

KRISHNA TRUST: Annual Report (2017-18)

1. As part of the Trust's annual activities, the Fifth Krishna Memorial Award ceremony was held on 16 February 2018 at EZCC, Aikatan Conference Room, Salt Lake, Kolkata. The programme was held in collaboration with the Calcutta Research Group. The Vice-Chancellor of the Sanskrit College & University, Professor Paula Banerjee, also a member of the Krishna Trust, chaired the programme. Two young violinists, Nayantara Sengupta and Riyana Roy, played violin. Professor Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury, Vice-Chancellor, Rabindra Bharati University, spoke on late Krishna Bhattacharya. This year, Krishna Memorial Awards were conferred on (a) Sarada Kalyan Bhandar, a humanitarian institution in Medinipur town and working on among others for education of underprivileged girl children, and (b) Suchandra Dutta, an activist working for the rights of the disabled in South 24 Parganas District, West Bengal. V. Ramaswamy, an eminent social activist, conferred the awards. A special award was given this year in memory of Bharati Chowdhury, an educationist. The Bharati Chowdhury Memorial Award was given to Avantika Sanyal, a young educationist and lawyer, working for girl child education. The programme ended with a closing song by Ritajyoti Bandyopadhyay, a historian at IISER, Mohali. Vote of Thanks was proposed by Shyamalendu Majumdar of Sivanath Sastri College, and a close associate of the Krishna Trust.
2. On the same occasion the Fifth Krishna Memorial Lecture was delivered by Dr. Asish Kumar Kundu, Physical Medicine, West Bank Hospital on "The Fifth World" covering the theme of the indigenous people and other poor sections of the population coping with disabilities. The text of the lecture will be published as in the case of previous Krishna Memorial Lectures.
3. In this period a survey on identifying the educational needs of girl children in Balidweep was undertaken and completed. As mentioned in the Annual Report of the previous year (2016-17), the task had been proposed last year. The Trust can now initiate there a meaningful programme, though on a small scale. Juthika Gharami Biswas, a resident of the island, conducted the survey. Piyush Gharami and Anil Mistri helped the survey. In this relation several visits were conducted in the year under review. The questionnaire was prepared by Ishita Dey, a member of the Calcutta Research Group, and Madhurilata Basu, a close associate of the Trust. The Trust is now trying to secure some money to begin the work on the basis of the survey report. On the basis of the survey, the plan is to begin a centre of adult women's education to be housed in a local school. The report was written by Ankita Manna and it was translated from English to Bengali by Prasit Das. The report has been published now. It is attached for members' attention.
4. In the year under review Krishna Trust published the Fourth Krishna Memorial Lecture by Dr. Abhijit Chaudhury, titled, "Chikitsa, Seba, O Samaj" ("Treatment, Care, and Society"). The publication of this much appreciated lecture was circulated widely. Krishna Trust has also published the analytical report on the survey. In next year's report the survey and the work based on its recommendations will be reported in details.
5. The Trust could not develop an independent website in the year under review. Presently Trust's web-presence is hosted by CRG (http://www.mcrg.ac.in/krishna_trust/index.html). However, the web-based material of the Trust has improved. For instance, for material related to Alzheimer's the trustees may access - http://www.mcrg.ac.in/krishna_trust/kt_alzymers_publications.asp
6. Also, the Trust could not make headway in the plan of organising information and research on care workers in Kolkata, with particular reference to migrant care workers. It remains a difficult task.

http://www.mcrgh.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.

7. As in last year, the Trust acknowledges the generous help of the Calcutta Research Group (Rs. 100,000/-) and its staff in organising the annual Krishna Memorial event, and hosting Krishna Trust's web-based material. The Trust as in the previous year will look for further sources of assistance and collaboration. In this respect the Trust wishes to put on record the help of Mr. Atul Pandey in organizing the survey in Balidweep and securing assistance. Besides the Calcutta Research Group donations were received from Ideal Dealers' Private Ltd. (Rs. 101,000/-) and Sri Badri Vishal Jan Kalyan Trust (Rs. 51,000/-). Shri Romen Chaudhury donated Rs. 10,000/-.

8. The Trust has plans to initiate a similar survey on the health care needs of women, in particular girl children, in Balidweep. Also the Trust will continue efforts to fulfill other tasks it has taken for itself.