

Akanksha Public Charitable Trust

B 404, The Atrium, 49 Kalakshetra Road, Thiruvannamipur, Chennai 600 041, India

Tel: +91 99266 83778 www.imleemahuaa.org

www.facebook.com/ImleeMahuaaSchool

Annual Report 2017-18

ABOUT AKANKSHA

Akanksha was born when a group of friends started volunteering on weekends at public hospitals and homes for destitute children and women in Chennai in 1998. Akanksha Public Charitable Trust was created on July 15, 2000 in Chennai, Tamil Nadu and registered soon after when some of its volunteers decided to devote more time and energy to Akanksha to make it their primary work.

PURPOSE

Akanksha's purpose has evolved over the years. Today, Akanksha works to learn along with and support individuals caught up in life's unfortunate circumstances through collaborative initiatives in areas of education, health and livelihoods engaging especially with the young, the old and with women.

ACTIVITIES

Over the last decade, Akanksha's work has involved the following activities:

- Volunteering at state owned 'children's observation homes' to help them deliver better by organizing activities for their children and helping children who have strayed away from their homes to get in touch with their families and return home.
- Volunteering at state owned hospitals for women and children, helping cancer afflicted children and their families cope with hospitalization and medical treatment by organizing recreational activities and financial aid for them.
- Providing relief material to those affected by earthquakes and tsunamis.
- Augmenting the work of other not for profit organizations whose work is closely aligned with that of Akanksha by providing voluntary services and / or financial assistance to such organizations.
- Sponsoring medical expenses of needy people especially women and children.
- Sponsoring the educational expenses of needy children.
- Establishing and operating a rural school in a tribal area.

Today, Akanksha's work primarily revolves significantly around the last three activities.

THE YEAR THAT WAS

During the year 2017-18, Akanksha continued to build on the work undertaken during the earlier years.

The work of the Trust was located in Balenga Para and Kumhar Para villages in Kondagaon district of Chhattisgarh state, in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh and in Chennai, Tamil Nadu. The highlights of Akanksha's work during the year are summarized below:

- **Educational Support**

The Trust took up the responsibility of supporting an additional 9 children living in the ghettos of Bhopal who come from families of migrant workers, and 5 needy children in Chennai, to enable them to continue with their formal education by paying their school fees. The Trust also continued to support 14 children in Chennai and 44 children in Kumhar Para village in Chhattisgarh financially to enable them to continue with their schooling and college. Many of these children run the risk of being withdrawn from school or college by their parents so that they can work and support their families financially. Therefore is an unwritten understanding between Akanksha and the guardians of all these children that they will allow the children to continue with their formal education as long as they wish to and in return, Akanksha will pay for their school or college fees. The guardians of the urban children work as small entrepreneurs, drivers, domestic helpers, school workers and rag pickers while the parents of the rural children are traditional craftspeople, subsistence farmers and landless laborers. Many are single parents. Some of the children that Akanksha supports in Bhopal are also rag pickers.

Some of the children whom Akanksha supported under this program in Chennai have now completed their formal education. All these children are financially independent and have successfully pulled their families permanently out of the vicious circle of poverty and debt traps.

Approximately 43 percent of this year's total expenditure i.e Rs 827,030 was incurred on the school and college fees of these 72 children.

- **Medical Relief**

This year, the Trust helped:

- a 17 year old grapple with cancer in her knee (unfortunately she succumbed to her disease after completing her treatment at the Adyar Cancer Institute in Chennai);
- an 12 year old get his Jaipur foot changed as his leg continues to grow (he has coped with his tractor accident of a few years ago well and continues to climb trees, has learnt to ride the bicycle, studies at Imlee Mahuaa School and has recently successfully completed a 270 kilometer long 5 day cycling trip with some of his friends at Imlee Mahuaa School);
- a 25 year old cope with a motor accident that left him with broken limbs and severe internal injuries in the brain (he underwent three surgeries and is recuperating in Balenga Para);
- a middle aged unemployed individual in Chennai grapple with a cerebral stroke that has left him paralyzed by getting regular checkups and medicines; and

The Trust continued to provide primary medical care at Imlee Mahuaa School to its students, staff and visitors from Balenga Para and neighboring villages and referred them to hospitals when needed.

Approximately 3 percent of the aggregate expenditure this year i.e. Rs 55,630 was spent on this work.

- **Imlee Mahuaa School**

During the year students and staff members of Imlee Mahuaa School continued to nurture it as a place to come to and be in freedom, to learn to be non-judgmental and sensitive to each other's preferences and responsible to oneself, to each other and to the place. All the members of the School continued to direct their own learning independently, benefiting from the classes and learning opportunities that they requested for and the informal help and advice they got from each other while working individually or in groups. The School community evolved as a place to which its individual members came at their own will and convenience, engaged in activities that interested them, got absorbed in doing things that fascinated them, developed hobbies, coexisted happily in their differences without fearing reprimand or being expected to fall in line, and learned deeply.

For glimpses of the life at Imlee Mahuaa School, do watch the documentary film made by Video Volunteers on behalf of Kalpavriksh, Pune at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gSlaAIP-wwM&index=1&list=PL60GAnFL6tn0EILQCwfzmRIWnJlCtHmNN>.

You could also read Kalpavriksh's case study report to get their view on the School at <http://www.kalpavriksh.org/images/alternatives/CaseStudies/ImleeMahuaaLearninginFreedomtheDemocraticWay.pdf>

You could also read an article written by Prayaag about the School's journey during the last 10 years on Kalpavriksh's website. The article was invited by Paalakneeti, a Marathi monthly dedicated to discussing matters about education and parenting, and was published by them in their Deepaawali 2017 issue.

Photographs of the happenings at the School have been uploaded with explanatory notes on the Facebook page – Imlee Mahuaa School. They contain six albums on the excursions and workshops that the children and staff took part in this year.

1. Happenings

Specific events that took place in the School during the year 2017-18 were as follows:

April to June 2017

- Meeting with parents and cultural program
- Festival of films and film appreciation
- Meetings of the School community to decide various matters relating to the School
- Participation in a meeting organized by Bachpan Banao in Dantewada of people working in the field of education in tribal areas
- Registration of 5 students of the School in the Secondary (class 10) program of the National Institute of Open Schooling, NOIDA
- Participation in a meeting of alternative educators at Bengaluru
- Participation in a Science Workshop in Hoshangabad, Madhya Pradesh organized by Eklavya
- Ice-cream making workshop
- Workshop for making clay oxen and lamps
- Preparatory work for organizing a meeting to dialogue on educational matters in December 2017 of people working in the field of education in Central and North India

- Lightning fell on one of the School buildings on June 26, 2017 and slashed through the roofs of one of the classrooms and the adjoining rafters standing against a Beeja tree in the vicinity. There was no harm to human life however and the damage to the roof tiles and wood was minimal as the Beeja tree took the brunt of the fall.
- Resident guests during the quarter – Pushpam Kumar, a doctoral scholar at the Jamia Milia University in New Delhi, Ashita and Stella, teachers at the Mitra Residential School, Kachapaju, near Bissumcuttack in Odisha, Shriram Deshpande, school teacher in Bijapur, Pranith Simha and Jyoti from Bachpan Banao, Dantewada, an organization that works with the local government to strengthen processes in government schools

July to September 2017

- Culinary workshop for learning to make paneer, khoyaa, popped rice and coconut sweets and savories
- Visit to Vigyan Ashram, Pabal to understand the feasibility of implementing their Introduction to Basic Technology program at the School
- Sowing of various beans, pumpkins and gourds in the kitchen garden
- Workshop for making clay lamps and Ganesh idols
- Book reading and appreciation workshop in the School library
- Celebration of Ganesh Chaturthi at School
- One day excursion to Chitrakot waterfalls
- Cultural program and meeting parents
- Meetings of the School community to decide various matters relating to the School
- Resident guests in the quarter – Pushpam Kumar, a doctoral scholar at the Jamia Milia University in New Delhi, Indu a lawyer from New Delhi and Maya (Sri Bhagirathi) a school teacher from Chennai
- Col Vijay Ratnakar and his daughter from Ambala also visited us for an afternoon

October to December 2017

- Deepaawali party and culinary workshop of Bihari sweets
- Deepaawali vacations
- Submission of Class 10 examination forms to NIOS
- Educational trip to Marudam Farm School, Thiruvannamalai and the Sahyadri mountains around Pune
- Educational trip to Adharshila Learning Centre near Sendhwa in Madhya Pradesh and Junglee School in Sarmoli Village, near Munsiri in Uttarakhand
- Dialogue on Education – organization and participation in meeting of people working in education in Central and North India at Sewagram Ashram, Wardha
- Day long cycling trip to Benur
- Meetings of the School community to decide various matters relating to the School



- Winter vacations
- Paalakneeti, a Marathi monthly dedicated to exploring parenting and education invited and published an article on the journey of the School since 2007 in their Deepaawali issue.
- Resident guests in the quarter – Devashish Sharma, artist and curator, Bengaluru
- Day guests – Payal and Akash from Saathi Samaj Sevi Sanstha, Narayanpur and Shatrughan Sahu, a social worker from Bihar

January to March 2018

- Basic workshop in tailoring
- Culinary workshop of Raagi snacks
- 5 day 270 km long cycling trip to Mardapal, Chitrakot, Barsur and Dhaudai
- One day contributory cook out at Balenga Para's dodgi (stream)
- Participation in a one day meeting on education at Raipur at the invitation of Oxfam India
- Meetings of the School community to decide various matters relating to the School
- Submission of application to District Education Officer for annual registration under the law for free and compulsory education
- Submission of Tutor Marked Assignments for Business Studies and Home Science subjects and writing practical examinations for the Home Science subject for class 10
- Children of the School went to have fun at the Kondagaon mela
- Ramprasad Korram, Paayal Sodhi, Maahi Sodhi and Himani Marawi all students of the School communicated their decisions to find themselves other schools from the next academic year
- Resident guests in the quarter – Arundhati, a course facilitator at Sambhavna Institute, Palampur, Suchitta a school teacher from Kolkata, Saumya a school teacher from Palghar, Ragini and Shreya – both students of the Masters Program in Education at Azim Premji University in Bengaluru and Devashish Sharma, artist and curator who is working on a project to set up a Museum of Tribal Culture at the School
- Sridevi who works with educators and school teachers and her son Chaitanya from Raipur and the Block Education Officer and his staff, Kondagaon Block also visit the School

2. Decisions taken by the School Community

During the year the School Community comprising all students and staff met on various occasions and took decisions on various matters relating to the School by consensus. All meetings were chaired by students and the work of the chair persons was facilitated by the adult members. The following decisions were taken by the School Community during these meetings:

- To change the timings of the School to 10 am to 4 pm from June 2017
- To change the timings of the School to 8 am to 11 am from March 2018

- To hold Sanskrit and Science classes besides English, Hindi, Mathematics and Social Science classes for all children who are interested in appearing for class 10 examinations
- To publish a book of songs that have been learnt at the School since its inception called Satrangi Gaane

3. Traveling away from School

Experiencing life outside the School has been an important part of the array of learning experiences at Imlee Mahuaa School from its inception.

This year, the School community went out every weekend into the nearby areas for short outings where they climbed hills and trees and played games. Besides, everyone went out for a contributory cook out at a nearby stream and for a picnic to the picturesque Chitrakot waterfalls about 100 km from the School.

A group of 17 children and two adults went on a 19 day trip to Adharshila Learning Centre, near Sendhwa in Madhya Pradesh. Adharshila is a school for Adivasi children and is run by parents who are part of the Adivasi Andolan – a struggle to assert the rights of the Adivasis. The school gives equal emphasis to academics and hands-on learning and the group related very well to their Adivasi brethren from Madhya Pradesh. The group then went to Sarmoli village, near Munsiri in Uttarakhand to visit their pen-pals at the Junglee School there. These pen-pals are all part of the Maati cooperative, a local women's self-help group. The children enjoyed trekking in the Himalayas around Sarmoli and went to Khaliya top, the tallest peak in the region. They enjoyed the view of the Panchachuli peaks during their entire stay at the homes of their pen-pals and learnt to weave mats, knit sweaters and make articles of cane. The visit to Sarmoli however started off on an ugly note when a policeman who carried stereotyped images of dark skinned thieves accused the children of being thieves when they were shopping for trinkets at the local mela. Our hosts however protested strongly with the support of the local community and ensured that the concerned policeman tendered a public apology for his act the day after the incident. The incident did not however scar the stay at Sarmoli, and the children came back with many happy memories and stronger friendships with their hosts.

Another group of 15 younger children and three adults visited the Marudam Farm School near Thiruvannamalai in Tamilnadu during the winter. Marudam Farm School, run by a group of very enthusiastic volunteers and earnest environmentalists is a learning space that attempts to give its children a variety of learning experiences that involve the indoors and the outdoors. Agriculture and ecology are two very important aspects of the educational experience at Marudam. The group of young children from Imlee Mahuaa took up the challenge of communicating with their new friends and hosts who could speak only Tamil and English earnestly. Perhaps the greatest takeaway from the trip to Marudam was the progress they made with English. Besides that, they enjoyed playing with the children of Marudam, made many friends, trekked to the nearby mountain peak that gives a beautiful view of the entire area including the city and its huge temple, and also visited the Ashram and the temple in the city. From Marudam, the group went to Pune and trekked for four days in the Sahyadris around Pune, including the Rajgad and Torna forts that tested their physical endurance and fitness. The children coped very well with the mountain climbing with great support from the volunteers of Girikujan, a mountaineering group based in Pune.

In March this year, 14 children and one adult went on a 270 kilometer long 5 day cycling trip that took them from School to Mardapal, Chitrakot, Barsur and Dhaudai, travelling approximately 50-55 kilometers on each stretch. The stretch from Barsur to Dhaudai was the most strenuous and took them through a hilly and rough terrain over 11.5 hours. The trip not only helped them discover the potential of their bodies, it also built close friendships in the group and gave each member important lessons in dealing with rough and arrogant police and paramilitary personnel posted in the jungles of Chhattisgarh who are poorly trained to deal with the public at large and who suffer from fear psychosis and images of teenagers carrying tiffin bombs.

4. Hosting visitors and guests

The School community enjoys hosting guests and visitors. Guests and visitors offer glimpses into their own lives and work and bring with them new ideas and skills that all members of the School learn and benefit from. The School got a steady stream of visitors through the year including resident guests.

People visiting the school came with different objectives and from different walks of life. During the year the School hosted Pushpam, a doctoral scholar at the Jamia Milia University in New Delhi, who has now made Balenga Para his home for a couple of years and has decided to base his doctoral thesis on the observations he makes of students and their lives in Balenga Para, at Imlee Mahuaa School and at the state owned high school in nearby Kokodi. The School also hosted Ashita and Stella, teachers at the Mitra Residential School, Kachapaju, near Bissumcuttack in Odisha, Shriram Deshpande a school teacher volunteer in Bijapur, Pranith Simha and Jyoti from Bachpan Banao, Dantewada, an organization that works with the local government to strengthen the delivery of formal education in government schools, Col Vijay Ratnakar and his daughter from Ambala who have interests in education, Payal and Akash from Saathi Samaj Sevi Sanstha, Narayanpur – an organization that works with rural communities in the areas of health, education and livelihoods, Shatrughan Sahu, a social worker from Bihar, Arundhati, a course facilitator at Sambhavna Institute, Palampur, Suchitta a school teacher from Kolkata, Saumya a school teacher from Palghar, Ragini and Shreya – both students of the Masters Program in Education at Azim Premji University in Bengaluru, Sridevi a social worker from Raipur and her son Chaitanya and Devashish Sharma, artist and curator from Bengaluru. Devashish is now living in Balenga Para and in nearby Kumhar Para and will work during the year 2018 to set up a museum of Tribal Culture and Art in the premises of the School with the help of the students of Imlee Mahuaa School and the local community.

The children spent a lot of time with the visitors learning new songs and games that knew, eagerly posing for photographs, chatting about their lives and giving the visitors their first lessons in Halbi and Gondi, the lingua franca of Balenga Para.

5. Workshops

During the year, workshops became a very popular method of learning new skills at School. Birajbatti, a former member of the staff, who now runs a small tailoring business, did a month long basic tailoring workshop with 18 children, teaching them the rudiments of measuring and cutting cloth and using a sewing machine to make handkerchiefs and bags from old clothes. The children also participated enthusiastically in the pottery workshop making oxen, lamps and Ganesh idols with Milan, a member of the staff, in the culinary skills workshops making different sweets, savories and ice-creams with Gautam, a member of staff and Pushpam, a resident guest and reading books, planting vegetables, learning the harmonium and the table and watching and appreciating films with Prayaag and Gautam. Workshops brought a refreshing change to the routines in the School and were helpful in helping children discover their interests and potential.

6. Examinations

The School's first batch of 6 children registered with the National Institute of Open Schooling for its Secondary – Class 10 Program in May 2017 after they completed class 8. Three of them have prepared to write examinations for two out of five papers in April 2018.

The Government of Chhattisgarh made it mandatory for children of private schools to write public examinations when they are studying in grades 5 and 8 from 2018. Thus the School had to enroll 8 of its students for these examinations. The children are appearing for these examinations during March and April 2018 despite not receiving the requisite textbooks from the Government of Chhattisgarh.

7. School strength

As on March 31, 2018, 38 children studied at Imlee Mahuaa School from pre-primary to class 8; 3 children studied as guest students (they have not yet sought formal admission in the School) and 4 children studied in the self-study class 10 Secondary program of the National Institute of Open Schooling. Thus a total of 45 students were participating in the School's educational programs as on March 31, 2018. 4 children have communicated that they will be leaving the School during the next academic year and 2 children who had enrolled for the NIOS secondary program have left the School during the year.

Approximately 85 percent of the children are members of the Scheduled Tribes, and the rest are from the Scheduled Castes, Other Backward Classes and General categories. 43 of the 45 children come from families whose incomes are below the official poverty line.

The School worked in a single shift through the year from 10 am to 4 pm between April 2017 and February 2018 and between 8 am and 11 am during March 2017, with flexible timings for all.

8. School registration

The School continued to be an accredited study center of the National Institute of Open Schooling, NOIDA and to be registered under the law for free and compulsory education with the District Education Officer, Kondagaon. The Sankul Samanvayak, the Block Education Officer, the District Education Officer, the District Collector and their staff paid short impromptu visits to the School during the year.

Approximately 54 percent of the aggregate expenditure of the Trust for the year or Rs 10,53,055 was spent on the work of Imlee Mahuaa School.

Organization and Funding

The Trust continued to function entirely under the guidance and supervision of its Board of Trustees. The Board met on 5 occasions during the year, at least once in every quarter to review the work of the Trust and to give direction wherever needed.

The activities of the Trust were entirely supported by donations made by private individuals, trusts, foundations and a lone private company during the year. The Trust continued with its policy of not accepting donations and grants from government, semi-government and other corporate and non-corporate funding agencies, so that it could safeguard its own independence. Thus the Trust continued receive donations from many individuals who have been contributing to it for many years and from some new donors too. It renewed its annual listing with Give India an internet portal that connects donors and not for profit organizations. The listing helps the Trust to spread its donor base across a large number of individuals who are able to contribute small sums to causes that interest them. Give India reviewed the performance of the Trust and awarded it a 5 star rating.

HelpYourNGO, an organization that independently reviews the work of NGOs and lists them on its website and in its Yearbook and also rates the NGOs for their financial performance continued to list Akanksha this year too. Akanksha has received a 5 star Financial Score from the organization.

Like in the earlier years, the Trust has made maximum disclosures as recommended by the Credibility Alliance in this Annual Report too. These disclosures have been given in the last section to this Annual Report – Credibility Alliance Norms Compliance Report.

The distribution of donations received by Akanksha across donors during the financial year 2017-18 is as follows.

Amount of donation (Rupees)	Individuals	Foundations and Trusts	Others	Resident	Non- resident
< 5000	20	-	-	20	-
5000 – 100,000	18	1		19	-
> 100,000	1	1	1	3	-
Donations in kind	-	-	-	-	-
Total				42	-

The average value of monetary donations received during the year ended on March 31, 2018 was Rs 46,486.

There were no changes in the members of the Board of Trustees, employees or volunteers of the Trust during the year. As of March 31, 2018, they were as follows:

Employees

Gautam Ram Sethiya

Milan Ram Baghel

Volunteers

Nandini Joshi

Seema Joshi

Trustees

Khodadad Moradian

Oswin Thayal

Prayaag Joshi

Abridged Financial Statements

BALANCE SHEET AS AT MARCH 31, 2018

	Schedule	As at March 31	
		2018 (Rupees)	2017 (Rupees)
Sources of Funds			
Corpus		88,000	88,000
Surplus		16,82,903	15,75,161
TOTAL		17,70,903	16,63,161
Application of Funds			
Fixed Assets		43,944	55,544
Current Assets			
Tax deducted at source		1,398	1,398
Cash and Bank Balances	1	16,88,894	15,75,552
Loans and Advances	6	36,667	30,667
TOTAL		17,70,903	16,63,161
Significant Accounting Policies And Notes to the Accounts	7		

Refer my report of even date

For Velu Muthu Associates For Akanksha Public Charitable Trust

Chartered Accountants

Firm Regn, No. 0045905

Velu Muthu Oswin Thayal Prayaag Joshi

Proprietor Trustee Trustee

Membership No. 22976

Place: Chennai

Date: April 5, 2018

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2018

	Schedule	For the year ended March 31	
		2018 (Rupees)	2017 (Rupees)
Income			
Donations Received	2	19,52,404	19,14,714
Interest on Bank Accounts	3	1,02,653	1,16,835
Excess of Expenditure over Income		-	2,78,540
TOTAL		20,55,057	23,10,089
Expenditure			
Expenditure in connection with the objects of the Trust	4	19,47,315	23,10,089
Excess of Income over Expenditure		1,07,742	
Balance brought forward from the previous year		15,75,161	18,53,701
Balance carried to the Balance Sheet		16,82,903	15,75,161

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

	Schedule	For the year ended March 31	
		2018 (Rupees)	2017 (Rupees)
Sources of Funds			
Donations Received	2	19,52,404	19,14,714
Interest on Bank Accounts	3	1,02,653	1,16,835
TOTAL		20,55,057	20,31,549
Application of Funds			
Expenditure in connection with the objects of the Trust (net of write off of assets)	4	19,35,715	23,10,089
Increase or (Decrease) in Net Current Assets	5	1,19,342	(2,78,540)
TOTAL		20,55,057	20,31,549

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Credibility Alliance Norms Compliance Report

IDENTITY

- Akanksha Public Charitable Trust ('Akanksha' or 'the Trust') was created as a public trust on July 15, 2000 under the Indian Trusts Act, 1882 and registered (Reg. No. 1003 of 2001 of Book 4 dated September 3, 2001) with the Office of the District Registrar Madras South.
- Akanksha is registered as a Public Charitable Trust under sections 12 AA and 80 G of the Income Tax Act, 1961 (Reg No. DIT(E) No.2(182)/2000-01) and its Permanent Account Number is AAATA6371J.
- Akanksha is registered as an Educational Association under section 6(1)(a) of the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 1976 (Reg No. 075901259).
- Scanned copies of this annual report, trust deed and the letters of registration, audited financial statements from the inception of the Trust, minutes of meetings of the Board of Trustees are exhibited on our website. These documents are available for inspection at the registered office too.

Name and address of our Main Bankers

ICICI Bank Limited, Chennai Branch, 459/1, Anna Salai Road, Teynampet, Chennai 600018

State Bank of India, L B Road, Tiruvanmiyur, Chennai 600 041

Name and address of our Auditors

Velu Muthu Associates, Chartered Accountants, 1 B, Prabha, 17 Bishop Wallers Avenue (East), Mylapore, Chennai 600004

PURPOSE

Akanksha's purpose has evolved over the years. Today, Akanksha works to learn along with and support individuals caught up in life's unfortunate circumstances through collaborative initiatives in areas of education, health, livelihoods, culture and ecology especially engaging with the young and with women.

GOVERNANCE

The Trust is governed by a Board of Trustees ('the Board') whose details as on March 31, 2018 are given in the table below.

Name	Age	Sex	Position on Board	Occupation	Area of Competence	Meetings Participated
Khodadad Moradian	64	M	Chairman	Business and financial consulting	Business reengineering	5/5
Oswin Thayal	47	M	Trustee	Medical practice and business	Medicine and medical diagnostics	5/5
Prayaag Joshi	53	M	Trustee	Farming and participation in a learning community	Finance and education	5/5

- Akanksha's Board of Trustees met five times in FY 2017-18 on April 15, 2017, July 5, 2017, October 5, 2017, January 5, 2018 and March 31, 2018. Minutes of the Board meetings are documented and circulated. All members were present at each meeting of the Board over the telephone.
- None of the members of the Board are related to each other by blood or by marriage. A Board Rotation Policy exists and is practiced.
- The Board ensures that all the activities of the Trust are in line with its stated purposes and approved objects, key decision making is consultative and roles and responsibilities are defined for staff and volunteers. The Board approves programs, budgets, annual activity reports and audited financial statements and ensures the organization's compliance with laws and regulations.

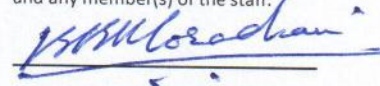
ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY

- No remuneration, sitting fees or any other form of compensation has been paid since the inception of the Trust to any trustee or member of the Board.
- No reimbursements were made to any Board Member during FY 2017-18.
- All staff members are issued letters of employment and draw equal remuneration, linked to their hours of work. The remuneration drawn by the highest paid staff member as on March 31, 2018 was Rs 8,250 per month and that drawn by the lowest paid staff member was Rs 8,250 per month. There is a personnel policy in place.
- Staff details (as at March 31, 2018)

Gender	Paid full time	Paid part time	Unpaid Volunteer
Female	-	-	2
Male	-	2	-

All members of the Board are volunteers and have given their time pro bono. They are not included in the table above.

- No paid member of staff drew monthly gross salary and benefits that were less than Rs 5000. The average salary was Rs 8,250 and the median salary was Rs 8,250. The remuneration drawn by the Executive Head is zero.
- The total cost of National Travel by all members of the Board was Rs87,796, by all staff (including volunteers, independent consultants, etc) was Rs 13,209 and by beneficiaries was Rs 3,66,622. The total cost of Domestic Air Travel was 29,305 and the total cost of International Travel whether paid by Akanksha or by external sponsors was NIL.
- The financial statements indicate the method and basis of accounting. There are no serious adverse notes on any material point in the statements. The Trust has not entered into any material transaction that involves a conflict of interest between the Trust and any member(s) of the Board or between the Trust and any member(s) of the staff.



Khodadad Moradian

Chairman April 5, 2018