

SELF EMPLOYMENT / MICROCREDIT

Whilst undertaking the rehabilitation of poor Zoroastrian farmers we became aware that many families had very limited landholding, not adequate to generate income for all members of the family, especially if there were 3 or more men folk dependant on income from their fields. There were also many that did not have any land of their own.

This stark reality spurred us on to conceive of and evolve a self employment project through which we extend interest free financial support in rural as well as urban centres to those who wish to be self employed in vocations of their choice. The maximum amount that we extend as support to any beneficiary is Rs.300,000/= that has to be repaid back in 40 equated monthly instalments of Rs.7,500/=.

Our guiding principles whilst conceiving this project were the words of Jeffrey Sachs, American economist and director of the Earth Institute at Columbia University - "The key to ending extreme poverty is to enable the poorest of the poor to get their foot on the ladder of development".

During 2011, 40 Zoroastrians located at 11 different locations all over India were extended interest free financial support to start their own businesses in diverse disciplines such as setting up graphic design studio, manufacturing soft drink powder concentrate, manufacturing school uniforms, setting up a travel agency office, workshop for repairs to mixers, grinders cookers, a service station for trucks, a railway tickets collection centre, auto-rickshaws, taxis and tempos for commercial use and so on.

Over a period of 17 years (1995 to 2012) we have assisted 827 Zoroastrians by way of interest free loans spread over 105 locations in their endeavour to be self employed. Total amount expended has been Rs.129,057,543/=. (\$2,481,875; £1,500,669).



A Pepsi Distribution Agency setup with the support of WZO Trust Funds



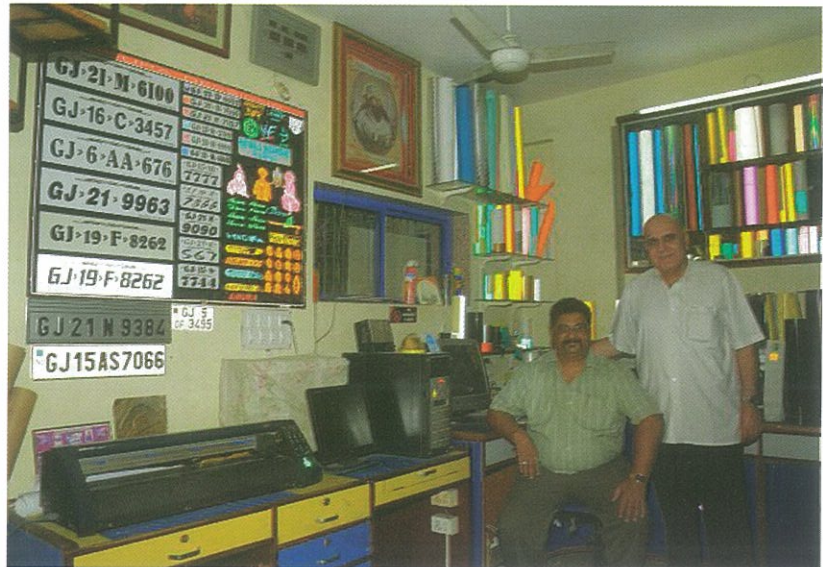
Autorickshaw supplied to a beneficiary towards his self-employment.

An Overview of Welfare Activities - 2012



A Photo Studio setup for a Zoroastrian Youth

Graphic Showroom established with support of WZO Trust Funds



Roadside Tea Stall setup for a poor Zoroastrian in small town.

An Overview of Welfare Activities - 2012



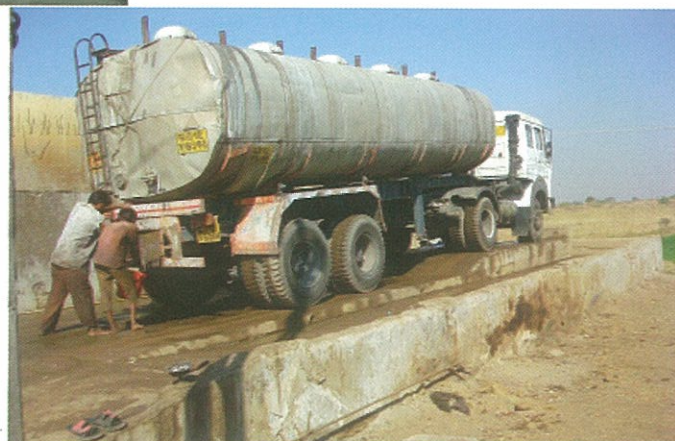
A Poultry Farm established with support of WZO Trust

A Dairy Farm established with support of WZO Trust

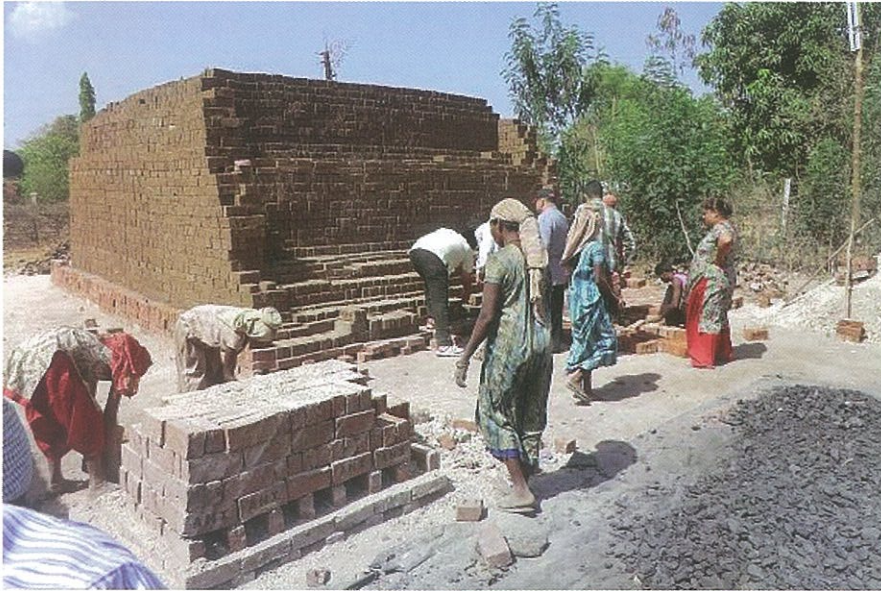


Mobile Phones showroom established with support of WZO Trust

A tanker service station established for a beneficiary.



An Overview of Welfare Activities - 2012



View of three different Brick Kilns setup by WZO Trust

