

Bombay Leprosy GC
Annual Report 2007 - 2008
United World College of South East Asia

PROJECT DESCRIPTION	
Project Name:	Bombay Leprosy Project (BLP)
Project Location (state, country):	Bombay, India
Mission & Objectives:	To achieve a world without leprosy. Eradicate this disease that has plagued millions of people since ancient times. The disease is completely curable at any stage and many symptoms can be completely cured, (e.g. deformed hand, feet, legs, arms, noses, ears, faces, body). There still is a stigma that surrounds the leprosy patients, who are cast out of the community, to live in leper colonies, where conditions can be very bad.
Project Services:	BLP works towards reintegrating ex-patients back into society, by providing IT training and the like to give them skills that will help them get back into employment. BLP also provides medication and skilled doctors to the leprosy patients.
Project Activities:	To raise awareness about Leprosy and the stigma around it and raise funds for BLP.
PROJECT HISTORY	
Reasons Project was Adopted (please describe):	Because it is a worthwhile, long-term, fair and important organization. Leprosy is a disease that has been around since ancient times, but it is completely curable, even the sometimes nasty looking symptoms that usually cause a lot of stigma. Many people don't know about Leprosy and especially the families and people affected by it. BLP educates societies and communities of the low risk of infection and how to cure it. There are around 2 to 3 Million people affected by leprosy in the world and this long fought bane of humanity is completely curable. We want to support an organization that someday will be able to say that the world is rid of leprosy. BLP is an NGO as well and tries to dissolve the long standing stigma of leprosy in India. BLP tries to eradicate this ostracising of even healed lepers! Many of them cannot lead a normal life and are helpless and dependant on aid to keep alive in the leprosy communities called leper colonies. The outdated and unfair mind set of many people there concerning leprosy must be changed to allow ex-lepers back into normal society.
Milestones (achievement, date):	Medical and social advancements have helped to unravel the mysteries of leprosy and to encourage reintegration of the disadvantaged people into the main stream of life. The International Leprosy Congress held in Beijing in September 1998 proclaimed a declaration to work towards achieving a

	<p>"World Without Leprosy" [WWL], which highlights the need for social rehabilitation. The methods adopted by BLP towards rehabilitation have transformed the outlook and the lives of many even hopelessly deformed victims of leprosy and other diseases. BLP has been offering vocational rehabilitation to the leprosy affected persons by imparting training in lucrative trades such as tailoring, screen-printing and those dealing with the latest hi-tech equipment such as computers, scanners, cameras and photo-copying machines. The significance of this method has been instrumental in restoring the productivity of a leprosy patient who would be otherwise relying on his family members for his sustenance.</p> <p>There has been a shift of emphasis in the rehabilitation of leprosy-affected persons during the past years from institutionalized care towards the community-based approach. If the rehabilitation of the leprosy-affected persons is practised in isolation it might allow discrimination against patients and contribute to social stigma. The growing needs of rehabilitation have led us to set up a computer based training centre right in the midst of the community. This training centre offers vocational training to the leprosy and general disabled. After the training, the trainees will seek job opportunities elsewhere or assist us in leprosy research by processing the computerized patients' data and producing academic publications using hi-tech equipment. There is a need for strengthening this activity through building up of infrastructure, which will enable us to offer vocational training to more handicapped persons.</p>
PROJECT ACHIEVEMENTS & IMPACT	
<p>Fundraising Achievements (please list):</p>	<p>Lend-a-Hand: A project where volunteers bound their hands up walked around school getting sponsors from the school body including teachers, students, parents and also people outside of school. Raised SGD2,600. Staff Idol: A one-night show singing competition for teachers. Raised SGD2,400. Various Bake Sales</p>
<p>Awareness-Raising Achievements (please list):</p>	<p>The Lend-a-Hand Campaign let the volunteers feel what it is like to be a leper and raised awareness about leprosy.</p>
CONTACT DETAILS	
<p>Email Address:</p>	<p>bombayleprosy@uwcsea.edu.sg</p>
<p>Place of Meeting:</p>	<p>Room 16</p>
<p>Day of Meeting:</p>	<p>Friday</p>
<p>Time of Meeting:</p>	<p>1:00 pm - 1:30 pm</p>
<p>Website:</p>	<p>www.bombayleprosy.org</p>