

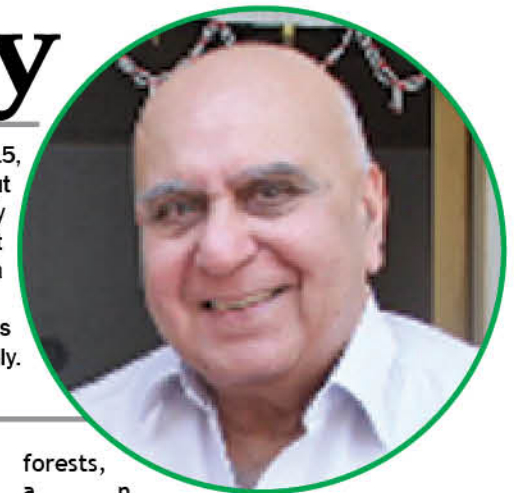
Mr. Dinshaw Tamboly



Delaveen Tarapore

At the 70th anniversary celebrations Nowroze Baug Play Centre held on 7th November 2015, Mr. Dinshaw K. Tamboly was felicitated for his services to the Community. "He has reached out to all those people who otherwise would never have been able to call for help. He has not only helped them set up their homes and life but has also aided them to stand up on their own feet and be self-sufficient", said Mr. Nariman Mehta who honoured Mr. Dinshaw Tamboly with a shawl, citation, flowers and a token of appreciation on behalf of Nowroze Baug.

A video presentation that showcased Mr. Tamboly and his WZO team's efforts to step up the lifestyle of innumerable Parsi families in various villages in the interiors of Gujarat was screened at the felicitation as well. Guests and other dignitaries applauded Mr. Tamboly and Bacchi Tamboly. Parsi Times Reporter Delaveen Tarapore is delighted to bring you this candid Q and A with Mr. Tamboly.



South Gujarat by Dr. Cashmera Bhaya, brought to light startling facts about the impoverished conditions in which many forests, a n authority on

Delaveen: How did you feel attending and being felicitated at the 70th Anniversary Celebrations of Nowroze Baug?

Mr. Tamboly: I experienced a mixture of two feelings that are poles apart. One feeling was that of absolute joy, the other of immense humility. It was a matter of abundant joy for me to have had the opportunity to participate in the celebrations of the 70th Anniversary of the establishment of Nowroze Baug Play Centre.

Delaveen: Any special wishes for NBPC?

Mr. Tamboly: The management of the Play Centre are to be commended for the sound leadership they have provided especially by keeping the residents united and working diligently for their welfare. I wish the Nowroze Baug Play Centre very many more years of fruitful service.

Delaveen: You always give credit to WZO Trusts for providing you with a platform of service to the Community. Can you let us know how you came to be associated with them?

Mr. Tamboly: My involvement in public welfare has been with many different trusts, but my principal connection has been with the WZO Trusts'; for Bachi and me WZO Trusts became a way of life every since they were established 25 years earlier.

Much has been said about the successes achieved by WZO Trusts in the sphere of public welfare activities in which I have been involved for over three decades now. However, the successes achieved cannot and should not be attributed to me alone. I have had the good and great fortune to

of our brethren lived in the rural areas. It was simply a sample survey, not a census survey and yet Dr. Bhaya identified 687 families in 209 villages living well below the poverty line.

“ We began our project to help rehabilitate 687 families in 209 villages living well below the poverty line with a donation of £ 1,000 received from London to help the family of a gentleman called Hormusji Avari who resided in the village of Khambhla. Since that time, we have not looked back, on account of the support that the WZO Trusts have been receiving from donors, all over the world. ”



A file image of Dinshaw Tamboly and some WZO Team members



The World Zoroastrian Organisation

“ When interacting with our donors WZO Trusts' apply the words said to President Roosevelt of USA by Sir Winston Churchill during the darkest days of WW2 - 'We shall not fail or falter; we shall not weaken or tire. Give us the tools and we shall finish the job'. ”

have been leading a small team, all the members of which have been truly dynamic, committed to the causes espoused and adequately dedicated to bring about qualitative changes in the lives of underprivileged members of our Community.

I recall with clarity how and when my life began to change. It was in the later part of nineteen eighties that a sample socio economic survey conducted in

me to form a Trust in India and take up the challenge of rehabilitating these impoverished Zoroastrian families, most of who were farmers.

It was a stroke of great fortune for the Community in general and me in particular, that two outstanding and very sincere Zoroastrians came forward to participate in this project. They were Firoj Panthaky, retired conservator of

plantations, and Farrokh Kasad, a man with a green thumb, having vast knowledge of agriculture and himself a very experienced and successful farmer. There were a few other good people we had inducted as Trustees, but the two fulcrums around which our work began were Firoj & Farrokh. Sadly, Firoj has passed on, but happily Farrokh continues to remain very actively and deeply involved in our work.

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Starting in an extremely modest manner, over the years the WZO Trusts have evolved into fairly large entities, involved in multiple welfare activities. In any and every area of Community need, WZO Trusts have been present making their mark.

Delaveen: Who do you attribute the success of WZO Trusts to?

Mr. Tamboly: Naturally to our donors without whose support we could not have achieved anything. Our donors are satisfied because we deliver on projects

Dinshaw Tamboly speaks of Nowroze Baug...

No visit to Nowroze Baug fails to evoke the memories of late Bai Jerbai Nowrojee Wadia.

The involvement of the Wadia family in community welfare began over a 100 years ago, in 1908, with the

magnificent obsession of Bai Jerbai Wadia who, with single minded commitment, set out to construct low cost housing colonies in Bombay for lower and middle class Parsis, the first building being constructed from the funds collected at the Uthamna ceremony of her husband Nowrojee Wadia.

Although Bai Jerbai Wadia lived in a world dominated by men, few individuals - men or women - have left behind a legacy such as she has. What a woman Bai Jerbai was, what amazing foresight she had! The love she had for our Community was pure and unadulterated. Nowroze Baug will always have the privilege of being the first of the five jewels that are the Wadia Baugs providing a roof over the heads of perhaps 1500 families, if not more.

Nowroze Baug will always stand as a very shining example of the vision and nobility of Bai Jerbai Wadia, and whilst congratulating all the residents that reside here, I pray that all the residents continue to reside in this beautiful colony in peace and harmony for all time to come.

The Nowroze Baug Play Centre and I are incidentally of the same age, and I recognize that whilst I shall be around for only a few more years, the Play Centre and the Baug will continue for all time to come.

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undertaken with their funds, displaying complete transparency, resulting in they being confident that their funds have been put to optimum use and for which they continue to support us with repeated donations. Our main donors do not believe in giving large donations towards corpus, for they rightly believe that would make the Trustees complacent. They prefer to witness their largesse being optimally utilised. That is the reason why we, even today have very modest corpus but have been able to undertake large projects and execute them to the full satisfaction of our donors.

Delaveen: How do the beneficiaries of WZO Trust react to the help you provide?

Mr. Tamboly: Our beneficiaries are happy because we believe in the principle that the dignity of every human being is inviolable. We speak to our beneficiaries in the same voice as we do with our donors. What has been

Farzana has been taking an active interest in all our welfare activities.

It is also our good fortune that Freyaz Shroff, earlier a resident of USA, now settled in India, has been taking a great deal of interest in our activities. Freyaz is by profession a management strategy consultant. In addition to her busy professional practise, she spends a good deal of her time changing lives of underprivileged children that live on the streets and in slums, teaches such children at various municipal schools through the platform of Rotary International and taking very keen interest in the activities of our Trusts has visited the villages of South Gujarat a number of times for our various welfare projects.

It is my belief that these two very mature

you like to end with one. **Mr. Tamboly:** Not one but by juxtaposing two quotes by Mother Teresa that mean the world to those who look up to others for support -

“Kind words can be short and easy to speak, but their echoes are truly endless.” & “Love is a fruit that is in season at all times, and within reach of every hand.”



WZO Trust Funds has helped this gentleman provide for his family in the dusty village lanes of Gujarat

“ What a Joy It has been to witness most of our beneficiaries who earlier could not afford to buy a bicycle, today having their own motorbikes and some even their own cars. ”

most rewarding has been to witness so many beneficiaries, with their improved life styles, themselves having transited to become donors.

What a joy it has been to witness most of our beneficiaries who earlier could not afford to buy a bicycle, today having their own motorbikes and some even their own cars.

Delaveen: Can you tell us something about your colleagues?

Mr. Tamboly: My colleagues and I are truly blessed. Our successes have not been on account of any one person but due the genuine team work with which we function. I pray this may remain always so.

I have earlier referred to late Firoj Panthaky and Farrokh Kasad, colleagues with who Bachi & I embarked on our life changing journey.

My dear wife Bachi, what can I say about her except that she has been not only my guide, but also most fierce critic whenever she has felt it necessary, which I must mention has been often, and at the same time my biggest and strongest supporter and ally. She has indeed been the wind beneath my wings, without whose active support I or the WZO Trusts could have achieved even a fraction of what we have.

We recognize that the present is very cheerful and bright; it therefore becomes our responsibility to ensure that we must have in place a plan for an equally sound future. With that end in mind, we have drawn up a succession plan, in which we have been fortunate to have on board since the last few years, Farzana Mojgani, a very talented lady, by profession a solicitor and deeply committed to welfare activities. Creating time from her busy schedule

and committed ladies will form the nucleus of future ongoing welfare activities of the WZO Trusts in India. Additionally, we have over the past three years established at Navsari a local committee of six young but mature adults, who we have been successfully grooming to shoulder future responsibilities. Bachi & I are very confident that when the time comes for us to hang up our boots, not only will the transition be very smooth but there shall also be continuity of our welfare activities. We are fortunate that our staff both at Mumbai and Navsari work with the same diligence and commitment as the Trustees, for which we are very grateful and appreciative.

The WZO Trusts are indeed here for the long haul; this is the 25th year of our operation and we shall continue to serve the Community for many more years.

Delaveen: You are generally good with quotes. Would

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