

ROTARY'S AREAS OF FOCUS

The Rotary International Organization was started way back in 23rd February 1905. Ever since its inception the underlying philosophy of Rotary has been constantly evolving. What began as a networking/ business community slowly started to shift its focus on the betterment of the community. Rotary has a long track record of addressing the challenges faced by society. For instance, Rotary began its battle against the deadly virus Polio back in 1979 by setting up a project to vaccinate 6 million children in Philippines. Today polio remains endemic in just three countries from 125 in 1988. The work of Rotary begins at the community. With, every community has its own demands and challenges. As Rotary strives at its best to help the community in numerous ways, it has focused its efforts into 7 major areas as follows:

Basic Education & Literacy:

1.7 million teachers are required additionally to meet the global goal of primary education. 57 million children worldwide do not go to school. 781 million people over the age of 15 and 60% being women are illiterate. Rotary provides teacher training programs, sends a vocational training team, develops adult literacy programs and the likes to enhance the global literacy rate.

Maternal & Child Health:

6.3 million children under age 5 die each year due to malnutrition and various other diseases because of poor sanitation and poor health care. About 222 million women who'd prefer to delay or avoid childbearing lack access to safe and effective contraception. 1 out of 39 women in sub-Saharan region face a risk of dying of pregnancy or child complications. 80% of maternal deaths could be prevented with access to reproductive health services and trained health workers. Rotary executes various initiatives to nourish the health of a mother and her child.

Peace Prevention & Conflict Resolution:

Almost 20,000 people die every year due to land mines, 51 million people are currently displaced by armed conflict and persecution, 90% of the casualties occurring around the world are civilians and nearly half children due to violence and wars. Rotary has been consistently working to prevent conflicts and establish peace in the world by incubating Rotary peace centres around the world and continuously engaging in projects to help their cause.

Disease Prevention & Treatment:

It is very saddening to know that 1 in 6 people in the world cannot pay for their health needs. Almost 1 billion people around the globe suffer from tropical diseases such as dengue, leprosy etc each year. About 2.4 medical workers (Doctors, nurses, co-workers) are in need and in almost 57 countries there are fewer than 23 health workers for every 10,000 people. With such a pathetic situation being prevalent, Rotary continues to support the globe's medical needs through various projects each year.

Water Sanitation & Hygiene:

2.5 billion People in this world don't have access to improved sanitation. It is very saddening to see that almost 1,400 children die every single day from diseases caused by lack of sanitation and unsafe water. 748 million people in this world don't have clean water to drink. As water is quintessential for a human's survival, this situation is very alarming. Rotary has been involving themselves in various projects like by building wells, promote rainwater harvesting, promotion of low-cost solutions like chlorine tablets, providing home water treatment capabilities to improve the sanitation and drinking water facilities for the man kind.

Community & Economic Development:

Nearly 1.4 billion people, nearly half of them employed, live on less than \$1.25 a day (~92.80). Rotary partners with local micro funders to support small business and develop remote banking resources to support the micro businesses. Rotary expands vocational training and partners with cooperatives to support entrepreneurs and create jobs.

Supporting The Environment:

Every year we extract an estimated 55 billion tons of fossil energy, minerals, metals, and biomass from the earth. The world has already lost 80% of its forests and 27% of its coral resources. If this continues the earth will become an endangered planet in the next 30 years. Rotary International has been actively involved in various projects and initiatives that conserve the environment and afforestation.