

National Association for the Blind, India
Biennial Report
April 1, 2005-March 31, 2007

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Braille Press

General Books and Magazines

During the review period, the **Sir Jamshedji Duggan Braille Press** produced 42 general books (Hindi, Marathi & English). Besides, 72 Braille magazines (Hindi and English) were published. 9,968 copies of these were supplied to 921 blind subscribers.

	2005-2006		2006-2007		2005-2007	
General Books	19		23		42	
Magazines	Titles	35	Titles	37	Titles	72
	Copies	4,620	Copies	5,348	Copies	9,968
	Subscribers	229	Subscribers	692	Subscribers	921

Calendar - Kalniray (Hindi)

2,650 copies of the Calendar Kalniray in Hindi were brought out during 2006 and 2007 and supplied to blind individuals and institutions, all over India. M/s. Sumangal Publishers Pvt. Ltd., Mumbai donated Rs.50,000 for this project (Rs.25,000 each year - 2006 and 2007). For Kalniray 2007, Rs.60,000 was received from 18 other donors through NAB FRC.

Textbooks of Std.I - X (Marathi Medium)

23,862 copies of textbooks of Std. I - X (Marathi Medium) were supplied schools/institutions for the blind in Maharashtra, which benefited school-going blind children.

2005-2006		2006-2007		2005-2007	
Copies	12,952	Copies	10,900	Copies	23,862
Schools/ Institutions	56	Schools/ Institutions	60	Schools/ Institutions	116
Beneficiaries (Blind Children)	2,824	Beneficiaries (Blind Children)	2,040	Beneficiaries (Blind Children)	4,864

Maharashtra Prathamik Shikshan Parishad ordered Braille textbooks for Std.I to VIII, to be distributed among children studying under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. 32,139 (41,626 Volumes) Braille textbooks were delivered to 27 districts of Maharashtra, under this project.

157 copies of English Medium Text Books of Std. I to XII were supplied to blind students, on request.

4,331 copies of general books were supplied to blind individuals and institutions.

1,437 blind individuals availed of textbooks, general books Braille paper, etc.

Braille Papers worth Rs.2,11,046 were supplied to blind individual/institutions.

154 blind students/institutions for the blind were helped in transcribing college notes in Braille.

During 2006-2007, 1,200 copies of general books and magazines were loaned to 670 members of Sobhi El-Ejel Memorial Braille Library. Membership of the Sobhi El-Ejel Memorial Braille Library stood at 40.

The Braille Press acquired yet another high-speed Computerized Braille Embosser -“Index 4 Waves” - imported from Sweden. Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. made a donation of Rs.14,00,000 towards purchase of this equipment.

Highlights

2006-2007 was an extremely eventful year for the NAB Sir J. Duggan Braille Press. During this period the Braille Press production, compared to 2005-2006 increased over threefold, with only a marginal rise in expenditure. The Braille Press also witnessed the highest ever Braille production of over 80,00,000 pages which, in all probability, could be the highest in India.

The order received from the Maharashtra Prathamik Shikshan Parishad for supply of Braille textbooks of Std. I - VIII involved gigantic efforts of producing 48,00,000 pages within three months’ timeframe, which the Braille Press staff diligently accomplished.

Another breakthrough was Braille production of the Akhil Bhartiya Gandharva Mahavidyalaya Music Syllabus in collaboration with the Inner Wheel Club of Bombay-West. Donations received from various sources through the Club’s efforts would enable us distribute 400 complementary sets of six books that form the syllabus, blind schools and other institutions in India, after the official release.

Similarly, the Braille Press has undertaken production of Indian Folk Tales, sponsored by many donors. The project entails production of 25 titles and distribution of 400 copies of each title to blind schools and institutions in India.

Award

NAB Sir J. Duggan Braille Press received the **AICB Anne & Arne J. Husveg Braille Promotion Award - 2006** for highest Braille Printing during year 2005-2006 in the country. This Award instituted by the All India Confederation of the Blind, Delhi carried a citation and a prize of Rs.50,000. Mr. K. Raman Shankar, Deputy Director, NAB Braille Press accepted the Award on January 4, 2007 at a function held in Delhi.

Summary of Braille Production

Production	2005-2006	2006-2007	2005-2007
Pages	28,86,222	80,56,938	1,09,43,160
Copies	21,638	65,008	86,646

Braille Plates embossed	1,820	3,321	5,141
New Titles			
Magazines	35	37	72
General Books	19	23	42
New Pamphlets	5	4	9
Pages Edited		12,482	12,482

Tactile Map Unit

Tactile versions of 40 maps and diagrams from geography, science and geometry textbooks of Std. I to X of the English and Marathi medium were brought out. 912 copies of these maps and diagrams were supplied to blind students of Std. I - X as well as to trainees of the NAB Teachers Training Centre for the Visually Handicapped.

Client Services & Advocacy

The **Department of Client Services & Advocacy** provides direct assistance to visually handicapped persons in solving their day-to-day problems.

Activities of the Department

- Guidance for procuring blindness certificate.
- Counselling clients, their parents and family.
- Motivation and encouragement to take up education, undergo training, and achieve self-sufficiency.
- Home teaching and follow-up services for Mobility, Braille literacy, Daily Living Skills, Home Management and Personal Care.
- Referral Service for assistance toward Self-Employment, Medical Care, Education, House Repair, Admission to Schools and other Institutions.
- Information on benefits available from Government and NGOs
- Assisting blind persons and their family members for Prevention /Treatment of other ailments.
- Distribution of Aids and Appliances at concessional rates /free of cost.
- Generate self-employment opportunities through distribution of Weighing Scale, Popcorn-making Machine, Sewing Machine, Mini Flour Mill, Telephone Booth-cum-Vending Stall, Toys, etc.
- Financial Assistance.
- Assistance during Natural Calamity.
- Distribution of household goods and other utility items.
- Issuing Documents for procuring Concession
- Arrange Legal Assistance.
- Advocacy for Protection of Legal and Human Rights.
- Psychological Intervention.
- Career Counselling
- Any other assistance after ascertaining genuineness of the need of the blind individual.
- Distribution of Braille/Low Vision Literature for creating awareness towards Aids.

Group Meeting

In December 2005 a meeting of visually impaired persons residing in Vasai - Virar areas of Thane District was organised. 11 persons including - 5 newly blinded individuals and their parents (6) attended this meeting. Honorary Secretary of the department chaired the meeting. Prof. Puroshottam Mahajan (blind) offered guidance and provided the place to conduct the meeting.

Clients Attended

	2005-2006	2006-2007
New Clients	147	137
Old Clients	284	245
Follow-up and Home Visits	254	161
Clients attended at the Department	8842	8463
Total	9527	9006

Break-up of New Cases

	2005-2006 (New Cases 147)	2006-2007 (New Cases 137)
Male	91	104
Female	56	33
Children	25	17
Adult	95	97
Elderly	27	23

Travel and Tax Concession Certificates

Document	Beneficiaries		
	2005-2006	2006-2007	2005-2007
BEST Concession cards	1370	1222	2592
Certificate for Rail Travel Concession	1188	1082	2270
Certificate for Air Travel Concession	12	10	22
Certificate for Income Tax Concession	52	130	182
Certificate for Profession Tax Concession	2	5	7

In addition, concession-related circulars issued by the Government, e.g. circular for getting conveyance allowance, reader's concession, concession in maintenance charge of telephone, etc. were also distributed among blind clients. Blindness certificates and recommendation letters for various purposes were also issued. 28 copies of the booklet worth Rs.705 were sold to blind individuals.

Flood Relief

Several blind persons - majority belonging to the economically backward sections - suffered heavy losses during the July 26, 2005 floods in Mumbai. Several were rendered homeless. The

department spent Rs.8,36,918.50 to cater to the needs of 665 individuals. Of this amount, Rs.3,44,514 was received from various Lions Clubs and individual donors. Sets of utensils were provided to 298. The areas covered were Mumbai and its central suburbs, Thane, Kalyan, Karjat, Kasara, Virar and Panvel.

Aids & Appliances

Aids and Appliances were distributed on no profit no loss basis or at concession or free of cost depending on individual case.

Description	2005-2006		2006-2007		2005-2007	
	Quantity	Price (Rs.)	Quantity	Price (Rs.)	Quantity	Price (Rs.)
Braille Watches	239	90,840	243	87,480	482	1,78,320
White Canes (Wooden)	585	16,688	471	13,188	1,056	29,876
Folding Sticks	298	26,133	1,517	1,39,730	1,815	1,65,863
Elastic Cord	400	2,600	500	2,750	900	5,350
Education, Sport and other Aids	589	26,537	1,129	50,933	1,718	77,470
Total		1,62,798		2,94,081		4,56,879

Donation in Kind

Donation in kind was received through various Lions Clubs and Siddhivinayak Trust.

Description	Quantity	Price (Rs.)
Mini Flour Mill	1	9,600
Sewing Machine	5	10,300
Tape Recorders	5	4,975
Braille Watches	5	1,800
Weighing Scales	5	2,500
Folding Canes	25	2,250
Audible Balls	25	625
Popcorn Machines	6	7,200
Sweets During Diwali	336 (Boxes)	16,800
Total		56,050

Distribution of Utility Items

Through the kind courtesy of generous donors, the department distributed utensils among 134 blind individuals. Besides, sarees, bed sheets, towels and utensils were given to deserving and needy blind individuals including 75 trainees of NAB IDBI Polytechnic, 40 trainees of NAB Department of Rehabilitation and 100 inmates of NAB CASBW's Utkarsh Job Development Centre.

Self-Employment

The department raised donation for purchase of 25 weighing machines with the objective to provide self-employment opportunity to needy and deserving blind persons. Barring some genuine cases, to whom the machines were given free of cost, by and large these were given at a subsidized price of Rs.200.

Assistance for a Research Project on Mobile Phone Design

The department helped Ms. Ira Jhangiani from Virginia Tech. University, USA, to collect information for a research project on Problems faced by Visually Handicapped Persons vis-à-vis Mobile Phone Design. The department coordinated participation of 30 visually handicapped individuals (15 totally blind and 15 partially sighted) in a programme organised at NAB (India) head office, in connection with this research project.

Financial Assistance

Need-based financial assistance was provided for various purposes during the reporting period.

Cause	2005-2006		2006-2007		2005-2007	
	Clients	Amount	Clients	Amount	Clients	Amount
Self-Employment	104	55,164.50	38	22,432.00	142	77,596.50
Medical Needs	11	22,593.50	16	24,681.00	27	47,274.50
Education	11	9,145.00	7	4,468.00	17	13,613.00
House Repairs	2	3,000.00	1	2,000.00	3	5,000.00
Sports	1	7,000.00			1	7,000.00
Concessions for the blind booklet/circulars/Government resolutions				9,874.00		9,874.00
Miscellaneous	1	1,000.00			1	1,000.00
Total	130	97,903.00	62	63,445.00	192	1,61,348.00

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Education

Integrated Education

For the past 25 years, the **Department of Education** has been promoting Integrated Education (IE) Programmes for visually impaired children with the help of local voluntary agencies in different parts of the country - predominantly in rural areas. Under this programme visually impaired children live with their families and attend the nearest regular schools along with their sighted counterparts. They receive services of special teachers called Itinerant Teachers as well as basic educational aids and instructional material in an appropriate form - Braille/Large Print. The Department provides technical and financial support to the implementing agencies for about three years after which the agencies are expected to sustain the IE Programme through Government grant. During the reporting period Rs.61,00,000 was spent on this activity.

Extent of IE Programme

	2005-2006	2006-2007		
States	13	10		
Children	747		815	
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
	427	320	477	338
Towns/Villages	522	545		
Schools	505	593		
Teachers	81	85		

Scholarships

The Department gave annual scholarship of Rs.500 to every visually impaired child studying in IE Programmes all over the country.

Scholarship: Extent of Coverage

	2005-2006	2006-2007		
States	10	7		
Students	517		491	
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
	307	210	281	210
Amount (Rs.)	2,58,500	2,45,500		

In addition, financial assistance of Rs.1000 per student per year was given to visually impaired students studying in Stds. XI and XII in the City of Mumbai and its outskirts. 74 students benefited from this programme.

Sponsorship

Needy and deserving visually impaired children studying in IE Programmes directly supported by the Department are provided annual sponsorship of Rs.1000 per child for items like uniforms, footwear, monsoon wear, private tuition, school picnic, stationery, medicines, etc.

Sponsorship: Extent of Coverage

	2005-2006	2006-2007		
State	6	5		
Students	359		344	
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
	220	139	210	134
Amount (Rs.)	3,59,000	3,38,707		

Braille Kits

The Department distributes Braille Kits containing basic educational aids used by blind students for writing Braille, Arithmetic, Geometry, etc. to children studying in special schools and to those in IE Programmes all over the country.

Extent of Coverage

State	Number of Beneficiaries
Chandigarh	10
Himachal Pradesh	15
Karnataka	10
Kerala	35
Madhya Pradesh	20
Maharashtra	67
Orissa	37
Uttarakhand	20
Uttar Pradesh	97
West Bengal	20
Total States: 10	331

Also, during 2005-2006, 695 Braille kits were distributed in 9 States [Chandigarh (55), Gujarat (50), Karnataka (20), Maharashtra (145), Orissa (30), Punjab (45), Rajasthan (40), Uttar Pradesh (160) and West Bengal (150) in the country through donation received from Rotary Foundation.

Services for Children with Visual and Additional Disabilities

This **Home-Based Service for Visually Impaired Children with Additional Disabilities** in the City of Mumbai and its outskirts assisted 170 children (120 boys and 50 girls) during the reporting period. They were trained in Activities of Daily Living, Orientation & Mobility, Communication, Social Skills, Pre-vocational Skills and so on. Many of them also attended the Department's Centres at Sion, Thane and Andheri for group activities pertaining to early intervention, pre-academic training, pre-vocational training, etc. The service cost was Rs.12,00,000 approximately.

National Programme for Home-Based Services to Multi-Disabled Visually Impaired Children (MDVI)

The Department has undertaken a National Programme for Home Based Services to MDVI Children with the support (for a period of three years) of Hilton/Perkins Programme of Perkins School for the Blind, USA. Under this project 2 units cater to 10 children at each of the five locations in the country, viz., Panjim (Goa), Gwalior (Madhya Pradesh), Nayagarh, (Orissa), Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh), Midnapur (West Bengal) have been set up. The nature of services provided is identical to the Home-Based Programme for MDVI children operated in Mumbai.

Training Centre for Teachers of the Visually Handicapped (TCTVH)

Training for the 6th and the 7th batches for the RCI (Rehabilitation Council of India) recognized 2-year Diploma in Special Education (Visually Impaired) commenced on July 1, 2005 and July 1, 2006, respectively. Whereas in the 6th batch there were 19 trainees (12 male and 7 female) 7th batch comprised of 20 students (6 male and 14 female). There were 7 students in each batch. Training for 2nd year of 5th and 6th batches of the course also continued. TCTVH is partly funded by CBM International. The total cost involved in running the activity during 2005-2007 was Rs.6,25,000

Human Resource Development Programmes

Primarily aimed at community participation in IE Programmes, the Department organises HRD programmes such as short-term training for parents of blind children, regular teachers, itinerant teachers, volunteers, etc. and Skills Development and Integrated Camps for blind children and their sighted peers, at different locations in the country.

An overview of Courses/Camps Organised

Sr. No.	Name of the Course	No. of courses organised	No. of participants
1.	Para-professional Training Course for parents, volunteers and regular teachers	2	41
2.	Workshop on Functional Assessment for senior itinerant teachers of IE Programmes	1	22
3.	Orientation Course for Itinerant Teachers in IE. Programmes	1	23
4.	Workshop on Methods of Teaching Mathematics for children with visual impairment	1	11
5.	Social Animators Training Course	5	127
6.	Skills Development/Integrated Camp	10	278 (184 blind + 94 sighted)
7.	Capacity Building Course for Project Coordinators and Special Educators of National Programme for Multi-Disabled Visually Impaired Children	1	22
8.	RCI - CRE Course	3	90

Perkins Scholarship

Perkins School for the Blind, USA, runs a 6-month Educational Leadership Programme, which admits candidates working with multiply-disabled children from all over the world. The Department has been entrusted with the job of scrutinizing applications from India for the course, conducting preliminary interviews and forwarding recommendations to Perkins.

Sale of Aids & Equipment

The Department purchases from different manufacturers and maintains a stock of basic assistive devices for the blind used for education, mobility, recreation, etc. The sale proceeds from these devices made available to individuals and organisations on a no-profit-no-loss basis amounted to Rs.19,20,803 during the reporting period. About 300 individuals and 100 institutions from 21 States were benefited by this service.

Expertise Sharing and Participation in Workshops/Seminars, Meetings, etc.

During 2005-2007 officials of the department participated and provided expertise as resource persons in Workshops/Training Programmes/ Meetings organised by the Government and other agencies. Noteworthy among them were:

National Workshop on Low Vision "Vision 2020: The Right to Sight - India" organised by Blind People's Association in jointly with Government of India at Ahmedabad (Gujarat) during August 30-31, 2005.

Third National Meet of Rehabilitation Experts organised by RCI at Mysore (Karnataka) during March 10-11, 2006.

ABU Youth Conference for South Asia organised by Asian Blind Union - Youth Committee in collaboration with Nepal Association for the Blind at Kathmandu (Nepal) during July 20-22, 2006.

Meeting of National Braille Development Committee organised by the National Institute for the Visually Handicapped (NIVH), Dehra Dun at NIVH Regional Centre, Chennai on January 17-18, 2007.

"Prarambh"- Braille Literacy Project

Reliance Energy Limited - the major distributors of electricity in the suburban areas of Mumbai - came up with the innovative idea of providing copies of electricity bills in Braille to blind subscribers, which they had commenced about two years ago. Simultaneously in collaboration with the Department of Education, Reliance also initiated a 1-year project - "Prarambh" - for promoting Braille literacy among children and adults in Mumbai city and its adjoining areas.

Under this project 115 persons were enrolled and 48 were trained. 2 Itinerant teachers imparted training to the clients, for a period of 3 months each. The focus was on Braille, Orientation and Mobility, Daily Living Skills, etc. The project originally for one year, was extended for a year more from August 2006. The department coordinates this project.

Other Activities

A number of camps, picnics, excursions and parents meetings were organised during 2005-2007 for children in IE Programme and those in Home-Based Programme for Children with Visual

and Additional Disabilities operated in the city of Mumbai and its adjoining areas. Noteworthy amongst them were:

Summer Camps of Children with Visual and Additional Disabilities in Mumbai during April 12-16, 2005 and April 25-29, 2006.

Inauguration of Skills Development Centre for Visually Impaired Children at NAB HO, Worli Seaface, Mumbai on August 15, 2005.

Trek to Matheran and at Peth Fort near Karjat for Children of Mumbai IE Programme on October 2, 2005 and during August 15-16, 2006, respectively.

Adventure-cum-Military Orientation Camp for Children of Mumbai IE Programme at Devlali, Nashik during November 4-7, 2005.

Visits to Indian Museum Ship "Vikrant" and Thane Central Jail by Children of Mumbai IE Programme on November 19, 2005 and February 18, 2006, respectively.

Annual Sports Meet for Multi-Handicapped Blind Children during December 19-23, 2005 and January 22-26, 2007.

Skills Development Camp for Visually Impaired Students of Mumbai IE Programme (Residential) during December 24-28, 2005 at NAB HO.

Workshop for Parents of MHB Unit children residing in Central and Western suburbs of Mumbai on March 5 and 12, 2006, at Thane Centre and MNB Industrial Home for the Blind, Jogeshwari, respectively.

Community-based Training Camp for Visually Impaired Children in the age group of 12-17 years at Mumbai during April 17-23, 2006.

Evaluation Meet of Multi-Disabled Visually Impaired children in the presence of parents, children and itinerant teachers **at Mumbai during April 17-22, 2006.**

Educational Tour to Delhi and Agra for Children of Mumbai IE Programme **during October 27-November 3, 2006.**

Rural Orientation Camp at Junnar (Dist. Pune) and Pomendi (Dist. Ratnagiri) for Children of Mumbai IE Programme, during September 8-11, 2006 and December 22-25, 2006, respectively.

Mentoring

Sense International India appointed 2 officials of the Department as Mentors for their Deafblind projects in Patna and Trivandrum. The Coordinator of MHB Unit of Department continued to serve as a Mentor for SSI Deafblind project in Trivandrum (Kerala).

Awards

The Department has instituted awards for candidates holding the first three positions among blind students and the first position amongst female blind students at the SSC Examination and the first two positions amongst blind students in HSC Arts and Commerce Examinations every year conducted by Maharashtra State Board of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education (Mumbai Division). These awards were presented on December 24, 2005 and January 19, 2007 (during the Rustom Merwanji Alpaiwalla Award function).

In addition, the Department each year provides 6 merit scholarships to blind students pursuing higher education, which benefited 14 students during the reporting period.

Publications

The following publications of the Department were reprinted:

- **Braille Teaching Course - Book I** by Mr. A. S. Athalekar
- **Teaching Braille to Young Visually Handicapped Children** in Hindi by Mr. A. S. Athalekar
- *Badhirandh-Evam-Bahuviklang Bachhe Prarambhik Hastakshep* by Meena Nikam
- *Ekikrut Shiksha Aur Samudayik Sahabhag* by **M. K. Choudhary and Ajay Kumar Rai**
- **Braille Mathematics Code for India - A Manual in Braille**

Partner Organisations

NGOs

During 2005-2007 the Department collaborated with 21 voluntary agencies in the country - including 8 State/District Branches of NAB (India) - for implementing the IE Programmes and National Programme for Home Based Services to MDVI Children.

Christoffel-Blindenmission International (CBM)

CBM - an international funding agency - has been supporting a variety of projects in India pertaining to education, training and rehabilitation of the visually impaired. The department set up the TCTVH with CBM sponsorship. During 2005-2007, CBM partly funded operational expenses of TCTVH to the tune of Rs. 2,10,948.

Hilton/Perkins Programme

Perkins School for the Blind, USA - one of the pioneering institutions in the world working in the areas of visual impairment and multiple disabilities - has been promoting international cooperation and collaboration which has benefited a large number of NGOs in the developing

countries. Its main focus areas are: Human Resource Development, Production of Professional Literature and Project Funding in unserved areas.

Hilton/Perkins Programme of Perkins School for the Blind, USA supported the Department initiated National Programme for Home Based Services to Multi-Disabled Visually Impaired Children, to the tune of US \$34,700 for a period of 3 years - September 1, 2004 to August 31, 2007.

Employment

Placements

During the period under review the **Department of Employment** 144 visually challenged persons were registered with the Department. Of these 97 were placed under open employment / self-employment. Open employment candidates secured jobs as telephone operators, tele-callers, peons, helpers, tea/coffee vending machine operators, gardeners, etc. Those gainfully occupied under self-employment were allotted vending stalls or HPCOs.

The Department coordinated with CBay India Pvt. Ltd. to impart **Medical Transcription Training** to 8 visually impaired candidates during September - December 2006. Four among the 8 who successfully completed the training were absorbed by CBay on a monthly remuneration of Rs.6,000.

In May 2006 the Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation invited the department on their interview panel for selecting visually impaired candidates for the posts of clerks and peons. 2 candidates registered with the department were selected.

The department recommended 10 visually impaired candidates to work as **Tele-Callers** during November and December 2006 for the **PAN IIT Global Conference** held in Mumbai during December 23-25, 2006. Later, in January 2006, the department also recommended 2 visually impaired candidates to **Confederation of Indian Industry** (CII) for tele-calling job. Each candidate received Rs.2,500 for the 1000 calls they made in 15 days. CII also reimbursed their telephone bill.

Following Bombay High Court's directive to fill up the backlog of posts reserved for handicapped candidates, various Government ministries and departments came up with vacancies. 11 visually impaired individuals registered with the department were placed in various positions at the government departments.

Officials of the Department also identified 40 blind candidates to work for an NGO "Property Development Association" for two days - January 20 - 21, 2007 - to raise awareness on voting rights of the disabled. They were paid Rs.150 per day besides breakfast and lunch.

Self-Employment

The department initiated a Work Centre at NAB CASBW's Utkarsh Job Development Centre at Reay Road, Mumbai. 10 boys and girls were trained in making paper bags and candles and

employed at the Centre on daily wages besides a sighted person hired as helper. Paper bags and gel candles worth Rs. 56,636 were made and sold.

Training Programmes

Training in Spoken English was imparted in June 2005 to 5 candidates selected for recruitment in BTC World Call Center. Ms. Anomita Guha volunteered to train the candidates.

Symbiosis Call Center conducted **Hands-on Training for Recruitment in Call Centres** for 5 candidates in June 2005.

In coordination with NAB IDBI Polytechnic 20 candidates were given **Training in Marketing Files** during July 5-7, 2005. 17 completed the training.

In collaboration with SIES College the Department **conducted Workshop on Self-Employment for the Visually Challenged** in August 2005. Introduction to NAB, self-confidence and self-esteem, sourcing finance, marketing, etc., were the topics covered.

Training to write Competitive Exams for Recruitment in Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai was conducted in July 2005 for 35 candidates. Later in October volunteers of Nirmala Niketan conducted practical sessions in writing the examinations.

Student Social Workers of SNTD Women's University conducted **Training in Making Paper Bags** during October 2005.

Career Counseling Workshop for the Visually Challenged Students Pursuing Graduation was conducted in December 2005 at Ruia College, Mumbai.

On April 20, 2006 the department organised a **Preparatory Course in Writing Competitive Examinations for Jobs in Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai**. 10 candidates attended the course conducted by Faculty from the National School of Banking. Later, about 40 visually impaired candidates appeared for the competitive exams held on April 30.

Ms. Sonali Ghosh volunteered to impart **Training in Personality Development** to 10 visually impaired individuals during August 2006.

Advocacy

On October 3, 2005 the Assistant Director of the department called on the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Maharashtra Shri Vilasrao Deshmukh to request him to initiate recruitment drive for blind individuals, in the State Government's Ministries/Departments.

On November 22, 2006 the Honorary Secretary and Employment Officer of the Department, and the Assistant Director, NAB FRC discussed with the Vice Chancellor of SNTD University the case of one Mr. Manuj Tamuli (a visually impaired person) who had applied for Economics lecturer's post, with the SNTD University. The outcome of the deliberations was promising.

Job Identification Meets

Field Representative and the Honorary Secretary of the Department attended on October 9, 2006 and November 11, 2006, respectively Job Identification Committee Meetings initiated by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Government of Maharashtra.

Awareness Generation

The department participated in the following awareness generation programmes:

World White Cane Day demonstrations held in October 2005 and 2006.

Dignity Walk to raise awareness and demonstrate solidarity among disabled persons, a **Job Fair** for the disabled, and an **Exhibition** on employment opportunities for the disabled organised in Mumbai by Mutual Beneficial Activities (MBA) Foundation and Groups of Disabled (GOD) on World Disability Day -December 3, 2005.

Exhibition organised by St. Xavier's Institute of Management during January 26-29, 2006. On display at the department's stall were products made by visually challenged persons and information on jobs that blind persons can handle.

Flood Survey

A survey of 75 telephone booths damaged during the floods in Mumbai during July 2005 was carried out. 10 among these were replaced with the help of a donation of Rs.1 lakh from Pawar Public Charitable Trust. Give Foundation donated Rs.48,200 for repair of telephone booths. Rs.50,000 was received from Mr. Umesh Kochrekar for construction of 5 telephone booths. NAB supported repair of 48 booths that needed minor repairs.

Visits

The Assistant Director and the Employment Officer of the department visited Bangalore/Mangalore during February 11-22, 2005 to observe the visually handicapped persons at work in Call Centres and BPOs.

In August 2006, the Honorary Secretary and the Employment Officer, visited Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (BPCL), Pune to observe visually impaired persons working with BPCL's dealers. They also visited two Petrol Pumps where blind announcers have been employed.

Expertise Sharing

The Honorary Secretary of the department attended a **Workshop on Advocacy Initiatives and Rights of the Visually Disabled** organised by the Asian Blind Union, in Karachi, Pakistan during June 27-29, 2005.

The Honorary Secretary and the Assistant Director, of the department and the Honorary Secretary, NAB CASBW, attended the **“National Consultation on Employment for Visually Challenged Persons”** organised by the All India Confederation of the Blind, New Delhi, in November 2005, on the occasion of its Silver Jubilee.

The Honorary Secretary and the Employment Officer of the Department and the Assistant Director, Finance Raising Committee attended a **Seminar on “Handicapped Rights & Development”**, organised in Mumbai by the Yeshwantrao Chavan Pratishthan: Nav Maharashtra Yuva Abhiyan during July 1-2, 2006.

The Department jointly with Net Systems Informatics (India) Pvt. Ltd. (N-Syst) organised a **Seminar to observe the World Disability Day** on December 4, 2006. The event highlighted the need to address the accessibility issue while developing websites, applications and infrastructure. Reputed concerns like Tata Consultancy Services, NIIT, Avishkar, IBM, NASSCOM, Mphasis, BC Webwise, Citi group, etc., represented the corporate sector.

On December 11, 2006 the Department in coordination with RMP Infotech Pvt. Ltd. organised a **Seminar on “Networking Business Opportunity”**. Department officials and 29 visually impaired candidates identified by the department attended the seminar.

The Assistant Director, NAB Finance Raising Committee (FRC) and the Employment Officer of the Department attended a **Workshop on “Job Opportunities for the Disabled”** organised by the Helen Keller Institute for Deaf and Deafblind, in January 2007. The Assistant Director, FRC made a presentation at this Conference.

The Honorary Secretary and the Employment Officer of the Department, and the Assistant Director, NAB FRC attended a **Seminar on “Employability of Disabled”** organised by NASSCOM and MBA Foundation on January 18, 2007, in Mumbai.

Staff Training

A Field Representative of the department was deputed for a month’s Training Course for Placement Officers for the Handicapped at the National Institute for the Visually Handicapped, Dehra dun in February 2006.

Funds Raised during 2005-2007

	2005-2006	2006-2007	2005-2007
	Amount (Rs.)	Amount (Rs.)	Amount (Rs.)
Telephone Booth	62,496	9,000	71,496
General	50,950	27,451	78,401
Total	1,13,446	36,451	1,49,897

Awards and Felicitation

On March 14, 2006 the department presented its annual awards at the hands of Shri Nana Chudasama, former Sheriff of Mumbai. The function was held at NAB (India) head office at Worli Seaface, Mumbai.

Late Mrs. Piloo D. Khambatta Awards

Best Employer of the Blind - GTL Limited, Mhape, Navi Mumbai

Best Blind Employee - Mr. Pranav Lal, Information Security Consultant, Mahindra & Mahindra

Best Blind Entrepreneurs - Mr. Joseph Pereira (Goa) and Mr. Sudhakar Patil (Sangli, Maharashtra)

Late Dr. Burjor D. Pallonji Memorial Award for Best Employment Officer -

Mr. Ramesh A. Patel of Blind People Association, Ahmedabad

Mr. Suhas Karnik, Honorary Secretary, NAB (India) and NAB Department of Employment, was among seven other visually impaired persons felicitated by Maharashtra Kamgar Kalyan Kendra at a function held in Mumbai on the occasion of the World White Cane Day - October 15, 2006.

Fund Raising

Mumbai Marathon

The **NAB Finance Raising Committee (FRC)** coordinated NAB's participation of in the Standard Chartered Mumbai Marathon on January 16, 2006. Celebrities and Army and Navy personnel participated in the Marathon to endorse NAB.

All India Flag Day for the Blind

Visit to Dignitaries: The 47th and the 48th Flag Day celebrations were marked by NAB Officer Bearers and Officials and some school student who raise funds for NAB, calling upon dignitaries like the Deputy Chief Minister and the Governor of Maharashtra, the Chief Justice of Mumbai High Court, the Mayor of Mumbai and the Flag-Officer - Commanding-in-Chief or the Western Naval Command to pin the Flag. After briefing them about NAB's activities, valued partner pins were pinned on the dignitaries and request made for contribution to the cause.

On the occasion of the 48th Flag Day, the Governor Honourable Mr. S. M. Krishna, announced he has donated his eyes and that NAB was always welcome at Rajbhavan, backed by a written acknowledgment from the Governor's office. To add to our basket of surprises Ms. Priya Dutt, Member of Parliament, agreed to meet our delegates and pin a flag. She was also kind enough to make a personal contribution of Rs.5,000 for the cause.

Innovative Ventures: Aimed at making the 48th Flag Day livelier and awareness oriented, bookmarks made of Braille paper waste were distributed at 6 major railway stations. Taking special interest in our cause, Indian Railways allowed us one table space on their premises.

Reputed shopping malls were approached for raising awareness and the much-needed funds. Some of the reputed malls that reciprocated were “Shoppers Stop” and the “Life Style” Stores at Big Bazaar. Specially designed pink colour heart-shaped, donation boxes with the theme “Have a Heart” printed on them, were placed at the billing counters of these stores. NAB’s posters and banners were also displayed. This idea was also replicated at Banks where some collection was possible through customers and bank staff.

48th All India Flag Day - Media Coverage: Radiocity aired their interview with Mr. Ketan Kothari in their programme “Kasa Kai Mumbai”. Besides, 17 leading dailies in various languages carried articles on Flag Day function. Mr. Rajesh Jain of Expression P. R. & Media obliged NAB by offering this publicity free of cost.

Highlights of Innovative Team-Building Strategies during 2006-2007

Freeze-Time Collection: A time frame of 2 weeks was set for collection and was tried at some schools to reduce the time gap between cards distribution and fund collection.

Initiatives by two Core Team RMOs: It was decided 2 core-team RMOs would meet the Principals before the schools closed down for summer vacation. This initiative was to make sure the schools gave preference to NAB over other competing NGOs.

Smart Gifting: Seasonal gifting is customary to NAB all the more so as we need to compete with other NGOs and corporate who present expensive gifts on festive occasions. During 2006-07, the idea of gifting a desk planner to Principals just before the schools closed for Christmas vacation was well-received. In addition, this moderately priced souvenir would serve as a reminder about NAB, through the year.

Customer Relations Management (CRM): One staff member besides being exclusively given the charge of maintaining customer relations was also groomed in presentation and communication skills, monitoring activities and keeping follow-ups, acknowledging contributors through thank you notes, souvenirs, etc. This initiative has gone a long way in confidence building of our donors - particularly the schools from where we receive sizable funds.

New Corporate / Individual Fund-Raising Initiatives

Interactive Session: For the first time ever, an Interactive Session was organised on May 19, 2006 where school children from Mumbai – mainly those who raised donation for NAB – along with their parents, had the opportunity to experience NAB activities first hand, besides interacting with blind students.

Corporate Funding: FRC’s initiative to boost corporate donation resulted in a 3-year commitment from Rosy Blue (India) Pvt. Ltd. for the Talking Book Project. NAB would be getting Rs.10 lakh each year. On this account, Rs.10 lakh was received as the first installment. The other two corporate donations were from Nuclear Power Corporation Ltd. (Rs.1,00,000) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (Rs 14,06,194).

Highly impressed by our activities Mr. Suresh Mangalani, Vice-President, Mahanagar Gas Ltd. (MGL) expressed desire to spend his birthday (8th October) at one of our Centres. He was invited at NAB Department of Rehabilitation (DOR). Impressed by the various activities at DOR, he presented some gifts and utility articles to DOR. He also agreed to sponsor advertising space in the Gas Bills sent to the 3,00,000 MGL customers. This move would eventually initiate a contribution of Rs.5 (or more) from every MGL customer.

Through individual donations Rs.55,000 was raised for production of "Kalnirnay" (Calendar) in Braille. Also, Sponsorships for Transcribing Indian Folk Tales in Braille were received from Mr. Kumar Ajwani (Rs 1,40,000) and The Bombay Community Public Trust (Rs 1,70,000).

Car Rally

On February 11, 2007 NAB partnered with Motorsports Association of India and Round Table India (an NGO devoted to freedom through education and rural literacy programmes) to organise a Car Rally for the Blind in which blind navigators guided sighted drivers. In all, there were 65 participants. Flagged off at NAB headquarters by noted film personality Mr. Ajay Devgan, the Rally concluded with prize distribution. On February 7 a Press Conference was held at Millennium Club with Mr. Ajay Devgan as Brand Ambassador for the event. The blind navigators and Mr. Devgan got maximum mileage through the wide media and press coverage the event received. Five leading newspapers covered the Rally.

As a result of the Rally, Round Table donated Rs.1.50 lakhs towards distribution of 200 Braille Kits. This was also the first occasion for NAB to receive donations through a credit card swipe machine for on the spot donations which amounted to Rs.29,900. The rally gave NAB the unique opportunity to showcase its activities and highlight the "100% Tax Exemption Campaign" at the venue, with an information/donation kiosk. Blue Food Pvt. Ltd. took care of the hospitality.

Corn Nite by The Club

On November 25, 2006, The Club, Andheri (Mumbai) organised **Corn Nite - a Food & Fun Fair** - to acknowledge NAB's work. The event aimed at reinforcing the commitment of the schools principals, teachers, children and the parents towards NAB and showcasing the ease with which the blind work with seemingly difficult day-to-day activities. To the parents, the event revealed the worthy cause of "Blind Empowerment" that NAB aims to achieve with their children's support. Fund raising at this programme was initiated through food sold at the stall put up by NAB CASBW. The media coverage organised gave NAB the visibility. Eight leading newspapers covered the event.

Jeremy Spencer Show

After gap of six years, legendary guitarist Jeremy Spencer and his band performed in NAB's through the kind courtesy of "Family Group." The programmes were held in Mumbai during February 14-15, 2007 and in Bangalore on February 16. Rs.22,29,849 and Rs.23,12,915 was raised through the Mumbai and Bangalore shows, respectively. Leading newspapers carried a Press Note on this event.

Awards Function

Over 100 schools from Mumbai participated in the Annual Awards Functions held on February 26, 2006 and February 18, 2007. The chief guests at the two functions were Mr. Rajit Kapur (Film and TV actor) and Mr. A. N. Roy, Police Commissioner (Mumbai), respectively. Other dignitaries present included noted film and TV personalities. Schools and the children who raised substantial funds for NAB (I) through card collection, were felicitated on both occasions.

To break the monotony, a Power Point presentation on various activities of NAB was made at the Annual Award Function in February 2007. This function also had a theme "Lage Raho Munnas; You Are Our Heroes." And to add value and correlate the children to their blind peers, a documentary on Mata Lachmi Nursery was screened.

Press coverage for World White Cane Day

FRC arranged press coverage for programmes organised by NAB in Mumbai on the occasion of World White Cane Day on 15th October 2006. Over 10 leading newspapers covered the programmes conducted in different parts of the city.

Financial Highlights

Year 2006-2007 has been a very fruitful for FRC. An increase of Rs.20 lakh, approximately, was recorded in collection through school and about 100% increase in the total receipts.

Receipts

	2005-2006	2006-2007	2005-2007
Interest from Bank	49,267	50,719	99,986
School Collection	49,04,059	74,25,888	1,23,29,947
General Donations	3,15,074	1,41,486	4,56,560
Earmarked Donation	5,72,652	81,643	6,54,295
Earmarked Donation through Give Foundation	4,23,042	6,08,672	10,31,714
Events - Legacy of Dreams	4,000		4,000
Events - The Club		64,926	64,926
Refund	35,548	1,000	36,548
48 th All India Flag Day		50,697	50,697
Marathon	20,785	1,52,704	1,73,489
Jeremy Spencer Show, Mumbai and Bangalore		45,42,764	45,42,764
Earmarked Donation Through 35 AC/80G	20,63,776	53,70,812	74,34,588
Total	83,88,203	1,84,91,311	2,68,79,514

Payments

	2005-2006	2006-2007	2005-2007
General Expenses	2,32,735	2,98,199	5,30,934

School Expenses	9,13,428	12,96,300	22,09,728
Corporate Expenses	11,008	68,978	79,986
Publicity	17,916	3,37,311	3,55,227
Equipment		21,710	21,710
Repairs & Maintenance/Renovation	1,11,193	51,525	1,62,718
48 th All India Flag Day		28,801	28,801
Computer		42,300	42,300
Event - Legacy of Dreams	17,916		17,916
Event - The Club		62,117	62,117
Marathon	267		267
Bank Charges	750		750
Deposit - GPO		5,000	5,000
Furniture & Fixtures	7,770		7,770
Jeremy Spencer Show - Mumbai & Bangalore		23,38,673	23,38,673
Salaries	9,82,360	18,75,825	28,58,185
Total	22,95,343	64,26,739	87,22,082

IDBI Polytechnic

During the review period 24 trainees passed out the 2-year General Machine Operator Training (GMO) course and 20 trainees completed 1-year apprenticeship. There were 36 new admissions to the GMO course and 20 were admitted for apprenticeship.

Raw Material Consumption

During 2005-07 Raw material worth Rs.11,48,993 was used.

Section	Consumption (Rs.) 2005-2006	Consumption (Rs.) 2006-2007
Workshop	*1,31,290	4,10,000
File Board	1,92,146	4,15,557
Total	3,23,436	8,25,557

*Inclusive of raw material consumption of Plastic Moulding Section

Turnover

Section	Turnover (Rs.) 2005-2006	Turnover (Rs.) 2006-2007
Workshop	*6,03,160	7,45,456
File Board	5,98,526	6,92,595
Plastic Moulding Section		**61,119
Total	12,01,686	14,99,170

*Inclusive of sale proceeds of Plastic Moulding Section

** only Labour charges included

Donation

In Cash

Rs.4,01,128 was received in cash (including sponsorship for the Uphaar Yojna covering - 1meal/day/trainee). Besides monetary assistance was also received for purchase of tape recorders (Rs.5000), refrigerator (Rs.15,000) and dining tables (Rs.21,000).

Donations in kind were in the form of dhurries, bedsheets, towels, clothes, furniture, food grains, snacks, umbrellas, utensils and other durables form individuals, service clubs and other charities.

Government Grant

	2005-2006	2006-2007	Total
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Salary Grant	11,36,480	14,27,198	25,63,678
Non-Salary Grant (Maintenance Grant for Trainees)	1,90,455	3,23,520	5,13,975
Total	13,26,935	17,50,718	30,77,653

*non salary grants means maintenance grant for trainees

Financial Highlights

Income & Expenditure

	2005-2006	2006-2007	2005-2007
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Income	33,76,676	37,93,652	71,70,328
Expenditure	37,38,536	43,32,551	80,71,087
Deficit	* 3,61,860	5,38,899	9,00,759

*Depreciation not included

ISO 9000-2001

In December 2005 the Polytechnic received ISO 9001-2000 certification.

Leisure and Recreation

Leisure and recreation included celebration of Foundation Day of the Polytechnic and participation in programmes organised by service clubs on festive occasions, during the year as well as sports competition. The trainees took part in State level sports competitions held at Nashik in February 2006. One of the trainees won a gold medal at this meet. The trainees also participated in a district level sports meet at Navi Mumbai in November 2006.

Louis Braille Memorial Research Centre

Publications

The Centre brought out 6 issues each of the magazine "Blind Welfare" and the "NABINDIA" Newsletter. The December 2006 and April 2007 issue "Blind Welfare" carried one article in

Hindi. Around 300 copies of each issue these publications were sent to subscribers, State and Central Government offices, NAB State and District Branches. Complimentary copies were also sent to Institutions for the Handicapped in India and abroad as also those who contributed articles and new items to the magazine.

NAB (India) Annual Reports

The Centre compiled and edited the biennial report of NAB (India) for the period 2003-05 (circulated during the OGM of NAB (I) held in September 2005) as also the annual report of NAB for the period 2005-2006.

Library

About 479 documents including books, periodicals, annual reports, souvenirs and brochures. 179 books were accessioned during 2005-2006 among which were 145 books that were at NAB Head Office and handed over to the library after its relocation at HO as well as books sent to the library by Dr. Rajendra T. Vyas, Hon. Secretary General, NAB (India). 67 books were catalogued and several articles from Indian periodicals were indexed. The library collection on March 31, 2006, stood at 5648. Around 600 press clippings were identified and sent in circulation.

About 103 persons took advantage of library services. A life member and 2 ordinary-members were enrolled. 2 were given guest membership. 384 books, 258 periodicals and 9 Brochures were issued. Reprographic service was also provided on payment to library users. 184 persons visited the library.

Information Centre

LBMRC also functions as information dissemination Centre. Major data compilation was carried out for (1) Website of the Maharashtra Government (on activities of NAB Employment Department) (2) PRS Legislative Research (3) IIM Calcutta (3) Murray Culshaw Consulting, Bangalore (4) S&T Project, SJ&E Ministry (5) Dr. M. R. Prasad Institute of Applied Manpower Research (6) S. P. Jain Institute of Management & Research (a) Khemka Foundation Award (b) Social Impact Award. Information for 2 above was related to a publication entitled PRS Legislative Research, 3, 5 and 6 above related to NAB (India) and its activities and 4 above vis-à-vis Indian Guide to Aids and Appliances for the Blind - a publication of LBMRC supported by the S&T Project of SJ&E Ministry.

Prevention of Blindness

NAB Kaikhushroo J. Chinoy Centre for Prevention of Blindness and Low Vision

The **Department of Prevention of Blindness** took up the following activities:

Eye Screening carried out at Municipal Schools in Mumbai

Eye-Care Service for Children	2005-2006	2006-2007	2005-2007
No. of Schools Visited	72	61	133
No. Of Children Screened	29,100	18,971	48,071

Children Detected with Eye Ailments	2,757	2,224	4,981
Children Provided with Spectacles	1,166	653	1,819
Children Provided with Medicines	496	478	974

Eye Screening of Senior Citizens

Eye Care Service for Senior Citizens	2005-2006	2006-2007	2005-2007
Eye Screening carried out	880	2,994	3,874
Cataract Cases Surgeries performed	170	1,038	1,208
Spectacles given	440	623	1,063
Medicines Prescribed	328	44	372

Reliance Sponsored MISEZ Project

Through **Project Netra Raksha** sponsored by **MISEZ Project of Reliance Industries** the Department got the opportunity to serve the rural population of Pen, Panvel and Uran near Mumbai. Under this project, **Eyes of 19,149 individuals were screened. 1,235 Cataract cases were detected. Spectacles were given to 9,327.**

Reliance Sponsored Project Drishti

Under the **Drishti Project 3,173 Keratoplasties** were carried out during the period under review.

Cataract Project

1829 Cataract Surgeries were carried out under this project sponsored by **ABN AMRO and other donors.**

Summary

Eye-Care Service	Beneficiaries		
	2005-2006	2006-2007	2005-2007
Eye Screening (*1)	32,636	38,458	71,094
Screening by Specialists (*2)	6,293	21,711	28,004
Provision of Spectacles (*3)	1,606	8,843	10,449
Medicines Prescribed (*4)	824	522	1,346
Cataract Surgeries (*5)	1266	1,971	3,237
Keratoplasties (*6)	1,623	1,550	3,173

(*1) Municipal School Children (MSC) + Senior Citizens + MISEZ Beneficiaries

(*2) MSC- Eye Ailments detected on Screening by Specialists + Senior Citizens + MISEZ Beneficiaries

(*3) MSC + Senior Citizens

(*4) MSC + Senior Citizens

(*5) Senior Citizens + Cataract Project (ABN Amro) + MISEZ Beneficiaries

(*6) Beneficiaries of Drishti Project

Rehabilitation

The **Department of Rehabilitation** assists visually impaired (congenital as well as adventitious) individuals - male and female - to accept their vision loss, know their limitations and adjust to the situation. The courses conducted by the department help in socio-economic rehabilitation of the visually impaired thereby leading to their total independence.

At DOR, rigorous training offered in orientation & mobility, basic life-skills, social graces, physical education, communication skills, etc. Trainees are also counseled and given vocational guidance. This service familiarizes them various career opportunities and assists them in identifying the one most suitable for them to become economically independent. Corrective therapy is offered to those in need. The entire exercise, by and large, helps in building up self-confidence of the visually impaired trainees and boosts their self-esteem.

Other facilities that are extended include check-up related to general health, low vision and cancer and provision of medicines and hospitalization to residential trainees as per requirement.

Rehabilitation Courses

Basic Rehabilitation Course

This course assists congenitally and adventitiously blind visually impaired persons (both men and women) to accept and adjust to vision loss and lead a normal life.

Intensive training is given for developing basic life-skills pertaining to activities of daily living, orientation and mobility, social graces, physical education, communication, etc., apart from corrective therapy. This exercise is aimed at helping them gain self-confidence enhance their self-esteem.

Aimed at making them economically independent, the trainees are provided vocational guidance, familiarized with work avenues open to them and assisted in identifying the most suitable option.

Case Conference: Once a week the faculty members evaluate the performance of individual trainee in each area. Thereafter, training methods are modified based on individual requirements.

Health Care: Check-ups pertaining to general physical condition, low vision, ear/hearing aids, cancer, etc. are organised. Residential trainees are provided medicines and if required further treatment like hospitalization, etc.

Talent Competitions: Quiz, music, clay modeling, memory span, finger dexterity, sports, story telling and self-introduction Competitions were organised. Rotary Club of Bombay Seaface sponsored prizes for winners of competitions conducted for the 97th batch. The Club also approved financial assistance for a year's duration to one of the trainees taking treatment for neurological ailment. In addition, they donated 3 tables and chairs to the Department for use

during exhibitions. The Senior Citizens Association of Greater Bombay sponsored the prizes for winners of competitions conducted for the 98th batch.

Lectures and Workshops: Lectures were organised on topics like travel, educational facilities, personality development, employment opportunities, loan facilities, concessions, health and nutrition, cancer, talking book library, direct client services, AIDS and family planning, stress management and future planning, role of Government social welfare departments, PWD Act and the progress on its implementation etc. Besides, Sarista Foundation conducted a Workshop on Disaster Management for the 97th batch.

Students-Parents Meetings were held for the 97th and the 98th batches to update parents on their children's progress.

Publication: Nandadeep - a quarterly Braille Magazine brought out by the Department - carrying articles written by students of each batch was published for the benefit of future trainees. Best contributions received prizes.

Leisure and Recreation: Outings were organised to Essel World for students of 97th batch and Mumbai Darshan for students of 98th batch.

Trainees of 98th batch took part in the Ganpati festival celebration organised by the Popley & Sons Gold Plaza, and Diwali and other celebrations organised by the Department. On their own they took the initiative to celebrate a Teachers' Day and felicitated the teaching faculty of the Department.

Staff and trainees of 98th batch attended "**Corn Night**" - **Food & Fun Fair** organised by The Club, Andheri. Demonstrations were held on Sighted Guide Techniques using dummy signals and zebra crossing, Braille writing, acupuncture, massage, etc.

Examinations: External examiners (those working for the visually impaired) conducted both practical and theory exams for all four batches. The M. N. Chhatrapati Award was presented to best trainee (one securing highest marks in Rehabilitation subjects) from each batch.

Passing out Function: Trainees who successfully completed the courses were awarded certificates and presented white canes. Winners of various competitions conducted during the course duration were also felicitated. Service Clubs and donors sponsored the prizes.

	2005-2006	2006-2007	Total
Trainees Admitted	48	55	103
Trainees Passed	35	47	82

Recommended Future Course for the Trainees

	2005-2006	2006-2007	Total
Take up Further Education	7	8	15
Advanced Training	7	9	16
Seek Job through Open Employment	2	1	03

Self-Employment	11	16	27
Returned Home	6	4	10
Returned to sponsoring Agency	1	4	5
Reverted to Previous Occupation (before becoming blind)		5	5

Short-Term Need-based Course for Adolescent

This course specially designed for youth who appear for the X and XII grades was conducted twice - during April 4-30, 2005 for the first time and for the second time during April 24-May 30, 2006. This is a preparatory course of sorts for smooth and easy transition from a secured and protected life to one full of challenges, excitement and freedom.

The objectives of this course are to help visually impaired youth:

Gain confidence in independent mobility, that is, to primarily familiarize them with traveling by public transport such as trains, buses, taxis, etc.

Recognize and successfully handle the physical, psychological and emotional changes they go through during the teenage phase of their life.

Learn to transact with the world outside - an area with which they are hitherto unfamiliar.

Gain information on opportunities for higher education.

Special Short-term Need-based Course in Vocational Trades

Considering the dismal scenario vis-à-vis employment opportunities the department started this training course to help improve self-employment prospects for the visually handicapped. Students were offered intensive training in as many as 3 vocational trades. Practical demonstration in marketing skills was also organised, to enable them learn marketing strategies and get an insight into the demand for their products.

Students were trained in the following trades:

Trades Taught	2005-2006 No. of Students	2006-2007 No. of Students	Total
Agarbatti	8	12	20
Candle	15	7	22
Imitation Jewellery	8	9	17
Paper Bags	8		8
Phenyl/ Liquid Soap	15	15	30
Stitching Napkins	4		4
Making Garlands and Torans	7	4	11
Popcorn Making		3	03
Gas Stove Servicing		1	1

During the course the trainees sold goods worth Rs.5,300 at exhibitions and various other occasions. Some former students successfully managing their own business were also invited to display and sell their products.

Short-term Need-based Refresher Course for Slow-Learners

Years of experience have shown there are students who are slow at grasping what's being taught and therefore need to be trained specially. With this objective a course was designed and conducted for 12 students. Before the training commenced the Department visited an organisation called "Share" in Mumbai to learn trades like envelope and paper bag making and to observe the training procedure for mentally challenged students at Share. An expert in making paper lanterns (Kandeels) was also invited to teach the staff and students. Two among the students were able to master this art. Certificates were awarded to the trainees at the end of the course.

Students learnt the following vocational trades:

Trades Taught	No. of Students
Paper Bag Making	11
Liquid Soap Making	09
Candle Making	03

Course in Vocational Trades for Visually Impaired Girls

At the behest of Poona School & Home for the Blind - Girls Training Centre, a special 6-day training course was designed for 10 visually impaired girl-students of the Centre. They were taught to make phenyl/liquid soap, garlands and torans, imitation jewellery, fancy candles and popcorn. A demonstration on growing wheat grass was conducted. Besides, lectures by successful entrepreneurs and visits to NAB Departments and were organised. Products made by the girls were exhibited at Mahalakshmi temple. Students sold items worth Rs.1100. This exercise helped them learn some marketing techniques as well as realize the demand for products made by them. (Refer Table 1 for statistics)

Rehabilitation Courses 2005-2007: General Statistics

Course	2005-2006			2006-2007			Total No. of Beneficiaries
	Batch No.	Duration	Students	Batch No.	Duration	Students	
Basic Rehab Course	95	May Aug - 05	26	97	Jan 5 -Apr 19, 06	28	103
	96	Sept 5 - Dec 5, 05	22	98	Jun 5 - Sept 19, 06	27	
Short-term Need-based Course for Adolescent	1	Apr 4 - 30, 2005	19	2	Apr 24 - May 30, 2006	25	044
Short-term Need-based	1	Dec 7 - 30, 2005	22	2	Sept 25 - Nov 6,	18	040

Vocational Trade Special					2006		
Short-term Refresher Course for Slow Learners				1	Nov 6 – Dec 16, 2006	12	012
Short-term Need-based Course for Blind Girls (From Pune)				1	Dec 23 – 18, 2006	10	010
Total Beneficiaries				89			120
						209	

Type of Beneficiaries

	2005-2006	2006-2007	Total
Totally Blind	42	57	99
Partially Blind	47	63	110
Newly Blind	34	47	81
Congenitally Blind	55	73	128
Educated	69	103	172
Illiterate	20	17	37
Day Scholars	27	43	70
Residents	62	77	139
Males	40	89	129
Females	49	31	80
Urban	55	66	121
Rural	34	54	88

Two-year Certificate Course in Physiotherapy

	2005-2006	2006-2007	Total No. of Students
Batch No	11	12	
Course Duration	Jun 2005 – Apr 2006	Jun 2006- Apr 07	
Students	06	08	14

Entrance examinations and interviews for the 11th and 12th Batches of the course were conducted. In all 14 trainees were selected during the review period. (Refer Table 2 for statistics). Besides the regular examinations conducted for the two batches, exams were also conducted for 3 students of the 2nd year (Batch No.11) who were allowed to keep terms after unsuccessful attempt at the FY Examinations. The course is recognized by the Maharashtra State Vocational Education and Examination Board.

Donations in kind like walkmans, cassette players, physiotherapy books and anatomy diagrams were received from donors within India and abroad. Share & Care Foundation, USA donated

US \$ 3,000 (approx. Rs.1,26,000) for the course. In addition, a grant of Rs.10,620 was received from the Directorate of Goa for a student from Goa undergoing the course.

Six-month Certificate Course in Acupressure & Massage

2005-2006			2006-2007		
Batch No.	Course Duration	Students	Batch No.	Course Duration	Students
3	Jul - Dec 2005	09	5	Jul - Dec 2006	06
4	Jan - Jun 2006	10	6	Jan - Jun 2007	03
Total No. of Students		19			09

The course is recognized by the Maharashtra State Vocational Education and Examination Board. Entrance tests and interviews were conducted for admission to the 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th batches. Students demonstrated their skills at two exhibitions held in Mumbai - one on the occasion of World Disability Day - December 3, 2005 and other named "Herbal World 2006" - during December 22-25, 2005. Three visually impaired women from Andh Kanya Prakash Gruh, Mem Nagar, Ahmedabad were imparted 15 day's training in Acupressure and Massage. Examinations were conducted for 3rd, 4th and 5th batches.

World White Cane Day

Each year DOR observes World White Cane Day by holding demonstrations on the Sighted Guide Techniques at important traffic junctions in Mumbai. The exercise aims making teaching the pedestrians, the techniques to guide the visually impaired.

The highlight of the event during 2006-2007 was demonstrations held on October 15, 2006 at High Street Phoenix - reputed mall in Mumbai - where a traffic junction was simulated with the help of dummy signal and zebra crossing, mainly to draw attention of the shoppers.

Other institutions for the blind and some Departments of NAB (I) also participated in the demonstrations at various traffic intersections. Akashwani aired programmes on importance of the Day in English, Hindi, Marathi, Gujarati and Urdu on different dates and time. NAB FRC was instrumental in arranging media coverage for the programmes.

Awareness Campaign

For the first time ever DOR organised an awareness campaign on the "Sighted Guide Techniques" and "Confidence with which Visually Challenged Individuals go about with their Day-to-Day Activities, Independently". The programme was held at Ruia College, Mumbai on December 27, 2006. This exercise aimed at creating awareness among college students about guiding blind persons cross the road. Dummy signal, zebra crossing, audio-visual material clubbed with lectures, etc. were used send the message across. The cooperation received from the students was very encouraging.

ISO 9001:2000 Certification

The Department had undertaken the exercise of obtaining ISO certification for which, number of training sessions were held. On completion of the training and the essential internal and external audits, the Department was awarded the ISO 9001:2000 Certification on December 19, 2006.

On March 29, 2007 the first internal audit of the staff after receipt of ISO: 9001:2000 Certification was conducted to review progress made by the Department.

Support to Ex-Trainees

Some former trainees of the courses in Basic Rehabilitation and Vocational Trades courses were either extended assistance in cash and kind toward their economic rehabilitation. The donations received were from various service clubs and well-wishers.

Our Partners in Progress

Shri Sadguru Shri Aniruddha Upasana Trust provided writers for the visually impaired persons who appeared for various examinations conducted by the department. They also donated food items during festive occasions like Diwali and Holi and also helped in getting the fencing for the garden.

M/s. Mahendra Brothers, Parikh Group donated Rs.35 lakh toward Renovation of the Barracks in which the DOR is located.

State Branches

Officials from the **State Branches Department** regularly visit NAB State Branches all over India to acquaint themselves with the blind welfare activities undertaken by the Branches and counsel Branch officials when required. Likewise, Office Bearers and Staff of various State Branches periodically visit the NAB HO in Mumbai to keep abreast of new technologies available and find amicable solutions to the problems encountered by them in their respective States.

Most of the State Branches regularly send in their Annual Reports and Audited Statement of Accounts to NAB (I) for perusal and records of the NAB State Branches Committee members. From budgetary provisions, financial assistance is disbursed to newly established Branches for appointment of Development Officers and Project Coordinators, as and when required.

Members of NAB State Branches Committee meet representatives of the Branches regularly to plan out strategies for implementation of need-based projects for the visually impaired all over India.

NAB Andhra Pradesh State Branch

The NAB Andhra Pradesh State Branch donated a telephone booth to Mr. B. Venkatesh (totally blind) on August 30, 2005. The Branch in collaboration with Medicity Hospital organised Eye Camps and initiated other health- related programmes for the visually impaired in the Ranga Reddy District.

The Branch inaugurated a **Rehabilitation and Vocational Training Centre** on June 29, 2006. Canara Bank (SD Road Secunderabad Branch) donated to this Centre Rs.6000 for a candle-making unit.

In association with Mahavir Motors, Hyderabad the Branch organised a **Car Rally** on December 10, 2006. 32 blind persons participated in the event as navigators. They were given T-shirts, caps and Braille watches. The car owners donated Rs.10,000 to the Branch.

NAB Chandigarh & Punjab Branch

The NAB Chandigarh State Branch catered to the need of 130 blind children attending special or normal schools. Teachers appointed under the Integrated Education Programme identified visually impaired children in Chandigarh and the adjoining areas of Punjab and Haryana. Children as well as employed visually impaired individuals were imparted computer training. Braille was also taught. Illiterate blind were given vocational training. The branch started a Talking Book Library with a grant of Rs.3 lakh from the Social Welfare Department (UT). A new project was started for the empowerment of blind women.

Under the weeklong **Awareness Generation and Eye Care Programme** initiated in October and November 2005, **Eye-screening Camps** were organised for children studying in Government school, which benefited 430 children. Mothers of children detected with eye ailments joined the Awareness Campaign that touched upon topics like mothers' role in the development of blind children, psychological implications of blindness, eye care, hygiene, immunization, nutrition, facilities and concessions, etc.

Scholarships, pension, unemployment allowances, etc., were given to visually impaired individuals through Government grants. At Sri Guru Harkrishan Public Charitable Eye Hospital Trust, Sohana, Punjab 50 cataract surgeries were performed on underprivileged patients under **Prevention of Blindness Programme**. Ramakrishna Mission funded the project.

28 visually impaired individuals were trained at the Computer-cum-Braille Learning Centre. 4 qualified teachers helped 32 blind children in the 4 IE Units.

Ramakrishna Mission supported cataract surgeries of 50 underprivileged persons. The operations were carried out at Sri Guru Harkrishan Sahib Charitable Eye Hospital, Sohana.

In May 2006 the Home Secretary, Chandigarh Union Territory inaugurated the Rotary (Chandigarh Centre) sponsored third round of the weeklong Awareness Generation and Eye-care Programme. A team of doctors from Guru Harkrishan Eye Institute, Sohana examined eyes of 785 children studying in various Government Schools. Children with less than 40% vision were offered referral for advanced treatment. Medicines and spectacles were provided. The mothers of these children attended the Awareness Campaign.

Six athletes of the Branch's Sports Section were selected to represent India at the Junior World Championship in July 2006 in England. Some of the athletes have won medals at the national and international sport meets.

A unique cultural programme by the disabled for the disabled marked the observance of **World Disability Day** on December 3, 2006. About 200 blind and 40 mentally challenged children put up a lively show.

NAB Gujarat State Branch

April 2005 NAB Gujarat State Branch received in donation property worth Rs.50 lakh from Mr. Jitendra Ajmera and his family for starting a Centre for blind and disabled persons. The Centre has been named "Savinay Rehabilitation Centre for Disabled". The Branch plans to start a Resource Centre for blind children, eye-care facilities and a physiotherapy centre.

"Equal Participation of Blind Women in their Own Development" was the theme of the **Seminar for Blind Women** jointly organised by NAB Gujarat State Branch, NAB Navsari District Branch and Blind Women's Association of Gujarat (Billimoria), in May 2005. 200 blind women from several villages and towns in Gujarat attended the seminar. The organisers and participants took out an Awareness Rally on May 8, to sensitize the public about the special needs and problems of the blind, and the potentials of blind women. NAB Gujarat also organised many recreational programmes such as poetry and music competitions, athletic meets and Chess and Cricket tournaments.

The **Bhikhabhai Chunilal Shah Memorial Awards** were presented to Ms. Vishakha Mehta and Mr. Niranjan Pandya in July 2005. They received a gold medal and a shawl.

The Mehsana, Junagadh, and Jamnagar District Branches of NAB Gujarat completed 25 years. A blood donation drive on August 25, 2005 and a Seminar of Employed Blind Persons on October 9, 2005 marked the **Silver Jubilee** celebrations at NAB Jamnagar.

The two-day **Annual Conference of NAB District Branches in Gujarat** was held in Silvassa on May 28 and 29, 2005. The Conference provided a platform to discuss problems pertaining to governance of the branches and for exchanging views on management, legal and various other issues. Aids and appliances were distributed to blind tribal, on the occasion. Honourable Mr. Mohan Delkar, Member of Parliament representing Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli inaugurated the event.

Several visually impaired persons from various institutions for the blind in Gujarat State, participated in chess, athletics, music and Braille competitions organised by Jamnagar, Dahod, Navsari and Sanand district/taluka branches of NAB Gujarat. In December 2005 the Branch in association with Navchetan Andhajan Mandal, Madhapur organised a poetry recitation competition in which 15 visually impaired persons took part. The Branch organised a State level cricket tournament in Ahmedabad during January 19-21, 2006. Five teams - winners at the Zonal level - participated in this tournament. The NAB Valsad District Branch was declared winner. The cricket team of NAB Gujarat won the National Cricket Tournament held at Bangalore during February 28 - March 5, 2006.

Along with Kheda and Banaskantha District Branches and the Union Territory Branch (Silvasa), NAB Gujarat hosted Zonal Cricket Matches for the Blind of Gujarat State in December 2006. The Baroda District Branch organised the Gujarat State Cricket Tournament for the Blind during February 16-17, 2007.

NAB Silvasa hosted the **All Gujarat Chess Tournament for the Blind** during January 11-13 2007. NAB Gujarat State Branch, NAB Sanand Taluka Branch, Bavla and the Lions Club of Vastrapur jointly organised the **West Zone Braille Reading Competition** in January 2007. There were 97 participants. The **All Gujarat Music Competition** organised by NAB Panchmahal District Branch during 2-3 Feb '07 at Dahod, saw 75 participants. NAB Mehsana/Patan District Branch felicitated toppers of Music Examination held in Visnagar in 2006. NAB Sanand Taluka Branch, Bavla organised an **Orientation Programme on Disability Act** for *Sarpanchs* of Sanand, in February 2007.

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NAB Goa State Branch

22 visually impaired students of NAB Goa State Branch participated in a study-cum-entertainment camp organised during October 23-24 2005.

To initiate celebrations during its **Silver Jubilee Year** (10 Feb '07 - 9 Feb '08) the Branch organised an inaugural function on February 12, 2007. Mr. Pratapsingh Rane, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Goa was the Chief Guest and Mr. J. P. Singh, Chief Secretary, Govt. of Goa was the Guest of Honour. On February 10, a Press Conference was called to announce the programme and activities in the offing. Visually impaired children put up a cultural programme on the occasion. A picnic for multihandicapped students and residential students and their parents was also organised on January 27.

NAB Haryana State Branch

On the occasion of its **Silver Jubilee** on September 30, 2005 the Branch presented a charter of demands on its proposed activities, to Governor of Haryana His Excellency Dr. A. R. Kidwai.

Under **Netra Jyoti Suraksha** programme, eyes screening of 500 school-going children was carried out during October 15-25, 2005 at Ballabgarh, Faridabad. In March 2006 a tour to the holy city of Haridwar was arranged for 50 elderly blind persons.

Each year **Birth Anniversary of Louis Braille** is celebrated on January 4. On January 4, 2006 money and utility items were given to the aged blind under the Adopt-a-Granny scheme sponsored by Helpage International (UK) through Helpage India (Delhi). Prizes were presented to blind trainees who participated in various sporting events held on the previous day.

The Branch procured 10 computers through kind courtesy of His Excellency Dr. A. R. Kidwai, Governor of Haryana, Dr. Mrs. G. Anupama, Deputy Commissioner of Faridabad and M/s. Good Year Tyres, Faridabad. The 6-month computer training started in the month of October 2006. Since November 2006, 10 blind students are attending the Computer Training for Blind Children.

On November 12, 2006 the Branch solemnized 2 marriages of blind girls in the Branch premises.

NAB Haryana Cricket team of visually impaired individuals won the **10th North Zone Cricket Tournament** held at Lucknow during January 19-21, 2007. The team received a trophy and each of its players was presented Rs.1000 and a music system.

During 1-28 Feb '07 the Branch conducted a Special (Condensed) **Telephone Operator Training Programme** for 11 visually impaired employees of the National Thermal Power Corporation. On completion of the course, candidates were put through a test and awarded certificates.

The Branch established Help an Aged Blind (HAAB) project to extend financial and other desired assistance to the aging blind men and women uncared for by their families.

NAB Himachal Pradesh State Branch

The Branch started a Computer Training Centre with the help of computers and software donated by the Governor of Himachal Pradesh. The Branch also started in association with NAB Delhi a Multihandicapped Unit (MHU).

On October 2, 2005, children of the Multi-Handicapped Unit of the Branch attended a camp at Dharmshala, where they were given wheel chairs. Foot orthosis was also given to a child who was bedridden since long.

Children of the Chander Abha Memorial School for the Blind participated in a Festival for Differently Aabled organised by BCS School, Shimla on October 14, 2005. They also took part in the National Mega Meet 2005 for the Physically Challenged held in Chandigarh during October 22-25, 2005.

Trainees of the Computer Centre demonstrated their skills in operating the computer using JAWS, at a program organized by the Directorate of Social Justice and Empowerment, on the

occasion of the International Day of Disabled Persons - December 3, 2005. The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh was the chief guest.

The Multi Handicapped Unit (MHU) organised a 4-day Speech Therapy Camp for its children with the help of a Speech Therapist from Delhi.

The Branch was conferred with National Award for Child Welfare '05. Ms. Renuka Chowdhury, Hon'ble Minister for Women And Child Development, Govt. of India presented the Award at a function held in New Delhi on 15 Nov '06.

NAB Jharkhand State Branch

The NAB Jharkhand State Branch at Jamshedpur trained visually impaired persons in vocational trades like making of candles, chalk, phenyl and in computer operation. Blind students under integrated education took advantage of the Braille and Talking Book Libraries.

NAB Karnataka State Branch

Mr. Srinivas, Chief Employment Officer of the Branch received State Award for his outstanding contribution to economic rehabilitation of the disabled. Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister of Karnataka Mr. M. P. Prakash presented the Award on December 3, 2005.

The Branch organised eye-screening camps in various districts of the State. Cataract and other eye surgeries benefited about 1000 persons. 51 trainees (37 male and 14 female) of the 26th passed the rehabilitation course conducted at the Rehabilitation & Basic Training Centre. The passing out function was held on March 25, 2006.

NAB Kerala State Branch

In April 2005 and 2006 with the support of State Bank of India (Trivandrum) and the NAB Department of Education, the Branch conducted **Integrated Camps** for visually impaired students and their sighted peers were conducted. The focus was on enhancing independent living skills among the blind students and sensitizing the sighted peers to problems of their blind counterparts.

Jointly with the District Rehabilitation Centre the Branch distributed white canes and signature guides to 26 elderly visually impaired persons in May 2005. 250 Braille Kits donated by Indian American Education Foundation (USA) through Worth Trust - Katpadi were distributed to the visually impaired on June 1, 2005.

Partly supported by Sadhbhavana Rural Trust, Ahmedabad and Sense Scotland, NAB Kerala started relief work in the Tsunami affected Ernakulam District. The project received further boost when Sight Savers International (SSI), India approached the Branch for initiating **Comprehensive Eye-Care Services (CES)** in Kollam, Alleppy and Ernakulam Districts of Kerala. 60,000 visually impaired persons in need of intervention were identified in July 2005. Base hospitals were visited and sensitized about the project requirements. Eye camps and

awareness rallies were organised. Visually impaired children were given Braille kits and white canes.

Activities under CES include educational assistance, eye-screening of children under IEP, cataract surgeries, awareness/training programmes, and rehabilitation programmes for the adult. Around 575 blind and low vision individuals are undergoing rehabilitation in the three projects and 90 children are provided services through 6 IE units. 440 eye camps, 153 eye-screening programmes in schools, 6889 cataract surgeries were conducted besides 214 awareness programmes on eye care.

Educational Assistance On September 9, 2005, Braille kits were given to 8 and dress materials to 32 visually impaired children of the NAB's Varkala and Sivagiri IE Units.

District level Braille Reading and Writing Competition were organised during Blind Welfare Week in October 2005 for visually impaired children studying in regular schools.

International President Elect of Y's Men's International, Dr. Choi Han-Ki inaugurated the **NAB - P. George Rehabilitation Centre for the Disabled** in Trivandrum on February 16, 2006. Y's Men International supported construction of this building with a grant of US \$ 13,400. The centre will offer services that will help in mainstreaming the disabled.

Home-Based Rehabilitation Programme for Deaf-blind Children: Deafblind children are imparted individualized need-based training with the help of their families and special educators. 12 children in the age group 3-11 from the rural areas of Trivandrum District are benefited through this programme. An adult deafblind person is being given vocational training at the centre. In October 2006 Branch started in its premises a Centre for Children with Deafblindness and those with Multiple Disabilities.

As a part of **Family Development Program**, a picnic was organised in January 2006 for deafblind and multi-handicapped children and their families. Sense International India and Paul Hamlyn Foundation, UK, supported the event. A **Family Strengthening Meeting** was organised on October 23, 2006 to assess the progress of the Programme for Deafblind and MDVI and evaluate the development of the children under this programme.

CBR for Multi-Disabled Children: Supported by Paul Hamlyn Foundation, UK this programme caters to 25 children from Trivandrum and 10 children from Ernakulam Districts. Trained educators identify and build up functional curriculum for skills development of the children. Mothers are trained as caregiver to deal with their children's day-to-day needs. 3 children with Multi Sensory impairment were admitted to a normal school. 8 children under the Home-based Programme were admitted to a special school. 8 children attend the special care-centre started for these children.

The **Community-Based Rehabilitation** project supported by Caritas India through CBR Forum covers all categories of disability. The project is being implemented in 2 blocks of Ernakulam District, covering 2375 disabled persons. 19 self-help groups were formed under this programme.

Integrated Education Programme supported by MHRD under IEDC Scheme, is implemented in 5 districts of Kerala. 158 visually impaired children study in 91 normal schools under 8 IE Programmes.

SSLC Toppers Felicitated: 24 Students of NAB IE Programmes across Kerala State, who passed the SSLC Examination of March 2006 with good rating, were felicitated on 19th August 2006.

Prevention of Blindness Programme: 16 free eye camps conducted for the general population benefited 2302 persons. 25 vision-screening programmes were conducted in schools benefiting 13,024 children. 1380 spectacles were distributed free of cost.

Vocational Training Centres at Trivandrum and Ernakulam provided hands-on training to 24 visually impaired persons in home science, furniture-recaning, envelope and candle making, etc.

Low Vision (LV) Centre carries out clinical and functional assessment of LV persons. 242 LV persons took advantages of this facility. 1426 were provided different types of magnifying aids

Under the **Group Insurance Scheme** of LIC India lives of 700 blind people have been insured with policies of Rs.5000 in the event of natural death and Rs.25,000 for accidental death. The Branch pays the premiums through donations. So far, claims to the tune of Rs.2,65,000 have been paid.

The well-equipped **Computer Training Centre** imparted basic training to 34 visually impaired children.

The **Computerized Braille Press** set up with financial support from State Bank of Travancore, distributes Braille books free of cost.

Financial Assistance of Rs.46,000 was disbursed between 8 visually impaired and 6 mentally disabled children toward self-employment.

A one of its kind **Electronic Reading Book Centre** rendering free of cost service to college-going visually impaired students benefited 20 students.

On the occasion of Helen Keller's birth anniversary - June 27, 2006, NAB Kerala organised an **Awareness Programme on "Deafblindness and Advocacy Rights" of the Deafblind**, for members of community-based organisations and NGOs in Kollam, Alleppey and Ernakulam districts. Educators of NAB Kerala's Programme for the Deafblind distributed leaflets and shared information with the participants in this Sense International India supported programme.

Aimed at NGO-Government collaboration to strengthen work for the disabled in the State, on October 13, 2006 the Branch jointly with NIVH Regional Centre (Chennai) organised a **Sensitization Workshop for Senior Government Officials** of Kerala State.

The Branch regularly conducts **Vision Screening Programmes** in schools and offices, in association with the Regional Institute of Ophthalmology, District Mobile Units and the Lions Clubs. 10 vision-screening camps were conducted during the reporting period, benefiting 2606 persons. On September 27, 2006, Lions Club of Trivandrum Airport City distributed spectacles to 21 students of SMVHS School Trivandrum. About 150 students were provided referral service.

Each year the Branch celebrates **World Sight Day** on second Thursday in October. In 2006, the catchphrase for the Day was "**Control Diabetes, Protect Eyes and Sight ForEver.**" Rallies, awareness campaigns, essay competitions and eye screening camps marked the celebrations under the CES Project.

The Branch has started **HIV/AIDS Awareness Project** with the support of Y's Men International. An awareness campaign was organised on December 1, 2006, to observe World AIDS Day.

30 visually impaired students and IE teachers participated in a **Mobility Camp** organised on January 13, 2007 at Varkala, Trivandrum. Topics covered included Orientation, Cane and Sighted Guide Techniques etc.

NAB IE Programme students participated and won prizes in various events at the **Special School Youth Festival** organised by the Kerala Government in Alleppey during 22-24 Jan '07.

The Kerala IT Mission, Government of Kerala and NAB Kerala State Branch jointly organised a **Workshop on "Enabling the Visually Challenged to Information Communication Technology"**. 40 blind individuals attended the Workshop.

NAB Madhya Pradesh State Branch

NAB Madhya Pradesh State Branch conducted eye-screening camps in the rural areas, besides initiating a computer-training centre at its office in Indore.

NAB Unit Maharashtra

NAB Unit Maharashtra implemented blind welfare projects in their various districts of the State in the areas of Integrated Education, and Community Based Rehabilitation. The District Branches of NAB Unit Maharashtra conducted eye camps and competitions for the blind in their respective districts.

On October 15, 2005, IE students of NAB Unit Maharashtra along with Vice President, and Honorary Secretary of the Branch called on His Excellency Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam, during his visit to Nashik.

NAB Tamil Nadu State Branch

The NAB Tamil Nadu State Branch imparted **Vocational Training** to blind persons in making candles, chalk and phenyl besides furniture recaning. The educated blind are trained in

telephone and computer operation. Six students were enrolled for the 2nd batch of the 2-month **Telephone Operator's Course**, which commenced on August 1, 2005. The second batch of the 3-month course in **Computer Education** commenced on October 1, 2005.

On October 17, 2005, Lions Club donated Braille watches, tape recorders and audiocassettes to 28 trainees of the Branch.

On October 21, 2005 Bhaskar Dental Foundation organised a free dental camp for trainees of the Vocational Training Centre.

8 IE teachers of the Branch attended a **Workshop on Teaching Chemistry to Visually Impaired Children** organized by the Madras Christian College, Tambaram, on January 1, 2006.

Six trainees and a staff member participated in the **Chess Competition** at the Zonal Abilympics (South) held on January 7-8, 2006. One of them won a Bronze Medal. Trainees also participated and won the 2nd and 3rd prizes in a Chess Competition organised by John Milton Trust (Chennai) on March 4, 2006.

57 visually impaired persons participated as navigators in a **Car Rally** organised by NAB Tamil Nadu Branch jointly with Ucal Fuel Systems and Madras Motor Sports Club on January 29, 2006. Actor Sonia Agarwal flagged off the rally. Winners received prizes.

The 3rd **State Level Open Chess Tournament** jointly organised by the Branch and Madras Coastal round Table 162 was held on February 25, 2006, in Chennai. Coca Cola sponsored the event. Mr. R. Nataraj IPS, Police Commissioner inaugurated the Tournament in which 61 visually impaired persons from all over Tamil Nadu participated. Mr. Krishnamachari Srikanth, former test cricketer presented prizes to the winners.

The Branch organised a Residential Summer Camp for visually impaired adults during May 15-31, 2006. The 23 participants - 20 men and 3 women - were imparted skills in employment oriented vocational trades such as bookbinding, lamination and computer operation. They were also taught yoga and involved in sports like volleyball, cricket and chess. The training aimed at inclusion of the visually handicapped in mainstream society through economic independence. Many of the participants belonged to lower socio-economic strata, their educational levels ranging from illiterate to graduate.

Office bearers of NAB Tamil Nadu State Branch called on His Excellency Mr. Surjit Singh Barnala, Governor of Tamil Nadu on September 21, '06, to inaugurate the Flag Day. The Governor presented them a copy of his autobiography "Quest for freedom" which has been brought out in Braille.

Since August 2006 the **Vocational Training Centre (VTC)** has started imparting training in vocal music as well as playing musical instruments, to visually impaired individuals. The certificate course offered is of 6-month duration. Hostel facilities are free of cost. There are short-term courses as well. In August, the VTC trainees and IEDC students were taken on an excursion to Golden Beach and a Theme Park.

State Bank of India, Perambur Branch, donated a water purifier and 2 stainless steel containers to the VTC hostel.

World White Cane Day was observed by holding an Awareness Programme. Trainees demonstrated the use of white cane in negotiating obstacles. They also engaged the onlookers in a game of Chess.

173 persons were screened at 2 **Eye Camps** organised on September 29 and October 29, 2006. 18 were operated for cataract at the Sankara Eye Hospital, Pammal. These camps were made possible through a munificent donation from Ms. Tahnaz D. Bahadurji.

NAB Uttarakhand State Branch

On April 17, 2005 the General Secretary and some office bearers of the Branch and six visually impaired children in the age group 6-9 called on His Excellency Mr. Sudershan Agrawal, Governor of Uttaranchal. The General Secretary made a presentation on activities of the Branch and briefed the Governor about the difficulties faced by the Branch in setting up a school for the blind.

The Branch was allotted 1.5 acres of forestland near the Haldwani bye pass, Nainital for starting a Residential School cum Vocational Training Centre. Construction of the Centre is in progress.

NAB Uttar Pradesh State Branch

The NAB Uttar Pradesh State Branch runs integrated education programme covering 50 students are studying in the scheme covering six blocks. Scholarships were given to 33 students. The Branch also conducted eye camps in which 18 persons were operated for cataract.

With financial support from NAB (India), an eye camp was organised during February 10-13, 2006. Of the 153 patients assessed, 63 detected with cataract were operated upon.

On February 28, 2006, "Sensitization Program for School Principals and Administrators for Inclusion of Disabled Children in Regular Schools" was organised.

On January 24, 2006, financial support of Rs.2,38,800 received from Hindustan Petroleum Corporation (HPCL) Ltd., was distributed among 164 students - visually challenged and those with other disabilities - from Std.I up to graduation level.

In March 2006 an Integrated Camp was conducted for 30 visually impaired children under Integrated Education Programme and their sighted peers. Social Animators Camp was also organised which saw 22 participants. NAB (I) financially supported both programmes.

In March 2006, 53 IE students of Sandila and Kachchaunna blocks of HarDOI district and 27 students of the newly opened IE units in Lucknow district were distributed scholarship money - Rs.500 each - given by NAB (I).

Free Eye and Health Care camp was organized on March 25, 2006, with financial support from Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd.

A one-week Training Programme on "Services for Multi-Disabled Visually Impaired (MDVI) Children was organised during July 1 - August 5, 2006. There were 18 participants. Voice and Vision (Mumbai) conducted the programme.

Educational materials and aids were distributed among 120 visually impaired and other disabled students studying under IE Programme in Lucknow and Barabanki Districts during August 29-31, 2006. On September 4, 2006, educational materials and aids were also distributed to visually impaired and other disabled students of IE Programme in the Sandila and Kachhauna blocks of Hardoi District.

NAB West Bengal State Branch

In association with Himalaya Vision Care, the NAB West Bengal State Branch organised eye check-ups in schools during August and September. On September 24, 2005 the Branch felicitated and distributed educational aids and certificates to students who passed the Secondary and Higher Secondary examinations.

In August and October 2006 the Branch conducted Seminars on "Rights and Privileges Available in the Disability Sector" and "Educational Facilities Provided by the State Government".

Fund Raising drive and Awareness Programmes to make the general public aware of the capabilities of the blind, marked celebrations of the **All India Flag Day** on October 15, 2006.

A **Talking Book Library** was inaugurated on November 19, 2006.

On April 27, 2007 organised a cultural programme for raising funds to purchase an office for the Branch. The Mayor of Kolkata was the Chief Guest. Rs.12 lakh was collected through this endeavour.

About 100 cataract operations are conducted every month under the ongoing **Prevention of Blindness** Project in collaboration with **Shankar Netralaya Rotary Narayan**.

The Branch runs 4 **IE Units** in Hoogli, North 24 Parganas, South 24 Parganas and Kolkata city.

Recreational activity included screening of a movie for 400 visually impaired students.

A Computer Training Centre for Blind was established in association with NIP.

24 schools participated in the **National School Chess Tournament** organised by the Branch.

NAB Pheroze & Noshir Merwanji Rehabilitation Centre for the Blind, Mt. Abu

To honour the exemplary contribution of late Mrs. Coomie P. Merwanji to welfare of the blind, in Rajasthan State, a bronze bust of Mrs. Merwanji was unveiled at the NAB Pheroze & Norshir Merwanji Rehabilitation Centre for the Blind, Mt. Abu, on December 15, 2005. In 1967 Mrs. Merwanji's family had donated the building in which P.& N. M. Centre is located and the surrounding land.

An Awareness Rally taken out by the employees and visually impaired inmates of the Centre at Mt. Abu on the occasion of the World White Cane Day - October 15, 2005.

On February 22, 2006 a delegation of 40 persons from Christoffel-Blindenmission visited the Centre to observe its activities. About 200 visitors, student and staff celebrated the Holi festival with great gusto in March 2006.

On April 29, 2006 seven computers donated by Satyam Computers (Hyderabad) were installed at the centre. This initiative will help many more blind students to take computer education.

Trainees of the Centre were taken for boat riding during an outing organised on Helen Keller's Birth Anniversary - June 27, '06.

Students of the Centre gave musical performance at the inaugural of the Summer Festival on May 11, 2006. Present on the occasion was Hon'ble Ms. Pratibha Patil, Governor of Rajasthan. She gifted them Rs.1100. The students also performed on the occasion of World Environment Day on June 5, 2006 at a locally organised function.

Mr. Jitendra Purohit, a trainee of the Centre passed SSC exam with 54 per cent marks. The centre had provided him audiocassettes and other educational assistance.

4th All India State Branches Conference

The Department organised the **4th All India State Branches Conference** during 14-15 Dec '06 at the International Youth Hostel Auditorium, New Delhi. The theme was "Brand Building and Resource Mobilization". Dr. Shantilal K. Somaiya, President, NAB (I) inaugurated the Conference. Dr. Rajendra T. Vyas, Hon. Secretary General, NAB (I) delivered the keynote address. NAB officials made presentations on topics such as organisation image building, fund raising, advocacy, employment promotion, project planning, etc. In all there were 44 delegates including office bearers and officials of NAB (I) and NAB State Branches. Major General (Retd.) Ian Cardozo, Chairman, Rehabilitation Council of India was the Chief Guest at the Valedictory function.

Talking Book Centre

Production

The **M. P. Shah All India Talking Book Centre** continued recordings on compact cassettes. 578 new titles were recorded in English, Hindi, Marathi and Gujarati, taking the total number of titles to 4766.

New Titles Recorded

Languages	2005-2006	2006-2007	2005-2007
English	25	63	88
Hindi	36	69	105
Marathi	115	232	347
Gujarati	30	9	39
Total	206	373	579

	2005-2006		2006-2007		2005-2007	
New titles recorded	206		373		579	
	General	174	General	278	General	452
	Textbooks	28	Textbooks	75	Textbooks	103
	Magazines	4	Magazines	20	Magazines	24
No. of Recording Hours	1360.55		2468.35		3828.90	
New Title Copied	189		373		562	
No. of Cassettes Used	3,535		6,927		10,462	
No. of titles recopied	114		161		275	
No. of cassettes used	3,023		3,430		6,453	

Purchases

	2005-20006	2006-2007	2005-2007
Cassettes			
C-60	200	1,200	1,400
C-90	8,000	12,000	20,000
CDs	900	600	1,5000

Break-up of total Library Holdings (as on March 31, 2007)

Languages	Total No. of Titles
English	912
Hindi	896
Marathi	1618
Gujarati	847
Urdu	137
Kannada	114
Punjabi	102
Bengali	89
Tamil	42
Malyalam	9
Total	4766

Library Transactions

264 new members joined the Talking Book fold taking the total membership figure to 2937 (individuals - 2796, institutional - 141).

Library Transactions	2005-2006	2006-2007
New Subscribers to books on Compact Cassette	116	148
New Subscribers to books on CD		52
Cassettes despatched	31,157	33,153
Cassettes received	26,199	23,021
Defective cassettes	1,180	828
CDs sold		174

Donations

Rs.98,646 was received in cash during 2005-07.

2005-2006	2006-2007	2005-2007
61,343	37,303	98,646

Readers Fees

Fees paid to professional readers during 2006-2007 were to the tune of Rs.3,44,501.

Language	Fees - Rs.
Hindi	89,687.50
Marathi	2,48,064.50
Gujarati	6,749.50
Total	3,44,501.50

Recordings

Text books for Stds. X, XI, XII, FYBA, SYBA, TYBA and MA which have been recorded for Marathi and English medium were in great demand by Institutions as well as Individuals. Books were also recorded on Physiotherapy, Computer, Banking, Law, English Grammar (Wren & Martin) and Rapidex (Marathi to English and Hindi to English). Special B.Ed. (Visually Impaired) textbooks for Bhoj Open University were also recorded both in Hindi and English.

Besides recordings on compact cassettes some very popular novels and books recorded were also recorded. These are:

	2005-2006		2006-2007	
Language	Title	Author	Title	Author
Marathi	Mauli	Anand Yadav	Radhey	Ranjit Desai
	Gharbhinti		Aavartan	Saniya
	Zool	Bhalchandra Nemade	Kaachvel	Anand Yadav

	Zoonj	N. S. Inamdar	Karheche Paani	Acharya P. K. Atre
	Chhatrapati Sambhaji	Dr. Jaisingh Pawar		
	Dulpati	Shanta Shelke		
Hindi	Tirchee Rekhaye	Harishankar Parsai	Jugnu Ki Chamak	Munshi Premchand
	Samaryatra	Munshi Premchand	Krishna Avatar	Kanaiyalal Munshi
	Madhavi	Bishma Sahani	Jhootha Sachh	Yashpal
Gujarati	Bhed Bharam	Harkisan Mehta	Malelajeev	Pannalal Patel
	Pahadna Pushpo	Ramanlal Desai	Smaranyatra	Kaka Kalelkar
			Sarfaroosh	Gunvantrai Acharya
English	Opening Up	James W. Pennebaker	Monk Who Sold His Ferrari	Robin Sharma
	Listeners Digest (monthly magazine)		Living with the Himalayan Masters	Swami Rama
			The City of Joy	Domnique Lapierre

Conversion in MP3 Format

2005-07 was an eventful period for the Talking Book Studios as the Analogue - Digital Conversion was initiated. 212 titles were converted using 1184 CDs in MP3 Format.

	2005-2006	2006-2007	2005-2007
Titles	100	112	212
CDs used	916	268	1184

The Educational compact cassettes titles converted in MP3 format were textbooks for Std. XI, XII in English and Marathi medium as well as FYBA, SYBA, TYBA, MA Pt.I, Law in Marathi Medium and Rapidex. These educational CDs are being circulated to our members and are sold out @ Rs.12 per CD.

The M. P. Shah All India Talking Book Centre of the NAB (India) hopes to reach out to many more new members in the years ahead. Very soon we would be switching over to Digital Recording.

Committee for Advancement of the Status of Blind Women (CASBW)

Financial Assistance and Counselling

Financial assistance to the tune of Rs.81,475 was given to 54 needy visually impaired women toward education, self-employment, and other personal needs like house-repair, buying household goods, medical expenses, etc., through various funds instituted by CASBW.

56 blind women were counseled to resolve their social, economic, and legal difficulties.

Source	2005-2006		2006-2007		2005-2007	
	Beneficiaries	Amount (Rs.)	Beneficiaries	Amount (Rs.)	Beneficiaries	Amount (Rs.)
Neelum K. Kanga Fund	7	7,600	5	11,000	12	18,600
She Fund	4	4,000	6	5,500	10	9,500
CASBW Fund	10	12,193	15	29,550	25	41,743
Utkarsh Fund	3	7,200	4	4,432	7	11,632
Total	24	30,993	30	50,482	54	81,475

Scholarship for Higher Education

Late Kusum Maluste Educational Scholarship

2005-2006	2006-2007
Manisha Vadate (1 st Yr. MA)	Ms. Aruna Sagar (Physiotherapy student)
Sonal Nalawade (1 st Yr. L.Lb.)	Ms. Sonal Nalawade (2 nd Yr. L.Lb.)

Awards

“Neelum Khurshed Kanga Prizes” was renamed “Neelum Khurshed Kanga Awards” and the prize amount raised from Rs.1, 000 to Rs.5,000 during 2006-07. Given to blind women achievers at national level, the awards the carrying citation and certificate and cash prize, were presented on the Foundation Day of NAB - January 19, during the Alpaiwalla Awards function. The chief guests were Dr. Rupa Shah, Vice Chancellor, SNDT University (2005-06) and Justice Sujata Manohar, Retd. Judge - Supreme Court (2006-07).

Neelum Khurshed Kanga Awards	
2005-2006	2006-2007
Chandra Supriya (Lawyer from Hyderabad)	Ms. Veena Verma (MBA from New Delhi)
Rekha Karda (Music Teacher from Indore, Madhya Pradesh)	Ms. Rajani Gopal Krishna (Chartered Accountant from Bangalore)
Sachu Ramalingam (Head of Vision Rehabilitation Centre, Dr. Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital, New Delhi)	Ms. Kanhi Devi, mid-wife from Shahpur (Bihar)

Felicitation

Inner wheel Club of Mulund felicitated Mrs. Shanta Narsian, CASBW Committee Member, on **International Women's Day** - March 8, 2007.

Short-term Training Programmes

Organised with the view to provide visually impaired women the knowledge and skills in various areas, these short-term training covered subjects like health and nutrition including topics like Yoga, Reiki, Acupressure, Stress Management and various therapies for promotion of better mental and physical health, preparation of low-cost nutritious diet, etc. Workshops

were also organised on Pre-marital Counselling where issues like effective communication, selection of life partner, crisis intervention in marital life, facts and fallacies about sexual life, etc. were taken up for discussion. Experts in the field acted as resource persons. The programmes benefited 71 visually impaired persons.

Poetry Recitation Competition

93 visually impaired men and women participated in this annual event organised in the memory of the former chairperson of CASBW - Mrs. Kusum Maluste. At the programmes conducted - on March 4 and March 3 in 2006 and 2007 respectively at NAB Head Office, Worli Seaface, Mumbai Ms. Shubhangi Chitnis, Ms. Manjiri Gokhale and Ms. Shubhangi Ghag (2006) and Ms. Mandakini Deshpande and Ms. Deepali Kelkar were the judges. Winners received prizes.

Major On-going Projects

NAB-Trupti (Canteen)

Started in 2000, today this project has become a sustainable source of income for blind women. NAB-Trupti undertakes orders for meals and dry snacks. Besides regular orders for meals, breakfast, dry-snacks, etc., 26 major orders were received. Trupti's total profit during the review period was Rs. 2,85,053

Rural Community-based Project

Activities under the **Rural Community-based Project at Alibaug and Murud** (District Raigad, Maharashtra) for socio-economic rehabilitation of rural visually impaired women included counselling, imparting training in orientation & mobility, vocational training, organising eye and medical checkup, training in spinning coir rope, bamboo craft, making bouquets, paper bags, envelopes and candles, issue of identity cards, blindness and travel concession certificates, aid toward economic rehabilitation, assistance in acquiring benefits offered by the Zilla Parishad and Government for economic rehabilitation (procuring chalk moulds, PCOs, mini flour mill and scholarships for children of visually impaired women), etc. The beneficiaries were 1054 persons. Besides the eye check-up camp conducted in co-ordination with the NAB Department of Prevention of Blindness benefited 650 children from the Zilla Parishad School, Alibaug.

Products such as paper bags, Rakis, Envelopes, Chalk, Diyas, artificial flowers and bouquets worth Rs.42,752 were made and sold through individual contacts as well as at exhibitions.

Staff Training

During 2005-06, 2 field workers of the Project attended training in bamboo craft. The project officer and 4 field workers participated in a 5-day training programme on First Aid and Civil Defense. The Project Officer also participated in a 3-day 'Training Programme on Mobilization And Management of Community Resources' organised by the National institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development, New Delhi during March 20-23, 2007.

Smt. Vatsala Joshi & Smt. Damayanti Joshi Hostel for Blind Women

CASBW started this first of its kind service at NAB Kaka Patil Centre, Andheri, Mumbai, with a munificent donation received from Smt. Vatsala Joshi and Smt. Damayanti Joshi. The hostel provides lodging and boarding facility to 14 employed blind women or those pursuing college education in Mumbai, but have no residential facility. The chief guest Dr. Ms. Vijaya Wad, Chairperson, Marathi Vishwakosh Nirmitee Mandal, and President, Human Capital (HRD), Podar Education Complex inaugurated the hostel on March 30, 2006. The hostel became functional on April 15, 2006.

A library of print and Braille publications was started for the occupants and reader-service was arranged for the needy with the help of Satya Sai Organisation, Andheri. Besides, a medical camp was organised.

Residents of the hostel also participated in programmes organised on the occasion of World White Cane Day, Louis Braille Birth Anniversary and International Women's Day. They also took part in Haldi KumKum arranged on the auspicious occasion of Makar Sankranti, a Picnic to National Park, Car Rally and Poetry Recitation Competition.

Life Skills Development Programme for Visually Challenged Adolescents and Young Adults

Organised at Leslie Sawhny Training Centre, Devlali - Nashik, during July 4-7, 2005, this training programme conducted on Pilot basis had the participation of 13 totally blind as well as partially sighted adolescent girls. The resource persons were from the SNTD Women's University. Later, during June 6-8, 2006 training was organised for Master Trainers of Life Skills Development Programme. SNTD Women's University was the coordinating agency. There were 13 participants from various NAB departments.

Community Based Rehabilitation Project at Wangani, Dist. Thane

Student social workers of Nirmala Niketan College of Social Work (Mumbai) during their one-year fieldwork placement with NAB, initiated a Community-Based Rehabilitation (CBR) Project for the Visually Impaired, at Wangani near Mumbai, to be implemented through CASBW. The students organised the following programmes where visually impaired persons identified in the Wangani area were briefed about the activities in the offing under the CBR Project.

Programmes	Date	Resource Persons	Participants	Topics
World Disability Day	December 3, 2006	Lecturer, NAB TCTVH	36 (17 VI and 19 with other disabilities)	Introduction to NAB and its activities.
<i>Haldi Kumkum</i> (women's social gathering during the auspicious occasion of <i>Makar Sankranti</i>)	January 21, 2007	Asst. Director, Utkarsh Job Development Centre and Welfare Officer, CASBW	21 VI women	Briefing on Utkarsh Centre and the Self-Help Groups of Blind Women to be started at Wangani
Health Education		Ms. Liji, student	13 VI persons	Importance of Low

Programme		social worker of Nirmala Niketan		Cost Diet	Nutritious
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Representation at Seminars/Conferences

CASBW was represented at:

Seminar on Equal Participation of Blind Women in Their Own Development held in Billimora, Gujarat, during May 7-8, 2005.

National Conference of Visually Impaired Women organised by the All India Confederation of the Blind in New Delhi, during September 28-29, 2005. 11 visually impaired women (including a paper presenter) represented CASBW.

Women's Conference held on December 10, 2005 in Kolhapur, Maharashtra. The Welfare Officer and Committee Members of CASBW attended this Conference organised by the National Federation of the Blind, Maharashtra.

Programs organised in Mumbai by Lions Club of Juhu, Confederation of Indian Industry, Indian Merchants' Chamber, on the occasion of **International Women's Day** - March 8, 2006.

Publication

7 issues of "Deepshikha" the quarterly Hindi Braille magazine of CASBW were brought out during the review period. The magazine has over 100 subscribers from all over India.

Donations

Donations were received both in cash and kind. Those received in kind - mainly for the hostel - were in the form of utensils, grocery, dry snacks, etc.

Activity	2005-2006 Rs.	2006-2007 Rs.	2005-2007 Rs.
CASBW Fund	7,68,089	27,000	7,95,089
Utkarsh	19,236	3,04,429	3,23,665
Hostel		95,331	95,331
Rural Project	53,300	10,501	63,801
Total	8,40,625	4,37,261	12,77,886

Utkarsh Job Development Centre

Income Generation Programmes

Rakhi Project involves making fancy Rakhis and the Rashtriya Bandhan Rakhis (sent to Army officials in the border areas) and packaging Rashtriya Bandhan Rakhis.

Diwali Project involves decorating oil lamps made of terracotta, weaving torans and garlands, making dry flowers, floating Candles, Spice Light, Candle Stands, and lotus-shaped **Diyas**.

Christmas Project involves making Tree Hangings, Streamers, Dry Stems and Gel Candles.

Festival Projects	Items	Production	Participants	Income
Rakhi	Envelopes	10,000	185	3,18,548
	Rakhis (made by Utkarsh Trainees and Atmonnati Self Help Group)	3,08,312		
Diwali	Torans	38,000	243	8,54,413
	Garlands	300		
	Diya Decoration	90,000		
	Gift Bags	7,000		
	Frame / Tea-Light	300		
	Floating Candles	1,100		
	Dry Flowers	125 dozens		
	Gel Candle (in glass)	3,000		
	Danglers	315		
	Spice Light	300		
Christmas	Tree Hangings	405		
	Streamers	30		
Job, and Orders	Stitching Cloth / Jute Bags	1539	31	91,220.00
	Making Paper Bags	1200		
	Cake Tray Pasting	2117		
	Assembly Work (of bottle caps)	5750		

Beneficiaries of Ukarsh

229 blind individuals in the age group 18-45 years, from rural and urban areas were the beneficiaries of Utkarsh. Their details are given below:

Beneficiaries	Number
Regular Trainees of Utkarsh's 2-year Training Programme	38
SHG Groups (Swayamsiddha and Yashaswini)	27
Atmmonnati Trainee	2
Home Workers	76

Ambernath Centre	32
Trainees under Rural Project at Alibaug	2
Trainees of NSD Industrial Home for the Blind	23
Trainees of Industrial Home for Blind Women, Andheri (Mumbai)	19
Male Trainees of Job Centre run by NAB Department of Employment	10
Total	229

Our Partners in Progress

Air India as in the past placed bulk order for products made under the Rakhi and Diwali projects (80% in 2005 and 75% in 2006). Orders were also received from Reliance, Hotel Taj Mahal, Centurian Bank and MG Distribution for articles made under Diwali and Christmas Projects. Besides, these festive products were put on display and sold at the annual exhibition organised by Indian Merchants' Chamber during 2005 and 2006. Shreem Enterprises (screen-printed leaves for torans) and Chauhan Earthen Pot (terracotta diyas), supplied raw material for the articles. Jewel Pack, Kamani Collection, Rafique Hussain and S. K. Paper Box (boxes) and Rahat Basrai (printed wrappers) supplied the packaging materials.

Short-term Training Programmes

239 visually impaired individuals benefited through the training programmes organised on terracotta and bamboo and banana fibre craft, block printing, wood polishing, coir weaving, spice treading, making paper bag, torans, garlands, artificial flowers, etc. besides reiki, acupressure and massage, and yoga and pranayam.

ISO 9001:2000 Certification

Utkarsh received ISO 9001:2000 Certification on December 19, 2006. Mr. Nitin Deshpande, Lead Consultant, Dynanpeeth Academy, Pune trained the staff and helped in completing the procedures involved in acquiring the Certification.

Financial Assistance

From Utkarsh Fund, financial assistance to the tune of Rs.15,812 was given to 8 visually handicapped women toward medical needs, purchasing household articles, etc.

Financial Highlights 2005-2007

	Rs.	Rs
Total Receipts		71,29,859
Less Total Expenses [including overheads]	39,33,418	
Gross Contribution [Before earnings of blind women]		31,96,441
Less Total Payment towards Earnings of Blind Women	11,58,156	

(Utkarsh Trainees, SHG Groups, women from other institutions, etc.)		
et Contribution Before Payment of Overheads and VAT		20,38,285
Less Overheads VAT (Estimated)	11,81,594	
Net Contribution toward Welfare and Development of Blind Women		8,56,691

During 2006-2007 Utkarsh expenses decreased to 45% of the total turnover as against 70% during 2005-2006. In addition, the Centre's contribution to the welfare of blind women increased to 17.56% in 2006-2007 as compared to 4% during 2005-2006 thereby strongly reinforcing the objective of Utkarsh - development and empowerment of blind women.

Rashtriya Bandhan Project

The project that took off with the sponsorship of Air India during 1999-2004 sent over a 1.2 lakh Rashtriya Bandhan Rakhis (wristbands) to Army personnel in border areas during August 2005 and 2006. Air India, Army/AFL Express and Jindal Pipes provided logistical support.

Utkarsh Centre at Ambernath

In 2005 some time before the Diwali Festival, Utkarsh opened a Centre at Ambernath, near Mumbai, where 32 (including visually impaired women home-workers worked for 43 days). They made 2624 sets of Diya Boxes, 2500 torans and gift-wrapped 140 torans.

SHG Groups

The 2 Self-Help Groups (SHG) constituted under Utkarsh viz., Swayamsiddha and Yashaswini undertook the Atmonnati Rakhi Project and the Diwali Project work. These two were merged with the Municipal Corporation's Dooda Project.

Utkarsh Trainees Welfare and Development Fund

This fund has been instituted with the objective to make the Utkarsh trainees economically independent through Self-Help Groups. This amount is invested in high interest yielding bank and postal schemes. Cash is also offered toward self-employment.

Other Activities

Educational Programmes

Trainees of the Centre also participated in music programmes and a lecture on preparing nutritious food.

15 visually impaired women of the SHGs visited SEWA Academy (Ahmedabad) in May 2006. The visit aimed at gaining an insight into techniques adopted by SEWA to manage their SHGs

Leisure & Recreation

Leisure time and recreational activities included celebration of Utkarsh's Foundation Day, participation in music programmes, etc. organised by service clubs and other organisations.

Navy Wives Association organised one-day outing to Navy Nagar, Mumbai in February 2007 in which, 20 visually impaired women and Utkarsh staff participated. Utkarsh organised a **Trip to Delhi, Mathura and Agra** during Feb 2007 through M/s. Kirti Travels. Participants included 23 visually impaired women and 6 staff members. Mr. Mukesh Parmar donated Rs.20,000 for this tour. The Akshardham Swami Narayan Temple, Delhi provided free lunch, arranged visits and waived entry charges to their exhibition halls and various other attractions within the temple complex.

Sabita & Saradindu Basu Centre for Blind Women

The **Sabita & Saradindu Basu Centre for Blind Women, New Delhi** (CBW) endeavours to empower visually impaired women for their better integration in mainstream society. CBW undertook following activities during the reporting period:

Training Programme

The Centre admitted to its April-July 2005 session blind girls who completed schooling and trained them in grooming, computer operations, etc. Career Guidance was also offered. They were informed about options available to them in pursuing higher education as well as vocational training. Students from within and outside Delhi sought guidance on college admissions, which led CBW to initiate a help-line and a help-counter in the Dean's office at Delhi University Campus - mainly to guide blind women. The transition batch of April-June 2006 session comprised of 30 students. Training was imparted in mobility, computer operation, self-defense and home management.

Programmes Organised

At the annual festival **Ujjwala** organised during October 22-23, 2005 and November 4-5, 2006. Visually impaired and multihandicapped trainees of the Centre participated in games, web surfing, quiz and music competitions and cultural programmes. They also displayed their talents in theatre and mimicry. There were stalls selling food and products made by the blind and multihandicapped. Besides visually impaired persons, many others from different walks of life visited the programme. Information was also provided on employed and successful visually impaired individuals.

With a view to help deal with changing workplace conditions, build up ability to strengthen interpersonal relationship, behave responsibly, manage adverse situations, etc., CBW with the assistance of a consultant, started a **Soft Skills Development Programme** for its trainees since December 2005.

In association with “**Jagori**” an NGO working for women’s development and safety, CBW organised a **Workshop on Self-defense Techniques** for its trainees. **Training in Physical Fitness and Kung fu for Self-Defense** was organised in September 2006 with the help of an expert.

The Centre frequently organises programmes for its trainees on employability, workplace challenges, HRD, marketing & sales, fund raising, etc. One such **Interactive session in Resource Mobilization and Marketing** was arranged with the help of a professional.

With the assistance of McDonald’s fast-food outlets, 15 blind girls were oriented to their restaurant, taught self-service and dining etiquette.

Aimed at developing leadership qualities among blind women, the Centre organised a 2-day **Workshop on Personality Development and Communication Skills** in May 2006, in association with Training Alternatives – an organization facilitating workshops on developmental aspects such as communication skills, leadership, career counseling, etc. Mr. George Abraham (visually impaired), CEO of Score Foundation and Mr. Subashish, a career counselor were the resource persons. Topics covered included positive thinking and attitude, communication skills, teamwork, etc.

In association with ICFAI a Noida-based Management Institute, a party was organised on the eve of Valentines Day – February 14, 2007. Participants included visually impaired girls and students of ICFAI. The even aimed at awareness creation among the sighted participants and confidence building among the visually impaired and their mainstreaming.

Participation in Programmes

For two weeks continuously, Mass Media students of the Jamia Milia Islamia University trained CBW trainees seeking college admission. Aimed at enhancing self-confidence, improving articulacy and communication skills and getting better exposure through dramatics, the training resulted in a **Theatre Performance** by CBW trainees, titled “Hum Bhee Hain.” The play highlighted society’s apathy toward abilities of the blind and the disabled. On the occasion, a report covering activities of CBW during the past two years was released.

The Centre also represented the disabled community through **Theatre Performance** at a festival organised at India Habitat Centre by HAZARDS an NGO lobbying for barrier-free environment for the disabled and the able-bodied as well. A similar presentation was made at the Delhi University. In September 2006 trainees put up a Theatre Performance at Siri Fort, New Delhi, as a part of “Lucky Ali Nite” organised by a society called Manthan. The drama depicted capabilities of the disabled, parental and societal attitude, and ignorance concerning disability.

During August 2005, the Centre participated in **Gyan Darshan – a programme of the Indira Gandhi National Open University**.

The Centre participated in a **Workshop on Development of Leadership Skills for Persons with Disabilities**, held in October at Action Aid.

In September 2006, CBW represented the disabled community at a **Seminar on “Violence Against Women”** organised by Delhi Police. The Centre emphasized on inclusion of the disability component while formulating policies on this issue.

The Centre participated in radio and TV programmes covering topics such as Personality Development, Higher Education and Entertainment for visually impaired individuals.

CBW displayed and sold handicrafts made by its trainees at colleges and reputed hotels. In October '06 the handicraft unit of the Centre catered to orders placed by hotels like The Oberoi, for beautiful festive items to be given away as corporate gifts on the occasion of Diwali.

Sponsorship

The Round Table Women’s Cell sponsored a **Recording Room** for recording educational books for visually impaired girls and periodicals related to women’s issues.

Rotary Club of Delhi South sponsored the starting of an **Interactive Club** to help blind girls mingle with their sighted counterparts in September 2005.

Leisure & Recreation

CBW organised adventure trips to Haridwar & Rishikesh and Rishikesh & Mussorie in June 2005 and June 2006 respectively.

Volunteer Management

CBW has a Volunteer Management Programme since 2005. Volunteers at CBW are doctors, psychologists, counsellors, call centre executives, corporate executives, architects, government officials, housewives, students, etc. Their contribution is in the areas of counseling, medical assistance, reading and writing for the visually impaired, library development, teaching craft, English, Yoga, Computer related jobs, administration related tasks, maintenance, etc.

A two-day Workshop to sensitize the staff on optimal utilization of volunteer services was organised at the Centre on June 29 and 30, 2005. Participants included CBW staff and some regular volunteers.

Nirmal Issar - a volunteer and an active donor associated with the Centre - came up with a novel idea of fund raising by collecting Rs.1 per day per household in her colony. Many settlements in South Delhi are emulating this example.

In January 2007 the CBW organised a get together to acknowledge the dedicated support of volunteers.

CBW’s Achievements

CBW negotiated with Delhi Commonwealth Women's Association (DCWA) for Swati who had good academic record but was financial unsound. DCWA sponsored Swati's college fees.

Also, Sita an orphaned blind girl who aspired to study further was admitted to a reputed school in Delhi, after CBW negotiated for her with DCWA. Sita received sponsorship for her fees and was allowed to stay at the NAB Delhi's Hostel at R. K. Puram.

Four trainees of the Centre got admission in prestigious colleges of Delhi University.

After some informal but regular training in Braille, Spoken English and Grammar, two blind and a multihandicapped trainee of the Centre were admitted to the National Open School. They have had no formal education.

Impressed by watching theatre performance by blind girls of the Centre, a chain of hospitals in Gurgaon offered to employ them. Umkal Hospital Gurgaon placed Soni, a blind beneficiary of the Centre at their reception counter. Soni, who has good communication and mobility skills, was given on the job training at CBW.

With the support of Rotary Club, CBW started **Scholarships for Visually Impaired Girls** taking up higher education. 6 girls are being helped through this endeavour for pursuing professional courses. Scholarship money to the tune Rs.1,08,000 was raised. Rotary Educational Foundation contributed Rs.45,000 the rest was contributed by individual donors.

3 students of the Centre were selected for MSW programmes of the Delhi University, the Jamia Millia Islamia and the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, 1 was selected for the post graduate programme in Sociology and 1 for International Relations at the Jawaharlal Nehru University. The most commendable achievement was that of one of the girls who topped the University in Sociology.

CBW set up **Rotaract Club of Visually Impaired** individuals in August 2006, with the help of Rotary Club. Aimed at achieving some core objectives like awareness generation through theatre, cultural programmes, etc., the Club will include visually impaired youth in the age group 22-30 - mainly those pursuing post graduation in non-traditional courses or working in Development, Corporate or Government Sector so that they can work in close association.

The computer course offered by CBW got NIIT affiliation. Since July 2006, students of the course got NIIT certification.

Ujjwala Award

The Ujjwala Award was instituted by CBW for outstanding performance by a visually impaired girl, was given to Rinki a topper in Sociology from the Delhi University. She had received training and support from the Centre in 2005. The chairperson of the Centre sponsored the Award.

Rustom Merwanji Alpaiwalla Memorial Awards

The Rustom Merwanji Alpaiwalla Memorial Award instituted in the memory of Barrister Rustom Merwanji Alpaiwalla the Founder President of NAB, are presented to individuals for their outstanding services in the field of blind welfare. Winners receive a citation and cash award of Rs.10,000. The awards are presented on the Foundation Day of NAB (India) – January 19. The chief guests on the 54th and 55th Foundation Day celebrations were Prof. Rupa Shah, Vice Chancellor, SNTD Women's University and Justice Sujata Manohar, Retd. Judge of the Supreme Court of India.

R. M. Alpaiwalla Awards - 2006

Professional Category

Anand S. Athalekar, Honorary Director, NAB Training Centre for Teachers of the Visually Handicapped

Dr. M. C. Nahata, Ophthalmologist (Indore, Madhya Pradesh)

Voluntary Category

Mrs. Ela Mehta, Chairperson, NAB Committee for Advancement of the Status of Blind Women and Convenor, Utkarsh Job Development Centre of CASBW

Mr. Jawahar Lal Kaul, Secretary General, All India Confederation of the Blind (Delhi) and Asian Blind Union

R. M. Alpaiwalla Awards - 2007

Professional Category

Mr. Prakash, Mankodi, Principal, Andhjan Talim Kendra, Jamnagar (Gujarat)

Mrs. Virmati G. Sampat, Former Hostel Superintendent of the NAB Pheroze & Noshir Merwanji Rehabilitation Centre for the Blind, Mt. Abu (Rajasthan)

Voluntary Category

Mr. Ajit Kumar Jain, Industrialist (Haryana) and Hon. Treasurer, NAB Haryana State Branch

Mr. Vijaykumar Rathi, businessman and social worker (Maharashtra)

Financial Highlights of NAB (India) 2005-2007

Income

	Rs.	Percentage
Resource Mobilization	2,68,53,435	23.86
Interest	1,09,23,581	9.70
Government Grants	62,58,764	5.56
Sale Proceed	1,26,75,666	11.26
Donations	3,91,57,801	34.79
Other Income	1,56,40,409	13.89
Income Transferred from Funds to Projects	9,77,314	0.87
Donation in kind	78,000	0.07
Total	11,25,64,970	100

Expenditure

	Rs.	Percentage
Administrative Office	61,30,752	6.04
Office of the Finance Raising Committee	90,83,323	8.96
Education	1,24,05,916	12.24
Rehabilitation	40,41,489	3.99
Employment	16,63,196	1.64
Vocational Training	1,99,11,091	19.64
Braille & Talking Book	1,50,10,557	14.80
Prevention of Blindness	1,81,18,769	19.87
State and District Branches	32,34,393	3.19
Research	5,87,578	0.58
Other Projects	75,39,797	7.44
Depreciation	36,65,386	3.61
Total	10,13,92,247	100

Out of the total Income of Rs.11,25,64,970 an amount of Rs.1,86,87,010 pertains to Earmarked Donations for particular projects and an amount of Rs.78,000 was received by way of donation in kind. Hence, the Actual Income for General Expenses would be Rs.9,37,99,960 against the expenditure of Rs.10,13,92,247.

Deficit: Rs.75,92,287