

GANDHI TRUST PROFILE.

Kasturba Gandhi National Memorial Trust (KGNMT) was founded in 1945 as a result of a national effort led by Mahatma Gandhi, to devote himself to women in rural India's issue.

The unique history of KGNMT has, as background, the history of struggle to freedom India. Both eminent personalities from all actions of life and anonymous masses have mobilized their resources to set this Foundation up with branches in Kasturbagram (Indore) and in 22 states affiliated across the country. Shrimati Sarojini Naidu, a liberation movement's faithful supporter dedicated her time and all her energy to set up the Trust.

Mahatma Gandhi, Shri Vallabh Bhai Patel, Shri Takkar Bapa, Dada Saheb Mavlankar, Smt. Prem. Leela Thakarasi, Smt. Laxmi N. Menon, Sushruta Maniben, Patel and Doctor Sushila Nayar were the presidents of this Trust.

At the beginning of this century, the role of Kasturba is still as vital as it was at its start. The Trust has remained true to its ideals for over 50 years of constructive work among women and children in rural India, in health areas, education, literacy, vocational education, charities and employment.

The universal and timeless vision of Mahatma's Sarvodaya finds its best practical expression in the Kasturba Trust as the Sarvodaya is the spirit awakening in nature and environment's harmony, in all forms of life. The reconstruction of social order is also part of the Sarvodaya.

Women and children are the spine of our society. The constructive work among women and children is a basic need and essential for the process of building the country as anticipated in the Sarvodaya.

To continue with Gandhian vision, KGNMT needs people's support and involvement.

The 22 state subdivisions have more than 500 centres that are spread out all over India. Some centres are trying to bring relief to women and children in remote and almost inaccessible areas.

All these centres have been of immense social, economic and intellectual value.

The women working at Kasturba Trust are a source of strength and they assist people during natural disasters' violence such as earthquakes and flooding.

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Summary of a conference carried out with Mrs Gandhi

Non-violence and peace are a celebration of our being's conscience to honour life and creation.

Our conscience's celebration should be translated into the objective of people's movements to clean the human mind from violence and protect the environment from pollution.

It should be a universal message that goes beyond social, political and religious divisions.

Non-violence means more than lack of violence. Non-violence is also action and introspection. It is the courage of Truth with Love. It is the awakening of the spirit in harmony with nature and environment in all its life's forms.

Violence is pollution and pollution is violence.

Keeping our own mind free from violence is a challenge for us all.

"The fabric spun and hand-woven called Khadi is a union thread with creation. It is a source of food and beauty for millions of Indians; the hand-spinning and the spinning wheel are also a meditation therapy. Again, the new world needs to be aware that there are fabulous hand-woven textiles that the spinning wheel still exists".

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