



*Time to  
Believe*

*Annual Report 2016-17*





*To believe is to know that  
every day is a new beginning.  
It is to trust that miracles happen,  
and dreams really do come true.*



**Shri Anil Aggarwal**  
Chairperson, Ekta Shakti Foundation

# Message from the Chair

We look at our journey with a sense of pride and achievement. These years gave us the opportunity to have a better understanding of the strengths that define us, situations that challenge us, environment that derails us, values that invigorate us, pursuits and motivations that compel us. With all of these, we move ahead to the next year marking twelve years of existence of ESF. We have identified the strategic goals for ourselves in the year 2016-2017 and it is to touch the lives of over 20 lakh Children & Women.

Our team is determined to take unrelentless efforts to widen our impact this year which will be in alliance with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), 2015-2020. Emphasising on the vision of SDG- which is “leaving no one behind”, our strategic plan will encompass a holistic approach to achieving a cost-effective and sustainable development for all.

ESF will work to promote the mainstreaming of disability and promote an active dialogue among stakeholders on the SDGs with a view to create a better world for persons with disabilities. The Rehabilitation Services provided to differently abled children at Brahma Shakti Special School will focus on creating an enabling and inclusive environment by reaching out to more children affected by various disabilities like autism spectrum disorder, Cerebral Palsy, Down’s syndrome, mental retardation etc.

Till date we have touched lives of around 8 lakh Children under Mid Day Meal Programme by providing nutritious meal to improve their health conditions also contributing towards increased school attendance. With our mission to feed 2 million children every day by 2020, we will be expanding and replicating our kitchen model to other states in India - most affected by child mortality and morbidity- in the upcoming year.

The main objective of our tailoring program is to enhance Women’s quality of life of women through skill building, thus engendering an opportunity to become financially empowered. Till date, Ekta Shakti Foundation (ESF) has trained over 1200 women in tailoring Skills in Delhi. We will continue to empower women in the upcoming year.

Apart from strengthening our program management team, we will also focus on establishing a Management Information System (MIS), initiate field surveys, evaluations and develop a mechanism to assess the impact of ESF’s interventions. Our Business Development & Communication team will focus on increasing ESF reach to key stakeholders and actors. We will also re-launch the ESF website to

improve user's experiences and enable a mobile friendly website, including utilizing other social and mass media channels for maximum reach.

To ensure success and maximum impact of our interventions, our team plans to engage with partners and promote maximum collaboration with different domain experts.

We look forward to another year of making this world better in a significant way!



*Fulfill the ambitious target of reaching out to 2 Million children every day by 2020.*







*To believe is to know the value of a nurturing heart,  
the innocence of a child's eyes  
and the beauty of an aging hand,  
for it is through their teachings we learn to love.*





# Lives Transformed...



## Savita Devi

Support Staff, Nalanda, Bihar

I am a bahdi by caste and come from a very poor background. I lost my husband quite early which made my situation worse. I still remember it was approximately eight years back that I heard of Ekta Shakti Foundation kitchen coming up here. I got an employment opportunity. Initially stepping outside the house was a big challenge for many social reasons. I took the courage to work and my confidence grew. Our condition started to improve gradually. I am a mother of two children, out of which my younger one is still studying and I was able to get my elder daughter married. Our life is now stable and my sincerity for the kitchen and this work grows each day.



## Pushpa Devi

Support Staff, Gaya, Bihar

I belong to village Dhanawa district, Bodhgaya. We come from a very poor background. Our family has no farming land, no house and no support. I have three children and my husband is physically challenged which leaves all the responsibility on my shoulders. I used to feel very bad as many times I had to ask for food and educating my children was not possible. Ekta Shakti Foundation kitchen started its unit near our house and I got an opportunity to work here. I started working from the first day of its operations. My life has completely changed in these years. My children are going to private school, I now need not ask for help from anyone and have been able to make our small house which is our own. I own everything to this organisation and wish that it should grow and help more women like me.



## Rekha Devi

Support Staff, Begusarai

I come from Sikenderpur, area Rajora and district Begusarai. I come from a backward community and was living a life full of suffering. After I joined here, my financial and social condition improved. Now my children are going to school and can also get tuitions as additional help. I had to loan ration initially but now I am debt free. Our status in society has improved and I can save money for my daughter's wedding. I am grateful to Ekta Shakti Foundation for transforming my life for better.



## Pramila Devi

Support Staff, Bidupur, Bihar

Pramila hails from Ramdauli, Bidupur. She lost her husband to illness and her life after his death became miserable. She had no one to support her and faced tough situations along with her two daughters. She heard of the kitchen setup and joined the Bidupur kitchen from its first day of operations. Her life has transformed over a period of time. She was able to marry her two daughters off and now is living a healthy and peaceful life of dignity.



## Manju Devi

Support Staff, Begusarai Kitchen, Bihar

I come from village Akthiarpur, area Mufisil, district Begusararai. I come from a very poor background. Our life has changed ever since I started working with Ekta Shakti Foundation kitchen in Begusarai. Now I am able to send my three children to school and fulfill their basic needs. I am also helping my husband save money to construct a pukka house and move from this hut like house very soon. I don't feel dependant on others and now am able to live a life of respect.



## Lakhpatiya Devi

Support Staff, Vaishali kitchen, Bihar

I come from a very poor family. I used to help my husband in his work, but after his demise lost all support. Our family situation got very bad and whole responsibility came on my shoulders. I joined Ekta Shakti Foundation kitchen and since then my life has changed. This work is my lifeline.

Ekta Sahkti Foundation began the nutrition initiative as its flagship programme in the region of Delhi in 2003 expanding to five districts of Bihar reaching out to approximately 7 lakh children in a day cumulatively.

Aligning itself to the thematic intervention of the nutrition parameters, the organisation has closely followed the thematic focus on inequality and hunger which included -

- Early childhood under-nutrition among children younger than five years.
- Working towards rising and more volatile food prices of the recent years and the effects these changes have on hunger and malnutrition
- Strengthening of resilience at the community level against hunger and malnutrition
- Focus on hidden hunger, a form of under nutrition characterised by micronutrient deficiencies.



**With current rank at 31.4, India's 2017 GHI (Global Hunger Index) score is at the high-end of the 'serious' category. Aligning to this big gap and contributing to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal of zero hunger by 2030. Ekta Shakti Foundation aims at reaching out to 2 million children every day by 2020 fulfilling their nutritional needs and improving the hunger index.**



*To believe is to find the strength  
and courage that lies within us  
when it's time to pick up  
the pieces and begin again.*





## *Efforts towards change...*



**Mukesh Kumar**  
Physiotherapist

I have been working with the organisation since past seven years now. I receive combined cases which needs intervention in mobility, gripping or motor skills related to the problem or challenge faced by the child. Best progress is seen if the child reaches us in the age bracket of four to five years. It becomes a little challenging to work on children older to this age group as by then bones are completely formed and become stiff muscles are tightened where we have to work additionally to help them relax the muscles first and then help strengthen. I have helped many children and they are all close to my heart, specially the children in age group of 12 who learn to take the first steps. To see them grow and be self reliant is my biggest reward and I feel happy to see them part of an inclusive society.



**Babita**  
Head of School, Branch Matiala Centre

I have been with the school since its inception in 2006. We started with six children and two staff. I remember visiting homes ourselves, doing surveys and collecting all related information. The school and services since then have grown. Today at our Matiala Centre itself, we have more than fifty children and staff strength of about 14 out of which eight are special educators with varied expertise and two therapists. It feels great to see the growth of the children, lives transformed and families happy. This is my biggest gift as both emotionally and personally I feel very satisfied with the purpose of my life fulfilled.



**Goshiela**  
Teacher, Arts and Craft

I am here since the past ten years, teaching art and craft to children. This is my second job and after joining here and connecting with the kids, the bond has gone deeper as it feels gratifying to see children gain new milestones in their lives with our support. The environment here is very loving, caring and supportive. The best return is the unconditional love we receive from these children.



## Seema Rathore

Special Educator

I joined the Matiala branch in 2015 as Special Educator. I am responsible for initial assessment of the child at the time of admission. Based on the specific need of the child, I design the therapies and plan their classes. This also includes counseling with parents. We start with speech therapies, helping child to conduct self, build basic life skills, communication, self expression, muscle building so they can start holding objects on their own. Post these developments are achieved we move towards academic, activities and other integrated learning modules. I personally rejoice when the child shows slight improvement as it's a big victory towards our efforts. Sometimes our efforts don't pay but we never give up till we see the development we strive for. These children are my life line and I like working for them.



## Shweta

Special Educator

I did my diploma in Mental Retardation and joined this branch in 2012. This was my first job after completing my education. I work on the plans and development parameters designed for each child. Usually I have about seven children with me to take care. I work with them very closely and spend all my days to help train them with various activities planned. It feels overwhelming to see children show slight change, I rejoice at their development and am more happy to see the change in their parents.

BrahmShakti Special School got initiated in the year 2006 with Two children in Matiala, Uttam Nagar, and Delhi, with a purpose to make children with special needs become self reliant and independent in their day life with an objective to

- Impart education and therapy to children with special needs
- Provide pre-vocational and vocational services with a view to make these children independent
- Provide therapies and impart counselling sessions

The special school serves through two branches in Delhi. The current strength of the school is approximately 100 students, with a focus to provide services and facilities to the children with a nurturing and enabling environment.

The well trained staff commit themselves towards providing all the necessary assistance to each and every child and take extra care to support each child to overcome difficulties and meet their challenges by recognizing their strengths.

The operations have been successfully running in Delhi near the catchment area of the kitchens. With support from government, stakeholders and authorities the organisation aims to grow this service near other kitchen areas thus enabling affordable special services to children in need of special education.



**Our ambition is to establish similar state of art schools in and around Delhi reaching out to approximately 600 children with the special services.**





*To believe is to know that  
we are not alone,  
That life is a gift  
and this is our time to cherish it.*



*Empowered for a better life...*



### Geetu Kumari

Trained at Radhika Silai & Kadhai Kendra

Daughter of Ramdular, Geetu wanted to study and support her parents. She joined the Radhika Silai and Kadhai Kendra a year back and has completed her 12 month course. After completing her first six months she started to take work and took admission in her first year of graduation via correspondence. She is earning more than 5000 a month and fulfilling her dream to study and support her family.



### Premlata Kumari

Training at Radhika Silai & Kadhai Kendra

Premlata completed her education till class IX and got married early. She wanted to support her family and her husband with an additional income and thus joined the training course. She completed her basic six month course and now has started to earn approximately 4000 a month and is pursuing her advance course with the Radhika Silai and Kadhai Kendra.



### Renu Devi

Trained at Radhika Silai & Kadhai Kendra

Renu Devi, mother of three children wished to provide good education to them. She completed her secondary school when she got married. Her husband works as a welding mechanic which did not suffice for their needs. Renu completed her 12 month course with Radhika Silai and Kadhai Kendra and is earning about 8000 a month. With the help of the Self Help Group, she is saving to have her own boutique in future.



## Urmila Devi

Trained at Radhika Silai & Kadhai Kendra

Urmila is mother of three children. Her husband operates a small office providing courier services. She trained with Radhika Silai and Kadhai Kendra and now is operating her small set up in the same space with her husband thus supporting him with the income and providing good education to her children.



## Gayatri Devi

Training at Radhika Silai & Kadhai Kendra

Gayatri completed her six month course and is continuing her advance level. Her husband is jobless which leaves the responsibility of her two children and household on her shoulders. She works as domestic help and takes stitching jobs to fulfill her needs. With help of Self Help Support Groups and Radhika Silai Kendra, she aims to complete her course and work full time in a boutique as her future career option to earn a stable income.



## Rani

Training at Radhika Silai & Kadhai Kendra

Rani is a bright and sensitive girl. She aspires to train herself with adequate skills to be well equipped for future, in case of any adversity. She is still studying and contributing towards her studies and family income through her newly acquired skill of stitching.



## Reena Devi

Trained at Radhika Silai & Kadhai Kendra

Reena's husband works as a driver. She wished to contribute to her family income to support her husband and provide good education to her three children. She completed her course with Radhika Silai and Kadhai Kendra and now is working at a boutique and earning approximately 10000 a month.

Radhika Silai and Kadhai Kendra was initiated to empower women and girls around the catchment area of the kitchen set up. The objective was to impart skills to help women live a life of dignity. With time, Self Help Groups and other support services made this initiative strong and helped women take lead in their respective communities for a better living and for supporting their dreams.



**With more than 100 dreams fulfilled, the initiative aims to expand to other regions of its operation to help women realise their true potential and skill young girls for a better future.**





*To believe is to know  
that wonderful surprises are just  
waiting to happen,  
And all our hopes and dreams are  
within reach, only if we believe.*



# Financial Report



**S. K. VARSHNEY & ASSOCIATES**

**Chartered Accountants**

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## FORM NO. 10B

[See rule 17B]

**Audit report under section 12A (b) of the Income-tax Act, 1961, in the case of  
Charitable or religious trusts or institutions –**

We have examined the balance sheet of **EKTA SHAKTI FOUNDATION (Consolidated)**, PAN No. **AAAAE2021L** (name and PAN of the institution) as at **31<sup>st</sup> MARCH 2017** and the Income and Expenditure account for the year ended on that date which are in agreement with the books of account maintained by the said institution.

We have obtained all the information and explanations which to the best of our knowledge and belief were necessary for the purposes of the audit. In our opinion, proper books of account have been kept by the head office and the branches of the above-named institution visited by us so far as appears from our examination of the books, and proper returns adequate for the purposes of audit have been received from branches not visited by us, subject to the comments given below:

In our opinion and to the best of our information, and according to information given to us, the said accounts give a true and fair view—

- (i) in the case of the balance sheet, of the state of affairs of the above named institution as at **31<sup>st</sup> March 2017**, and
- (ii) in the case of the Income and Expenditure account, of the Income over Expenditure of its accounting year ending on **31<sup>st</sup> March 2017**.

The prescribed particulars are annexed hereto.

**Place : NEW DELHI**  
**Date : 26/06/2017**

**FOR S.K VARSHNEY & ASSOCIATES,**  
**CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS,**  
**FRN No. 007037N**



**(CA SUNIL KUMAR VARSHNEY)**  
**PARTNER**  
**M.No. 085980**



## Vision

A world of hope, kindness and positive action where every person has the opportunity to live a healthy and productive life.

## Mission

To catalyse ongoing positive transformation in the lives of people, especially disadvantaged children, youth and women through equitable opportunity and inclusive development efforts.

## Focus

We put children, especially girls and women at the center of our efforts. They are often the most disadvantaged and positive change in their lives can be transformational for the entire family and the next generation.

## Core Values

Our core values embedded in everything we do -

REACH

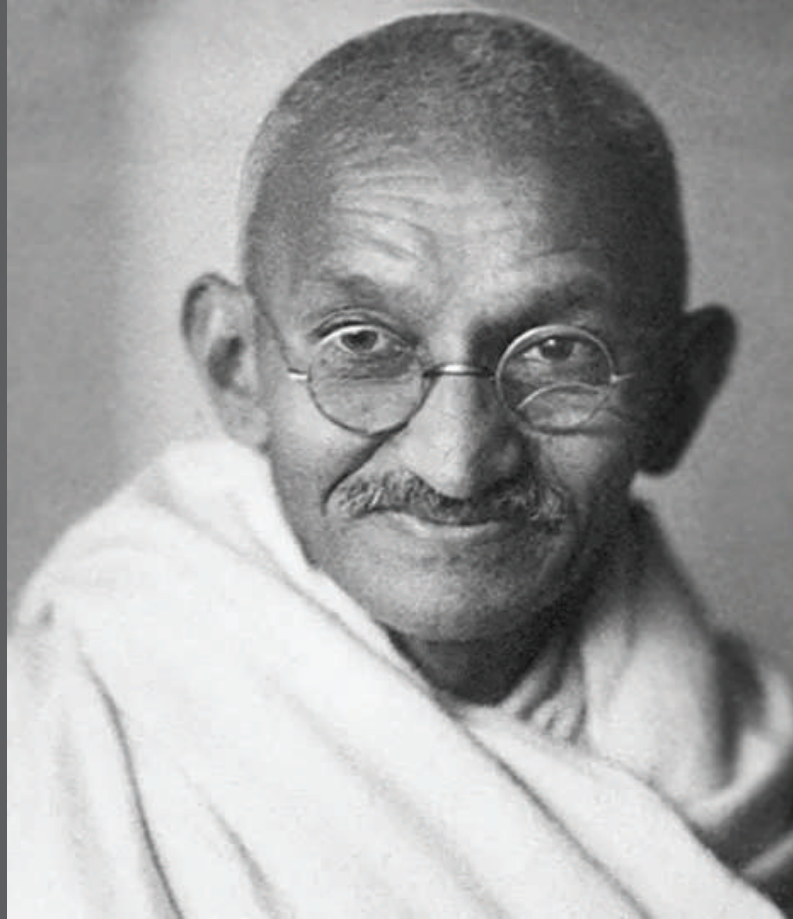
R - Respect

E - Efficiency

A - Accountability

C - Commitment

H - Honesty



**Be the change  
you want  
to see  
in the world  
- Mahatma Gandhi**

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[www.ektashakti.org](http://www.ektashakti.org)

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