashtra, Karnataka, Bihar, Delhi, and now in Chhattisgarh. A total of 91,943 have been trained in camps and centers across India, and PPI’s Raipur project is a small part of this worthy program.
The broad goal of this project is to encourage ecologically sustainable and economically viable farming on small land plots, and to improve nutrition and economic security for the farm families. They are promoting seed conservation and soil/yield improvement techniques and developing strong leadership within farmer groups. The farmers’ organic produce is being sold to an institution that uses it for their own consumption as well as marketing it to clients; this promises to be a stable working relationship. One setback occurred: work on a demonstration and training plot was aborted when the land was subdivided because of a legal dispute, but they hope to take up this work again in the coming year. The farmers are increasingly hopeful and optimistic about making a good livelihood with sustainable practices.

18) Improving Livelihoods of Small & Marginal Farmers
Childright; Bhubaneswar, Odisha
Contact: Mr. Tapan Padhi
October 2014 – March 2016
Budget: Total: Rs. 402,000; 2015: Rs. 56,000

Childright is helping rice farmers in coastal areas improve their livelihoods by diversifying into vegetable gardening and dairy farming, as well as growing heirloom varieties of rice. They have established a nursery to raise seedlings and serve as a demonstration farm for training purposes, and they are developing channels for marketing the produce and milk products. They are also organizing farmers’ cooperatives to facilitate government support.

Projects with Completed Funding

19) Tree Plantation Maintenance: Chinthana
Chinthana Foundation; Ajjampura, Karnataka
Contact: Mr. G. Channappa
August 2012 - August 2015
Budget: Rs. 207,500

This project provided for the continuing care of tree plantations near six schools whose students and teachers have been heavily involved. The activities included watering in the dry season, maintenance of fencing, pruning, weeding, and mulching. As a result, they report a 94% survival rate of the trees. This project has now been extended as Project #9.

20) Bio-sand Water Filters: Vikasana
Vikasana; Tarikere, Karnataka
Contact: Mr. Varghees Cleatas
April 2012 - April 2015
Budget: Rs. 780,515

21) Bio-sand Water Filters: Gravis
Gravis; Jodhpur, Rajasthan
Contact: Dr. Prakash Tyagi
April 2013 – April 2015
Budget: Rs. 500,900

These projects by two of our longtime partner organizations introduced the use of bio-sand filters to produce clean and safe drinking water at three villages in Karnataka and two villages in the Thar Desert of
Rajasthan. Both projects involved the construction and distribution of filters (160 for Vikasana, 60 for Gravis) as well as intensive education and training of the villagers in the purpose, operation, and maintenance of the filters and the issues of water use and sanitation. Vikasana has also built an additional 25 filters and sold them to a food security project in a nearby town.

22) Bio-sand Water Filters: All India
*Sangam Charitable Trust; Muzaffarpur, Bihar*
Contact: Mr. Sushil Kumar
Budget: Rs. 492,000

PPI provided funds to Sangam Trust to manufacture and distribute steel molds and toolkits to 12 trained NGOs with the aim of making low-cost pure drinking water accessible to villagers in different parts of India. So far seven NGOs included in our funding have received molds and toolkits. Three of them, SATHI (Himachal Pradesh), Aakansha Seva Sadan (Bihar), and Mahatma Gandhi Shodh Sansthan (Bihar) have progressed well in making and distributing the filters to villagers, and the former two are now extending the scope of their work with our support (Projects #4 and #5). SATHI reports that the villagers are very happy with the water quality, and they have received coverage in local newspapers. Four other NGOs have also received molds and toolkits and have begun building and distributing filters. However, the remaining five NGOs included in our funding have not yet received the equipment, apparently due to serious illness in Sushil Kumar’s family. David Albert of Friendly Waters of the World (Olympia, WA), who was involved with the original training in 2014, is supplying molds and toolkits to two of the NGOs in Tamil Nadu. In a recent conversation, Mr. Kumar has promised to deliver molds and toolkits to the remaining NGOs.

23) Anchal Project
*New Light, Kolkata, West Bengal*
Contact: Ms. Urmi Basu
October 2012 – October 2015
Budget: Rs. 735,750

Trainee sews a kantha quilt for sale. Project #23

The final year of New Light’s project to provide gainful employment to women exiting the sex trade has seen the number of participating women grow from 35 to 60, including the formation of a new group in Sindrani (North 24 Parganas District). The women are making cotton hand-embroidered kanthas (blankets or quilts), shawls, cushion sets, and scarves; production has increased in both quantity and quality throughout the year, and they are working on developing new designs. Increasingly, the newer members of the production units are being mentored by the older ones, and these units are also functioning as support groups for dealing with the other problems in the women’s lives. Other NGOs in the area are now setting up projects modeled on this one, putting the ideas into wider use.

24) Disabled Youth Training
*Akhil Gramin Yuva Vikas Samiti (AGYVS); Muzaffarpur, Bihar*
Contact: Mr. Subodh Kumar Pandey
October 2013 – December 2015
Budget: Rs. 305,300

This project aims to promote economic independence of 60 physically disabled low-caste people. In the first year they trained 26 young women in tailoring, and this year they are training 34 young men in mobile phone repairing. They have also conducted health camps and village/panchayat level meetings to promote self-
sufficiency and link the trainees to government assistance schemes.

25) Repair of Tribal Orphanage Building
Pragathi; Mysore, Karnataka
Contact: Mr. B. Sharanappa
September 2014 – June 2015
Budget: Rs. 385,500

We provided funds to repair and improve the roof of Pragathi’s orphanage for tribal children, whose construction and expansion we have supported in previous projects. Further development is being funded as a special project (Project#30).

26) Crèches for Children at Risk
All Bengal Women’s Union (ABWU); Kolkata
Contact: Ms. Amita Sen
Budget: Rs. 306,000

PPI has provided a year’s funding for three crèches in different parts of Kolkata as part of ABWU’s comprehensive efforts to better the lives of victimized women and their families. They are providing non-formal education (numbers and letters, health and hygiene) and meals to about 70 children, ages 3-7, with the objective of equipping them to enter mainstream schools. They report that the children are making good progress and the parents are grateful for the care.

27) Addition to Bridge School for Orphans
Vikasana; Tarikere, Karnataka
Contact: Mr. Varghees Cleatas
April 2014 – December 2014
Budget: Rs. 482,000

We provided funding for an addition to the children’s living quarters at Vikasana’s bridge school for orphans and other disadvantaged children, in order to comply with new requirements for the separation of boys’ and girls’ quarters. The addition was completed at the end of last year and inaugurated by Shim Srinath in January.

28) Handloom Weaving and Silk Spinning
Bihar Educational Development Society (BEDS); Gaya, Bihar
April 2014
Budget: Rs. 163,000

Unfortunately, the illness and death of Mr. J.K. Palit, the director of BEDS, has resulted in the premature termination of this project.
Special Projects

Every year, special projects are funded from contributions raised by individuals. They must meet PPI's overall goals and requirements for selecting and funding projects. No PPI general funds are expended on them. We are happy to support such worthwhile schemes and the aim is to motivate and facilitate individuals to raise funds on their own to help worthy projects in India. This year we funded three special projects.

29) **Sustainable Farming Project Extension**  
*Dr. M.L. Dhawale Memorial Homeopathic Institute; Thane, Maharashtra*  
Contact: Ms. Ujjwala Pendse

Two of our volunteers made a special donation of US $1345 to support the salary of the project coordinators of our sustainable farming project (Project#17).

30) **Completion of tribal orphanage rooms**  
*Pragathi; Mysore, Karnataka*  
Contact: Mr. B. Sharanappa

To complete the construction of five rooms in Pragathi’s orphanage for tribal children, we sent Rs.951,957 (of which US$15,000 was a donation from World Centric Corporation, with an additional amount contributed by another donor.) These rooms had previously been unfinished shells.

31) **Women’s Health, Education and Training**  
*Belaku Trust, Bengaluru, Karnataka*  
Contact: Dr. Saras Ganapathy

Belaku Trust is focused on children’s education, women’s health, nutrition and vocational training in villages near Kanakapura, Karnataka. They have trained women of the villages to work with the children in the government preschool program and provide counseling for their families and for pregnant women. After twenty years of work, they are achieving their goal of having community-level staff take over management, monitoring, and evaluation of these programs. The Trust continues to play a supporting role in ways such as providing scholarships, loans for purchase of livestock, and medical advice. On another front, the three women’s income generation groups that Belaku Trust has mentored are operating with increasing autonomy, and the Trust has handed over the management of the groups’ micro-enterprises to the another organization. This year we sent Belaku Trust US $1503 collected from individual dedicated contributions.
**Shashi Tyagi Visits Seattle**
We held a special meeting on April 1 with our old friend Shashi Tyagi, co-founder and administrative head of Gravis (Jodhpur, Rajasthan), who gave an account of the development and present work of Gravis. Also, on July 25, several of us met informally with her son Dr. Prakash Tyagi, the executive director of Gravis, who was in town for a medical workshop.

**Site Visits to PPI Projects**

**Vikasana and Chinthana Foundation**
In January, Shimoga Srinath visited Vikasana and Chinthana Foundation in western Karnataka, where we have several ongoing and completed projects. He participated in the inauguration ceremony of the living quarters for girls at Vikasana’s orphanage and bridge school (Project #27) and visited villages where bio-sand water filters funded by us (Projects #12 and #20) have been distributed by both organizations. He reports that the families who have been using the filters daily “like the taste of the water they drink and have had no health issues. [The filter] is the prized possession in the house.” In addition, he visited Chinthana’s tree plantation projects (Projects #9, #11, and #19) on school lands and reports that “barren land on these sites has become beautiful.”

**M.L. Dhawale Trust and Memorial Homeopathic Institute**
In March, Vandana Datye visited MLDT’s Warli (tribal) art project (Project#14) and MLDMHI’s sustainable farming project (Project #17). She accompanied MLDMHI volunteers on one of their farm visits, where she was impressed by the resourcefulness and teamwork of the farmers in improving soil fertility. She then visited the shed that houses the art project and got to see the artists’ latest creations.

**PPI Office Bearers**
Shantha Benegal, Chairperson
Jyoti Samant, Vice Chairperson
Shimoga Srinath, Treasurer
Jerry Folland, Secretary
Vijay Srirangam, Webmaster

**Other News and Events**

**2015 Annual PPI Fundraising Event**
The 2015 Annual Fundraiser, held on October 11, went very well. The featured speaker was Chanda Athale, who gave an inspiring account of the work of Baba Amte and his family with leprosy patients, tribals, and other disadvantaged people in Maharashtra. Ms. Athale spoke from her personal experience doing volunteer work at Anandwan and Hemalkasa. Also, Jerry Folland explained the changes in our operation that we approved in August, which generated further discussion with members of the audience. The next PPI Annual Event will be held in October 2016. The date is to be determined.

**Treasurer's Report**
These budget figures, as of November 15, 2015 are approximate. A precise and detailed financial report for 2015 will be available in early 2016.

- **2015 Income:** $350 in membership dues, $52459 in general contributions, $11727 (net) from the annual event, $163 in interest. Special contributions: $1538 for Belaku Trust, $800 for MLDMHI, $15241 for Pragathi.
- **2015 Expenditures:** $60355 to PPI projects (not including special contributions), $1695 in operating expenses (mainly printing, copying, postage, insurance, etc.) All the special contributions were sent as collected (minus wire charges).
Year 2016 Membership & Pledge/Contribution Form

Name: ________________________________________________________________

Address: ___________________________ City___________________ State_______ Zip________

E-mail: _________________________________ Phone: (______) __________________________

Membership: $ _____ ($25/Family, $15 Single/Year);

Contribution: $50_____ $100_____ $250_____ $500_____ Other $_______

Enclosed is a check for: $ _______ (If your employer matches your gift, please provide the name_______________)

{IRS Code 501(c) (3) Tax Exempt, ID No. 91-1057315}

Please make your checks payable to “People for Progress in India” and mail it with this form to:
People for Progress in India (PPI),  P.O. Box 51231, Seattle, WA 98115-1231

Monthly minutes and quarterly reports are sent by e-mail only. Please give us your e-mail address. It will help us send receipts by e-mail and save postage. PPI will not provide the e-mail list to any other organization. Annual reports are sent by postal m

-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Women’s empowerment through embroidery training. Project #15
People for Progress in India
P.O. Box 51231
Seattle, WA 98115-1231

Address Service Requested

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Seattle, WA

PERMIT # 5700

People for Progress in India (PPI) - 2015 Annual Report
A non-profit Organization Registered in the State of Washington

**PPI's Vision**
We envision an India without extreme poverty,
where people can live healthy self-reliant lives in a clean environment,
and where their essential needs are met through sustainable economic activity.

**PPI's Mission**
To bring positive socio-economic change to the underprivileged, marginalized, and exploited sectors of India by promoting self-reliance and providing seed-money for development projects.

**PPI's Goals**
To fund programs which have the potential to become self-sustaining and make people self-reliant,
and to encourage new ideas involving people’s participation