

KRISHNA TRUST: Annual Report (2016-17)

1. As part of the Trust's annual activities, the Fourth Krishna Memorial Award ceremony was held on 22 February 2017 at the Academy of Fine Arts, Kolkata. Professor Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury, Vice Chancellor, Rabindra Bharati University and a senior member of the Calcutta Research Group presided over the ceremony. This year there were two recipients of the Awards: Sujeda Khatun from Murshidabad and Prajna Paramita Mandal from Medinipur. Sujeda Khatun works for increasing access to education among the deprived communities and Prajna Paramita Mandal is the founder of *Prantik*, a group working on child rights and gender equality. Many appreciated the fact that the awardees came from districts and non-metropolitan areas.
2. The Fourth Krishna Memorial Lecture was delivered on that occasion by Dr. Abhijit Chowdhury, renowned physician, Professor, School of Digestive and Liver Diseases, Institute of Post-Graduate Medical Education and Research, West Bengal. Prabir Sinha Roy, Secretary, Pakistan-India People's Forum for Peace and Democracy, West Bengal Chapter, presided over the Lecture. The Lecture was followed by the release of the *India Social Development Report 2016: Disability Rights Perspectives*, co-edited by Asha Hans (Founder Director, School of Women's Studies, Utkal University, Bhubaneswar), Kalpana Kannabiran (Director, Council for Social Development, Hyderabad), and Nandini Ghosh (Assistant Professor, Institute of Development Studies, Kolkata), and a panel discussion on the Report. Prabir Sinha Roy moderated the discussion.
3. In this period Krishna Trust also organized an exploratory field visit to Balidweep, one of the islands of the Sundarbans, towards identifying the educational needs of girl children of the island, so that the Trust can do initiate a meaningful programme there. This was in September 2016. Another visit was conducted in July 2017. The Trust is now trying to secure some money to begin the work on the basis of the two field visits.
4. In the year under review Krishna Trust published the Third Krishna Memorial Lecture titled, *Mahilader Swasthya and Sabar Jonne Swasthya* (in Bengali, *Women's Health and Health for All*). Several people had appreciated the lecture. Efforts are on now to organize a workshop based on the insights of the lecture. The lecture was reported in the last annual meeting of the Trustees. The published text has been now uploaded on the webpage of the Trust - http://mcrg.ac.in/krishna_trust/Third_Krishna_Memorial_Lecture.pdf
5. The work of organising information and research on care workers in Kolkata, with particular reference to migrant care workers continues. It is a difficult task. This year the Trust will organise a publication on this theme. The trustees will be happy to know that one of the major historians of the city Professor Gautam Bhadra wrote in the well known Bengali literary magazine, *Desh Patrika* (2 February 2017) on the ethics of care based on Krishna Trust's publication, *Krishna: Living with Alzheimer's*. Professor Bhadra's article was titled, "Krishnar Katha". The article will be found on the Trust's web-based platform – http://www.mcrg.ac.in/krishna_trust/Krishna_Katha_Desh_Patrika.pdf . In this connection, the Trustees will be happy to know that the idea is to gradually develop the web-based platform of the Trust into a significant site of relevant information on the Alzheimer's curse and the theme of care.
6. The Trust acknowledges the generous help of the Calcutta Research Group and its staff in organising the annual Krishna Memorial event. The Trust is engaged in looking for further sources of assistance and collaboration. A sum of Rs. two lakhs was received by the Trust in the year under review. The Calcutta Research Group donated one lakh rupees and another sum of one lakh rupees was received from Shivam India Ltd. Besides some small donations were also received by the Trust in the year under consideration. The audited financial statement is enclosed along with this report.
7. The Krishna Trust's web platform (http://www.mcrg.ac.in/krishna_trust/) has material relevant to the goals of the Trust. It will be improved in course of this year. The trustees are requested to visit the platform and offer suggestions towards its improvement and enrichment.