CHAPTER - III
SHREE GAJANAN MAHARAJ SANSTHAN,
SHEGAON AND ITS OBJECTIVES

3.1 INTRODUCTION

Shegaon is located in 20°45' north latitude and 76°40’ east longitude, Shegaon is a municipal town in Khamgaon tahsil. Situated at an altitude of 274 meters it receives an average annual rainfall of 789 millimeters. Shegaon is a railway station on the Mumbai- Nagpur route of the Central Railway, 547 kilometers from Mumbai and 291 kilometers from Nagpur. The town was of little importance prior to the opening of the railway in 1863, but it made rapid progress with the dawn of the present century. As per the Census of 1971, it has a total population of 25,993. The town is very famous for the Samadhi of Shri Gajanan Maharaj. It attracts a large number of pilgrims from all over Viderbha region as also from distant parts of Western Maharashtra and Marathwada. It is also an important centre of trade in cotton with number of ginning and pressing factories. Besides, there are a Roman Catholic Chapel, two mosques and a few temples. The office of the Christian and Missionary Alliance of U.S.A. is also located in the town. Educational facilities to the town population are provided by seven primary schools, two middle schools and two High schools. There is also one Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya. G.B. Morarka College of Arts and Commerce and Shri Gajanan Maharaj College of Engineering cater the need of higher education. Two hospitals including the Municipal Hospital and Sai Baba Mote Women’s Hospital and twelve dispensaries provide medical facilities to the town populace. Besides, there is a veterinary dispensary also.

Municipality: The Shegaon municipality was established in 1881. It covers an area of 5.83 square kilometers. In 1970-71, the total length of roads in the town was 20 kilometers of which a length of 4 Km. was asphalted, one Km. was metal led and the remaining length of 15 Km. was unmetalled. The town has two theaters and one public library. Shegaon is a “B” Class Railway station, All Railways except some superfast long destination Railways stop at this station. It is also connected by road. It is connected by interstate road transport buses from Gujarat and Madyapradesh. The
main temple is about 1km from Railway station. Free transportation is made available by the Sansthan for pilgrims.

### 3.2 SAMADHI OF SHREE GAJANAN MAHARAJ

The temple dedicated to Gajanan Maharaj is the principal object of interest in Shegaon which attracts lakhs of pilgrims from not only Viderbha region but also from the distant parts of Western Maharashatra and Marthwada. Allegorically Shegaon can be described as Pandharpur of Vidarbha. Thousands of devotees pay their respects to the Samadhi on every Thursday which is regarded as a special day for veneration to the Maharaj. It is on every Thursday that the palkhi of Shri Gajanan Maharaj is taken round in procession. A large class of devotees believes in and narrates the miracles performed by and the spiritual powers of the Maharaj which they say to have experienced themselves. Many of them also believe that veneration to the god and vows are rewarded in the form of fulfillment of desires.

The origin of Shri Gajanan Maharaj is rather obscure though not legendary. He appeared at Shegaon on February 23, 1878. Of whom and when he was born and his family history is not known and as per the information given by the local residents no one has heard him speaking about his own self. When he appeared at Shegaon the local population saw in him qualities of a saint or a prophet. Since no one has seen or heard as to the place from where Maharaj came at Shegaon and since no one did have any talk with him about his origin, his appearing at Shegaon was considered by many as a miracle. According to some sources Shri Gajanan Maharaj must have been either descendent of the Peshwa Nanasaheb who led the war of Independence of 1857 and was living in obscurity after his defeat at the hands of the British or of those patriots who fought in battle along with the Peshwa and who were putting up at Pipperkheda in Viderbha at the foot of the Satpuda range. Many people support this conjecture in view of the fact that he was not only present in public meeting held at Akola in 1907 but was sitting on dias by the side of Lokmanya Tilak who addressed the same. After hearing about the life imprisonment of Lokmanya Tilak, the Maharaj blessed the great patriot of India, and prophesied that the cause for which Tilak was fighting would meet success. He is also believed to have informed the Late Dadasaheb Khaparde that his imprisonment would bring some good to the country. Many miracles are attributed to Shri Gajanan Maharaj such as curing a leper by the mere touch of hands,
commanding the train to a halt, etc., which are described in pothi known as ‘Gajanan Vijay’. Shri Gajanan Maharaj breathed his last on September 8, 1910 which was fasting day for women known as Rishi Panchami.

The temple dedicated to the Maharaj is to the east of the town and occupies about a hectare of land, and faces north. The gateway of the temple court-yard is magnificent and imposing. There is another gateway on the western side of the court-yard. There are many rooms along side of the court-yard in back side which are meant for pilgrims coming from distant places.

The main shrine of Shri Gajanan Maharaj has a sabhamandap supported by three rows of nine pillars each on both sides. The entire sabhamandap is covered with marble tiles. The gallery over-hanging the sabhamandap is adorned with at images of Dwarapals, viz., Jay and Vijay, besides those of Devi and Ganpati. The inner shrine contains the Padukas Shrine on the marble platform are the idols of Rama, Laxman and Sita, besides the paduka and the two facial plaque of the Maharaj. These facial plaque and padukas are kept in palkhi at the time of Pandharpur, Alandi and Paithan wari.

The Samadhi mandir of Shri Gajanan Maharaj is constructed very beautifully and has got different images of various Gods, Goddesses, Sadhu, Rishi’s, Gandharva-Kinnaras. Besides is the golden ‘Garud Dhwaj’ which shows spiritual height of the Sansthan.

Exactly below the inner shrine containing the images of Rama, Laxman and Sita is a cellar which can be reached descending down about 16 steps is the Samadhi of Shri Gjanan Maharaj. The cellar has three ways one from the center usually used for going down from darshan bari and the other two on both the sides from climbing up. The SGMSS has also provided the facility of ‘mukh darshan’ for those pilgrims who do not have time for having darshan in the darshan bari.

In front of the inner shrine there is an idol of Hanuman under a canopy. The temple has a pinnacle which could be seen from a distance. In the court-yard are the samadhis of Balabhaev Maharaj and Narayan Maharaj who rendered personal services to Shri Gajanan Maharaj. Towards the left of the main shrine in the court-yard is a double storied structure with 45 rooms.

Behind Samadhi mandir to the south is the ‘Samadhi Sthal’ of Shri Gajanan Maharaj. The Samadhi Gruha is constructed with attractive marble structure. Behind Samadhi are the idols in black stone of Shri Vithal and Rukhmai. The ‘dhuni’ (fire)
generated by Shri Gajanan Maharaj is still burning. There are ‘Chimtas’ used by the Maharaj besides the dhuni. Besides Samadhi sthal is the shayangar bed room, it is the place where the Maharaj is to rest. There is bed which was in his daily use. On bed there are padukas and a big portrait of the Maharaj. In front of it is a big parayan hall where devotees can sit and read the pothi, meditate, and do their Jap, etc.

The arch above the west entrance displays beautifully carved creeper designs. By the side of the road to main entrance, i.e., north entrance, are few newly constructed buildings which house the ayurvedic, homoeopathic and allopathic dispensaries conducted by the temple authorities. About 300 patients are treated daily at the ayurvedic and homoeopathic dispensaries. The allopathic dispensary is quite well-equipped with necessary amenities. The temple authorities serve daily Prasad to all devotees attending the temple at lunch time. The Prasad contains of Chapati, vegetable, rice and Dal along with a sweet or laddu. Earlier the temple authorities used to give in Prasad jowar bread which was a favorite dish of Shri Gajanan Maharaj along with some vegetable.

Shree Gajanan Maharaj Sansthan, Shegaon was proposed to be registered in the presence of Shree Gajanan Maharaj in a meeting held at the adat shop of late Shree Narayan Kadtaji Patil in the presence of businessman, devotees, and villagers on 12th September 1908. Further various meetings were held and some important rules were framed like – to have darshan from long distance, not to touch the feet or body, not to touch money offered in front of Shree Maharaj, not to stay in The Math of Shree Maharaj for more than 5 days. Etc.

Shree Gajanan Maharaj Sansthan, Shegaon was previously registered under Madhya Pradesh Public Trust Act. Under C.P. Berar Administration. After passing of Bombay Public Trust Act of 1950, it was registered under BPT Act again on 15th June 1960. At that time the total Income of the Sansthan was Rs.71, 996.23.

Shree Gajanan Maharaj Sansthan, Shegaon seems to be the only trust in which all the decisions are taken unanimously since last 100 years or so.

The details of trustee President since its formation were as follows:

1) Shree Harikukaji Ganesh Patil – Period 1909 to 1930.
2) Shree Sukhddevlalji Ramdevji Modi – 1930 to 1940.
3) Shree Gajulalji RAmdevji Modi – 1940 to 1953.
7) Shree Indermalji Puranmalji Murarka – 24th January 2000 till this date.

The managing trustees and their period of functioning were as follows since 1909:
1) Shree Maruti Chandrabhan Ganesh Patil - 1909 to 1913.
2) Shree Ramchandra Krushnaji Ganesh Patil – 1913 to 1948.
8) Shree Shivshankar Sukdev Ganesh Patil – 1981 till this date.

Note: - Shree Shivshankar Sukdev Ganesh Patil was having charge of both President and managing trustee of the Sansthan from 1981 till 22nd June 1990.

The present board of trustees is:-

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<th>SR. NO.</th>
<th>NAME OF THE TRUSTEE</th>
<th>DATE OF APPOINTMENT AS MEMBER</th>
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<tr>
<td>1)</td>
<td>Shree Shivshankar Sukdev Ganesh Patil</td>
<td>31/08/1962</td>
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<td>2)</td>
<td>Shree Indermalji Puranmalji Murarka</td>
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<td>4)</td>
<td>Shree Mahadev Pundalik Ganesh Patil</td>
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<td>5)</td>
<td>Shree Kishior Trikamdas Tank</td>
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<td>Shree Govind Sukhdevrao Kalore</td>
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<td>7)</td>
<td>Dr.Shree Rameshchandra Champalal Dangara</td>
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<td>12)</td>
<td>Shree Vishveshvar Shaligram Trikal</td>
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Shree Gajanan Maharaj Sansthan, Shegaon has grown like a banyan tree since last 100 years. It is functioning in various fields of public interest and public utility. It is performing public education, jeevseva, health service, educational service, services to saints, services to pilgrims, etc under the blessings of Shree Gajanan Maharaj.
As reported by Mr. Vikram Pandit, C.E.O. City Bank, U.S.A. “The work of SGMSS should come in limelight. Such type of Sansthan is rarely found anywhere in the world doing social work from voluntary donations. The real example where the donors should donate is Gajanan Maharaj Sansthan. The social work which Sansthan is doing saving every paisa is worth inspiration to others.”

3.3 SPIRITUAL WORK OF SHREE GAJANAN MAHARAJ SANSTHAN

Since Shree Gajanan Maharaj was spiritual saint The Sansthan has selected Spiritual work as one of the Service sectors. With the intention to create the devotees immersed in spiritual devotion and to inculcate the paramount philosophy of saints in the life of the students and elevate their spiritual life level Shree Gajanan Maharaj Sansthan, Shegaon is striving hard.

The Sansthan wishes that they should understand spiritual principals and to have the study of religious books. With this basic attitude regular pravachanas, kirtanas and Adhyatmic Camps are organised to have spiritual environment in the campus; various regular activities from 5.00 a.m. to 9.30 p.m. beginning with “Kakad arti” to “Shejarti” are performed respectively.

Pragat din of Shree Gajanan Maharaj is celebrated on Magh Vadya Saptami. Ram Navami is celebrated on Chaitra shudh Navami and Samadhi din is celebrated on Bhadrapad shudh panchami are the main Utsavas of the Sansthan. During these Utsavas the yatras are organised. The devotees from various corners of Maharashtra Specially from rural areas come with active participation in bhajani dindis. During Utsav the grand procession of Shree Gajanan Maharaj along with elephant, horses, rath, mena, palkhi, dindi is taken out for nagar parikrama. During yatra utsav free material is given to bhajani dindi after fulfilling certain conditions. This material includes one mridinga, one vina and ten tal jodes along with a copy of “Shree Dnyaneshwari”, “Shree Tukaram Maharaj Abhang Gatha” and “Shree Eknathi Bhagwat”. Because of this activity in various villages there are regular activities like bhajans, haripath, kirtan, etc. religious activities in the remote villages. Through this Shree Gajanan Maharaj Sansthan is performing spiritual activity and spreading and protecting Dharma, Sanskruti and Adhyatma. So far the material is distributed to 7732 Bhajani Dindis.
“Shree Gajanan Vijay” authored by Shree Dasganu Maharaj is accepted authentic granth of the Sansthan by the devotees. So far 39 editions of this granth have been published in Marathi. Up to this edition total number of copies published is 12,07,000. This granth is also been transmitted in Hindi, English, Guajarati, Kannada and Telugu. The devotees who have read this granth with devotion have experienced spiritual experiences.

With the intention to have tirth yatras to devotees, the Sansthan has started a by walk wari to kshetra Pandharpur and to take palkhi dindi in motor to alandi. Apart from this a regular wari of Sansthan goes to Trimbakeshwar, Paithan and Muktabai. During aashadhi wari to Pandharpur about 500 to 600 warkaries accompany the dindi. Because of dindi people make to understand the principals of Dnyan, Vivek, Vairagya and Bhakti that creates a spiritual thinking and their devotion to Dharma is enhanced. This helps in creating the impact of spirituality on the public life. The 63 feet high silver dhvaj Stambh in the Mandir Campus shows the spirituality of the Sansthan.

For the benefit of devotees there are total 42 vibhags which include Abhishek and dengi, Annadan, Bhojan Kaksha, Suraksha, Money order, Postage, Construction, Water supply, cleanliness, Sevarth Shoe stand, Parking, and Transportation. There are five luxury buses to take pilgrims from station to mandir, mandir to railway station, ST stand and Anandsagar free of cost for day and night.

3.4 THE WORK OF SANSTHAN IN MEDICAL SECTOR

Keeping in view the bodh Vachan of Swami Vivekananda “Shiv bhave jeev seva” the Sansthan has planned policy to serve the patients. Under this service indoor hospital and medical services to the patients is one of the important objectives before the Sansthan. For this Sansthan are having all the three types of Ayurvedic, Homeopathic and Allopathic medical stores. There are three vibhags namely Handicap unit, Physiotherapy unit and Pathology. The Sansthan is serving the patients by charging them very low registration fees. The Sansthan is providing the service of diagnosing poor patients, medicines and injections by appointing expert doctors.

3.4.1 Ayurvedic Vibhag

Ayurved is very old medical treatment Indian therapy. This vibhag is started with the intention of providing ayurveded medical facility to the aspirant patients. The
Sansthan’s started this vibhag in 1963. Up to March 2007, 16,51,346 patients have taken benefit of Ayurvedic treatment.

3.4.2 Homeopathic Vibhag

This vibhag was started by Sansthan in 1973 and up to March 2007, 32,25,830 patients have taken benefit of the treatment.

3.4.3 Allopathic Vibhag

This vibhag was started by the Sansthan in the year 1974. Through the allopathic hospital of the Sansthan 6470762 patients have taken benefit up to March 2007. 27 specialist doctors from other cities provide their free services to the Sansthan’s allopathic hospitals. The Sansthan has started a separate pathology vibhag for the service of the patients where blood, urine and spit is examined free of cost. The other departments are saline department, injection department, bandage department and physiotherapy department.

3.4.4 Apanga Punarvasan Kendra

The Sansthan has started Apanga Punarvasan Kendra in the mandir campus. Under this service one camp for the handicapped was organised in collaboration with Akhil Bhartiya Chikitsa Ani Punarvasan sanstha Mumbai. In this camp 2584 patients were examined of which 80 handicapped patients were operated at Mumbai and 86 patients were operated in Shegaon. And 400 were operated in Udaypur. 300 handicapped were provided with tricycle, wheel chair, crèches, and calipers. 200 handicapped were provided with artificial organs. All the expenditure of this camp was borne by the Sansthan. Under this service the Sansthan has established a modern up-to-date handicapped unit where Jaipur foot and artificial organs of different size are manufactured and distributed. For this service the government of Maharashtra has honored the Sansthan with memento.

3.4.5 Netra Shastrakiya Shibir

Since 1975 the Sansthan is organizing Netra Shastrakiya Shibir on large scale so far 13327 patients have taken benefit of it and have gained the eyesight. The Sansthan makes free arrangement of the patients for lodging, tea, breakfast, and meals. The Sansthan also distributes free optics to these patients. For this unique work
of Sansthan in “Rashtriya Andhatva Nivaran Karya” it was honored by the government with certificate for the year 1982-83 and 1983-84.

3.4.6 Mobile Hospital

From the Vijayadashmi of 1982 the Sansthan has started Mobile Allopathic Hospital. This Mobil hospital is functioning in Shree Kshtra Nagzari, Lohara, Kalkhed, Kalamba, Chincholi, Janori, Vazegaon, Hatagavhan (Varud) etc. For this service Sansthan has appointed 8 Mansevi’s. Similarly the Sansthan has undertaken the satpuda project with the intention to make available free medical aid to Adivasi brothers. Under this scheme Sansthan has started two mobile hospitals for the service of Adivasi’s.

3.4.7 Vaidyakiya Madat Kendra

This is a special remarkable service provided by the Sansthan because under this service the Sansthan has provided financial help to economically weaker person to have the treatment of some serious diseases after confirming the reality. During natural calamities like earthquake, flood, Sansthan rushes for help and provides first aid and also food, clothing’s, medicines, and financial help. Under such condition the feeling that, “there is no one then god” becomes prominent. Under such circumstances the dutiful devotees rush there to help the people.

The Sansthan has always tried to provide medical services at Yatra’s And Utsav’s under mobile hospital service. For example during Kumbha mela’s And Yatra utsav Sansthan has made available medical service at Nashik, Trimbakeshvar, and Onkareshvar.

The Sansthan has also made available first aid medical service to the pilgrims when they are in the que for darshan.

3.5 Mahaprasad Vibhag

According to the teachings of Shree Gajanan Maharaj “Annen bramheti” the Sansthan has made the arrangement of Mahaprasand for devotees. There is continuous flow of devotees for Mahaprasad. Every day after aarti between 11.30am to 1.00pm free Mahaprasad is served free of cost to the devotees. There is arrangement to serve nearly 5000 devotees in rotation. Daily on an average 20000 devotees take the benefit.
of Mahaprasad. At various places In Sansthan daily food is cooked for about 45000 devotees. Daily In Mahaprasad Rise, vegetable, chapati, and one sweet are served.

During Pragat Din Utsav, Shree Ram navmi, and Rishipanchami (Samadhi din) a special arrangement is made by this vibhag for the devotees coming for this special occasion. During every utsav generally 75000 to 150000 devotees take the benefit of Mahaprasad. All this Mahaprasad is cooked by the sevadharies with sense of service and enthusiasm in silent atmosphere just in 12 hours.

3.6 Sevadhari Vibhag

The sense of service sprouts out of devotion and shrudha. To honor the sense of service of such devotees the Sansthan has created this Sevadhari vibhag. When we see these sevak devotees we can see that how this selfless devotion helps the devotees to develop the man, budhi, and chitta. This class of sevadharies is included in the service cause of Sansthan due to perfect devotion on Shree Gajanan Maharaj.

At the time of main utsav and yatra lakhs of devotees come together at Shegaon. It is very large task to make arrangements for their meals. On such occasions around 1600 devotee volunteers from Belkhed (Kamtha), Kinhisavdad, Esoli, Channi, Shirla, Pivandal, Vazar, Shirala, Vairagad, Belkhed (Telhara), Nandura, Matergaon, Pimprikorde, Raher, Narkhed, Degaon, Kasura, Dhotranike, Dahigoan, Manjari, Talegoan (Davla), Vihigoan, Mahalungi, Aadgoan, Kinhinaik, Taligoan bazaar, Pala, Aatali, Ambetakli, Pathardi, Undri, Talegoan, Kotha, Kholkhed, Toranwada, Dhorapgoan, Wadegoan, Wankhed, Akolkhed, Nimbi, Malegoan, Dhanori, Pimpalkhed, Mundagoan, Raikhed, Hingani, Gadegoan, Aakolijahagir, Dahigoan matoda, Nimgoan, Jawala, Gordha, Changalwadi, Kherdagosavi, Kajikhed, Mangoanbhakre, Roundala, Dongargoan, Kavla, Takarkhed, and Aasvand these 64 villages come and serve their services. These devotees cook the chapati’s of 5 to 300 quintal, preparing laddu’s of 3 to 30 quintals in 24 hours with lot of devotion and sense of service. Apart from this, around 5000 devotee sevak’s have applied for service. The Sansthan invites them by letter. After receiving letter these sevak’s report on stipulated day and after program is over they go home with coconut Prasad of Shree Gajanan Maharaj. Their seva cannot be expressed in words.
3.7 Work of Sansthan in Educational field

Along with spiritual and medical field, the Sansthan has done remarkable work in the field of education, with the intention to create a class of educated and well cultured youth generation, by providing free and quality education.

3.7.1 Niwasi Matimanda Vidyalaya

The most deprived classes of the society are Matimanda and adivasi children. The Sansthan is functioning in this field through a separately constituted committee which is totally finance by the Sansthan. From this institute total 120 matimanda students are taking education through hostel. Total 27 trained teaching and non teaching staff are providing this service. This education is conducted under service work. All the expenditure on clothing, meals, and medical aid to these students is made by the Sansthan. This vidyalaya is functioning since 1988. In this vidyalaya the matimanda children from rural areas as well as from outside Maharashtra come and take education. Along with education the children are given training of Painting, Music, Singing, Creation of greeting cards, manufacturing different articles from jute, wax candles, door mats, asans, etc. to make them self reliant.

3.7.2 Adivasi Aashram Shala

The Sansthan has created a hearty relationship with uneducated, orphan, adivasi’s residing in the remote places of Satpuda Mountains belonging to Gond, Kourku, and bhill cast. Under this adivasi project the efforts are made to educate the small children from adivasi community to develop in them the sense of humanity and a sense of belonging for the nation and the society. The Sansthan is creating a good and efficient citizen of India by providing them all the necessities of life like food, shelter, water and education. In those remote places even today the basic ammonites like electricity, road, and water are not available. From small places like Ambabara, Chunkhadi, Hadyamahal, Kalapani, etc adivasi tandas 725 boys and girls students are brought to this Aashram Shala for the classes for 1st to 10th standard. Protecting their original culture Sansthan is providing them education. These students are very adaptive. They were not able to even speak, now conduct a cultural program of 3 hours. The students learning in this Aashram shala are well cultured and disciplined.
For this service cause Sansthan has appointed very devotional serviceman. The Sansthan bears total expenditure of lodging, boarding, and education of these students. Along with education are also taught the other skills of life such as yoga, music, manufacture of artistic articles, tailoring, book binding, manufacture of notebooks, chalks, bed sheets, etc. spinning on char kha, weaving on handloom, stitching, which makes them self reliant and the object of the Sansthan to make them self employed is fulfilled.

This institution of Sansthan is number one in this region. For this institution, a project of an independent building and hostel is almost completed. A huge complex besides the tank is under construction to accommodate maximum number of students from adiwasi area.

In 2004 this adiwasi ashram shala was awarded by Honorable Governor of Maharashtra with puraskar.

3.7.3 WARKARI SHIKSHAN SANSTHA

Saint Shree Gajanan Maharaj is siddhapurush in adhyatma. Because of his spiritual work, Shegaon has become famous all over the world. It is also known as Pandharpur of Vidarbha. Shree Gajanan Maharaj Sansthan has taken up adhyayanmic area as its main area of concern. According to the teaching of Saint Shree Gajanan Maharaj the Sansthan has supported sanatan, value based and all inclusive warkari sampraday. In 1964 warkari shikshan sanstha was established. This sanstha was inaugurated with the auspicious hands of late Shree Mamasheb Dandekar. The students in this Sanstha study with devotion Sreemad Bhagvat Geeta, Shree Dyaneshwari, SreemadBhagvat , and Saintgatha. Along with this they are given the knowledge of Bhajan, Sangit, Pakhvas vadan and Sanskrit. To make them understand various religious granthas, philosophy, puran, ved, dharma, the kirtans, the pravachans and lectures of renowned personalities from adhyatmic kshetra are regularly organised. This course is of 4 years and during this tenure all the arrangements of lodging, barding, clothing, study books is made by Sansthan free of cost. After completing this course to make students self reliant and self sufficient, they are also given the training of handicrafts, tailoring, and cottage industries, etc. Therefore after completing this course in the Sanstha he can earn his livelihood and
become self reliant. At present under this service project 100 students are taking benefit.

### 3.7.4 OTHER EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

SGMSS has started ‘Dnyanpeeth’ an English Medium School for enabling the students in the rural areas to compete with the students in urban areas through ‘Shri Gajanan Shikshan Sanstha’ sponsored by the SGMSS. The facility of bus transport has also been provided for the students of this school. With the blessings of Shri Gajanan Maharaj, under educational activities of the SGMSS, in 1983, Saint Gajanan Maharaj Abhiyantriki Mahavidyalaya were started under SGMSS sponsored Shri Gajanan Shikshan Sanstha. It is housed in the area of more than 72 acres. This college has a huge building, seven hostels for students, a modern well equipped library and gymnasiam. In this college the higher education is provided in computer, electrical engineering, nano technology, information technology, M.B.A., M.C.A., M.E.(Electricals) and M.E.(Electronics). All these courses are affiliated Sant Gadge Maharaj Amravati University and approved by the AICTE, New Delhi. This college is one of the colleges selected under ‘Net Working institution’ of the Government of India. It is also an ISO 9001:2000 certified institution. This college is awarded Grade ‘A’ by the Director of Technical Education Government of Maharashtra. The college is heading towards autonomy.

The college has following departments:

i) Electronics and Telecommunication;

ii) Electrical (Electronics and Power);

iii) Computer Science;

iv) Mechanical;

v) General Engineering;

vi) Building and Construction;

vii) Business Administration and Research.

In the library of the college there are more than 65000 books, more than 25000 reference material and more than 1000 CD’s and VCD’s. College also provides several journals and periodicals to the students. Some spiritual and religious books are also available in the library. There is a giant reading room in the library accommodating 500 students at a time. The library is connected to Data Net, Del Net,
American Society of Mechanical Engineers, National Geographic Society, Bombay Natural History Society, Computer Society of India, Kolkata Mathematical Society, Indian Academy of Science, Institute of Electronics and Telecommunication Engineers, IEEE data base, IIT, Mumbai and British Library, Pune.

The college has big campus with the facility of Parking, Canteen, Automatic Electrical system, Bank Counter with ATM facility, Guest House, Auditorium, STD and Xerox facility, Staff Quarters, Hospital, Nursery and plantation unit.

The students from these educational institutions have proved their capabilities through merit in this region.

3.8 ACTIVITIES FOR PILGRIMS

3.8.1 Bhakta Niwas Arrangements

Thousands of pilgrims all over the country visit this place daily. For making them available accommodation the Sansthan has constructed 6 Bhakta Niwas. These include 2 bhakta niwas in mandir area and 4 in bhakta niwas sankul. At present 700 simple, double bed, deluxe, and attached rooms with necessary facilities are made available by Sansthan.

Bhakta Niwas 1: In the campus of the mandir there is Bhakta Niwas 1, there are 96 rooms. This was constructed in the memory of Shri Balabhau Maharaj.

Bhakta Niwas 2: In this Bhakta Niwas there are 65 rooms.

Bhakta Niwas 3: Bhakta Niwas 3 was constructed in the memory of Shri Bhaskar Maharaj. It is located on left hand of main entrance. 175 rooms are made available to the pilgrims in this Bhakta Niwas.

Bhakta Niwas 4: 80 rooms are made available in it to the pilgrims.

Bhakta Niwas 5: It is constructed in the memory of Shri Pundlic Maharaj Bhokre a disciple of Shri Gajanan Maharaj. There are 94 rooms; some of them are Air conditioned with the facility of Lift. There is also facility of breakfast and meals between 10-30 AM to 2.30PM in the morning and between 7.00to 9.00 PM in the evening.

Bhakta Niwas 6: This is constructed in the memory of Shri Govindbua Takalikar. There are 68 rooms in this building. On the ground floor arrangement is made for
dinning. Dining hall can accommodate 250 people at a time. The timings of the dining hall are from 11.00 AM to 01.00 PM in the morning and 7.00 to 9.00 PM in the evening.

To make sufficient boarding facilities available for the pilgrims Sansthan has a unique system. There is no reservation system. The room is made available on “first come first serve” basis.

For three or more persons from the same family room is made available as per the rules. During the period of rush an alternative arrangement is made in the hall of 5000 beds for the devotees. The Sansthan has proposed to construct a huge residential complex “Aanand Vihar”. In the first phase 900 rooms with all amenities will be made available to the pilgrims as per the rules of bhakta niwas.

### 3.8.2 BOARDING ARRANGEMENTS

Thousands of pilgrims come for darshan of Shree Gajanana Maharaj. Apart from Mahaprasad the Sansthan has made arrangements for meals of 6000 devotees as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1) Bhaktaniwas no.1</td>
<td>7.00pm to 9.00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2) Bhaktaniwas no.6</td>
<td>10.30am to 12.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7.00pm to 9.00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3) Aanad sagar Bhojan kaksha no.1</td>
<td>11.00am to 2.00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6.00pm to 8.00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4) Aanad sagar bhojan kaksha no.2</td>
<td>10.00am to 2.30pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The meals and snacks are provided at economic rate to the pilgrims at these places.

### 3.8 DARSHANBARI AND MAHAPRASAD MANDAP

The Sansthan has constructed a two floor building adjacent to the main area of 300x60 feet. In which for the first floor the arrangement is made for Mahaprasad and on second floor the sitting arrangement is made for those who are in darshan bari. Because of this the devotees can have darshan and Mahaprasad during summer and rainy season without much difficulty. Here is the arrangement for 5000 devotees to sit and take Mahaprasad. About 10000 pilgrims can take Mahaprasad within a time of one and half hour.
3.9 LIBRARY AND READING ROOM

Sansthan has started library and reading room in 1975. In the library there are about 6500 dharmic granthas, Historical books and literature for children. Apart from this around 25 newspapers in Marathi, Hindi, English and Urdu are available.

3.10 CLOAK ROOM/LOCKERS

For those pilgrims who come for darshan for a very short period of time for their convenience cloak room and lockers are made available at 4/5 places in the campus. For this service a deposit of Rs.15 is taken which is refunded at the time of leaving. A nominal charge is taken for this service.

3.11 WATER SUPPLY SCHEME

At the base of a tank Sansthan has taken a farm of fifteen acres in which a well of 40 feet diameter has been built up. Sansthan has its own water works. From this place water is supplied to all the places of Sansthan, for this two storage water tanks of 5,00,000 liters are constructed. Keeping in view the requirement of 1 crore liters of water per day in future, Sansthan has built a big well on the Maan river near Nagzari and a pipe line of 350mm, has been laid for a distance of 9KM. 180HP pump has been installed to pump the water and store in the tank. The scheme is implemented.

3.12 CULTURAL CENTRE

The work of Sanskritik Kendra has been started in the lower areas of the tank with a view to have “Adhyatmic Sadhana” in this cultural centre reasonable facilities will be made available for the devotees. Some of the plans in this project have already been completed and some will be completed within a short span.

A. Sadhu Niwas: This building has been completed and invited sadhus will be allowed to stay in these building.

B. Pravachan Hall: This project is in the verge of completion. In this a well equipped hall of 300 seating capacity is under construction.

C. Library: For spiritual development of devotees a modern and unique library for reading and meditation is to be build. This work has already started.
D. Art Gallery: To protect the heritage of Indian art and culture the Sansthan proposes to construct an art gallery. This project is of 20000 Sq. Ft. The work of art gallery has begun.

E. Sadhak Niwas: For those devotees who want to have Adhyatmic Sadhana, for them residential accommodation will be provided in Sadhak Niwas. Such devotees can take the benefit as per the rules of the Sansthan for their sadhana.

F. Nisargopachar Kendra and Health Club: The Sansthan proposes to construct a well equipped modern nisargopachar Kendra for 100 patients to treat them with nisrgopachar.

3.13 HOSPITAL AND MEDICAL COLLEGE

Near Gajanan vatika on khamgaon road Sansthan has its own farm of 14 acres. Sansthan has purchased 49 acres of land adjacent to it. Thus total 63 acres of land is proposed for hospital and medical college.

3.14 ANAND SAGAR

The government of Maharashtra has made available tank and 300 acres of land on Shegaon balapur road to the Sansthan. Adjacent to this land Sansthan has its own 50 acres of land. The Sansthan has a plan to have religious, adhyatmic, social and educational projects. However, following objects will be kept in view:

- Water supply
- Production of natural and physical resources
- Co-ordination of dharma and vidnyan
- A place for concentration of mind
- To strengthen national integration
- Enhancement of adhyatma and sanskriti
- Worldwide humanity
- Enhancement of sarvadharma sambhav
- Enhancement of Religious and Ethical Values
Under this project various schemes are in progress:
1. Swami Vivekanand Dhyan Kendra: This project makes devotees memorize the Swami Vivekanand Kendra at Kanyakumari. In the centre of the tank an Iceland 300ft long 60ft broad and 40ft high has been crated on which a big hall of 60x40ft has been constructed at this Dhyan Kendra a 30 to 35ft high artistic umbrella in sand stone has been constructed and in that the statue of Swami Vivekanand has been established. To go on this Iceland and take the darshan of Swami Vivekanand and also to have a look at eye pleasing view and get peace of mind the arrangement has been made for boating. All the necessary ghats, roads, umbrellas and lighting are completed.
2. Sant Mandap: In semi-circular mandap the statues of 18 saints from different states have been established. In the centre of this semicircle the statue of Shree Saint Gajanan Maharaj has been placed. In this musical fountains shows are organised.
3. Temples: In Anand Sagar area well crafted marble temples of Shree Ganesh, Shree Shiv and Navagrah hav been constructed.
4. Tree Plantation: In the dry and bare land of Anand Sagar area about 60,000 trees have been planted. This has proved to be helpful in creation of environment and a physical balance.
5. Aquarium:
6. Sounds of different birds:
7. Children’s park:
8. Indian Musical Colorful Fountain:
9. Hanging bridge and Dwarka bet:
10. Big Entrance Gate: This typical sculpture adds to the beauty of Anand Sagar. The devotees get satisfying feel after visiting this place and having look at: Matsyakanya, smooth lawn, greenery, different colored flower trees, cleanliness, discipline and all necessary aminites.
3.15 THE SACRED PLACES WHERE SHREE GAJANAN MAHARAJ VISITED

3.15.1 Prakatsthal: The place where Shree Gajanan Maharaj was first seen on 23rd February 1878 was the place of mote haveli. This place was merged into Sansthan by Shree Mote. A beautiful marble umbrella has been erected and this place is known as pragatsthal. This is used as public utility place and mangal karyalay.

3.15.2 Bankat Sadan: the beloved devotee of Shree Gajanan Maharaj late Bankatlal to whom Shree Gajanan Maharaj gave the first darshan, his grandson and trustee of the Sansthan Shree Chandulalji Agrawal has donated this place generously to the Sansthan. Shree Gajanan Maharaj stay at this place and had different avtar lilas. To maintain the sacredness of this place the Sansthan has constructed a three storied building at this place and it is named as bankat sadan. At this place the photo and paduka of Shree Gajanan Maharaj are placed on dais and daily morning and evening pooja and aarti are performed.

3.15.3 Harihar Mandir: Shree Gajanan Maharaj had stayed in the mahadev temple of Shree Mote. This place was known as Juna Math was merged into Sansthan by Shree Mote. The old shivalaya was renovated by constructing artistic marble temple and the idol of Shree Vishnu has been established. This place is known as Harihar Mandir.

3.15.4 Shitala Mata Mandir (Maruti Mandir): This is also a very old temple where Shree Gajanan Maharaj stayed for quite a long period. This shitala mata mandir trust has also merged into Shree Gajanan Maharaj Sansthan and this sacred place has been renovated with a marble temple.

3.16 AUTHORIZED BRANCHES OF THE SANSTHAN
Like main branch of the Sansthan at Shegaon, the Sansthan has decided to have the various projects at sacred places visited by Shree Gajanan Maharaj and to implement various projects at those sub branches:

3.16.A Shree Kshetra Pandharpur Branch: The first branch of Shree Gajanan Maharaj Sansthan is at Pandharpur. At this place in the area of 8.5 acres a big marble temple of Shree Gajanan Maharaj has been constructed and the pranpratishtha of the idol of Shree Gajanan Maharaj has been made. The work of 72ft high and 51ft long Mahadwar has been completed and other services started. In this
branch 4 Bhakta Niwas with 325 different types of rooms are constructed. The devotees can get these rooms as per the rules of the Sansthan. In this branch well equipped homeopathy, ayurvedic and allopathic hospital, warkari shikshan sanstha and sangeet vidyalaya and the construction of two halls for public utility is completed. Sansthan has started homeopathic medical store. Apart from this Sansthan has purchased 18 acres of land at Pandharpur.

During aashadhi and kartiki vari for 3 days Mahaprasad is distributed to approximately 3 to 4lacs devotees. The programme of free distribution of bhajani Sahitya along with Shree Dnyaneshwari, Shree Eknathi Bhagwat and Shree Tukaram Maharaj gatha has been started.

3.16.B Shri Kshtra Alandi Branch: Two acres of land is available to Sansthan at Alandi. This branch has already started functioning. At this branch there are three Bhakta Niwas with 110 attached rooms made available to devotees as per rules of the Sansthan. It is proposed to construct a marble temple of Shri Gajanan Maharaj, Mangal Karyalaya ,Sadhu Niwas ,Sevak Niwas and a beautiful garden. Some of these projects have been already been started.

3.16.C Shri Kshtra Trimbakeshwar Branch: The branch has started functioning with two Bhakta Niwas having 130 Deluxe rooms .The work of marble temple of Shri Gajanan Maharaj is completed. The Sansthan has proposed to undertake the projects of Mahadwar, Dharmashala, Adivasi Vastigrah, and Library.

3.16.D Shri Kshtra Omkareshwar Branch: Near the banks of sacred Narmada river, in the area of 4 acres, the work of marble temple of Shri Gajanan Maharaj is on the verge of completion. The work of 3 Bhakta Niwas with 52 rooms and Mahadwar is complete and is available to the devotees as per rules of the Sansthan. It is proposed to have a complex of 10 buildings consisting of Dharmashala, Vastigruha, Sadhu Niwas, Aushadhalaya etc.

3.16.E Shri Kshtra Girda Branch: The work of this branch is about to start. Sansthan proposes to undertake under mentioned projects. These projects will be implemented irrespective of caste and creed for all religions.

- Ayurvedic and Homeopathic Research Centre;
- Naturopathy Centre;
- Mobile Hospital;
- Dispensary;
• Eco-Tourism Centre;
• Open-air Theatre;
• Cottage Industry;
• Handicrafts Centre;
• Smrity kendra and Exhibition;

It is proposed to create and activate one ‘Dhyan kendra’, ‘Sadhana Kuti’, and Sadhana sthal to facilitate the devotees to have meditation and concentration of mind in the 90 acres area of Ajantha Mountain Ranges at remote and thickly forested area. Apart from this it is also proposed to create a ‘Tapaswi Niwas’ with all required infrastructure.

3.16. F Shri Kshtra Kapildhara: Shri Gajanan Maharaj had his ‘tapascharya’ for 12 years at this place. Therefore this branch is activated on 8 acres of land. It is proposed to construct a giant marble temple of Shri Gajanan Maharaj, Mahadwar, Sadhak niwas, Sevak niwas, Sadhana Mandir and Pravachan hall. This place is declared as Sadhana Sthal by SGMSS. This area is in the adivasi zone and therefore SGMSS has decided to make available Ashramshala, Hostel, Hospital, Mobile Hospital to advise community as social commitment.

3.17 SPECIAL FEATURES OF SGMSS

SGMSS is the spiritual place and ‘Dhan Sampada’, ‘Shradha’, ‘Bhakti’ and ‘Seva’ are on the top priority of SGMSS. Secondary importance is given to the money. Every pais that is received is used properly for the service of Humanity.

With the blessings of Shri Gajanan Maharaj, SGMSS is marching ahead towards self reliance. Taking into consideration this vast area of work it is necessary to be self reliant. To complete the service projects of SGMSS it is important to have proper planning and sansthan to be self reliant. The office department of SGMSS is very important and it is responsible for all cash transactions. The office is closed only after completing all daily accounting and signature of managing Trustee on it. There is modern strong room for keeping the cash in the office. The audit of SGMSS is conducted through Chartered Accountant every year. So far nothing is found objectionable in the audit report.

The meeting of the Board of Trustees is held bi-monthly. With the blessings of Shri Gajanan Maharaj, all the decisions are taken unanimously since 1908, there was not even a single decision with reservation.
The Abhishek and Donation section of SGMSS is open round the clock for 24 hours. On an average $\frac{1}{10}$ amount of donation is returned in the form of Prasad to the donors. This Prasad is in the form of Laddu, Blouse piece, Uparna, Sadi and Showl. The clothing items received in the form of donation are neither sold nor auctioned, they are given as Prasad to other devotees after offering them to the Shrine. The food grain ware house is another big department of SGMSS. The purchased food grains are also stored in these ware houses. There is modern Machinery to clean the food grains.

The electric section of SGMSS is self reliant and generator facility is made available at every place according to the requirement. There is money order and post department of the temple. On an average daily 1000 money orders are received. There is an arrangement for sending the Prasad to the devotees by registered parcel.

The construction department of SGMSS is very efficient. SGMSS has appointed 4 junior engineers and 4 assistants for this work. There are about 63 labor contractors providing their services. About 1000 laborers are providing their services on daily wages as per requirement. They all look after the construction work in progress of SGMSS. Since all the construction work is done by SGMSS departmentally, the quality work is completed in the cost which is very much less than the market cost. So far more than 55lakhs square feet construction is being completed at Shegaon and all its branches.

In the area of ‘Bhuskuti mala’, the work of body building of trucks, buses, fabrication, furniture, marble cutting, etc. are performed.

At all the service projects of SGMSS well disciplined, well behaved 2000 sevkaris and 1600 sevadhari’s are serving with devotion. They work without any negligence and any tension of work.

SGMSS has 5 luxury buses, 8 trucks, 3 Ambulances, 1 tractor, 4 cars, 1 tipper, 1 auto, 2 minidors, and 1 J.C.B. in its Garage.

In the department of SGMSS there is an arrangement for staying of Elephant, Horses, Cow’s and other animals. At present there are 2 elephants and 3 Horses with SGMSS.

For the purpose of ‘Mangal Wadan’ sansthan has got its own ‘ Vajantri Vibhag’.

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3.18 PUBLIC UTILITY SERVICE WORK OF SGMSS

1) Free hot water is provided to the devotees in the winter season.
2) Cleaning department keeps the campus clean.
3) There is free and safe parking facility available in sevarth parking department.
4) There is free shoe stand in the sevarth padtran department.
5) In the campus of the temple there are umbrella type shops of flowers, garlands, pooja sahitya and Prasad. There are also the shops of Photo frame, cutlery, utensils etc.
6) SGMSS had started its library in the year 1975. There is stock of 6500 religious books, books on literature and children,s books.25 Marathi, Hindi and Urdu daily newspapers are made available in the library.
7) Every year on the occasion of Diwali festival new clothes and sweets worth Rs.12 to 15 lakhs are distributed every year to Adivasi brothers in the areas of Omkareshwar, Tryambakehwar and Satpura by visiting those areas.
8) SGMSS makes arrangement for supply of drinking water to the people in draught prawn area. SGMSS also makes arrangement of water and cattle fodder in the draught prawn areas for cattle.
9) In the water supply area of SGMSS,a separate Nursery is established in the area of 2 acres land. This nursery provides saplings of Kadunimb, Sisam, Shiras, Pimpal, Karanj, Audumber etc. dark shadow trees. These are planted at Anand Sagar and other places. SGMSS has so far planted and survived 1lakhs of trees. SGMSS also provides free saplings to genuine Ngo’s after confirming their objectives.
10) SGMSS provides the facility of cloak room and lockers at 4-5 places at nominal charges to the devotees. Their deposit of Rs. 15 is refunded to them at the time of vacating it.
11) A fire fighting system is fitted on a tractor and fire brigade services are provided during emergency.

3.19 OBJECTIVES OF SGMSS

The objectives of SGMSS as amended up to 31st March 2008 as per Schedule I vide rule 5 are as follows:
1. (A) To maintain the Samadhi of Shri Gajanan Maharaj, temple of Shri Ram, Sita and Laxman, temples in the campus and the place of ‘gadi-sitting place of Shri Gajanan Maharaj’.

2. (B) To perform daily worship of all the deities in the temples, Samadhi and Paduka’s according to Hindu religious tents. To perform all usual of Samadhi and other religious festivals as are being performed herebefore.

3. (C) To perform the jayanti’s and punyatithi’s of famous saints like Shri Saint Dnyaneshwar Maharaj, Saint Tukaram Maharaj, Saint Eknath Maharaj, Samarth Ramdas Swami, and Saint Namdeo.

4. To make the arrangement of Bhojan Prasad for Atithi’s, students’, Sadhu’s and pilgrims.

5. To construct and maintain guest houses and Dharma Shalas at Shegaon and other religious places to enable the devotees to perform their religious worship, religious works, social functions and mangal karya’s taking in to consideration their convenience. Also to provide the facility to make the Charitra, photos of Shri Gajanan Maharaj, other literature, and other material available to the devotees.

6. To encourage Veidic Bhagvat Education.

7. To construct and run charitable Ayurvedic, Homeopathic, and Allopathic hospitals and Maternity homes for poor, orphan, physically handicapped, dump and deaf as well as people affected by natural calamities like flood, earthquake or to help if such work is being done at other place. Also to run cancer research centre, medical research centre (medical college), Bal Chikitsak kendra, or a clinic for any specific contactable disease in existence and to make arrangement for the treatment of the patients by SGMSS or otherwise. If management of draught affected, flood affected, blind, deaf is made at other places than to assist for such work to the extent it is possible.

8. To go for Wari at various Tirth kshtra’a in India either by feet or by vehicle to make religious propagation and make palkhi darshan available to the devotees. Along with Bhagwat Dharma education impart training of skills like Tailoring, Carpentry, etc. to the students to enable them to earn livelihood.

9. To start Vedic Dharma education institute at Shegaon, Shri kshtra Pandharpur and kshtra Alandi. To start annadan. To start hospital. To educate about Geeta, Narad Bhakti Sukta, religious books and other grantha’s. In order to inculcate
and have effect of Vedic dharma on common people and students make permanent arrangement for the study of *Dasbodh, Tukaram Gatha* and other prominent religious books.

10. With the prior permission of the Charity Commissioner assist the proper institutions having the above objectives to the extent it is possible.

11. After giving priority to above objectives and without obstructing them, if the funds are available assist as much as possible in case of natural calamities like Draught, Flood, Earthquake or some contactable diseases.

12. To publish the Biography, photos of Shri Gajanan Maharaj and sale and promote them on no profit no loss basis. To bring out the audio records of Bhoopali’s, Slokas and Aarti of shri Gajanan Maharaj composed by Shri Dasganu Maharaj, to produce a movie on the biography of Shri Gajanan Maharaj for the promotion of SGMSS. Apart from this, take such promotional activities that would prosper and publicize SGMSS with non profit motive, with the intention to experience of Atmasukh and their spiritual and physical prosperity.

13. Without contradicting the above objectives and trust, the trustees will have the authority to collect the donations and deposits for any religious work. However such collected donations and funds collected will be used only for the purpose for which they have been received and accordingly accounts will be maintained.

14. After attaining the above objectives and making arrangement as per this scheme, any balance from the annual income will be made for charitable objects as far as possible for Dharma nirpeksha education, medical services. To spend the amount for Anath Ashram, Medical aid and educational activities of SGMSS as well as any work of public usefulness like maintaining of environment – Social Forestry, Tree plantation program, Beautification of water reservoirs, garden and amusement park, etc.

15. To have the prachar and prasar of Dharma Nirpeksha education, establish and run residential or non residential educational institutions in India and Abroad. With this intention establish and run Balwadi, Balak Mandir, Primary school, middle school, high school, Higher secondary school, technical schools, schools giving vocational education, Industrial Training Centre, Krushi Vidyalaya, Mukbadhir Vidyalaya, Andha Vidyalaya, Apanga Vidyalaya, Matimand Mulanche va Mulinche Vidyalaya, Vridhashram, Matru Seva Sangh, Night Schools, Ashram schools for adivasi/vanwasi and special categories. Similarly
establish and run the colleges giving higher education in the faculties of Arts, Commerce, Science, Engineering, and Medical, Agricultural or any other faculty. To establish and run laboratories and research projects in the various faculties.

REFERENCE

1. Article Dainik Sakal, Dated 11-08-2009.