



Aushadh-Van: Environmental, Medical and Educational Initiatives

IN COLLABORATION WITH KASTURBA SEVASHRAM

Location: Chasvad, Gujarat

Updated: October 2022

About Kasturba Sevashram

Established in 1930, Kasturba Sevashram is one of India's oldest non-profit organisations, which focuses on activities in healthcare, education, social service and women empowerment. Their four *āshramshalas* (resident-schools) cater to children facing financial hardships by providing them with a basic education and housing facilities. Their healthcare initiatives include psychiatric hospitals, primary healthcare centres as well as de-addiction centres. Finally, they are also involved in agricultural initiatives including employment on farms and agricultural education for children.

Our involvement and initiatives

Eskay Iodine has been in association with the Kasturba Sevashram for many years and in 2021 collaborated directly with their *āshramshalas* throughout the state of Gujarat. We have been involved with a range of projects:

- 1) Creation of a 2-acre large "*Aushadh-Van*," which directly translates to "*Herbal Plant Garden*," which provides local children the opportunity to learn about *Āyurveda*, an alternative medicine practice that originated in the Indian subcontinent. In its initial phase, herbal medicinal plants of over 70 varieties were planted, and later expanded to over 100 types. *Aushadh-Van* not only serves as a means to educate children about the practice of *Āyurveda*, but also supports the attached medical center, which caters to local tribal communities. We have also helped build a meditation center in the same premises.
- 2) Plantation of over 1000 fruit bearing trees across an area of 20,000 sq. m. to feed more than 1200 students across their various *āshramshalas*.
- 3) The non-profit employs several members of the local tribes to work on the farms and at their various centres and we are actively involved in the financing and sponsorship of these employees and the activities that they conduct across the board.

Looking forward

We have involved ourselves in the great work being carried out by the Kasturba Sevashram. Having spent the initial few months understanding their needs, we have plans to further expand the scope of our work with them in the foreseeable future.

