

50th Annual Report on Ananda Fund Activities in Orissa (01-11-2010 to 31-10-2011)

I consider it a great privilege to present before you the 50th Annual Report on the activities of Ananda Fund in the state of Orissa. Ananda Fund was set up in Orissa under the patronage of Dr. Ralph Victor and Polly Victor in the year 1961-62. The 50th year in the life of an institution is considered to be a great milestone. During all these 50 years, Ananda Fund has played a significant role in the educational upliftment of the poor, tribal and underprivileged high school students in the state of Orissa. The role of Ananda Fund is to supplement the efforts of the state authorities by identifying and supporting the selected and most poor students who face a lot of financial hardship in completing their high school education. Ananda Fund does not believe in publicity. In its own limited way, the fund has helped thousands of students from different regions of Orissa during the last 50 years .

In Ananda Fund, we believe that education is the single most important instrument for social and economic transformation. A well educated population, adequately equipped with knowledge and skill is not only essential to support economic growth but is also a precondition for growth to be inclusive, since it is only the educated and skilled persons who can stand to benefit most from the employment opportunities which growth will provide.

I would like to state here that a recent report of the National Council of Applied Economic Research of Govt. of India observed that on an average 50% of the high school students drop out at the class X. Further the National Youth Readership Survey 2011 found out that nearly 56% of the literate youth had stopped studies at different levels though they had aspired to go further. Financial difficulties appears to be the paramount reason for not perusing the high school education. The school headmasters of the Ananda Fund assisted high school have pointed out that Ananda Fund scholarship programme has resulted in significant increase in enrolment of children in the schools. Many students who were taking cattle to graze, assisting parents in cultivation, household works or doing other types of manual work have returned back to schools due to the provision of timely financial support and supported by the persuasion of the school teachers in the village.

In the above background, I would like to submit herewith a brief report on different types of financial support being provided by the Ananda Fund during the year 2010-11.

Monthly Scholarship

Grant of monthly scholarship to the poor high school students is the oldest financial support scheme of Ananda Fund. In the beginning of the programme in 1962, students were provided with Rs. 10 per month. After every 5 to 6 years the monthly scholarship amount continue to enhanced. During 2010-11 the scholarship amount was Rs. 50 per month. It was increased to Rs. 75 and on the advice of Joyce Victor, from the current academic year, the students will be provided with Rs. 100 per month. In the last year 112 students (59 boys and 53 girls) were receiving the scholarship spreaded over eight different high schools. During the current year, 148 students (58 girls & 90 boys) from eleven schools are receiving the scholarship. The decision regarding selection of students for grant of scholarship is made at the school level through a committee of school teachers. Only those

students who are meritorious but do not have the means to continue the high school education are provided with the scholarship. In addition, 10 tribal students in the remote areas of Koraput districts have been provided with scholarship on the specific recommendation of the school teachers. The parents of the students have expressed their deep sense of gratitude for the provision of the scholarship and for increasing the monthly amount from Rs.75 to Rs.100. During the year 2010-11, a sum of Rs. 78,390=00 has been disbursed as monthly scholarship.

Text Book and Uniform Grant

An annual text book and uniform grant is provided to selected schools and orphanages for distribution of the same among the deserving students. The selection of the beneficiaries for the text books and uniform grant, is made by a committee of teachers at the school level. During the year 2010- 11, a sum of Rs. 1,34,695=00 was provided as text book and uniform grants to eleven schools and five orphanages. As per the reports received from the schools, it has benefitted 226 girls and 291 boys. In addition, selected students from the flood affected schools were also provided ready made school uniforms by the Ananda Fund directly.

Vocational Grant

Ananda Fund provides vocational grant to selected students for training or for acquiring vocational qualification to make themselves employable in the market. Students who complete the high school education and desire to pursue some vocational training make application through the school head master or through the retired teachers. After detailed scrutiny, only a few students are provided with this grant which covers a part of the course fee. During the year 2010-11, Ananda Fund has provided an amount of Rs. 36,500/- for vocational training or job oriented courses.

Ms. Puspalata Jena was an inmate of Kastruba Gandhi Kanyasram at Satyabhamapur. After the death of her mother at the age of four months, she has been staying in this girls orphanage because her father went for a second marriage. She completed her high school education during 2010-11 in first class securing 82% marks. She got admitted into the higher secondary science stream with vocational subjects. Ananda Fund provided her an annual grant of Rs.5000 to meet part of her college expense.

Ms. Padmini Swain comes from a very poor family where the father expressed his inability to continue her education after high school. She expressed her willingness to pursue medical nursing course run by a charitable institution at Indore. After detailed scrutiny of her family's economic background, Mrs. Nivedita Scudder recommended her case for vocational grant from Ananda Fund. She has been provided with a grant of Rs.10,000/- to meet part of her annual course fee.

In addition, Ananda Fund also provided vocational grant for agro-based training to tribal boys in Ramakrishna Vevekananda Ashram at Kalahandi district. Two tribal boys who were provided with vocational grant for computer training and mobile repairing are now earning their livelihood in the state of Chhatisgarh.

Admission Grant

In special cases, Ananda Fund provides grants for assisting the poor students to get admission in schools and colleges. In the year 2010-11, only one student has been provided with a

grant of Rs. 845/- for getting admission in National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) to complete his high school education. NIOS provides distance high school education to those who cannot afford to regularly attend the schools for their education.

Writing Materials

A number of districts of the state were affected by two successive floods, which damaged many schools, and affected the education of thousands of students. The state government took up the relief and rehabilitation work on a war footing. From Ananda, we provided writing materials to only 18 very poor students who were staying in the relief camps in the Jajpur and Delanga and who had lost almost all their schooling materials. The writing materials were distributed to them through the volunteers. A sum of Rs. 4000/- was spent for the above purpose.

Library Grant

In addition to the class room, library is considered to be the most important source of learning. Ananda Fund has initiated a scheme under which schools/orphanages are provided with a library grant for the purpose of purchasing reference books and other books which not only increases the reading habits of the students but also increase their knowledge base. These books are passed from students to students. Even though originally, we thought of having a mobile library which can be moved from one institution to other, due to some logistic difficulties, it could not be made operational. Two girls orphanages were provided with this grant earlier. During the current year, another two institutions, namely Unnayan operating in the tribal dominated Mayurbhanj district and the Baji Rout Chatrabas, an orphanage in the Angul district have been provided with the library grant of Rs.10,000/- each to have in- house library for the use of the students.

Students Placement

Ananda Fund has been continuing with different types of financial help to the poor and meritorious students in different high schools of Orissa for the last 50 years with out any break. During the month of August, we sent a circular to different schools to inform us about the present placement of the past beneficiaries of Ananda Fund. While it is not always possible for these schools to keep a track of all the thousands of students who have completed the high school education with the help of Ananda, we were surprised to received the responses from nine schools where the headmasters and other teachers collected the information about the present job profile of a large number of past beneficiaries. Many of them are working as teachers, policemen, army personnel, government officials, mechanics, drivers, and nurses. Some of the beneficiaries have been running their small business either in the villages or outside. We also observed from the reports that nearly 75 numbers of past beneficiaries from different colleges are working as bank officers, insurance officers, college lectures, artists, telecome engineers,scientists, doctors and software engineers.

There are a number of success stories of students who fought boldly their financially disturbed childhood family and acute poverty condition with Ananda Fund support, completed their high school education and are now economically independent. I would like to narrate here few success stories as sent in the report received from girls orphanage at Satyabhamapur.All the following girls were in receipt of Ananda Fund financial support for their high school education.

1. **Manasi Patra** – She belongs to Scheduled Caste. She never got any kind of financial aid from her parental side. She is very obstinate. But she is very hard working & sensitive. She passed the high school certificate examination with a second division. Through her own sincere effort and hardwork, she is maintaining her family working in a Micro Finance Company.
2. **Manika Jena** – She is an orphan. She has no wealth of her own world. In spite of hard labour, she was unable to pass the High School Certificate Examination. But after taking Pre-School training under K. G. N. M. Trust. She is serving as a pre-school teacher at K.G.N.M. Trust. Later she has passed +2 Arts. Along with her teacher ship, she is taking care of sixteen Old man & Old women at Jarashram (old age home).
3. **Sarojini Panda** – She is fatherless brahmin girl. Due to wretched financial condition she was unable to get any kind of education. She was arrogant and obstinate by nature. However she managed to pass the matriculation examination with a second division. Then she underwent A.N.M.(nursing) Training in Madhyapradesh. After that she served in this institution for five years. Now she is working as Health-worker in Malkanagiri District after her marriage.
4. **Khulana Maharana** – She is a poor girl who has lost her father. She had no parental property of her own. She passed the matriculation examination under this institution. She came back to her mother after passing the examination. But miserable financial condition stood on her way. Once again she returned to this institution and underwent A.N.M. training in Madhyapradesh. Now she is serving as a nurse in a nursing home.
5. **Nirupama Dhira** – She is a fatherless girl. She passed the Matriculation Examination. Then she got the training on Health worker. Having received the training she worked in Rajasthan for four year and got married on her own-will. Now she is working in a hospital in Bilaspur.

We have received reports narrating the success stories of a large number past Ananda Fund beneficiaries from other high schools also.

High School Examination Result

As a part of the follow-up work, we collect information every year about the performances of that Ananda Fund Scholarship holder who appeared in the Annual High School Certificate Examination. During the current year examination held in the month of March 2011, 79 students from ten school appeared and excepting one all the students passed. Among the 78 passed students, 45 passed in the first division. Of these 45 students, 16 were girl students. We have thanked the school headmasters for continuously taking extra care of the Ananda Fund beneficiaries for the improvement of the performance in the high school examination.

School Visit

Every year, we visit selected number of schools & orphanage to monitor the running of the different Ananda Fund schemes. During the visit, we look at the records; interact with the students, teachers and parents. It also gives us an opportunity to pay a visit to other nearby schools and orphanage to identify other needy students. During the year 2010-11, for the first time, after the communal riot of 2008, it was possible for us to visit many remotely located tribal schools and orphanages. The visit of MITRA tribal school in the extremist located area was very exciting since it gave us a firsthand experience of how dedicated volunteers from the tribal society are themselves running a school with little support from government very successfully. We also visited five other schools and orphanage in the district of Cuttack and Puri.

During my interaction with the teachers and senior students, some of them pointed out the need for providing soft skill training programmes to the students to make themselves employable in the market. In few schools they emphasised on English communication and basic computer training programme. In future, we will examine this issue in detail and explore the possibility of providing some types of soft skill training to students in selected high schools. The possibility of providing training to English teachers can also be examined. In three tribal schools, I invited the local gram panchayat officials to my interaction programmes where they advised the senior students to explore the business potential of some of the local agricultural and forest products available at their areas. I hope to continue this practice in future during my visits to the schools.

Financial Position

The financial position of Ananda Fund has been presented in the annexure. Our opening balance on 01-11-2010 was Rs. 3,52,025=00. During the year a grant of Rs. 4,72,743=00 was received from USA and an amount of Rs. 19,817 = 00 accrued as interest on the SB account. During the year (1-11-2010 to 31-10-2011), a sum of Rs. 3,00,205 = 00 (approx US \$6000) was spent on different heads including the expenses on office administration. The closing balance on 31-10-2011 stands at Rs. 5,44,380 = 00.

At the end, I express my deep sense of gratitude to Joyce Victor and all the members of the Victor family including the authorities of Ananda Fund for providing continuous financial support for Ananda Funds activities in state of Orissa for the last 50 years. This has empowered thousands of poor high school students of Orissa who are now economically independent. In a small way, it has given a hope and a social status to thousands of poor tribal and other underprivileged sections of the society. We rarely come across this type of programme continuously running non-stop for last 50 year anywhere else. I once again thank Joyce for giving me this opportunity to work among the poor and neglected sections of the society in Orissa. I look forward eagerly for her forthcoming visit to Orissa in the year 2012.

With Regards

(Samson Moharana)

Annexure - I

ANANDA FUND Receipt and Payment Account (1-11-2010 to 31-10-2011)

<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Rupees</u>	<u>Payments</u>	<u>Rupees</u>
Opening Balance (01-11-2010)	3,52,025 = 00	Monthly Scholarship Text Book & Uniform Grants	78,390 = 00 1, 34,695 = 00
Grant received from USA (13-01-2011)	4,72,743 = 00	Vocational training Grants	36,500 = 00
Interest on Saving A/C 31-12-2010 – 6, 485 = 00 30-06-2011 - <u>13, 332 = 00</u>	19, 817 = 00	Admission Fee Grant Grants for Writing Material Library Grant School Visit Special Grants Office Misc. Expenses	845 = 00 4,000 = 00 20,000 = 00 5,250 = 00 5,000 = 00 15,525 = 00
		Closing Balance (31-10-2011)	5,44,380 = 00
	<hr/> 8,44,585 = 00 <hr/>		<hr/> 8,44,585 = 00 <hr/>

Annexure - II

List of Institution receiving Ananda Fund Financial Support during 2010-11

1. Balugaon High School, Khurda
2. Brundaban Vidyapitha, Hinjilikata
3. Bhetinath Dev Vidyapitha, Puri
4. Banambar Academy, Puri
5. Remunda High School, Remunda
6. Mansingh Memorial High School, Puri
7. Govt. Girls High school, Barapali
8. Govt. Boys High School, Barapali
9. Govt. High School, Sohela
10. N. K. High School, Nayagarh
11. Ramakrishna Vivekananda Vidyapitha, Kalahandi
12. MITRA Residential School, Rayagada
13. Kastruba Gandhi Kanyasram, Satyabahmapur
14. RAWA Academy of Dance and Music, Bhubaneswar
15. Palli Unnayana Seva Samiti, Hansapal
16. Baji Rout Chatravasa, Anugul
17. Unnayana , Baripada
18. Biswabandhu Seva Mandir, Baripada