

TECHNICAL SCHOOL

Since 2004, six-month course in house-wiring and motor-rewinding and from July 2007 a two-wheeler-repair course is offered to young men from the surrounding villages. Residential students stay at the technical school during the course, paying a nominal fee for the training while the balance is covered by the Sangam.

SERICULTURE

Following the fall in the value of the cotton crop the Sangam started in 2002 a silk production project that serves as a model for the small farmers looking for an alternative cash generating crop with less reliance on the predictability of the monsoon.



WATERSHED

Due to the reduced ground water level in the region the Sangam has built the first watershed on the Sangam's farm land in Bamhani with the help of the Maharashtra Government in 2005. The watershed helps to retain rain water and reduce run-off thus improving the groundwater table around the villages.

RAINBOW GUESTHOUSE

It has always been an aim that the Sangam's projects should eventually be supported by funds generated in India. With this in mind the Deutsch-Indische Zusammenarbeit e.V., a German charitable society, has funded the building of the Rainbow Guesthouse and Conference Centre in Nagpur. This has been opened since the beginning of 2005 and has started to contribute to the Sangam's funds.

THE FUTURE

Looking ahead, the Sangam hopes to implement and realise the following projects:

- to expand the technical school and offer more courses for young men such as welding and material fabrication;
- to further expand our awareness building and medical work in the slums of Nagpur;
- to spread out to remoter villages to establish additional sub-centres in order to reach more people.

In order to help us in realising the aforementioned goals we kindly request you to make your contributions payable to:

Ecumenical Sangam

**State Bank of India, Kingsway Branch
Account No. 01100905183**

CONTACT

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Ecumenical Sangam is a charitable society for community health and development. It was founded in 1993 and is situated in Nagpur, the very heart of India. The main objective of its work is the uplifting of the weaker sections of society, especially in the villages south of Nagpur and urban slums around Nagpur.

In Bamhani, 35 km down the NH 7 to Hyderabad, Sangam runs a Base Centre, which is the hub for the Sangam team to look after more than 45 surrounding villages. Additionally, the Sangam runs two sub-centres, Shedeswar and Gondwananager, to cover the more remote villages.

The Sangam supports a wide range of projects including primary health care, social work and education of children as well as raising awareness amongst adults on various topics.



Our **main activities** comprise awareness building of the village and slum populations concerning matters of primary health care, nutrition, hygiene, education, family planning, socio-economic issues and further developing their own skills.

In all our activities **the overall objective** is to start and support a process of sustainable development where the villagers and slum dwellers do not become dependent on the Sangam or any other organisation but manage to stand on their own feet and air their own voice.



MEDICAL TRAINING PROGRAMMES FOR VILLAGE AND SLUM WORK

Through basic medical training and awareness building programmes, some women are trained in two months to become Village Health and Social Workers (VHSWs). After a successful examination and field experience they can apply for a one year programme with the Indian College of Maternal and Child Health, for which the Sangam also offers financial support. After one year, the participants can become Trained Birth Attendants (TBAs). In cooperation with the Sangam staff, VHSWs and TBAs organise and provide the following medical services for

the village and slum populations in and around Nagpur:

Medical Help

- Home visits by the village and slum nurses
- Examination of pregnant women and newborns on a regular basis
- Treatment of acute diseases (e. g. malaria, hepatitis) and referral to a hospital
- Counselling in matters of family planning
- Vaccination programmes
- Different diagnostic camps carried out with the support of doctors from Nagpur.

Community Development

- Organisation of self-help groups for teenagers and women
- Promotion of savings groups
- Legal assistance
- Literacy drives
- Grant of small loans, e. g. for the purchase of a sewing machine
- Support and guidance for small farmers on crop selection and diversification.

Income Generating Measures

- Promoting the start-up of small businesses
- Instruction in crafts
- Education especially for women
- Organisation of small loans.

COUNSELLING CELL

Due to rising domestic violence against women, the Counselling Cell for Women in Distress was established in 2006. It operates in a local police station in Butibori and provides help to suffering women. Counselling often is an alternative to legal proceedings and divorce.

KINDERGARTEN

The range of the Sangam's activities also includes a kindergarten in Bamhani and the two sub-centres for 100 children from the surrounding villages. The "play way method" of teaching has been adopted and the school is well-equipped with charts and blackboards as well as a nice playground. The children are given a good quality breakfast and midday meal, encompassing a daily supplement of vitamins, iron and calcium. Regular health statistics are maintained for each child.



TAILORING CLASSES

Every year 30-35 girls from the villages are given the opportunity to undergo a six months training in sewing and tailoring which is organised by the Sangam in Bamhani (since 1995) and the sub-centres. Costs are shared between the Sangam and the participant. The young women are encouraged to take the government-recognized exams and after having passed, they are given the possibility of receiving a sewing machine either from the government for free (if they are below the poverty line) or one from the Sangam through an interest-free loan, which they repay once they start earning.