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# KANTHA VIBHAG FRIENDSHIP TRUST

Registered CHARITY No. 287733

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59, ETON AVENUE, SUDBURY - WEMBLEY, MIDDLESEX - HA0 3AZ

## **Kantha Vibhag Friendship Trust and its Charitable Work**

Most of you have heard about the Trust and a great number of you have participated/attended its programmes in our District. The details below will familiarise you further with the activities of the Trust and its future plans.

In 1983 I went to India for the second time in thirty-five years. Most of the three weeks, I stayed in Navsari where my mother was hospitalised and a few days in my village. The thought that bugged me most at the time was that if my next visit should take another thirty-five years it would be too late for me to do whatever little I should do for my people in the villages.

During my visit one afternoon to the Gujarat Agricultural College at Char Rasta I met Dr. Ramanbhai Patel, a lecturer at the time, who volunteered to show me around. Although I met him for the first time and did not know him at all, I expressed my wish to do something on a regular basis in our villages. In specific terms I said in years to come I wanted to see four mango trees in four corners of each villages farm. He invited me to his house for further discussion.

The outcome of it was that when I returned to London I set up the above Trust with much wider aims than planting Fruit Trees so that various development projects can be undertaken as required. (Incidentally, it turned out that this young man Dr. Ramanbhai had married in Matwad to a relation of my sister. This helped me to persuade him to take on the responsibility himself ). It turned out to be one of the best choices for the Trust.

In 1984 I went back to India with all the relevant registration papers, opened a bank account in the name of the Trust and we were ready to launch our first Fruit Tree Planting Project soon after the next monsoon in 1985.

The aims listed in our Trust instrument were, advancement in health, education, culture and relief of poverty and any other purposes beneficial to the community. In the beginning, with the limitation of my own financial commitment we did not believe we would be able to do more than two or three programmes a year. When setting up a trust in UK it is best to list our aims rather widely as it becomes rather difficult to change afterwards.

**Managing Trustee:** KESHAVLAL J. PATEL, ACMA  
**Chief Executive Officer:** Dr. RAMANBHAI B. PATEL

Tel: 020 8902 7034  
Tel:Navsari 225415



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And so within the limits of funding the projects developed over the years. For the past 35 years we have been doing some 15 to 20 programmes every year. Since the past few years, a number of supporters have come forward to sponsor a project or two each year.

Here is a brief list of what the Trust has done and in many cases is continuing to do. We continuously evaluate our work and if we find any of our projects has served its purpose or if the local needs have changed then additional new programmes are organised to meet the changed circumstances.

### **Planting Fruit Trees.**

This was our initial project. 3 or 4 villages were selected and 20,000+ fruits trees were distributed for planting each year. Each household was given 5 to 6 saplings of different fruit trees. These included mango, chikoo, coconut, ramphal, lemon, jamrukh, papaya, dadam, saragvo, etc. for planting in their backyard or vado. Over the years we have planted 350,000 fruits trees in 56 villages.

### **Veterinary Camps / Livestock Management.**

In association with Vasudhara Dairy and Agricultural College we organise 5-6 veterinary camps each year. Camps are held in open ground in one of the villages and people from 3-4 surrounding villages bring in their cows, buffalos, goats etc for treatment or diagnosis by the veterinary surgeons from Vasudhara Dairy. If injections or medicine are required this is supplied free of charge.

Instructions and posters for livestock management and recognising sickness are also given. This programme is very popular as keeping a cow or a buffalo is a very useful means of reducing poverty in a village.

### **Skill Development and Cottage Industrial Training.**

**Sewing** has proved to be the most popular. Initially we sent volunteers to Government organised courses but as the demand increased we bought 10 sewing machines and engaged two instructors and with five machines in two villages started three months courses. 46 villages have been covered and everyone who wished to learn to sew has been taught and vast majority of them have been helped to buy a sewing machine at a substantial discount. This activity continues. Taking up sewing jobs in the city has been a handicap because of the compulsion to work late in the evening.



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Hundreds of young ladies have gone through our weeklong **Beauty Parlour** training. Some of them are practising and earning good money.

**Flower arrangement, Biscuit making, and making plastic dinner dishes** courses are regularly organised.

The Trust regularly organises courses on **Motor-rewinding, Tractor maintenance, Brick laying, Plumbing and basic electric rewiring and TV and Refrigerator maintenance etc.,**

All the courses we run are at no cost to the participants.

### **National Lottery Fund, UK.**

Having built up an excellent track record of over twelve years of poverty alleviation and skill training for the benefit to the whole family, the National Lottery Fund in UK awarded us £25,468 to be used over a five year period. This helped us cover a wide area and more activity.

### **Sponsors.**

The Trust does not make a public appeal for funds at any of our programmes so no one need fear that you will be pressurised to part with your money if you attended one of our programme.

Yet, many of our people do sincerely want to do something for our people in India. When they see for themselves the excellent way this Trust functions and approaches us to help we organise for them a platform. The Trust will carry out all the background work and the sponsor personally or through his representative perform the desired charitable work and pay direct to the supplier.

A number of our sponsors have been with us for many years and sponsor a programme or two every year. To name a few, they are:

Amratbhai from USA, Babubhai Rama from UK, Hirabhai Vala from India, Kishorebhai Parbhu for Canada, Mahendra Brothers form India, Naranbhai Makanji from India, P. U. Patel from UK. Ramanbhai Vallabh from India, Shantubhai Bhagwanji from UK, Vallabhbhai Budhi from UK, and others.

It is through their generosity that we have been able to provide rations to the poor, school kits to the children from poor and broken families, prizes to bright students,



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cultural programmes such as Bhajan and Ras Garba competitions and many more year after year.

The Trust is grateful to them all.

### **Future Plans**

While continuing with all the above activities with more or less emphasis, we now need to put more weight on schemes that will help reduce unemployment and poverty among our youth and families if any permanent success is to be achieved.

Formal and free primary and secondary education in our villages have little to commend. Our students have difficulty crossing the standard 12 examinations. At this level and below the youths have little skill to join any worthwhile occupation.

From our own experience from the training sessions we run we find that those who go through our technical training and skill courses do much better in the job market.

Our plan now is to fit out and equip a workshop where we can professionally run a number of courses desired by the students and where they can contribute to the economy of the country. These courses will include, **Instruments repair, Welding, Motor rewinding, TV and refrigeration repairs**, etc.

Each of these practise and theory courses will be of three months duration qualifying for a recognised certificate. We hope to run two to three courses per year.

Our estimated cost for a three month course is Rs. 1,20,000.

We are looking for sponsors or better still supporters who will support a course every year. Even if you can sponsor a few students it will be a great help.

Do please contact me here in UK or Ramanbhai in India.

**UK.** Keshavlal J Patel. Phone: 020 8902 7034. email [kjspatel@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:kjspatel@yahoo.co.uk)  
**India.** Ramanbhai B Patel. Phone: 02637 225 415. Mobile 93272 45447

*Keshavlal J Patel*



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## **Brief Sketch of People involved in KVFT**

### **Founder and Managing Trustee – Keshavlal J Patel**

My name is Keshavlal and I have been a permanent resident of United Kingdom for the past 46 years. I am originally from Bodali in Navsari District. At the age of twelve I left India in 1948 for Nairobi –Kenya and lived there for 23 years. I studied there and passed Senior Cambridge Exams. I worked there for an Insurance company, Travel agency, East African Railways and The Kenya Polytechnic. Ten years after leaving school I started studying for an accountancy qualification.

In 1971 I arrived in London, UK and cleared my final accountancy exams and qualified as a Chartered Management Accountant (ACMA). Upon arriving in London I joined London Transport Executive as a budgets Officer for a couple of years and then joined National Health Service where I worked for 12 years as an assistant Treasurer. I then joined Overseas Development Institute, a Social Research Organisation as an accountant from where I retired after 13 years.

I have always been interested in our Community work. I was a committee member of Mandhata Mandal, Nairobi for three years and on arriving in London, along with a few friends who had recently arrived from Nairobi, set up Mandhata Mandal in London. Later we renamed it to Mandhata Youth and Community Association. Here I served in various capacity and am still involved as an ordinary member. I have also been active member of The Association of Mandhata Samaj UK, Bodali Seva Mandal, UK and Gujarati Sahitya Academy, etc.

It had been my ardent wish to do something for our villages in India and for that Kantha Vibhag Friendship Trust was the vehicle I set up in 1984 with the help of Ramanbhai.

### **Chief Executive Officer – Dr. Ramanbhai B Patel**

I met Ramanbhai of Nava Gam at Gujarat Agricultural College in Navsari in 1983 when I was on a short visit to see my parents in India.

At the time I only had a vague idea that I would like a Mango tree for every family in the Kantha Vibhag Villages. I am sure he may have had similar ideas from others and nothing happened. However my enthusiasm may have been such that he asked me see him again to discuss further. The outcome was that he agreed to do whatever he could to help.



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On my return to UK I started work on setting up the necessary Organisation. I registered it with the Charity Commission in UK.

I returned to India the following year. Set up the necessary bank accounts and we could be off. We continued planning for several months and in 1985 the first project of Fruit Tree Planting materialised.

By the time I met Ramanbhai he had already completed his B.Sc, M.Sc with Agricultural Subjects and was appointed a Lecturer at the Gujarat Agricultural University in Navsari. He completed his Ph.D studied in 1985. Extension Education was his main interest – that is to say he was actively involved in helping farmers on the field. He worked at several levels as Professor teaching Extension Education to students and in 2004 became Director of Extension Education NAU at Navsari Agricultural University. After retiring in 2010 he was invited to take up a position of Senior Technical Advisor at I.T.S. Gandhinagar. He served there for 3 years and was then invited to become Chief Coordinator at National Assembly for Climate Change in Gandhinagar where he still provides his valuable knowledge and experience. He has worked as a Consultant to Government of India in Hyderabad. He has also undertaken work as a project consultant to Magadi Soda Company in Kenya. When he visits his son in Canada the farmers in Calgiry makes sure that he spend some time with them advising on agricultural matters.

The one qualification that Ramanbhai is most admired for by one and all is his burning desire to help in any way he can to uplift people to a higher level. He has dedicated all his energy and spare time to developing and executing the various Projects for Kantha Vibhag Friendship Trust. My experience is that there is hardly any one in the 50 villages where we have served who does not know Ramanbhai of Agricultural College.

For his exemplary long service to the Nation he has been awarded scores of awards. National Awards such Samaj Ratna and Gram Laxmi awards among them.

Kantha Vibhag Friendship Trust is most fortunate in securing his services for now over 35 years and continuing. His contribution is unparalleled. I could not have done without you.

Thank You, Ramanbhai. May God gives you the strength to serve our people for many years to come.



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**Over the years many people in India have helped Ramanbhai to organise each of our programmes and successfully see them through each of the villages.**

Some of the people involved were: Ratilal and Ramaben (Onjal), Vinodbhai (Dabhlay), Savitaben (Moti Pethan), Arvindbhai (Mora), Jasumatiben (Nimlai), Babubhai (Puni), Rameshbhai C (Maroli), Rameshbhai (Kalthan), Varshaben (Dandi), Thakorbbhai (Delvada), Laxmiben (Matwad), Dineshbhai (Onjal), Laduben (Sarpore), Jasuben (Danti), Chandanben (Bhula Falia), and many more.

On the ground all the Head Teachers and other teachers of all the village schools, Surpanchs and their teams of each village, Mahila Mandals members of each of the villages and various youths and elders from each villages have been involved in helping to make our activity a success.

Thank you all. Without you all we could not have made it.

As of now the Trust spends around ten lakh Rupees each year on various activities. This would not have been possible without the dozens of sponsors. They were all attracted to the Trust because of it's popularity and the usefulness of the projects we do.

### **Our Sponsors**

**Shree Hirabhai Vala.** Hirabhai and his family of Bori Falia have been sponsoring the popular Bhajan Competition programme since we started our activity in 1985. Over 40 villages take part and is eagerly awaited.

**Shree Amrutbhai Jerambhai Patel.** Amrutbhai and his family run a business in USA and visits India every year. He is originally from Machhad and is one of the major philanthropist of our community. Machhad and this Trust have benefited greatly from his desire to help our people. He sponsors several of our projects every year. His major contribution goes to undergraduate scholarships, rations to the poor, other educational projects etc.

**Late Shree Hirabhai Naranbhai Patel (Karadi) / Shree Shantubhai Bhagwanji Patel (Dandi) and Shree Babubhai Ramabhai Patel (Karadi) All UK.**

This family have sponsored Garba programme for many years in the past.

**Shree P. U. Patel (Kothamadi) UK.** Have been sponsoring our distribution of School kits to poor students every year.



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**Shree Kishorebhai Parbhubhai Patel (Nani Kakrad) Canada.** Sponsors educational programmes every year.

**Shree Mahendra Brothers and Family (Navsari)** sponsors some essential educational programmes for senior students and school and college leavers.

**Shree Dharmeshbhai/Bharatbhai Bhimbhai and Family** sponsors our lavish Garba Competition events every year.

**Dr. Shree R. C. Patel and Family (Kanokhat)** Sponsors and Dr. Nehaben is actively involved in the activities of the Trust.

Our other Sponsors includes:

**Shree Balvantbhai Patel (Karadi) UK.**

**Shree R. C. Patel our MP.**

**Shree Naranbhai Mankanji Patel (Tavdi) UK.**

**Shree Sumanbhai Sahayog (Navsari).**

**Late Shree Chhimbhai Dandiker (Dandi).**

**Late Shree Kanjibhai Lala Patel and Family (Pethan, UK).**

**Late Shreemati Kusumben Vallabhbhai Patel and Family (Matwad).**

**Shree Sunilbhai F Patel (Sunil Dada) Navsari.**

Please forgive us if I have missed the name of any our sponsor.

We are most grateful to each and everyone of our past and present sponsors. Their generosity helps uplift our Samaj in a big way.

Thank you all.

Keshavlal J Patel

(We have detailed reports and photographs of all our KVFT activities on our **website [www.mandhataglobal.com](http://www.mandhataglobal.com)** Please do visit us there and also see hundreds of photographs and articles representing all our Kantha Vibhag Villages.)



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