

## LEARN MORE ABOUT PUNJAB'S RURAL SUICIDE PROBLEM

*These documentaries tell the story*



### **Harvest of Grief**

Directed by Anwar Jamal

Produced by Rasil Basu

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gGjrEfvv5ag>

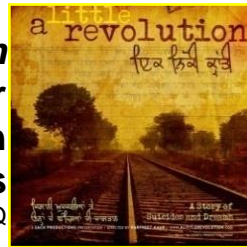
### **A Little Revolution**

Directed by Harpreet Kaur

& Manmeet Singh

Produced by Sach Productions

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g7sDBLDdk\\_Q](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g7sDBLDdk_Q)



### **Plight of Indian Farmers**

(Insights, spl edition)

Directed by Tamul Mukherjee

for Channel News Asia (Singapore)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ae3EM3qV9A8>



### **Special Report: Situation of Farmers in Punjab**

Anchored by Sham Sundar

Rajya Sabha Television

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MltSyjOVRPA>



### **H<sub>2</sub>Woe: India's Water Crisis**

Scripted & directed by Natalya

Kadyrova

Anchored by Artyom Vorobey

Russia TV

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H0hk\\_5PIv5U](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H0hk_5PIv5U)



**2017-18 UPDATE**



**Baba Nanak Educational Society**

serving Punjab's most suicide-affected area



Frequency of rural suicide is **NOT** declining. It is rising alarmingly.

We can't walk down a village lane without a neighbour coming out to tell us about some new case. Every new case means yet another widow wondering where the next meal is coming from and more children facing a highly uncertain future.

Economic conditions in our villages flow directly from policies that are set at the very top level of government. Politicians tut-tut about the suicides but none of them talks of changing the policies.

Agitating and conscientising may bring about change in some distant future, but in the meanwhile – right now, today -- in our area of 135 villages we are looking at more than 2,000 people in need – hungry children and women with scant means of earning.

Over the past 12 months in our small area debt has driven **72** farmers and farm labourers to take their own lives. These are the cases reported to us. Many cases are hushed up because the family is ashamed or afraid of police harassment.

## Would you like to see those 72 victims & their families?

On our website, [bnespunjab.org/new](http://bnespunjab.org/new) we have created a gallery so that you can see their photos along with personal details.

We have been able to find donors to adopt some of the families of these suicide victims but

**MANY FAMILIES ARE YET TO BE ADOPTED.  
YOU CAN HELP SAVE THESE FAMILIES**

The bright spots of 2017 are all entirely thanks to all those who have come forward to help. We are grateful to them all.

## Here are the highlights of 2017

- The new 500-seat auditorium for Jasmer Singh Jaijee College at Gurney Kalan (district Sangrur) is now complete. The construction was funded by a gentleman in USA who wishes to remain anonymous ▶
- **USP Studios Pvt Ltd**, Mumbai, has donated Rs 40 lakh
- New Friends: Joining the effort is **Perminder Singh** of Norway,
- Old Friends: Vital support continues to flow in from Dr Kartar Singh Lalvani of London, Sanjh Trust, Munshi Bishen Singh Trust, of New York, Harpreet Kaur & Manmeet Singh of Washington DC, Bal Rai of London, PC and Neena Sondhi of Jalandhar, Arvinder Singh of Auckland, New Zealand, Dr Gagandeep Sahni of New York, Shivinder Pal Kaur of Patiala, Navdeep Singh Jhaggi, Prajeet Singh Kahlon, both of Canada and Gurbinder Singh Dhanoa of Kuwait
- **Baba Iqbal Singh** of Baru Sahib has provided scholarships to Akal Academy schools for 55 children aged 4 to six for 12 years
- The team of doctors from **Weill-Cornell Medical College**, visited the villages in February.
- The college has expanded its campus and plans to add more area as funds become available. The larger campus is necessary in order to increase the course offering



**Scheduled Caste Scholarships:** Scheduled Caste students receive the benefit of the scholarships offered by the Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. Rupee-value of the scholarship is reimbursed to the college through the state government. Although reimbursement is three years overdue, the JSJ College continues to admit SC students on scholarship basis.

In three years, the overdue has crossed Rs 1.05 crore. The college has written to the Union Ministry urging immediate clearance of backlog and asked that interest of 7 per cent be added to payments overdue by more than six months

## BNES works with Building Bridges India

This organization headed by Rasil Basu, retired Director of UN Human Rights Division, has launched 10 vocational training centres for women in ten villages of Sangrur district.; 5 are funded by Shivinder Pal Kaur Jaijee. The centres teach tailoring and embroidery. Operational management is in the hands of Ghazala Khan. BBI conducts regular medical check-up camps. One such camp provided cataract surgery and follow-up treatment to more than 100 persons.

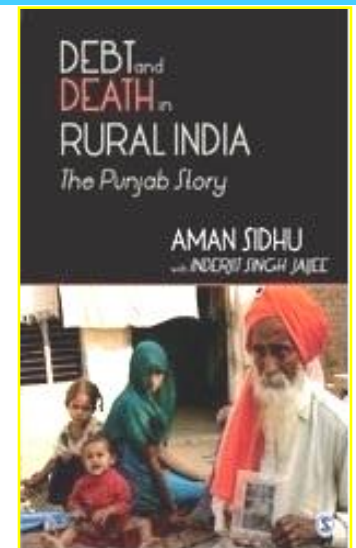


## ... for in-depth analysis

### Debt & Death in Rural India, the Punjab Story

by Aman Siddhu and Inderjit Singh Jaijee;  
2012, Sage Publications, New Delhi

<http://www.sagepub.in/productSearch.nav?siteId=sage-india&prodTypes=Books&q=debt+and+death+in+rural+india>



# Jasmer Singh Jaijee College

**JSJ College**, founded by Aman Sidhu in 2004, functions under **BNES**. It has expanded steadily.

Before 2004, Moonak & Lehra Subdivisions of district Sangrur had no degree college.

The college is housed in a newly constructed building on a 10-acre campus just outside Gurney Kalan. Out of a student body of some 1150 students, 325 are on various scholarships. Fees are waived for children of suicide victims. Some donors are directly providing scholarships for nursing training and law college.



JSJ College is affiliated to Punjabi University and offers

- BA, B Com, BCA, PGDCA,, MSc-IT, MA (Punjabi)
- Subjects applied for: MCom, Defence Studies, BSc Agriculture.

JSJ College results for exams of May 2017 (final year students)

<b>BA III</b>	<b>65 %</b>	<b>MSc(IT) II</b>	<b>95 %</b>
<b>BCA III</b>	<b>75 %</b>	<b>BCom III</b>	<b>68 %</b>
<b>PGDCA</b>	<b>65 %</b>	<b>MA II</b>	<b>78 %</b>
<b>BA III</b>	<b>65 %</b>	<b>MSc(IT) II</b>	<b>95 %</b>
<b>MSc(IT) II</b>	<b>90 %</b>		



**Harman Kaur Sharda** (left) is College Director and **Dr Gurdeep Kaur** (right) is Principal.



## Their support has enabled us to ...

- Fund school education for 1183 children
- Provide college scholarships to 325 boys & girls
- Keep families from starvation thereby reducing temptation to commit suicide
- Continue on-going suicide documentation and verification
- Approach courts to get government relief for suicide-affected families
- Mount campaigns to spread awareness about pension problems
- Combat Central Government indifference to rural suicides

### Aid to Baba Nanak

**Educational Society** means adopting a widowed mother and her children. To ensure continuity, we ask you to commit assistance for one full year. A donation of **Rs 15,600** supports a family of one or two children. A donation of **Rs 23,400** supports a family of three or more children This sum pays for the children's education and provides sustenance to the family. Of this, 30 per cent go for administrative costs. Donations may be sent by crossed cheque/bank draft/electronic transfer in favour of **Baba Nanak Educational Society**:

**About BNES:** The Society was set up in 2004 under the Punjab Registration of Societies Act. It submits audited accounts to the Registrar annually and its books are open to inspection. Donors adopt specific families and are given contact details so that they may visit or write to the families if they wish. A bank account is made for every recipient family and monthly assistance is routed through the bank. Our field workers remain in contact with the families.

### For Foreign Exchange:

STATE BANK OF INDIA,  
Sector 17 Branch, Chandigarh  
Branch Code 0628, IFSC Code:  
SBIN000628  
Saving Bank Acct No.11304008448  
Our FCRA number is 291420081

### For Electronic Transfer:

instruct your bank as under:

### For Foreign Exchange:

SWIFT Code No. SBININBB141  
(Branch: SME)  
STATE BANK OF INDIA,  
Bank Square,  
Sector 17-B, 3rd Floor, SCO:43-48  
Chandigarh 160017

### For Local Donors:

IFSC Code No. SBIN002365  
STATE BANK OF INDIA  
Jakhal Branch, Jakhal Mandi, Haryana  
Saving Bank Acct No.30300348884.

**Donations are eligible for Tax Relief u/s 80G(5)(vi) of the Income Tax Act**

See our website

[www.bnespunjab.org/new](http://www.bnespunjab.org/new)

### Contact us:

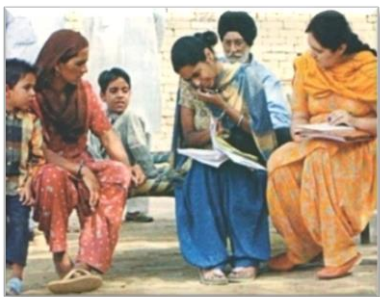
**Baba Nanak Educational Society**  
**City Office: 1501 Sector 36-D**  
**Chandigarh 160036**

**0172-4027519 & 9814334314**  
[inderjitsinghjajee@yahoo.com](mailto:inderjitsinghjajee@yahoo.com)

# BNES HAS FOUR OBJECTIVES

## Immediate Assistance ►

The aim of **BNES** is to keep children whose parent(s) have committed suicide in school by providing their families monthly financial assistance



## Facilitation ►

Availing of government help is difficult for many persons. **BNES** helps victim families get state welfare pensions to which they are entitled. Although these pensions are small, even small amounts can mean the difference between hope and despair and save a family from the trauma of second or even third suicides



## Documentation

**BNES** investigates and fully records cases of rural suicide taking affidavits from village panchayats for verification of debt-related suicide

## Advocacy:

**BNES** pressures state and central governments to rehabilitate families of suicide victims and remove the causes of rural distress that drive people to take their own lives

As on Dec 31, 2017

Villages	135
Beneficiary families	541
All family members	1745
Children studying	1183
Suicide cases (1990 to 2017)	2592
Panchayat affidavits	2

## COVERAGE:

In 2017 **BNES** supported 541 families with a monthly assistance of Rs 1000 to Rs 1500 (depending on family size) on the condition that children remain in school.



Dark Blue indicates area with high rate of rural suicide

## AREA OF WORK

**BNES** looks after families in 135 villages of Sub-Divisions Andana, Moonak, Lehragaga, Sunam, Dirba and Budhlada



## Special Assistance ▲

The number of families in need of help exceeds the number of donors. **BNES** provides special assistance to many of the yet-to-be adopted families. This assistance sometimes takes the form of quilts and warm clothing