

NEWS IN FOCUS

Divine Onkar Mission

**AMAZON
SMILE
READ MORE
P2**

READ ABOUT OUR COVID RESPONSE

DONATING MUCH
NEEDED SUPPLIES
TO THE ELIAS MATTU
FOUNDATION

D.O.M UPDATES:

UK EVENTS **P2**

COVID RESPONSE UK & INDIA **P3**

VISITORS OF DOM **P6 & P7**

STUDENT SUCCESS **P8 & P9**

COMMUNITY AWARENESS AND
PREVENTION PROGRAMMES **P10**



/DivineOnkarMission



@divineonkarmission



@divineonkarmission



Founder's Message

This has been an unprecedented year for both our projects in India and in the UK. The Covid-19 Pandemic has impacted more severely on the poor and daily waged population of India. Our dedicated staff have offered relief aid wherever possible. To date all our young children and staff have not been infected by the virus. This is due to selfless service of the staff who have remained with the children and kept them safe and entertained. As soon as it is safe to do so we will recommence the project work.

Before the lock down took place our young students in Odisha, took part in the Hausla. They have yet again done us proud. They prepared for every event without official training. The young boys and girls have won awards right across the spectrum of activities. I am totally humbled by their talent.

Once again, I would like to say that we can only do this with the ongoing support from all our donors throughout the years. They have directly contributed to changing the lives of their brothers and sisters in India. Every donor should feel proud that they are part of the solution to ending poverty and encouraging self-sufficiency.

Mr Tersam Lal

Founder & Chairman



Annual Dinner and Dance Fundraiser

Our Annual Dinner and Dance Fundraiser took place on Saturday 7th December 2019 at the Prestige Suite in Smethwick. The total funds raised for the event were £45,807!

Thank you to all the staff and talented performers, you all worked so hard to put together such a wonderful evening. We would like to give a special heartfelt thank you to the Suglani family owners of the Prestige Suite, for hosting and funding the entire event.

Their continued support has been invaluable to the work of Divine Onkar Mission.

Unfortunately, due to the Coronavirus pandemic we will not be holding our annual fundraising event. This lockdown has not only taken place here but has also impacted our projects in India. However, you can still donate to the charity.

You will find the donation details on the back of this newsletter or you can check our website for details. Anything you can give is most appreciated.

Amazon Smile

Amazon Smile is associated with the shopping website Amazon. When customers shop through the URL smile.amazon.co.uk, they choose a charity they would like to donate to and Amazon will donate 0.5% of the net purchase price (excluding VAT, returns and shipping fees) of eligible purchases to the charitable organisations selected by the customer.

Divine Onkar Mission have joined AmazonSmile and we would appreciate you thinking of us the next time you make a purchase with Amazon. Only purchases made through smile.amazon.co.uk are eligible to generate donations for our charity.

Divine Onkar Mission OUR DUTY TO MANKIND

Covid-19 Response in the UK

This worldwide pandemic has brought with it a public health crisis, global economic upheaval and widespread uncertainty. We have all had to make changes to adapt to our current climate, this includes having to stop daily operations at both DOM UK and India.

Even though we are not operating to full capacity, we have worked collaboratively with local organisations to help those who were in the most need by donating vital supplies, both in the UK and in all our local communities in Jharkhand and Orissa.

The Elias Mattu Foundation based in Wolverhampton is led by Councillor

Asha Mattu, the widow of the late Councillor. They have worked throughout the pandemic to help families who are in crisis. They offer support to families who are not registered with the local council and receive very little help from other sources i.e. people seeking refuge, transient workers and women who have fled violence. DOM sourced and supplied a large quantity of: nappies, baby food, baby formula, baked beans, tinned tomatoes, milk, juice, sugar, coffee, tea, soup and biscuits. These were the items most needed by the foundation.

DOM responded to a request from the Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust Charity for fabric to make washbags. The items donated consisted of: cotton fabric rolls, sewing threads and elastic. We supplied them to two NHS sites: Walsall Manor Hospital and New

Cross Hospital. The washbags made with our donation enabled staff members to transport their worn uniforms home safely to put straight in the wash, including the bags. We received a letter of appreciation and thanks from them for the provision of these resources.

During the height of the crisis the Wolverhampton City Council setup a food distribution centre at the Aldersley WV Active Centre.

The initiative was setup to support those who are most vulnerable and have no support network to help them. DOM donated a large supply of essential food items to this cause.

Within the West Midlands region, The Dasmesh Sikh Temple in Birmingham were raising funds for the NHS. Their aim was to raise £50,000. To help them reach their target Divine Onkar Mission contributed to their fund.



/DivineOnkarMission



@divineonkarmission



@divineonkarmission

COVID-19 RESPONSE IN INDIA

The Covid-19 Global pandemic has impacted the people of India in a far-reaching and devastating manner. Our ongoing developmental projects have had to temporarily cease operations.

The Water Well Project is now on hold until we are able to operate in a safe and secure manner. We are strategically planning to recommence the building of new Water Wells in Orissa towards the end of the current year, as long as there are no further restrictions.

Our outreach work to villages to speak about the benefits of education for their children has been halted; as well as Medical camps targeting child vaccination and promoting the benefits of free eye operation for cataracts.

During the community work it has become evident that there is a marked disparity between different states responses to Covid-19.



Creative Activities during Lockdown

Teaching staff who are living within the orphanage, alongside the children, have actively engaged in keeping them busy with different daily activities. Activities such as: drama, singing, dance, cooking, agricultural training, and yoga have ensured the children are kept busy and happy. The children have helped to distribute aid to the local community as the need arises during this pandemic.

Compliance with Child Care Legislation in India

DOM's schools and orphanages have received regular visits from local government authorities who work within the legislative mandate of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015.

The representatives check to ensure we are following the protocol and guidance in line with legislative directives.

Their aim is to support and work alongside organisations such as DOM.

Alongside, maintaining the day to day work within our projects which are still fully operational. We have strategically planned and carried out humanitarian aid to the local communities.

Ramgarh

A vast percentage of the population in India depends on the daily wage they earn, essentially living a hand to mouth existence.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic a number of people have been left without a means to support themselves.

The surrounding region adjoining the Onkar Old Age home in Palu, has many widows living there. They struggle to support their families and are in desperate need of help. Also, in Pochra, Jharkhand, we found 35 families living near the Barkakhana railway station, struggling to make ends meet.

The DOM Team donated essential food parcels to them. These parcels contained; rice, lentils, tea, milk, sugar and other basic essentials such as soap and oil.



Divine Onkar Mission OUR DUTY TO MANKIND

COVID-19 RESPONSE IN INDIA

Kendujiani and Godisahi

The DOM team in Kendujiani and Godisahi have provided for those most in need. After seeking permission from the local authority they went out into the local area and helped those who were unable to financially support themselves. We have provided 150 families with food parcels made up of dry ingredients, which will help sustain them during this difficult period.



Anandapur Fire Department

At the Onkar Sewa Ashram School, in Godisahi, we had a visit from the Anandapur Fire Department. They visited close to the onset of the pandemic, at the request of the High Court of Orissa.

They sanitised and disinfected the entire school. Later they returned to sanitise the school again, and were pleased to see that the school was following the safety procedures they had identified.

The fire team also plans to visit and conduct a fire safety course for the students once the pandemic has ceased.



/DivineOnkarMission



@divineonkarmission



@divineonkarmission

INDIA EVENTS



On September 18th the Odisha Women and Child Development Minister Tukuni Sahu visited the Onkar Sewa Ashram School in Godisahi. The Minister was welcomed by the Managing Trustee Gobardhan Behera, and other members of staff.

During her visit the minister was given a tour of the premises, and the various facilities within the school.

The minister expressed concern over the lack of funds from state government which hasn't been provided to the institute. She assured our staff that they would build a much-improved road from the National Highway to the school.

The minister also thanked the founder of the institution Tersam Lal Nagi, director Rajesh Kumar Nagi and Managing Trustee Gobardhan Behera for good management of the organisation. She said:

"I visited Onkar Sewa Ashram where 125 orphan children are reported

to have been accommodated and nurtured alongside other general day scholars. It is a good experiment to keep orphans with general students for better educational improvement and socialization, and for facilitating them joining the mainstream society. Wish them all the best." (*Odisha Women and Child Development Minister, Tukuni Sahu, 2020*).

She also mentioned how pleased she was with the work done by the organisation, and that she would like to consider the organisation for state recognition.



Donated Blankets

On the 12th January 2020, we were visited by the Rajani Kanta Jena Foundation, Bhubaneswar Odisha and Officer Biswajeet Behera.

They arrived at the Onkar Sewa Ashram School in Godisahi to make a donation on behalf of the foundation and St. Rajendra Prasad Swain IIC Ramchandrapur. They donated durable and colourful blankets to the students to help keep them warm during the winter season.

Divine Onkar Mission OUR DUTY TO MANKIND

INDIA EVENTS

District Judges Visits

During the pandemic our schools were visited by district judges from the Keonjhar region; Mr. Benudhar Patra, and Shri Lokhanath Sahoo, as requested by the High Court of Orissa. They visited separately, with Mr Patra visiting in May and Shri Sahoo visiting in July. The purpose of their visit was to assess and report on the level of care and protection received by the children in our care.

During their visit they observed how well we had complied with the guidelines set by the Supreme Court to prevent the spread of the Covid-19 virus. They spoke to the students about how they were coping during the lockdown and the importance of personal hygiene and responsibility. Before leaving they handed out PPE packages to the boarding students.



/DivineOnkarMission



@divineonkarmission



@divineonkarmission

STUDENT SUCCESS: HAUSLA 2019



The national festival for Children of Child Care Institutions (CCIs) took place last year between the 19th – 21st December 2019 in the nation's capital New Delhi. The event had children from a number of CCIs across the country competing in various events like painting, chess, athletics, football, long jump and high jump. From Odisha alone there were 246 CCIs competing.

The festival was inaugurated by the State Social Welfare Director Arvind Agarwal, who said that the event is aimed at providing a State-level platform for the children of the CCIs to showcase their talent. The event would inspire children to reach national level events, and showcase their capabilities.

We had a number of our students make it through to the state and national levels. Those from Kendujiani took part in football for



both girls and boys. The girl's team consisted of: Prakasini Tiria, Laxmi Mohanta, Tulasi Jamuda, Hemalata Paleya, Manguli Hansdah, Gurubari Marndi, JemaBirua, Lema Munda, Sania Hansdah, Chandu Kandiyang and Nitima Mundari. They did very well and reached the States Level.

The boys football team from the same district consisted of: Jitu Murmu, Khelaram Majhi, Rabindranath Majhi, Muna Marndi, Lalitkumar Murmu, Subash Marndi, Sadhu Jamuda, Mansing Murmu and Salhai Tudu. They also reached the States level.



Our young students took part in Art, Athletics, singing and Chess events. Representing DOM in the Arts event, we Hemalata Paleya, In the athletics events, Gurubari Marndi who ran the 200m race, Laxmi Mohanta ran the 100m race, Muna Marndi ran the 200m race and for the chess tournament, Shiba Murmu. They all reached the state level.

From the Onkar Sewa Ashram School in Godisahi we had: Gobinda Hansda who ran in both the 100m

and 200m race, Dama Hembram and Rama Kisko ran in the 200m race, Sakara Hembram and Dhaneswar Tudu both took part in the long jump event, Gobinda Hansdah took part in the long jump, high jump and singing competition, and Badal Sahoo in the debates. All participants did well to reach the state level.

Of those who made it to the final and winning stage at national level were: one of our newer pupils, Sara Tudu, who was 6 at the time, performed a beautiful song. Also, the returning champions our boy's football team. They included: Balia Hansda, Dama Hembram, Mahendra Tudu, Basudev Murmu, Kartik Majhi, Daktar Tudu, Batish Tudu, Rama Kisku. We would like to congratulate all the young students who participated in the event, we are proud of your achievement, well done!

Overall Odisha won 30 medals in total with 14 gold, 12 silver and 4 bronze medals, making them the winners for the second year in a row! The well-known cricketer and parliament member Gautam Gambhir presented the prizes to the winning teams in the presence of Government officials and representatives. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik congratulated the winners on their return to Odisha and presented cash prizes at the Kalinga Stadium. He handed over cheques worth Rs 1.50 lakh to Ranjita Patra, Nandita Nayak Rs 1.20 lakh, Archita Gupta Rs 95,000, Prasad Gomang Rs 85,000 and Biram Hembram Rs 75,000.



Divine Onkar Mission OUR DUTY TO MANKIND

STUDENT SUCCESS

Art Competition

In December the students at the Divine Onkar Mission School in Ramgarh held an art competition where they worked in year groups to create beautiful, imaginative art pieces. The students demonstrated great creative ability and produced some amazing pieces of work.

Unfortunately, there could only be two overall winners. The first prize went to a pictorial story board that portrays the life of a helpless mother, who lives in abject poverty with her child, after losing her husband. The story board depicts her plight in wishing to give her child a better future but unable to do so on her own. In the second part of the pictorial story board she comes to learn about Divine Onkar Mission. Her child is now able to access a good standard of education without payment, therefore giving her an



opportunity for a better future. This art piece resonated with a lot of our students, as they have had similar experiences, before coming to DOM.

The second prize went to a picture which signifies the importance of a child's right to education. It shows how education leads to employment and new opportunities, which in turn enables the child to rise out of poverty and help themselves.

The children had fun taking part in the competition and we are amazed by their thoughtful and insightful choices. It shows that they are growing up to be appreciative and conscious of the world around them.



Renewable Energy Apprenticeship

Last year two of our students who completed their training at the ITC Training Centre in Godisahi, went on to begin apprenticeships with a prestigious company. Chandrai Soren and Madhu Soren began their apprenticeships with Innodust. Innodust is a leading service provider of Skill Development Training. In partnerships with: Skills Council for Green Jobs (SCGJ),

Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY), National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) and the National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE) who help young people working in industry, with relevant skills training that will help them to find pathways to rewarding careers. While staying at the Swami Vivekananda School of Engineering and Technology the boys will be studying and working in the renewable energy sector. This is a great opportunity for them to work in an ever-expanding area of commerce and innovation.



/DivineOnkarMission



@divineonkarmission



@divineonkarmission

COMMUNITY AWARENESS AND PREVENTION PROGRAMMES

Children's Week

Children's Week is organised by the District Protection Unit and last year it was celebrated from the 14th-20th November 2019. It is celebrated in tribute to the first Prime Minister of India Mr Jawaharlal Nehru, who emphasised the importance of loving all children and championed the cause of all children receiving an education.

On Thursday 14th November 2019 Divine Onkar Mission High School celebrated Children's Day. They marked the occasion by holding a fancy-dress competition.

The program started with Surinder Devi and Prabha Kapoor lighting the ceremonial Diya. The children

appeared in the roles of Sai Babba, Durga Mata, Guru Gobind Singh Ji, Healthy Food, New Age Children and Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The competition was split into different year groups. Children between years 1 to 10 took part.

Years 1 to 5 winners were:
1st - 4B, 2nd - 5A, 3rd - 4A

Years 6 to 10 winners were:
1st - 9, 2nd - 8, 3rd - 6A

Special contributors were: Mukund Kumar, Anita Kumari, Geeta and Meena Devi. The judges were long term supporters of DOM: Mrs Prabha Kapoor and Miss Purna Kumari.

During the same period Childline Se Dosti came to the Onkar Sewa Ashram School in Godisahi to spread awareness about the dangers children in India are facing. This initiative was created to coincide with

Children's Week to promote and raise awareness of child protection issues.

DOM collaborated with Childline last year by having the children volunteer their time to take part in a 24-hour telephone-a-thon.

The children welcomed the guests and entertained them with a showcase of different performances that they had prepared.

The subject matter for the performances related to some of the issues they encountered whilst taking calls. In particular, they role played a drama piece about a drunk, abusive father who doesn't provide for his family, instead he wasted his money on alcohol.

At the end of the visit the children who had volunteered their time were given certificates by Childline, in appreciation for their time and effort.



Divine Onkar Mission OUR DUTY TO MANKIND

Environmental Debate

Two-year groups from the Divine Onkar Mission School in Ramgarh took part in an interesting debate on the 19th October 2019. The debate centered around two topics, the first was plastic production, and the second was water usage.

The year 9 group focused on plastic production. They highlighted the ill effects of plastic on our health. They also identified the negative impact on our environment, and the impact our inaction will have on future generations. The Year 10 group's topic looked at our use of water.

The discussion centered around how important it is to save water, the benefits of water and how shortages impact communities.

The event was arranged by the headteacher Mr Mukhund Kumar and Deputy Head Anita Kumari. The judges for the event were selected from the staff group.

All the students who took part in the debate were awarded certificates for their participation. These types of events teach the students to be more socially and environmentally conscious, but it also helps them to develop a critical thinking mind set.

VISITOR'S EXPERIENCE



This year going to Ramgarh was a very special experience. Being with the children, the volunteers, the residents and workers was like going home to family.

The children were very excited, especially the older ones, who were awake to welcome us as we arrived very early in the morning. The love and attachment that the children have for Chani and myself is beyond anything you can put into words.

This year it was different as Kitu and his family were busy with his niece's

wedding and they had invited us as part of their family. Thank you Kitu and Aunti ji for the lovely time we had. I absolutely love going back year after year and seeing the children growing up, and with some leaving DOM, other newer students come forward to say hello.

The 6/7 days which I spent at DOM is the highlight of my holidays, and each year I experience something new. Seeing the children who are regulars at DOM grow up and becoming beautiful healthy young adults, with sparkles in their eyes and hope for their future is something which will stay with me forever.

Thank you DOM, for giving me the opportunity to be part of a wonderful charity and experience. It has shown me that if you set your mind to do something it can be done, to help others and allow others to help themselves.



/DivineOnkarMission



@divineonkarmission



@divineonkarmission

HOW YOU CAN HELP ?

To help the charity save money on postage can donors and patrons please provide your email address

If you would like to help with any of our projects please complete the form below and send it to:
Divine Onkar Mission, Drayton Street, Off Dudley Road, Wolverhampton, WV2 4EA. Telephone: 01902 453 453 Freephone: 0800 316 9453, Fax: 01902 459 911 Warehouse Telephone: 01902 456 444

☐ Yes, I would like to support the Divine Onkar Mission. I have enclosed a cheque/cash

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Education Sponsorship | ☐ £.....Monthly |
| Implant Cataract | ☐ £50 |
| Operation Medical Camp | ☐ £1000 |
| Daily Langar | ☐ £150 |
| Water Well | ☐ £600 |
| Build Homes for the Homeless | ☐ £2000 |
| Classroom Construction | ☐ £2500 |
| Leprosy Treatment for one | ☐ £150 |
| Treatment & Education for disabled | ☐ £.....Monthly |



☐ Yes, I would like to make a regular gift to Divine Onkar Mission, Please check the standing order details below:

Name

Address

..... Postcode

Email Telephone

To Manager Bank/Building Society

Address

..... Postcode

Name(s) of account holder

Account No Sort Code

Beginning dateevery month thereafter until further notice

For the credit of Divine Onkar Mission, Barclays Bank PLC, Wolverhampton,

Sort Code: 20-97-78 Account Number: 10097985

Signature.....Date.....

For bank use only. Please quote this reference number.....

☐ Please tick if you are a tax payer

I wish for DOM to regard my donation as a gift aid donation and be able to reclaim

CONTACT US

Divine Onkar Mission

Drayton Street
Wolverhampton
WV2 4EA

☎ 01902 453 453

💻 divineonkarmission.org.uk

✉ info@divineonkar.org

Registered Charity No. 1074527

SOCIAL MEDIA



/DivineOnkarMission



@divineonkarmission



@divineonkarmission

DONATE

JustGiving™

You can donate by visiting:

www.justgiving.com/divineonkarmission/Donate

help change lives today

We provide sustainable solutions to
eradicate poverty & promote justice.