

ORGANIC AGRICULTURE & CONSERVATION

Recently introduced hybrid and genetically modified seeds pose a great threat to farmer families in the area who have to purchase new seeds annually at increasingly inflated prices. They fall into debt and are unable to provide the basic necessities of life for their families. **A number of farmers have consequently committed suicide.**

To ensure economic security for farmer families and the preservation of traditional ecologically friendly farming techniques, D-Foundation:

- Raises awareness about the ecological and economic implications of using hybrid seeds
- Provides training in organic farming
- Promotes the conservation of native seeds and traditional varieties of cattle
- Trains in marketing to enable direct access to markets
- Promotes water conservation techniques



This is one of the families for which D-Foundation obtained a special food ration card allowing them to get grains at token rates. This initiative was started because a 32-year-old man died of starvation. Through press coverage and mobilisation of government mechanisms, working with the local district magistrate, food cards were obtained for other families facing the same threat.

D-Foundation started operation in September 2006; till now we have set up several successful programs:

- 7 running women's training centres in remote villages and destitute homes benefiting over 300 people
- A vocational academy where 250 women and girls will attend diploma courses
- Medical aid, mediation and legal support, food cards and sponsorship
- Organic agriculture and conservation training

**Please do not hesitate to contact us,
Everyone is most welcome to visit our projects!**

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**D-Foundation is supported by the Tibetan
Monlam Committee and Jan Shikshan Sasthan**

D - Foundation
For Human Resources Development



Support our fellow humans!

Heart to Heart

D-Foundation is a grassroots community development NGO in Sarnath, Varanasi, India, helping those in need become self-sufficient through developing human resources – training, education, jobs, livelihoods and direct support.

Charity Registration No. – 1429/04, Act. 21,1860
Income Tax – 12A(a) Act 1961

Support our fellow humans!

Volunteers & Advisors – we welcome motivated individuals who can help provide practical skills, education and infrastructure development, we specifically require:

- psychologists, pedagogues, social workers, counsellors
- teachers - English, computer and vocational skills, etc.
- nurses, physiotherapists, yoga & meditation teachers
- fashion designers, artists and handicraft makers
- experts in organic farming and alternative technologies
- sales and marketing of handcrafted goods

Everyone with an open heart is welcome!

Support traditional livelihoods – by buying handmade products produced through our projects you preserve a culture and traditional means of subsistence

Sponsorship - Many families and children require ongoing support to survive, others need funds for medical care and treatment

Membership – support our fellow humans with a regular donation and keep up to date with all our activities

Donations – training equipment and computers for our vocational centres, funds to ensure health, nutritional and other needs are met as they arise, further renovation of destitute homes

Aims & Activities

We work in slums, jails and destitute holding shelters especially with women and children. Our projects work to give support in all areas of need until people can stand on their own feet:

- Release from jails, child labour & holding shelters
- Legal support & mediation for victims of injustices
- Secure livelihoods & jobs through vocational training
- Training in organic agriculture
- Shelter, care and support for destitute, homeless
- Health and medical care
- Support for physically and mentally disadvantaged
- Improving infrastructure and facilities inside government centres
- Sponsorship of families and children

Current Projects

JAITPURA WOMEN'S DESTITUTE SHELTER

This government facility houses 87 destitute women, girls and their babies. Living conditions are unhygienic and severely cramped lacking all necessary human care.

The women are placed in the home for various reasons-being orphaned, committing petty crimes resulting from poverty, having been abandoned by their families for culturally unacceptable circumstances including mental and physical disadvantage.

Inmates cannot leave the secured facilities and are detained indefinitely. D Foundation mediates for their release or transfer to appropriate care or educational facilities, giving them a secure future.

Accomplishments 2005-2007:

- 16 women released
- Transfer to SOS schools or appropriate disability learning centres
- Well dug inside the compound
- Vocational and literacy training centre established
- Renovation, refurbishing, daily necessities provided
- Medical check-ups and healthcare
- Full-time social worker hired to complete casework
- Government food budget increased through mediation
- Increased awareness and support by working with government officials and Gandhi Ashram

BOYS' DESTITUTE HOMES

D-foundation works to release the boys and provide the skills necessary to sustain self-sufficiency:

- Release of boys by identifying and notifying families
- vocational training in carpentry, mechanics, electrician, painting and weaving with martial arts, yoga & meditation
- Provided martial arts & sports training for self-esteem
- Completely renovated the compound and constructed a dormitory in cooperation with the government



CHILD LABOUR - FREEING CHILDREN AND MOTHERS

There are many kinds of child labour in India. Children may take on jobs to help their family survive. It is also very common for children to be sold into forced labour where they are kept as slaves in terrible conditions.

Children are also kept as servants in private homes, hotels, restaurants and shops without any access to education. For giving up a child, families receive a small fee.

D-Foundation works to stop such practices by:

- Freeing children from forced labour into education
- Freeing weaver families and their children from the cycle of dependency on hard labour by providing the skills and equipment for self-sufficiency
- Outreach & mediation for child labourers and families
- Government food ration cards obtained for families
- Prevention and awareness through press coverage

OUTREACH IN VILLAGES AND SLUMS

Slum and street people live with little or no shelter, they have no access to water, care or even food. Many commit suicide, knowing there will be no improvement and survival is uncertain. D-Foundation provides:

- Emergency help: medical care, shelter, sponsorship for food and daily needs, food ration cards
- Long-term help: vocational training, education, creation of sustainable jobs & income generating activities, provision of trade tools and raw materials
- Legal support and mediation for victims of injustices and corruption, orphans, families affected by suicide



VILLAGE WOMEN'S VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTRES

Village women in India lack the means to support themselves and their families. Through skills and education, D-Foundation enables girls to be more self-sufficient and able to support their future families.

D-Foundation has opened 5 vocational training centres:

- Over 150 of the poorest local women attend daily
- Women receive training in traditional handicrafts along with education in basic literacy, hygiene and family safety, rural life skills, and cooking.
- Marketing to enable producers to access markets directly
- Preservation of traditional skills and livelihoods

VOCATIONAL TRAINING ACADEMY

D-Foundation has just built an academy where 250 women and girls will receive free training in recognised two-year diploma courses.

Destitute girls, school dropouts with no access to education and the physically challenged will receive:

- Vocational training – choice of over 16 diplomas including nursery teacher, fashion designing, cooking and catering, beautician, advertising, food processing
- Additional skills and education - hygiene & baby care, yoga & meditation, English, career counselling
- Food and accommodation provided where needed
- Organic framing skills and conservation
- Preservation of traditional handicraft skills and livelihoods – sewing, weaving, carpentry, carpet making and embroidery

At the end of their studies they will receive **recognised certificates** provided with the help of the Jan Shikshan Sasthan all India program. The land and building was donated by a local family. The academy was renovated, rebuilt and started in a record 4 months.