

I BELIEVE
and therefore
anything is possible



RID 3291
Rotary
Garden Reach



Light

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

August 28th, 2024 - Vol. 47 No. 09

2280th Regular Weekly Meeting
Attendance: 22

Birthday Greetings
Sept 2nd Swaroop, Son of PP Subir S Roy

Education Breeds Peace: A Path towards Harmony & Understanding

Today, let's embark on a journey through the wonderful realm of education and its profound impact on fostering peace in our world.

You might wonder, "What does education have to do with peace?" Well, dear friends, the connection between education and peace is deeper than you might think. So, let's dive in and explore!

Imagine a world where everyone understands and respects each other's differences, where conflicts are resolved through dialogue and mutual understanding rather than violence. Sounds like a dream, doesn't it? But guess what? Education holds the key to turning this dream into reality.



Education is not just about memorizing facts or passing exams; it's about broadening our horizons, opening our minds to new ideas, and understanding different perspectives. When we learn about the world around us, about different cultures, religions, and ways of life, we become more tolerant and accepting individuals. We realize that despite our differences, we are all part of the same global community.

Now, let me tell you a story. Imagine two neighbouring countries with a long history of conflict. People on both sides have grown up hearing stories of hatred and mistrust towards the other. But then, something remarkable happens. The leaders of these countries decide to introduce peace education in schools. They teach students about the shared history, culture, and aspirations of both nations. They encourage dialogue and empathy, fostering a sense of common humanity. As a result, the next generation grows up with a different mind-set – one of peace, cooperation, and understanding. And slowly but steadily, the seeds of peace start to bloom.

But education doesn't just stop at the national level. It also plays a crucial role in promoting peace within communities and even among individuals. When we are educated, we are better equipped to resolve conflicts peacefully, to empathize with others, and to communicate effectively. We learn to listen to different viewpoints, to seek common ground, and to find peaceful solutions to disagreements.

Now, you might be wondering, "But how can I, as an eighth-grader, contribute to peace through education?" Well, my young friends, you have more power than you think. Start by being curious – ask questions, seek knowledge, and never stop learning. Challenge stereotypes and prejudices, and always strive to understand others with an open heart and mind. Be kind and compassionate towards your classmates, your neighbours, and even strangers you meet. Remember, peace begins with each one of us, and every small act of kindness can make a difference.

Education is the key to a more peaceful and prosperous world. Let's harness its transformative power to create a future where Peace is a tangible reality for all.

PRESIDENT - Rtn. Biswajit Saha • SECRETARY - Rtn. Mohan Bandaru • TREASURER - PP. Timir Roy • EDITOR - PP. Tanu Roy

Charter Day - September 11th 1977 • Regn. No. - 16169

Fighting for their First Breath

Health workers trained through a Rotary project resuscitate infants struggling for air

As a midwife who works at health facilities all over the Western Rural District of Sierra Leone, Banneh Daramy sometimes has to assert herself. Her confidence and skill can make the difference between life and death.

"I went to one facility and the people on duty did not even recognize that I was a midwife," she recalls. "They'd just done a delivery, and the baby was not crying. So, they concentrated on the mom, and the baby was left alone. Immediately, I entered. I knew how to resuscitate the baby."

As the mother screamed in panic, Daramy grabbed a self-inflating resuscitator and fitted it over the baby's face.

"I used it to ventilate the baby. And within one minute, the baby started crying," she says. "The mom had been crying and shouting, 'Oh God, please save my baby! Please save my baby!' And then she was so happy. That's why, whenever I see a delivery, I stay until the end to see that the baby is safe."

It didn't take expensive equipment to save that baby's life. A self-inflating resuscitator sells for about US\$11. Daramy's knowledge of neonatal resuscitation — and her quick thinking — made all the difference. She learned many of her skills through **Helping Babies Breathe**, a training program created by the American Academy of Paediatrics that she took part in through a Rotary Global Grant Project.

Birth asphyxia, or the failure to breathe at birth, kills an estimated 900,000 infants globally each year. Although it accounts for less than 0.1% of new-born deaths in industrialized countries, it's the leading cause of neonatal mortality in low- and middle-income countries, like Sierra Leone. Many new-borns who aren't breathing can be saved if health care workers begin resuscitation immediately, so it's crucial for providers to learn how to respond as quickly as Daramy did.



Since 2022, Rotary members in Sierra Leone and North America have collaborated to offer the Helping Babies Breathe protocol to more than 650 nurses, midwives, and other health workers from all over Sierra Leone. The program was funded through a Global Grant co-sponsored by the Rotary Palm Harbour, Florida, and Rotary Freetown, Sierra Leone.

Charlotte Israel, 2023-24 President of the Rotary Palm Harbour, initiated the project partly because of a personal tragedy.

"In 2020, my daughter passed away," she says. "I went in to wake her up to go to work, and she was lying on her bed. I called [emergency services] and they told me to try giving her CPR. But I had never done CPR. That has always been on my mind: Maybe, if I had the training, I could have helped my daughter."

On the Freetown side, the project was coordinated by club member Sylvia Bailor and her sister-in-law, 2023-24 Club President Sybil Bailor. Sybil was committed to the project in part because of her own experience. She once had a





PEACE AND CONFLICT
PREVENTION / RESOLUTION



DISEASE PREVENTION
AND TREATMENT



WATER AND
SANITATION



MATERNAL AND
CHILD HEALTH



MEMBERSHIP AND NEW CLUB
DEVELOPMENT MONTH



BASIC EDUCATION AND
LITERACY



ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT



SUPPORTING THE
ENVIRONMENT

difficult delivery, during which her baby struggled to breathe.

“When my second child was being born, it was quite a long process, and she got distressed in my birth canal,” Sybil. “Her oxygen level was below 90%, so they gave me [a medication] to make the contractions come quicker. This is one of the reasons why this particular project is very special to me.”

Like **CPR** programs, Helping Babies Breathe teaches non-doctors how to provide lifesaving care. Rotary’s association with the program goes back several years. The American Academy of Paediatrics relied on help from Rotary members when it created training materials for the program in 2010.

“Rotarians have been champions of the program from the very start, [including] serving as editors on the various curricula,” says Beena Kamath-Rayne, a neonatologist and the vice president of global new-born and child health for the American Academy of Paediatrics. “We have a very much valued partnership with them as we continue to spread Helping Babies Breathe around the world.”

One of the great things about Helping Babies Breathe, Israel notes, is that its training materials can be downloaded for free.

“We provided wall charts. We provided brochures. And if I gave you a brochure, you could actually learn that entire course yourself to be able to do that technique,” she says.

But Israel wanted the trainees in Sierra Leone to be able to practice on dolls that are specially designed for the program. The NeoNatalie new-born simulator’s chest rises only when the trainee uses the correct resuscitation technique. The trainee can also check for a pulse in the doll’s attached umbilical cord, and a trainer can use squeeze bulbs to make the doll breathe spontaneously or cry.

Israel and Bailor’s clubs used The Rotary Foundation grant to purchase 160 NeoNatalies and other supplies. The trainees practiced with self-inflating resuscitation devices and used plastic bottles (known as “penguins” because of their shape) to learn to suction fluid from infants’ noses and mouths.

The project’s sponsors overcame some unexpected costs, including higher shipping fees and the need to provide transportation and lodging for nurses and midwives from rural areas. Israel was able to raise a bit more money from clubs to meet some of these needs and received a donation of free lodging.

Because of this, the clubs were able to make another significant investment in the health of babies in Sierra Leone. The grant also provided five oxygen concentrators and a solar power system to the King Harman Maternity and Child Hospital in Freetown. In addition, Israel distributed baby hats, blankets, and clothing at the hospitals where the training was conducted.

To ensure sustainability, the project trained people who could then teach other health workers and lead courses for them to refresh their skills. The clubs partnered with Sierra Leone’s health ministry and the nongovernmental organization Health Care Sierra Leone USA to make sure training would continue. Members of Health Care Sierra Leone USA had been providing training before the Rotary grant-funded project, and they continue to monitor the program.

“We train the participants with the goal that when they go back to their various localities, they will be able to train others,” says Sulaiman Sannoh, a neonatologist and member of Health Care Sierra Leone USA. “Over the years, people who’ve attended our training sessions have sent us pictures of themselves training their colleagues.”





PEACE AND CONFLICT
PREVENTION / RESOLUTION



DISEASE PREVENTION
AND TREATMENT



WATER AND
SANITATION



MATERNAL AND
CHILD HEALTH



MEMBERSHIP AND NEW CLUB
DEVELOPMENT MONTH



BASIC EDUCATION AND
LITERACY



ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT



SUPPORTING THE
ENVIRONMENT

Rotary beyond your local club: explore the Benefits of Membership

Rotary is known for its networking opportunities that change individuals and impactful service projects that make a difference in communities. Did you know that Rotary offers many resources to enhance your Rotary experience, including programs to make your community service projects successful, opportunities for professional growth and international connections, and tools to promote what Rotary means to you?

Get involved in ways that are meaningful to you

Rotary offers meaningful experiences for people of all ages and backgrounds. From learning more about the world to learning more about yourself, you can grow by engaging with Rotary's global network and the many activities, programs, and interest groups that Rotary offers. When you get involved in Rotary, whether as a Rotarian, Rotaractor, or program participant, you expand your perspective by improving your skills, learning from professionals, making new connections, and making a difference in your community and around the world. Each person has a unique combination of interests, skills, and talents, so different activities appeal to everyone.

How will you get involved?

With so many ways to get involved, you can create the Rotary experience that is right for you. Talk to your fellow club members and leaders about your interests and ideas. Take an active role in shaping your involvement to help you make the most out of your Rotary experience!

How do we share our stories in a way that attracts, keeps members?

Massimo Ballotta, Rotary Coordinator-Zone 14 & member of Rotary Feltre, Italy

People used to see my Rotary pin and ask me, "What is Rotary?" To be honest, I didn't always have a quick answer. This is a problem, because surveys tell us that we only have a few seconds to capture someone's attention and make an impression.

I made it a goal to find a way to more successfully motivate people who approached me asking questions about our organization. I reached back into my experience to find stories and moments that had inspired me, and that had stirred up my emotions. These Rotary moments are what transformed me from a routine member of my club into a full-blown Rotarian. I became excited about the friendships I have made and the positive lasting change that I can make in my community.



Each of us has a story to tell

It begins with identifying those things that attracted us to Rotary in the first place. And then it involves remembering those instances when we truly felt the life-changing power of Rotary.

There is a well-known saying that I like to repeat often. It is a fundamental phrase, and it is easy to remember:

"I learned that people forget what you said, they forget what you did, but people can never forget how you made them feel."

It is in sharing our experiences, emotions, and passions that we create that feeling that people will remember. Sharing our Rotary moments are our best chance of motivating others to join.

This practice has value beyond new member recruitment

Sharing inspiring stories can grow Rotary's reputation in our community. It can get partners excited to work with us.





PEACE AND CONFLICT
PREVENTION / RESOLUTION



DISEASE PREVENTION
AND TREATMENT



WATER AND
SANITATION



MATERNAL AND
CHILD HEALTH



MEMBERSHIP AND NEW CLUB
DEVELOPMENT MONTH



BASIC EDUCATION AND
LITERACY



ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT



SUPPORTING THE
ENVIRONMENT

If we make it a regular part of our meetings, we also allow our members to relive and remember the excitement that brought them to Rotary in the first place. When we ask members to share their stories, we open up opportunities to learn ways they might have become dissatisfied with the club and might help us identify ways we can get them re-engaged. A big step in the growth of any organization is the retention of members. We need to instill enthusiasm and pride of belonging.

Diversity matters

We should also be deliberate about sharing our stories beyond our immediate circle. Don't just tell them to your close friends and acquaintances. We should ask ourselves, who is missing from our club? Who should be here to make our club truly reflect our community? And then go share with them. The more diverse our clubs are, the stronger we are.

We are People of Action, who together create lasting change in our communities. Rotary's strength lies in our collective dedication to service and our conviction in our ability to tackle any problem no matter how big or small. But we can only do that with vibrant, growing clubs. Therefore, all of us have a responsibility to make membership a priority. And not just during Membership and New Club Development month.

The best shot we have at building membership is by sharing the things that excite us about Rotary, in the past, in the present, and in what we hope to do in the future.

Enhance your commitment to Youth Protection

Rotary is committed to fostering environments that are safe and positive for young people and free from discrimination and physical, emotional, and sexual abuse. To empower Rotary members and volunteers to safeguard the young leaders who participate in Rotary activities, Rotary offers a variety of youth protection resources.



Statement of Conduct for Working with Youth

Rotary International strives to create and maintain a safe environment for all youth who participate in Rotary activities. To the best of their ability, Rotary members, their partners, and other volunteers must safeguard the children and young people with whom they come into contact and protect them from physical, sexual, and psychological abuse.





PEACE AND CONFLICT
PREVENTION / RESOLUTION



DISEASE PREVENTION
AND TREATMENT



WATER AND
SANITATION



MATERNAL AND
CHILD HEALTH



MEMBERSHIP AND NEW CLUB
DEVELOPMENT MONTH



BASIC EDUCATION AND
LITERACY



ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT



SUPPORTING THE
ENVIRONMENT

Rotary's approach to Preventing Abuse

- *The safety and well-being of young people and youth program participants are Rotary's highest priority. Our comprehensive approach to youth protection includes:*
- *No tolerance for abuse or harassment of young people*
- *Policies that prevent misconduct and outline how to respond to grooming behaviours and abuse that involve youth and other program participants*
- *Mandatory youth protection training for governors-elect*
- *A dedicated and trained staff that uses a trauma-informed approach when receiving and responding to reports of sexual abuse or harassment*
- *A certification process that requires Rotary districts involved in Rotary Youth Exchange to have:*
 - *Student, family, and volunteer training in abuse prevention*
 - *Volunteer screening that includes an application, criminal background check, and reference checks*
 - *A process for reporting allegations of abuse and harassment to Rotary and local law enforcement*
 - *District-specific Youth Protection Policies*
 - *On-site evaluations (audits) that are conducted by Rotary staff members*

Working with other Youth-serving Organizations

If your club or district is interested in working or partnering with a local youth-serving organization, we recommend you:

- ✓ Ensure any organization you partner with has youth protection policies in place that meet or exceed Rotary's policies:
- ❖ Confirm the partner organization has a process to appropriately screen, vet, and train volunteers
- ❖ Confirm the partner organization's program participants receive youth protection-related training and education
- ❖ Verify that adults do not have significant, unsupervised, one-on-one contact with youth or if they do that there are policies and procedures for ensuring those interactions are appropriate, monitored, and reviewed as appropriate
- ❖ Confirm the partner organization has a process to prohibit individuals from contact with youth who are ineligible or have a documented pattern of inappropriate behavior
- ❖ Periodically review the partner organization's youth protection policies if the partner organization does not regularly complete a self-assessment or audit.
- ✓ Create a memorandum of understanding to identify your responsibilities, the partner organization's responsibilities, and any shared responsibilities related to youth protection
- ✓ Keep program participants' parents/legal guardians aware of your relationship with other youth-related organizations and where they can go to find more information
- ✓ Regularly check-in with both your counterparts at the partner organization and youth program participants about your experiences working together
- ✓ Stay apprised of the organization's community reputation and any issues that may arise that could compromise the safety of youth or damage Rotary's reputation as a partner
- ✓ Modify, suspend, or end Rotary's relationship with the partner organization if an allegation, suspicion, or report





PEACE AND CONFLICT
PREVENTION / RESOLUTION



DISEASE PREVENTION
AND TREATMENT



WATER AND
SANITATION



MATERNAL AND
CHILD HEALTH



MEMBERSHIP AND NEW CLUB
DEVELOPMENT MONTH



BASIC EDUCATION AND
LITERACY



ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT



SUPPORTING THE
ENVIRONMENT

of misconduct occurs

- ✓ Ensure Rotary branding is used appropriately, clearly, and in accordance with Rotary's policies
- ✓ Confirm the partner organization has adequate liability insurance and require the partner organization to indemnify your club or district and name it as an additional insured.

Saying 'Dhanyavad' with saplings of Gratitude

When the man in Indian Rotary who is always known for his '**hatke**' thinking, District Governor Nominee (RID 3192) Ravishankar Dakoju, who shook the Rotary world a few years ago by pledging to donate Rs. 100 crores to The Rotary Foundation, wanted to make a distinct contribution to the environment, he thought big. He told his close friend in Rotary, who shares his passion for greening the earth, Neil Joseph, Co-trustee of the Rotary Environment Foundation, set up by Dakoju, where he himself, RI Director-elect KP Nagesh and PDG Suresh Hari are fellow Trustees, that he wanted to plant 1,00,000 trees through a project named **Dakoju Dhanyavad**. To be executed by the Paola and Ravishankar Dakoju Foundation, the objective of this project is to "thank Mother Nature for all her benevolence towards me," he says.



But to plan and execute such a mega project, which will cost at least Rs. 1 crore, takes time, "but I didn't want to miss the monsoon which was fast approaching. The places we had decided on were Goa and Sindhudurg, and almost in desperation both of us went to consult a man who I admire so much in Rotary, former President of Rotary Kudal, Gajanan Kandelgaonkar. He is a man of few words, but a great organiser and in no time, he had planned a wonderful project to plant 11,000 trees in the first phase in three places in Sindhudurg district, a part of the Western Ghats and where Rotary Kudal is located."

On July 3, the first event, where fruit-bearing and other trees which will be useful to the local community... such as kokum, cashewnut, mango, neem, jackfruit and coconut... were planted, was held at a school in Madgaon, and the second at another school in Pandur, both in Sindhudurg district. Here schoolchildren, teachers and the local people, along with PDG Gaurish Dhond, Rotary Kudal President Sanjay Kesare, Kandelgaonkar and Past Assistant Governor, Rajan Bhubate participated.

Dakoju adds, "At this event, I was very impressed to note the concern and worry expressed by people of all ages — from the schoolchildren to the elderly in the community — about the ill-effects of global warming, which we call '**Polio of the planet**'. As a symbolic gesture, some kokum trees were planted at the Shivaji English School premises at Pandur and other saplings were distributed."





PEACE AND CONFLICT
PREVENTION / RESOLUTION



DISEASE PREVENTION
AND TREATMENT



WATER AND
SANITATION



MATERNAL AND
CHILD HEALTH



MEMBERSHIP AND NEW CLUB
DEVELOPMENT MONTH



BASIC EDUCATION AND
LITERACY



ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT



SUPPORTING THE
ENVIRONMENT

On July 19, once again 5,000 more trees were planted in this region, as part of the project and on July 28, an additional 25,000 trees will be planted. This time, the tree planting will coincide with the 'Goa Rain Run,' organised by Rotary Goa Porvorim.

Dakoju says he hopes that this mega tree-planting initiative to green Mother Earth will have a spin-off effect and many other Rotary clubs will take up this project in a big way. "I am happy to say that recently, when along with RI Director Raju Subramanian, I attended the installation of RID 3170 DG Sharad Pai, the President of Rotary Belgaum, Suhas Chandak (owner of Vega Helmets) took an oath to plant one lakh trees during his tenure as Club President. Incidentally, he is also becoming an AKS member."

Minutes of the 2279th RWM held on August 20th, 2024 at BNR Officers' Club, Garden Reach

1. President call the meeting to order and requested the members to rise for the National Anthem.
2. President requested PP Dr. Sumanta Dasgupta to share the details of the project conducted on August 15th, 2024 at Ramakrishna Gayatri Sevashram at Dongaria, Budge Budge. PP Dr. Sumanta also shared that the Ashram is having 15G Affiliation and the custodians are seeking assistance of the Rotary club in their future endeavours.
3. The President, put forward a request to all Rotarians of Rotary Garden Reach to attend these Service projects in large numbers.
4. A discussion was held regarding our Charter Day celebrations. The venue and other activities expenses will be discussed by President with members and will be decided upon.
5. The Club Secretary conducted the Club business.
6. On confirmation of the minutes, President Biswajit terminated the meeting.