

# Effective Prachar for Sikh Youth

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A number of small and basic Sikh Institutions and a large number of Gursikh, at Chandigarh and Punjab are-individually-engaged in disseminating the Sikh Philosophy, Heritage and Tradition among our youth.

However in order to maximize the gains of these endeavours there is an urgent need for inter-se co-ordination. Towards this end, discussions and useful consultations were held at Chandigarh during most of September 2006. Among these who participated in the discussions are:

- S. Pritam Singh Kohli, I.A.S. (Retd.)
- Dr. Gurdarshan Singh Dhillon
- S. Karnail Singh – President Gurdwara 34 Sec Chandigarh and Chairman Chandigarh Gurdwara Parbandhak Sangathan.
- Maj. N. S. Rangji – Senior Vice President Gurdwara Sec 34
- S. Gurbachan Singh Makin – Ex Naval Officer
- Principal Tanjit Singh (Sikh Missionary College)
- Brig Tarlochan Singh (Retd.)
- S. Gajinder Singh
- S. Surjeet Singh Dheer
- S. Sardara Singh ji
- Mrs. Ranjit Harmohan

It was indeed hartening to observe that all those consulted were willing to work together for the common cause. During discussions, it emerged that quick visible results would accrue if coordinated and inspired effort is put in, first at Chandigarh it being an educational centre – where a large number of youth are studying and there being host of facilities for conduct of Prachar, in terms of accommodation and allied facilities in Gurdwaras and Schools S. Karnail Singh ji, the Chairman Chandigarh Gurdwara Parbandhak Sangathan to which sixteen Gurdwaras are affiliated spread in various sectors has assured full administrative support and other where withal for starting a dynamic movement (Lehar) for getting Sikh Youth in our fold.

The main issues that need to be addressed jointly as emerged from deliberations as follows:

- To involve simultaneously all levels of intelligentsia, viz. the senior citizens, the scholars as well as the youth.
- To hold seminars at Gurdwara and Schools. The syllabus scope and activities for such assemblies already exist.
- To undertake/augment rural education involving local people and to open primary schools, where none exist.
- To distribute suitable literature and visual matter free.
- To acquire and use audio/visual aids.
- To train and coach Sikh youth for high status jobs, in all professions, viz I.A.S., Medical, Engineers, Defence Officers and the like. (already being done in Gurdwara Sector 34)
- To wear away youth from Drugs and Alcohol.
- To organise welfare of girl child in rural districts.
- To enlist dedicated “Grass root” volunteers for Nishkam Sewa.

It may be mentioned here that no new organisation is being set up. We should, individually

and collecting, act as catalistic agent in the good work already being done by many institutions and individuals based at Chandigarh. The entire work would be undertaken under the flagship of 34 sector Gurdwara, being centrally located and having more facilities for effective Prachar.

The above process would commence during early months of 2007. While we have the requisite will and determination to succeed in our joint mission, we seek your readers' help and co-operation in terms of free literature and technical facilities to screen audio/visual aids, which may please be sent to President 34 sector Gurdwara Sahib.

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## **A true tale of our times**

*Dr. Jagjit Singh Batra*

I live work in Delhi. I have a poor, old patient who has a chronic asthmatic problem. His name is Hardeva. He was once a trumpet-player with a marriage-procession band. Now, at 58 years, he is retired and lives with his wife, Rampyari, who looks after their three-year old grandson. Their son, Prahlad, works as a peon in an export factory in Okhala. His wife has deserted him. The entire family subsists on the Rs. 3,000 that Prahlad earns. Hardeva was having a problem with his vision. So I referred him to the Chandiwala Eye Hospital, which is opposite the Kalkaji Mandir, around two km away.

Hardeva went there, as directed and showed himself to the ophthalmologist. He was told that he had a mature cataract in each eye that would need operative treatment: a three-day stay in the hospital and Rs 15,000 expenses.

Hardeva came out and was standing at the bus stop, contemplating the logistics. Where would they leave the grandson if Rampyari had to attend to him during the three days at the hospital? And, more importantly, how was he to arrange for the money?

Along came a well-dressed, rich-looking Sikh gentleman, probably in his 50s. He asked Hardeva, "Why are you looking so dejected?" Hardeva told him. The Sikh asked Hardeva to accompany him back to the ophthalmologist. He paid an advance and got an appointment for the operation, to be done three days later. He also told Hardeva not to tell his wife, Rampyari, about the operation: "Just say that you are going to meet some relatives for three-four days."

Three days later, true to his word, the Sikh met Hardeva outside the Chandiwala Hospital. He got him operated and stayed with him for the next three days while Hardeva lay bedridden with bandaged eyes. The Sikh took care of his ablutions, changed his soiled clothes, baths him and fetched new clothes and medicine. He paid the hospital bill in full and gave Hardeva some more money for the post-operative care. He put him in an auto and then, just went away. Hardeva doesn't know who this man is or where he lives. The Sikh doesn't know where Hardeva lives.

This is charity: hands-on, anonymous and abundant. The Gurbani says: *Khud jaa ke deyo* (Do service with your own hands) / *Chhupa ke deyo* (Hide it from others) / *Rajja je deyo* (Give with all your might!) The unknown Sikh did all three.

**[Courtesy: Hindustan Times]**

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