Annual
Report
2018 - 2019



Snehadhara Foundation (SF) is a registered non-profit organization based in Bangalore. We have a vision to foster a culture of respect and belonging, to create inclusionary spaces that welcome, acknowledge, affirm, and celebrate the value of all learners.

Our Direct Care space led the way in reinforcing its endeavours through the entire gamut of new and existing programs. Through our Week-Long Programme – Uhuru, we started the year with our unique summer school venture – Meil Milaap. While initiatives like Oota Thota, Café Obattoo, Snehasangiti, Pipilika were revved up, brand new programmes like Houseful, Treevelling, Hamari Rasoi and Home Visits were added, bringing in more vibrancy. Overnighters were reinvented and children facilitated to take charge of the programmes even more. Kala Samvaad opened more doors for conversations with parents.

In 2018-2019, we worked with 243 children through direct and weekly interventions, over 12476 children through indirect interventions in schools & other environments and trained over 985 professionals through 168 organisations across the country.

impART's footprint this past year has been most colourful and collaborative. Our emphasis this year has been on working with special populations across the country. In pursuance of this have been our engagements with children at risk, senior citizens and medical practitioners. From Dehradun to Koppal, from Srinagar to Chandigarh, we have been showcasing the use of the Arts in working towards better psycho-social wellbeing and more effective ways of sharing expertise and learning spaces with coworkers, educators, practitioners, students and clients.

Prajnadhara's Arts Based Therapy Course – saw its second batch get certification in 2018-2019. We collaborated with BOAT for the first ever ABT course in Charar i Shareif, for another batch of 8 students from Kashmir, Delhi and Goa. This year The Study of the Mind series has been taking small steps at creating a Sangha through Pradñyā Smriti, the Wisdom First project, Teachings from Masters in the field of Indian Mind Traditions and the Certificate Course in Applied Buddhist Psychology and Ethics.

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Uhuru – the daily delights of learning together

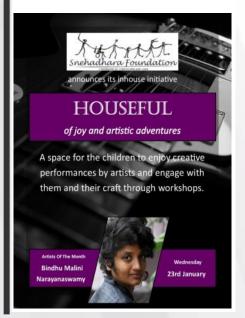
It has been our continued mission over the last year to offer a rich and vibrant experience to the 36 children coming into our Direct Care Centre, Monday through Friday, through the Uhuru programme.

We added zing to our existing programmes like the Arts Based Therapy sessions and play sessions through brand new programmes or by reinventing existing programmes. The classroom sessions have been fortified with newer approaches that come in with different styles of working, even under the same overarching principles of using ABT as the primary methodology of learning together in the sessions.

Based on the curriculum design towards achieving therapeutic goals and skill empowerment, the classroom sessions included crafts and multi-art forms like quilling, yoga, journal production, theatre, gardening, sign-language, singing, drumming, hygiene sessions and more.

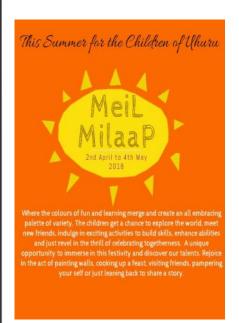
HouseFul

'Houseful' was created to open new worlds through the arts, as practiced by performers. Sparked off by our first ever House Concert by Khalid Ahamed (Parvaaz) and Varun Rao that was held at Untitled Space, Houseful was designed as an intimate performance that would be followed by a workshop for some of the children. These performances and workshops have allowed our students to taste the wide and varied possibilities that the arts afford. Through Houseful, our children have gotten to witness and soak in the magic of the arts. Eminent or budding dancers, musicians and groups of performing artists have been part of our Houseful sessions, held informally on the terrace of the Centre, with all the facilitators and children gathered together.



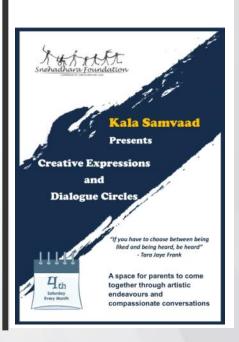
Meil Milaap

Summer School at Snehadhara has always been about excitement, joy and wonder. We reinvented summer fun this year through vivid colours, bright paints, varied textures, tantalising tastes and pulsating rhythms. The Summer School also set us off into exploring socializing from many new perspectives. Based on our belief that what we learn outside the classroom is as important as what we learn inside, the Summer School focussed on cultivating independence, learning to commute, learning to transact using currency, learning to visit and host one's friends. It opened up a world of new relationships with each other, with families and friends and the different spaces we visited. From malls and public parks, to homes of classmates and facilitators, the children spent many road hours of learning last summer.



Kala Samvaad

Kala Samvaad – our space for parentfacilitator interaction has been held, usually on the fourth Saturday of the month, in a structured and yet, not so structured manner. These interactions have opened spaces for creative, introspective and practical dialogue between the parent community and the staff. Creative Circles is our space for artistic creation in which we work on ourselves through various art forms. Dialogue Circles, the second segment of the programme is a space for interaction with the parents, where we can facilitate dialogues around themes that are of importance to our families – these can be immediate and urgent concerns, sharing resources, as well as long term planning.



"If a child is to keep alive her inborn sense of wonder, she needs the companionship of at least one adult who can share it, rediscovering with her the joy, excitement and mystery of the world we live in."



Rachel Carson

Treevelling is about travelling - to meet trees and revel in them. The intent of the exercise is not just to celebrate trees but to track the impressions that trees leave on our consciousness. The children have shown a deep connection to trees and Nature in these sessions, usually held in a nearby park. The materials and activities given to them are mostly centred around trees and woven in with different art forms for expression and learning.

Summer school Meil Milaap was the seed that grew into the concept of **Home Visits**. Every Thursday, children and facilitators of each group, visit one of their group-mates' homes, meet their friends and families, have lunch and return to the Centre. From learning to travel in various modes of transport, playing hosts, eating unfamiliar cuisine in unknown environments to interacting with the families of their peers – the Home Visits are offering the children unparalleled learning. The children get a chance to receive their friends in their space, understand formal and informal spaces, see diversity in how families function and expand their universe of valuable experiences.

Reinventing the **Overnighters** programme has been fun for the facilitators and staff. Overnighters are an attempt to push learning boundaries further. Every group gets an opportunity to stay over at the Centre once a month. They eat dinner together, spend an evening together before beds are put out and they sleep, post bedtime rituals. When the parents pick up the children at 7 am, there are many stories to share from all sides. The intent is to trigger the adaptability of the children as also to give the parents a Friday evening to themselves.



Flagship programmes under Direct Care

Snehasangiti

Snehasangiti – our collaborative Gurukul aimed to empower children with the values of acceptance and inclusion has grown by leaps and bounds in its third year of existence. Having seen that respect and understanding grow when children of differing abilities interact, we've strengthened our collaboration with Kids Corner School where our children go every Tuesday to teach some and learn some with the children of that school. Through dance and song, rhythm and movement, vibrant colours and playful moments, our children are finding their feet in different classrooms, in different positions on the learning curve. They lead the warm-ups, play games and harvest opportunities to interact with other children.

Oota Thota

Oota Thota is developed with the intent of going deeper into the roots of the culinary journeys that usually surround food, its preparation and consumption. Skill based knowledge motor skills, maths, science and language - all grow within this creative space. This year the cooking adventures have been extended across groups with all children participating in a cooking session of some sort. From running Café Obattoo to planning and preparing lunch one day of the week under Hamari Rasoi, our children and facilitators are flowing freely with the learning tide. An interesting fallout this year was the lunch visit by senior citizens from Nightingales Centre, RT Nagar, to our Hamari Rasoi programme. The sharing of food was only a part of the larger sharing of space, stories and conversations.

Pipilika – Inclusive Connections

Pipilika – Inclusive Connections this year changed from working with children and groups in our premises, to discovering spaces that invite us to explore the richness of their environment. We ventured out into the Observation Home, Ragi Gudda Basti, Shivabalayogi Ashram, Sun Beam Orphanage, Desire Society – every second Saturday with our artistic tools and enthusiasm to add artistic flavours and shower care in various communities and groups. As a part of a six-month programme we were at the Government Girls Home once a week facilitating sessions.



This year we made a deliberate effort in taking working with Arts to various special populations across the country. The major highlights of impART this year have been our engagements with children at risk, our journey of well being into the world of senior citizens and our sojourn into the realm of healthcare.

impART is our initiative that looks at capacity building, training, certifications to re-imagine classrooms and learning facilitation in schools and colleges, using the Arts to enable empathetic communities and building lifelong partnerships by introducing corporate citizens to the goals of a socially inclusive society.

The journey of impART in the past few years has spanned from schools to learning centres to colleges to corporates to the people in the community. In 2018-2019, we worked with 243 children through direct and weekly interventions, with over 12476 children through indirect interventions in schools and other receptive environments, trained over 985 professionals in learning institutions in our work with 168 organisations across the country.









Our work with at risk populations took us to Madiwala Observation Home in Bangalore under project PIPAL -Programmes in 'Play and learning' as well as to Bal Niketan, an orphanage in Panchkula. Through Visthar we reached out to the children and educators of Bandhavi, at Koppal where the daughters of Devadasis receive a holistic education. Our program Maitri — Caring for the Caregivers enabled us to engage with Aasra Children home of Salaam Baalak (an NGO that works with children from the margins of society) at Najafgarh, Delhi. We also addressed the passing out Tenth Grade batch at Life Foundation in Charar-e Sharif, Kashmir.

We continued with our year- long programs with Smart Wonders School Mohali, DPS Srinagar and AMC Bangalore on how the Arts can be used to create learning and therapeutic environments. Along with Headstreams, for the fourth year consecutively, we continued to offer a Certificate Course, a course spread over 12 weeks in *Play and Human Development: Perspectives and Practices* in three colleges in Bangalore-St Joseph's College, Mount Carmel and Christ University.

We also deepened our corporate outreach this year with an engagement with Vana Enterprises Limited under two initiatives-Creative Connections and Vakshana. In our attempt to build communities and capacity using the Arts-Creative Connections, our year long engagement with the Vana team, saw us take our work to a group of 36 participants and their leadership team. The monthly sessions focussed on well-being through the Arts, a search for equilibrium, the inner journey and learning that are at the heart of Vana.

Apart from the year long engagements our training and workshops sessions took us to institutions across the country. The institutions that we offered our workshops to were Mirra Charitable Trust in Chennai, Heritage School and Amrit Somani Memorial Centre in Kolkata, Sri Aurobindo School of Integral Education in Chandigarh, Aarohan and Maithri Vidyaniketan in Bangalore, Small Wonders School, Mohali and Life Foundation, Kashmir.

"We are here for the sake of the countless unknown souls with whose fate we are connected by a bond of sympathy. Many times, a day I realise how earnestly I must exert myself in order to give in return as much as I have received and am still receiving."

-Albert Einstein



'Vakshana – Collaborative Mindful Leadership' is a year long engagement with the Vana Sabha leaders at Dehradun, the programme focus is to explore and demonstrate parallels between the arts experience, self-reflections and the work environment.





The sphere of our work in the community broadened as we flagged off programs for Senior Citizens in different parts of the country. Our 3-day program Svasti – Wellbeing through Arts and Play for Senior Citizens at Antara Senior Living, Dehradun and our sessions through our initiative Building Communities with Rotary's Silver Talkies aspire to provide for physical, psychosocial and emotional well-being through multi arts.

We entered a new phase in our horizon of work when the Unit of Hope and the Department of Humanities at St John's Medical College Hospital invited us to share our craft with the doctors, nurses, social workers, speech therapists, physiotherapists, psychologists, hospital workers and others in our first ever session that introduced Arts Based Therapy (ABT) as a Complementary Health Practice.





Over a series of sessions titled 'Inclusive Classrooms-Learning through the Arts' we worked with the MA Education students at APU, Bangalore to primarily introduce the group to a vocabulary of creative arts-based techniques to examine the way one learns. Our year ended with a session titled 'Arts in building an Inclusive Society for all Learners 'under the Sahyog Initiative of Christ University for over 500 students from the Department of Psychology and the Department of Professional Studies.



Prajnadhara is a division of Snehadhara Foundation that looks at learning and practice for all. The twin goals of Prajnadhara are the Arts Based Therapy Certification Course and the Study of the Mind.

The focus of Prajnadhara in 2018-2019 was on creating spaces of introspection, reflection, meditation and conversation through teachings and practices.

Study Of the Mind

The Study of the Mind series propagates the eastern philosophical mind traditions and makes these unique traditions and sciences accessible to people from all walks of life. Through Pradñyā Smriti, an 8-session program on 'Wisdom based Mindfulness', the Wisdom First project, Teachings from Masters in the field of Indian Mind Traditions and the Certificate Course in Applied Buddhist Psychology and Ethics, this division has been taking small steps at creating a Sangha.

Wisdom First

In keeping with the principle of propagating Indian Mind traditions, and under the aegis of WCCL, WISDOM FIRST (WiFi) is a project that mindfully integrates key concepts into therapeutic work. Under the Study of the Mind series we completed two of the Wi-Fi projects in Bangalore. SamAsana – Togetherness, 12-week project was conducted by Gitanjali Sarangan at Apoorva centre for autism. The project Waves was conducted by Sumathi Ramjee at Sharanya childrens' home with children-at-risk. These projects allowed us to share the best practices of ABT through the SEG Lens integrating Artistic Skills with Practice and Wisdom.

ABT BATCH 2018-2019

Our second batch of students for the Arts Based Therapy Certificate Course embarked on their journey of learning this year. This batch comprised of 24 participants from 20 different organizations across 11 locations in India. The profile of this batch of students included psychologists, therapists, educators, facilitators working with special needs children, children-at-risk, senior citizens, de-addiction, rehabilitation and mental health.





ABT COURSE AT KASHMIR, 2018-2019

We collaborated with BOAT, a Delhi based organization to unveil Alaya, the first ever ABT course in Charar i Shareif, Kashmir for a batch of 8 students from Kashmir, Delhi and Goa. As we completed the two contact sessions, we carried with us a group of compassionate aspiring practitioners who believe in the unifying power of the Arts to bring about change.

"However, the path itself must eventually be abandoned, just as you abandon a boat when you reach the other shore. You must disembark once you have arrived. At the point of total realization, you must abandon Buddhism. The spiritual path is a temporary solution, a placebo to be used until emptiness is understood." - Dzongsar Jamyang Khyentse, What Makes You Not a Buddhist



Teaching and Talks

By hosting Teachings from Masters in the field of Indian Mind Traditions we endeavour to make the unique traditions and sciences accessible to people from all walks of life. This year we got an opportunity to host two such events.

We collaborated with Vana Foundation to host His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama's teachings in August on 'Courage and Compassion in the 21st Century' and 'Indian Wisdom in the modern World' and Ratnashree Ji on 'What is a Buddha & History of Buddhism in India', in February. Our Founder & Executive Director, Gitanjali Sarangan was one of the esteemed panelists for a discussion on "Courage and Compassion in our Daily Lives" in August. The team from Snehadhara provided invaluable support by their unconditional ownership of the programs as well as proactive participation.



Healing the Mind through Knowing the Mind - a 5 month Certificate Course in Applied Buddhist Psychology & Ethics

This year we announced for the first time in Bangalore, a 5-month Certificate Course in Applied Buddhist Psychology & Ethics titled 'HEALING THE MIND THROUGH KNOWING THE MIND'. The aim of this course was to introduce the theory and practice of Buddhist Psychology through the Nalanda tradition of intellectual understanding, contemplation and action. In the first Semester the course looked at an introductory level understanding of the wisdom aspect of Buddhism & its applications for balanced mental health and Understanding concepts in the study of Mind from Eastern perspective and a few relevant parallels in modern psychology & neuroscience. The second term of the course looked at the ethical framework of Bodhichitta, Paramitas & Mindfulness and developing a context for ethics in daily life.

The 5-month Certificate course launched for the first time in Bangalore and brought together 25 students from Bangalore, Calicut and Dehradun. This Course was facilitated by Ms. Asha Pillai, Executive Director of WCCL Foundation, and a Board Member of Khyentse Foundation and the Dzongsar Khyentse Chökyi Lodrö College of Dialectics. The Course also had Ven. Pema Karen Schaefer take the batch through a three-day Bodhichitta Retreat in March 2019.





Capacity Building

In keeping with our belief in learning continuously and consistently through the arts, capacity building for the team has been prioritised as much as curriculum planning. From working with transforming white sneakers into signature art to working with balancing emotions, delving into an understanding of what constitutes sexual harassment at the workplace and more — it's been a year filled with new perspectives and experiences for the team.

We welcomed our new year with Shraddha program by Mirra from Chennai. The focus was on "The Course of Development" and "Brain and its plasticity". An interactive session was facilitated on 'Sexuality" by Krishna, Teacher, Centre for Learning, Bangalore looking deeper at reflections, attitudes and negotiations with children.





"The Blue Donkey and its secrets "- our workshop on sexuality, explored the five circles of sexuality with Vikramjeet Sinha of BOAT. Taking this forward to the parent community was 'The Secret Garden' that sought to lead the way to the exploration of sexuality, vulnerabilities and growing up for our children.

As the year came to an end, Ven. Pema Karen Schaefer, a Buddhist monastic ordained and trained in Bhutan and Taiwan, along with Dr.Nivedita Chalil founder of ARTH and our Founder Gitanjlai Sarangan conducted a three-day Practitioners' Training in working with Anxiety and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) for the first time in Bangalore for a group of 25 practitioners from Bangalore, Delhi, Mumbai and Kerala.





Indrajit Deshmukh founder of Practical Like Skills and Vajradhatu Pune through his session on 'Cultivating Emotional Balance' enabled the participants to sift through their own emotional mechanisms.

Snehadhara is an equal employment opportunity organization and is committed to creating a healthy work environment that enables employees to work without fear or prejudice. In pursuance of this, in May 2018, we drafted and introduced the Policy on Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal of Sexual Harassment at Work place. The document is in compliance with The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013. An Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) was constituted and Margaret Devaraj trained all the employees as well as the Committee members on the content of the policy. This is year the ICC was convened for two meetings as per the mandate of the policy.

Center for Inclusive Policy

Snehadhara recognises that it has a unique opportunity of working with children having multiple moderate/severe intellectual disability, a grossly under-represented and understood populace. Snehadhara also occupies the unique position of being able to develop deep understanding of non-curricular development of such children. Snehadhara intends contributing to the larger canvas of advocacy and policy making to be appropriate to this populace."

The Centre for Inclusive Policy (CIP) aims to sow the seeds for change through the creation of policies in these areas which are niche, new and complex.

Create awareness in society on general laws and policy by process of intervention in community through workshops, seminars, discussions and publications Create an ecosystem that enables access to rights defined by the RPWD Act and other legal provisions Compile resources of relevant knowledge and thought through specific research to progressively mould policies in this space Promote social inclusion of the marginalised section of the society through advocacy of rights, legislation, policy across sectors and basic legal education

In its first year, CIP has undertaken codification of the Aadhar registration and Disability Certificate issuance for children with multiple moderate/severe intellectual disabilities. In addition, CIP has embarked on a study of inclusion in educational spaces. The first phase of baseline survey data collection has just been completed.

The CIP Blog on the Snehadhara Website shares more information on the Center for Inclusive Policy

https://snehadharafoundation.org/cip



The Right Approach: The Rational behind Affirmative action and policies

by Snehadhara Foundation | CIP

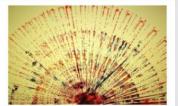
The third in the series finds the meaning of affirmative action and how it has developed through legislation and policies, what is the need for the policy and the discovers the beneficiaries of the policy. What is Affirmative Action? The affirmative action mechanism.



The Right Approach: The problem of equality- Caste and Education

by Snehadhara Foundation | CIP

This blog is focused on the relationship of caste and education in India, by a series of blogs, we intend to explore the inequalities rampant in the society along the vertical and horizontal plane and the impact it had or has on the education and system of education.



The Right Approach: The Problem of Equality

by Snehadhara Foundation | CIP

This blog is focused on the social inequality in terms of caste and by a series of blogs, we intend to explore the inequalities rampant in the society along the vertical and horizontal plane and the impact it had or has on the education and system of education in the...



The Right Approach: Contradiction to equality by the Apex court

by Snehadhara Foundation | CIP

The prima facie observation made by the Supreme Court on children with special needs to be imparted education not only by special teachers but there have to be special schools for them is not only regressive but also in violation of the principle of inclusive...



The Right Approach: Altruism of an Inclusive Society

by Snehadhara Foundation | CIP

In the state of nature, there was no civilized society. The life was violent and there were no civil liberties and rights. We entered into a social contract to protect rights of the individual and live with social coordination and solidarity, thus, laying the...



The Right Approach: Strategy of Inclusion

by Snehadhara Foundation | Cl

The global estimate of children, i.e. under 14 years of age, with moderate or severe disability is 93 million which means 1 out of 20 children globally under the age of 14 years. In the ongoing series of blogs, we have discussed that the gross enrolment ratio and the...

Awards and

Recognition

"I feel that the greatest reward for doing is the opportunity to do more."

- Jonas Salk

Paper on 'Arts Based Therapy to Create Empathetic and Inclusive Learning Spaces - An Eastern Perspective'

In October, our Executive Director and Founder Gitanjali Sarangan presented her paper 'Arts Based Therapy to Create Empathetic and Inclusive Learning Spaces - An Eastern Perspective at the 6th Sivus International Conference, in Kolkatta. The paper was co-authored by Dolly Narayan and Alagammai, ABT Practitioners from WCCLF Pune.

The two-day conference had delegates, researchers and scholars from Japan, Bangladesh, Nepal, University of Huddersfield, UK, and across India.

The results and discussions of the paper reaffirmed that the principle of integrated therapeutics augurs to a possible future where the modern, alternative and complementary health systems in concert make a crucial difference to both the healthcare and education sectors.





Our Founder and Executive Director Gitanjali Sarangan was at the Discussion on Right to Play on Saturday, March 9, 2019 at Christ (Deemed to be University), Bengaluru

Organised by Headstreams, Christ (Deemed to be University), Smt. VHD Central Institute of Home Science, St. Joseph's Autonomous College and Gudgudee, this discussion brought together a small group of researchers, academicians and practitioners who shared key issues and way forward within the larger framework of Right to Play in the context of Children in Conflict with the Law, Disability and Academic Settings.

Discussion on Right to Play at Christ University



Media Coverage

When the awareness of what is achievable brushes your life, your journey has begun

-Lori Myers

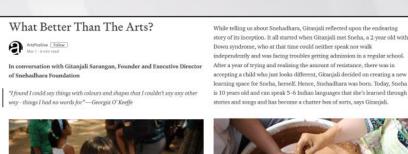
Gitanjali Sarangan, our Founder and Executive Director of Snehadhara Foundation was featured in an interview with Isha Bhattacharya of Arts Positive in an article:

What better than the Arts?

Arts Positive is a registered NGO with international outreach. Believing that art has no boundaries and that it is the language of the soul, the Arts Positive team recognises and celebrates the potential of art to challenge stereotypes and inspire people.

On their web page https://medium.com/@artspositiveorg they feature inspiring stories of people who work with the arts to bring about change in the world.

She shared not only the learning in her journey of creating and building Snehadhara Foundation, but also the joys gathered in the process of spreading smiles and a sense of well-being among children and adults with special needs and their families.







Earlier in the year, Gitanjali Sarangan our Founder and Executive Director of Snehadhara Foundation, was also featured in the **IndianWomenBlog.org** in an interview with Sharon Lobo.

IndianWomenBlog.org is an online portal that shares stories of and for women. It seeks to shatter stereotypes through creative campaigns.

Gitanjali shared the journey of Snehadhara in its endeavour towards inclusion, its vision and its various initiatives. She went down memory lane to recount the inception of the organisation as well as the challenges and opportunities that shaped Snehadhara.



Join hands with us as we work towards creating an inclusive world, a world where we are able to re-look at ourselves and are inspired to live differently and compassionately, a world where everyone belongs.

All our programs have been possible through the generous support of our donors and friends. Thank you dear donors for walking this journey with us.









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WEBSITES

https://snehadharafoundation.org https://prajnadhara.snehadhara.org https://impart.snehadhara.org

Facebook Pages

www.facebook.com/SnehadharaFoundation www.facebook.com/snehadharaconnect www.facebook.com/impARTsnehadhara www.facebook.com/ABT.Snehadhara

Youtube Channel

www.youtube.com/user/SnehadharaFoundation

LEGAL STATUS

Karnataka Trust Registration Act

Reg No:BK IV BNG-BMH 470/2012-2013 Date of Establishment: 05.12.2012

Registered under Section 51,52 of Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full participation) Act,1995

Reg No:#125

Date of Establishment: 25.03.2013

Registered with National Trust of India

Reg No: KSNE16512252414

Registered under section I2AA of the Income-tax Act, 1961

Reg No:No.DIT(E)BLR/L2ANS-2457/AAMTS2250A/ITO(E)-3NOL. 2012-13. DTD 06-03-2013.

Exemption u/s 80G(5Xvi) of the I.T.Act 1961

No:DIT(E)BLR/80G/86/AAMTS2250A/ITO(E)-3/ Vol 2013-2014

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