



Mitra Jyothi

To Inspire and Enable the Visually Impaired

ANNUAL REPORT

2016 - 2017





Mitra Jyothi Family - With all staff and trainees in March 2017



Computer Training in progress - Summer Batch of 2016



Mitra Jyothi

To Inspire and Enable the Visually Impaired

Annual Report 2016 - 2017

Vision:

To inspire and
enable the visually
impaired

Mission:

To empower people
with vision impairment
so that they lead independent
and dignified lives through
education, training, counselling,
communication and technology
and be better integrated into their
families and mainstream
society at large.

Contents

1. Message from Ms Madhu Singhal Founder & Managing Trustee, Mitra Jyothi.....	3
2. About Mitra Jyothi.....	4
3. Highlights of the 2016 – 2017	5
4. Achievements of ongoing programs:.....	6
1. Beneficiary Outreach Summary.....	6
2. Educational Resource Centre:	7
3. Training Centres	7
4. Placement Cell & CEWD	8
5. Mitra Jyothi Publications:.....	8
5. Voice of Mitra Jyothi Beneficiaries.....	9
6. Events.....	11
7. Impact of other activities/events.....	12
8. A Memorable Field Visit.....	13
9. Visitor Summary	14
10. Media Presence.....	15
11. Awards & Recognition	16
12. Financials.....	17
13. Balance Sheet	18
1. For RCE & Co.,.....	18
2. For RCE & Co., For and on behalf of the Trustees	19
14. Donations Received	20
15. Acknowledgement.....	24
16. How you can help	24

Message from Ms Madhu Singhal Founder & Managing Trustee, Mitra Jyothi



We have completed another fruitful year in which we were able to stabilize the new initiatives launched in the last financial year along with the execution of other ongoing programs. I would like to share a few words about the progress of the new initiatives.

Braille Press – During the start of the calendar year we had received an order from the Government of Karnataka to print 208 copies of text books of all subjects for 7th Std in Braille. Our team completed this project within 2 months. This success is the outcome of tremendous effort put in by Mitra Jyothi team and volunteers towards the completion of

this first big project taken up by the Braille press post its launch in Dec 2015. We also received the second Braille printer in the month of Aug'16 with support from the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment & NIEPVD. With this we are empowered to deliver more Braille prints to all in need.

CEWD – An initiative which we started in the last financial year with support from The HANS Foundation has stabilized this year and more & more women with disabilities are benefited from this. During this financial year, significant effort was put in towards publicity of the CEWD through pamphlets and print & digital media which helped us create awareness among people with disabilities. The outcome of our efforts will be the increase in enrolment which we hope will be significantly higher in the next financial year.

Outreach of other ongoing programs like the Talking Book Library, Computer Training and the Independent Living Skills Training have also increased greatly this year through tireless efforts by MJ staff and all stakeholders. Many of our TBL beneficiaries have fared very well in their exams and have performed well in their higher education. Many thanks to Axis Bank Foundation who has supported our TBL for the past 6 years, without which we could not have reached where we are today.

I deeply regret to inform you about the sad demise of Mrs. N.S. Hema, Founder of The Association of the People with Disability. She was my guide and mentor for more than 30 years. She was the one who taught me how to drive an institution. She was my inspiration. Her loss is irreplaceable. May God grant her soul eternal peace.

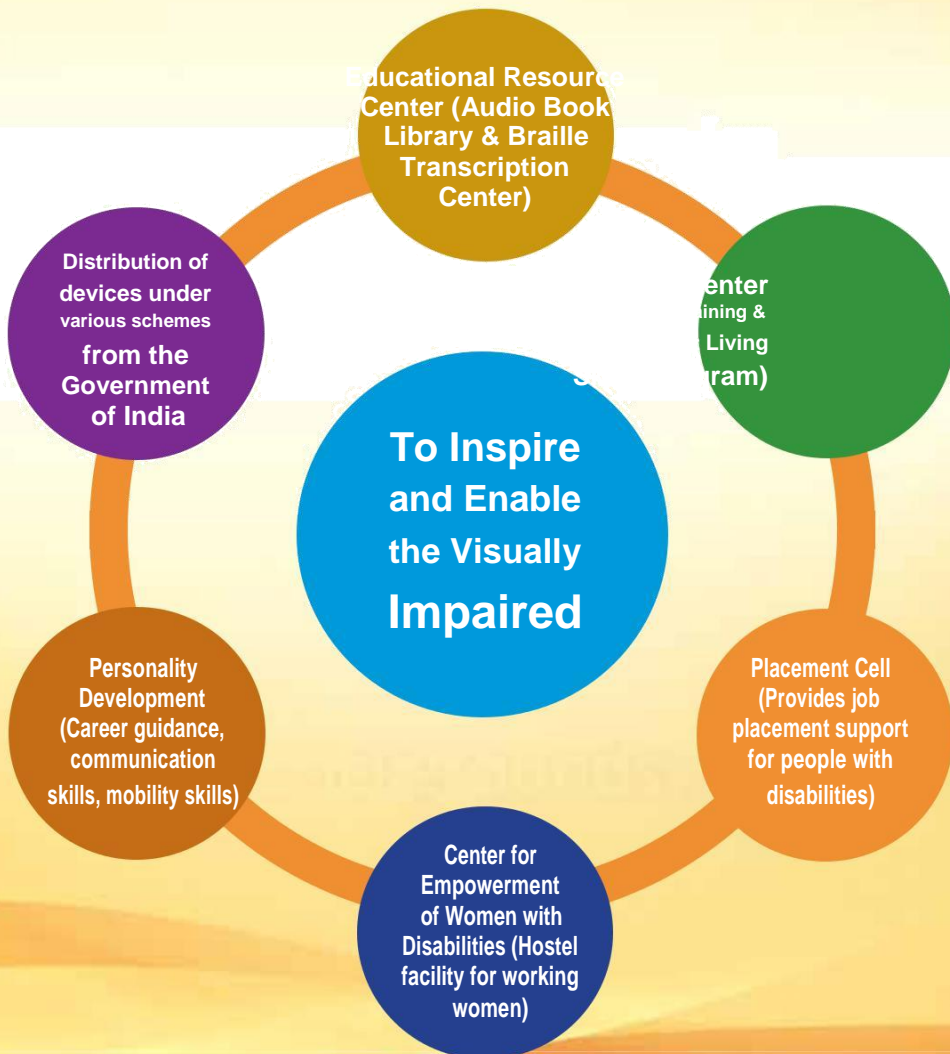
Major A.P. Singh who was our CEO retired in Mar'16. His efforts towards the growth of Mitra Jyothi throughout his tenure from 2010 till his last working day is noteworthy. I would like to take this opportunity to thank him again for his support.

I would like to share a special note of thanks to all our friends, volunteers and well-wishers including The Government of India, The HANS Foundation, Sapiient and other supporters who are our backbone, my fellow trustee members and staff whose support makes it possible for Mitra Jyothi to continue to empower persons with disabilities. We look forward to your continued support in the future as well to make a difference in the lives of people with disabilities.

*Thanking you
Yours Sincerely
Madhu Singhal*

About Mitra Jyothi

Mitra Jyothi is a trust registered under The Indian Trust Act & started in the year 1990. The focus of the organisation is the empowerment of people with disabilities by supporting education and providing livelihood & skill training which will in turn lead to their economic empowerment. Mitra Jyothi believes in providing education and vocational training that is accessible to all. Our programs are designed with the view of bringing people with disabilities in general and those with vision impairment in particular into mainstream life, thereby building an inclusive society. Mitra Jyothi functions under the insightful guidance of Ms Madhu Singhal, Founder & Managing Trustee.



Highlights of the 2016 – 2017

- Received the second Braille printer and established a full fledged Braille press with support from Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment & NIEPVD (National Institute for the Empowerment of Persons with Visual Disabilities). An articles were published in the main stream media regarding the same. <http://www.thebetterindia.com/69339/mitra-jyoti-blind-braille-reading/>
- Mitra Jyothi has partnered with **BookShare**, the world's largest online library for persons with print disability.
- Being a pioneer in the creation of audio books for people with print disabilities, we extended our reach to people online (Internet) through **Sugamya Pustakalaya** which is an on-line library for persons with print disabilities launched by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan), Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India on 24th August 2016. Through this wonderful initiative, our Audio Books are now available online to Mitra Jyothi beneficiaries. Check <https://library.daisyindia.org> to see Mitra Jyothi's contribution to Sugamya Pustakalaya.
- Strengthened our team with the addition of new resources to the Library, Braille Press and Computer Training Centre.
- Successfully launched a crowd funding initiative towards the support of publication of Braille Books in Kannada. This has led to the creation of our Braille Book collection in Kannada. We now have more than 250 titles available in Braille in Kannada and English.
- On 27th June, we celebrated Helen Keller Day. On this significant day, Mitra Jyothi in collaboration with Radio Udaan released the first edition of "Insight", the quarterly English magazine in Braille. We are very proud to say that this magazine is compiled by Ms. Payal Kapoor, an inspiring personality who is visually impaired, and most of the articles published in "Insight" are the contributions of people with disabilities.
- "Radio Active" which is a Radio Channel (CR 90.4 MHz) plays "Spardha Shrunkala" our Monthly Audio Publication in Kannada on air, every month.



Android Training in Progress. Session conducted by Dr. Homiyar Mobedji

- Corporate volunteer support has grown stronger
- A one-day Android Training Program organized in the month of January was a big success. It was attended by more than 50 candidates of varying age groups from teens to the 70s. There is a huge demand for more such trainings and probably for a longer duration of time. The session was conducted by Dr. Homiyar Mobedji. On the same day, Ms. Zainab Chinićumwala conducted a session on Bookshare and educated the audience all about Bookshare, its uses, being members, downloading and using books etc.
- Quarterly training and distribution of DAISY Players and Smart Canes continues successfully
- Many mainstream media have written about Mitra Jyothi including The New Indian Express, The Hindu and the Deccan Herald. Other regional newsprint and TV channels have also covered Mitra Jyothi.
- Effective field visits made to remote areas of Karnataka for awareness building
- Social media presence and outreach strengthened

Achievements of ongoing programs:

1. Beneficiary Outreach Summary

Talking Book Library

- 2500+ Audio Books distributed as CDS

Braille Transcription Centre

- 7500 books in Braille (mainly in Kannada and followed by English) were produced and distributed

Computer Skill Training

- 70 candidates were trained across three different batches.

Independent Living Skill Training (Life Skills)

- 26 women from rural communities were trained with life skills and 100+ students were provided mobility training.

Job Placement cell - Rejuvenated!

- Enrolments and placements make a humble beginning

CEWD - Hostel Facility for women with disabilities

- More than 35 women were supported throughout the year.

2. Educational Resource Centre:

Talking Book Library

- TBL currently has close to 3000 books!
- 267 new titles were added during the year
- 3307 hours of recording done in this year alone involving 2625 hours of editing time
- 2571 CDs of various titles distributed to individual and institutional beneficiaries excluding publications
- 163 new library members were registered in the year
- Total beneficiary outreach including individual, institutional and secondary beneficiaries is estimated to be at least 35,000!

Braille Transcription Center

- 5, 25, 878 paged were printed in a year!
- 7457 books across 285 different titles were printed
- 580 Individuals/Agencies/Institutions were served
- An estimated 2000 secondary beneficiaries have benefitted

3. Training Centres

Independent Living Skills

- Mitra Jyothi team visited many villages as part of awareness initiatives to increase outreach
- Orientation & Mobility training was provided to more than 100 trainees.
- 26 members from various parts of Karnataka were trained as part of the ILS program during the year.
- Orientation & mobility skills, home management, cooking with fire, health & hygiene, personal grooming and various other life skills were imparted to all of them.

Computer Training Center

- Three batches of computer training was conducted as planned. We had a total enrolment of more than 70 members who were trained in our campus.
- 10 people got jobs and are working in various sectors including technology and the government sector.
- Advanced Computer Training was conducted by TCS as planned.

4. Placement Cell & CEWD

Placement Cell

- The job placement cell originally started in 1999 was rejuvenated in March 2017.
- Within a month, 8 job placements were made with the tireless efforts of our placement officer.
- The job placement cell interacts with other NGOs and corporates thereby helping students find jobs matching their skills.

Center for Empowerment of Women with Disability

- Increased enrolment from < 10 candidates to 25 by March 2017 - Majority of them are working women
- We have 8 VI candidates among the 25 trainees.
- Engagement and networking is in progress with many small scale industries for possible job placements to these candidates.
- Significant growth is expected in the next financial year.

5. Mitra Jyothi Publications:

Audio Publications

- 821 copies 'Spardha Shrunkhala', a monthly audio magazine in Kannada that guides students on competitive examinations have been distributed during the financial year and hundreds of students have benefitted from it.
- 387 copies of 'Sanchaya', our audio publication that provides useful information on a variety of topics, including current affairs, health and IT have been distributed during the financial year.

Braille Publications

- 290 copies of 4 issues of "Insight", our quarterly Braille publication in English, were distributed during the first year of its launch. We have 95 subscribers as of Mar'17.
- 404 copies of 12 issues of Jnaana Samhitha, our monthly Braille publication in Kannada were distributed in the year. We have 57 members as of Mar'17.
- Both the magazines provide useful information on a variety of topics including current affair updates, health & hygiene, sports, humour etc.

Voice of Mitra Jyothi Beneficiaries

Meghana is a highly talented young lady who completed her six-month Career Centric Computer Training at Mitra Jyothi during July – Dec 2016. She was also part of the Advanced Computer Training Course conducted by TCS in collaboration with Mitra Jyothi. We present to you her experiences being associated with Mitra Jyothi and living life with full zeal despite her vision impairment. Meghana currently works for Cisco Systems. She is a graceful dancer, a singer and an amazing compere among other things. She along with another MJ trainee Naveen Nayak, were the MCs at the



Program Hosts Meghana & Naveen at the 27th Annual Day celebrations at Mitra Jyothi

27th Annual Day celebrations at Mitra Jyothi. We wish her all the very best in her future endeavours.

My world comprised of a few people close to me. Mine was a sweet, little world which did not have any shades of worry. I was a teenager then & had just stepped into 10th standard. As I was an ace performer with respect to both academics and extra-curricular activities, I was always in great spirits and very enthusiastic. One day it so happened that I was not able to detect the writing on the black board from the last bench. I took it easy; got shifted to a few benches ahead. But within a very small span of time I realized that my vision was deteriorating. We did go to the best of hospitals, but to my ill fate; it was a rare genetic condition which is currently incurable. Since then, my battle with blurriness & darkness began. It was a very tough phase for me and not easy to get accustomed to this new state of being. Since I could see a little better in well illuminated places & high contrasted frames, I used to have separate and rather odd places allocated for me to write my exams. My fellow classmates could not sense my plight and sometimes mocked at my state. But I was lucky enough to find a few good friends who held my hand and helped me see the world with virtual clarity. I cannot forget mentioning my parents who are my inspiration and support. They have been supporting me in all my endeavours irrespective of my health issues. I have also been very fortunate to get the best of trainers & mentors who have moulded my ways and interests.

After a passage of time when my vision started deteriorating further, my dreams started fading to the dark. My confidence got crushed, my enthusiasm no more dwelled in me. There were times when I had got the most horrifying thoughts that almost made me give up on everything. That dark phase cannot be expressed through words. It was heightened in my final year of graduation when I was not confident to face the external world and meet its demands. I was broken apart within.

Over the course of those months I developed friendship with other VI candidates. I was particularly impressed with one such friend by the name Tejashree. I was surprised and at

the same time amused by her outlook of life. She was completely independent and always cheerful despite being totally blind. She is the one who informed me about Mitra Jyothi. The image of Mitra Jyothi she had painted in my mind was simply beautiful. That image led me to Mitra Jyothi! As I came to Mitra Jyothi I was very happy to find the institute to be the realistic replica of Tejashree's vivid picturization. Post my graduation, I arrived at Mitra Jyothi & enrolled myself for a basic computer course on July 7th 2016. Thus began my 6 month journey of learning computer skills. Initially I found it a little tough to accustom myself to the drastic change of scene, the new accommodation and place setting. However, within no time I started feeling at home. The timings of the classes, the food provided, the facilities given, the rules & regulations were practical and sensible. The motivation from organization heads, staff members, volunteers & guest speakers helped us enable ourselves and elevate our lives by getting best equipped with available technology. The founder & managing trustee Madhu ji has always been an amazing inspiration to all of us. It was after meeting her that I acknowledged 'Nothing is impossible in life; impossible itself says I-am-possible'. Faculty ranging from trainers to CEOs, attended to us with care & personal attention. This reason alone makes Mitra Jyothi truly special.

I made the best of connections and wonderful friendships with my trainers and my colleagues. We had an amazing time learning concepts and having fun along the way, celebrating birthdays & other interesting events. We soon bridged an unexplainable bond among us. I had a great time not just learning here but keeping myself open to all possible options/avenues and learning at every exposure to new situations. I had an opportunity to volunteer & teach a few concepts to my friends; this act boosted up my self-confidence, presentation ability & leadership skills. The best of my thoughts are associated with my "Accessibility Awareness Speech" at Intuit, facilitated by Prakat Solutions. This introduced a speaker within me, to myself. This pleasant feeling was elevated when I recited the same speech for Mitra Jyothi's audio magazine, 'Sanchaya'. While the basic course was keeping to its schedule, a flashing news about the career centric advanced computer course sponsored by TCS along with Mitra Jyothi came in. This proved to be a great opportunity for me and a few of my friends who got selected and as we started this course. I learnt advanced computer skills, corporate etiquette, basics of networking, html and accessibility testing among other things. This course enhanced my professional skills and has been a great launch pad for me to get into the corporate world.

At Mitra Jyothi, learning is always fun. We were all taken on a day trip to 'Guhantara', a nearby recreational resort. While having great fun, we also learnt a lot of practical skills through games.

Overall, Mitra Jyothi has helped me realize my own potential and to use it in best possible ways. I am and I will always remain a part of this organization. Finally, I thank Mitra Jyothi for giving me the confidence which in turn gave me a new life.

Regards,
Meghana

Events

Attending/hosting Workshops & Conferences for people with disabilities, Educational Excursions, Social Work Internship Programs and Need Specific Training Programs are some of the other areas that Mitra Jyothi was engaged in during the year. Listed below are a few major events conducted during the year.

- May 10, 2016 → Raj Bhowmik Global Compassion Day was celebrated on this day. All Mitra Jyothi trainees and staff participated in the event where poor children from neighbourhood communities were invited to a treat of food and small gifts.
- July 22, 2016 → Sensitization program for CBM Employees - Knowledge sharing with CBM Project teams in Bangalore and Bangladesh - Mitra Jyothi team shared their experiences and best practices with the group.
- August 26, 2016 → Workability Asia conference - As one of the members of the DNA (Disability NGO Alliance) Mitra Jyothi took part in Workability Asia Conference 2016. It was great to be a part of this wonderful congregation of people who are working tirelessly towards enablement of people with disabilities. Dignitaries from Japan, Thailand, Bangladesh and other Asian nations participated in this event and shared their ideas and best practices followed in addressing accessibility issues.
- Oct 16, 2016 → Running for a Cause – Volunteers Mr & Mrs. Khandekar and Ms. Sreeprada raised funds for Mitra Jyothi for the project to print Braille Books in Kannada by building awareness while running the Bengaluru Marathon.
- Nov 16, 2016 → Inclusion workshop in collaboration with Prakat. As a part of the India Inclusion Summit, a new initiative of a Fellowship program was taken up. The committee selected 5 upcoming entrepreneurs to promote inclusion through the fellowship program. These young entrepreneurs visited Mitra Jyothi and learnt about our programs & processes.
- Dec 14, 2016 → ILS and Computer Trainees went for a one-day educational excursion to Guhantara. This was sponsored by TCS and The Hans Foundation. Guhantara is an outdoor rest & relaxation resort; visiting such a place is a great opportunity for trainees to understand how the external world has evolved, how to behave in corporate environments, how to work in groups and teams and how to quickly adopt to new surroundings and environment.
- Jan 24, 2017 → Mitra Jyothi hosted an Android based Smart Phone Training Session for the visually impaired. The training was given by Dr. Homiyar Mobedji, Disability Expert.
- Feb 10, 2017 → A Legal literacy session was conducted by advocate Mr. Shiva Kumar. The intention of the session is to build legal awareness in general among people with disabilities and to discuss about the rights of people with disabilities in particular.

- Feb 19 & 20, 2017 → Ms. Madhu Singhal (Member of Braille Council of India) attended the National Conference for review of (Kannada) Bharati Braille (Defining and controlling Braille Standards for Indian Languages) conducted by NIEPVD (National Institute for the Empowerment of Persons with Visual Disabilities) at Guwahati.
- Mar 2017 → Mitra Jyothi team conducted a training session for the staff of NFB (National Federation of the Blind, Karnataka) and gave an overview of DAISY technology, usage of DAISY player and other assistive devices, development of accessible reading materials & library management.
- A session on Health & Hygiene was conducted by Mrs. Rekha. G from "Family Planning Association of India" for every batch of Computer Trainees and Trainees of the Independent Living Skill Program. It was a very useful and interactive session which addresses personal hygiene, health care & safety and SRH Education.

Impact of other activities/events

Activity	Highlights of the activity	Outreach	Impact
Awareness Programs	Sensitization of school children, students from nursing/medical/ social studies/business colleges towards disabilities in general and vision impairment in particular.	Conducted 10 programs in the year for around 585 students overall.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building awareness among children and young adults which will help in sustained long term social change.
Capacity Building	NGOs from various states attended training at Mitra Jyothi.	8 people from 3 different organizations and a large contingent from the north east.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To initiate production of DAISY books in their NGO • Spread awareness & build capacity of staff from similar organizations.
Volunteer engagement and training	Encouraging corporate volunteers and building a culture of inclusivity with a service mindset.	93+ volunteers from different corporates like Cisco, Accenture, Goldman Sachs, TCS.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaboration with corporate and effective CSR engagement in volunteering which could eventually lead to funding support.
Distribution of devices	Promotion of outreach at grass-root levels by distribution of assistive devices to the needy and networking with other governmental and non-governmental agencies.	64 Smart cane and 56 DAISY players along with training about the usage of devices.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safe mobility practices • More DAISY players imply increased usage of audio books and better awareness & education opportunities for visually impaired students.

A Memorable Field Visit

Field Trips are planned regularly to build awareness among the visually impaired in the rural poor from remote regions of Karnataka. One such field visit was to North Karnataka from 27 Feb 2017 to 01 Mar 2017 when Ms. Madhu

Singhal and Ms. Sundareshwari from Mitra Jyothi along with Ms. Dikshita Ramesh from GiftAble Foundation went to two remote and far flung places to meet girls with vision impairment from very poor and marginalized communities. The idea is to spread awareness about the programs offered by Mitra Jyothi, especially the ILS program as it is the most relevant and appropriate program for these girls/ women. This visit was planned & organized



in collaboration with “GiftAble Foundation” and “Samarthyaa” along with Mitra Jyothi.

First they went to a place called Devadurga in Raichur district. Here despite inviting 30 girls with vision impairment for the meet, only 6 turned up, such is the level of their awareness and ignorance. Field officers from the organizations we collaborated with, had been door to door to invite the girls and their wards over. A lot of work needs to be done here to even bring the girls to some basic levels of awareness.

Then they went to Koppala, a 4+ hour drive away from Devadurga. Here the awareness level was a little higher and people were a bit more open to give a patient hearing. However yet again despite expecting 40 girls, only about 20 turned up.

After two effective awareness programs for all the participants who attended, Ms. Madhu Singhal and Ms. Sundareshwari returned with a deep sense of satisfaction on one side for being able to reach out to them but with a heavy heart on the other side seeing them in their current state of being...



Visitor Summary

Mitra Jyothi has a constant stream of visitors; be it for volunteering, sensitization & awareness building effort or for working on common causes.

- Individual Volunteers → About twenty regular and active volunteers and hundreds of one time supporters visited during the year.
- Corporate Volunteers → Tata Consulting Services, Cisco Systems, Goldman Sachs, Genpact, IBM and Accenture are some of the companies who send batches of volunteers throughout the year.



Mark and team visit Mitra Jyothi

- People working for the cause of disabilities → WinVinaya Foundation, Gift Aabled Foundation, NAB, NFB, Cheshire Homes, Association of People with Disability and various other organizations visited Mitra Jyothi.
- Educational Institutions → Students from various schools and colleges do their internship at Mitra Jyothi. We had 11 students who did their internship this year from various colleges including Christ University, NMIMS, Oxford College, JSS College Mysore and others. College Students are expected to put in at least 100 hours for their internship and school children 70 hours. From kindergarten students to those pursuing their graduation and post-graduation and students from medical colleges, we have a large number of student visitors. VIBGYOR School. Banjara Academy, Oxford College, Christ University are a few such institutions who interact with us on a regular basis.
- Beneficiaries visit Mitra Jyothi on a day to day basis. On an average 10 library members visit us every day. Those who seek job placement support also are required to visit Mitra Jyothi for assessment and registration.
- Special Visitors:
 - Ms. Pali Dinesh, Deputy Director, Directorate of Differently abled and Senior Citizens, Govt of Karnataka and Joint Director Ms. Vasantha Prema
 - Dr. Mark Harniss (Ph.D, Clinical Associate Professor, Rehabilitation Medicine) and his team from University of Washington, Seattle, WA, USA.

Media Presence

In the past year, Mitra Jyothi's media presence has significantly increased. Here are a few highlights of the same.

17 January 2017 - HSR Club Annual Magazine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Featured in the December newsletter of our neighborhood club, The HSR Club.
08 January 2017 - The New Sunday Express	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Ray of Light in the Dark - An article about the life and contributions of Ms. Madhu Singhal
07 January 2017 - 'Aljazeera'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publishes "Madhu Singhal: Champion for Indians with disabilities"
24 November 2016 - Vijayavaani Suddijaala Bengaluru	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lions Club of South Bangalore published the first book on Dental Hygiene in Braille in Kannada in both English and Kannada
18 October 2016 - Mathrubhumi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mitra Jyothi on Malayalam TV channel, Mathrubhumi.
05 October 2016 - Radio Mirchi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Radio Mirchi FM 98.3 airs a discussion with Ms. Madhu Singhal and Ms. Uma Krishnamurthy at 9:00 PM
24 September 2016 - The Better India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Calls Mitra Jyothi as the "One Bangalore Based Organization Working Tirelessly to Provide Blind Students with Braille Books"
03 August 2016 - Deccan Herald	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Voices that bring mobile phones alive for the blind" on the launch of "Hear2Read" a Text-to-speech conversion tool.
25 May 2016 - DD Urdu	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Madhu and her life's work "Mitra Jyothi" is aired on TV.
09 May 2016 - Deccan chronicle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wrote about Ms. Madhu Singhal and Mitra Jyothi



Awards & Recognition

- Ms. Madhu Singhal received the Sarojini Triloknath Award on Dec 3rd 2016. The prestigious national Level NAB-Sarojini Triloknath Award is given for outstanding contribution by an individual or organization towards education, welfare or rehabilitation of visually impaired.
- Ms. Madhu Singhal is part of the review board for Bharatiya Braille as part of the initiative by the Braille Council of India BCI. She is responsible for enhancement of Kannada Braille. She has attended two meetings in Guwahati in this regard.
- Megahana Achar who completed her 6 months Career Centric Computer Classes between July - Dec 2016 at Mitra Jyothi has been awarded the “Best Physically Challenged Women Award 2017” by the Foundation for Art & Culture, Bangalore. She is currently working for Cisco Systems.
- We have received continued press coverage from various news media like Indian Express, Al – Jazeera, Deccan Herald, The Better India and other regional TV channels and newspapers.
- Lions Club celebrated Kannada Rajyotsava in a very unique and fruitful way! It published the first book on Dental Hygiene in Braille in Kannada! This was a wonderful thing to do considering that dental hygiene is very important but is never given the due attention. Many thanks to the authors Dr. Sachin Gaugwad, Dr. Arun and Dr. Roopa of RV Dental College who translated it into Kannada. Mitra Jyothi did the conversion to Braille and printing in Braille. Lions Club also felicitated Ms. Madhu Singhal at this event conducted on 24 Nov 2016 at the Indian Institute of World Culture, Basavanagudi Bangalore. Many students from Mitra Jyothi participated in the event and were given a copy of the book each.
- Mr. K. M. Nityananda, an octogenarian volunteer who has spent endless hours supporting Mitra Jyothi and the cause of the visually impaired received the “Sadhaka Ratna” award from “Bobbarakamme Seva Samiti” in recognition of his contribution to Mitra Jyothi and the VI community. He has recorded close to 1000 books at this time and is going strong! This amounts to more than 1.5 lakh pages and close to 15,000 hours of audio recording! Ever since the DAISY technology has been adopted as the recording standard at Mitra Jyothi, all his recordings are in DAISY format. Apart from audio recording of text books, Sri Nityananda has been key to the publication of Mitra Jyothi’s monthly audio magazine in Kannada called “Sanchaya”. He has also helped train other volunteers on DAISY Technology, spent innumerable number of hours at Mitra Jyothi in helping with various other activities and providing guidance in publication and recording processes.



Financials

Distribution of staff according to salary levels:

Gross Monthly Salary (in Rs)	Male	Female	Total Staff
Less than 5000	0	0	0
5000 to 10000	1	7	8
Above 10000	11	7	18

Staff Remuneration: (Gross Annual Salary in INR + Benefits)

Head of the organisation	: NIL
Highest Paid	: Rs. 3,99,000/-
Lowest Paid	: Rs. 78,000/-

Remuneration paid to members of statutory governing body

1. Shri. G. P. Goyal, President
2. Kum. Madhu Singhal, Managing Trustee
3. Smt. Rekha Dass, Trustee Member
4. Shri. Piyush Khaitan, Trustee Member
5. Shri. Raman Polavarpu, Trustee Member
6. Dr. Sharan Srinivasan, Trustee Member
7. Smt. Shoma Bakre, Trustee Member
8. Smt. Geetha Ramakrishnan, Trustee Member

NIL

Board Meetings:

Date of Meeting	No. of Attendees/Strength of board as on date	Minutes circulated
01.04.2016	5/8	Yes
27.08.2016	5/8	Yes

Travel Details:

International Travel: 0
Domestic Travel: 0

Balance Sheet

Mitra Jyothi (Domestic & Foreign Funds Consolidated) (A REGISTERED TRUST)

BALANCE SHEET AS AT MARCH 31, 2017

		31-Mar-17 Rs.	31-Mar-16 Rs.
Liabilities			
Corpus and Reserves			
Corpus Fund	2(a)	57,376,500	57,276,500
Capital Reserve Funds	2(b)	37,633,015	35,895,622
Reserves and Surplus	3	4,099,714	3,059,618
		<u>99,109,229</u>	<u>96,231,740</u>
Current Liabilities			
Other current liabilities	4	415,172	539,852
		<u>415,172</u>	<u>539,852</u>
		99,524,401	96,771,592
Assets			
Non- Current Assets			
Fixed Assets	5	54,934,772	21,943,047
Capital Work-in Progress		-	30,042,962
Investments	6	9,361,309	9,039,195
Other non-current assets	7	30,500	686,378
		<u>64,326,581</u>	<u>61,711,582</u>
Current Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	8	33,238,273	32,336,327
Other current assets	9	1,959,547	2,723,683
		<u>35,197,820</u>	<u>35,060,010</u>
		99,524,401	96,771,592

Significant Accounting Policies & Notes on Accounts 1

This is the Balance Sheet referred to in our report of even date.

For RCE & Co.,
Chartered Accountants ICAI
Firm Regn. No. : 009141S

For and on behalf of the
Trustees of Mitra Jyothi

OKJ OLA

V. Easwar Partner
Membership No.
202877



Place: Bangalore
Date: July 31, 2017

Mitra Jyothi (Domestic & Foreign Funds Consolidated)
(A REGISTERED TRUST)

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2017

Income	Notes	31-Mar-17 Rs	31-Mar-16 Rs
Donations/Contributions	10	9,398,224	8,565,745
Other income	11	2,806,948	3,602,098
		12,205,172	12,167,843
Expenditure			
Employee Benefit Expenses	12	5,528,751	4,684,010
Operating Expenses	13	4,085,012	4,029,805
Depreciation		1,551,312	1,501,000
		11,165,075	10,214,815
Income/(Expenditure) before tax		1,040,097	1,953,028
Less: Tax expense			

- Provision for Income Tax

Income/(Expenditure) after tax

1,040,097

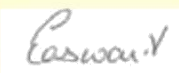
1,953,028

Significant Accounting Policies & Notes on Accounts 1

This is the Statement of Income and Expenditure referred to in our report of even date.

For RCE & Co.,
Chartered Accountants
ICAI Firm Regn. No. :

For and on behalf of the
Trustees of Mitra Jyothi


V. Easwar
Partner
Membership No. 202877




G.P. Goyal
President


Madhu Singhal
Managing Trustee

Place: Bangalore

Date : July 31, 2017

Donations Received

General Donations 2016 – 2017

Sl. No	Name & Address	Amount
1	Pyoginam, Haryana	300,000
2	Ashirvad Pipes Pvt Ltd, Bangalore	200,000
3	San Engineering & Locomotive Co Ltd, Bangalore	200,000
4	Mr. Umesh D. Agarwal, Mumbai	101,000
5	Mr. Rajeev Pandiya, Bangalore	100,000
6	MOR Charitable Trust, Bangalore	51,000
7	Mrs. Parvathi Devi, Bangalore	36,000
8	Manav Jagriti Foundation, Bangalore	30,000
9	Mrs. Bimala Goyal, Bangalore	30,000
10	Persistent Foundation, Bangalore	29,440
11	Mr. Saligram Nanjappa Rajesh, Bangalore	25,001
12	Mr. Hemant Rupani, Bangalore	24,000
13	Mrs. Pusphalatha Krishna, Bangalore	23,350
14	Mr. Harish Gupta, New Delhi	21,000
15	Mr. Kidarnath Bansal, Nodia	21,000
16	Ms. Manjula Subramanian, Bangalore	18,000
17	Vibgyor Kids, Electronic City, Bangalore	17,000
18	Ms. Manjari Singhal, New Delhi	15,000
19	Mrs. Sudha Sarronwala, Bangalore	15,000
20	Ms. Anju Magu/Shivani Magu, New Delhi	11,000
21	Ms. Charu Khemka, Chennai	11,000
22	Dr. Rohtash Chandra Garg, Bangalore	11,000
23	Ms. Nidhi Jain	11,000
24	Mrs. Kriti Goyal, Bangalore	11,000

25	Shamdasani Foundation, Hong Kong	10,000
26	Ms. Savitha Hunagund, Bangalore	10,000
27	Rotary Bangalore IT Corridor Charitable Trust	10,000
28	Mrs. Promila Munshi, Bangalore	10,000
29	Mr. Sreedharan. V, Bangalore	10,000
30	Mr. Venkatesh Reddy, Bangalore	10,000
31	Mr. K. Arun Kumar Rai, Bangalore	10,000
32	Mrs. Ambujavalli. D. ,Bangalore	10,000
33	Mr. S. Chandrashekar, Bangalore	10,000
34	Inner Wheel Club of Bangalore East	10,000
35	Wheelchair India Foundation, Bangalore	10,000
36	Ms. Anjali Soni, Bangalore	7,500
37	Mr. Krishna Prasad Kilari, Bangalore	7,000
38	Lions Club of Bangalore-BTM Nightingale	7,000
39	Mrs. Renu Garg, Bangalore	6,500
40	Ms. Selva Kumari, Bangalore	6,000
41	Mr. Raman Pradap Graver, Bangalore	5,100
42	Mr. Naresh Jain, Delhi	5,100
43	Mr. Ankur Rawat, Bangalore	5,100
44	Mr. Nikhil, Bangalore	5,000
45	Mrs. Abha Agarwal, Bangalore	5,000
46	Mr. Sakthi Kumar, Bangalore	5,000
47	Mrs. Priya Krishnamoorthy, Tiruvannamalai	5,000
48	Mr. Seshadri. C.R. Bangalore	5,000
49	Mr. Pranesh Rao, Bangalore	5,000
50	Com Smith India Pvt Ltd, Bangalore	5,000
51	Mr. T.A. Lakshmi Kantha, Bangalore	5,000

52	Mr. Niranjan Khatri, Bangalore	5,000
53	Raptor Design Technologies Pvt Ltd, Bangalore	5,000
54	Mr. T. Balaji, Bangalore	5,000
55	Simplotel Technologies Pvt Ltd, Bangalore	5,000
56	Mr. Kishore Govinde, Bangalore	5,000
57	Mr. Sanjay Mishra, Bangalore	5,000
58	Mr. Ankit Mukim, Bangalore	5,000
59	Civilia India Educational Programmes Pvt. Ltd.	5,000
60	Mr. Sudhakar Sampath, Bangalore	5,000
61	Ms. Isabel Seth, Bangalore	5,000
62	Bhima Jewellers -staff, Bangalore	5,000
63	Mrs. Rittu Mittal, Bangalore	5,000
64	Ms. Harini Nagendra, Bangalore	5,000
65	Mr. Ramachandran. A. K. Bangalore	5,000
66	Mr. B. Krishnamurthy, Bangalore	4,500
67	Aakruthi Silverline, Bangalore	3,680
68	Ms. Ruchi choudhary, Bangalore	3,500
69	Glenn Gladwin Noronha	3,500
70	Mr. Nagaraj, Bangalore	3,500
71	Mr. Samir Kumar Sinha, Bangalore	3,500
72	Mr. Somanna, Bangalore	3,500
73	Mr. Harshith Kumar, Bangalore	3,500
74	Mrs. Aashima Sethi, Bangalore	3,500
75	Mr. Narayana Rao. C.H., Bangalore	3,500
76	Mr. Shashi Bhushana Reddy, Bangalore	3,500
77	Ms. Soundarya, Bangalore	3,500
78	Mr. R. Sivachandran, Bangalore	3,500

79	Mrs. Supriya Rajamanickam, Bangalore	3,500
80	Ms. Shweta Sreekantha, Bangalore	3,500
81	Mr. G.Pavan Reddy, Andhra Pradesh	3,000
82	Inner Wheel Club of Bangalore South Parade	3,000
83	Bhavya Nanjundappa, Bangalore	3,000
84	Mrs. Pratima Singhal, New Delhi	3,000
85	Mr. Brij Kapoor, Bangalore	3,000
86	Mr. Jayaprakash Reddy, Bangalore	3,000
87	Mrs. Ammani Nayar, Bangalore	3,000
88	Mr. Ramachandra Arora, Bangalore	3,000
89	Mr. Venkatesh Reddy, Bangalore	2,500
90	Mr. Gundappa Gopal, Bangalore	2,500
91	Mr. Murugan, Bangalore	2,500
92	Ms. B.V. Ashwini, Bangalore	2,500
93	Mr. Divakar & Meenu, Bangalore	2,500
94	Ms. Dhanya, Bangalore	2,500
95	Mr. Santhosh Vuthoori, Bangalore	2,500
96	Ms. Aayush Apparels, Bangalore	2,500
97	Ms. Suprana Rao, Bangalore	2,500
98	Ms. Shikha Bhandari, Bangalore	2,100
99	Mrs. Shantha, Bangalore	2,000
100	Mr. Advait Madhavan, Bangalore	2,000
101	Dr. Vathsala Rao, Bangalore	2,000
102	Mr. K.Narayana Murthy, Bangalore	2,000
103	Col. G.Gopal, Bangalore	2,000
104	Mr. Rajeev Varehney, Bangalore	2,000
105	Ms. Shashikala, Bangalore	2,000

106	Mr. Shankar Narayan, Bangalore	2,000
107	Mr. Suyash Singhal, Bangalore	1,500
108	St. John's Medical College, Bangalore	1,000
109	Mr. Rangarajan, Bangalore	1,000
110	Mr. Yogesh Sharma, Bangalore	1,000
111	Mr. Hemanth Lenka, Bangalore	1,000
112	Mr. Pankaj -Neha, Bangalore	1,000
113	Ms. Anitha Mathur, Bangalore	1,000
114	Mr. Thandav Murthy, Bangalore	1,000
115	Ms. Nandita Kolisetty, Bangalore	1,000

Acknowledgement

We have numerous supporters who have donated groceries for our kitchen, sponsored meals for our trainees, made financial contributions to support our programs, supported our crowd funding effort, volunteered with us to help us in various activities, helped us build our corpus fund stronger and also supported us in many other ways. We are very thankful to each and every one of them.

How you can help

You can help Mitra Jyothi by being our volunteers or by making donations to support our programs.

Donations to Mitra Jyothi can be made in cash and kind. For making financial contributions (Net banking/credit & debit cards/cheques) please refer to our website www.mitrajyothi.org and click on the "Donate Now" button. To make donations in kind please call us to check current needs. Grocery items will always be needed as there will be 40 - 50 trainees staying at Mitra Jyothi Campus at all times.

Corporates and philanthropic organizations can become our partners and support our programs. Please reach us at admin.office@mitrajyothi.org for more details in this regard.

Mitra Jyothi is registered under The Indian Trust Act Reg No. B/IV 335/89-90, u/s 80G Income Tax Act 1961, Foreign Contribution Act u/s 6(1) and allotted Reg. No. 094420627, Give India and Credibility Alliance. Partner with Mitra Jyothi and help us Inspire and Enable the visually impaired!



Trainees learn craft work at Mitra Jyothi



Trainee learns to cook with fire as part of the Life Skills Training Program



Outdoor mobility training in progress



Indoor mobility training in progress



Mitra Jyothi Team

Support
Education

Enable Skill
Development

Assist Job
Placement



Head Office

CA Site # P22, 31st Main,
18th Cross, Sector 1, HSR Layout,
Behind National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT College)
Bangalore, Karnataka - 560102
Ph: +91 80-22587623/25
Email: admin.office@mitrajyothi.org

CEWD

Plot No. 10, Hosa Road,
Electronic City Post, Hosur Main Road,
Chikka Thoguru,
Bengaluru, Karnataka – 560100
Ph: +91 080 2574 0052
Email: centerforewwd@mitrajyothi.org