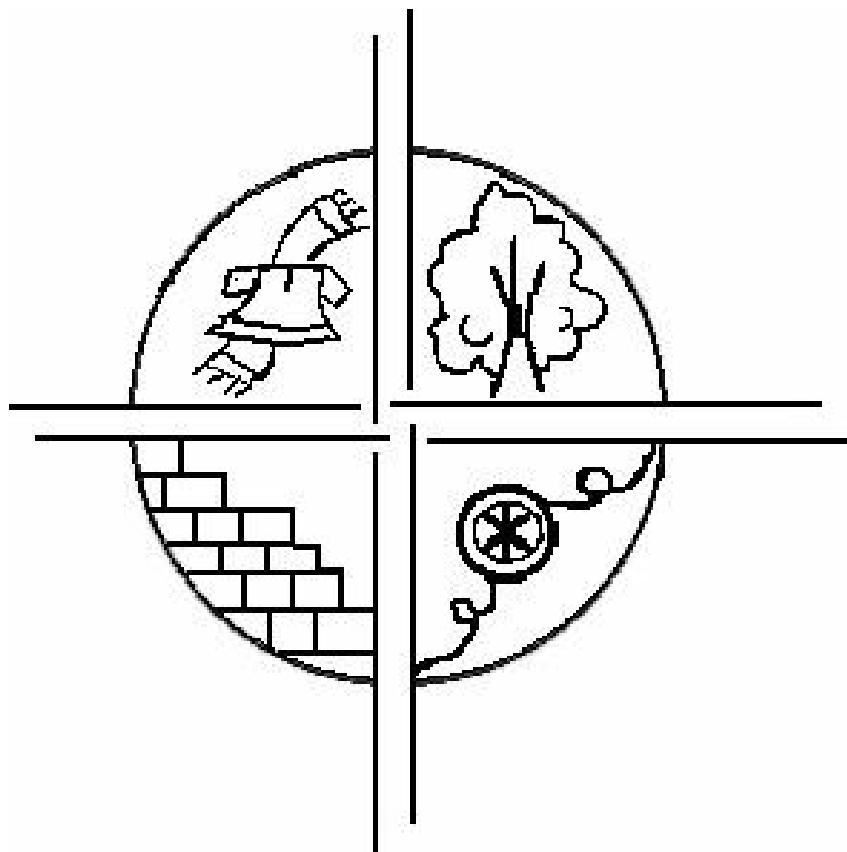


**K.K.M. HANDWEAVING
KURU KSHETR MANDAL**



ANNUAL REPORT: - 2014-2015

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Dear Friends,

Namaste and greetings from everyone of KKM family!

As in the past 43 years, ever since our KKM Handweaving Society was formed and registered in 1971, we take pleasure in making yearly reports to tell you the story of how our life and work went on in the past year and our hopes and aspirations for the present year. Once again we gratefully remember our venerated late Agnes Kunze Mataji from Munich, Germany, who came to Dehra Dun in 1962 to take care of a group of 26 Leprosy afflicted and spent her lifetime for the cause of Leprosy Rehabilitation. On her initiative and vision for the future, a small beginning was made with a few spinning wheels to spin cotton yarns, which had flourished to help hundreds in need.

Leprosy patients from different places of India and Nepal, cured after treatment in Mission hospitals but left with deformities and disfiguration, deserted by families due to the rampant stigma against the disease 50 years ago, rendered homeless and in search of food and shelter had no other way of survival but to join Leprosy beggar settlements in the outskirts of towns and pilgrimage places. But those who were keen on earning their living with self-respect have found a future in KKM, started coming to us, asking for work.

Mr.Klaus Becker from Germany had rendered 4 years of services in our beginning. Under his technical guidance, with the hard labour of our working people, our first looms and implements were built and our first workshop was constructed. In 1967 Mr.Pierre Reyniers from Paris, France came and joined to assist in the mission of Mataji and remained with us all along the decades. Working through every stage of the long process of weaving, he learned the art and taught the new comers with particular emphasis on quality. He made a lot of effort in improving the quality of dyeing the yarns and achieved AZO free, fast colours and guided our dyers. With the financial support of our good friends and some organizations, we managed to build a few rows of simple rooms with kitchens to accommodate the people joining in our work.

Thanks to the friends and contacts of Mataji and Pierre Bhai, we received the first orders for our textile products. In the course of years our exports extended to many other countries, mostly to World shops, groups and individuals who promoted the sales of our products. We are thankful to all of them and trust that their concern for us would continue in the years to come and we receive regular orders to keep us occupied.

A number of people from other Leprosy settlements in Dehra Dun, Rishikesh and Lakshman Jhula wished to follow our way. We introduced spinning of cotton and wool, provided spinning wheels and raw materials and paid for the spun yarns. But within a year they changed their mind. Begging on the streets brings more money.

During the 1980s our population reached a peak of 350 and then there was a decline year by year. Our member group in Shahjahanpur, with 45 workers, after working with us for 20 years had disintegrated with internal feuds and in the end they all landed in beggar settlements in different towns. Another member group in Srinagar, Garhwal with 35 workers had a split. 6 of them opted to continue working with us. In 1986 they were settled on our newly acquired land 13 km. from Dehra Dun. More people from another settlement in Dehra Dun and some new comers have joined. Houses and a workshop were built for them, Agnes Mataji named the place "Tara Parbat", Star Mountain.

Every year we have lost a few old men and women, died of old age or chronic illnesses. Some old people were taken back home by their children to look after them till the end, a welcome change in the social attitude. New comers are hardly 2 or 3 per year, most of them old, with disabilities. Credit goes to the multidrug therapy(MDT) for Leprosy, available free of cost at all Government hospitals, awareness programmes are resulting in patients seeking treatment at early stages, before the onset of deformities and social stigma is declining slowly.

At present we have 4 member groups of workers with our Society. Altogether we have 140 men and women, out of them 19 men and women are very old and invalid, which leaves 121 working people and half of them are aged above 60. In spite of all this, our people go ahead in their daily work with the original spirit and Mantra of Mataji," Do not worry, do your work". They make efforts to complete the textile orders on time, in good quality, as always. Kindly read the stories and production reports they happily present.

Her relentless endeavours for a respectable life of Leprosy affected bearing fruit, Agnes Mataji had left us for her heavenly abode in 1998. Since then, now already 16 years, Pierre Bhai is laden with the burden of responsibility of caring for the big family as a Bhai, elder brother. Our senior and experienced people in their different spheres of work are assisting him in cooperation.

We have 15 children of our workers, out of them 12 boys and girls are going to school and doing well at studies from kindergarten upto Class 11. Three girls are undergoing a 3 year training course of general nursing and midwifery. The parents are supported with the upkeep and school expenses of the children. Our medical workers are taking care of health problems of our workers and looking after our elderly. Our workers receive food rations and cash allowances for basic needs beside other benefits.

It is a fact that our income through handweaving is less than our expenditure. We make efforts but we accept that it is natural that increasing age results in reduced productivity. Our dependence on financial assistance from our friends and well wishers is on the increase. We look up to providence and Mataji's blessings for our future with hope and faith.

Rumal Singh
(President)

K.Bangaraiah
(Co-Founder)

Shipping Report-Kurukshetra Mandal

Parcel/Packet/Bale
Shipment: Post & Freight

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KRIPAON KI MATA LEPROSY COLONY (2014 – 2015)
Total number of persons: 71 (Men: 27, Women: 44, Children: 4, Retired: 5)

Greetings from the people of Kripaon Ki Mata (Lady of Graces) Colony. 53 years have passed by since our colony came into existence. This colony has given support and shelter to hundreds of people both present and past to live a respectable life despite their physical conditions due to the disease Leprosy. Most of our children are now well settled. Agnes Mataji shouldering the initial care of the people of this colony took the initiative to set up a handloom workshop which would engage each and every person according to their physical ability. With the help of Klaus Becker and support of various volunteers, the process of Handweaving started – right from carding, spinning, spooling, dyeing, knotting, finishing etc. and is still continuing.

During the year there were minor repairs in the colony. A solar hot water system was installed. We take the advantage of having hot water for our use and also saving money on cooking gas. We received textile orders from Kurukshetra Mandal and supplied the ready products in good quality and on time. We are thankful to the people of Brahmapuri for their efforts to supply the dyed yarns throughout the year.

Two old ladies (Dayawati & Amri Devi) died this year, they were in their eighties. Dharma Devi and Philip Masih underwent surgery for their fractured bone of shoulder and hip joint respectively. Birkh Bahadur and Gopal Singh underwent cataract eye surgery. Our medical worker Satyam with his team is doing health care work for our working people and our disabled, taking advantage of the services of local government hospitals.

We have 4 school going children-Timothy, Stuti, Pooja and Nandini in our colony. We are thankful to KKM Handweaving and our Pierre Bhajji for their services for the people of our colony. We also thank the Director of the colony, Rev. Fr. Valerian Pinto & Rev. Fr. Sasin Babu, St. Francis Church, Dehra Dun for their administration and care for our people.

Gopal Singh

Santosh Ram

KRIPAON KI MATA LEPROSY COLONY – PRODUCTION REPORT (2014 – 2015)

Weaving :

Cotton Handloom:	3229 m
Fabric-Natural/colour	1579 m
Dish Towel Cloth	456 m
Loom Nivar (Tape)	

Made up Products:

Scarf, Stole	836 pcs
Bed Cover/Tablecloth	525 pcs
Tablemat/Runner,Napkin,	
DishTowel,CushionCover,	
Bag, Towel	1376 pcs
Inkle woven Braid	775 pcs

Spinning :

Cotton: Count	kg
Ambar yarn	37.550
No. 5	140.520
No. 2	109.575
No. 1	<u>538.075</u>
Total spinners 9	<u>825.720</u>

Dyeing:

Tailoring	538.000
Number of workers	3643 pcs
Disabled	66
Total population	5
	71

NAVJIVAN GRAM (2014 -2015)
Total number of persons : 19 (Men:8, Women:11, Children: 3, Retired:3)

Greetings from the people of Navjivan Gram (new life village) group. We have 16 working people and 3 are retired. This year an old lady Rukmani Devi left our colony and preferred to stay with her grandson. Due to old age Surat Lal took voluntary retirement. We also lost our multi-talented pioneer Budhi Lal. He stitched the famous HB bag with a wooden button and colourful card nivars made by Surat Lal. He also worked on the looms and was working as a medical assistant. May his soul rest in peace!

Production wise our work went on normally. Our ladies are working hard to produce the handspun ambar yarns for us and also supplying to other groups. We have two school going children Deepak Ram and his brother Sohan Ram. Kumari Laxmi, daughter of Joga Ram will be completing second year of her three year nurse training course.

To maintain our colony important repairs were done during the year. The height of one side of the boundary wall was increased and the main entrance gate was repaired. Apart from our production value we also received yearly benefits and aids.

Thanks to Kurukshetra Mandal and to our Pierre Bhai for the support and care of the people of our colony. We are thankful to our dear friends for their support and encouragement through their visits and orders.

Lakhi Ram

Kishan Lal

NAVJIVAN GRAM TEXTILE PRODUCTION REPORT (2014-2015)

Cotton Spinning:

Yarn on Kisan Charkha(count 5)	86.450 kg
(count 2)	30.800 kg
(count 3)	19.000 kg
On Ambar Charkha	<u>219.550 kg</u>
Total Cotton Spun	<u>355.800 kg</u>
Tailored:	
Bed Cover	34 pcs
Bags	<u>90 pcs</u>
Total tailoring	<u>124 pcs</u>

Cotton weaving:

Table mat/Table runner	690 pcs
HB Bag Cloth	114 pcs
Cushion cover cloth	80 pcs
Bed cover/Tablecloth	124 pcs
Fabric	1476 m
Cotton card nivar	161 pcs
Number of workers	16
Total population	19

TARA PARBAT LEPROSY PROJECT (2014-2015)
Total number of persons : 16 (Men: 8, Women: 8, Children: 2, Retired: 1)

Namaste from the people of Tara Parbat (Star Mountain), one of the four member groups of KKM. We mainly produce handwoven durries and handspun, handwoven ambar yarn cloth. Our production of handspun yarn has reduced compared to last year as Tika Ram, spinner of ambar yarns took a complete retirement leave due to ill health. During the year our work went normally and we received enough orders from KKM Handweaving which kept us busy throughout the year.

We have 15 working people and one retired in our colony. Two of our children Suraj Singh and Raveena are going to school. Our store room for keeping cotton bales and a carding machine has been badly damaged due to erosion by monsoon rain water. Our every effort to maintain it did not work out well, so we have abandoned it for keeping cotton bales but are still using it to do the carding work.

We are thankful to KKM Handweaving and Pierre Bhaiji for their care and services. Heartfelt thanks to all our friends and customers for their help and support throughout the year.

Hukum Singh

Madho Singh

TARA PARBAT TEXTILE PRODUCTION REPORT (2014-2015)

Cotton Spinning:

Durrie yarn	1587.000 kg
Ambar yarn	68.000 kg
Total Cotton Spun	<u>1655.000 kg</u>

Fabric	998 m
Bed cover/Tablecloth	18 pcs

Looms operating	4
Ambar Charkha	2

Weaving:

Handspun Durries (4 sizes) 876 pcs

Number of workers	15
Total population	16

BRAHMAPURI LEPROSY REHABILITATION CENTRE

Total number of persons: 34 (Men 20, Women 14, Children: 6, Retired:10)

Namaste from the people of Brahmapuri. We received orders from Kurukshetra Mandal throughout the year. We supplied the dyed yarns to our fellow groups, though Dhan Singh's eyesight went from worse to worst and is contemplating to go back to his village. On our looms we produced durries of various sizes and fabrics. Our tailors stitched bags of different kinds, small purses, cushion covers and also clothes for the people of our colony.

Every year there is a decline in our population. This year too two of our members, an old lady and an old man died. May their souls rest in peace! A young couple Mukesh and Yamuna left our colony to join the main stream of the society, our good wishes for the family. Our medical

workers are performing their duties with full dedication. They even managed to have several surgeries performed on patients, getting the cooperation of City Government Hospital also. Our children Pooja and Prem are studying at Raphael children's hostel while Preeti and Pradeep are in another Children's Home in Haridwar. Two girls are undergoing three year nurse training course, Champa is in her third year while her sister Shakuntala is in her second year of the training course. During the year we celebrated various festivals. Maintenance of the colony continued as ever, including the first boundary wall crumbling under monkeys' assaults!

We are grateful to Pierre Bhaiji for his concern and special care for the people of our colony since he took charge of our centre in 1972. We thank all our good friends and well wishers for their moral and material support.

-Rajender Singh (Raju)

BRAHMAPURI L.R.C.PRODUCTION REPORT (2014 – 2015)

Cotton Spinning:	745 kg	Wool :	
Woven:		Spun :	35.000 kg
Handspun Durries 4 sizes	785 pcs	Woven	
Stoles (Fabrics)	690 m	Handspun Durries	34 pcs
Bag Material/Cushion Covers	430 m		
Fabrics for home use	205 m		
Designed Tape	450 m		
Inkle Ribbon & Card woven	200 pcs		
Dyed yarns	580 kg		
Delivered to KKM	160 kg		
Tailored:			
Ruck-sacs, Shoulder bags,			
Super market bags,	145 pcs	Looms operating	8
Press & Zip bags, Pen purses	210 pcs	Number of workers	24
Cushion Covers	150 pcs	Total population	34

Senior Treasury Adviser's note :

In spite of the loss of few of our Sisters and Brothers, we were very much encouraged by very good export orders, some, interestingly, by resurging friends from the 90s: the first order giving –in bulk since 1968, who did delegate her helping hand 10 years ago, but, while well into her eighties, restarted a bulk order!!!

The fast friends from England, France, Germany, Italy and New-Zealand increased their own regular order giving concern.

The senior workers financial support and help to our last few children dries out from the Swedish sponsored Organisation in Dehra-Dun. It was, however amply compensated by the ever increasing generosity of Sufi Groups, Belgian Yoga groups and others.

Thus, in some ways, the past year was a renewal year: A trip to France could be managed after a five-year gap- thanks to R. Follereau Foundation-, and apart from the pleasure of meeting family and friends, was once more an opportunity to advocate the leprosy patients' forlornness, though the number of new cases are 80% down, the treatment effective –so far-; but their social stigmatization has hardly improved.

The paper making unit had to be winded up, but a more sustainable work of our textiles Block printing could be started with a sister organization friend : Joynindia.

Seeing Mukesh and Yamuna leaving us for mainstream society was felt as a loss for us, but for once, Leprosy patients could join normal society after 15 years of Confidence building in our Brahmapuri group. Less dramatic, it is also heartening to see a small number of our aged members able to go and be well treated by their original families when they felt the time came for final retirement.

Due to extreme old age, our Brahmapuri Centre's guide and main Mentor had to discontinue his following up of our Rehabilitation march. His teachings of 30 years are not forgotten and all at Brahmapuri try to continue the path shown, Raju being the main actor, administratively and otherwise. Sajan, KKM's accountant is giving a good hand as is Santosh, Headman of Kripaon ki Mata group.

We shall continue to care for our elders as well as possible, and at the same time not hinder younger members feeling like leading an open life in society if and when they feel they now have a second chance after a 10-15 years self-confidence refurbishing in one of the KKM Centres.

-Pierre Reyniers



NAVJIVAN GRAM – Budhi Lal's Family 1982 & 1986