



**SHREE PRAJAPATI ASSOCIATION (UK)
INTERNATIONAL TRUST FUND**
(Registered Charity No. 802570)

Background

Shree Prajapati Association (UK) International Trust Fund (SPAITF) was set up in 1999 to administer the charitable objects of Shree Prajapati Association (UK) (SPA (UK) which is a registered charity in the United Kingdom.

SPAITF's management committee consists of:

- 3 Officers of SPA (UK);
- one holding trustee nominated by each of the 14 Branch Associations of SPA (UK); and
- 6 members co-opted from Shree Surat Prajapati Union (Nairobi).

All committee members give their services on a voluntary basis. SPAITF does not employ paid staff.

Meetings of SPAITF, at which funding applications are decided, are held at least twice a year.

SPA (UK)'s charitable objects

These are:

- relief of poverty;
- relief of sickness;
- advancement of education; and
- advancement of Hindu religion and culture

Within the Prajapati community.

For the purposes of the above objects, SPA (UK) has defined Prajapati as a community of people belonging to the Hindu faith who originated from the Districts of Surat, Navsari and Valsad in Gujarat, India, and whose ancestral occupational class was mainly carpentry and pottery.

How SPA (UK) raises funds for its charitable objects

- From national events organised by SPA (UK) such as annual sports day, Mahila Samelan, youth activities, celebration of festivals, etc.
- From appeals made by SPA (UK) and Branch Associations to fund and support specific projects.
- From appeals made by SPA (UK) and Branch Associations in times of natural disasters such as earthquakes and floods. SPA (UK) gives the money raised in this way to both Prajapati and non Prajapati organisations.
- From individual donors and organisations.

SPA (UK)'s major source of funds has come from Shree Surat Prajapati Union (Nairobi). These are "Endowment Funds" regulated by specific terms and conditions which permit interest only to be used primarily for the benefit of the Prajapati community living in the Surat, Navsari and Valsad Districts of Gujarat, India.

Other designated funds (for education) have been given by Shree Surat Prajapati Samaj, Mombasa.

Projects so far administered by SPAITF

- Bhuj Children's Home in Kutch (India). SPA (UK) sponsored the cost of building a new orphanage in the sum of £30,000.
- Shree Prajapati Samaj Bachau in Kutch (India) whose community centre was completely destroyed by the Gujarat earthquake. SPA (UK) sponsored the cost of the new building in the sum of £23,000.
- A new Orphanage and Vocational Training Centre in Nagarcoil (Tamil Nadu) sponsored for £15,000.
- A new mobile eye unit for the Rotary Eye Hospital in Navsari at a cost of £27,000.
- A new library and computer centre for Shree Prajapati Kelvani Mandal, Palanpur (Gujarat) at a cost of £8,000.
- A new Girls accommodation at Navsari Ashram sponsored for £20,000.
- Various small grants, ranging from £100 to £5,000 given to individuals and organisations from the Prajapati community, usually towards education costs.

SPAITF'S FUNDING CRITERIA

General

SPA (UK) has limited funds and is largely dependent on public donations. The trustees have the legal duty to ensure that the funds are spent most effectively for charitable purposes and that the trust's funding criteria comply with the UK charity laws and regulations.

For these reasons, the trust's funding criteria are quite restrictive. The trustees have generally confined the grant giving to people and organisations from the Prajapati community living in South Gujarat which is the trust's main area of benefit.

SPAITF's funding criteria for individuals

In considering funding applications from individuals, the trustees take into account all the circumstances of the individual including the extent of income received not just by the individual who has applied for funding but also by his or her immediate family members in the same household. The trustees also take into account any support received from other organisations or from relatives and friends whether living in India or abroad.

The trustees review the funding applications under the following headings which are SPA (UK)'s charitable objects.

1. Relief of poverty

The trustees use a much restricted definition of poverty – and that is that the person applying for funds lacks the means of daily subsistence. This definition ensures that only those people who have a genuine need of funds receive help.

A person can be poor because the income coming into the household is not enough to sustain him and his family. There may be several factors contributing to poverty such as unemployment, illiteracy and lack of skills, old age, infirmity and severe disability.

Trustees can help poor people by way of grants of money, or provision of items or facilities, in the form of:

- allowances for a limited period to meet a particular need
- special payments to relieve sudden distress
- food and clothing
- working tools and equipment
- payment of fees for children’s education.
- vocational training for adults to improve their skills

When the funding application is approved, the trustees may:

- give money to the beneficiaries;
- pay directly for the benefits they provide for the beneficiaries; or
- make arrangements for the benefits to be provided to the beneficiaries.

1. Relief of sickness

SPAITF’s funding criteria are restricted to provide benefits only for people from the Prajapati community who are both sick **and** poor.

The words sick and sickness mean suffering from illness or disease, and include those people suffering from a mental disorder or an addiction.

Trustees can provide or pay for items, services and facilities to ease the suffering or assist the recovery of people who are:

- sick;
- convalescent;
- disabled; or
- infirm.

Before giving assistance, the trustees have to be satisfied that the applicant or the person(s) on whose behalf the application is made has:

- a clear need for the assistance;
- that the benefits proposed are related to that need; and
- that the benefit or assistance proposed is not readily available from other non- charitable sources.

Trustees can help sick people by way of grants of money, or provision of items, or provision of facilities, in the form of:

- special payments to relieve sickness or infirmity
- medical fees
- nursing aid
- medicines, medical or other equipment such as wheelchairs
- treatment in hospitals, convalescent homes or health clinics
- help for relatives and friends to visit or care for patients

When the funding application is approved, the trustees may:

- pay directly for the benefits they provide for the beneficiaries;
- give money to the beneficiaries to enable them to pay for the benefits; or
- make arrangements for the benefits to be provided to the beneficiaries.

2. Advancement of education

SPA (UK) has set up a separate Education Fund to help the poor sections of the Prajapati community who are not able to give further education to their children because of financial hardship. At the present time the trustees provide tuition fees only.

The advancement of education is limited to formal education at, colleges or universities.

3. Advancement of Hindu religion and culture

Trustees will support projects which promote:

- spiritual teaching in the doctrines of Hindu culture and beliefs; and
- religious rites, observances and services in the Hindu religion

for the benefit of the poor section of the Prajapati community.

Ways in which the trustees can help them is by providing grants for costs incurred on:

- spiritual teaching on Hindu religion
- books and other literature on Hindu religion and culture; and
- performing Hindu religious rites (such as birth and death ceremonies), observances and services.

SPAITF's funding criteria for organisations

In general, the trustees will not approve long-term funding even though the projects may fall within SPAITF's criteria. This is because SPA (UK) has only limited funds available for disposal. For the same reason, the trustees will generally not be able to support large capital projects such as building construction or expensive equipment unless these projects have arisen because of natural disasters (for example, earthquake and flooding) and SPA (UK) have received enough funds from disaster appeals.

The trustees will consider grant applications from Prajapati organisations for small projects provided the purposes and activities of those organisations include the same objects as SPA (UK)'s charitable objects stated on the first page. Examples of projects that Prajapati organisations can put forward for consideration by the trustees, in so far as they benefit poor and sick people, include:

- equipment for schools (such as library books, stationery, computers)
- medical equipment and other facilities for sick, infirm and disable people
- provision of training programmes for young people and women
- educational or health projects for children and adults.

Application forms

The following forms are available by downloading them from SPA (UK)'s website www.prajapati.org.uk

Grant Application Form (Organisation)
Education Trust Fund (Grant Application Form)

Alternatively, the relevant forms can be requested by e-mail:

Secretary, SPA (UK) International Trust Fund >sewa@mistry77.co.uk<