

**LIFE WITH A MISSION**

**Biography of**

**Dr. Inderjit Kaur**

**Dr. S.S. Chhina**

*Publisher :*

**CITIZENS WELFARE TRUST**

**AMRITSAR**

**Life with a Mission  
Biography of Dr. Inderjit Kaur**

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*First Edition: March, 2015*

*Publishers:*

**Citizens Welfare Trust**

Amritsar

*Printers:*

Printwell, 146, Industrial Focal Point, Amritsar

## Dedication

Dedicated to The Late **DR. DAVINDER MEHRA** Founder and Chairman of the Citizens Welfare Trust.

A Truly Benevolent Philanthropist Who Combined His Visionary Leadership in power and Energy with His Remarkable Wisdom, Insight, and Generosity.

Dr. Davinder Mehra Stands as a Lasting Inspiration in Dignity, Grace and Noble Charity, to us All, Today and For All of Eternity.

A Man of Substance and Greatness, Dr. Mehra Whose Deep Sense of Selfless Compassion for Others and Sense of Duty and Responsibility to Make the World a Better Place, United With His Belief That All Citizens and People are Created Equal in the Eyes of God, has Bestowed Upon us, His Spirit and Timeless Vision Through The Lasting Legacy of The Citizens Welfare Trust, Which Lives on as does **DR. DAVINDER MEHRA** Who Will Live Lovingly and Forever in our Hearts.

## Message

This publication of this Author is a marvellous event that celebrates the effort of Dr. Davinder Mehra to create The Citizens Welfare Trust and bring it to Fruition, as well as a celebration of the efforts of **Dr. Sarabjit Singh Chhina** culminating in this wonderful book.

We Congratulate Dr. Chhina for this excellent work of literature.

May Your Brilliant Thoughts and Words Inspire All of us Forever.

**Ellis Kirkland**

*Vice Chairman*

*Citizens Welfare Trust*



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## **Message**

The biography of Dr. Inderjit kaur has been Very well written by Dr. S.S Chhina. In the First Chapter he had mentioned about the ancestors and childhood. In the second chapter he had mentioned about School and College education. Then she joins Govt. Service but resigned from services she was totally dedicated to Pingalwara.

Her father Dr. Harbans Singh was also very dedicated Person. When she got government job she was posted at Barnala and she served with great dedication. In those days, a person from Pingalwara used to come to my house for collecting money for Pingalwara and I use to give him some money.

One day I was traveling by third class coach to Delhi. At Ambala railway station there was a big crowd. I just entered the compartment but there was no place to sit, after some time an old man made some space for me to sit by his side, I sat there. There was a big bell tied to his neck. I ask about it he told me that it is tied to his neck because somebody will ask about it then I will tell the story, He narrated the long story about Pingalwara.

I was once carrying about 700 persons in my Jatha for arrest and we were not given any place to stay in Sangrur jail. Jail had not sufficient capacity to hold so many Persons, so we went to Gurdwara Joti Sarup Sahib. Next day Bibi Inderjit Kaur came there to take care of sick

persons. I visited Pingalwara many times. Once I found Bhagat Ji sleeping on the ashes from hearth. I asked him why he is sleeping there; He replied that it is Quite Comfortable here, I do not need anything to cover myself.

Near Sangrur also Bibi Inderjit kaur has established a Pingalwara, I visited there also twice.

I have attended some functions at Amritsar also. Pingalwara is in good hands and is progressing well.

**Surjit Singh Barnala**  
*Former, Chief Minister of Punjab  
& Governor Uttrakhand*



## **Foreword**

I have known the author of this biography Dr. Sarabjit Singh Chhina since 1982 when he used to deliver lectures to the undergraduate and postgraduate students of Agriculture Department. In him there was a hidden sincere friend that I continue to cherish till date.

Prof. Chhina was admired by his students and colleagues for his professional and human qualities. The quality of research work done by him and got done by his students was always acclaimed and recognised by researchers and academia.

Prof. Chhina had number of research assignments from Indian Council of Social Sciences Research (ICSSR). He had lot of interaction with eminent scholars during his attending of National and International Conferences, seminars and workshops organised by Unesco Clubs and State Governments.

Having been an avid reader, with a flair of writing skill, he authored more than twenty five books to his credit. I have gone through some of those which were quite informative.

He has a unique style of expressing his ideas that are easy to be put to action. His Pakistani Safarnama and Canada Inj Vaekhia are interesting reading which give an in depth account of the culture and civilisation of the two nations.

The agonising accounts of the communities who had

to leave their homes and whose members got separated on account of partition is vivid and moving. The biography of Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia giving the details of his political activities authored by him in English is the only one available in India.

His experience in teaching has been multi fold having been a Lecturer, Head of the department, Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry, member of the Syndicate and Senate of University had enabled him to work actively as distinguished member of Khalsa College Charitable Society.

It goes to the credit of the author that he has depicted the events in the life of Dr. Inderjit Kaur starting from her childhood to her joining as medical officer as vivid as he was eyewitness to all those, be it the school days, college life, her days in medical colleges in doing L.S.M.F or condensed course of M.B.B.S. or the other details of her official job till he officially joins Pingalwara fully dedicating her entire life to this noble cause. One can well imagine how difficult would it have been for the author to have elicited all the details of life from her.

His patience in investigating these facts of life no doubt is essentially par excellence.

The concept of Pingalwara stood conceived right at Lahore (now in Pakistan) when Bhagat Ji adopted an abandoned handicapped child and brought him along with him on his shoulders to Amritsar on Partition of India. It was here that two more persons were adopted and Pingalwara came into existence. With the passage of time it grew to an extent that it started earning national and

international reputation. It is in 1975 that she comes to the scene and with the passage of time she takes over the entire responsibility of this organisation. It was in year 2008 that the Government of India honoured her with the title of Padam Bhushan. A Great Recognition!

She had many subsequent awards from different organisations. Giving the details of her expansion programme of Pingalwara was not an easy task but he has successfully completed this part of biography. How did she conceive. the project of Special Children and implemented with the required infrastructure, specially trained teachers with proper pedagogical approach is well described. An independent school in a rural area for rural students is established to provide quality education. Thinking of organic farming in Agriculture, establishing a kind of model farming centre has gone a long way to motivate the farmers of the region for adopting this type of farming. The range of services continues to increase. The adoption of new born unwanted children, and the adoption of abandoned old age persons.

The programme to educating widows for their rehabilitation, the establishment of orthopedic wing, the organisation of sports activities, its participation in games at national level, helping poverty ridden children to helping them in receiving education, the publication of literature for public awareness programmers etc., continue to grow and flourish.

I compliment Dr. Chhina on bringing out the biographical sketch of Padam Bhushan Dr. Inderjit Kaur high enlightening her singular achievements in a forceful

manner as it is extremely difficult for any author whose predecessor is a great stalwart of the stature of Bhagat Singh.

**H.S. Soch**

*Former Vice Chancellor,  
Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar*



## **From the Author's Pen**

Bhagat Puran Singh the founder of Pingalwara was of very pious and religious nature from his very young age. He decided to remain celibate throughout his life to devote his time and energy for the service of suffering humanity. He came across an abandoned, disabled, sick and retarded small child. He picked up that child, named him Piara and took him under his care and never left him alone. He fully nursed and looked after him. From one destitute Piara it led him to embrace all kinds of disabled helpless, uncared for, needy and unlucky persons under his care to raise a huge big pingalwara. So much so that the strength of inmates rose to be four hundred by 1975. As he grew old, he was worried about finding a suitable successor to carry on his great mission of looking after the pingalwara, where the helpless, the destitute and unlucky helpless people are accommodated to be fully looked after.

Luckily Bibi Inderjit Kaur appeared on the scene and she was entrusted the duty to carry on the mission of Bhagat Puran Singh. She was confidant of Bhagat ji and she was chosen as his successor to carry on this big role after him.

Hence the problem of a befitting successor was solved. Bibi Inderjit Kaur is a qualified and capable (M.B.B.S) doctor. Besides it, she is a devout Amritdhari sikh. She too has vowed to remain celibate to devote her whole time and energy to the service of the suffering

people without discrimination of caste, creed or religion. It is because of her hard labour and devotion that the strength of inmates has risen many fold. The mission of Bhagat Puran Singh has expanded many times under the Bibi ji's care.

Such a person is a big inspiration for the society, who is serving the humanity successfully. In this Small biography, I had tried to reflect her vision to provide the homely atmosphere to the inmates with all emotional feelings of love and affection that everyone might have equal opportunities for their physical, social educational, and spiritual development.

I am highly thankful to S. Surijit Singh Barnala Ex. Governor of T.N. and Ex. Chief Minister of Punjab to encourage me to prepare this manuscript. I am thankful to Mr. Harbhajan Singh Bajwa, a photographer of Batala to provide me the appropriate photographs to enrich the biography. Mr. Mahesh typed the manuscript in the shortest time very accurately. I am also thankful to Prof. Minna Bagga for her help to prepare the manuscript.

**Dr. S.S. Chhina**



## Ancestors and Childhood

She has never seen Gujranwala area in Pakistan, but whenever someone mentioned Gujranwala, she was to listen eagerly to know more about Gujranwala. Actually it is her love for the land of her ancestors who had migrated from that region to India, at the time of partition in 1947. The ancestors of Inderjit belonged to middle class family of a village in that district. Maharaja Ranjit Singh also belonged to Gujranwala and as it was a Sikh dominant area, there were number of Sikh preachers who preached Sikhism. Many men were serving in the army of Maharaja Ranjit Singh but after the annexation of Punjab in 1849, many of them joined the British Army. The main occupation of that area was agriculture. Ploughing, wells and other agricultural activities were performed with the help of the bullocks. Although there were large holdings but agriculture was not a paying profession. Whenever there was more agricultural output the prices got declined, the people went for the other occupations as well.

Inderjit's grandfather S. Shivdayal Singh was a businessman. He was a very kind hearted person, who was ever ready to serve the people of his area.

Shivdayal Singh died very young at the time of epidemic of plague. His widow Kesar Devi was very keen to impart good education to her children. She sent her son Harbans Singh to Lahore. She regretted that she could not impart good education to her elder daughter but she was very much conscious about her younger daughter, Shanta.

She sent her to the nearest school which was at a distance of 4 miles from the village. There was a "Kutch" passage to reach that school. There was no transport facility available in the village. But her mother took the responsibility to accompany her daughter in the morning for attending the school and then returned to the village. She would again travel 4 miles, at the time of dispersal of the school. In this way she had to cover a distance of 16 miles every day to provide company to her daughter in the pursuit to fulfill the desire of a better education for her daughter.

At that time Lahore was the capital of Punjab. The Britishers were much concerned about education, but they were concentrating in the big cities and particularly Lahore, where they helped in establishing a number of schools, colleges and a university. There were good roads, parks, gardens, theaters, sports stadiums and electricity in Lahore but such facilities were not available in small cities and villages. If anybody visited Lahore, he would be narrating all these aspects of Lahore's life, and people would be attracted to listen to him, as if he was narrating some fiction.

Some newspapers also started publishing from Lahore, but there were a few literate people in the villages, who were capable to go through the newspaper. If anybody purchased a newspaper and brought it in the village, people would sit around him to listen to the news. At that time the radio was just invented and it was a new thing for the villagers. Once a rich person of the village brought a radio operated by battery, all people of the village

gathered to watch that. It was a novelty for the villagers.

By the end of the 19th Century certain missionary schools were started by Sikh, Hindu, Muslim and Christian missionaries. Singh Sabha took the lead in establishing certain Khalsa Schools, and though these schools and colleges, were imparting the religious and moral education, the students from all the religions could get admission in these schools and colleges. The rich people helped such institutions with donations of money. But very few schools were established in the villages at the initial stages. After completing the school education, Harbans Singh joined Ayurvedic study.

The Russian Revolution of 1917 was again a new thing for the people. People of Punjab learnt it from Radio and newspapers and they were much impressed with the ideological ambience that prevailed in Russia where the people of the country turned down the czar and established the rule of the people. The social security provided to the people was absolutely a new thing and very attractive, where everybody was looked after by the state. By this time, Punjab had taken a big lead in the field of education and most of the families were sending their children to the schools and colleges.

But it was absolutely a strange thing for the villagers in Gujranwala village that daughter of Shivdayal Singh had joined the Medical College at Amritsar. Particularly the dedication of his wife had become the talk of the village and neighbouring areas. But most of the time, Smt. Kesar Devi deeply regretted that she could not pay much attention towards her elder daughter Kartar Kaur. Though

she sent her daughter for the elementary education at Gurdwara Sahib and she became capable to read and write gurbani and to manage accounts. Wife of Shivdyal Singh was much concerned about the uplifting of her family.

Harbans Singh was much impressed by the hospitable nature of his mother. So many relatives and his friends used to visit his house and they were entertained with a smiling face by his mother. Once Harbans Singh completed his education, he started his Ayurvedic practice at Sangrur in 1930. As he was staying with his sister, who lived in Sangrur, so many people used to call him Mama ji.

Harbans Singh got married to Bibi Ranjit Kaur. Who belonged to a noble and educated family. Just like Shivdayal Singh's family, apart from their household duties they were contributing a lot to the service of the society and for religious activities in Sargodha district. Ranjit Kaur's father was a granthi at a Gurdwara in Lahore and her two brothers were being educated in Lahore. Her other three sisters were educated upto school level.

Shanta younger daughter of Shivdyal Singh, completed her L.S.M.F and got a govt. job. She was posted at Dalhousie in Gurdaspur district. There was a big shortage of doctors in those days, so lot of facilities and a good salary was given to the government employees.

There was lack of diagnostic Laboratories at that time. The government doctors were so busy throughout the day but they had to attend the night duties also. Many a times, the emergency patients would arrive at midnight, and the doctor had to attend them. The para medical staff was also not available in the hospital. So the doctors were

supposed to perform certain other duties. But she was very happy to serve in that hilly area. Later on she was transferred to Majitha in 1947, she had just settled there when she was transferred to Shakargarh in Sialkot district that became a part of Pakistan. Later on lots of riots, took place in that area. It was not safe for her to serve there, so she resigned from her job.

There was big shortage of doctors in Rajasthan and the people were suffering from many ailments in that area. The Maharaja of a Princely state of Rajasthan came to her and requested her to join in his state, to which she agreed, and she was posted at the place known as Kotputli in Tikana State. The area was affected by so many ailments by the epidemics many times. There was a severe poverty; so many people were daily-wage earners.

A number of people were compelled to leave the treatment in between, causing the severe problems and chronic diseases. She worked very hard for the public. The people had great faith in her and they considered her as a spiritual angel. She was much respected in that area, and as a reciprocal to the love and affection of the people, she decided to settle there permanently.

Her mother was worried about her marriage, but Shanta declined. Later on her mother again asked her about this important duty, but as she noticed that Shanta was determined not to get married, so she never forced her for this. She remained at Kotputli till her retirement and now she was known all over the area and she had decided, not to leave the place.

Her elder sister Kartar Kaur was married to

Dr. Bakhshi Ram a surgeon posted in Sangrur. Once Sant Attar Singh ji got gangrene of foot and he was suggested to be consulted by Dr. Bakhshi Ram and he operated Sant Attar Singh ji very successfully. Dr. Bakhshi Ram's son was studying in Medical College and was staying with her maternal grand mother. Kartar Kaur was a saint lady. She used to perform all the religious activities in the morning and would not take any food prior to the regular religious rituals.

After the death of Shivdyal Singh, uncle of Harbans Singh took care of the whole family. He comforted and guided the family. He looked after the children of his brother as his own and paid attention to all the psychological needs of the family.

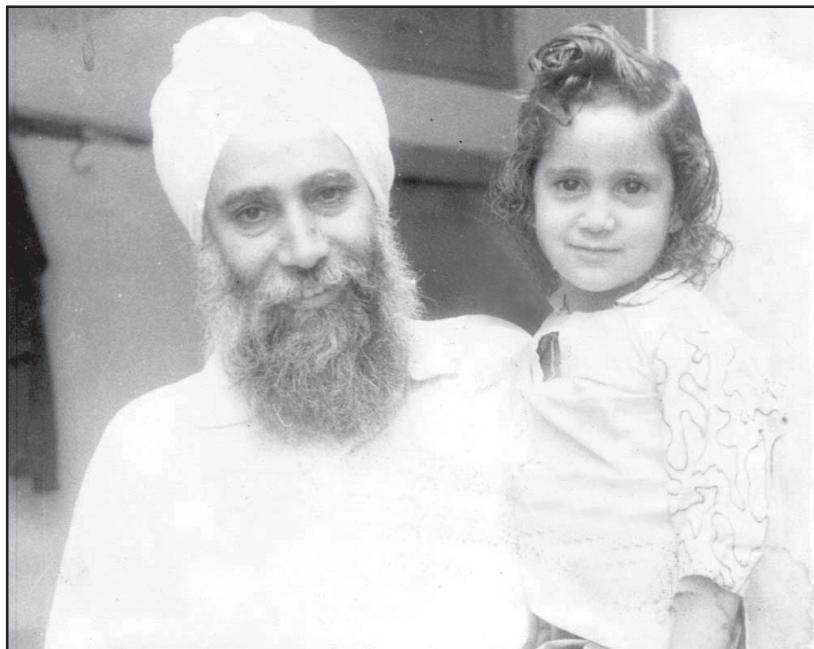
His uncle planned to shift to Singapore. He also persuaded Harbans Singh to migrate to Singapore but he was having something else in his mind. Dr. Harbans Singh had only one goal in his life, that was to serve the humanity, and the pleasure he was deriving from serving, was beyond all the worldly pleasures. So he planned to shift to Sangrur so that he could receive the guidance from his brother in law in everything and could also enjoy the company of his nephew, who had also been a student at Lahore when Harbans Singh was studying for his Ayurvedic education.

He started his Medical practice with the missionary zeal, and very soon he became a big hope for that area. The people surrounding Sangrur considered him a big blessing. In case they were facing some physical ailment, instead of going to Patiala or Ludhiana, they approached

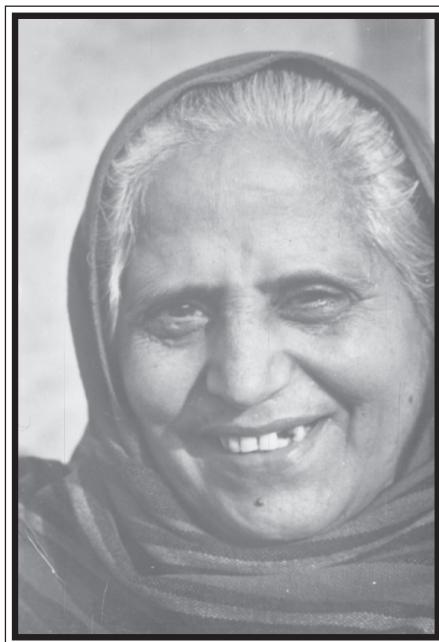
him for all their problems and there was some miracle in his medication that people got relieved from their ailments at a very low fee. Some of the patients were also looked after in his house for their nursing care. Dr. Harbans Singh became a very respectable social figure of the area. He was a God fearing man. Gurbani (hymns from Guru Granth Sahib) was his spiritual guide. Gurbani instills faith in God whose light exists in every creation, who-so ever follows Gurbani, becomes compassionate to every creature in the world, his activities are altruistic. Dr. Harbans Singh was much impressed by the writings of Sadhu T.L. Vaswani, Who belonged to Sindh Province. He once attended congregation of Sadhu T.L. Vaswani and derived a different kind of bliss.

On the other side his wife was a woman of saintly nature. She was also looking after the patients and the guests visiting the family. Any time when the number of patients got increased, she would vacate some of the rooms of her house to place their beds realizing the travel problems at that time. She would provide the meals and tea to the patients.

The family was blessed with a daughter on July 25, 1942. For naming her they drew the lucky alphabet that was 'e' of Punjabi. So, it was suggested that she should be named as Inder Kaur, but Ranjit Kaur her mother, persuaded them that she should not be named as Inder Kaur, because Inder was not brave and her daughter was named as the winner of Inder, i.e. Inderjit Kaur and Ranjit Kaur was of the opinion that her daughter would be a great lady and she would earn a big name in society.



**Dr. Harbans Singh father of Dr.Inderjit Kaur carrying his son.**



**Sardarni Ranjit Kaur mother of Dr.Inderjit Kaur**

The Maharaja of the princely state of Jind was a sikh. Majority of the population was of muslims, but they were having very cordial relations with the Sikhs and Hindus of the state. Sangrur was the place where Maharaja was living in his palace. The main occupation of the area was agriculture. But due to inadequate irrigation facilities and old methods of cultivation, agriculture was not a paying profession. The Maharaja was keen to impart modern education to his people, so he had established a school and college at Sangrur and similar efforts for imparting of education were done in other parts of the State. But still there were issues of the other development activities. The people were suffering from poverty and illiteracy. There were a few Hakims and vaids and there used to be a big rush in the clinics of such doctors. High fee was charged for the medication. But once Harbans Singh started his practice, he became an angel for those people and particularly his service and kind heartedness was the main attraction for the people so he became well-known among the people due to his selfless service and generosity.

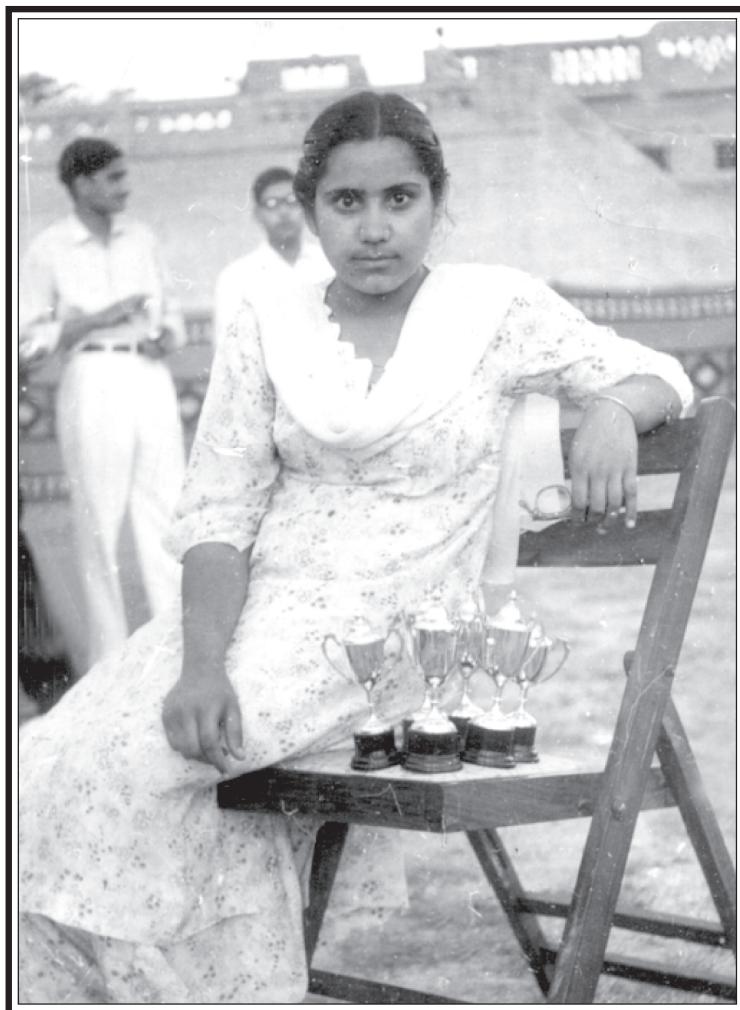
As he had a big "haveli", he kept number of buffalos and cows. The milk of the dairy was sufficient to meet their own as well as of their indoor patient's needs. Dr. Sahib's mother was looking after the cows and buffalos. Similarly she also looked after the relatives who used to stay in their house. She was very particular about her relatives.

India became independent in 1947, but the country was partitioned. Punjab was divided as East & West. The Muslims of East Punjab started moving to the newly

created Pakistan and similarly the Hindus and Sikhs from the West Punjab started migrating to the Indian part. As Sangrur was having a large population of Muslims and the riots had started. Dr. Harbans Singh was President of Gurdwara Singh Sabha Sangrur at that time. Dr. Harbans Singh formed a defence committee along with members of Gurdwara Committee and his trusted friends and started protecting the Muslims of the area. They started the work, to shift the Muslims safely in the camps established for them. He put his life at risk while shifting the Muslims to their camps. Number of times, they confronted with the miscreants, but he was being let out being recognized as Dr. Harbans Singh. He continued with this task, even being warned by his well wishers. He also helped refugees arriving from the west Punjab.

The curfew had been imposed in Sangrur a number of times. Mother of Dr. Harbans Singh served the Hindus, Sikhs, Muslims living near their hospital and house. Any time the curfew got lifted, number of people came in front of their house. Harbans Singh's mother would serve them the meals. Some police personels would also come there to take their meals. Some people were coming to their house carrying the fodder and wheat straw for their buffalos and cows, knowing well about their dairy animals. This gesture, pleased them much because they were bringing the fodder at their own, realizing the problem of cattle feeding in the duration of the curfew.

On the other side, many migrants from Gujranwala, Lahore and other parts of western Punjab started coming to their home in Sangrur. These included the relatives, friends



**Dr.Inderjit Kaur in student life**

and even unknown persons. Anybody who sought to stay in their residence, he/she was welcomed by Dr. Harbans Singh, his wife and especially by mother of Dr. Harbans Singh. Such families continued their stay till they found out their permanent residence and they were settled either on land or in some other occupation. These people were served with meals and shelter in the house, some were helped with money also. Dr. Harbans Singh helped them for their settlement also. They went to the various offices, number of times and after getting the papers for their permanent settlement, they would go to that place. It was said that there was an unofficial refugee camp at Dr. Harbans Singh's house. This continued till January 1948, and it was running without any government help. But Dr. Sahib's mother, wife and Dr. Harbans Singh took it as an opportunity to serve the people in their hour of need. Those people remembered these gestures of help and affection throughout their life, narrating it to number of people at number of times.



## School And College Education

Inderjit was admitted in a primary school in 1948. In that period the well off parents were sending their children to the expensive public schools. But Dr. Harbans Singh was of the view that as every student is studying the same syllabus and they are to take the same test, than what is the difference in such education. Moreover he wanted to inculcate certain moral and religious values in his daughter and he was feeling that such qualities could not be created in the hostel. The first lesson, her father taught her was that "Inderjit, enjoy as much as you can but not at the cost of your duty." He made her perfect to perform the duty first and all other things afterwards from the very beginning. She developed the habit to complete the task prior to do any thing else. She was very brilliant in her studies when she was a student of 3rd class, She developed a habit to study some other books related to history, religion and of literature. Sometimes she got engrossed so deep in the study of religious and history books that she could not notice the presence of somebody near her.

She got admission in a Government school for her matriculation. At that time apart from academics, She started participating in sports particularly in Athletics. She was so fast in running that every time she took part in any competition, she was a sure shot winner. It was said that whenever she stood up on the starting line for race, some of the girls used to drop, saying, that there is no idea of

competition. Inderjit would be the only winner, while at her residence, she was helping her mother and grandmother in cooking the meals, cleaning utensils, milking the cows and buffaloes and even drinking the water to the cattle. Her father believed in dignity of labour. He believed that good health could be possible only with physical work. Moreover one becomes humble by doing meagre work either at home or at Gurdwara Sahib.

Reading was her hobby. Now she was well versed with the subjects of socialism, democracy, social security, and capitalism. She was understanding the reasons of famine, and the causes of inequality of Income and wealth. A number of Soldiers of the colonies of foreign empire had been fighting wars in countries, to whom neither they had any enmity nor they were knowing those people, and number of soldiers had been killed in such wars. The victory or defeat of that country did not affect the fate of the people of their own country. She read a novel, that was narrating that a large number of soldiers who joined army as a job for the subsistence of their families went for war in other countries and large number of them got killed. Their families faced big hardships later on and this happened in many parts of the country and the world. She developed a great hatred for war. In another work, she read that large number of people died at the time of famine, not because of the shortage of food but because of the lack of purchasing power.

Such type of literature inculcated the desire in her mind to know much more about the social and economic conditions and the reasons of Economic compulsions and

the means to overcome such problems. Sometimes she saw that some patients and their attendants came to their hospital bare footed shivering with cold, and wearing torn clothes. She noted a particular incident when a shivering patient came to the hospital, bare footed. Her father, first of all gave him a woolen blanket and a pair of shoes. Then he went to sleep on a wooden bench. Later on when he stood up, he touched the feet of her father and tears rolled on his beard. But it was strange that there were tears in the eyes of her father also. She kept quiet but after a few days she dared to enquire her father, why he was having tears in his eyes and her father replied that there were billions of people like him and what he could do for all of them..? He was having tears in his eyes because of his helplessness to serve just few of such people. But then she asked, why that person was having tears in his eyes. The father kept mum for a moment and then replied that his tears were a sign of gratitude.

Though very small fee was charged at their hospital, but still she had been listening that number of patients had been dying either because of the lack of proper care, or because of the prolonged illness and delayed medication. She was observing the people, those were being suggested to move immediately either to Patiala or to Ludhiana for the treatment, but they would be reluctant because they might not have the fare to reach Ludhiana and paying other medication expenses was far from their imagination. Some of the children became orphans in their childhood because their parents had died due to some illness and lack of medication and they were compelled to suffer for

the rest of their life. The economic crisis was the biggest problem of these families and even some people lost their mental balance because of the over burdens of life.

Sometimes she remembers another incident, when a couple severely sick approached her father at the time of partition, who had lost their only son in the process of migration. The defence committee formed by her father searched the boy on the tips given by that couple. He was recovered after the strenuous efforts of those people, and was brought to the home and was presented to that couple. For a very long time, they continued weeping and her father too was looking at them all the time with tears in his eyes. Number of times he had been narrating the stories of lost sons, daughters, the killing of son, daughter, father, mother and brother before their eyes in that disaster of partition and number of times, tears started flowing from his eyes and he could not complete the episode. Inderjit was keenly listening and watching and feeling how much love and pain her father had for the humanity, and her father often quoted words, "what a single person can do for the society..?" touched the core of her heart and she felt, if everybody starts thinking like her father, definitely there would be no problem in the world. But how to change or build such a mind, was a challenge.

In 1957 Inderjit passed her matric in first division and joined F.Sc. Medical at the Ranbir Government College, Sangrur. By the time her five younger sisters and brothers were studying in different levels of the school. Here she was having her interaction with other college friends and often her friends visited her house and got amazed to see the rush

of relatives at her house and the chapattis being cooked on big 'Loh' instead of small "Tawa". They often compared the great hospitality of Inderjit's house with their own houses. On the other side. when Inderjit visited the houses of her friends, and after learning that she was a daughter of Dr. Harbans Singh, she used to receive a warm welcome and affection by their parents. She listened with interest how her father helped them either at the time of partition or at the time when they met with an accident or they suffered from any kind of illness. The respect shown to her because of her father, gave her the inspiration. The time spent in the service of humanity earned the different type of bliss and respect in society that cannot be earned by making any other type of investment.

Inderjit was much careful about her sisters and brothers. Her sisters and brothers sought certain help and she was always glad to provide that help either in their academics or for any of their other needs. That is why she was also respected much by her younger sisters and brothers and they obeyed all her orders. Because of large gathering of relatives at home and the hospitality of the family, she was busy much of the time for household chores and that was affecting her studies also but she compensated that loss as she was determined to secure good record in her academics.

One day, her grandmother went to her room sat there and after sitting and chatting for a moment started saying, "Inderjit see, you are the eldest of your sisters and brothers, they all would follow you. You should be a role model for them and Inderjit you should not do anything

that may affect them in a bad way and I am quite hopeful that you would not do anything as such". She said all this in one voice. Inderjit looked at her grandmother at that time, and then she took the hand of her grandmother in her own hand, pressed it and looked into her eyes. Though she did not speak anything, but it was an assurance to her grandmother that she would become a role model for her sisters and brothers. Actually she had deep regard for her grandmother. Since her childhood, she had been watching her doing one thing or the other and she was having great love for her son, daughter in law and grandchildren and she had earned a great respect in the family. Inderjit saw that her father had been giving all money he earned to her grandmother and not to her mother and her mother had never complained because Dadi ji had a great respect and affection for the family.

In those days she read the life of Mahatma Budha. He was a king of a big state enjoying all the comforts and luxuries of life, but he was puzzled with three questions, why a person suffers from illness, why he grows old and why everybody expired after a time. To find the answers of these three questions, one night he left the palace. Before leaving the palace he took his son in his hands, hugged him and left. He wandered in forests for many years, met certain saints, and continued searching the answers of his questions for so many years. He was puzzled that everything is perishable nothing is permanent. After suffering for very long time he became very weak but he continued towards his goal to find the answers and he became enlightened.

But a question arose in the mind of Inderjit that if the people did not fall ill, or if the people did not grow old, and if they would become immortal with his answers. It was such a truth, that is universal and nobody could escape from it. Budha himself could not stop his ageing and death and so the process continues.

While looking at the life of her father she enjoyed a different type of bliss. So many people loved him and so many times, she was honored because of her father. The tireless service rendered by her father for the people of the area had enhanced his social status to such a level that he was well known in that area.

Sometimes she thought about the people, who turned to her father after the recovery of their mother, father, sister, brother and how their children and they continued to shower their good wishes and wished well for his future. Then she remembered the innocent faces of the people, who turned to their hospital in severe winters with very few clothes and almost shivering, but carrying the basket of 'gur' on their head along with sugarcane, saag etc. and reminding her father that it was because of him that their son or daughter had survived and Bhapaji (Dr. Harbans Singh) accepted their natural gifts after touching it to his head and making them cautious that in future they should not take this trouble but continue meeting him at their convenience.

Then she remembered some faces who brought their father, mother, sister, brother, son or daughter in severe illness or in case of accident and crying for their recovery and touching the feet of her father to do something for

their cure. But in case of failure, their trouble and pain could not be seen and the question of Budha struck her mind that everything is temporary. Then she thought about the people who could not be cured and expired, inspite of making thousands of efforts.

Her mother Ranjit Kaur was a brave and bold woman. She was respected at home and outside. She was having respect for her mother in-law as her own mother and in reciprocation, she was getting all the affection of a mother. Sometimes, her grand mother remembers the younger brother of her husband who had been away to Malaysia and inquired from Harbans Singh that whether he had written a letter to his uncle and had inquired about his well-being? The house was always full of guests and all the guests were served with pleasure. Harbans Singh remembers the care, his uncle had given them after the demise of his elder brother. His uncle had helped the family very much and he was missing his uncle. He wanted to return the debt of that care of his uncle. He had a son Jagjit Singh. Jagjit Singh was married in Malaysia. But her wife divorced him. Dr. Harbans Singh asked his daughter to write letter to his uncle that he should send his son to India and Dr. Harbans Singh will help in getting him married again. Jagjit Singh cousin of Dr. Harbans Singh came to India and Dr. Harbans Singh got him married with cousin of his wife and sent him back to Malaysia. His uncle had blessed Harbans Singh. He expressed his happiness in a letter and uttered these words "Harbans Singh you have created satyug in kalyug". One day he was intimated that his uncle had expired. Though he had not

seen him since a long time and always wished to see his uncle but the nature has its strange ways. He suffered a great loss with the death of his uncle.

From so many years Dr. Harbans Singh had been receiving the literature being published by Bhagat Puran Singh ji of Pingalwara. The contents of the literature were very impressive particularly his warning for the degradation of the environment with the application of fertilizers, and other chemicals to obtain more of output in agriculture. Such chemicals were spoiling the environment and the toxins of these chemicals were penetrating the water, and soil and mixing up in the air. This pollution and the toxins entering the food were causing number of diseases. The increasing trend in the use of chemicals is a big danger to the human beings. Similarly the social service rendered by Bhagat Puran Singh ji was much appreciated all over the country. Bhagat Puran Singh spent much of his time in reading. He was impressed by certain writers of India and abroad. He was picking up some interesting articles and got them published at his own.

He read a story in a paper. It was written by a English lady. She stated that she travelled from Bombay to Amritsar by train. There was another young sikh in the Ist class compartment. I watched that during my travel of three days together, the man did not look at me even once throughout the travel. At Amritsar, the man was welcomed by large gathering who were garlanding him at Railway Station. Then, I enquired that who was this gentleman, and I was told that he is a sikh leader and his name is Master Tara Singh. He got much impressed by the story.

Bhagat Puran Singh ji who was a sewadar at Dehra Sahib Gurdwara Lahore saw a child at the door of the Gurdwara. The child was unable to walk. Bhagat ji took the boy and carried him to his tin roofed cycle stand. He started feeding the boy and started the medication for his sickness. He continued to serve the boy. At the time of partition, he took the boy and carried him to Amritsar. Here he saw two other sick persons who were in dire need of medication and food. He was not knowing the whereabouts of those two persons but he started serving them while begging food for all the three people. He would carry them to the Govt. hospital and for a very long period those people remained with him. Later on he brought some other people including one girl who was suffering from T.B along with her son and without any tangible support and there was only one hope i.e. God. He started an ashram where the destitutes, old people with chronic sickness and orphans had been coming and some of them after recovering from their illness left the ashram with thanksgiving for the efforts of Bhagat Puran Singh.

By 1956, the efforts of Bhagat Puran Singh ji were being recognized at Amritsar and nearby areas, and people started helping him keeping in mind his mission. But the first nine years, from 1947 to 1956 were full of trials and tribulations. So many times he had to sleep hungry but feeding the people who were with him in his ashram and his ashram had to be shifted from place to place. Bhagat ji would not refuse anyone seeking his help.

There was a fund collector who used to visit Sangrur and was distributing the literature of Pingalwara. Though

he used to collect fund but he never asked any one to donate. People had started giving him some donations. Dr. Harbans Singh was a regular contributor to Pingalwara and he had started correspondence with Bhagat ji and he was responding his letters also.

Pingalwara had become much popular by 1956, some of the people had started to help Bhagat ji. Then some people suggested him to get it registered as a society. Though Bhagat ji was not in favour of it. But when some people convinced him about its benefits that it would be sustainable and some help would be available, and finally, it was registered as All India Pingalwara Society.

Dr. Harbans Singh was a fan of Bhai Veer Singh, whose books had influenced him much to the extent that whenever he was invited in any marriage, he would give some books of Bhai Veer Singh as a gift to the bride and bridegroom. He met Bhai Veer Singh ji at Amritsar. He had deep respect for Bhai Veer Singh ji but Bhai ji expired in 1957, and it came as a big shock for Dr. Harbans Singh.

Inderjit completed her F.Sc. (Medical) in 1960 with second division and joined the L.S.M.F. Course in Ludhiana. While studying in Ludhiana, she used to visit Sangrur only during her holidays. Whenever she was in Sangrur, she took lot of interest in the hospital of her father. At this time she was concentrating more on the reasons of the illness of the patients, where she concluded that in 90 percent of the cases, poverty and the poor economic condition was the reason for their further ailments and physical problems. The poverty was also related with their ignorance. Most of the people were not

approaching for the proper medical aid, rather they got indulged in some other practices, and got involved in further problems. Once, she went through the literature of Bhagat Puran Singh lying in the room of Bhapaji, she had heard a lot about Bhagat ji by the time. His literature impressed her much. Really it was a useful knowledge for everyone and particularly for the people formulating the economic, social and environmental policies for the country. She became cautious about the escalating degradation of the environment and Bhagat Puran Singh was striving to make the society cautious about the coming problems for the society.

Bhagat Puran Singh was a voracious reader. He used to read about seven newspapers and the articles of environmental scientists daily. Moreover he used to spend many hours, with the intellectuals like, Prof. Narayan Singh, Principal Jodh Singh, Prof. Pritam Singh, historian Ganda Singh and others. He had great urge to make the people aware about the environmental and social problems.

Once she saw a book written by Albert Switzer. It was a very interesting book in which he wrote that he had observed that any living being, it may be anybody, is afraid of the death and wished his life to continue, that is why he made up his mind that he would do everything to preserve the life of every living being and he made it his mission. These words impressed her much and she saw some similarities in the work of Bhagat Puran Singh and the mission of Albert Switzer. Really it was a good mission and it should be the goal of every human being.

She completed her L.S.M.F. in 1965 and joined a condensed course of two years for her M.B.B.S. at Rajindera Medical College Patiala. Whenever, she was in Sangrur during her vacations, she assisted her father in number of small activities. Here again she got indulged deep in the social & economic problems of the common man and she was more concerned for the people who left their medication. She followed two of such cases and brought them back to the hospital and settled them for their cure. She saw that number of women with their inadequate clothing in winters, attracted cold, fell ill and ultimately died due to the lack of medication. But she also saw some women were much concerned about their husband and children, but were ignoring their own health.



## Government Service

She completed her MBBS in 1967 and got a Government job. Her first posting was in Barnala. At that time her salary was about Rs.700/- only. Dr. Harbans Singh wished her daughter to do Govtverment job. In those days lady doctors were not in private practice. So he thought that it is more respectable to do Government job. In the Government hospital she was always busy, throughout the day, examining the patients, watching the indoor patients and discussing their problems. Though Barnala was near to Sangrur, so she happened to see certain people who had obtained the help of her father at the time of migration from Pakistan, and some were treated by her father, when the people got the information that daughter of Dr. Harbans Singh had joined at Barnala, some of the people came to see her without any medical or physical problem, but only out of curiosity, and even inviting her to their houses. Some of them would offer all the services to her, as they were so indebted to Dr. Harbans Singh for his help at the time of partition.

For proper and best medication, she often suggested her patients to get certain tests for the clear diognosis of the problem. But there were inadequate diagnostic facilities at the hospital. So, such patients had to approach the private laboratories, where they had to pay much fee and some of the people were unable to pay that exorbitant fee. She helped some of them by paying from her own pocket,

she helped some patients to purchase the medicines. She became a popular doctor of the area. The number of patients in the hospital increased manifold because of her. She was available any time of the day and night as she was residing near the hospital.

The people were considering her as a big relief. They felt a bliss in her company. Some of the people who were known to her father, came to see her with certain gifts. Some of such people had rose high in their services and some had become the political figures of the area. Though she accepted some of the gifts, but generally she discouraged them for bringing the gifts. She would remember the service of her parents as she is being respected only for the service of her parents at the time of partition. People had not forgotten that gesture and they felt obliged from the core of their hearts. Often she thought that such love, affection, respect and bliss could never be measured by material wealth. The bliss of this type of service is absolutely a different concept, known to the people, who are possessing it.

She was much happy to serve the people of the area instead of going anywhere either for salary or for promotion, she was contended in her work. She received the orders for her transfer to Sangrur and she was preparing for that. But when the people of the area got this information many of them became active to get her transfer cancelled. They were so happy with her services, and they were looking her as their own family member. The people had developed faith in government medical services. The number of patients had increased manifold

only because of Dr. Inderjit Kaur. But once the transfer was not cancelled, a public farewell party was organized. It was the first time that a doctor of a hospital was given a public farewell.

So many people came with certain presents. In the end, Dr. Inderjit Kaur spoke that Sangrur is not far off she would continue to be in touch with the area. But anybody is free to call her anytime in Sangrur. Rather she would be glad to welcome anybody for any type of service. Number of doctors had been posted as well as transferred in the past, but nobody had witnessed this type of emotional farewell. Some of the people of medical profession were jealous of her, due to her service and popularity. It happened so many times that some patients came to consult her, and in case of unavailability, they would return back, saying that he/she would be examined only by Dr. Inderjit Kaur.

She returned back to her own home and joined the new service. She was available to the public throughout the day and night. She was transferred to the family planning deptt. of the Hospital. Dr. Ranjit Kaur of Patiala was in charge of the women hospital. She was sister of two famous doctor brothers of Patiala, Dr. Amarjit Singh and Dr. Jagdish Singh. They were also heads of their respective departments and having their specialization in their subjects. In a few days, Ranjit Kaur became familiar with the quality and spirit of Dr. Inderjit Kaur and her dedication to the service of the people. She developed her full confidence in Inderjit Kaur. Sometimes she left for Patiala, with full confidence that Inderjit Kaur would

handle all types of duties in her absence. On the other side Inderjit Kaur was always busy in the service. She was even attending the patients at her residence, sometimes she returned her home at 10 at night and at other nights she would stay at the Government Hospital. Ranjit Kaur was so happy with her services and used to disclose everything to her. Later on when Dr. Ranjit Kaur intimated that her father was groomed in an orphan centre, her respect for the family further increased because of their dedication and hard work and especially for their service to the society with a missionary zeal.

Once a lady Panchayat member brought three cases of family planning operation. That lady wanted those cases to be operated by Civil Surgeon only. At that time Civil Surgeon was on tour, so Dr. Inderjit Kaur asked that lady to bring the cases the next day as the beds were not available. That lady who brought the cases felt offended as she was close to Civil Surgeon. The cases came the next day but the Panchyat Member got annoyed. Then a complaint was lodged against her.

When Inderjit learnt about it, she made up her mind to face it. Earlier, she had been facing some opposition also but she faced all of them courageously and she had been successful. She was not encroaching upon the right of anyone. It was only the jealousy that was absolutely baseless. In such a case, the story told by her grandmother had always been much helpful to her that she listened in her childhood. According to that story, a boy went to bazar to buy something but was frightened to see a dog barking at him. The boy ran back to his home and the dog chased

that boy and when he reached near his house, his mother was watching the scene. She was a brave lady. She instructed her son to stand there and then asked her son to face the dog boldly. When the boy followed the instructions of her mother, the dog became silent and went back. The boy could understand the hidden meaning of the instructions of his mother that if you are coward, the people of the world will frighten you, If you are brave people will be afraid of you.

That boy became General in the army and won many wars. Same was the case with Dr. Inderjit Kaur. She was true so was not afraid of civil surgeon. An enquiry was ordered but nobody senior to civil surgeon came for enquiry. Later on that civil surgeon became director and filed the case and told her smilingly at one meeting. During this episode Dr. Ranjit Kaur was her spiritual guide.

In this period she had been listening a lot about Bhagat Puran Singh and his work. She was much impressed by his charitable work. At that time about 300 patients with chronic diseases, orphans, widows, old, blind and insane were being looked after by Bhagat Puran Singh. It seemed a big miracle that not only the food, shelter, clothing, even the medication expenses were being borne by Bhagat Puran Singh who had elevated his ashram, through the public help, and by making big efforts and facing great sufferings in life. But he continued tirelessly even he also cleaned the spoiled clothes of patients with secreta and urine with his own hands. He had dedicated his life for the destitutes. There were many cases, where

the people got recovered only because of the efforts of Bhagat Puran Singh. Number of people were expressing that they had survived only because of Bhagat Puran Singh. Then he was feeling concerned about the coming dangers to the society and to make the people cautious. He was publishing the relevant literature and distributing freely, only with the goal, that the humanity may get the best environment for their living.

Literature printed by Bhagat Puran Singh ji reached Dr. Inderjit's home through fund collector engaged by Bhagat Puran Singh and her father guided Dr. Inderjit Kaur to read that literature. The spiritual guidance of her father changed her thoughts and the mission of human life. She wanted to serve society in true spirit.

Now She was deriving more pleasure and bliss in service, the meaning of Promotion, Seniority and authority had changed in her mind. Here a story can be related to her Psychological mind at that time.

She had altogether changed her conception about comforts, luxury, and promotion in career. It was only and only the service of the society that carries the comforts, luxuries and promotions in her life. She had absolutely different views.

She was much impressed by a story, read in a book 'There was a person who was a courtier in the court of Arab King. His son was brilliant in education, but was of religious thinking. Most of the time he was busy in meditation. The courtier was having very cordial relations with the king. He was interested that his son might get appointment as a minister of Religious affairs in the

cabinet of the king. He persuaded the king for that. King gave time to the courtier to bring the boy in his presence. When father and son appeared before the king, the king hardly have a look on them and turned towards the courtier and said, "Go and come after one year".

Father and son came home, the boy continued with meditation for very long time of the day. After a year they again went to the king and again the king did not pay any attention to the father and son and after a moment, asked the father to come after a year. The boy continued with meditation for most part of the year, went to the king and got the same response.

After about three years king called the courtier and asked him to bring his son and said that he might join as minister of Religious affairs in his cabinet.

The father was much happy and went home to break this news in the family. But the boy did not turn up for that appointment. When the father told the king that his son was not interested to join. It was absolutely a strange news for the king, why he was not interested. He went himself to the boy. There was a spiritual aura on the face of boy. The king got impressed by him and asked him to come, and join as Minister of Religious affairs but the boy politely said "Sir, the meaning of authority, enjoyment, comforts and luxuries has absolutely changed in my mind. I am highly thankful to you but you are too late".

Dr. Ranjit Kaur was transferred to Mata Kaushalya Devi Hospital in Patiala and Dr. Inderjit Kaur got the charge of woman hospital in addition to family planning work.

Dr. Harbans Singh was a regular contributor to the Pingalwara. In 1970 the work of Pingalwara came in the notice of Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandak Committee and in a meeting a proposal was presented to help Pingalwara. It was decided to provide grant of Rs.25000/- per year. Though Pingalwara was spending lakhs of rupees by the time on the various heads of expenditure but was still short of money. The gesture of the S.G.P.C. was recognized as a good gesture and the society became known throughout the country. Later on this grant was increased to Rs.65000/- per annum. Dr Inderjit Kaur was reading with interest the literature being sent by Bhagat ji. It was really a useful literature.

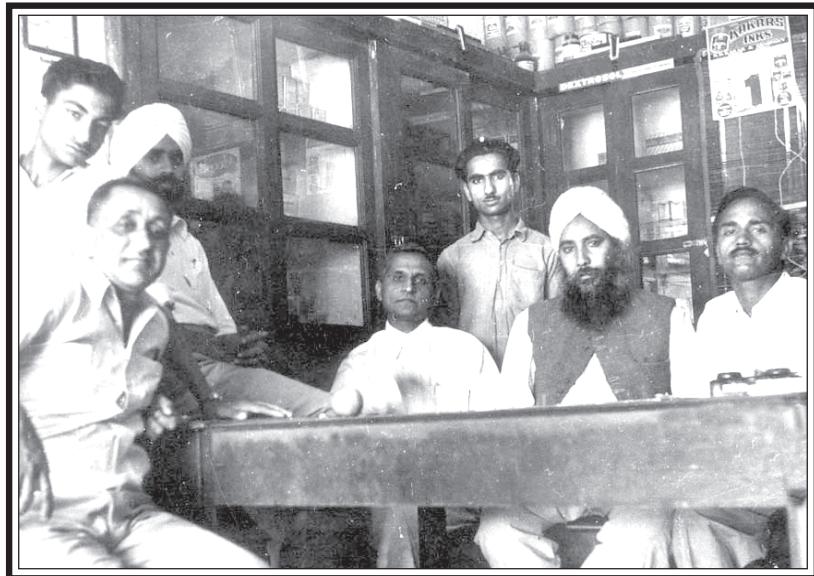
Now a question was put to her that is a usual question for any boy or girl in their young age. Both, her mother and grandmother were concerned about the delay in getting Inderjit married. They used to discuss about it with Dr. Harbans Singh. They were having certain proposals with them also. One day when grandmother asked Inderjit about her marriage she kept smiling and said that she would not marry and she was determined about it. The next morning when her parents asked her the same question she again told them an anecdote while smiling and the anecdote was that when Florence Nightingale was of 30 years, She was asked about her marriage to which she replied, that 'Jesus Christ had started the service of the people at the age of 30 years. So she has also started the service of the society at the age of 30, and Nightingale's father asked her, that she had gone insane, and she replied, that he was right and she was thankful for this insanity.'

and then Inderjit told them about her determination. That was her first independent and bold decision that gave a big turn to her life. Her father was aware about the determination of his daughter, so this question got settled for good.

While examining the patients she used to go deep into the problems of the patients. The medicines which were not available in the hospital, she would get them purchased from the market. Though her salary was very small, she was spending some money on the purchase of medicines of the patients, still whatever she could save, she would handover to her grandmother. Her grandmother would often say that you should have something for yourself but her reply was the same, that in case of any need, she would ask from her.

Now she was busy day and night in the service of the society. An idea came to her mind a number of times that government service was an obstacle in her mission. Also her father Dr. Harbans Singh was suffering from heart trouble so she wanted to help him by working in his clinic, and it would be better to leave the service.

Now she was delving deep into the economic and social problems of the society. Large number of people were not having adequate clothing, and the lack of houses, lack of essential commodities in the house were the problems those were hindering the overall development of the society. Due to unemployment, there were several job markets in the main chowks of all the big cities. The job seekers, who were going to those job markets, were carrying their lunch, wrapped in a small piece of cloth. But



**Dr. Harbans Singh father of Dr.Inderjit Kaur in his clinic with his friends and staff members.**



**Dr.Inderjit Kaur with Dr.Ranjit Kaur and other friends**

when they could not get anyone to hire them, they return to their houses carrying the same lunch packet with them. The person who could not get any work was not the only one who felt sad, but the whole family felt sad, because not only it was a necessity for them but even their medicines were dependent on his labour. But the children could be employed very easily. The employer exploited the children, by making them work right from dawn to the late hours of the night. The children put more work than the adults but were paid much less wages by the employers. In number of cases even the children were not aware of their wages for their labor being given to their parents. Some of the children continued to work for long period only for the debt which their parents had obtained. It was very hard to get their lovely children to wake up in the morning, much earlier before the dawn and to get them ready to go for the job, Parents were dependent upon children, instead of children being dependent upon their parents. And this vicious circle of child labor was going on from one generation to another. Poverty was thus realized as the root cause of the number of social problems.

Inderjit felt nostalgia while thinking about the economic and social conditions of the society. It was the system that required to be corrected and she was feeling helpless. But she continued her mission all alone, for the relief of the people to the extent, she could provide. She observed, many times the people left their medication only because of the shortage of income. Most of the people could not even take the prescribed and necessary

food along with their medication, and so, their problem could not be cured. Even if a member of the family met with an accident, such accident would change the fate of the family and it would prove to be a disaster for all the other members. The system was such, that there was no insurance against such accidents and if the insurance was available, it was being availed only by a fraction of the population. Sometimes she was referring the patients to Patiala or Ludhiana for specialized treatment. The people would be hesitant only because of the lack of money, some of them may not even have money for the travel expenses. In this way the medication was connected with number of other problems, hindering the proper treatment and the earliest cure from the illness. So many times an idea struck her mind, to leave the job and strive hard to find solution to these problems of the society.



## **Resignation from Government Service**

Now all her brothers and sisters were studying in colleges and schools. She was persuading her sisters and brothers to work very hard. Her younger sister Pushpinder was studying for her B.A. and got married in 1965 after completion of her B.A. Her elder brother Gurdip, set up Medical diagnostic laboratory after completing his B.Sc (Medical) and diploma in Lab. as he was not in favour of joining some service. It was a big requirement of the area and he was also serving the public with a missionary zeal on the instructions and guidance of his father, who was never in favour of exploiting the society.

She was deeply interested to serve the society with all dedication and the second reason was that her father had heart trouble and he was the only earning member in the family. Many people were dependent on him.

So, in 1974, Inderjit made up her mind to resign from her service and it was the second independent and very bold decision of her life. Though the government doctors were getting good salary along with other facilities but those were not sufficient according to the needs of the family and her goals. The future would have been secure in government service. There were people who were much interested in joining Government service but they were denied, in contrast, Inderjit was leaving it out of her own accord. It was a strange decision for her friends as well as for the others. But she had different views about her

career, that without serving the society and family members her skills would be a failure. She wanted to serve the society with free mind, devoting much of her time in serving the people in her own way, instead of serving as a government servant under number of restrictions. It was her second bold decision. She took her first decision of remaining unmarried for life and it was the second decision that was a turning point of her life. But her father did not say anything about it, keeping in view her determined mind and knowing well that she would not change her mind. She was feeling happier while serving the people instead of getting salary or seeking promotions in her life. She resigned from government service in 1974. She started working in their own hospital. His father was suffering from cardiac illness (myocardial infection) and was not able to do hard work in hospital.

One day, her grandmother fell ill, on that day she spent all her time in looking after and serving her grandmother and providing her the best medicines but after a small illness, she expired. It was the first death in the family. Grandmother was a big source of encouragement for the whole family. She was a guide and patron for everyone. She had deep love and affection for all the family members. It was a big loss for the family, when the news of her death broke out, people in large number gathered in front of the house and many people were sitting inside the house. They were talking about the generosity and help she had offered to everyone, whosoever came to her. So many people were remembering the consolation, she had bestowed on them in the state of their

grief. Being eldest among brothers and sisters, Inderjit was also meeting the people who were coming for condolence in their house.

That was the most tragic event. The thought that now she would never meet her grandmother put her in deep sorrow. At the time of the funeral, her father was one of the pall bearers and the words of her grandmother that, she would be carried to the cremation on the shoulders of Harbans Singh haunted her time and again. That night was really different from the other nights. Though Dr. Harbans Singh was a courageous person and he was prepared for his mother's death and he was consoling the other members of the family, but there was no charm on his face that he had, before his mother's demise.

Now Inderjit was busy attending the patients throughout the day and even during the night hours. There was a big surge in the number of patients, and she had availed the services of specialists in different fields with the objective that the patients would not be referred to Ludhiana or Patiala for expensive treatment. It would be convenient for the patients but only in a few special cases the patients were referred to Ludhiana and Patiala. There was hardly a night when she would have taken full sleep, otherwise she had to wake up to attend the emergency patients every day. But it was strange that she was being called up at any hour of the night, she opened the door with a smiling face and attended the patients, till she felt that he or she has been put on the right track of recovery.

Inderjit used to read books in her spare time and Bhagat Puran Singh's literature was made available to the

patients and they used to read it while waiting for their turn or attending their patient in the hospital. Dr. Harbans Singh was very keen to see Bhagat Puran Singh, but he could not. Bhagat Puran Singh was a realist and far sighted person. He was making the people cautious about the coming dangers with new technology. He was much concerned about the application of chemicals as those were polluting the air, water and food, and it was becoming a big cause for the chronic and serious diseases among the people. He was very particular about the degradation of soil, as the chemicals were being applied to increase the production of land and the quantity of the chemicals was also increasing. This year 4 bags of chemicals were used for more production and the next year, there would be need of five bags to obtain the same production, and in the next year 6, then 7 and so on. He was very cautious. As the more production is being obtained, the rate of the application of these chemicals was also increasing. Dr. Harbans Singh was sending his contribution to the Pingalwara.

Another heart breakup incident happened at that time, cousin of Dr. Harbans Singh who was residing in Malaysia (Kulalampur) expired in July 1975. He was suffering from brain tumor for a long time. His wife looked after him as he was admitted in a hospital. Much money was spent on his treatment and family was exhausted of the finances.

Inderjit Kaur received a letter from her aunt that she was living in poverty with four children and was not happy with Dr. Harbans Singh's family because she could not be consoled in a proper way after the death of her

husband. Now Inderjit Kaur was worried about her family. She managed to send some money to her and also requested them to come to India. After an year and so they came to live with Inderjit Kaur.



## Dedication to the Service of Society

In August 1975, Dr. Harbans Singh had a heart attack and he succumbed to that attack and expired suddenly. At that time he was 66 years old. The news of his death spread like a wild fire in the city. He was not only a reputed doctor, but a great social figure of the area. He had served the people with lot of dedication. The family had never imagined this. It was a big loss for the family and for all the people of the area whom he had been serving since 1930. Within a few minutes, thousands of people gathered in and around the house. Some of them were crying as they were his own family members. Many people were remembering his services on various occasions. So many people who, at the time of partition were sheltered by Dr. Harbans Singh came along with their families. Inderjit was unable to understand what had happened. But she was strong at heart and was consoling the family members and the people. Next day he was cremated and his cremation was attended by thousands of people and the people from all walks of life including the politicians, from various political parties.

Bhagat Puran Singh was intimated about the demise of Dr. Harbans Singh, and he was requested to attend the Bhog ceremony. He was regretting that he could not meet him in his life time. He saw the religious atmosphere of the house. There were so many people in the house, and there was a cordial and open atmosphere. Bhagat Puran

Singh felt a cordial affection of belonging to that family. Sant Harchand Singh Longowal, a 'great political and religious figure of the area also came on the Bhog and recited a hymn in music. Bhagat Puran Singh after reaching Amritsar wrote a long letter to Inderjit Kaur, expressing his opinion that he received a fatherly treatment in the house and now onwards he will be the head of the family.

Now, Inderjit Kaur had to perform a number of duties. She had to attend the hospital and keep a watch on the household activities, being the eldest among her brothers & sisters. It was the third shock in one year for her. The family was obliged to have Bhagat Puran Singh, who stayed with them and showered his kindness upon the grieved family and promised to be a part of the family in future. On the other side Bhagat Puran Singh was much impressed with the atmosphere of the house, as most of the family members devoted good time of the day in meditation.

At that time Inderjit's three younger sisters were in college for their higher education and were staying in hostel. The younger brother and younger sister were still the students of school. There had been a great rush of patients in the hospital and there were more of the indoor patients, so the Hospital building needed to be extended.

Gurdip Singh's marriage was fixed in 1976. A large number of guests attended the marriage. It was a very pleasant occasion. The ladies sang many songs of marriage. This celebration of singing and dancing continued for about a week in the evening time. Sometimes Inderjit while remembering her grandmother went into nostalgia

because her grandmother was very keen to see the bride of Gurdip Singh. she had been often saying, "Gurdip I will die only after seeing your wife."

Mr. Dharam Singh, a man of Village Badrukhah was known to her father. He was an orphan and was brought up in an orphanage. Now he was suffering from Alzheimer disease and was staying in Gurdwara. There was no one to look after him as he was bachelor. He had grown weak due to his illness. Somehow he came to their house. She looked his condition, and felt that he was in need of a long time nursing care. He remained in the home for about one and a half month. The whole of the family served him for his recovery, but he could not survive. So she felt sad about his death.

There was a nurse Chander Kanta, who was serving in the hospital. She was a dedicated worker, who was always busy in one or the other job. She had a lot of experience, being in service since long. In the absence of Dr. Inderjit Kaur, she was capable of providing the first aid to the patients. She was a great help for Dr. Inderjit. She had a daughter who was a brilliant student. Chander Kanta's one niece and one nephew were also living with her. Chander Kanta belonged to Boria Community and her husband to Gold smith community and he was not a skilled worker so he had to change his work from time to time.

In 1976, emergency was continuing as imposed throughout India. A theft took place at the residence of the D.I.G. of Police at Patiala. Chander Kanta's husband was suspected in the crime. The police arrested her husband

and they also arrested Chander Kanta and her daughter. That night Dr. Inderjit Kaur could not sleep due to two emergency patients. She had just entered her room early in the morning and had settled to sleep, when her door was knocked by someone who intimated her about the arrest of Chander Kanta and her daughter. Inderjit got shocked and thought about the offence of Chander Kanta and her daughter. She immediately got ready, called a taxi and without wasting any time, she left for Patiala.

By 9.30 A.M. she was in Patiala and went to the office of S.S.P., Patiala. She had never a chance to see any police official prior to this. At the S.S.P's office, she was told by the gunman, that Sahib would come to the office at around 11A.M. and if she had something special, she could see him at his residence. So she went to the residence and sent her card inside. She was asked to sit in the office. After a few minutes, S.S.P. came over there. She narrated the whole episode to the S.S.P. He showed his ignorance, but regretted about the arrest of Chander Kanta and her daughter. He called at three or four places and located the ladies and he asked Inderjit to stay and take both of them along with her, and assured a justified enquiry for the man. After about half an hour a Police Officer brought both the mother and daughter. She thanked the S.S.P. and was happy with the behaviour of the officer and felt that the police needed a better training. While taking them back to Sangrur, she fell asleep in the car as she could not sleep for the whole night.

She expanded the building of the hospital, added certain diagnostic machines in the hospital to save time

and to be more certain about the ailments. The household atmosphere was as usual. But whenever she was free and alone, she started thinking about her grandmother and father. Grandmother was a kind hearted lady, having lot of good will for everyone and for the society. Father was having a great mission in life, always concerned about the human welfare. He was having number of plans of social welfare. His demise at the age of 66, was a great loss to the family and the people of the area.

There were certain formalities to be fulfilled to obtain his hereditary certificate. As per his nature, he was extravagant and was not in the habit of saving. There were only Rs.3000/- in his bank account and there were National Saving Certificates worth Rs.17000/-. His succession certificate was required to complete certain formalities. The procedure was long and it took eight months to obtain that certificate.

Her younger sister Rupinderjit completed her B.Ed. after B.Sc. and got a government job. The third sister Preet Inderjit Kaur was hard working and brilliant in studies. She did her LL.B after B.Sc. Her another sister Pritam Paul Kaur completed M.B.B.S. and similarly the youngest sister and brother were both studying in college. Inderjit Kaur was much interested in educating her brother and sisters so that they might achieve something higher, according to their capacities. Whenever she was free, she enquired about their studies and about their planning for their careers. But she also wanted that they should be aware about the economic and social life of the world and particularly that of India, and for that, they should have

to study more than their syllabus books.

Her younger brother Mandip was loved dearly by all the members of the family. Though his father was busy and could not pay attention to his studies. But Inderjit Kaur was much particular about his studies, so he joined M.B.B.S.

Her youngest sister Amritpal Kaur passed B.Ed. and got Central Government job and got married to Mr. Gobind Singh Longowal, a Political Leader and later on Gobind Singh Longowal got elected in the Punjab Legislative Assembly for two terms and remained Minister in the Akali Ministry of 1997 to 2002.

A few days later some people came to Inderjit Kaur with the suggestion that she should remove the nurse Chander Kanta from service, as her husband was involved in different types of crimes on certain charges. Inderjit Kaur welcomed the delegation with smile and persuaded them for very long time that there was nothing wrong with Chander Kanta. She was a very hard working and was a noble soul. If there was anything wrong with her husband, it never meant that she should be punished, and ultimately Inderjit narrated one story she had heard while she was a student, it was related to Jesus Christ. The story was that once Jesus Christ was going in a village and some people brought a lady to him on the pretext that she was of bad character and according to the traditions of the area, she was to be killed by stoning. Everybody was carrying a stone in his hand. But Jesus persuaded them that everybody might get involved in one or the other wrong doing in life. So she should not be punished. But when the crowd was

determined to punish her then Jesus asked them that you think for a while and she should be stoned by only those who had not committed any crime in their lives. Everybody thought for a while silently and then disappeared from the scene one by one.

She told them politely, it is not her crime that she was born in a poor family and married to that man, she has all the qualities of a good woman. So she suggested that even if he had committed any offence, they were nobody to punish his wife, and that delegation was aware about the determination of Dr Inderjit Kaur so they went away one by one.

Inderjit was attending certain patients, who had been performing the self-medication and due to their ignorance they had been going to certain self-proclaimed spiritual persons, and got involved in serious ailments, they finally had to come to her. Their condition becomes worse due to ill treatment, but the root cause was the poverty and ignorance that led them to such circumstances. She was aware that some of the Government doctors, were also practising privately in their off time and ignoring their duties.

She observed that some young doctors, started their nursing homes by availing a big loan from banks to become rich overnight, but in this pursuit, once they started the hospital, they exploited the patients because these doctors were to pay huge installments of their loan and interest along with the fixed expenses of salaries of Para-medical staff, electric bills etc.

She felt sad while thinking about the problems of a

common man. There was lack of facilities with no provisions for free medical aid and insurance, and once the family member met with an accident, or had to face a chronic and severe disease, the family drowned into indebtedness and had to face so many other problems. Sometimes she went deep in thoughts while looking to the problems of children doing labour and plight of poor women working very hard for their simple living. Such thoughts put her into nostalgia.

One day a few renowned persons of the city came to her and suggested that they needed a leader like her, and suggested her to become a leader of the Gurudwara Singh Sahib committee but she refused.



## **Looking Deep into Pingalwara**

Inderjit Kaur was much impressed by the work of Bhagat Puran Singh ji. She was in correspondence with him and had visited Pingalwara twice or thrice in the past. Bhagat Puran Singh also had been to their residence two or three times. He was impressed by the atmosphere of their hospital and house. Once when Inderjit Kaur came to see Bhagat Puran Singh, he entrusted the bringing up of a male child to her. He was very particular about nurturing the boy in proper and conducive atmosphere. He was looking the traits of father and mother both in Inderjit Kaur. He asked Inderjit to take care of the boy. Prior to that he had thought about some other families but he was satisfied and convinced that only Inderjit Kaur could give him the right attention that was in his mind and to his expectations. Inderjit accepted the boy. She was thinking that Bhagat Puran Singh was looking after about 300 patients at a time. He was helping those people to be cured from their diseases, providing them clothing, shelter, nutritious food and he was also particular for the future of the people who were staying at Pingalwara. She could not understand why he was so particular about this boy for whom he wanted a special care and love of father and mother. Actually it was in his mind to bring up the boy as the inheritor of Pingalwara. Now Bhagat Puran Singh was feeling that this Ashram should be sustainable. It should continue as an institution. It should be managed by

good people. He thought about his successors many times. Some of the people came to his mind, but later on he had been much upset when he observed either the greed or the trend of exploitation in the behaviour of those people.

In 1979, Bhagat ji saw a strange situation at Pingalwara some of the employees of the printing press went on a strike and they demanded the implementation of Factory Act on the printing press, where they should be provided social security. Bhagat ji was sad because this strike was spearheaded by those people, who were employed by Bhagat ji at the time, when they were unemployed and sought his help for some job in the Pingalwara. Moreover he considered every employee as his family member and helped them in every way. Bhagat ji was of the view that the press was printing the literature that was being distributed free of cost only for the awareness against certain social evils and the people were cautioned by this literature. There was no profit motive in this exercise and it was not a commercial proposition.

Though Bhagat ji was sad over this move, he appealed to the employees to leave this strike. But it was continuing. They had installed a loud speaker at the Gate of the Pingalwara, where the leaders of the employees were speaking against Bhagat ji and the functioning of the Pingalwara. Even some of the social figures were also appealing the agitators, not to indulge in this strike. One day a person who was known to Bhagat ji came to the agitators and started abusing them unabated. Bhagat ji listened to his abuses, and went to the person, took hold of the mike and said "they all are my children, I will settle

them, who are you to abuse them.....". There was a miraculous impact of this event on the agitators and they all came inside and admitted their mistake and the next morning everything was all right.

After this episode, Bhagat ji took special interest in the activities of Pingalwara with much vigour and enthusiasm. He was glad that Inderjit Kaur was assisting him and taking much interest in Pingalwara. As a Punjabi quotation, "one and one are eleven" and Inderjit Kaur as his daughter could handle any type of situation.

Some of the people had the opinion that Bhagat Puran Singh's work belonged to the government. Government should provide the social security. Inderjit's friends were also of the same view. Her friend Dr. Gupta, who had been to Canada for some time, was much impressed by the social security provided in Canada. She had been explaining that anybody who was a permanent resident of Canada was given unemployment allowance, till he or she was not given permanent job. Everybody was getting 100 percent health Insurance. In case a person met with an accident, he was compensated with the treatment expenses by the Insurance Company. Education was free, the old age pension was given to everyone and this amount of pension was sufficient to provide good standard of living. In case the person was spending more, his pension would be enhanced. Everyone was fully secured in that country. Such a security was needed for the people of India and Government should make this provision. Dr. Inderjit was never annoyed by such an argument but her single question was enough to silence their arguments that the

government was not restricted by anyone to provide this security and till then where the people should go, who were living in Pingalwara under the Supervision of Bhagat Puran Singh?

Bhagat Puran Singh ji was invited at the marriage of her younger sister who after completing her B.Sc. L.L.B was posted as Assistant District Attorney with Punjab Government. Her marriage was fixed with a Bank Manager of a reputed family of Kot Kapura. Bhagat Puran Singh attended the marriage and performed all the ceremonies, of a father. Sant Longowal performed the Ardas at the marriage. This was a model marriage, no unwanted and superfluous ceremonies were performed. It was the simplest marriage and was referred as a model marriage in Sangrur and nearby areas.

Bhagat Puran Singh was satisfied with the, up bringing of the young child Daya Singh. Dr. Inderjit Kaur's family members were paying much attention to his studies and physical fitness. The Pingalwara was growing as a big place for the destitutes. Now the number of inmates has increased to more than 400, that included, physically handicapped, orphans, the patients of chronic and severe diseases, old and blind. The buildings were limited and needed extension but Bhagat Puran Singh was making all the efforts to accommodate the maximum persons and he was not refusing anyone, only with the condition that he/she ought to be a destitute.

When Inderjit Kaur was visiting Pingalwara, she was asked by Bhagat ji to take a round of the various wards and prescribe the required medication. She was realizing

a distinct bliss while serving the inmates of Pingalwara. The expenditure of Pingalwara was increasing beyond the limits of Bhagat ji, so sometimes, he was to take certain commodities and medicines on credit and whenever he received any donation, it was his first task to return the old loan. On the other side shopkeepers were lending him because of the mission of Bhagat Puran Singh. Bhagat ji never felt any burden of this type of loan. When Inderjit became aware of this fact, she started donating some part from her pocket.

Her younger sister Pritam Paul Kaur completed her M.B.B.S. She was interested to complete her M.S. or M.D. but she was appointed for a Government job in Rajasthan. On the persuasion of her aunt, She joined the job. Later on she was selected for a job with UNICEF, a U.N. organization concerned with the health of children. She worked very hard and her dedication for UNICEF job was recognized by her seniors.

By the time, Inderjit Kaur was completely dedicated to her hospital and service to the people. In any type of activity she was having the target, "The service of the Society". Now she had started to handle the patients with serious diseases and the accident affected people, as she was availing the services of specialized doctors. So she had amended the structure of the hospital according to the special requirements. But still in some serious cases, she had to recommend some patients to Ludhiana and Patiala. And in case of shortage of money with victims, she gave them from her own pocket. She never wrote such amount on any register, but she often said that such type of money

was always returned, that further strengthened her conviction that generally the people were good at heart and they never forget any act of service. During her free time she would remember the words of her father, "Earn like a hero and give like a saint.

Now Bhagat ji had started to depend on Dr. Inderjit not only for consultation in certain matters, but he was consulting her even for the management of the Pingalwara. The idea to make Inderjit Kaur the inheritor of the pingalwara was emerging strongly in his mind, but he had not expressed this idea either to Dr. Inderjit Kaur, or to anyone else. Sometimes a doubt arose in his mind that being an elder of her brothers and sisters, she might not be able to leave them. Secondly the management of Pingalwara was not an easy task. But any how he had started to think on this topic. By this time the government of India had recognized his services and awarded him Padamshiri. His services were well recognized at the International level and by the time large donations had started coming from abroad.

In 1980, Bhagat ji got the problem of prostate gland and he was to be operated for that. Bhagat Puran Singh was much afraid of the operation, but there was no alternative. So he was admitted in the General ward of Guru Nanak Hospital. Dr. Sethi, the Head of the Surgery Department, was a famous Surgeon. He was to operate Bhagat ji. Though he was admitted in the General ward as a poor patient, but he was given a room adjoining the room of the head of the department. Bhagat ji was a popular figure by that time. Many doctors were ready to attend him and to

operate him. But Bhagat ji was thinking about the millions of people, who had not seen the face of a doctor and how many were denied proper medical care. So many people were ill-treated only because of their financial problems.

Inderjit came to see Bhagat ji in the hospital. She planned to return back to Sangrur after 2-3 days, because the hospital work would suffer due to her absence. But what she observed was not satisfactory. Attendants were illiterate and sometimes they would leave him alone and when asked, they were stating unsatisfactory reasons. She felt sad, that a man who could stand for days for the care of his inmates, was being ignored in this way by the people, for whom he had dedicated his whole life and had suffered a lot. It is a popular Punjabi Quotation that "a father can look after his eight sons, but eight sons cannot look after one father." On the other side while looking at Bibi Inderjit Kaur, there was a different charm on the face of Bhagat ji. He was glad to see her and told her to remain there and she also decided not to leave Bhagat ji in that condition.

Bhagat ji had grown very weak. After operation some complications developed and Psychologically he was much upset. He was not taking proper food. He was unable to sit or to walk. But after a few days, Bibi Inderjit helped him to walk in the room. He started taking four to five rounds of the room by taking the help of Bibi on one side and an attendant on the other. He also started taking some food. Bibi ji gave him a wash and started changing his clothes every day. He started feeling well, but still he was very weak. Doctors were of the opinion that he must

remain in the hospital for few more days.

Now Bhagat ji, started little conversation and often he would say that "Bibi, you served me like a mother. In my childhood my mother served me like you for about one & half month. Similarly you have served me." But Inderjit Kaur replied that not only mother, a daughter can also serve like that and he should not take her right of being a daughter. Her work at Sangrur had suffered because of her absence but Inderjit Kaur could not leave Bhagat ji in such a condition as he had adopted her alongwith all her brothers and sisters and it was the duty of the children to serve their father in such condition. Bhagat ji was having a distinct confidence in Inderjit Kaur. He was facing the problem of depression. Inderjit was observing his psychological condition so she asked him whether he would like to go along with her to Sangrur for which he was ready but with the consent of his surgeon only. She was worried about her hospital because of her long absence from Sangrur for about 20 days. The patients at Sangrur must have felt a lot of inconvenience. But Bhagat ji was feeling great relief in her care. She thought about taking him to Darbar Sahib for a change. She helped him to sit in a car, and they went to Darbar Sahib. On the way, the car stopped for a moment and Bhagat ji said, whether it had reached Jullundar. Inderjit realized that he was in the impression that they were going to Sangrur. So she told Bhagat ji that they were going to Darbar Sahib. He was dropped towards the enterance of Ghanta Ghar, and they helped him to come through stairs. They sat for a while there and returned back. Bhagat ji felt better on that day

and Inderjit was of the opinion that he needed a lot of rest for many days. When he was discharged from hospital. She took Bhagat ji with her to Sangrur where he suffered from hick-up otherwise he was quite normal. So Bhagat ji was to be shifted to Amritsar. But he never wanted to go to Amritsar alone. So Inderjit Kaur accompanied him but after two or three days, she returned back to Sangrur and promised Bhagat ji that she would come back at the earliest. Bhagat ji allowed her on the condition that she should return back as early as possible because the care she could provide, nobody else could provide. He was much dependent on her, as he was feeling that she provides him the care as her father.

She was observing that during illness Bhagat ji had developed much of the pessimist thoughts in his mind. Inderjit as a doctor tried to strengthen his psychological feelings with the optimist thoughts.

He was also particular about Daya Singh's education and his physical health. He wanted to develop him as the most brilliant personality but he had dropped his idea of making him his inheritor. Whenever he met Inderjit, he enquired about Daya Singh. Though he was very brilliant in studies, but he was careless. Bhagat ji was in need of a helper in his activities at Amritsar and Inderjit was a great help for him. The idea to make Inderjit as his inheritor got strengthened in his mind, but he had not disclosed it as yet.

Younger brother of Inderjit, Mandeep was in the final year of M.B.B.S. Her other two sisters got married and these were the most simple marriages. She was not in the

habit of spending much money. She gave all the money she earned to her mother and her mother was looking after the needs of all the family members.

By the end of 1983 the situation of Amritsar had became very tense because of militancy. So many murders took place at Amritsar and nearby areas. Bhagat ji was continuously collecting donations for Pingalwara and distributing the literature useful for the public. Now he had started persuading Dr. Inderjit Kaur to give more time to Pingalwara. But it was difficult for Inderjit because she had involved herself very much in the service of the society through her hospital at Sangrur. The hospital was also a source of income for the family. Though she was encouraging Bhagat ji in his mission and had started contributing regular donations for the Pingalwara.

The army action at Amritsar in 1984, killed so many people in Darbar Sahib including innocent people. A large number of people were arrested. There was a big annoyance among the public against the government for this action. After a few days, congregation of large number of people was held at Gurdwara in Sangrur. Fifteen people, including Dr. Inderjit Kaur spoke at that congregation. She said that we should analyse ourselves. We had indulged in so many evils and God had punished us. There was nothing of instigation in her speech. Similarly nobody else had spoken anything that might be called the instigation. But all the 15 persons were arrested after the congregation. Bhai Isher Singh, a blind person was also among those arrested. She was the only woman.

Later on she suspected that she might have been

arrested because of the wrath of a senior officer of the district. But why all the 15 persons were arrested, could also be because of her action. It was proved later on that it was because of the wrath of that administrator.

It happened that a person who was known to her came to her hospital accompanied by another person. He gave her the message of the officer that the person should be given a medical certificate showing his indoor stay in the hospital for a few days. Dr. Inderjit Kaur refused as she never did anything wrong in the past. Even her known person persuaded her to give the certificate and not put herself in any trouble, but she did not oblige.

When they were sent to the jail she was asked to remove her "Siri Sahib" according to the rules of jail. But she refused it. The controversy continued for about an hour and ultimately she removed. But she was much upset over that and could not sleep for the whole night. The next morning when tea was offered she declined as she was not taking tea at that time. It was supposed that she had gone on fast. The jail Superintendent personally came to her and started explaining his limitations. But she cleared his apprehension. This news spread in the city and next day it appeared in the newspapers also.

Sant Harchand Singh Longowal, a family friend and Bibi Amarjit Kaur widow of S. Fauza Singh who was killed in 1978 were arrested from Darbar Sahib and sent to jails in Rajasthan. Sant Longowal was a big political leader and chief of the struggle that was going on against the government. Bibi Amarjit Kaur was living in Darbar Sahib and most of the time, she was busy in meditation only.

Dr. Inderjit Kaur felt hurt about this and decided to meet them in Rajasthan jails. Sant Longowal was in Udaipur and Bibi Amarjit Kaur was in Jodhpur. It was a great distance, and apart from the distance, there were number of formalities to be filled before getting the permission to meet the inmates of jail at that time. It took many days to complete the formalities. She met both of them and delivered them certain commodities useful for them in the jail. She visited other jails where innocent Sikhs were arrested from Darbar Sahib and provided commodities to them from her own means.

In 1986 when Dr Inderjit Kaur came to Pingalwara, Bhagat ji asked Bibi to visit the various wards and bring a report in writing. By the time he had started calling "Bibi" to Dr Inderjit Kaur. She went to the different wards. She gave the report in writing. She did not point out any deficiencies rather she gave certain suggestions to improve the situation. Perhaps Bhagat ji was testing her interest in the affairs of Pingalwara.

Bhagat Puran Singh looked into the report and observed the remarks given by Inderjit. Later on he bare his soul by telling her that he wanted to give a very big responsibility to her and he was quite hopeful, that she would not refuse and prove according to his expectations. Albeit Inderjit wanted to assist Bhagat ji and tried to explain him thoroughly that she had taken a mission after the death of her father, not to leave the hospital and to serve the society. She offered her services but she was reluctant to stay permanently at Amritsar to look after the Pingalwara. But Bhagat ji was worried about Pingalwara

and he put a register before her for her signatures. She went through the proceedings of the meeting that were recorded on the register. There was a resolution nominating her as a member of the society. She was satisfied after signing that she would be one of the seven members. So it would not be a full time job.

In September 1988, Punjab and Himachal Pradesh had very heavy rains that caused heavy floods in the rivers. It affected severely the people inhabited on the banks of the rivers. Some of the villages were completely washed away. Number of people flowed with the heavy current of water. Rail and Road transportation was affected. The crops got damaged. Inderjit took the task to help the people of Punjab affected by floods. They were provided with the flour, tea, sugar, pulses, clothes etc. She distributed so many trucks of the goods, that were collected from Sangrur and nearby areas.

Inderjit kaur alongwith her friends collected money and clothes etc and came to Amritsar with loaded trucks. After enquiring from different sources about the most affected areas in Amritsar and Gurdaspur district, the team went to some of the villages to distribute goods.

She was carrying some important medicines with her for the medication of affected people in those areas. In Gurdaspur district, she saw that some villages on the banks of Ravi, were completely washed away and only the ruins of some of the houses were visible.

Still lot of water was visible around so many villages. The people were narrating very destructive havoc caused by floods! People saw their near and dear ones drowning

but felt helpless to save their lives. The father saw his son flowing, and son saw his father flowing but could not do anything to secure them from water current. The brother saw his brother and number of cattle went flowing. Inderjit Kaur stayed for three days while distributing the goods and providing relief. While visiting the villages, she met a number of people suffering from various diseases but poverty was the main obstacle for their medication and recovery. The ladies and old people blessed all the members of the team and it was a deep bliss for her.

In 1988, Bhagat ji passed a resolution in which Dr. Inderjit Kaur was elected as Vice Chairperson of All India Pingalwara Society and later on she was asked to sign that resolution. Though she was happy to be associated with this charitable job, but she had never thought that it would be a full time job and she would have to be involved fully in this service. By the time she was thinking that she would be as good a member as the other members of the society.

After sometime Bhagat ji wrote his will about his successor as Inderjit kaur, and without intimating her about it.

But in June 1992 Bhagat ji got involved in some physical problems of Intestine obstruction and he was admitted at S.Waryam Singh Hospital immediately. Dr. Inderjit Kaur was intimated by some sewadar and she reached within no time. She observed the behaviour of doctors and their inefficiency to diagnose the problem. She was not satisfied, and wanted to shift him to Chandigarh but she was told that shifting at this stage was not safe and he was operated, but his condition got further deteriorated.

After few days Bhagat ji was brought back in the operation theatre and his stitches were opened, and after cleaning the stitches, new stitches were made. The news of Bhagat ji's operation appeared in the newspapers and a large number of people gathered in front of the hospital. But doctors did not allow anyone to visit him, so they prayed for his health from outside and returned. Next day, Chief Minister of Punjab Mr. Beant Singh came to enquire about his health and met Dr. Inderjit Kaur. But while sitting with Bhagat ji, Bhagat ji started enquiring about the progress in tree plantation and asked to raise the expenses of diet for the mental hospital patients. It was strange for Mr. Beant Singh that he was so particular about environment and the patients. But he concluded that Bhagat ji needed the special treatment, so he instructed the administration to provide him the helicopter to shift him to P.G.I. at Chandigarh.

There were adequate and better facilities at P.G.I. A special team of doctors was formed for his treatment. He was operated for 3rd time in P.G.I. But no improvement was observed in his health. He was conscious only for one day. The other day Mr. V.N. Narayanan Chief Editor of Tribune came to see him in I.C.U. Bhagat Puran Singh considered V.N. Narayanan as faqir. He uttered, "One Faqir has came to see another Faqir." Next day Bhagat ji went in coma and was on ventilator. Number of people were coming to see him but doctors were not allowing anyone, in the interest of his health. Only Bibi Inderjit Kaur and Manjit Kaur Nurse were attending him and only these people were allowed to enter I.C.U. But his health

was continuously deteriorating and everybody was worried for that. For a week his condition remained the same. Then an improvement was observed in his condition. Bibi Inderjit Kaur was recollecting the moment when he recovered from his illness due to great care of his mother. Inspite of the great care he was not recovering. On August 5, his condition got deteriorated and he expired. After learning about his demise, she quickly went into the room where she saw that the body of Bhagat Puran Singh was being packed as a common man. She got annoyed and felt very sad over the common sense of those officials and shouted that "such a great personality who served the society and who served thousands of lives, has been packed in such a way, you have insulted this noble soul. The thousands are to pay their respects to him". Then the doctors again untied the body. New Clothes were put on, turban was tied. Dr. Inderjit Kaur, and Mr Inderjit Singh Baghi brought the body to Amritsar.

Many people reached Pingalwara premises to pay their tributes. Ragis from Darbar Sahib recited kirtan for the whole night. In the morning many students alongwith their teachers paid their tributes to Bhagat ji.

The next day after giving the bath, the body was carried to the cremation ground Near Gurdwara Shaheedan via the route passing through the front of Darbar Sahib. While passing in front of Darbar Sahib, Inderjit watched the place where he used to sit and distribute the literature for decades. Thousands of people were there at his cremation but there was no significant government representation, that was noticed by the press and it was

reported in the next day papers. This also pinched all the members of All India Pingalwara Society.

Simran Singh Mann alongwith his followers attended the cremation procession from Pingalwara to the cremation ground. Prof. Manjit Singh who was Jethadar Akal Takhat at that time was standing near the body of Bhagat ji and lit the pyre.

Bhog ceremony was held on August 14 at Manji Sahib at Darbar Sahib. The "will" as prepared by Bhagat ji was read out there publically, where Bibi Inderjit Kaur was nominated as his successor. It was felt that she would stay at Amritsar for some days, but she returned to Sangrur next day as she had been away from Sangrur form the last two months. It was in her mind, that hospital work at Sangrur must have suffered much. There was no source of income for the family. She had great faith in Inderjit Singh Baghi and thought that he would manage to look after the activities of Pingalwara in her absence. She was of the opinion that Pingalwara could be managed easily from Sangrur and she would keep in touch with the Pingalwara and would come, every week end. By the time she was more interested in the hospital established in the memory of her father for a particular mission. She wanted to continue her practice at the hospital while serving the society. She was convinced that Pingalwara affairs would continue to be satisfactory as in the past.

A few days later she was called at Chandigarh for a function as the head of the Pingalwara. That function was organized by Sangat of Chandigarh. She reached Chandigarh in the morning and was asked by Sangat to sit

on the stage. She stayed there for an hour. Then she was called by a lady for the breakfast. Once she went for the breakfast in some body's house she saw the juice, fruits, butter, jams, bread and curd etc. She had a strange feeling that breakfast should have been much simple. This breakfast seemed to be the breakfast served at five star hotels. and she enquired, whether this was the breakfast for everyone and when she was intimated that it was only for a few invitees, it hurted her, The Sikh Sangat did not learn the austerity advocated by Sikh Gurus. Bhagat Puran Singh had been advocating for simple life and austerity throughout his life. So she did not go for lunch specially prepared for the invitees. There was Langar for Sangat, the Pigalwara Sewadars including Dr. Inderjit Kaur had that langar as Lunch and dinner. She was not comfortable at the stage so she came down, installed the book stall near the passage from where Sangat was passing to pay their obeisance to Shri Guru Granth Sahib. Now the people from Sangat were free to meet her and were enquiring about the activities of Pingalwara after the demise of Bhagat Puran Singh. Lot of literature costing thousands of rupees was distributed free of cost.

The function continued late at night and she had to stay there for night and returned to Sangrur the next day. At this function she met Mr. Jagmohan Singh and his friend who was with him throughout the function.



## Dedication of Life to Pingalwara

First death anniversary of Bhagat Puran Singh, was attended by S. Surjit Singh Barnala who was impressed by Bhagat Ji by his dress and specially by the bell around his neck. During a conversation with Bhagat ji in train, he came to know about Pingalwara. Among other dignitaries there were Reema Anand who made a documentary on Bhagat Puran Singh, "Eh Janam Tumareh Leikhe" and that was released. So all the dignitaries along with Sh Sunder Lal Bahugauna ji were honoured. Inderjit Kaur was much impressed by Sunder Lal Bahuguna. He is a saintly personality, great environmentalist and selfless social worker. He became a guide of Inderjit Kaur after Bhagat Puran Singh.

About four years, she used to come to Amritsar once a week. But now some complaints had surfaced in the functioning of the work. There was a complaint that some torn out currency notes were found out in the boxes of Chandigarh and it was apprehended that somebody had tried to get them out. Mr. Jagmohan Singh a associate of Pingalwara was asked to look into the complaint and he found that complaint was correct. She felt regretted as it had shaken the faith of the donors. Later on those boxes were supervised and really ten times more money was recovered from those boxes. Though she felt regretted, but became cautious for the future. In those days she received another complaint that the ambulance which was meant for carrying the patients to the hospital, was being used

for some other purposes by some people and the patients were either being carried on Rickshaws or they missed their medication and consultation for that day. It was too serious and Inderjit felt herself guilty for such lapses. She got some other complaints. One day a man from Pingalwara came to her and told about certain other complaints.

On that day, Inderjit could not sleep whole of the night and kept thinking. She was feeling guilty. She was thinking that Bhagat Puran Singh showed his blind faith on her. He was over confident to appoint her as his successor. The saint had suffered a lot and that ashram developed as a ray of hope for the destitutes. What would happen to the faith of those people who had been giving donations from all over the world. They would get shaken when they would become aware about such lapses, what impression they would draw about her. Bhagat ji had full faith on any one to whom he met. Prior to her, he had considered number of people as his successors in his mind and once being aware about their objective of exploitation, how painfully he had changed his decisions. If she were a failure, it would hurt his spirit and all his efforts of 50 years would go wasted only because of her. She got involved in such thoughts throughout the night. She had to choose either her Sangrur hospital or Pingalwara. She had to stay permanently at Pingalwara. Next morning she awakened as a new person with the third independent and crucial decision of her life, "To devote her life for the Pingalwara".

By 11 in the morning she reached Amritsar and held the meeting of All India Pingalwara Society in the

evening. She admitted her mistake not to stay there. The number of new complaints were exposed at the meeting. She spoke the words of Bernard Shaw that there were certain people who were satisfied and adjust themselves according to the society. But there were others who were dissatisfied and adjust the society according to them. She belonged to that category. The service of these destitutes was her mission and she was willing to make any sacrifice for it. So All India Pingalwara Society decided to remove some people involved in the management of the society. She consulted other members of the society. They also agreed upon it. It took about six months to take the decision. These persons instigated ward incharges to go on strike along with other Sevadars.

But what she saw the next morning, was strange. The incharges were not ready to obey her orders and opposed her move. They had no technical knowledge for any ward. They sought the jobs when they were unemployed. Why they were opposing? It was a time of test. Some of the people suggested her not to pursue it. But she was looking some serious conspiracy in that and she was adamant to enforce the orders of the society. But they got the cooperation of some other employees and went on strike.

The next day they put a tent at the Gate and installed a loud speaker and started instigating the other employees to join the strike in their own interest. They instigated workers to go to different political leaders for help and those leaders were assuring them for their own myopic political objectives, well aware that there was no such alternative available with the government where the

destitutes, orphans, handicapped, blind, insane and people suffering from severe diseases might be provided shelter, food, clothing, medicines and all the possible care. Their demands, were absolutely unreasonable in a charitable institution. These demands were, parity of service with the government employees. They were criticizing the management of the All India Pingalwara Society.

The management was inviting the employees for talks. They were persuaded that they might leave the strike in the interest of the inmates among whom the maximum were the patients. They were told that even in Nari Niketan there was temporary arrangement for the girls and women. There was no government arrangement for such people. They were reminded, about the dedication and mission of Bhagat Puran Singh. But they were not accepting anything.

Except 11 or 12 employees, all others, had joined strike on the wrong presumption that Ashram would be taken over by the government and they would automatically become the government employees. It was a big challenge for Bibi Inderjit Kaur. Some of her well-wishers suggested her to leave the place and asked her to stay away from stepping into any trouble. But she ruled out all such suggestions and advices. She was confident and was prepared to sacrifice anything for the mission she had taken. She regretted the role of short sighted politicians who were instigating the employees on the unfounded promises, understanding well, that social security is a job of the government and as the ashram had emerged as a hope for the destitutes, but these politicians were misguiding these people. They themselves were unable to

provide any relief, but they were provoking for such indiscipline.

During her stay, she was continuously in touch of her mother. whenever she had talked to her, she was being encouraged. She was told by her mother to continue her efforts, ultimately she would be successful. She was amazed, that her mother was not an ordinary woman, who might get depressed or afraid that her daughter was facing opposition of some of the people, desirous to remove her but she was satisfied that she was making her efforts for the service of society. "Your hospital is all right you should not worry about it," and she assured her, that she would succeed, "you are on the true path so you should not worry" said her mother.

All members of the Pingalwara Society were supporting her as a rock. The patients were suffering from this strike. The agitators were not allowing the other people to join for the service of patients and they were creating the law and order problem. Rather they were threatening the people those were not on strike.

Inderjit Kaur went to Bhai Ranjit Singh Jathedar Siri Akal Takhat for help. He approached S.S.P. to look into the matter as patients were suffering. On the intervention of Bhai Ranjit Singh, S.S.P. Amritsar sent the good number of police personnel to help Inderjit Kaur. They did not allow agitators to enter the Pingalwara premises.

The agitators continued to approach the political leaders and the administrators. They were appealing to the administration to settle the issue in their favour. They were stating the wrong facts while defending their strike.

One day a government officer came to the Pingalwara. He was instructed by his seniors to settle the issue. But he was not having the neutral opinion. He was having some wrong facts with him, either he was given the wrong information or he was biased towards the agitators. He called Bibi ji to the office. He welcomed Bibi Ji with a smile and asked her why she was misleading those people. and becoming an obstacle in putting this Ashram under the Government Control. Bibi was amazed to listen his remarks, and got annoyed. But she responded him saying "I am not misleading, you are misleading them. Are you capable to order for its government control or whether you are being asked to put in the control, of the government over the Pingalwara? Can you tell any ashram in India being controlled by the government and making the provision of the facilities which this Ashram is providing and listen clearly that I have come here with a mission to serve these people and to sustain the Pingalwara as per the desire of Bhagat Puran Singh ji and I shall make any sacrifice for that," she said all in a single breath. The Officer had no answer, rather he got much depressed. He was looking for help from the people surrounding him. But there was no one to help him and after a while he went away. S. Mukhtar Singh and Master Rajbir Singh were standing there but nobody went to see him off.

Just after this incident Dr Inderjit Kaur held a meeting of the All India Pingalwara Society and she said an urdu couplet (Jab bhi kabhi chot khai hai hum Muskrai), 'Any time I got hurted, I smiled. It is the voice of her soul that I shall serve these destitutes, we are on

the right path and nobody can check us, we shall face any problem confronting us in our mission to serve the society. How this Ashram of social service was built up by Bhagat Puran Singh ji in his life by devoting 60 years of service, how we can let it go astray. It is my mission of life to serve these people." In her heart she prayed to God to bestow His blessings and solve the problems existing in Pingalwara.

The same day, a miracle took place. All the agitators came inside the premises in the evening. About five people came to Bibi and asked her to forget the past and promised to continue in service and support her.

The next day, all the employees of the Pingalwara gathered in front of the office and invited Bibi ji and the other members of the All India Pingalwara society. She addressed the employees. She started by saying, "I had forgotten everything yesterday when you came to me. This Institution was started with big hopes for the destitutes. It is not my property. I am just the custodian of your interests and mainly of the interests of the inmates, who are coming to this Ashram with a hope that they can get love and affection as well as proper care for their requirements. It was a plant, planted by Bhagat Puran Singh ji who nurtured it throughout his life and now it has grown as a big tree. You must remember that Bhagat ji could not get good support in the beginning but even then he had not refused anyone and even begged for the people who sought his help. I may request you all, that we may serve the people with the spirit that had been expected by Bhagat ji from us. It is not a service like government

service, it is a service to achieve some mission. But even then we would try to look after your interests as a family of which you are members and have equal rights. Actually this Ashram is a model before the world that reflects the spirit of the Ashram to accommodate and care the destitutes and the people facing different problems. Bhagat ji was always worried that it might become sustainable, and I seek your help and Co-operation". The employees assured her their full cooperation to achieve their good mission.

When every activity was put on track, the Pingalwara became peaceful, and the patients were getting proper care. Few days passed in this state of order, she received a call from her mother and while picking up the phone she felt guilty that her mother was feeling so concerned about her and Pingalwara, and she had been calling her almost daily. But now she had become successful, she could not get time even to intimate her. She regretted on the phone, but her mother never bothered it and congratulated her as she had learnt that Pingalwara society had put everything in order, towards further progress.

The next day the patients and destitutes were having new hopes and on the other side those employees started serving the inmates with a new vigour. But some disgruntled persons continue to approach the various people including politicians. They met many political leaders including S. Surjit Singh Barnala, S. Simaranjit Singh Maan and others. But nobody obliged them. Some of the leaders told them that whosoever is having the will as successor they would support that person, as Bibi ji is

having the will so we shall support Bibi Inderjit Kaur.

Bibi Inderjit Kaur delved deep over the issue of Social Service. She thought that though people are donating for the well-being of the destitutes and patients they must consider about the person who is managing the affairs. Bhagat ji was having a good name and people had full confidence in him and she would have to develop that image. I had to work hard and had to show the people, that the same mission is being carried on that was adopted by Bhagat Puran Singh ji. Generally she used to say that everybody listens the voice of the soul but some act accordingly and others not. She used to listen the voice of the soul and then act on that, while taking any decision, she was never emotional. She would always take the logical decision. She had faced number of tests in her life but she spent the time in a normal routine every day.

She remembered the words of Khalil Zibran that the bread not prepared with love does not relieve the hunger. She herself would have to involve in this ashram and had to work with dedication.

The major challenge at that time was to remove the impact of negative propaganda about Pingalwara. She had to restore the faith of the people with the objective that Pingalwara team was working as a single unit, only for the welfare of the inmates of Pingalwara and the team was not concerned for comforts of their own but feel pleasure in the service of the destitutes.

She felt that some of the patients could not get better treatment during that period of strike. Being doctor, she went to every ward looked into the problems and act

accordingly. Some of the patients were sent for their special treatment and the patients with minor ailments were given proper medication by the staff of Pingalwara. She employed four more full time nurses to provide round the clock care to the patients. Some doctors were called for certain patients. Some of the patients were sent to the diagnostic laboratories for tests.

Some patients were cured. When they were admitted in Pingalwara, they were not able even to tell their address. Now after treatment, they were able to tell about their whereabouts. They were reunited with their families. One lady got reunited with her family after 25 years.

Here she was feeling that now more than 500 patients were admitted in the various wards facing the different types of ailments. A diagnostic laboratory was required to be established at the earliest. Some of the departments like dental, orthopedic, surgery required the services of specialists where the visiting doctors should be invited. She was happy to note that once she discussed the idea of visiting doctors with some people, some doctors offered their services free of cost for the Pingalwara patients at the call of Pingalwara administration.

She assessed the total Income and expenses of Pingalwara and delved deep into future expectations and the probable hindrances in her work. She assessed the problems on the basis of the wards and planned to solve those problems and to bring efficiency in them. The patients suffering with chronic diseases and those in the advanced stage of their ailments needed the services of specialists in their field. She tried to arrange the services

of the specialists either on honorary basis or by making payment. She was of the opinion that fees of the specialists or expenses in any other form should not be an obstacle for the treatment of any patient. The patients must get the possible available care of modern era. She had already set up an elementary diagnostic laboratory and now she was planning to extend it to take all types of tests. This needed lot of money and she had to arrange it. For the time being as the patients were sent to the government hospitals, so more of Ambulances and vans were required to be purchased for them.

Once Inderjit Kaur was invited by Guru Gobind Singh Study circle at Secundabad, there she got a chance to meet S. Bhagwant Singh Dilawari. He is a great social worker, serving in Tapovan at Amravarti, 'a leper's Ashram' after having voluntary retirement from I.F.S. He had been Secretary to Ambassadors in various countries. All the inhabitants of Tapovan Ashram called him papa ji, so Inderjit Kaur also started calling him papa ji. He wrote many books on practical sikh religion. Many of them were printed by Pingalwara and were distributed free of cost. He had also been her guide in her life as a social worker.

In 1996 about 2.5 acres of land was purchased near Sangrur to establish a branch of Pingalwara for the Malwa people. There were some other branches of Pingalwara, those were at Goindwal, Jalandhar, Chandigarh and Pandori. The planing and design of the buildings for Pingalwara at Sangrur was done by a member of the Pingalwara society Mr. Mukhtar Singh. The rehabilitation wing was to be attached to it. There was a plan to start an

old age home in the same campus. There were a large number of destitutes and other people facing number of ailments in that area. There was a need of relief in that region. She planned to build a branch in Sangrur because her father served the people of that area for many years and afterwards she provided medical facilities to the people without any personal interest. So people of that area had faith in her. She expected full co-operation from the people. As Dr. Inderjit Kaur was having her house at Sangrur, some of the people at Amritsar criticized this move without any sound reason, because of their own interest. whereas she was of the opinion that land was available at very low rate, and was attached to Sangrur. She could deliver good service at that center and she did not bother any criticism.

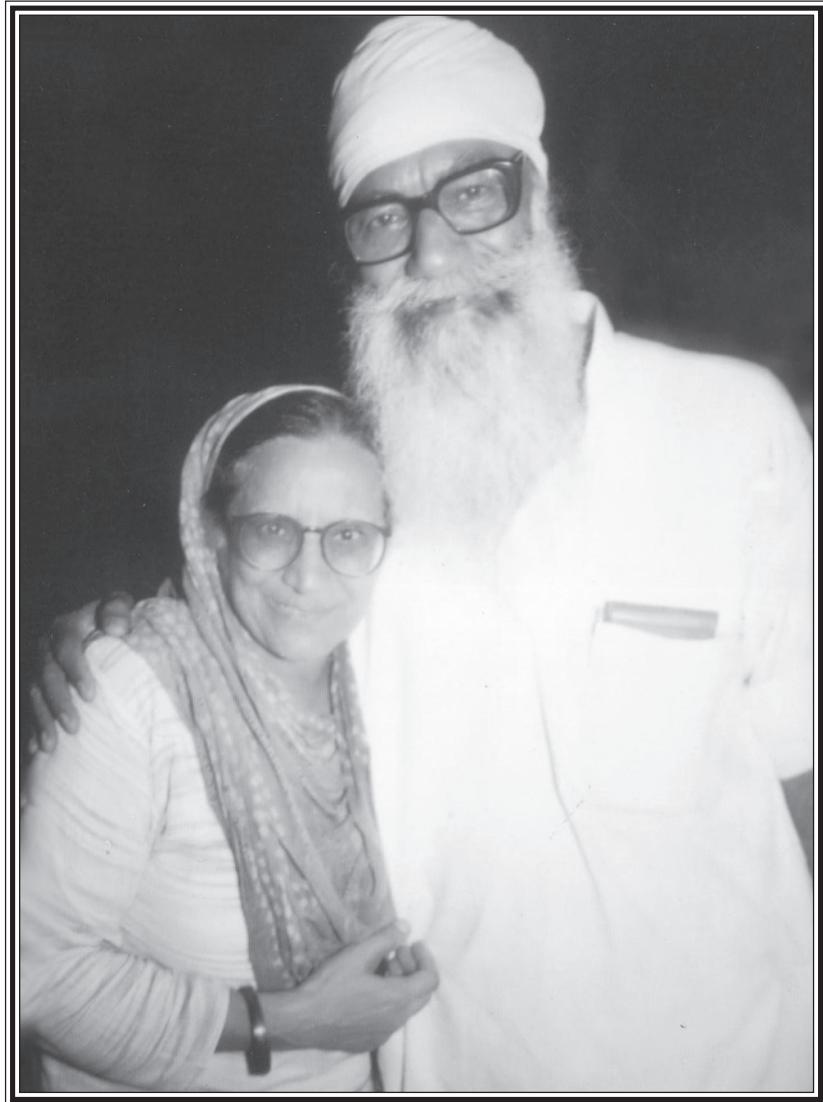
One day about 15 people came to her and entered the office and for a while they looked at each other and nobody was speaking, then one of them said that they were being intimated that she did not take in confidence, the senior sewadars i.e. office bearers of Pingalwara and she was taking the decisions as her own and she took pingalwara property as her personal belonging. These questions were baseless. Then they said that the decision she had taken about Sangrur was not proper. All these questions were just to harass her.

First Inderjit remained calm then said that I was responsible not only to the Pingalwara Management but even to whole of the society. Anybody could check it. Then a person spoke that as you had purchased land at Sangrur, so the work of Amritsar would be affected.

Inderjit replied that there were other branches of Pingalwara at Goindwal, Jallandhar & Chandigarh. Similarly there was a need of that branch for Malwa area. I belong to Sangrur, and we were expected to contribute more effectively at that place. We are accepting contributions from that area also. Inderjit Kaur discussed the matter with Mr. Bahuguna ji earlier who had been calmly listening this discussion and he immediately spoke, "Inderjit, why you are not saying that whole of Pingalwara is mine".

Some of the people started moving out. But Inderjit asked them to listen "see, my only objective is to serve the destitutes, you are welcome for any type of complaint, at any time and at any place. It is my duty to listen to the complaints. I can improve my work with your complaints and I would never mind the complaints." Then some of the people started saying that they would extend all cooperation to her and serve with a missionary spirit. They started going out and Inderjit was thinking, that they came in a strength and they had to put number of complaints. But they said nothing and went satisfied, what was this drama. Though she imagined some conspiracy behind it she took it as a part of her duty to listen to the complaints even the personal allegations as those were.

Pingalwara had purchased a 16 acres plot at Manawala which was sufficient to accommodate a large number of additional wards. Mr. Mukhtar Singh prepared the architectural design of the different buildings in that campus. The planning and design was done in such a way that maximum economy could be effected in construction and there was scope for future expansion.



**Bibi Inderjit Kaur With**

From last one week, she had been missing her mother much. She longed to see her at the earliest but because of the number of activities she got involved in a big rush of work for all these days. Once she called her mother on the phone and learnt that she was not feeling well. She became worried and rushed to see her, at Sangrur. After short illness her mother left for heavenly abode. She was filled with grief. Her mother was a great help to her throughout her life. It was only because of her courageous mother that she could continue serving destitutes in Pingalwara inspite of big hurdles created by selfish and greedy people. Her mother had served not only the large family but number of relatives and known people without a little feeling of inconvenience at any stage. She was remembering her cool and ever smiling face when she said, "You are on the true path, so you should not worry. God is always with those people who are true and selfless."

That day she remembered her father, who had been a big source of inspiration. She recalled the time when her father took her in his arms and asked her number of questions regarding her interest in studies and games.

She remembered the face of her Grandmother, her advice to her at number of times. Her narration of historical stories while combing her hair and her sitting in her lap continuously listening to the stories where she supposed that story should not end so soon.

Thousands of people gathered at the time of cremation and at Bhog Ceremony of Bibi Ranjit Kaur. The people were speaking high of her mother. They were talking of her bravery and generosity at different times.

## **First Foreign Visit**

In 2004 a session of the Parliament of world religions was to be held at Barcelona in Spain. Dr. Inderjit Kaur was invited to attend that meeting. She was surprised to receive this invitation because she was neither the member of that parliament, nor she was representing any religious body. Later-on she came to know that she was invited and sponsored by the founder of the council of Parliament of World Religions S. Balwant Singh Hansra who represented Sikh Religion and was attached to Pingalwara because of the service to humanity according to Sikh religion. He belonged to Chicago. Any how she accepted the invitation and planned to go there along with S. Rajinder Pal Singh who was providing honorary service to Pingalwara. It was her first foreign visit.

In that session she had the opportunity to see a number of people from all over the world representing the various religious bodies. Here she was invited because of her selfless service to society which is the main aim/motto of all the religions and considering her work as a religious work, she was invited. She was the only person from the social service group. It was an opportunity to learn about various religions. All the speakers were advocating the view that service to society is the main part of every religion. The person who renders the service, serves much above the boundaries of language, religion and country etc.



**Bibi Inderjit Kaur taking care of the children of Pingalwara**



**Playing with the children of Pingalwara**

While studying the various religious beliefs, she came at the core that all religions are the tracks to reach one spiritual entity and religion is the creation of humans and not of God. Though the goal is one but the tracks are different. The difference in tracks may be there because of the language, geographical and social conditions etc. She felt that she had gained much by participating in that conference. Apart from learning about the different beliefs, she became known to so many people. She was honored for her services in this conference.

There were so many mentally retarded children. Dr. Inderjit Kaur was observing that the number of mentally retarded children was escalating at the alarming rate. It was because of the use of excessive chemicals in cultivation of crops and those chemicals are penetrating in air, water and soil and ultimately in the food. The number of other ailments are also being caused by the excessive chemicals. Chemical related diseases are spreading with great speed. It was observed that these chemicals contain so much of toxins that even the person sitting near the place where the chemicals are applied get affected, some becomes unconscious and there had been cases of deaths of the people sprinkling the chemicals.

Bhagat Puran Singh had installed a printing press in Pingalwara and printed lot of Literature on used papers in thousands because he was much worried about the environment. For that he established stalls in front of historical Gurdwaras. It was important for Inderjit Kaur to carry forward the legacy of Bhagat Puran Singh. She observed that people of the country were not sensitive



**His Holiness Dalai lama honouring Dr. Inderjit Kaur**



**Dr.Inderjit Kaur alongwith S.Balwant Singh Hansra in Spain  
at C.P.W.R. meeting.**

about the disabled person's life e.g. there were no proper schools for deaf and, special children (mentally retarded). In the school there were no toilet facilities and ramp for physically challenged children. So a seminar was organised on the disabilities in Mata Mehtab Kaur Hall at Manawala Branch Pingalwara. The experts came to the conclusion that main cause of many disabilities was the use of pesticides, being used in farming. Then a seminar was held on the subject "Toxic effects of pesticides on health." Key note address was read by Sh. S.G. Kabra. People were alarmed at this lecture. Now the question before her was, "How to avoid pesticides", then with the help of Sh. Umindar Dutt, the director of Kheti Virasat Mission—a workshop on "Zero Budget Natural Farming" was organized in Pingalwara. Mr. Subash Palekar, the agricultural scientist was the main speaker who invented this new method and brought a revolution in natural farming. She was much impressed by this.

Instead of preaching the organic and natural farming and to make the people aware about the benefits of natural farming, the first step was to test it at their own, and so she converted their farm of 32 acres at village Dhirekot near Jandiala with a natural farm and started avoiding anything that contains any chemical. She realized that such a farm should be an integrated farm including dairy, horticulture and crop raising. Within two years very good results were obtained. She deputed Master Rajbir Singh a member of the society to take the proper training for this natural farming. Number of proponents of organic and natural farming were called on the farm. The farm became



**Bibi Inderjit Kaur alongwith Mrs. & Mr. Bahuguna and Master  
Rajbeer Singh and others**



**Mrs. Inderjit Kaur front of Bhagat Puran Singh School**



**Dr.Inderjit Kaur, Sant Harchand Singh longowal,  
Bhagat Puran Singh and others**



**Dr Manmohan singh with Sunder Lal Bahuguna and Dr.Inderjit Kaur**

a model farm as well as training and research centre for the people interested in natural farming. The farm became so popular, that when Mr. Obama, President of America planned to visit Amritsar in 2011, this farm was in his itinerary. This farm refutes the misconception that yield in organic farm get declined. Now the various insects and birds helpful for obtaining more production could be seen on this farm. The farm provides a natural environment. It became a training ground for everyone interested to adopt organic farming.

In 2004, she received a phone call from Delhi that there was a boy in a hospital of Delhi. He was having one body, with two legs, two arms, but he was having two faces, and two mouths. The father of the boy was from Delhi and he was a driver. He abandoned the conjoined twins in the AIMS New Delhi. News was in Hindustan Times that parents abandoned the children in hospital. Well wishers of Pingalwara and one S. Gurdial Singh from Faridabad informed Inderjit Kaur and asked for the permission to get these children to be brought in Pingalwara. After this news some N.G.O.'s had also visited AIMS to adopt these children, later on they dropped the idea because they could not provide facilities to these children according to instructions of doctors at AIMS. Then the Pingalwara was invited to adopt these children.

After listening to S. Gurdial Singh's call, just after a breath, Inderjit Kaur replied that he need not come to Amritsar, she would send some persons to him to Delhi and they themselves would bring the boy and he would be cared well. This Ashram was for all such people.

After a few days the child was brought in the Pingalwara, while looking at the child, a number of questions arose in every mind. Inderjit Kaur accepted it as an order of the lord. She appointed a nurse, four persons (two for day and two for night) to look after the child for round the clock care. Inderjit hugged them with love and affection. The boys started growing well.



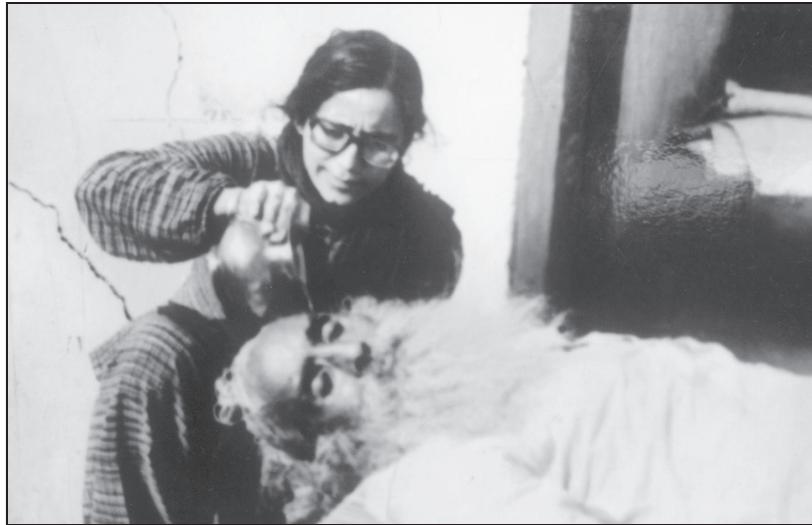
## *Life With A Mission*

In 2005, I got an opportunity to visit Pakistan in a delegation. Prior to my visit, I met Dr. Inderjit Kaur ji and told her about my plan to visit Pakistan. She gave me a set of books and an invitation letter and told me, that while visiting Karachi, I might give that to Mr. Abdul Sattar Eidi and she told me that he was doing a lot of charitable work in Pakistan and she wanted to see his work. She also gave his telephone numbers.

When I reached ahead of Lahore, I saw about two/three times the ambulances with name of "Eidi Foundation". But I did not care much. But at Islamabad I saw such ambulances, number of times. Then a thought strikes in my mind that he might be the same person, as told by Dr. Inderjit Kaur. I enquired about it and I was told by some one, that Abdul Sattar Eidi was living in Karachi. He was running this foundation. The foundation has about 250 hospitals, at the distance of every 25kms covering whole of Pakistan. He was having more than 600 ambulances, moving twenty four hours in Pakistan picking up the patients and accident victims. There were five airplanes with the foundation functioning as air ambulances to pick up the patients from faraway places. Then he told me that he was running specialized hospitals and providing free medication. He was appointed as a Minister in the Zia-ul-Haq, Government but he resigned after a month, so on and so forth. It was very interesting. But a fear arose in



**Bibi Inderjit Kaur with different honours**



**Looking after Bhagat Puran Singh Ji at the time of his sickness**

my mind, that it might not be possible to see such a busy man.

Anyhow when I reached Karachi, I tried on the first day, but he was not available. Then I tried the next day again, but I could not meet him. On the third day, I tried in the evening because our delegation had to return the next day. He picked up the phone and enquired that where I was staying. He disconnected the phone, but after about 15 minutes a van of Eidi Foundation arrived in the hotel and enquired about me. I accompanied the official of the Eidi foundation when we reached his office in the interior of the city, I saw a person sitting on a wooden bench. I passed ahead to him, but the official accompanied me, stood there and asked me, "Sardar Sahib are you not to meet Eidi." I returned back and pay my regards. It was much against my expectations, actually what I was thinking that such a person, who is running such a big establishment, must have a huge A.C installed office with number of Secretaries, and attendants outside his office. Really it was strange, but very true for a person engaged in charitable work.

We sat on wooden bench, I gave the set of books and the invitation letter to him. I got impressed with his style of functioning and the conversation we had, for about an hour. His secretary gave a book, that was a biography of Mr Abdul Sattar Eidi and he asked me, whether it could be translated in Gurumukhi.

Returning back at Amritsar, I went to see Dr. Inderjit Kaur and told her of my meeting with Eidi ji and also told her about the desire of his secretary to translate the book.

But I thought being a huge book, nobody would be interested in its publication.

Dr. Inderjit Kaur thought for a moment and asked that if I could get it translated, to which I agreed and asked, but who would publish it. She immediately replied that she would get it published on behalf of Pingalwara. This is a book that can give a big inspiration.

I was amazed to hear this. Bibi ji, having in mind the need of inspiration for the general public wished that the charitable work done by Eidi must be known to the maximum people.

The book was published and it was distributed free of cost in thousands and the newspapers got it published in series.

She studied the social security measures in the various countries. In developed countries the government is responsible for social security. Though it is related with the tax system and the quantum of the social security depends on the Income of the Government. There are less chances of tax evading but the capacity to pay taxes is also much higher in those countries. On the other side the taxes are evaded in developing countries. The income of Government is less, the tax paying capacity of the people is also poor that impacted the small collection of taxes. The social security is in very nascent stage in such countries though it is an index of a welfare state. Neither the Government is taking it seriously, nor the people are aware about this important duty of the Government.

She was having the biggest challenge to make provision for a good social life for the insane children.

There was a need of a school for special children. There were certain children those were creating violence, they were quarrelling with other children, and some were hitting the material and destroying it. There were some mentally challenged children who were not speaking anything. They used to sit continuously and there were others, who were having other problems. It was required to inculcate certain habits in these children so that they might lead a good life.

The education for special children is not like the normal education. They are not to pass the classes in stages as primary, then middle or matric. Generally these children are to pursue two years education. After passing the first year, they are admitted for second year. In these two years, they are trained to develop some good habits, to love each other, to cooperate, to observe the good rules of moral life and to respect the elders. They are taught the habits to be observed while bathing, taking food and while playing. Such habits are being repeated time and again by them and ultimately these habits becomes the routine of their life. They are given games to play. The competition in games are organized, to encourage their maximum participation.

The teachers of such children are given special training. These teachers were arranged, the building was constructed within a record time of 6 Months and the other infrastructure for the children of special school was installed. Once the teachers were there, they were specially suggested by Dr. Inderjit Kaur to be kind towards these children, create the power of tolerance and shower as

much love and affection on them as they could. The results were very encouraging. Within a year the children who were indulging in violence started with normal behavior of co-operation and good manners. They started taking interest in T.V, watching dramas, reciting few religious words, participating in games, and in cultural activities. There were 350 such children by 2014. They all were accommodated in a hostel that was equipped with the comforts for these children. Twenty four hours watch men and women were there along with a staff nurse to look into all problems.

Apart from these special children there were insane adults and grown up men and women. By 2014, their number was 420. But this number was continuously increasing. As Pingalwara was not refusing any insane, who was destitute, so many people were coming along with these insane persons. Sometimes they were accompanied by their close relatives. In such cases, Inderjit Kaur persuaded them to look after these people because Pingalwara was accommodating only destitutes. But she was observing that even in certain cases so many close relatives were not prepared to take care of them. She was amazed to see that in certain cases, father was persuading to keep his son and in another case son persuading for keeping of the father. It was very strange for her. But as per the rules only destitutes were accommodated, otherwise it would have become unmanageable. But she was worried about the increasing number of such people. She was organizing the number of Seminars to make the people aware about the causes of

such problems and the possible remedies. She concentrated on publishing the literature related to these issues and distributed it freely among the maximum people.

There were certain patients who were attacked by paralyses and polio and who were not having any close relative to look after them. They approached Pingalwara and Inderjit Kaur admitted them. A separate building for these people was constructed and the efforts were made that they might lead a normal and good life because of the care and special treatment. Some people became capable to live a good life and some of them particularly the polio patients were rehabilitated in certain vocations.

There were number of Deaf children. Though they were intelligent but they were unable to express. It was observed that there were so many other such children surrounding Amritsar, but there was no school for such children. Dr. Inderjit Kaur held a meeting of the society, passed the resolution and initiated to start a school for the Deaf. Here again there was a need of separate hostel and the specially trained staff. She managed the staff, started constructing the building of the hostel and completed whole of the process by the end of 2007 and the school was started in 2008. She never refused any child of the surrounding area. Education was free of cost rather Pingalwara provided books and stationery free of cost.

These children were studying the syllabus similar to the students of normal schools as they were to pass their matric and Higher Examination.

There is an All India Council of Sports for deaf. This council is organizing the tournaments in various games

every year. That council even manage to send these children in the International competitions. Dr. Inderjit Kaur arranged for the various games. She started organizing competitions in the various games and the teams were being sent to the competitions at the other levels. The students were keen to take part in sports and games and they were continuously improving their performance. Very good results were being exhibited by them.

The Pingalwara society started a school at Village Butter near Qadian. There was a piece of common land donated by the people who were interested to start a school that may provide the best education for the rural people. There was a need of such school. So a school was started, the staff was recruited and specially instructed to serve the people with missionary zeal. A good number of students got admissions in the medical, engineering, nursing and other professional colleges, after passing out from that school. Some of the students had entered the Government and other private sector services at very higher level. The people of the area were much impressed by this facility as envisaged and practised by the management of Pingalwara under the leadership of Dr. Inderjit Kaur.

In January 2008, Inderjit Kaur received a phone call from the Deputy Commissioner office. He congratulated her for having been selected for the honor of "Padam bhushan". She was surprised to learn that, as she had never thought about it. But she was happy that the efforts of Pingalwara were being recognized by the government. It confirmed her views that social security was the concern

of the government and it was being ignored by it. The next day the official letter confirming the news was received. She invited a meeting of the society and staff of the Pingalwara to disclose the news. The news was given by her. Then different persons spoke and congratulated her on her work and contribution, she had made for the service of the destitutes that has become a model for the whole world. All the speakers congratulated her. In the end. Bibi Inderjit Kaur stood to address the meeting. She thanked almighty that Pingalwara was being recognized for this honour. Actually this honour did not belong to her but belonged to all the staff members and the society for their tireless efforts towards service of the society. It was a honor of Bhagat Puran Singh ji, who had planted a small plant that had grown into a big tree, where God, had given us the opportunity to serve the people. Then she narrated a small anecdote about Bhagat Puran Singh, when somebody while praising the work done by him started saying that, really you deserve the noble prize and Bhagat ji, turning to him enquired if the noble prize is a higher honour than to be a sweeper at Darbar Sahib.

Any how she congratulated the staff and members of the society for this honour.

The blind men or women are facing number of problems in life and some of the blind people came with their close relatives. Pingalwara showed special sympathy for these people. The attendants attending these people were given special instructions to be over sympathetic to these people. There was a need of the proper infrastructure for their care. Their number was small, but they were



**Celebrating Vanmahotsav at Pingalwara**



**Discussing Pingalwara with Bibi Kiranjot Kaur, Member SGPC**

looked after with care and efforts were being made that they might become busy in one or the other activity, so that they might feel good and a part of society as anybody else. It was observed that some of the blind people became blind because of the improper treatment or careless handling. The ignorance, illiteracy, poverty, lack of medication etc. are the main reasons, the whole society is facing. Inderjit never refused any blind person. The medicines, good clothing, beds and other items for their comforts are provided to them. They are engaged in the activities according to their interest. In 2014, there were only 35 blind in the Ashram.

Child labour is a biggest menace of Indian Society. The number of child labourers is maximum in India. According to a report, there are about 30 million children engaged in various jobs. Their condition is worst. These people are not doing their jobs with pleasure. The main reason is the poverty of the parents. The time when they should go to school or play, they are doing one or the other job. Most of the children are going to work, much before the dawn and they are continuing their job till late in the evening, even after the sun set. Some of the children are staying at the place of their service. Generally they sleep in a corner or under the stairs, where the atmosphere is not congenial neither in summer nor in winter. So many times these children are abused and even beaten, but the irony is that they never made a complaint against this and even if they made any complaint, the attitude of the parents is not so sympathetic because of their own compulsions.

Inderjit observed that in normal social life, India is

facing a different type of problem. The adults are unemployed, the jobs are not available to adults but these are easily available to the children. The children are working for more hours, but getting much lower pay. It was observed that some of the parents had availed loans, because of their poverty and the children are working only on the interest, their parents are supposed to pay. In large number of cases, the children are not even aware, that how much salary is being drawn by their parents for his/her services. The parents are awakening their child for work in the morning with a heavy heart, but feeling helpless.

Such children are unable to join school because their parents are unable to pay the school expenses. Pingalwara Management realized this big menace and tried to contribute to eradicate this menace to some extent. The Pingalwara, started a school at the Manawala Complex. Bhagat Puran Singh School was started where not only the children of Pingalwara but any child of the surrounding areas belonging to poor family can be admitted for free education. Actually this school was started in slum area perhaps in 1995, when few people from slum area visited Pingalwara and invited Dr. Inderjit Kaur to plant some trees in their habitat area on the eve of Bhagat Puran Singh 's death anniversary. When Inderjit Kaur went to slum area, she saw children playing in shabby and torn clothes. She asked the people to educate those children. There was a person living in the slum area who was matriculate and working in some factory. Dr. Inderjit Kaur asked him to impart education to these children for which he would be paid double the amount which he was getting from the



**Dr. Inderjit Kaur receiving Padam Bhushan Award from Smt.  
Pratibha Patil Former President of India.**

factory. He started giving education. When strength increased, more teachers were employed. Then in 2001 the school in slum area was demolished. New building was constructed in Manawala Complex. The buses were purchased for the transportation of children living in slum area and nearby areas. Within five years, the school emerged as a model for the other schools, even for the Public schools, charging thousands of rupees as their expenses. The school children are excelling not only in studies but in sports and cultural activities. The Pingalwara Management is monitoring the progress of this school with special interest.

Sometimes, the people came with a new born child to be adopted by Pingalwara. While adopting such child, the back ground inquiry is ensured so to avoid any legal complication. The Pingalwara took the special interest towards the education and all round development of the personality of the child. The affectionate attention is paid to such children so that at no stage, such children may feel that they have been denied the love and affection of a father and mother. Such boys and girls are given special respect. The orphans get the family atmosphere in this Ashram, By 2014 there were about 100 such children.

Inderjit studied the escalating problem of Economic inequality in the society. Instead of declining, this inequality is further increasing. The number of poor is continuously increasing. The Economic compulsions are determining the unwanted and unsocial behavior in the families. The large number of families are unable to afford



**Taking care of an old Patient**



**Bibi Inderjit Kaur With Sona and Mona**

the expenses of medicines, clothing and other needs of the old parents. The children's apathy about the parents compelled the parents that they may seek refuge in old age homes. She noticed that some people were approaching her that they should be given some place to live in because their children were unable to support them. On the other side some others who could easily afford their livelihood approached her with the plea that they would be paying their own expenses.

There was a case with her that a very rich lady, who retired as warden from some hostel, requested to stay at Pingalwara. Her plea was that she was having children and her husband was a retired army officer. She deserted her husband long ago as he was womanizer. She was not willing to stay with her children as they did not respect her. She was suffering from some ailments, so she needed the services of the doctor sometimes at odd hours. She did not want to keep an adult servant with the fear that he might not kill her and go away. The small child could not handle such a situation of medical problem. She was also willing to pay the expenses of her stay. She stayed in Pingalwara till her death. For a small duration she served as warden for the normal children.

The resolution was put up in the meeting of the All India Pingalwara Society and it was resolved that problems of the old people were escalating and it would be in the interest of the society to establish an old age home for such people. The old age home was constructed in the campus of Pingalwara. The natural environment with all the necessities and comforts was provided in it. The T.V.,

the games, newspaper, balanced diet etc. were given in that old age home.

It was observed that there were number of persons who were handicapped, some of them lost leg, hand, foot or arm. So many among them needed the installation of limb but they were unable to afford the expenses for it. Inderjit Kaur saw a documentary on artificial limbs, and was much impressed to see the persons doing every type of work with artificial limbs and became independent. It was also observed that there were only two prosthetic centres and one was at Jaipur. Those centers were at a very far off places and the patients had to bear the expenses. She moved a resolution to start a prosthetic Centre at Pingalwara. In 2002 a Senior Officer of the German Embassy came to Amritsar, and desired to see Pingalwara.

While looking the various wards at Pingalwara, he got impressed that such a great social work was being carried on by this Ashram. He showed his own interest to contribute something from the German Embassy. While discussing this, he suggested to prepare a project report for Prosthetic centre. The project was sent to him and after some correspondence, the German Embassy provided about 3 Lakhs of rupees. Though it was a small aid for the project that required crores of rupees, but that gesture was appreciated. The German ambassador in India was invited to inaugurate that Department. Mr. Kindelien, a minister in the embassy came to inaugurate it in March 2003. I was asked to have liaison with him and I was delighted to note the simplicity of the person, as he told me that he would be coming by Shatabadi train from Delhi reaching

Amritsar round about 1.30, and he would go to Pingalwara. I received him at the Railway Station accompanied him to the campus of the prosthetic centre. He met Dr Inderjit Kaur and got impressed by her efforts. He inaugurated the centre in the presence of so many people and appreciated this move of Pingalwara. He returned back by the evening Shatabdi on the same day.

The patients those are coming in this centre along with attendants are given the meals, medicines etc. They are given accommodation and the limb is installed without charging any fees. By 2014 about 8000 patients were being benefited by this facility. These were not only the people of Punjab but from all other states of India. It is a model of service in itself for the whole world where anybody could come without any prior appointment.

The rehabilitation is most important aspect in the social life of any individual. It was felt that without rehabilitation the service of Pingalwara was incomplete. There are widows, orphans, drug addicts and patients of chronic diseases etc. These people need rehabilitation. The work for widows, adult boys, grown up young people recovering from diseases was to be identified. There should be different work for different people. The training for such vocations is imperative, prior the person is adjusted in that profession.

For widows, the sewing, stitching & embroidery work was arranged at the centre. They were trained for the quality of work, in order to face the present day competition. There were other vocations like preparation of pickles, jams, murabbas etc, which are in demand in the

market. The training was imparted, the material was given and the people got employed, in those jobs and they took it as a profession for their rehabilitation.

Pingalwara do not involve itself in any commercial proposition. Earnings, or profit making was never in the ambit of the Pingalwara activities. Pingalwara was purely engaged for welfare activities. The training of widows and young people was only with the objective that they might get good earnings to lead a good life. By 2014 more than 4000 ladies were trained in the various skills and they were earning good income and running their families with a good standard of living. How glad were the custodians of Pingalwara, to see a person who was rehabilitated with the efforts of the Pingalwara.

For drug addicts, it is much important to inculcate a feeling in the mind of the individual that he is much useful for the society. Once trained for any job and started earning income he becomes responsible. He is galvanized on the path where he could lead a respectable life. It was a much prudent decision of the society to impart importance to the aspect of rehabilitation, otherwise the work of welfare would have remained incomplete.

Though Bhagat ji's work could not get recognized, either by the society or by the government in the initial stages, but Bhagat ji continued with his hard work, facing numerous problems at his own level and was determined to continue. After 1960 number of government officials and political leaders started visiting Pingalwara like the President, the Prime Minister, the Chief Ministers, Ministers, ambassadors of other Countries, Members of

Parliament of India and abroad, ministers from other countries. Inderjit had been contacted by number of visitors and they were welcomed and respected at the Ashram. But she paid special attention to the visit of certain social workers in different fields and her discussions with them were having one objective, that to learn some new concepts to improve the functioning of Pingalwara. Sh. Sunder Lal Bahuguna, S. Surjit Singh Barnala, S. Ranjit Singh Narula retired Chief Justice and her grand daughter in law Reema Anand were invited on the first Anniversary of Bhagat Puran Singh ji. They had great respect for Bhagat ji. Sunder Lal Bahuguna ji told that he had correspondence with Bhagat Puran Singh ji but never had the chance to meet him. Bhagat ji got printed many of his essays and booklets on environment and distributed them among the people free of cost. Surjit Singh Barnala had old association with Bhagat Puran Singh. He narrated one incidence of train when he first met Bhagat Puran Singh and it was much interesting.

Many children with physical deformities were admitted in Pingalwara. One of the boy was lame and crippled. Another boy's arms were deformed, There was another boy whose head was limping on one side or the other and it was not erect as straight. Dr. Inderjit Kaur never refused to admit such boys or girls who were facing such physical deformities and even if they were destitutes or the parent is single and very poor, as the parent had to earn livelihood, so was unable to look after the children.

Whenever she had the sources, she would install the cochlear implant in the ears of the deaf children. As the

cochlear implant was very costly and it depends on the patient that whether it could be planted or not, but Inderjit would not spare a moment when she got an opportunity to transplant it to the needy boy or girl. Though it costs Rs.5.50 Lakh to Rs.6.00 Lakh per patient but by 2014, she had been successful in getting 3 patients cured from the inability to listen and this had given a new life to these patients but main thing was that she was much hopeful to plant the maximum number of cochlear in the coming years.

Creating awareness among the public had been her big mission. She was much concerned about the lives cut short or impaired by disabilities. She had been organizing number of seminars throughout the year, where the specialists were invited. Free transportation was provided to the public to bring them to the seminar so that maximum people might be benefitted and they might become the medium for further propaganda and awareness.

In this series, a seminar on the causes and the measures to check disabilities was organized in 2009. Thousands of people attended it. In 2008-09, Zero Budget cultivation seminars and workshops were organized to propagate the need of natural and organic farming. Dr. Subash Palekar a pioneer in the field of natural farming, was invited to address the seminar. He intimated the proper methods and technology to obtain more benefits with least cost by applying the natural methods of cultivation. Thousands of farmers attended those seminars and workshops. Some of the farmers had adopted this type of farming being motivated by the natural farm

at Dhirekot near Jandiala, under the Management of Pingalwara Society. That farm itself has become a Research and training centre for the upcoming farmers, adopting natural or organic farming.

In 2009, she organized two seminars to create awareness about the causes of cancer, the measures to check it and the possible precautions for the patients. These seminars were attended by large number of people, not only from the urban areas but also from the rural areas. Medical Camp was organized by Cancer Roko Organisation of England. Many patients were examined for detecting cancer at early stages. The application of insecticides and pesticides along with other chemicals applied in agriculture were assigned as one of the major causes for the problems of cancer and the related ailments.

An Eye Camp was organized in 2012 where a team of American doctors was invited to examine the problems and ailments related to eyes. This camp was so successful that about 25000 patients were examined in four days. Eye camps and cataract operations was a routine among the other activities of Pingalwara. Prior to any camp or workshop, the people were intimated either through media or through the workers and well wishers of Pingalwara, so that maximum people might be benefitted by these efforts. Dr. Inderjit Kaur had made it a point that she would remain all the time in these workshops, camps and seminars. The experts in various fields were invited, so that the first hand and latest knowledge in the concerned field might be available to the general public.

Apart from these camps related to physical ailments,

she had been organising certain other seminars, related to social security and human rights. She was invited to deliver a lecture on the topic "women's rights and duties" by Punjabi University in 2012. Her lecture was circulated among the public in large number, in which she had made the women aware about their rights and made them cautious about their duties as well.

She is of the firm view that while receiving the honours at different functions, much of the time was being wasted, so most of the time she declined such invitations. Though she had been honoured by number of institutes in India and abroad but she was very selective to visit the places and institutions in India or abroad. She was primarily concerned to her mission to promote the cause of care for the destitutes and disabled people.

In 2007 she was honored by the National Minority Commission for her contribution to the welfare of the society. In 2012 Pingalwara Society of Ontario in Canada invited her to preside over the silver jubilee of the society. The society of Ontario had been very active since its inception and it was not only helping the running activities, rather the society had initiated so many new projects at the Pingalwara. Being a member of that society, she considered it prudent to be among the people who had been closely associated with Pingalwara and encouraging her team to work relentlessly. She went there, and attended number of functions. Once while she was in Canada, she took the opportunity to visit the other places like Celgary, where she was given Mewa Singh Lopoke Award by Gadar Foundation.

In the same year the Sikh Association of London invited her for the "Sikh Award" instituted for the prominent Sikhs who contributed for the welfare and social service of the society.

In 2013 she was invited to America to receive Mata Kheewi Award. She inaugurated a Museum and Library concerned with the works of Bhagat Puran Singh Ji in Washington. At the same time she visited some other cities to address the public meetings organized by the Indians of those cities. She visited Chicago, where the Indians were celebrating the death anniversary of Bhagat Puran Singh Ji.

A.I.P.S. produced a feature film 'Eh Janam Tumahre Lekhe' on the life of Bhagat Puran Singh that is ready now. It is directed by S. Harjit Singh ex-director of Door Darshan Jallundhar. She is hopeful that this film will change the mindset of the people.

When asked about her accomplishments in life, she was much positive. She replied, "I am perfectly satisfied but I have the dream that every body should have equal opportunities for the overall development. My mission is to serve the destitutes and disabled in my life. This is my duty, I always remember the words of my father "Inderjit, enjoy as much as you can, but never at the cost of your duty." My duty is to serve the destitutes and disabled and it is my enjoyment and bliss also. My mission will be accomplished only when every body will be having equal opportunities in life."

