

Iskcon (Belfast)

Registered Charity Number: NIC102942

Trustees Annual Report

For the Year Ended 28th February 2024

Trustees Annual Report

Iskcon Belfast's main location is 2A, Brooklands Grange, Dunmurry, BT17 0HE, Co. Antrim, Northern Ireland.

Iskcon Belfast's main objectives: -

To advance, transmit, spread and propagate the religion of Krishna Consciousness as revealed in the teachings of Bhagavad Gita and Srimad Bhagavatam as translated by A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami and the doctrines and observances that serve to promote and manifest the said religion. The direct benefits flowing from this purpose include the elevated ethos of placing God at the centre of one's life, diverts one's attention from gratifying oneself, to gratifying the Supreme Lord. This translates into establishing centres and arranging for programmes and lectures to spread this knowledge which is of immense benefit to humankind.

A proper understanding of the interrelationship of God, the living entities and the material world, allows for complete harmony to exist between all three, which manifests in the establishment of a balanced, joyful and non-exploitative human society, focussed in a spirit of devotion on the Supreme Lord. These benefits can be demonstrated by the practice of the four regulative principles of freedom (i.e. no meat eating, no intoxication, no gambling, no illicit sex), leading to the absence of the destructive results wrought on all tiers of society.

Purpose (b) – To advance education in the science of vegetarian diet and non-violent lifestyle and living habits by providing classes, training and tuition drawing upon the ancient and acquired knowledge and wisdom of the Vedic scriptures emphasising the benefit in the modern age of such practises for the betterment of society particularly in the areas of the spiritual, humanitarian, health and diet, animal welfare, ecological and environmental spheres of activity and for the ethical and moral development of humankind in general.

The direct benefits flowing from this purpose include the development of the virtue of compassion by learning to love our fellow inhabitants in this world, the animals, rather than killing and eating them. The development of the virtue of non-violence by not killing and eating animals. The preparation and offering of all vegetarian foodstuffs as a sanctified devotional offering to the Supreme Lord firstly, and then consuming such foodstuff thereafter in recognition of the fact that all food ultimately is received as a gift from God. These benefits can be demonstrated by the development of compassion in this way can be amply demonstrated in the improvement of the lives of animals and animal welfare.

The benefit in the development of nonviolence can be demonstrated, in the long term not alone in the reduction of cruelty and violence exerted on animals but in the reduction of cruelty and violence between human beings.

The eradication of animal slaughter also has the enhanced benefits to the environment and to human health and wellbeing. The benefit of offering sanctified food firstly to the Supreme Lord can be demonstrated by the inculcation of the virtues of gratitude and thanksgiving inherent in the observants of this practise.

The preparation and offering of simple foodstuffs in this way promote health, wellbeing and longevity in the recipients of same coupled with a marked resistance to disease. The purpose of our charity will not lead to any harm. The charity's beneficiaries are all of society, with whom the charity comes in to contact, irrespective of class, creed, sex, or race.

There are no private benefits flowing from the purpose.

Approved by the trustees on 20th October 2024 and signed on their behalf by:

H Kudithipudi

Himasree Kudithipudi
Chairperson