

Outreach

A COLLECTOR'S EDITION

RAJASTHAN





“DANAM, GIVING, IS THE MEANS FOR GROWTH”

- Pujya Swami Dayananda Saraswati
Founder, AIM for Seva





FOUNDER'S MESSAGE



Pujya Swami Dayananda Saraswati

Danam, giving and sharing, is a mark of growth. Not giving is a mark of being stunted. Remaining a consumer all the time, and not becoming a contributor, is not the Vedic view of life. We have to be contributors. A person who consumes the least and contributes most is a mature person, for in giving lies the self-growth.

There are many ways of giving. You can give your time; you can lend a sympathetic ear to someone. You can express words of appreciation, encouragement, empathy and so on. Sharing your knowledge with someone is also caring. You can also pray for somebody.

It is important to understand that contribution is not only monetary. Converting another person from the level of a survivor into that of a contributor is a contribution. That is why it is said that among the many *danams*, gifts or contributions, *vidya-danam*, the gift of knowledge is considered to be the greatest.

Whether you directly offer *vidya* to another person by teaching a language, a discipline of science, or a skill, or indirectly provide a situation for such transference of knowledge to take place, it is a contribution. What kind of *vidya* should this be? Any *vidya* is good, but if you are able to give self-knowledge to a person, that is the greatest contribution. *Vidya* or knowledge is something that is very precious.

Excerpted from

- *Danam*
- *Living Versus Getting On*



CHAIRPERSON MESSAGE



Dear Friends,

Namaste and greetings from AIM for Seva. As we enter the 25th year of our journey, it is a time for reflection at a deeper level. Some of those questions are enumerated below.

- Is our social work only about backward students and first generation learners?
- Does AIM for Seva's journey stop with E2E (Education to Employment)?
- Is it only about the ones who score the highest marks, which Chatralayam or school or who gets placed where and more importantly, the package details?

Something was obviously missing in the puzzle above and we set to unravel the bigger missing pieces.

As a first step in this direction, this **Special Issue** seeks to untangle the bigger impact that AIM for Seva has created on the ground and it moves beyond the student, marks, job etc. Many families and communities have been directly or indirectly benefitted from our 190 projects spread across 17 states.

Some key findings are shared below:

- It is not education but value-based education that shapes a student for life. A value-based teaching ensures the student gets educated and is not merely literate.
- Our impact goes beyond the student. Even at the single unit level, Chatralayam, a few families are direct beneficiaries, like the warden, cook, security guard and helper.
- With many of our Chatralayams and schools being in existence for over a decade now, multiple linkages have been established within the community like those with local vendors and other suppliers.

Of course, we could not cover nor share the full impact on ground due to constraints of time (quarterly issue) and space (number of pages) and this is just the beginning.

More importantly, we set out to understand the full context and impact of our work before we begin the next 25 years of service to society. In the next leg of our journey, we will be AIMING for Gold (50th year of celebration). For that to successfully materialise, our seva work also has to become more mainstream. While rural education will continue to remain our mainstay, be it Chatralayams, co-educational rural residential schools or *Sandhya Gurukulam*, but the impact of our work has to move beyond the primary beneficiary, the student. Only then can we safely state that ours is a highly impactful model.

We hope you enjoy this **Collector's Edition of Outreach**. We look forward to your continued association and contribution towards our rural education projects.

Warm regards,

Sheela Balaji
Chairperson and Managing Trustee
AIM for Seva



SWAMI BRAHMAPARANANDA SARASWATI JI

Regional Coordinator

-: दानम् :-

यज्ञ दान पतः कर्म पावनानि मनिषिणाम्,

भगवान का यह वाक्य हमारे जीवन में एक प्रेरणा देता है, दान रूपी कर्म मनुष्य को पवित्र करने वाला है। हम अपने दिन प्रतिदिन के जिन्दगी में जो भी दान अणपत करते हैं, वह किसी ना किसी प्रकार से अपवित्र माना जाता है। जिस भी माध्यम से हमने संग्रहित किया है, नौकरी, व्यापार या अन्य किसी माध्यम से कमाया हुआ धन तभी पवित्र माना जाता है, जब उसमें से कुछ अंश सत्पात्र में दान दिया जाता है।

दान देते समय उसी भावना से दिया जाता है कि मैं इससे भी अधिक 'देना चाहता हूँ, लेकिन मेरा यहल सामर्थ है, उसी के प्रतीक में हम एक रुपया अधिक जोड़कर देते हैं, जैसे कि दस के जगह ग्यारह रुपये, पचास के जगह इक्यावन (51) रुपये देते हैं।

दातव्यं इति यत् दानं दीयते अनुष्करिणे ।

देशे काले च पात्रे च तत् दानं सात्त्विकं स्मृतम् । ।

बदले में कुछ भी अपेक्षा न करते हुये, उचित समय और उचित पात्र में दिया हुआ दान सात्त्विक माना जाता है।

आज इस समय के परिपेक्ष में पूज्य स्वामीजी द्वारा प्रारंभ किया गया यह प्रकल्प प्रथम तो वे इस आर्ष विद्या संस्था के संस्थापक एवं एम फॉर सेवा को प्रारम्भ करने वाले जिन्होंने यह दान दाताओं के लिये सुपात्र बना दिया जो इस पात्र में अपना धन दान कर महान पुण्य के धनी बन जाते हैं एक तरफ भूख और दूसरी तरफ अन्न इन दोनों का संयोग स्वामी जी ने बना दिया है, यह एक बहुत बड़ी अनोखी उपलब्धि है।

स्वामी ब्रह्मपरानन्द सरस्वती, जयपुर
Brahmaparananda

स्वामी ब्रह्मपरानन्द सरस्वती, जयपुर

WHAT IS A CHATRALAYAM?

Our flagship educational outpost is visible across the length and breadth of India in many last mile areas.

Located in close vicinity to a school in many far flung locations, the Chatralayam or free student hostel serves as a safe and secure boarding residence for students from rural India and backward regions of the country. There are separate hostels for boys and girls and students stay here for 10 months every year and go to a school which is located usually within walking distance.

In addition to providing access to the nearby K-12 school, the Chatralayam eco-system ensures overall physical, mental, emotional and spiritual wellbeing of a child by exposing them to regular activities and programmes such as daily sports and yoga, vocational training support, cultural activities and academic coaching and support.

A noteworthy feature of AIM for Seva's Chatralayam is that everything is provided completely free of cost to the student. This includes 3 nutritious meals, school fees, books and stationery, clothing, sports gear and regular health check-up and medicines.



CHATRALAYAM PRESENCE



94 Chatralayams across 17 States



A2B or East to West: Amreli to Bardhaman
K2K or North to South: Karnaprayag to Kanyakumari



Number of Villages from Where the
Students Come from: 2,700



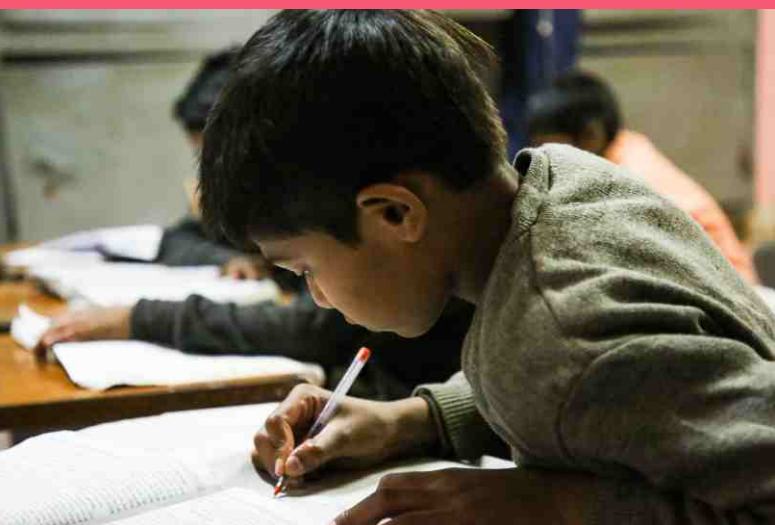
Meals Served Every Year: 4,109,400



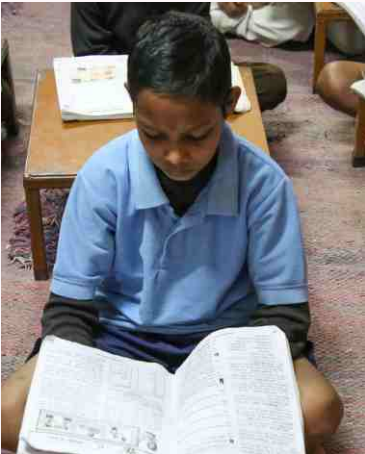
Hours Spent in Shaping Our Children's
Lives Every Year: 29,131,200



Percentage of First Generation Learners: 90%



CHATRALAYAM PRESENCE IN RAJASTHAN



AIM FOR SEVA CHATRALAYAM LOCATIONS

S.NO	NAME OF CHATRALAYAM	LOCATION
1	Arsha Vidya Tirtha AIM for Seva Chatralayam for Boys	Jaipur, Rajasthan
2	Swami Dayananda AIM for Seva Chatralayam for Boys	Udaipur, Rajasthan



Number of Chatralayams: 2



Number of Students in Chatralayams: Boys 133

AIM FOR SEVA UPCOMING EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION PROJECT

S.NO	NAME OF EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION	LOCATION
1	AIM for Seva Co-Educational School	Sangwa village, Mavli tehsil, Udaipur district, Rajasthan



ALL BUZZING ON THE WESTERN FRONT

EMPOWERING TRIBAL COMMUNITIES

Swami Brahmaparananda Saraswati ji is a senior disciple of Pujya Swami Dayananda Saraswati and the coordinator of AIM for Seva's projects in Rajasthan (two Chatralayams for Boys). He also holds the distinction of accompanying Pujya Swamiji in many of his lecture tours across India.

Based on Pujya Swamiji's advice, Swami Brahmaparananda Saraswati ji shifted to Rajasthan in 1998. He established a Vedantic Culture and Teaching Centre at Rajsamand. This was followed by Vedanta teaching tours in Jaipur and Udaipur. In 2002, Swamiji wanted AIM for Seva to expand its operations in Rajasthan. With the help of well wishers and a local donor, the Arsha Vidya Tirtha AIM for Seva Chatralayam for Boys in Jaipur, Rajasthan came into being. It was inaugurated on the 18th October 2008 by Pujya Swamiji himself.

In 2014, the Swami Dayananda AIM for Seva Chatralayam for Boys, Udaipur, Rajasthan, opened doors. Today, boys from 81 villages in the state come to reside and study at both Chatralayams.

Swami Brahmaparananda Saraswati ji says that he is happy to empower many descendants of *Ekalavya* (from the Mahabharata--a young prince of the confederation of jungle tribes of India). Many of the students from the Chatralayams at Jaipur and Udaipur are from the *Bhil* tribe. And he is happy with the progress shown by his students in doing seva and taking on responsibilities whenever and wherever required.



Impact on the Ground: Success Stories from Rajasthan

VOICES OF THE BHIL TRIBALS

India is home to numerous tribes and the *Bhil* is one among them. Rana Pratap Singh (1540 to 1597 CE) was one of the most famous kings of the Mewar dynasty, especially in the context of holding fort against the Mughal king, Akbar. He was aided in all his battles by *Bhil* warriors.

The *Bhils* have traditionally pledged their loyalty to Mewar's crown. Even today, the state emblem of Mewar has Rana Pratap and a *Bhil* tribesman standing on either side of the *Eklingji* (the titular deity of Mewar) – a mark of respect for the *Bhils'* loyalty and their indomitable spirit.

The *Bhils* have a strong connect to nature as well. Whether it's agriculture or hunting, community members have a great knowledge of the forests and the earth.



Gulab Damor

ALUMNUS

Arsha Vidya Tirtha AIM for Seva Chatralayam for Boys Jaipur, Rajasthan

Gulab Damor joined the Arsha Vidya Tirtha AIM for Seva Chatralayam for Boys, Jaipur in 2008 when he was 10 years old.

“I was the first student at this hostel,” he recollects.

He hails from Makdev village in Udaipur district, which is a hilly region. His father is into farming in the village and Gulab has two younger brothers.

Gulab's big moment occurred when he came face to face with our Founder, Pujya Swami Dayananda Saraswati when Swamiji paid a visit to the Jaipur hostel in 2008 and 2011. “Swamiji's vision is profound. At that time, he inspired all of us by telling that nothing is bigger than working towards the betterment of society.”

After completing Class 12 in 2014, Gulab went on to do a Bachelor's in Arts from the IGNOU (Indira Gandhi National Open University) with his main subjects being Philosophy, Sanskrit and English. Alongside, Gulab also pursued a BA in Music from Allahabad University.

Gulab is looking to take forward his musical education. He is keen to do an MA as well as a PhD in Hindustani music and he wants to focus on the Delhi *Gharana*. The Delhi *Gharana* is one of the oldest *tabla gharana* and the first one to establish improvisation rules. It was founded in the 18th century.

“I would like to take Swamiji's vision forward. I want to learn as much as possible so that I can spread the message of our Founder, far and wide,” he says.



Om Prakash Bheel

ALUMNUS

Arsha Vidya Tirtha AIM for Seva Chatralayam for Boys, Jaipur, Rajasthan & Swami Dayananda AIM for Seva Chatralayam for Boys, Udaipur, Rajasthan

Hailing from a very poor family, Om Prakash Bheel's story symbolises how getting access to value-based education can transform one's life.

Having a dual master's degree, M.Com and M.Ed is not enough for this young lad. Om Prakash is now pursuing his Phd in education.

Om Prakash's mother, Ms. Chunni Devi died when he was only 11 years old. He is the eldest among five and his father, Sri. Chunni Lal found it tough to make ends meet with a small parcel of agricultural land. Om Prakash is from village Ghasakhedi in Mavli tehsil in Udaipur district in Rajasthan. The family's annual income does not exceed Rs.30,000.

To sustain and support his family, Om Prakash started to work as a domestic help with a family in Udaipur, cleansing

floors, dusting and washing dishes. This particular family used to follow a spiritual master, Swami Mahaveer Das ji, a devotee of Lord Hanuman.

The Sadhu was moved looking at the plight of Om. Swami Mahaveer ji took Om Prakash under his wings and the little boy began seva at the Hanuman Mandir in the city. Simultaneously, Om Prakash started attending a school nearby and completed his studies till Class 8 in the new environs.

By a stroke of luck, Om Prakash came in touch with Swami Brahmaparananda Saraswati ji, the coordinator of our hostels in Udaipur and Jaipur. Swamiji who had just completed his three and a half year Vedantic course at Arsha Vidya Gurukulam, Anaikatti, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, landed in Rajsamand (Rajasthan) to establish a Vedantic Culture and Teaching Centre there.

Subsequently, Swami Brahmaparananda Saraswati ji started to teach both at Rajsamand and Udaipur, on a fortnightly basis. Among others, one Sri. Mahim Dashora, a long-standing supporter of AIM for Seva, Udaipur, became closely associated with Swami Brahmaparananda Saraswati ji.

Incidentally, Swami Mahaveer Das ji, the previous mentor of Om Prakash also knew Sri. Mahim. Swami Mahaveer ji discussed about Om Prakash with him and asked if he can be helped. Sri. Mahim took up the matter with Swami Brahmaparananda Saraswati ji and Om Prakash Bheel joined the Arsha Vidya Tirtha AIM for Seva Chatralayam for Boys, Jaipur, Rajasthan, in 2006.

It is here that Om Prakash completed his bachelor's degree in education along with M.Com from Rajasthan University. In between, Om Prakash also managed to do a certificate course in computers and tally programming.

Om Prakash then began the next leg of his educational journey. He bagged a seat for M.Ed (Masters in Education) at Janardan Rai University, Udaipur, Rajasthan. He shifted to the Swami Dayananda AIM for Seva Chatralayam for Boys, Udaipur, Rajasthan, during this period.

Simultaneously, Om Prakash also started offering seva at the Udaipur Chatralayam by teaching tribal students residing in the hostel. He also briefly served as the warden of this Chatralayam.

Alongside his post graduate degree in education, Om Prakash kept himself busy by preparing for other competitive exams. Om is now keen to pursue higher education and is particularly looking at propagating the power of online education in rural, tribal and other underserved areas.

“ I would like to pursue a career in education and am contemplating a PhD in education.”

Om Prakash also appeared for admission to PhD from Janardan Rai University Udaipur, Rajasthan. He managed to ace the written test as well as interview in his second attempt and managed to get admission for the PhD programme.

Om Prakash sums up his life's journey and association with AIM for Seva. "I had access to value-based education, the hallmark of our Chatralayams. I can tell very confidently that the kind of education that I had access to, will not be found anywhere else even if you pay loads of money. The academic support provided at our Chatralayams combined with culture validation is something unique to AIM for Seva."



Sukhlal Bhajat

ALUMNUS ON AUTOPILOT MODE

Sukhlal Bhajat who studied in the Jaipur hostel from May 2008 to July 2015 is now currently working as an apprentice at the Maruti Suzuki India Limited plant in Manesar, Gurgaon.

Recollecting his hostel life, Bhajat says that 50 of them lived under one roof and he imbibed strong cultural values during the Jaipur hostel years from 2008 to 2015.

He is grateful that he stepped into the AIM for Seva hostel network at a crucial juncture in his life. "Many of my friends in the village got addicted to smoking and drugs. I am happy that I focused on my studies," he says.

While living in the hostel, Sukhlal also learnt driving and obtained a four wheeler driving license. Sukhlal has four other siblings—two brothers and two sisters and he is second of the lot. His father owns a small plot of land in Chokdi village which is in Jhadol tehsil in Udaipur district. The family grows corn, rice, spinach, wheat and soybean on this farmland.

After completing his schooling, Sukhlal enrolled in ITI (Industrial Training Institute) in Udaipur from 2015 to 2017 in the motor mechanic course. After completing his training, he appeared for a written examination conducted by Maruti Suzuki and was one of the six who made it to the interview stage. In this final round, only two candidates got selected, one of them being Sukhlal.

Sukhlal is currently earning Rs. 14,000 per month and is employed as an apprentice in the auto major's Manesar plant. Sukhlal's biggest learnings have been hard work and motivation.

“After coming into the AIM for Seva network, I realised the importance of being focused. Competition has increased in all sectors and the only way to remain focused is to work hard,” says Sukhlal.

Sukhlal is contemplating to open his own mechanic shop sometime in the future. At the moment, he is looking to preparing for training and recruitment in the armed and police forces.



STUDENT

**Arsha Vidya Tirtha AIM for Seva
Chatralayam for Boys
Jaipur, Rajasthan**

C. Tulsiram Bhil

C. Tulsiram Bhil, a student from the Arsha Vidya Tirtha AIM for Seva Chatralayam for Boys, Jaipur, Rajasthan, scored 88% in the Class 10 board examination. What's more, he secured the school first position. He aspires to be an Income Tax officer one day.



OUR REACH



Hé Govind

हे गोविंद | An Ode to Krishna

A MULTI-CITY MUSICAL NARRATIVE TO SUPPORT

AIM FOR SEVA'S MISSION TO EDUCATE RURAL INDIA

FRIDAY | 19TH JANUARY 2024 | 6.30 PM

LOCATION

R.L. SWARANKAR AUDITORIUM
Mahatma Gandhi Medical College, Sitapura, Jaipur-302022, Rajasthan



Conceptualised as a soulful musical journey that transports the listener to the divine realm of Lord Krishna, Hé Govind | हे गोविंद is an audio-visual treat that features many of the compositions of popular saints and seers of India including that of Pujya Swami Dayananda Saraswati, Founder, AIM for Seva.

Thoughtfully curated as an evocative *bhakti* fundraiser, this upcoming multi-city musical narrative in January 2024 seeks to support the education to employment dreams of hundreds of Krishnas and Radhas in India's interiors.

MAIN ARTISTS

Sri. Jayateerth Mevundi - Vocals
Sri. Pravin Godkhindi - Flute

ACCOMPANYING ARTISTS

Sri. Narendra L Nayak - Harmonium
Sri. Yashwanth Vaishnav - Tabla
Sri. Suryakant Surve - Side Rhythm



Join our Movement in Educating Rural India

EDUCATION (CHATRALAYAMS)

S.No.	Donation Categories	Yearly Amount	Monthly Amount
1	Vidya Danam for 1 Child Support by providing tuition fees, books, notebooks, stationery, uniforms, school bag and sports gear	Rs. 15,000	Rs. 1,250
2	Annadanam for 1 Child Support by providing boarding, three meals a day, health check-ups and medicine	Rs. 21,000	Rs. 1,750
3	Complete Education and Care for 1 Child (Options 1 and 2 combined)	Rs. 36,000	Rs. 3,000
4	Special Meals for our Children in a Chatralayam on a Donor Designated Day	Rs. 4,000	
5	General Donation	Amount of Your Choice	

SANDHYA GURUKULAM (EVENING TUITION CENTRE)

1	Sandhya Gurukulam	Rs. 60,000 per centre	Rs. 5,000 per centre
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SWAMI DAYANANDA KRUPA HOME

1	Complete Care for 1 Resident (Food, board, occupational therapy and life skills)	Rs. 1,20,000	Rs. 10,000
2	Special Meals for the Residents on a Donor Designated Day	Rs. 5,000	
3	General Donation	Amount of Your Choice	

- ♦ Cheques/DD to be drawn in favour of 'AIM for Seva'
- ♦ Donate online at <https://aimforseva.in/donations/>
- ♦ Contributions to AIM for Seva are exempt from Income Tax under section 80G of the Indian Income Tax Act, 1961