

**Annual Report**  
**1994**

**INDIA DEVELOPMENT SERVICE**

**P.O. Box 980**  
**Chicago, Illinois 60690**

## **IDS Board Of Directors, 1994**

Shiban Ganju, President 708-799-3305  
Mahender Vasandani, Vice-President 708-961-0381  
Jagjit Jain, Treasurer 708-524-2041  
Anita Sinha, Secretary 708-475-1806

Sham Dabadghao 312-481-0707  
Anita Deshmukh 708-564-8144  
Madhukar Deshpande 414-228-1157  
Ashref Hashim 312-947-8934  
M. Jayaram 708-690-6162  
Anita Kancherlapalli 708-445-8541  
Nilesh Kothari 708-637-1391  
Mahesh Mankani 703-525-5337  
Sharada Panditi 708-858-4775  
Rupa Rao 708-782-2168  
Navin Sanghavi 708-354-2615  
Ajit Sheth 708-680-9338  
Ram Srinivasan  
Ramesh Subramani 708-887-9215  
Nila Vora 708-637-9301

### **Directors at Large:**

Ashok Bhargava 608-238-6402  
Ashwin Shah 914-725-3398

## **Statement of Purpose**

India Development Service is a not for profit U.S. organization dedicated to the support of grassroots development in India. Although based in Chicago, IDS has members throughout the United States. It provides seed money to small but innovative projects which empower people in India. IDS also works to promote awareness of development issues among Indian-Americans living in the U.S. and anybody interested in the future of India. To that end, IDS sponsors one major annual educational seminar and many smaller lectures throughout the year. It publishes the Catalyst quarterly and a newsletter bi-annually. Membership in IDS is open to all. Meetings of the IDS Board of Directors are held monthly in the homes of members. All members are welcome to attend. Correspondence to any IDS Board member may be directed to: India Development Service, P.O. Box 980, Chicago, Illinois 60690

## A NOTE OF THANKS

With the past year, IDS, completed 20 years and like the previous years, 1994 brimmed with action and activism.

We retained a lot of friends, gained some more, and lost a few. We thank you all for encouraging, contributing, participating, and criticizing.

We are grateful to you who generously contributed funds and those of you who became "Catalysts" by adopting one project of your choice by pledging substantial funds for future years.

We are inspired by self effacing family of volunteers who donated time and ideas to IDS without wanting anything in return. To express gratitude to you is to rob you of your self esteem. We bow to you with respect.

We are indebted to you who disagreed with us, for, that provoked a cathartic self examination leading to either modification or confirmation of our convictions.

AND we are touched by you for whom we were just a passing thought, for all awareness starts with a mere thought.

Shiban Ganju

## DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

As our tradition of supporting development projects continues, we are happy to report that during 1994 we supported a total of 20 projects. These projects were described in our Fall issue of the Catalyst. In that issue 16 projects were described and 4 other projects were added later on which will be described in future issues of the Catalyst. Development encompasses so many diverse fields of human activity such as education, income generation, improving the status of women and children, health awareness and treatment, human rights, legal rights, environmental awareness, and so on. We have tried to support diverse development projects on these various issues and feel that by trying to support different aspects of development we are learning a lot about the complex interaction of these problems. As an example we supported Girin Chetia from Sruti who has been working in Assam to teach farmers about crop rotation and flood control. Narayanbhai from Sarbik Gram Bikas Kendra has been helping people in Midnapur district in West Bengal deal with their health problems, and has also been teaching them about kitchen gardening. Women in Bangalore, Karnataka are learning terra cotta pottery as a way of generating income, and at the Institute of Rural Community Service in Tamil Nadu women are attending regular sessions on leadership training and decision making skills. With each of these projects we carefully study their progress report and discuss it in our meetings so that we all learn about the progress, and the problems encountered by them.

Our project support is generally for a period of up to three years. However, we decided that we will support at least one or two projects for a longer period to see if we can make a significant impact on the lives of the people. To this end we decided to support Manav Lok, an organization working in the Latur district of Maharashtra which was devastated by the earthquake. We are hoping that the people from that area will be able to get their lives back in order much quicker with help from IDS.

A new and significant development in project support is our Student Externship Program where students have visited some of our projects and given us exciting feed back on the work being done and the impact of these projects on them. As one of the students put it, "We felt so loved by the people and felt we had so much more to learn from the villagers".

*If you are interested in learning more about any of the projects or would like to become a project coordinator, please contact Nila Vora (708) 637 9301.*

## IDS FAMILY OF PROJECTS 1994

# of Projects	State	Category	Comments
1	Andhra Pradesh	Income/envirn	Learning ecological farming.
1	Assam	Agriculture	Teaching farmers flood control, crop rotation.
2	Gujarat	Educ/Income	Teaching youths skills for employment.
		Educ/Health	Trainig of village Health Workers.
3	Karnataka	Income	Making Terra Cotta pottery.
		Income	Tailoring.
		Educ/Health	Health & sex education of devdasis.
1	Kerala	Educ/Envir	Education on soil conservation, environmnetal issues.
5	Maharashtra	Educ/Income	Education of slum children, income for women teachers.
		Educ/Health	Education & awareness of mental health.
		Educ/Health	AIDS awareness.
		Education	Teaching science in mobile van.
		Integrated Rural development	Long term development of villages affected by earthquake.
1	Orissa	Education	Nonformal education of women/children.
1	Rajasthan	Income/Envir	Cattle rearing, Water conservation.
2	Tamil Nadu	Educ/Training	Leadership training of women
		Educ/women	Nonformal education of harijan children, forming women sangams.
1	Uttar Pradesh	Education	Awareness of social issues, legal rights.
2	West Bengal	Income	Tailoring.
		Health/Income	Health care, kitchen gardens.

## EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

In 1994, IDS sponsored two educational seminars that were well attended and which generated a great deal of enthusiasm among the participants. The Spring Seminar was held on May 7 at the College of Osteopathic Medicine in Oak Brook, Illinois. Over one hundred and fifty people, including forty from outside Illinois, came to hear noted activist Medha Patkar and other distinguished speakers in a conference titled "Development with Equity and Sustainability." While the morning session dwelt on the broad paradigms of development, the afternoon session included a panel discussion about the controversial Sardar Sarovar Dam Project in Gujarat. Other speakers included Ramesh Diwan, a Gandhian economist; Dr. John Martin, past leader of the American Coalition on Rivers; Dr. Vijay Dave and Dr. Bharat Barai, two Chicago area physicians and community activists; Lori Udall of International Rivers Network; Lalit Dalal, former Chief Secretary of Gujarat; Mr. Nanavati, former Executive Engineer at the Ukai Dam in Gujarat; Babu Patel, a Chicago businessman, and Ashwin Shah, author of Water for Gujarat and research expert on water issues.

The Fall Seminar was a two day affair held on September 17 and 18 at the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago. It was titled "National Conference for Sustainable Development in India," and drew over two hundred participants from across the United States. This conference was intended to follow up on the progress and enthusiasm generated at the National Conference of Indian Activists held two years ago in Chicago. Educational seminars allowed discussions on environmental issues, literacy, human rights, the AIDS crisis in India, women's empowerment, rural health care delivery, and economic liberalization policies. In addition to the keynote speaker, Sri S.N. Subbarao of the Gandhi Peace Foundation, India, there were several other noted speakers and panelists that educated and enlightened the enthusiastic audience.

A unique feature of this conference was that it was organized by young, second generation Indian-Americans with an avid interest in Indian development issues. In addition, they were able to draw several young adults to attend the conference. It was heartwarming to see the serious interest and energy generated by the youth, and IDS hopes that the interest generated by this conference will result in the creation of IDS student chapters at Universities across the nation.

In addition to the two seminars, IDS hosted lectures by three prominent social workers and persons in development. The first was a talk by Dr. and Mrs. Lohiya of Manav Lok, an organization based in Maharashtra engaged in rural development, and most recently, the rehabilitation of villagers and villages after the devastating earthquake in the Latur area. They gave us a very inspiring lecture on June 3, 1994 in Glenview, Illinois on rural development in general, and earthquake related development in particular.

The second lecture was given by Mr. Sanat Mehta, Chairman of the Sardar Sarovar Nigam, an organization dedicated to the building of the Sardar Sarovar Dam in Gujarat. Since Mr. Mehta was unavailable to appear as a speaker at our May 7 Seminar, he was invited to talk to us about the pro-dam stance which he represents. His lecture was held in Glenview, Illinois on July 30, 1994.

The third was a well attended talk given by Gail Omvedt on November 13, 1994 in Downers Grove, Illinois. Gail is an activist living in Maharashtra and talked about her work which includes enhancing the role of rural women in areas of development such as agriculture and farming, and encouraging their participation in local politics.

## INDIA DEVELOPMENT DAY

Our annual fundraising event, also known as I.D. Day, was held on October 1, 1994 at the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago. Mallika Sarabhai, gifted dancer, singer, mimic, and activist from Ahmedabad, India enthralled an audience of seven hundred people with *Sita's Daughters*, a one-woman dance drama portraying the status of women in India from Sita down to modern times. Sarabhai, through a stunning combination of classical dance, narration, acting, and singing glided from one woman's role to the next, depicting the oppression and injustices they have suffered through the years. Oppression which has caused many a brave wife, mother and daughter to stand up with courage and resolution, determined to unmask the perpetrator at all costs. Ordinary women and Princesses or Goddesses alike have risen to the challenge for centuries during India's checkered past, and they could not have found a more effective spokesperson than Sarabhai to recount their stories.

The successful evening was thoroughly enjoyed by all present, and IDS gratefully thanks its supporters for contributing to its success.

## IDS AND THE NEXT GENERATION

IDS is very happy to note that in 1994, second-generation Indian-Americans have begun to play an even more important and powerful force in the movement to support sustainable development in India. IDS actively promotes efforts by Indian-American youth to educate themselves about the problems of India's development and to participate in solutions to those problems.

The Student Externship Program is a new creation of young adults which is off to a promising start. The idea behind this program is to allow youth to spend anywhere from two weeks to a year at a development project in India and experience first-hand the problems faced by disadvantaged people and see how they are empowered to improve their lives. This is a learning experience for students who wish to better understand the nature of grassroots development work.

There are currently ten projects situated in different parts of India which have agreed to participate in the program. Last year, students who visited projects in Rajasthan and Maharashtra returned with accounts of very meaningful experiences. Young adults feel that such an educational experience will better enable them to take the next step - action to support sustainable development in India. At present, two students are working at the Bhagavatula Charitable Trust in Andhra Pradesh. The experiences of these young adults will assist IDS in strengthening this fledgling program in the future.

*For more information on the Externship Program, please contact Rupa Rao at 708-782-2168 or Ketki Parikh at 708-325-0110.*

Student IDS University Chapters is another area in which second generation Indian-Americans are making headway. Universities have a tremendous amount of energy and youthful idealism, and provide the perfect setting for students to get involved with development issues. Several schools have created local IDS Chapters which raise funds locally to support projects in India. Both the University of Cincinnati and the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign are supporting women's education and AIDS awareness projects currently. Money is raised by holding local educational fund-raisers such as plays or films, and the University of Cincinnati group has even made an audio cassette of one of its musical theater productions which they are selling for \$5.00 a piece. It is indeed heartening for IDS to see such energy and enthusiasm among the younger generation that is targeted towards development in India.

**INDIA DEVELOPMENT SERVICE  
CONTRIBUTIONS/DISBURSEMENTS  
1994**

	1994	1993
Contributions:		
- Earmarked	48,019.77	46,009.83
- General/Membership	16,183.98	17,391.82
- Trust/Life Membership	1,001.00	3,831.00
Total Contributions & Dues	65,204.75	67,232.65
Net Revenue from fund raising:		
- ID DAY	33,311.70	27,811.61
- Other (Cards/Books etc.)	502.90	1,444.40
Total	33,814.60	29,256.01
Interest from banks & investments:		
- General	3,548.68	1,146.12
- Trust	8,452.89	7,456.75
Total Interest	12,001.57	8,602.87
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>111,020.92</b>	<b>105,091.53</b>
Disbursements:		
Programs Support:		
- India Project support	50,600.96	34,226.00
- Educational Projects		
- Seminar/Meetings	12,164.73	5,720.60
- Catalyst	4,545.15	3,389.91
- Newsletter	0.00	357.37
Total Program support	67,310.84	43,693.88
Administration Expenses:		
- Printing	590.05	969.11
- Postage	521.52	691.91
- Telephone	0.00	322.45
- Travel	0.00	200.00
- Filing fee	5.00	5.00
- Bank Charges	344.38	250.51
- Chapter expenses	0.00	290.91
- Office Supplies	183.69	313.67
- Other	458.57	50.00
Total Administration Expense	2,103.21	3,093.56
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>69,414.05</b>	<b>46,787.44</b>
<b>Excess/(Deficit) - Revenue/Expenses</b>	<b>41,606.87</b>	<b>58,304.09</b>

**INDIA DEVELOPMENT SERVICE**  
**BALANCE SHEET**  
**As of December 31**

	1994	1993
<b>ASSETS:</b>		
First Chicago	49,808.29	44,554.72
State Bank of India	1,131.07	24,206.46
Dean Witter	0.00	12,365.45
India Development Bonds	50,000.00	50,000.00
State Bank CD	108,491.47	75,962.19
India - CD	35,000.00	
India - Accounts	4,264.86	
Treasury Bills	20,000.00	20,000.00
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>268,695.69</b>	<b>227,088.82</b>
<b>LIABILITIES:</b>		
Trust Balance	99,622.54	90,168.65
<b>Restricted Funds:</b>		
Ashwin Shah	1,440.00	200.00
Baba Amte	139.50	40.00
Earthquake Relief	39,758.78	28,057.00
Goldman Foundation	50,000.00	60,000.00
IDS Milwaukee	2,700.00	2,700.00
FRCH	100.00	
Jiwhala	30.00	
Matri-O-Shishu	575.00	
National Association of Blind	0.00	238.00
Project CARE	2,789.80	2,583.13
Renu Gandhi (Milwaukee)	2,869.00	
Society for Development of Dalits	250.00	250.00
Trust for Reaching the Unreached	1,100.00	
Vikas	1,750.33	979.33
Other	0.00	0.00
<b>Total Restricted Funds</b>	<b>103,502.41</b>	<b>95,047.46</b>
Available for IDS use	65,570.74	41,872.71
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>268,695.69</b>	<b>227,088.82</b>