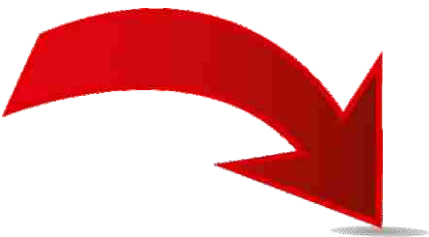


Estd.1990




Mitra Jyothi

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, counseling, communication and technology and be better integrated into their families and mainstream society at large.

Vision : To Inspire and Enable the visually impaired



ANNUAL REPORT

2017 - 2018



Mitra Jyothi Team - Before leaving to Talakadu for an outdoor visit



Entire Mitra Jyothi Family at Shilhaandara Resort on 15.03.2018



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



At the end of another fruitful year, am priveleged to state that Mitra Jyothi has moved ahead at an incredibly fast rate in its goal to inspire and enable the persons with disabilities this year. We were able to execute the existing projects along with stabilizing the new ones effectively. I would like to share few words about the same.

First and foremost I would like to thank Sapien and the Hans Foundation for their support this year, nothing could have been achieved without them. We owe our success to them, and the hardworking staff and volunteers of our esteemed establishment. We appointed a field officer to increase our outreach to remote places, and this helped in a big way. This field officer along with other staffs reached out to people who are in need of accessible books, computer training and life skills from various remote parts of Karnataka. Also we could do many field visits; understand their need and enlighten their life through Mitra Jyothi.



In our fully-functional Braille Press with 2 Interpoint braille machines which has a capacity of printing 2000 pages per hour each, we transcribed and printed Kannada medium textbooks for sixth to tenth standard students. We have distributed all these books to 17 schools and many individuals across Karnataka of around 3000 copies overall for 2017-2018 academic year. We have also clubbed the Talking Book Library and the Braille Transcription Center under single umbrella and named it as Educational Resource Centre. Under this we started producing books in all accessible formats like eText, ePub, mp3, DAISY and brf (braille). This is a remarkable milestone this year and the team is now well versed in producing digital accessible books.

The Centre for Empowerment of Women with Disability was started by us two years ago and has yielded immense results! We have about 45 to 50 women with disabilities living in this Centre, and this is helping them work with no problem of finding a home.

I deeply regret to inform you about the sad demise of Mrs. Rekha Das; a beloved volunteer and board member of Mitra Jyothi as a Trustee. She was more than a Trustee, worked with me for more than 25 years and helped in various initiatives. She has been a dedicated volunteer who not only recorded numerous books, but also helped in preparing reports and other official letters. I can share with pride that people like her are the ones who helped to get Mitra Jyothi to the state where it is at present. She never missed a meeting or any of Mitra Jyothi functions. May her soul rest in peace.

Looking forward to get continuous support from our donors, supporters, volunteers, staffs and other organizations to enable more and more people with disabilities to lead independent life.

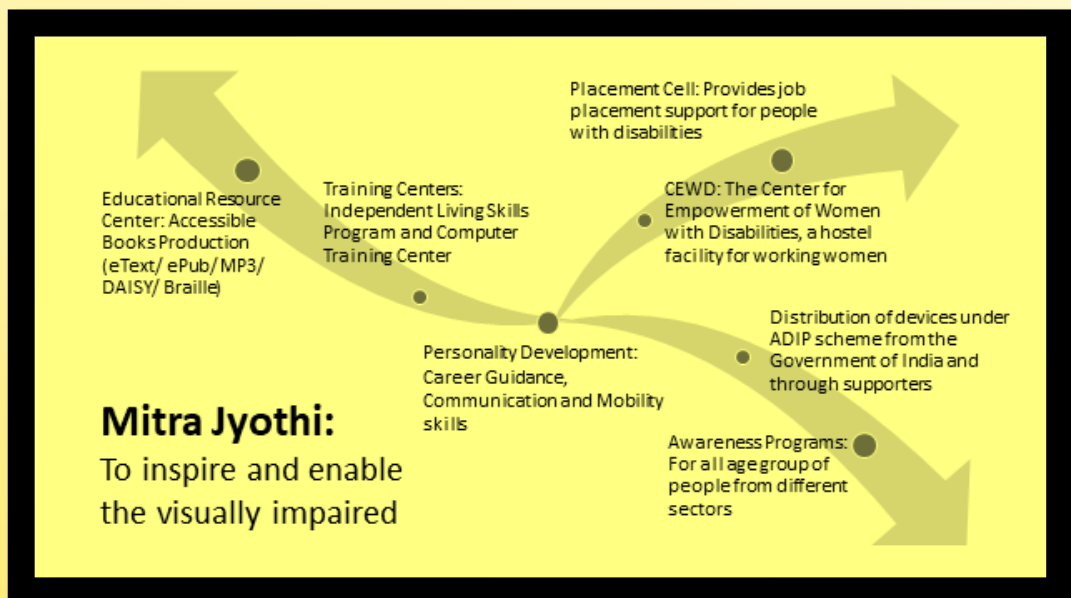
*Thanking you,
Yours Sincerely,
Madhu Singhal*



About Mitra Jyothi

Mitra Jyothi is a registered trust, under the Indian Trust Act, established in 1990 and is located at Bangalore in the State of Karnataka. It has been working for people with disability in general and visually impaired in particular for the past 28 years. It is run under the able guidance of Ms. Madhu Singhal (National Awardee) who has accomplished many milestones not only in India but also abroad despite her own disability.

Mitra Jyothi's Mission is to assist visually impaired individuals and help them lead independent and dignified lives through education, training, counselling, communication & technology so as to integrate them into mainstream families and society at large. The organization and its founder have received many awards and accolades over the years for the exemplary service they have been providing.





Yearly roundup from Mitra Jyothi

Financial year 2017-2018 has been a very significant year for us. We present here the highlights of the year.

The flag ship project for the year, our "Kannada Braille Text Book Production" had really made us proud. Last May, having realized that School Text Books in Braille are not easily available to blind children, Mitra Jyothi launched a project to produce them in our Braille Press. The main intention of the project is to ensure that blind children should have equal opportunities as anyone else. Since then, more than 3000 text books from grade 6 to grade 10



for Karnataka state syllabus have been printed and distributed to 17 special and inclusive schools across Karnataka. Rangarao Memorial School, Mysore, Maheswari Blind School, Belagam, Asha Kirana School for the Blind, Kempana halli, Chikkamagalur, Sri Manik Prabhu Academy for the Blind, Bidar and Raichur, Mathru Educational Trust for the Blind, Yalahanka, Sri Sharadadevi Andhara Vikasa Kendra, Shivamogga, Govt. School for the Blind Girls, Davangere, Jyothi Seva School for the Blind, Bengaluru are some of the schools who have received the braille text books.

-Some feedback we have received from schools

Mr.B.G. Chandrashekhar, Head Master, from Asha Kirana School for the Blind, Mandya, says, "You have really helped our students by supporting their education through the supply of text books covering all the subjects from class 6 to Class 10. We have received 532 text books so



far from Mitra Jyothi. We are very thankful to the management and staff of Mitra Jyothi for the same."

Smt. A.M. Gavade, Headmistress, Maheswari Blind School, Belagavi says "We have received more than 300 textbooks from Mitra Jyothi. We are very thankful to Mitra Jyothi for the same."

In all, more than 4000 volumes of Braille text books, reference books, magazines and other general reading books were printed and distributed. With this project we have increased our outreach to all the functioning schools for the blind in the state.

The next most significant achievement is the up gradation of the process of production of accessible books. This is the unification of the production lines for Braille Books and Audio Books. We refer to this as the **Library Digitalization process**. We have leveraged the improvements in the technology of text to speech conversion engines and categorized production of audio books into the ones which need human voice and hence have to be recorded in studios and ones that will be based on machine voice for which recording is not needed but specific electronic files or eFiles have to be created. Our staff have now been trained to publish books in the various accessible formats like e-Text, e-Pub, Braille and DAISY formats. We have adopted the machine voice for text books and reference books while the nontextual books where emotions are involved will still be recorded by volunteers.

Three batches of Computer Training was conducted as planned. We had a total enrolment of 110 trainees. All of them were trained to use the





computers with the help of NVDA, the screen reading software. They were also trained on mobility skills and given behavioral & personality development training and spoken English lessons. This program has been possible with the support of Sapient. Among the 31 school students who successfully completed their computer training in the summer months of April and May last year, Mitra Jyothi identified three girls who were from very poor families from Gulburga district and decided to support their higher education. Our supporters Mr. Rajesh Bansal and Mrs. Kanta Singhal are sponsoring their education and stay. The girls stay at Mitra Jyothi in our dormitory and have now completed their I PUC (Class-11) education at the Government Pre-University College. Two of them are toppers in their class and have secured more than 80% marks in their first term exam. With good Mobility training that they have received from our Life Skill Training, they commute independently back and forth to their college. All necessary support for their text books in the form of Audio Books and Braille books is being provided to them by Mitra Jyothi.

There were two major value adds to our 6 month long Career Centric computer skill training program. One is the addition of 80 hours of dedicated **coaching for job oriented competitive exams in the Banking and government sector** which was conducted at Mitra Jyothi in collaboration with "Summit Careers". We are very proud that to say that Ms. Vidhya from Kerala has cleared the Banking exams and has joined as PO in Canara Bank. A few more of our students have cleared their first level exams. The second significant addition of a weeklong training on **Digital Accessibility Testing** provided by Prakat Solutions.

Mitra Jyothi conducted two batches of Independent Living Skill training for 30 visually challenged girls to make them socially, economically and emotionally independent. After six months of training we can find significant changes in them. They get empowered to choose their future prospects without undue hesitation. Some go back to continuing their education and others chose a path to livelihood and career. I am very happy to say that our job placement cell has placed nearly 10 of our ILS



trainees in small scale industries and they currently live independent lives. They reside at our CEWD and are also supporting their family's financial needs. 12 trainees from the six month career centric computer training course that is held between July and December, stayed back for an additional 3days to learn cooking from our most experienced -Life skill Training Coordinator and special instructor Ms. Sundari Venkatesan.

News from our Centre for Empowerment of Women with Disabilities (CEWD) we have doubled the number of beneficiaries supported at a time from 25 residents last year to 50 this year. The plan is to increase to 60 beneficiaries in another year's time. Our job placement cell had been a major feeder to this Center.

Our Job Placement Cell was rejuvenated last May and has since made very good progress. With a total enrolment of 110 candidates, Mitra Jyothi has placed almost 50% of them in jobs. We have networked with 44 companies for placement of people with disabilities 22 of them in the unskilled sector and 22 of them in the skilled sector. Networking Includes: sensitization, awareness building and initiation, grooming candidates, due interview processes, follow up and placement confirmations and any required Work Place Solutions. Arvind Mills, Shahi Exports, Hatti Kappi, Reliance Fresh, Cisco, TCS, Vindhya Infotech, Prakat are some prominent inclusive employers.

Many field trips were made throughout the year to remote villages in Mandya, Mysore, Chamarajanagara and Bellary districts to build Awareness about our skill development and enablement programs.

On the occasion of Louis Braille Day, Mitra Jyothi students Vaishali and Anneamma received the 1st and 2nd prize in the essay writing competition in Braille organized by the Department of Disabled Welfare and Senior Citizens in collaboration with many NGOs working in the disabilities sector. Ms. Madhu Singhal was selected as one of the 10 finalists for the Namma Bengaluru Citizen of the Year Award.

We could not have achieved any of this without the support of our volunteers, corporate and individual supporters, partners, philanthropic organizations, our dear friends, well wishers and all the staff of Mitra Jyothi.



Achievements of Ongoing programs

Educational Resource Centre

- **Talking Book Library**
 1. 7849 Audio Books distributed to 700 individuals & 25 institutions with ~2500 members → 3200 primary beneficiaries!
 2. 795 book downloads on Sugamya Pustakalaya
- **Braille Transcription Centre**
 1. 17 schools → 500 students
 2. 12 Other organizations → 1200 VIs

Training Centres

- **Computer Training Centre**

Direct Beneficiaries = 72
Female: 33 and Male: 39
Indirect Beneficiaries
 $72 \times 5 = 360$ (i.e. Family members of each direct beneficiary)
- **Independent Living Skills**

Direct Beneficiaries = 30
Indirect Beneficiaries
 $30 \times 5 = 150$ (i.e. Family members of each direct beneficiary)

Placement Cell and CEWD

- **Job Placement Cell**

Direct Beneficiaries = 73 Placements since April 2017 and 48% success!
Female: 47 & Male: 26
Indirect Beneficiaries
 $73 \times 5 = 365$
- **CEWD**

Direct Beneficiaries = 50
Indirect Beneficiaries
 $50 \times 5 = 250$ (i.e. Family members of each direct beneficiary)



Mitra Jyothi Publications

Audio Publications

- Over 1200 copies of Sanchaya has been distributed since its relaunch from Nov 2017. 35+ individuals and a institution are our direct members.
- 800+ copies of Spardha Shrunkala has been distributed to 98 individuals and 4 institutions through the year.
- 120+ copies of Current Affairs from NAB has been distributed to 10 individuals and 2 institutions.

Braille Publications

- Over 300 copies of Insight has been distributed to 120+ individual members and 15 institutions.
- 600+ copies of Jnaana Samhitha has been distributed to 80+ individuals and around 20 institutions across pan India.

Sample story lines of Mitra Jyothi beneficiaries

1. Mitra Jyothi congratulates Basavaraj Shankar Umrani on his many achievements and for his rewards and recognition. The young Belagavi star's latest recognition has been in Dubai where he has amazed the Dubai audience with his talent at an event there over the weekend. Basavaraj has been Mitra Jyothi's Talking Book Library Member since October 2014! He was featured in the times of India, Hubli Edition on 17 October 2017.

Basavaraj Shankar Umrani, 23, was born blind, but this feisty youngster from Athani, Belagavi, didn't let that come in the way of his extraordinary talent. Basavaraj is popularly known as the walking computer of Karnataka for his extraordinary mathematical calculation ability and for his vast memory he can remember the calendar of 100 years.

2. Mr. Suresh Patted, a proud member of our Talking Book Library was appointed





as lecturer at a government degree college in Terdal town of Bagalkot district last year. He is featured in The Hindu on 23rd October 2017

Article: Visually impaired man defies the odds to become a government college lecturer:

As he stands in front of his students and dictates a lesson, the fact that he suffers from complete blindness barely crosses their mind. For them, he is just another teacher. In fact, he is a favourite.

Suresh Patted, a 28 year old visually impaired man, was appointed as lecturer at a government degree college in Terdal town of Bagalkot district a month ago. Mr. Patted, blind by birth, is a native of Dhavalshwar village of Mudhol taluk, where he still lives with his agrarian parent. His is a story of securing a dream after treading a path of hardship and many a twist and turn.

"For a blind person, for sure life is not easy. But a strong will can help us clear the hurdles," he said. Having completed a major part of his education in Belagavi district, Mr. Patted did his M.A. in Political Science from Rani Channamma University and also cleared KSET (Karnataka State Eligibility Test) before being recruited as a lecturer.

He completed his education with the help of the Braille script, which he learnt at school. Mr. Patted said audio recordings of all the subjects played a vital role in his test preparations. "Even today, I use the same method to teach. I spend around two hours listening to the subject before delivering a lecture." According to Mr. Patted, an NGO named Mitra Jyoti supplies audio recordings on all subjects to visually impaired persons.

Thanking his parents and friends for their help every step of the way, he said that without the support of society, people like him would find it extremely hard to get ahead in life. While he is elated to serve in the college, his pupils and colleagues too are happy to have such a distinguished lecturer in their college. "All teachers are good here, but



Patted sir is different. We feel happy and proud to be his students. His teaching method is simple as it gives us adequate time to take down notes," said Bhagyashree, a final year B.A. student. N.V. Aski, principal of the college, said Mr. Patted is a living example for differently abled people.

Meanwhile, the man himself is saddened by the fact that many blind persons are forced to beg on the streets. He said people with visual impairments should not beat themselves up and treat their disability as a curse, but instead use it as an advantage to get ahead in the life by making use of the many benefits being offered to them by the government.

Events

Over the last year Mitra Jyothi has hosted and attended numerous conferences and workshops to help enhance the lives of people with disabilities. Educational excursions, internship and volunteer programs and visits from numerous schools and institutions have helped Mitra Jyothi grow like never before. Listed below are a few key events of the last year.

- **8th April 2017 (Annual Day)**-> Staff/students/volunteers/supporters celebrated Mitra Jyothi's 27th

Anniversary. On this occasion Ms Madhu Singhal, Founder and Managing Trustee welcomed the gathering. She shared her wonderful memories of Mrs. N.S.Hema, the founder of APD who was her source of inspiration. Hemaji who passed away on



8th April 2016 is the reason behind the birth of Mitra Jyothi. She also thanked the service of all the volunteers/staff/well wishers/ donors of Mitra Jyothi who have been associated with us for the past 27 years.

- **20th April 2017 (Workshop on "accessible books")** -> Mitra Jyothi Hosted a three days of "Workshop on Accessible Books". Over a period of three days Mitra Jyothi staff along with members from other sister



organisations learnt all about using various software available for people with print disabilities for "Reading" and "Creating" Accessible books. They had a hands on training and did a reverse training so that the mostwonderful trainers Prashant Ranjan Verma and Dr. Homiyar Mobedjiwere convinced that their students were "good to go" to create more and more accessible books before they left Mitra Jyothi premises.

- **18th May 2017(GAAD) >**

Global Accessibility

AwarenessDay is celebrated across the world on the 3rd Thursday of May every year.

It aims to get everyone

talking, thinking and learning about digital access/inclusion and people with different disabilities. This year'sevent, organized by Prakat Solutions and co-hosted by CIS and Mitra Jyothi, and also featured lightning talks, workshops, and a lot of other activities, all relating to the core issues of desktop, web and mobile accessibility.



- **27th June 2017(Helen Keller's Birthday) >** Mitra Jyothi celebrated Helen Keller Day with the distribution of Smart Canes to beneficiaries. This was followed by a sumptuous meal cooked inhouse to all assembled.

- **29th June 2017(CD player presented to Beneficiary) >** Madhu Singhal presented a CD player to help Doddaputtaiyiah with his studies and preparation for competitive exams. He can now effectively study with audio books from our talking book library.

- **12th Sep 2017 (Awareness Workshop) >** Mitra Jyothi hosted an "Awareness Workshop" for MRWs (Multi Rehabilitation Workers) from four districts (Hassan, Mandya, Tumkur & Bengaluru Rural).





The objective of the program is to bring in awareness among MRWs about the various programs offered by Mitra Jyothi for the enablement of visually impaired people. Since MRWs are the people working directly with persons with disabilities in rural areas, this collaboration helped to increase Mitra Jyothi's outreach and benefit more people in far flung areas.

- **25th Sep 2017 (A Kannada Braille booklet on Health & Hygiene released!)** -> Inner Wheel Club of Bangalore, Koramangala published 500 prints of a booklet on Health and Hygiene in Kannada Braille. The book is based on a storybook model and was published by Mitra Jyothi Braille Press and distributed in various blind schools all over Karnataka to spread the message of Swacha Bharat all across Karnataka. District Chairman Padmini Nagachandra (Inner Wheel District 319) Inaugurated this project. President Yamini spoke of the multiple ways and means in which goodness spreads when a few people come together for a good cause. It was a very satisfying experience to watch two Mitra Jyothi trainees deftly read a few excerpts from the braille book. The story for the booklet was developed by the NGO "Communication for Development & Learning (CDL)".
- **11th Nov 2017 (Sanchaya Audio Magazine Relaunch)** -> Mitra Jyothi in collaboration with Pranathi Prathishtaana celebrated 62nd Kannada Rajyotsava & formally relaunched Sanchaya, a popular monthly audio publication in Kannada specially made for people with vision impairment
- **10th Feb 2018 (Megha Health Camp)** -> Mitra Jyothi in collaboration with Rotary Club of Koramangala, organized a free health camp for people of all ages at the Center for Empowerment of Women with Disabilities (CEWD) in Chikkatoguru, Electronic City. Dental, Eye, Pediatric, Gynecology and general check-up has been done free of cost for all Mitra Jyothi beneficiaries and the public reside in near by areas



- **25th Feb 2018(Limelite)** -> Mitra Jyothi Team participated at 'Limelite', an annual inter corporate dance competition held by 'The Chasse Dance Studio' and received a standing ovation! The event was at the MLR Convention Centre in Whitefield.



- **22 March 2018 (Dental Camp)** -> Mitra Jyothi in collaboration with KMYF (Karnataka Marwari Youth Federation) organized a day long Dental Camp at the premises of Mitra Jyothi head-office in HSR Layout. A mobile dental-ambulance with state-of-the-art facilities housing two dental studios arrived in Mitra Jyothi as the work-day began. This mobile dental clinic was hooked up to necessary electric and water connections from Mitra Jyothi and was fully operational within minutes. Through the day more than 50 students and staff of Mitra Jyothi availed the facility and were provided free dental check-up, necessary treatment and dental-cleaning procedure.
- **28 March 2018 (ENT Camp)** -> The Pinkathon Bengaluru team helped organize an ENT Camp at Mitra Jyothi for all our students and staff. It was a very successful event where 39 members benefited. Senior ENT Specialists from Apollo Hospitals Dr. Nagamani, and Dr.Vidya along with Samson Moses arrived at Mitra Jyothi with all their equipment and set up their clinic within minutes. Our ILS and Computer trainees and even some of our staff got themselves checked.
- **15th December 2017 (CMC Visit)** -> Madhuji and the team from Mitra Jyothi visited CMC Vellore. They interacted with and sensitized people from various streams in the health care sector. In the lecture hall in CMC Vellore, they conducted a "Sensitization Seminar" for a gathering of 50+ professionals. Among them were ophthalmologists, optometrists, nurses and optometry students in the department of Ophthalmology. The objective of the session was to make a connect



between teaching hospitals and the social-service sector by sensitizing health care professionals and encouraging them to route their patients to various NGOs based on individual need. Guiding patients to the right rehabilitation centres like Mitra Jyothi and informing them about the various opportunities and enablement programs available is in itself a key factor that is the first step towards effective rehabilitation. The team had lot of questions post session. They also expressed their willingness to think beyond medical support.

Outdoor Exposure for beneficiaries

- **Divine & Adventure picnic (09th June 2017 – 11th June 2017):** Mitra Jyothi students along with Mr.Satish Palani, a volunteer from Chennai along with a large team of supporters organized a most well planned and well executed trip to Tirupathi/Tirumala seeking the blessings of the Lord of the Seven hills, Sri Venkateshwara. About 30 VI students trekked up the hills with the support of trained Mitra Jyothi Staff and volunteers (one guide for every VI student). Thanks to the special arrangements made by TTD, the contingent from Mitra Jyothi did not have to wait in long queues. Every volunteer gave an audio commentary to the blind as they climbed along, as they stood in lines and as they experienced being in the sanctum in front of the Lord. The bond that has developed between our young students who are all in the age group of 16-19 and their guide is something truly amazing. Those who could not trek up the hills were provided the alternate option of going up by car. Their mobility training at Mitra Jyothi surely was put to test and they passed with flying colours!

The next morning they enjoyed the great outdoors with a picnic to Talakona waterfalls close to Tirupathi. Every student got to experience the mist from the waterfall soothing their senses and played in the water to their hearts' content as they were carefully guided and led by volunteers.

Talakadu visit: Mitra Jyothi supported by "The Hans Foundation" arranged an outdoor experience and a day of fun and learning for all our current trainees and the girls in our 'Center For Development of Women with Disabilities' (CEWD). Mitra Jyothi staff beautifully supported about 50





people with various disabilities and made this event a huge success. Two buses were arranged and a day trip planned to 'Talakadu'. Every care was taken to ensure safety of our trainees. Ropes were tied for safety when in water to define safe boundaries as well as to provide guidance and support. Water exposure was limited to shallow water areas. From packing snacks & water bottles to constant head count checks and safety ropes, attention to every detail made this a very safe and secure day out with lots of learning and fun! Kudos to MJ Team for such detailed planning and flawless execution! We are proud to say that it was a totally "Inclusive" and totally "Accessible" event!

- **Corporate Visit:** On 16th Oct 2017 a group of 20 students from 6 months Career Centric Computer Training batch visited SAP Labs, Bangalore with Mitra Jyothi trainers to get corporate exposure. A whole day program on various soft skill aspects was designed and driven by SAP team for the students.



- **Resort Visit:** It is said that "In every walk with nature one receives far more than he seeks", to provide this experience to all its current trainees and CEWD Residents, Mitra Jyothi arranged an outdoor visit to Shilhaandara on 15th March (15/03/2018). Shilhaandara is an outdoor resort on the outskirts of Bangalore. It was truly a day of fun and learning that was thoroughly enjoyed by all our current batch trainees and the girls in our 'Center for Development of Women with Disabilities' (CEWD) along with all staff members. Mitra Jyothi staff beautifully supported about 50 people with different disabilities and made this event a huge success. Two buses were arranged for transportation. Every care was taken to ensure safety of our trainees. Zorbing, Zip Line, Rope walk, beach volley ball and cricket was enjoyed by one and all. It was amazing to watch our low vision and totally blind trainees enjoy each of these activities. The ortho disabled and speech and hearing impaired girls were supported as needed by the ever helpful staff of Mitra Jyothi.

After a break for lunch and as the summer sun started to get very hot, it was time to enjoy some indoor activities. The teams played table tennis, chess & carom and soon everyone got involved in the ever popular "Rain Dance" and Table Tennis. The day passed by so quickly that no one realized that it was



soon time to head back. Mitra Jyothi thanks The Hans Foundation for supporting and sponsoring this event without which this would not have been possible.

Workshops and Conferences attended

Throughout the year Mitra Jyothi team engages with other organizations working towards disability sector through various workshops, conferences or events. Listing few to highlight the engagement.

- Radio Udaan Convention and the Udaan Idol Fianale: Ms. Madhu Singhal and Ms. Sundarewari participated in the Radio Udaan Convention and the Udaan Idol Finale 2017-18. On 27th and 28st January 2018, Radio Udaan hosted the Forth National Convention and the finale of Uda anIdol in Pacnhkula, Haryana. Udaan Idol in the first ever musical talent hunt for persons with disability. More than 500 people across India attended the event and the event was covered by all the local newspapers, television channels and Doordarshan. Ms. Madhu Singhal Ms. Preeti Monga and many other leaders in the field of disabilities were present at the event along with the talented Radio Udaan Team. Ms. Muskan from Himachal Pradesh became the first ever 'Udaan Idol'.
- All through the year Mitra Jyothi is part of various "Train the Trainer" programs. One such program was "Adaptation of Text Books", a one week short term CRE (Continuing Rehabilitation Education) program that was organized by NFB in collaboration with NIEPVD from 16 Jan 2018 to 20 Jan 2018. It was a very effective workshop for training special educators in schools across the state. The focus of the workshop was content creation in braille and how it can be effectively used. 31 special teachers from various schools were selected to attend this workshop. A three-member team from Mitra Jyothi went to impart training on the fifth day of the workshop. The topics they covered were – digitization of text books to make them accessible in multiple formats, methods of preparing language textbooks for visually impaired students in Braille, formatting methods used when preparing



braille books including Interline spacing method, Interpoint method, adaptation methods for images & Braille translation methods using the software tool "Duxbury Braille Translator". Challenges faced during the preparation of language textbooks and new technological changes were also discussed.

- Mitra Jyothi team attended the "National Conference 2017" organized by ICEVI (International Council for Education of People with visual Impairment) & Sense International India in Ahmedabad from 8th to 10th December. Ms. Madhu Singhal presented a session on "Inclusive Education" at the conference.
- Mitra Jyothi participated in the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of cbm. Ms. Madhu Singhal read out excerpts from the book "Stories of Change" released by cbm on the occasion. A Braille version of the book was presented to Madhuji. While Madhuji read with braille, Ms. Ranjani from cbm read it out with the support of JAWS and it was beautifully put together by Ms. Fairlene of CBM. Ms. Madhu Singhal made a very effective presentation on the various enablement programs offered by Mitra Jyothi for people with vision impairment. Mitra Jyothi is very happy to be part of this wonderful event. Thank you CBM!
- Ms. Madhu Singhal and Ms Sathiya attended the board meeting of the DAISY Forum of India (DFI) on the 1st & 2nd Sep'17 in Delhi at JNU campus. Representatives from various NGO's who are part of DFI attended the meeting. Saksham, Benetech (Bookshare), NAB, XRCVC, Andhjan Kalyan Trust, Enable India, Samarthanam, Sitesavers are few of the organizations that took part. We are happy to share that Mitra Jyothi's contribution to Sugamya Pustakalaya was highly appreciated! Refreshable Braille Display Devices showcased by various manufacturers was truly noteworthy. Madhuji and few other representatives checked the devices and provided their feedback to further improvise the devices.
- Mitra Jyothi participated in the 13th Braille Council of India (BCI) meeting held on the 24th and 25th of March 2018 in Guwahati. Members from different organizations working for the cause of the



visually impaired participated in the meeting. Various aspects of Bharati Braille were discussed at the event. The process to follow during field testing of the identified new Bharati Braille codes in various languages and the analysis of 8 Dot Braille planned to be done post roll out of identified Bharati Braille codes were some of the main agenda items discussed.

Memorable visit

On 26th Mar 2018, Ms. Madhu Singhal visited Monfort Senior Secondary Inclusive School in Guwahati. It was a wonderful visit that helped us understand teaching at "inclusive" schools and the way "inclusivity" is truly addressed. She met two students of class 12 and got to know the challenges they face. These



interactions help us explore various possibilities in which Mitra Jyothi can better support education of the visually impaired. She also visited Jyoti Niketan, a special school for the blind. In Jyoti Niketan, children study from nursery classes to class 5 post which they move to Monfort School under an inclusive environment. These children are very well trained in Braille. They learn Open Braille till class 2 and post that they focus on contraction. Madhuji was very impressed with the teaching methodology and has decided to support their education by means of providing them necessary Braille material and also send them "Insight", our English publication in Braille. The children were very bright and well educated. This clearly shows the dedication of both the schools, the teachers and importance of Braille and the perfection it brings in.



Other activities

Activity	Highlights of the activity	Outreach/Outcome
Awareness Programs	Schoolchildren, students from arts /professional colleges, social sectors and business studies were sensitized on technological developments to assist visually impaired and implement relevant ones in their schools/colleges.	Conducted 12 programs in the year foaround 231 students starting from Senior KG till Medical grade.
Capacity Building (Internal and External)	NGOs from different states participated in training/workshop conducted at Mitra Jyothi. With the help of Accenture team, we conducted capacity building program for our employees and women in the ILS Program for almost 4 months every Saturday. This program aims to enhance their soft skills that can be easily used in everyday life.	52 people from 10 different organizations participated in training workshop. 12 to 15 staffs and 10 women from ILS were part of the program.
Distribution of devices	Invited dignitaries from various sectors like Government, Academic and Corporate for distribution of assistive devices thereby able to spread awareness across sectors.	Smart canes, CD Player and DAISY players were distributed throughout the year along with a day long training about the usage.
Research assistance (Assistive devices/apps development)	Companies/individuals working towards the enablement of inclusive society as part of their corporate/ academic/ individual capacity visited Mitra Jyothi to get feedback and suggestions for improvement.	Close to 100 including companies/individual level visted and taken up their work accordingly.



Field Visits	Mitra Jyothi team visited Mandya, Srirangapatna, Mysore, Ramnagar, Krishnarajpet and Bellary.	Conducted awareness sessions to 40+ VRWs and 20+ Visually Impaired people.
Extra curricular participation – Mitra Jyothi students	A 20 member team from Mitra Jyothi comprising of women with vision impairment ranging from low vision to total blindness participated in Pinkathon Bangalore 2018. Mitra Jyothi students participated at Limelite, an annual inter-corporate dance competition held by The Chasse Dance Studio.	Most of them ran 3K while a few ran 5K. MJ runners were podium finishers too! Rajini finished 2nd while Suma finished 3rd in the 3KM category. Received a standing ovation for their dance performance.





Media Coverage

22nd Mar 2018-The Metro Life: An Article titled "Disability in bar for these women" published on Metro life about Chumbitha, CEWD beneficiary.

17th Jan and 9th Feb 2018: Articles published in Prajavani for two subsequent months about Mitra Jyothi's activities.

4th Dec 2017: Ms Madhu Singhal and Ms Sundareshwari participated in "O Sakthi" program in DD Chandana.

3rd Dec 2017: An article about our Computer Training Beneficiary, Padma Priya was published in LinkedIn.

24th Nov 2017: "How Mitra Jyothi has been helping specially abled people lead independent lives for 25 years" - article published in Your Story magazine.

13th Nov 2017: Mitra Jyothi Rajyotsava celebrations and relaunch of "Sanchaya" were published in "Parivarthan", "Rajasthan Patrika" and "Dakshin Bharat Rashtramat".

14th Sep 2017: Dakshin Bharat published an article about the Awareness Program held at Mitra Jyothi for MRWs (MultiPurpose Rehabilitation Workers).

10th Aug 2017: Chief Librarian Mr. L.N. Reddy's interview about the programs driven at Mitra Jyothi was aired on Vividhabharathi.

11th Sep 2017: Ms. Madhu Singhal was interviewed on "Naye Raste" on Radio Umang. It was aired twice on the same day. The same program has been telecasted on the Television channel Anjan. After the telecast on TV, the interview uploaded on Youtube.



Visitor Summary

Mitra Jyothi has constant visitors and volunteers who take time out to connect with those present, lend a helping hand and create awareness.

Corporate Volunteers:

Tata Consulting Services, Goldman Sachs, Cybrilla Technologies, Genpact, Dell, CISCO, NETAPP and Wipro are some companies that regularly send batches of volunteers throughout the year.

Other organizations:

People from Microsoft, Inner Wheel Club, CDL, Rotary Club, Common Purpose, Enable India, Samarthanam, NFB, Rakkum, International Red Cross visited us for various activities.

Distinguished Visitors:

Shri. V.S. Basavaraju, The State Commissioner for the Persons with Disabilities (Karnataka State)

Kilentola Jamir, Initiatives of Change (IofC): "I feel inspired and truly blesses to have visited this home. Leaving you all with my sincere prayers and the hope to be connected always. I truly believe IofC and Mitra Jyothi can be closely associated to make this world a better, caring place. Stay connected. Godspeed!"

Educational Institutes:

Students pursuing Humanities and other Social Service projects and wish to intern often choose Mitra Jyothi. From kindergarten to postgraduates, the age groups that visit Mitra Jyothi are exceptionally different. Students from Banjara Academy, Presidency University, Dayanand Sagar University, Goutham College, Christ College, Jain University, VIBGYOR have been visitors, along with many other schools.

Awards and Recognition

On 15th September 2017, Rotary Bangalore Downtown presented the "Nation Builder Award" to Ms. Madhu Singhal and Ms. Uma Krishnamurthy. Many others in the field of special education were also awarded on the occasion.

Ms.Kavya, our warden and caretaker at the "Center for Empowerment of Women with Disabilities" was awarded the "Sunpure super Women" award on the occasion of Womens Day celebrations by Sunpure. She was one of the 11 women who were selected by Sunpure (M.K. Agrotech Pvt Ltd) in a survey conducted all across Karnataka in their quest for finding "Sunpure Super Women-2018". The award was given by Mrs. Salma and Dr. Farah Khan.



Governance

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	0	5	5
Above 10000	8	9	17

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

Head of the organization : Nil

Highest Paid : Rs.4,89,078/-

Lowest Paid : Rs.85,500/-

Remuneration paid to members of statutory governing body:

Shri. G.P. Goyal, President	}	NIL
Kum. Madhu Singhal, Managing Trustee		
Shri. Piyush Khaitan, Trustee Member		
Shri. Ramana Polavarppu, Trustee Member		
Dr. Sharan Srinivasan, Trustee Member		
Smt. Shoma Bakre, Trustee Member		
Smt. Geetha Ramakrishnan Trustee Member		

Board Meetings:

Date of Meeting	No. of Attendees/ strength of board as on date	Minutes circulated
09.09.2017	4/7	Yes
31.03.2018	5/7	Yes



Balance Sheet

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

BALANCE SHEET AS AT MARCH 31, 2018

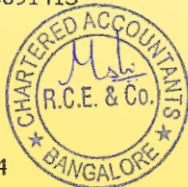
		31-Mar-18 Rs.	31-Mar-17 Rs.
Liabilities			
Corpus, Reserves and Other Funds			
Corpus Fund	2(a)	62,451,500	57,376,500
Capital Reserve Funds	2(b)	32,193,816	37,633,015
Other Earmarked Funds	2(c)	1,063,901	-
Other Grant Funds	2(d)	2,867,856	181,945
Reserves and Surplus	3	9,641,375	4,099,714
		<u>108,218,448</u>	<u>99,291,174</u>
Current Liabilities			
Other Current Liabilities	4	461,102	202,727
		<u>461,102</u>	<u>202,727</u>
		108,679,550	99,493,901
Assets			
Non- Current Assets			
Fixed Assets	5	49,627,128	54,934,772
Investments	6	11,897,182	9,361,309
		<u>61,524,310</u>	<u>64,296,081</u>
Current Assets			
Cash and Cash equivalents	7	45,673,899	33,238,273
Other Current assets	8	1,481,341	1,959,547
		<u>47,155,240</u>	<u>35,197,820</u>
		108,679,550	99,493,901

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

Meenakshi
Partner
Membership No. 216264



Place: Bangalore
Date : August 16, 2018

For and on behalf of the Trustees of
Mitra Jyothi

G.P. Goyal
President
PRESIDENT

Madhu Singhal
Managing Trustee





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

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2018

	Notes	31-Mar-18 Rs	31-Mar-17 Rs
Income			
Donations/Contributions	9	22,955,427	9,398,224
Other income	10	3,515,399	2,806,948
		<u>26,470,826</u>	<u>12,205,172</u>
Expenditure			
Employee Benefit Expenses	11	7,572,342	5,528,751
Operating Expenses	12	7,072,285	4,085,012
		<u>14,644,627</u>	<u>9,613,763</u>
Excess of Income over Expenditure before Depreciation		11,826,199	2,591,408
Less: Depreciation		1,602,737	1,551,312
Excess of Income over Expenditure after Depreciation before tax		<u>10,223,462</u>	<u>1,040,096</u>
Less: Tax expense		-	-
Excess of Income over Expenditure after tax		<u>10,223,462</u>	<u>1,040,096</u>

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.,

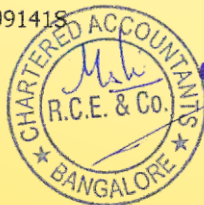
Chartered Accountants

ICAI Firm Regn. No. : 0091418

Meenakshi

Partner

Membership No. 216264



**For and on behalf of the Trustees of
Mitra Jyothi**

G.P. Goyal

President

PRESIDENT

Madhu Singhal

Managing Trustee



Place: Bangalore

Date : August 16, 2018



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

RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2018

Particulars	31-Mar-18 Rs.	31-Mar-17 Rs.
<u>Opening Cash & Bank Balances</u>		
Cash in Hand	20,341	69,607
Cash at Bank	3,295,116	5,630,846
	3,315,457	5,700,453
RECEIPTS		
Donations & Voluntary contributions received	26,792,284	18,440,045
Redemption of Bonds	4,055,400	-
Transfer from Foreign funds to Domestic	972,958	809,766
Fixed Deposits Matured	36,720,902	20,653,863
Income tax refund received	292,220	-
Interest on Investments	989,708	2,393
Interest on Savings Bank and Fixed Deposits	407,068	485,295
	70,230,541	40,391,361
PAYMENTS		
Transfer from Domestic Funds to Foreign	164,579	329,600
National Institute for the Visually Handicapped	-	1,425,209
Investments in bonds	7,255,762	-
Payments to Vendors	-	82,575
Purchase of Fixed Assets	1,377,051	9,868,698
Investment in Fixed Deposits	45,010,000	21,577,689
Employee Benefit Expenses	7,249,846	5,567,326
Operating Expenses	7,048,367	3,925,260
	68,105,605	42,776,357
<u>Closing Cash & Bank Balances</u>		
Cash in Hand	54,340	20,341
Cash at Bank	5,386,052	3,295,116
	5,440,392	3,315,457

This is the Receipts and Payments Account referred to in our report of even date.

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

Meenakshi
Partner
Membership No. 216264



Place: Bangalore
Date : August 16, 2018

For and on behalf of the Trustees of
Mitra Jyothi

MITRA JYOTHI
G.P. Goyal
President
PRESIDENT

For MITRA JYOTHI

Madhu Singhal
Managing Trustee



Donations Received

Sapient, The Hans Foundation, IDBI Trusteeship Services, Prione Business Services, San Engineering and Locomotive Co., Give India, Charity Aid Foundation America, Charity Aid Foundation India, Cisco, Informatica, Persistent System, Ashirwad Pipes, Inner Wheel Club of Koramangala in collaboration with CDL supported us to drive our programs. Other individual supporters are listed below:

Sl.No	Name & Address	Amount
1	Prof. Vijayalakshmi. M.A., Chennai	1,000,000
2	Ms. Kobita Dass Kolli, Hyderabad	500,000
3	Pyoginam, Haryana	300,000
4	Mr. Umesh D.Agrawal, Mumbai	202,000
5	Mrs. Uma Krishnamurthy, Bangalore	120,000
6	Ms. Anuradha Biswas, Bangalore	120,000
7	Mr. Rahul Goyal, Bangalore	100,000
8	Yshitech Secure Print Pvt Ltd, Hyderabad	100,000
9	Mrs. Kanta Singhal, Bangalore	82,100
10	K R Steel & Tube Company	81,000
11	Mrs. Sheela Biswas, Bangalore	80,000
12	Mr. S.N.Rajesh, Bangalore	75,001
13	Let's Dosome Good Foundation, Bangalore	55,000
14	Ms. Laxmidevi Narayan Madi, Bangalore	50,000
15	The World Zoreastrian Organisation Trust, Mumbai	50,000
16	Ms. Geeta Bharati, Bangalore	45,000
17	Mrs. Parwathi Devi, Bangalore	42,500
18	Wisdom Tools Learning Solutions Pvt Ltd	40,000
19	Mr. Praveen Padmanabhan, Kerala	40,000
20	Mrs. Ambujavalli.D. Bangalore	35,000
21	Mr. Srinath K.G., Bangalore	35,000
22	Mr. Akshaya Prakash Sharma, Bangalore	30,000
23	Mr. Krishna Vasu, Bangalore	30,000
24	Ms. Divya Rao Bangalore	30,000
25	Mrs. Bimala Goyal, Bangalore	30,000
26	Inner Wheel Club of Bangalore Koramangala	28,000
27	Mr. Sachin M.P., Bangalore	28,000
28	Lakshmi Narayana Pvt Trust, Bangalore	25,000



29	Mr. V.S.Harish, Bangalore	25,000
30	Mr. Nived & Surabhi, Bangalore	21,000
31	Ms. Sunita.K., Bangalore	20,000
32	Ms. Deepa K.C. Bangalore	20,000
33	Mrs. P.Yasoda, Bangalore	20,000
34	Ms. Manjula Subramanian, Bangalore	18,000
35	Mrs. Shanta Rao, Bangalore	18,000
36	Ms. Anju Magu, New Delhi	16,500
37	Vibgyor School, Bangalore	15,100
38	Manav Jagriti Foundation, Bangalore	15,000
39	Mr. Nagendra Kumar.S., Bangalore	15,000
40	Dr. Padam Paul, Bangalore	14,525
41	Ms. Rachita Chowdhury, Bangalore	13,000
42	Ms. Manjari singhal, Bangalore	12,500
43	Mr. B. Krishnamurthy, Bangalore	12,500
44	Mr. Manish Gupta, Bangalore	12,500
45	Goldman Sachs Services Pvt Ltd	12,200
46	NetApp India Pvt Ltd, Bangalore	12,000
47	Ms. Nidhi Jain, vizianagarm	11,000
48	Ms. Jayanthi Chandrashekar, Bangalore	11,000
49	Telematics4U Services Pvt Ltd, Bangalore	11,000
50	Mr. Shankar, Bangalore	10,000
51	Mr. Narendra Arya, Bangalore	10,000
52	Mr. Sreedharan Venkataraman, Bangalore	10,000
53	Mr. Nagaraj.S. Bangalore	10,000
54	Mr. K. Arun Kumar Rai, Bangalore	10,000
55	Widas concepts India Pvt Ltd, Bangalore	10,000
56	Ms. Mamatha K.H., Bangalore	10,000
57	Mr. Bharat Kumar Sarronwala, Bangalore	10,000
58	wheelchairs India Foundation, Bangalore	10,000
59	Mr. Naveen Kumar, Bangalore	10,000
60	Mr. Balaji Vardachari, Bangalore	10,000
61	Ms. Sapna Balan, Bangalore	10,000
62	Mr. Sriram Krishnan, Bangalore	10,000
63	Mr. Vasanth Kumar .M. Bangalore	10,000
64	Mr. Subramanya Madapura, Bangalore	10,000
65	Mr. M.N.Sheshagiri, Bangalore	10,000



66	New Horizon Educational & Agricultural Research	9,970
67	Trust Mr. Kishore Govinde, Bangalore	9,500
68	Mr. Amit Kumar, Bangalore	9,000
69	Mr. Prasan Sathyamoorthy, Bangalore	9,000
70	Dr. Suresh Verghese, Mysore	9,000
71	Ms. Supriya, Bangalore	9,000
72	Ms. Premlatha Jagadishan, Bangalore	9,000
73	Ms. Meena Jain, Bangalore	9,000
74	Mrs. Pratima Singhal	7,500
75	Mr. B. Sheshagiri Rao, Bangalore	7,000
76	Ms. Charu Khemka, Chennai	6,500
77	Mrs. Sushma Prabhu, Bangalore	6,000
78	Ms. Pooja, Bangalore	6,000
79	Ms. Poornima Devi Manohar, Bangalore	6,000
80	Mr. Nagendra.S. Bangalore	6,000
81	Mr. Vinod Krishna .R., Bangalore	6,000
82	Mr. Hara Bandhakavi, Bangalore	6,000
83	Dell company Team, Bangalore	5,500
84	Ms. Madhavi, Bangalore	5,010
85	Ms. Jayashree, Bangalore	5,001
86	Mr. Muniswamy Reddy.P.C., Bangalore	5,000
87	Inner Wheel Club of Bangalore East	5,000
88	Mr. Anoop Kumar, Bangalore	5,000
89	Mr. Hemanth.R.A. , Bangalore	5,000
90	Mr. Srinivas Pulakhadam, Bangalore	5,000
91	Ms. Madhurima, Bangalore	5,000
92	ITRM Team- cisco	5,000
93	Ms. Jyothi Hotti, Bangalore	5,000
94	Lioness Club of Bangalore	5,000
95	Ms. Selva Kumari, Bangalore	5,000
96	Mr. Shyam Satyan, Bangalore	5,000
97	Mrs. Pushpalatha Gopalakrishna, Bangalore	5,000
98	Ms. Sudha Joshi Bangalore	5,000
99	Ms. Madhuri Joshi, Bangalore	5,000
100	Ms. Yuvraj Reddy.S., Bangalore	5,000
101	MJ Entrance Donation Box	5,000



Acknowledgement

We have numerous supporters who have donated groceries for our kitchen, sponsored meals for our trainees, made financial contributions to support our programs, 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 all 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 335/8990, u/s 80G Income Tax Act 1961, Foreign Contribution Act u/s 6(1) and allotted Reg. No. 094420627, Niti Ayog, Give India and Credibility Alliance.



Partner with Mitra Jyothi and help us Inspire and Enable the visually impaired!



ILS Crafts Training



ILS Home Management



Outdoor Mobility sessions



Computer Training



Braille Transcription Center and Library





Support Education

-> Accessible books production in Audio, Braille and Digital formats.

Enable Skill Development

-> Through Computer Training, Independent Living Skills and Soft Skills Training.

Support Job Placements

-> Through Inclusive Hiring and Shelter for sustenance.

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

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