



RATNA NIDHI CHARITABLE TRUST

Annual Progress Report 2016-17

Inside:

Ratna Nidhi signs MOU with the Rotary India Literacy Mission to establish 10,000 Happy Libraries in India.

Shri Anna Hazare awards the M.G.Mehta Human Spirit Award to Mr.Aditya Mehta

Ratna Nidhi in association with the Alibaba Group launches Mission Million Books project, which seeks to donate 1 million books to 10000 schools and colleges in India.



OUR PARTNERS



Bombay
South Rotary
Charitable
Trust

Dharma Bharathi
Mission, India

Asian Star Co. Ltd.,
India



Rajiv Gandhi
Foundation, India

United Shippers
Ltd., India

Oasis India

Bal Jeevan
Trust, India

Masoom

Giants Group of
Chowpatty



Kherwadi Social
Welfare
Association

Akshar Gyan
Charitable
Trust, India



Rotary
Club of
Hanging
Garden

Why partner with us:

- We have over 25 years of ground experience in the fields of disability and food.
- We are one of the few NGO's working with technology to bring innovation in disability.
- We work with a strong network of NGO's and beneficiary groups.
- We have experience doing projects pan India, especially in hard to access rural regions.

CONTENTS



The Mobility Project 1

M.G. Mehta Human Spirit Award 3

Educational Sponsorship for Terror Victims 4

Food for Education 5

Mission Million Books 9

Rotary India Literacy Mission 11

Garments Distribution 12

Events of 2016-17 13

Press Coverage 14

Testimonials 15

Our Partners

THE **MOBILITY** PROJECT



Muskan Khureshi

Like all, you will be surprised to know that Muskan loves skipping. This 11 year is called a skipping expert by her friends. Not only this, but Muskan ranks first in her class and aspires to become a doctor. Her father is an auto rickshaw driver and that's the only means of income of her family.

Muskan was refereed by one of our partnering organization who works at community level to provide education to underprivileged kids. With our intervention Muskan stands tall and still manages to skip well. With the support that Muskan has now, all her family members are sure of her bright future.

Why is MOBILITY important?

Independence and freedom

The physically disabled will now no longer have to rely on someone else.

Employment

With the help of their mobility appliance they can commute to their workplace with ease, and do a wider variety of jobs that they could not perform previously.

Education

Disabled children will not have to abstain from going to school, which will ensure that they too have an equal and fair education.

Dignity

They are now contributive members of the society, they can take care of themselves and also their families. Most of all they too can stand tall like any normal human being.



Extending the helping hand

This year has seen a new start in Ratna Nidhi's disability program. We have started providing Prosthetic Hands and have given 17 of them so far. The Prosthetic Hand not only boosts their confidence but also helps them do simple daily tasks.

Screening camps



We conduct screening camps to assess the need of the disabled patient and take measurements so that a customised mobility appliance can be manufactured at our center.

The following camps were held through the year:

1. Amravati, Maharashtra - 143 Mobility appliances distributed.
2. Pune, Maharashtra - 70 appliances distributed.
3. Valsad, Gujarat - 258 appliances distributed.
4. Various suburbs of Mumbai such as Malad, Bhandup, Goregaon, Mankhurd, CBD Belapur, Panvel, Chembur, Virar, Borivali, Trombay, Masjid Bunder, Santacruz, Thane, Mahape, Kurla, Ray Road, Dharavi, Colaba, Chembur & Govandi.

CSR camps



We are grateful to the following corporates for their kind support in changing the lives of the disabled:

1. A camp for 251 patients was conducted with Heranba Industries under their CSR activity at Vapi, Gujarat.
2. Manufactured & distributed 200 calipers, sponsored by ONGC under their CSR activity.

2,601

disabled patients will now live a life of independence and dignity, with equal opportunity for education and employment.

Since 2001 **2,52,577** mobility appliances have been donated.

M.G. MEHTA HUMAN SPIRIT AWARD



What is M.G. Mehta Human Spirit Award?

Mahendra Mehta, our founder, was a man who believed in the unlimited potential that lies within all human beings. He dedicated his life to unravel this very potential in the poor and disabled.

In his memory we present the MG Mehta Human Spirit Award, each year on world disability day. The award aims to honour the indomitable spirit of those disabled individuals who have shattered all limitations to achieve something beyond normal. It is a platform for the disabled person to share their story and inspire! The video of their story is also shown to each and every disabled person who comes to our centre with the aim of sparking a similar passion within them.

Our Guest of Honour for this year

The event was graced by the esteemed presence of Padma Bhushan Shri Anna Hazare who also presented the award. He inspired the audience with his words on true philanthropy. He gave the example of his extremely minimalistic lifestyle, keeping aside all his money awards to help the underprivileged.

Our Awardee for the year

Our awardee for the year was Aditya Mehta. He took the loss of his leg as a blessing in disguise and became the first Para Cyclist of India to bring home an international medal. Of his many achievements, he has secured 2 silver medals at the para - Asian Cycling championship and has also set 6 Limca Records. Having realised the power of sports, he has set up the Aditya Mehta Foundation to help other disabled people through sports counselling, equipment donation and sponsorships.

Get a chance to tell your story! Let the world know that nothing can limit your spirit. Apply for the M.G. Mehta Human Spirit Award 2017 today.

Eligibility Criteria:

1. Applications are open for Differently abled persons who have looked beyond their limitations and achieved a remarkable feat.
2. The remarkable feat achieved must be on or after December 2010.
3. The applicant / nominee must be an individual and not a company, organization or group of any nature.

EDUCATIONAL SPONSORSHIP FOR TERROR VICTIM'S CHILDREN



Sandeep , Sandesh and Swapnil Ghulup

Always busy with bringing up their three sons the Ghulup's had no time to complain about anything in life and were satisfied with whatever they earned. They stayed in a small 10*11 sq.foot house at Khar Road, Mumbai. While their struggle was on, the 2011 July bomb blast gave them a lifelong disability. Sandeep's father got injured in the attack and lost both his legs. Being the single earning member of the house, he had waves of depression thinking on the future of their three sons.

Knowing that the loss was not replaceable, Sandeep's mother decided to start working as a domestic help. But unfortunately she was not able to manage the house finance and their education together, that was the time Ratna Nidhi stepped in to support all three brothers and helped them continue their education. Sandeep, the eldest one aspires to become a mechanical engineer and the two younger ones are continuing their high school. Despite the disability, Sandeep's father is now satisfied looking at his sons growing and becoming independent.

Why is Educational Sponsorship for children of terror victims important?

Continued education

In the face of the tragedy where the earning member of the family is lost, education is often sidelined. Our sponsorships ensure that their lives come back on track and they get a chance to find themselves a place in this competitive world.

Psychological well being through the trauma

Going to school and continuing with education helps the child look beyond the traumatic incident.

Dreams stay alive

These children could have been laboriously working at a young age to earn the bread, but education allows them to keep the dreams and hopes alive.

Support system to the victim family

The incident could have made them sink into poverty, but education holds the hope for better employment to support the family.

90 children of terror victims are able to continue with their education despite the adversities in their lives.
Since 2003, **391** students have been provided with educational sponsorship.

FOOD FOR EDUCATION



Little Gulshan studies in Grade 3 at Sunrise Islamic School and is very bright and outspoken. Gulshan has another younger brother who is less than a year old. Her mother is a housewife and takes care of the family and daily chores while her father sells shoes in a shop.

They come from a poor background and struggle to make ends meet. Her breakfast comprises of tea, bread and butter. After this she directly has lunch by 2:45 pm at school sent by Ratna Nidhi.

“The lunch provided by Ratna Nidhi helps me concentrate in class and keeps my mind alert.” Our meal helps and supports her studies by providing for nutrition.

Why is FOOD FOR EDUCATION important?

Better health and nutrition

In most cases the child's very first hot meal of the day is Ratna Nidhi's mid-day meal at school. If not for this meal, they would only eat once they go home. Keeping this in mind we provide well balanced, nourishing and hygienic meals.

Better attention in class

On a full stomach the child is able to concentrate and perform better in class.

Lower school dropout rates

When their children are fed well, the parents insist on sending them to school, instead of expecting them to work and earn.

Bright future

A child that had to work hard, day-in and day-out just to fill his famished stomach will no longer dream of finding his next meal, but of a brighter tomorrow.

New additions to our Food Family

Chikitsak Smooh Shirodkar Vidyalaya, Girgaum : This 110 years old school approached us to provide food for 50 students from very poor economic back ground who either come to school straight from work or go to work after school hours.

The Skill Development Course for the Nurses Aide conducted by SNEHA in Govandi slum: We have started providing meals to young adult trainees at SNEHA, who want to make a career in health sector.

Bharati Vidya Mandir Hindi Night School & Junior College, Worli Naka: This school was established in 1967. They are providing education to 109 students.



Our Weekly Menu

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
Morning School	Masala Rice Lapsi	Rice /Roti Vatana curry	Rice Moong curry	Rice Tur dal	Rice and Masoor curry	Poha Moong chat
	300 gms per serve	300 gms per serve	300 gms per serve	300 gms per serve	300 gms per serve	300 gms per serve
Night School	Masala Rice Lapsi	Poha Vatana ragda chat	Upma Moong chat	Masala rice Vatana chat	Upma & Masoor chat	Poha Moong chat
	300 gms per serve	300 gms per serve	300 gms per serve	300 gms per serve	300 gms per serve	300 gms per serve

Few of the schools that receive our meals

Abhinav School, Trombay, Ashok High School, Grant Rd., Baljeevan Center, Gyansadhana School, Govandi, Kherwadi Welfare Center, Bandra, Lilavati Lalji Dayal High School, SVP Road, Mahatama Gandhi Memorial High School, Govandi, Maharashtra Vidyalaya, Mankhurd, National School, Vikhroli, National School, Ghatkopar, Oasis India Day Care Center, Kamatipura, Prabhu Seminary High School, Thakurdwar, Rehmani – Wadibunder Pre-Primary School, Mahila Sangh 'D' Ward, Resource Center, Arthur Road SNEHA–Nurse Aids Skill Development Prog., Govandi, Sahakari Vidyalaya, Tardeo, Sunrise Islamic Eng. School, Mankhurd, Tasneem Urdu School, Mankhurd, Yusuf Meherali School, Tardeo, Aadhar Foundation, Byculia, Shri Sai Trust K.C.Matunga Balwadi Mun.School, Aastha Chrysalis, Bandra, Adarsh Nagar Night School, Worli, YJS Night School, Dongri.



5,61,832

meals have been served this year in 42 schools, improving health, attention span as well as attendance in young school going children.

Since 1998, 2,42,52,057 meals have been served.

STORIES OF CHANGE

Pradeep Chawda, 35 years

Pradeep was just few months old when he got severe fever. Unfortunately, the remedial injection he was given reacted negatively and affected the growth of his legs. His deformity has always made life a struggle for him. Unable to walk comfortably, he was only able to run a telephone booth that barely earned Rs.600 - 1000 per month.

After wearing a caliper, he now plans to look after his booth and also do some additional work to support him financially.



Scholarship for Children of Terror Victims-Abhishek Das, 13 years

Hailing from Kolkata, Das had a small and happy family. He and his wife both were busy working for a bright future for their son Abhishek. It was a Wednesday, when their life took a turn as Das lost his life to the bomb blast at Opera House. From then, it had been a difficult road for Abhishek and his mother. Yet the persistent thoughts of educating him lead her to our doors and he became a recipient of our educational cheques. This helped Abhishek to continue his studies despite the financial hurdles. It's been five years that Abhishek is with us. He looks forward to completing his graduation and support his mother.

Food for Education Program - Manasi Bhuvad, 12 years

Manasi is a young girl of 12yrs who stays with her parents, grandmother and siblings. Her parents do house work for a living. The total monthly family income would be around Rs. 4000 - 5000 which makes it hard to survive in a big city.

Our meal at school is the first meal that Manasi has after tea in the morning at 6.30am – providing her with the necessary nutrients, keeping her hunger at bay and enabling her to concentrate on her academics. Hopefully this will help her achieve her dream of becoming an Engineer one day.



Scholarship for Children of Terror Victims-Akash Varma, 9 years

Ajay, 30, was seriously injured by the Bomb Blast at Zaveri bazaar in 2011 and within 10 days of struggle, he breathed his last. He was survived by his young wife, Anita and infant son, Akash. While the parental family took care of their living expenses, Ratna Nidhi took charge of Akash's education. Today Akash is studying in class 2 in the village. We hope to continue supporting Akash in his education.

Food for Education Program- Sahil Mohd. Sheikh, 9 years

Sahil, the youngest of 8 siblings lost his mother to Cancer, a couple of months ago. His siblings run the house now. He says that his mother was an extremely strong woman and would fight with thieves and rogues all by herself. He was very close to her and speaks of her very proudly.



His mother would give him a good breakfast in the morning. Now he has to wait till noon at school where he gets our proper meal. When asked if he felt hungry, he says that 'you have to have patience right'.



Shivkumar Vishvakarma, 25 years

3 years back Shivkumar lost his leg in train mishap. He was working as an electrician after completing his Bachelor's in Arts. Post the accident he was not able to work anymore, which resulted into financial stress at home. With the responsibility to look after his 4 year old child he started searching for an alternate treatment for his leg. During that period his elder brother was informed about RNCT's center. Finally Shivkumar made it to our center and received the prosthetic treatment.

Post the treatment he managed to get his job back at the same firm he was working before.



Nazia Razak, 27 years

It was 2008 when Nazia felt a recurring pain in her back. In the process of treating it, she had 6 failed operations that rendered her disabled. The shock was huge. The thought of being dependent for the rest of her life led her to depression. Being unable to move, her world was restricted to the window by her bed.

But her husband never lost hope. He was the one who got her to our centre, where she was given a wheel chair and calipers. She was counselled by our team on ways she can walk again. We saw Nazia leave with a smile, giving us hope that she would beat the disability.

MISSION MILLION **BOOKS**

Donate Books to Educate Young India!



"Ratna Nidhi is doing a humanitarian project. This exhibition felt like a sea of books. One can get lost in these books for hours. With such kind of help many schools can maintain good libraries. Our school is unaided and caters to lesser privileged children. You have filled us with happiness and we can't wait to take these gifts to our children."

- Shree Sarvajanik Balmandir School,
Mumbai

Why are **EDUCATIONAL BOOKS** important?

Access to quality reading material

Our exhibitions provide world class reading material for low income schools and colleges. These schools may otherwise never get the opportunity to access such books.

Exposure

Coming from a background with little or no exposure to the world beyond their daily lives, reading opens up the children to new avenues of thought, new ideas, new possibilities.

Promotes overall mental development

While reading the child comes across a wider vocabulary range that not only helps him develop cognitively but also promotes overall mental growth of the child.

Impetus to education

The child gains knowledge over and above the scope of the academic curriculum.

What is Mission Million Books



Mission Million Books (MMB) is a pan India social initiative aimed at providing the underserved with access to quality educational materials for their growth and advancement, and supports the Indian government's efforts to enable access to quality education for all. The project is a joint initiative of the Alibaba group, and Ratna Nidhi Charitable Trust, and seeks to donate 1 million books to 10,000 schools and colleges in India for free.

The campaign's partners are the World Bank Family Network, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Hindustan Times, Carnival Cinemas, Ecom Express Courier, Retailers Association of India, UC Web, Mentors Foundation & Ticket New.

Mission Million Books Exhibition 1



The first book exhibition was organized on 29th & 30th September, 2016. The event commenced with an inauguration ceremony, attended by Mr. Guru Gowrappan, Global MD, Alibaba Group, Mr. Rajiv Mehta, Chairman, Ratna Nidhi Charitable Trust, Mohan Sheno, Chief Operating Officer (COO), Kotak Mahindra Bank, Sandeep Barasia, Managing Director, Delhivery, Ashok Kothari, Chairman - Trustee, Nava Samaj Mandal, Deepak Goyal, Chief Operating Officer (COO), Mgage, Kinjal Shah – CEO, Crossword and Vinay Bhartiya, Senior Vice President, Strategic Partnerships, Alibaba.com (India).

The need for improving accessibility to education through Mission Million Books was echoed by all the partners on the dais. The exhibition saw a rich repository of books in Science, Maths, History, Geography, Liberal Arts, Computers, Encyclopedias, Dictionaries, Fiction and Non-fiction books. **1,05,000** books were donated to 535 schools and colleges from Mumbai, Pune, Thane, Raigad, Kolapur and Aurangabad. We also donated 25,000 note books.

Mission Million Books Exhibition 2



The Second Exhibition was organized at Baramati at the prestigious Vidya Pratishthan institute on 26th and 27th March 2017. It was inaugurated by **Shri Sharad Pawar**, Honorable MP & President, Vidya Pratishthan. With a sprawling campus of 156 acres, the Pratishthan houses 25 Institutions, where more than 23,000 students are nurtured daily. A month long campaign ensured over 52,000 books were displayed at the exhibition. **51,000** books were donated to 1104 schools and colleges at Baramati over two days. The exhibition saw a rich repository of books in Science, Maths, History, Geography, Liberal Arts, Computers, Encyclopedias, Dictionaries, Marathi books, Fiction and Non-Fiction.

2,39,399

books have been donated, that will impact the minds, lives and future of over 1,000,000 students.

Since 1996, **4,94,069** books donated.

ROTARY INDIA **LITERACY** MISSION



Ratna Nidhi Charitable Trust participated in the Rotary South Asia Literacy Summit in Chennai from 3rd to 5th March 2017. The event showcased Rotary's work in literacy through the T-E-A-C-H program and discussed the way forward with multiple stakeholders.

Ratna Nidhi had an opportunity to present the Mission Million Books project, which seeks to donate 1 million books to 10,000 low-income schools and colleges in India.

At the summit, Ratna Nidhi entered into a MOU with Rotary India Literacy Mission with an objective to set up 10,000 Happy Libraries across India. This partnership will open access to quality reading material to thousands of children across the country and further the project's mission of Educating Young India.



GARMENTS DISTRIBUTION



We appreciate your gesture and inclination to assist poor and needy section of the society to bring the happiness in their life. We state that we will be working together for the cause of the neglected, downtrodden and underprivileged section of the society in the forthcoming time.

- Vinay Vasta - Secretary / Founder
Director, Social Activities
Integration

Why is GARMENT DONATION important?

Comfort & Self Respect

Most children who wear torn, tattered, dirty, oversized clothes will be dressed in clothes repaired, ironed and packaged with love, as if they were brand new. It adds to their self respect. It not only protects them physically, but also protects them mentally from the eyes of the society.

Gives old clothes another purpose

Clothes that are old or out of fashion could end up at the garbage and thereafter the landfill. Or they get a new life and be worn with pride by the poor.

This year garments have been given to many organisations, to name a few Bap Nu Ghar, Big Gift Foundation, Swami Ramkrishan Paramhansa Maa Sharda Sewa Samiti, Salaam Balaak, St. Jude India Childcare Centers, Mahavir Vrudha Asharam, Each One Teach One, Wadia Hospital, SNTD Girls Hostel, Green Peace, Cheshire Home, Y.W.C.A, Swapath Turst, Way of True Life, St. Joseph's Leprosy Patients Society etc.

55,096

garments adorn the homeless, the orphans and the aged with self respect and confidence.

Since 1992, **11,10,806** garments have been donated.

EVENTS OF 2016-17



Harley Davidson Rally

On 26th January 2017 the Harley Davidson Mumbai team **Biked for Change** for Ratna Nidhi & Rotary club of Bombay Worli's Mobility Project.

45 Harley Davidson bikers rode from Bandra to Mahalaxmi, to raise awareness about Physical Disability in India and Ratna Nidhi's work duly supported by Rotary Club of Bombay Worli to address the issue. The ride commenced from Seven Islands, Bandra and culminated at Ratna Nidhi's Jaipur Foot center at Mahalaxmi.



Standard Chartered Mumbai Marathon 2017

On the morning of 17th January 2017, Team Ratna Nidhi was all charged up to make a mark on the city of Mumbai. Complete with 10 half marathoners, 1 full marathoner, 92 dream runners and 2 young leaders, our team was all set to rock.

Our young leaders worked very hard to raise Rs. 50,000 each.

We also had a motivational zone on Marine Drive with a live band, singers and rappers to encourage runners to do their best and at the same time spread awareness of our cause.

Rotary Club of Mumbai Worli stood with us and supported Team Ratna Nidhi.

TESTIMONIALS

Thanks to Shri Rajeev Mehta of Ratnanidhi Trust for distributing 50K+ books to 850 school, colleges in Pune & Baramati.

- Sharad Pawar, Hon'ble Member of Parliament & President, Vidya Pratishthan

Mission Million Books is one step towards helping improve the accessibility of quality reading material to Indian students. This is a great initiative and helps us in reaching rural India with books that will empower thousands of children.

- Chris Wang, Country Head, Alibaba.com, India

The children of our Balwadi have been partaking your mid-day meal for the past 15 years and I must say, the children simply love the food. They look forward, attend school more regularly and are becoming smarter and energetic day by day. In all this the meal plays a big role. Thank you for the tasty curries and sweet dish you send us. Parents and staff are very happy.

- Mrinalini Kher - Hon. Secretary & Trustee, Kherwadi Social Welfare Association

We all students and teachers at Chikitsak Samuha Shirolkar High School, thank you from bottom of our heart for providing best quality food for our needy & poor students. We are pleased to inform you that we got good academic result of those students. We hope you will extend your helping hand to our students in the next academic year too. Thanks once again.

- R.D. Gosavi - Head Master, Chikitsak Samuha Shirolkar High School

We take this opportunity to personally thank you for your efforts and donations due to which it was possible to distribute clothes and toys at our Manor and Bhopoli schools for our underprivileged children. Our children are truly humbled by this gesture. Looking forward to being associated with you in the noble cause in future.

- Renu Raut - Head-Operations, Each One Teach One

Thank you very much for your support in organising a mobility camp at Vapi, Gujarat. You had arranged it very nicely and it was a good experience to us.

- R.K. Shetty - Executive Director, Heranba Industries Ltd.

Greetings from Impact India Foundation! We warmly congratulate Ratna Nidhi Charitable Trust (RNCT) for having won the Google Impact Challenge for Disabilities Award to further the technology in helping limb amputees. We look forward to working with the team at RNCT to improve the lives of the disabled poor in India. With all good wishes,

- (Mrs.) Zelma Lazarus - Founder Director & CEO, Impact India Foundation

It was indeed a pleasure to meet you at the Mission Million Books exhibition at Nava Samaj Mandal Trust in Vileparle. Your vision for the future will bring great heights for the benefit of millions by providing them with lots of books. We wish you great success.

- Ashok Kothari, Managing Trustee & President of Nava Samaj Trust



We believe that being disabled means much more than losing the ability to walk.
We believe that being hungry means much more than the fact that one is left malnourished.
We believe that being uneducated means much more than losing the ability to earn a living.

We believe it goes deeper than that.

Disability, hunger and lack of education have far bigger implications. They inhibit growth. They take away opportunities. They inflict sadness. They stall our progress as a society. They are the very root causes poverty. And to bring an end to them would mean freedom from poverty and suffering.

At Ratna Nidhi we envisage a world free of these three negative forces. Our every act is focused towards uprooting these deep seated, pillars that support poverty.

We thank you for being a part of this slow but steady process of real, meaningful change.

Founder Trustee: Mr. Mahendra G. Mehta

The Trustees:

Mrs. Asha Mahendra Mehta

Mr. Rajiv Mahendra Mehta

Mr. Prakash V. Mehta

2.21% of India's population is disabled*

26% of India's population is uneducated*

16% of India's population is undernourished**

*According to census of India 2011

** According to UN hunger report 2014-15

“The people who are crazy
enough to think they can
change the world...



...are the ones who do.”

- Steve Jobs



Ratna Nidhi Charitable Trust

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Donations to all projects are exempted from income tax u/s 80-G

We are FCRA registered