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**VIDE -  
Leading  
India to  
Progress**

Volume 2 Issue 1  
June 2003



Volunteers for India Development and Empowerment

(A chapter of **Sustainable Economic and Educational Development Society, Inc**)

Dear Donor:

Greetings, from VIDE and its partners! This annual newsletter (our second) will further our efforts to reach out to donors that have supported us so generously over the past years. VIDE as a volunteer organization remains committed to multi-faceted developmental work in India, working with grass roots organizations to execute long-term, self-sustaining projects in areas that produce tangible economic and social benefits to society. This newsletter is a small snapshot of the work VIDE has done over the past few months. This year, we not only made substantial progress in further disbursing the funds from the Gujarat EQ and monitoring the projects, but also pro-actively raised funds for non-disaster related projects. This marks an important milestone in our culture where disaster relief will not be our only focus, going forward.

In what has been a difficult year (economically and otherwise) we feel that we have achieved a lot. From organizing events to Partner NGO presentations and participation in local community events (within Cisco and elsewhere) we have made great strides in giving back to the community. All this would not have been possible without help from our trusted and valued donors. We would like to assure you that the funds are being used with utmost care, for the noblest of causes and with absolute integrity. We look forward to your continued support. VIDE continues to remain an open platform that aims to provide a positive environment to work for India development and we encourage you to contribute your time, money, knowledge and skills to make the entire experience that much more fulfilling for all of us.

Please do not hesitate to contact us at [contact@indiadev.net](mailto:contact@indiadev.net) with any questions, comments or suggestions.

The Volunteers for India Development and Empowerment Team

## Sankalp

Sankalp Welfare Society is a voluntary non-profit registered society helping economically weaker sections of society in Gurgaon, (Haryana, India).

Rotary Club Delhi, Cama Place and Sankalp Welfare Society have been working jointly to run a school for imparting basic education to children from the economically weaker sections of society in and around Gurgaon area.



The Rotary and Sankalp team started raising funds, for the purpose of purchasing land to build a new School building for these children. VIDE contributed \$1650 towards the purchase of this land.

The Sankalp team is currently raising funds to equip the new building. Some students of IIT Delhi have also undertaken the responsibility to come and talk to the children on topics of interest to them and broaden their horizons. This is being done through the NSS wing of IIT Delhi.

## Nevidya

VIDE partnered with Nevidya, Inc to help reconstruct the J.V.Modi High School that was damaged in the '01 earthquake that hit Gujrat. A large part of the school suffered damage during the earthquake, but one half in particular was so badly hit that it had to be shut down completely.

The school has thus been forced to accommodate all the students in the less damaged half. While some reconstruction is necessary for the entire school, the section that is currently shut needs to be rebuilt.

The entire project has been split into 3 phases in order of pressing need, with Phase 1 encompassing activities that are most critical, and the succeeding Phases(2,3) seeking to improve the existing facilities. The entire project cost for Phase 1 amounts to \$51,000, of which Nevidya raised \$20,000.

VIDE is helping them by funding the rest of Phase 1, which is expected to be completed this summer.

VIDE (SEEDS) is incorporated in the state of Oregon as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.



## Rishi Valley

People in rural areas in and around Madanpalle, Andhra Pradesh, require potent vaccines for regular immunization for their infants and for treating patients with rabies or snakebites. Due to frequent power cuts, the vaccine refrigeration is disrupted. Under these conditions, it is very hard to maintain the potency of the vaccination.

According to WHO findings, Photovoltaic powered Vaccine refrigerators are the most effective and economical way of storing vaccines as they have the least probability of breakdown compared to any other source. Photovoltaic systems will provide uninterrupted power supply to power the Vaccine refrigerator. A Photovoltaic system generates its own power. It converts solar energy to electricity. It uses renewable sources of energy. The total cost of the project is approx. \$2300. With donation from a VIDE supporter, VIDE is committed to support this project for up to \$1000. The first installment of \$500 has been dispatched towards this project. The system was installed and commissioned in the middle of Feb 2003. The second installment will be sent before the end of this quarter towards the purchase of vaccines.

## Jammu Vocational Project

Due to prolonged terrorist violence in Kashmir, a large number of people have been forced out of their homes and are living in appalling conditions in refugee camps at Jammu and other cities. This vocational training program is designed to enable the youth living in camps at Jammu so that they can obtain gainful employment leading to the rehabilitation of their families.

The students will be provided training in one of the vocations like Computers, household appliance repair, Electrician, Lab technician or fashion design. The training is provided by Jan-Shikshan Sansthan (HR Dept, Govt. of India). VIDE is sponsoring the students for these courses which will include the fees, cost of tools, books and stationery.

Initial installment of \$5600 for the training of 40 students has been sent. The cost of sponsoring one student is approx \$140, and VIDE will be sponsoring 40 students each year for the next 3 years.

## Veerayatan Water Project

As *Veerayatan* realized the need for establishment of a permanent center for the rehabilitation of earthquake-affected victims, especially women and children, a permanent site is under construction in the village of Jakhania, approximately 40 k.m. from Bhuj, from where *Veerayatan* administers a primary school a residential hostel, and *Shrutam*, a program that educates underprivileged, at-risk children. In addition to its main site at Bhuj, 17 vocational training centers have been established all over Kutch. Education materials, lodging, boarding and transportation is provided entirely free of charge to these earthquake-affected children.



In many regions of Kutch, people rely solely on the bore well system for potable water. Due to the earthquake much of the bore well system has been destroyed and clean drinking water is simply not available. Therefore, in order to ensure the stability and long-term rehabilitation of the earthquake victims, a reliable water source is critical in this area. VIDE provided funding of \$93k for the construction of a ground water tank, an overhead tank, and the accompanying bore well, pumps, water purifications system, pipelines, and storage tanks at Jakhania Site. This one-time grant would make the system entirely reliable, as it would not bear any threat of contamination, and self-sufficient, as it would not have to rely on the availability of local water supply.



## VIDE EVENTS (2002-2003)

### Dhamaal 2002

VIDE joined hands with "Tarang", a musical band based out of Fremont, to host 'Dhamaal 2002' - a musical concert - on Aug 25th, 2002, at the Mexican Heritage Plaza, in San Jose. Close to 500 men, women and children attended this concert.

The 3 hour long concert featured popular music from Indian cinema, and was well received, with many members of the audience dancing in the aisles towards the end of the show. VIDE also received a lot of positive feedback from the members of the audience regarding the work we are doing, as well as the conduct of such a fund raiser. VIDE was able to raise over \$2,000 from this show.

### Festival Of Dance

Following the success of Dhamaal 2002, VIDE co hosted another fund raising event, this time a dance concert, on September 28, 2002. The concert was held in the Smithwick Theater, FootHill College, and the entire event lasted over 3 hours. The program consisted of an eclectic mix of Indian and western dancing styles.

VIDE partnered with the popular dance troupe Zingaris to conduct this event. Zingaris is an award winning multicultural dance group that boasts of more than 100 dedicated members. The show was a tremendous success, and all tickets were sold out well in advance. Once again, VIDE was able to raise a significant amount (over \$3,500) from the show.

### Harvest Of Hope

As a part of its local community initiative, VIDE worked with Cisco on its Harvest of Hope drive. The Harvest of Hope is an annual drive conducted between Thanksgiving weekend and New Years Day. All proceeds from this drive go to the Second Harvest Food Bank. There were a lot of fun events this year and VIDE was a key volunteer group in three of them.



The first event was the Soda Floats day on Nov 21. With the help of 12 of its volunteers, VIDE helped raise funds in buildings D and 3. The Soda Float event raised \$6000 of which we contributed approximately \$1650. After Cisco matching, the total amount raised was \$18,000.

The second event was the Raffle Day Event on December 10, which VIDE helped organize and run. We had about 8 volunteers handling various time slots through the day and we raised \$350.

The third event that VIDE participated in was the Viva Las Vegas Raffle Event. This was a 4 day-campaign and VIDE volunteers raised \$1575 in Building D, of a total of \$20000 that was raised Cisco wide.

### Literacy to People

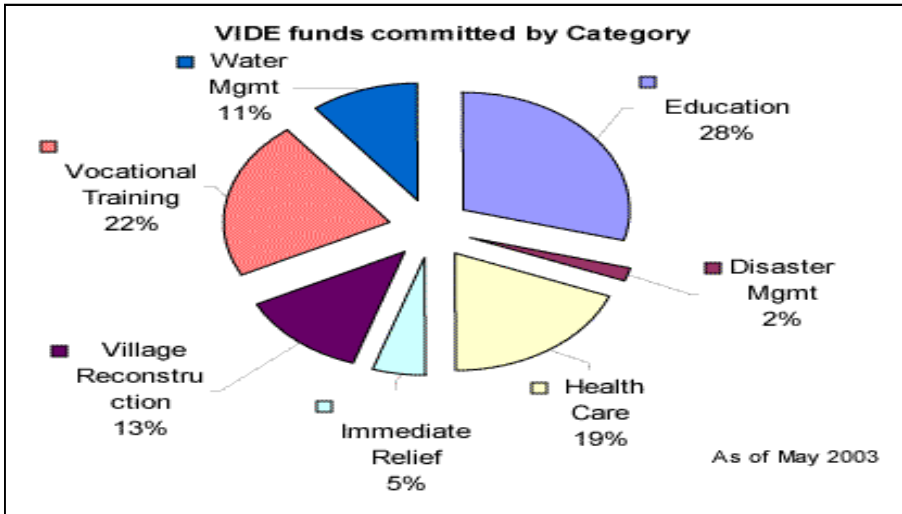
VIDE is hosting a talk by Dr. Pankaj Jain on Primary Education in India on June 6th.

Dr. Jain is the chairman of the Educational Support Organization(ESO), a well known NGO based in Ahmedabad, Gujarat. ESO's mission is to create the right conditions for universal access to high-quality primary education, particularly for children from poor rural and urban families.

Pankaj Jain has a (Ph.D.) in Management from Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad. He has been a visiting faculty and consultant at various Universities, including MIT and University of Leeds, UK. He has been a Senior Fulbright Scholar. He has done several consultancy assignments, on behalf of major bilateral aid agencies.



(A chapter of Sustainable Economic and Educational Development Society, Inc)



## Volunteering Is Rewarding

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has " - Margaret Mead

"No matter how big and powerful government gets, and the many services it provides, it can never take the place of volunteers" --Ronald Reagan

"We can do no great things -- only small things with great love "--Mother Teresa

"Arise, Awake, Stop not till the goal is reached "-- Swami Vivekananda

**Please contact VIDE at [contact@indiadev.net](mailto:contact@indiadev.net) for more information on how you can get involved .**

The picture indicates the various areas that VIDE projects have focused on, over the last couple of years.

VIDE remains committed to its ideal of supporting projects in areas that produce tangible economic and social benefits to the local communities.

While we are proud that our efforts are being recognized (VIDE was featured in a CNN program titled "Homeland Help", which was aired on Sep 13th, 2002, in Asia) we are fully cognizant of the fact that this is merely a drop in the ocean. There is plenty more to be done, but with your continued support and encouragement, we are confident of continuing to make a positive difference.

VIDE would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to all our donors and well-wishers. In particular, we would like to thank Mr. Prem Jain, Senior VP, Routing Technology Group (Cisco) and Cisco Foundation , for their constant encouragement and support.

# VIDE

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Please help VIDE continue to make a difference in the lives of needy people in India. Your monetary donations are tax deductible under SEEDS EIN 74-2723080.

Please make a check payable to "VIDE"

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