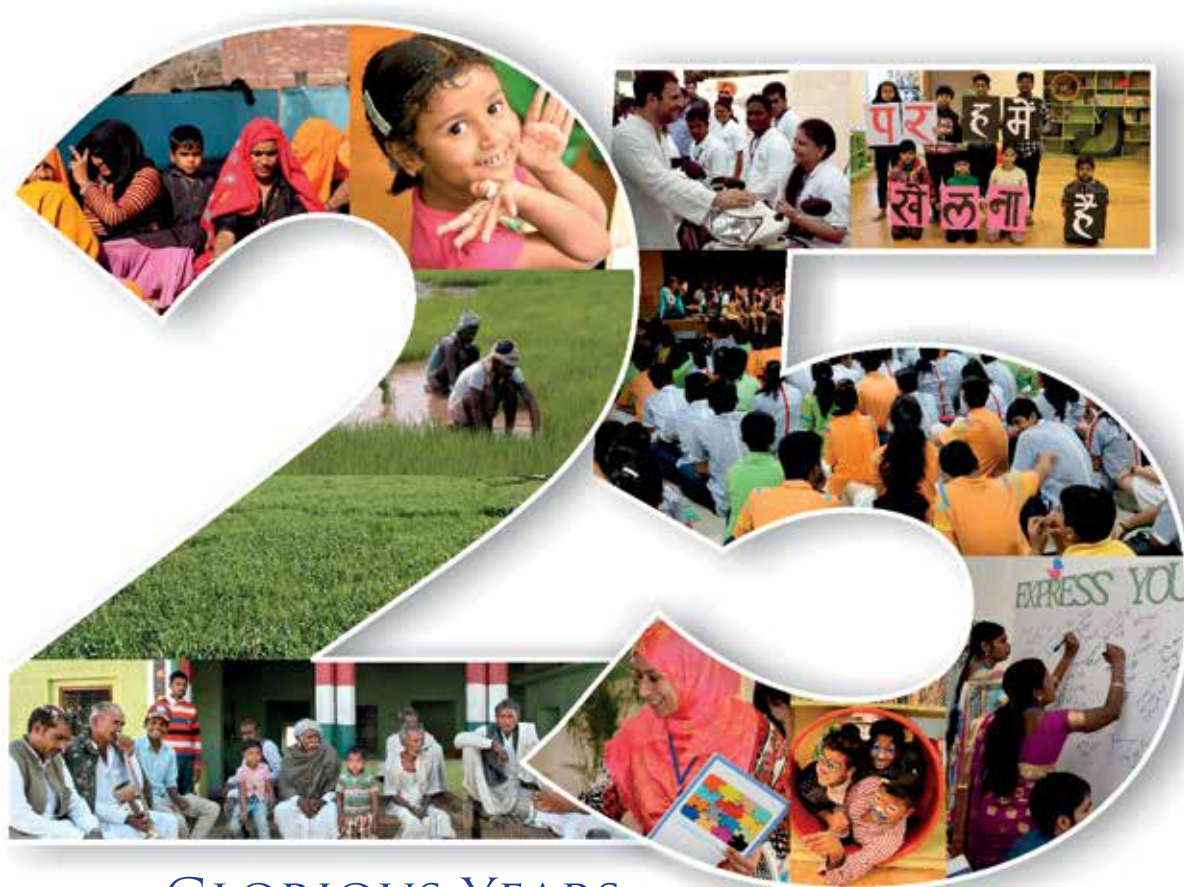


CATALYST FOR SOCIAL CHANGE



GLORIOUS YEARS

RAJIV GANDHI FOUNDATION

ANNUAL REPORT 2016 – 2017

“

AS WE TURN 25, THE
MEMORIES OF RAJIV JI
ARE STILL FRESH IN OUR
MIND. HE LISTENED
TO THE VOICE OF THE
SOCIALLY MARGINALIZED,
TOOK THE TIME TO
UNDERSTAND THE
ISSUES AT HAND, AND
HIS VISION SET THE
TEMPLATE FOR THE RAJIV
GANDHI FOUNDATION
TO WORK WITH.

”



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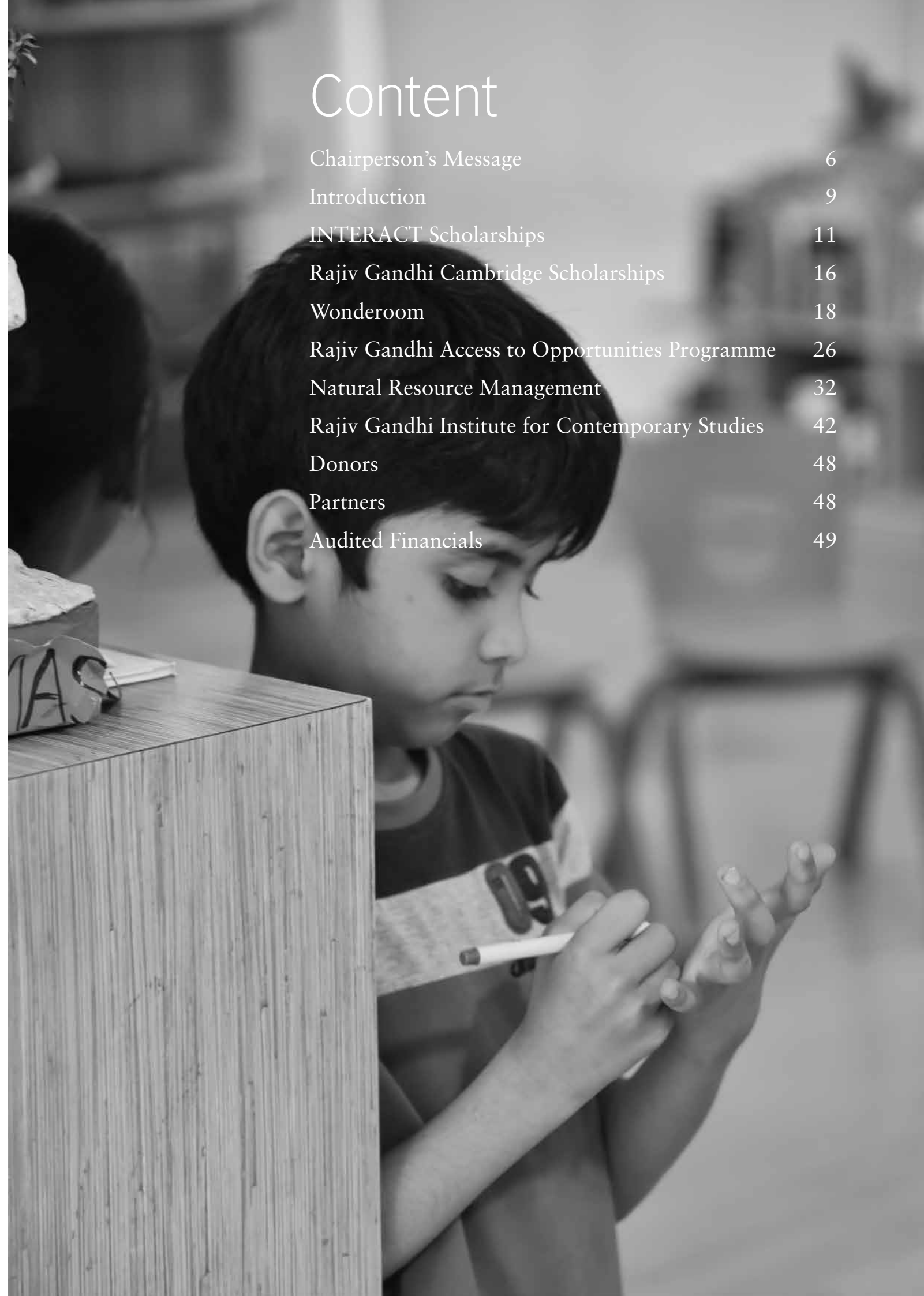
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Chairperson's Message

The Rajiv Gandhi Foundation has completed 25 years of service to our society, fulfilling its mandate to further the ideals of the man whose life it commemorates, and undertake programmes in areas that were of special interest to him during his lifetime.

These have been momentous years, and the Foundation has traversed a wide terrain, learning during its journey, adjusting its priorities along the way. What it focused on in the early years has evolved into new goals, traveling toward new horizons. What has remained constant has been a desire to work in fields that would help the neediest regardless of caste or creed, community or gender, and to encourage activities that would be self-sustaining as far as possible.

In the past year, which this report addresses, the Foundation has continued programmes that were deemed successful and valuable and begun work in new directions that point to its future. Continuing our education initiatives, 330 children affected by conflict were supported through INTERACT scholarships in the year 2016-17. Two bright scholars who wanted to pursue Ph.D. degrees continued to receive economic support from the Foundation under the aegis of the Rajiv Gandhi Cambridge Scholarship. True to its name, the Wonderoom continued to inculcate love for reading among 662 children over the year, by introducing them to over 6500 interesting books and several engaging workshops.

The Rajiv Gandhi Access to Opportunities (RGATO) programme continued to support young individuals with locomotor disabilities by providing specially designed motorized vehicles to 101 young individuals from 17 states. 2016-17 was an important year as we were able to support our natural resource management partner, Gram Gaurav Sansthan, to build 43 new water harvesting and soil conservation structures.

To commemorate the 25 years of the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation, we reached out to our INTERACT scholars and partners over the years and invited them to a two-day national event, "Jashn-e-Umeed". More than 120 participants from 13 states shared their heart-warming stories. Rajiv Gandhi Access to Opportunities Program celebrated the silver jubilee year with a two-day national meet, "Swawlamban ki aur", where awardees and partners from 21 states shared how the program has transformed their lives.

Identifying and addressing public policy issues are core to the Rajiv Gandhi Institute for Contemporary Studies (RGICS). Under the Institute's umbrella of advisory, knowledge building, and knowledge sharing services, this think tank conducted and published in-depth policy research and analyses on a wide spectrum of critical policy matters. The Institute prepared numerous knowledge products, and periodic newsletters that track policy, communalism, and gender-related issues in India. RGICS also hosted an array of seminars and discussions over the year, and prepared issue briefs on topics that concern the marginalised sections of society.

As we look to the future, we see an urgent need to expand our activities to include projects that would help shape young minds. We are looking at establishing models

of education in schools that would empower young girls and boys to think for themselves and absorb the best from India's diverse traditions while learning from the rest of the world.

Education must bring them to understand that as India evolves to its full potential in the modern world, tolerance, acceptance, inclusiveness, and justice are as vital as adopting a scientific temper to their needs as citizens. These are inestimable values that our great leaders bequeathed to us; they are values that Rajiv Gandhi stood for, lived and died for and they are the values that will equip young Indians to make the best of their future.

I warmly thank our Board of Trustees and donors for their continued support and time. I congratulate the Foundation's staff for all they have done with such commendable results.

Sonia Gandhi (Mrs.)
Chairperson, Rajiv Gandhi Foundation





Introduction

Twenty-five years may seem like an age, but they were not long enough to achieve all that the Foundation has managed to accomplish. From promoting learning and talent development to financially and socially aiding children and youth from conflict-affected regions; from setting up libraries and reading rooms to encouraging young girls from marginalized communities to finish their basic education; to supporting scholars to pursue their research dreams to harnessing natural resources in rural areas; to bolstering the access and mobility of differently-abled persons to be a catalyst for social change—we made a marked contribution across several spheres.

2016-17 was a momentous year and we left no stone unturned in commemorating the glorious 25 years in which we toiled to realize the vision of Shri Rajiv Gandhi. We spent a significant part of the year to not only celebrate but to create a conclave of thought leaders, policy-makers and past beneficiaries of the Foundation to devise new strategies and approaches going forward.

This report details the progress that we have made towards actualizing the goals identified in the previous year. We made headway in all our action areas—education, accessibility, natural resource management, and policy advice.

Impact in the field of Education

330 INTERACT scholarships
2 Rajiv Gandhi Cambridge scholarships

Impact through Rajiv Gandhi Access to Opportunities programme

101 People benefitted

Impact through Wonderoom activities

884 Children served
372 Children participated in month-long summer camp
6 Big events

Impact through Natural Resource Management activities

1760 Families impacted
33 Functional SHGs saved over INR 6 lakhs



INTERACT Scholarships

The Initiative to Educate, Rehabilitate and Assist Child Victims of Terrorism (INTERACT) program, initiated in 1993, aims to prevent and protect child victims of conflict from falling prey to violence and its aftermath. By supporting their education as well as aiding their psycho-social evolution, the INTERACT program endeavours to help these children live a productive life filled with optimism and compassion. Starting with the worst hit children from Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab, Assam and, two districts in Andhra Pradesh, the INTERACT program spread its wings to other conflict-affected states like Tripura, Nagaland, and Manipur after the early years.

The deplorable acts of violence in Gujarat in 2002 and Mumbai in 2003 left many children unsheltered, which led to the inclusion of child victims from Gujarat and Mumbai in the ambit of the INTERACT program. In 2006, we included scholars from the Naxal-hit areas of Chhattisgarh.

Often, traumatized child victims take time to recover from the personal loss. During this phase, they need maximum support at all possible levels. By supporting such scholars during these difficult periods, the Foundation does its bit in ensuring continuity in their education.

Over the last 25 years, the Foundation has supported 2115 children across 11 states and two Union Territories under the aegis of the INTERACT program. This also includes 134 scholars who went on to further pursue graduate studies or vocational programs.

Activities

In 2016-17, the Foundation supported 330 scholars from diversified geographies comprising of Jammu & Kashmir, Manipur, Assam, Nagaland, Chhattisgarh, Mumbai, Gujarat, Puducherry, and Telangana. This included 29 new

scholars who were selected from Chhattisgarh, Manipur, Assam, and Jammu & Kashmir.

The scholarship amounts vary according to the class. Students between standards I and VII were given a funding of INR 12,000, while those between standards VIII and XII were given INR 16,000. The scholarships were disbursed in two six monthly instalments, corresponding to the expense cycle of the students. The money was transferred directly into the joint bank account of the scholar and their guardian.

INTERACT scholars: State-wise distribution 2016-17

S. No.	State	Class 1 to 7	Class 8 to 12
1	Andra Pradesh / Telangana	4	26
2	Assam	19	9
3	Chhattisgarh	4	5
4	Gujarat	0	3
5	Jammu & Kashmir	20	95
6	Maharashtra, Mumbai	3	9
7	Manipur	16	102
8	Nagaland	1	4
9	Puducherry	2	8

Silver Jubilee Celebration

Jashn-e-Umeed: "Celebrating Peace and Prosperity"

As part of its silver jubilee celebrations, the Foundation undertook a comprehensive yearlong exercise to first locate and profile 835 past INTERACT scholars from across 21 states, and then invite them for 'Jashn-e-Umeed', a two-day national event organized on 26th and 27th November 2016. It was a challenging task to locate and reach out to families in fragile and difficult geographies and places where conflicts continue to simmer. They often migrate from regions that have been devastated by years of conflict, broken education systems and few opportunities for work.



One hundred and twenty participants including scholars and their family members, consultants and partners from 12 states and one union territory namely Manipur, Jammu & Kashmir, Telangana, Chhattisgarh, Assam, Nagaland, Tripura, Uttarakhand, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Punjab, Maharashtra, and Puducherry showed up at the event. It was deeply heartening to see how the saplings that we had nurtured had grown into trees that were strong enough to stand by themselves and give support to those dependent on them.

A third of the past scholars who participated were working professionals representing a variety of sectors across geographical locations. Certain scholars had managed to go abroad to fulfill their dreams and advance their careers.

In addition to pursuing academic and professional courses, some past scholars had also done brilliantly in sports at the national level.

Rejoicing in what the Foundation had been able to achieve, the two-day celebration took place in the true spirit of the term by commemorating the achievements and potential of the INTERACT program. Shri P. Chidambaram, Trustee, Rajiv Gandhi Foundation, inaugurated the event and Shri Rahul Gandhi, Trustee, Rajiv Gandhi Foundation interacted with participants and

emphasized on the power of forgiveness as means of building long-term and positive peace. During the two days, the past scholars shared their struggles, joys, and achievements with one another. A visit to the Indira Gandhi Memorial Museum was organized for the participants where they got the chance to engage in meaningful conversations with representatives of the Foundation on the life and vision of Smt. Indira Gandhi and Shri Rajiv Gandhi. The event culminated in past scholars using their personal understanding of state-specific conflicts to develop state wise plans to support existing child victims. On 27th November 2016, Shri Suman Dubey, Trustee, Rajiv Gandhi Foundation, delivered the valedictory lecture to mark the end of the action-packed two-day celebratory event.

Partnerships

The Foundation has partnered with a number of credible development agencies at the field level to ensure maximum effectiveness in the country's fragile conflict areas. Our partners include:

- Khwai Social Development Organisation, Manipur
- Bastar Sewak Mandal, Chhattisgarh
- Ratna Nidhi Charitable Trust, Mumbai
- IRDC – Baby Sarah's Home, Puducherry
- SEWA, Gujarat



The following figure highlights the crucial role played by the above-mentioned partners in delivering the goals of the INTERACT programme:

Targeted intervention:
Ensured maximum effectiveness in fragile conflict areas
Identify new scholars:
Reached out to needy scholars in difficult and inaccessible geographies
Comprehensive need assessment:
Developed detailed profile of each scholar
Home visit and capacity building:
Provided customised and continuous support through household visits and workshops
Transferring scholarships:
Facilitated proper scholarship disbursal
Reporting to RGF:
Formulated the best action plan for the programme

Through regular meetings and follow-up, we ensured that the direct scholarship aid is utilized by the caregivers only for educational purposes eventually leading to lower drop-out rates and improved results.

Partners and Stakeholders National Meet

A national meet with all our partners was organized at Jawahar Bhawan, New Delhi, in November 2016. Partners Meet was a process of ‘collaborative exploration’ to better define problems through diverse perspectives, dialogue and reflections. The main agenda of the meet was:

Maintaining Partnerships
Working together for a common goal
Growing up in a conflict
Addressing the demand side barriers
Bridging the gap
Creating networks for identifying and accessing resources



Once a destitute, now a support

It was an untimely loss for 6-year-old Deepali when her father, a laborer in a mill, died in the 2002 Gujarat riots. Top this with being poor, missing basic living amenities, and with a widowed mother left alone to fend for four young kids. Faced with insurmountable pain and helplessness, they relocated only to make things worse for themselves. Unable to support Deepali even at the local municipality school, in 2004, her mother sought help from SEWA (Gujarat) and they helped Deepali secure the INTERACT scholarship.



“When we could not submit fees, SEWA connected us to RGF. We were told, RGF is an organisation which gives scholarship support. And today I am a nurse. I have also learned that inner and external peace comes from brotherhood” - Deepali

She was enrolled in a private school, upon finishing which she pursued a polytechnic diploma in Biomedical Sciences and has gone on to become a nurse who supports her mother in running the household. In 2015, Deepali attended a workshop in the US and is currently pursuing a Bachelors degree in Pharmaceuticals from Baba Sahab Ambedkar University. As she soars to great heights, it would not be out of place to say that it was the INTERACT scholarship that gave Deepali the wings to do so!

A promise made is a promise kept

In 1994, when Lun Tunngung’s father was assassinated by the extremists in Nagaland, the 16-year-old had the promise he made to his father staring him in the face – to finish his studies and become a responsible citizen and not waste his life fighting the extremists. It was this promise that made him take the bold step of moving out of Nagaland and going to Delhi to finish his education. Lun was awarded the INTERACT scholarship from the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation, and it could not have been bestowed upon a more deserving and grateful recipient.



“When I was selected for the most prestigious college, St. Stephens, I had no money. I was the first one from Nagaland to receive support for higher education and RGF was so kind to help me through a difficult period and make me what I am today!” - Lun Tunngung

According to Lun, not only did the Foundation provide financial aid, it acted as a guardian for him in Delhi. He went on to top the CBSE examination and scored all India rank 1 in History, which helped him secure admission for BA History in Delhi University’s St. Stephen’s College. He was granted the INTERACT II scholarship for completing his undergraduate degree, after which he got a postgraduate diploma in international law and earned an LLB degree. Today he is a professional lawyer in Nagaland, where he lives happily in his hometown.

Rajiv Gandhi Cambridge Scholarship

A few years after its inception, the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation began supporting Indian students in a variety of formats towards earning a postgraduate (Masters or Ph.D.) degree in any Social Science subject at the University of Cambridge. The Rajiv Gandhi Cambridge Scholarship, offered by the Foundation in conjunction with the Cambridge Commonwealth European & International Trust (CCEIT), covers the University tuition fees at the relevant rate, as well as an annual stipend.

During 2016-17, a specially constituted selection committee following a meticulous process awarded the Rajiv Gandhi Cambridge Scholarships to two coveting young women – Ms. Garima Sahai and Ms. Mrinalini Venkateshwaran – for PhDs in Sociology and History, respectively.



Scoping the aspirations of urban Indian women

Following her Bachelors and Masters in Economics from Delhi, an MPhil in International Development at the University of Oxford, and a stint with the World Bank, Garima Sahai wanted to delve deeper into studying how the employment aspirations of young urban Indian women get formed. Given her credentials and interest in researching the declining participation of women in India's labor force, Garima was awarded the Rajiv Gandhi Cambridge Scholarship in 2016 to pursue a Ph.D. degree in Sociology at Cambridge University. Currently, in her first year, Garima hopes that by examining employment aspirations of women she will be able to contribute to a better understanding of another facet of gender inequality—i.e., aspirations. She looks forward to pursuing the trajectory that a Ph.D. degree makes possible as a practitioner in international development.



The Rajiv Gandhi Cambridge Scholarship has been determining for my studies in Cambridge. If it were not for the scholarship, I would not be able to study an important development topic and not have a formative experience at the University of Cambridge, one of the best global universities. – **Garima Sahai**

According to Garima, "Studying at Cambridge has meant that I not only have the opportunity to deepen my understanding of the course I am enrolled in but also listen and learn from the best in the field in other themes and areas that intersect with my research." Not only does she value the multifarious talks and seminars which have helped make her a more rounded individual, Garima relishes every moment spent at Cambridge. For her, "activities that seem so commonplace to life in Cambridge will be life experiences that will always be special to me."

Making the most of it

Mrinalini Venkateshwaran was the second recipient of the Rajiv Gandhi Cambridge Scholarship in 2016-17 and is in her first year of Ph.D. in History at Cambridge University. In addition to the wide range of reading, she has enjoyed attending training sessions, lectures and seminars to reacquaint herself with her discipline and academic life in general. Mrinalini informs that "In addition to excellent library resources and fruitful supervisions, I have benefitted from discussing my project with the enormous range of scholarly expertise available to me here, both within the Faculty, the University, and the wider scholarly network within the UK, and internationally. I look forward to presenting my work in progress at conferences and workshops, to benefit from the peer-review it entails." She enjoys the social and cultural life that Cambridge has to offer, especially music and theatre, and further opportunities that the Cambridge Trust offers such as the Cumberland Lodge international student Christmas in December 2016.



I continue to appreciate and value the financial support which has made it possible for me to pursue postgraduate research. – **Mrinalini Venkateshwaran**



Situated at the heart of the national capital, Wonderoom is an innovative reading library for children in the age group of 8 to 15 years. Initiated in 2011, the library initially served as a creative learning laboratory for children from all socio-economic backgrounds. In 2016-17, Wonderoom worked towards inculcating love for reading among children by introducing them to over 6500 interesting books in Hindi and English and organizing engaging workshops and activities. Open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. all through the week, the Wonderoom also provides free daily bus service for interested children.

Regular Woderoom Activities

True to its name, the Wonderoom offered a plethora of activities. Regular year-on-year activities and workshops around the themes, mentioned in the figure below, were carried out in 2016-17 as well.

Wonderoom Activities



Reading and Read aloud sessions: We believe that listening and comprehension skills are paramount in the early years to develop an interest in reading and literature. Therefore, Wonderoom conducts regular reading sessions to inculcate the habit of reading among children.

Wonderoom Clubs: Apart from the daily activities organized during the year, the Wonderoom also ran two clubs. These clubs had year-round activities that interested the children and kept them engaged in the process of learning and self-discovery.

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‘The Expresso Club’

These workshops are essentially forums for the development of communication skills and an initiative to motivate children to learn from their experiences and find their own ways to express with the help of allied arts and drama.

‘The Ados-Pados Club’

Ados Pados club is a theatre group for children, where we encourage children to be themselves. Children form a group and grow with small acts and scenes. This year, their efforts culminated into an annual production of a special play called “Par hume khelna hai”, originally written by Shri Shirang Godbole, a famous Marathi writer and, film maker, on the 1993 Mumbai riots and their impact on children.

Fun with Science: It is an activity through which children learn complex scientific principles in a playful manner and then create toys using the same principles and waste materials. It also

includes the celebration of birth anniversaries of many great scientists, their discoveries, and inspirational life stories. Our facilitators conduct discussions on various local and global issues. We introduced the concept of ‘Smart classes’, which involve teaching the relevance of history and origin of things around us.

Art and Craft: Learning with innovation is an excellent way to facilitate and help children acquire a vast range of skills.

Film Screening: Arts and Cinema is another way to communicate and encourage participation of children through cinema as Wonderoom screens a children’s classic film every week, followed by deeper discussions which capture their imagination and promote creativity.

Not only all these activities instill useful skills and abilities in children, they helped them recognize the areas that interested them the most. A number

of Delhi based resource persons who had been working with children over the years were invited to share their expertise on different subjects by conducting special workshops for Wonderoom kids:

- Smt. N. Ratnashree, Director of Nehru Planetarium, conducted a session on the Solar System
- Smt. Sonia Philip, Founder of Learning Matters, conducted storytelling sessions
- Smt. Rina Singh, Principal G.D Goenka International School and Sri Salil Kumar, Country Manager, GAIN, graced the occasion on the production of the play- ‘Par Hume Khelna Hai’
- Ms. Meenakshi Natrajan, Former M.P, attended the Christmas day event and interacted with the children
- Dwijendra Kumar, Assistant English Editor- NBT, attended the Storytelling Festival

- Shah Faesal, IAS officer and former Director of Education from Jammu and Kashmir, motivated the children and shared his life journey during a Wonderoom event called I-Wonder
- Regular association with Skill-based volunteers: Students from colleges such as Miranda House and School of Fine Arts frequently visited Wonderoom

Mobile Library

To reach out to children who could not travel to Wonderoom, a mobile library named “Padhaku” was launched. The library currently caters to the children of Baprola in Dwarka area of Delhi. The mobile library visits the children every Sunday with books. The accompanying resource persons carry out activities that promote reading among children. In a short while, the mobile library has generated a membership of around 100 children who eagerly await meeting “Padhaku” every Sunday.



Wonderoom Events

Summer Camp 2016

The Wonderoom organized a month-long summer camp at Jawahar Bhawan between 23rd May and 24th June 2016 for 5-15-year-old children with activities designed and planned for different age groups.

The summer camp was over-subscribed with 372 children from different socio-economic backgrounds participating in the event. Twelve sessions were conducted daily during the summer camp which covered a range of subjects including:

Art & Craft	Expression
Fun science	News writing
Drama	Story telling
Fun games	Puppetry
Creative writing	City planning

Every Child is a Journalist!

All inquisitive children reported the happening of the summer camp in an innovative manner. The reporting was infused with activities that transpired in the summer camp, news from their locality etc. They also interviewed the director of the Foundation and other team members to prepare these reports. Fifty such children journalists were awarded the title of “Star Patrakar”.

“Run Run Run, Stall No. 1”

The children from the drama workshop performed the popular play addressing issues related to the 1993 Mumbai riots.

In the end, children showcased their learnings and memorable moments through an exhibition of photographs captured during the camp. The 2016-17 summer camp was a thumping success.

Story Telling Festival

The Wonderoom leveraged the power of stories and storytelling to introduce children to the world of books. An open mic session was organized in September 2016 for children to share their favourite stories. This encouraged dozens of children to read up books to identify their favourite stories and then actively participate in the open mic session. Select children presented their stories along with professional story tellers

at the two-day storytelling festival organized in September 2016.

Science Fair

The Wonderoom organized its first Science Fair in April 2016 to encourage children to engage with science in creative ways. Kids from many schools and NGOs in Delhi – Inder Public School, Jasola MCD School, Shareefan, FXB, Bal Sahyog, and Salaam Balak Trust- participated in the exhibition that was organized as a part of the science fair. Children prepared innovative toys and models illustrating various concepts of science and got





an opportunity to interact with a team from the National Science Museum.

A special 'cold show' exhibited experiments with nitrogen gas. They indicated how this gas is commonly used and what amazing experiments can be undertaken with it. These were basically activities conducted to make kids understand the otherwise difficult concepts of science in an interesting way. The Bhartiya Gyan Vigyan Samiti revealed the science behind magic shows and logic behind different delusions of society. The event concluded with a science quiz conducted by the National Science Museum team. The Wonderoom awarded certificates to all participating children.

I-Wonder 3

On 22nd November 2016, the much awaited and very popular open platform series, I-Wonder 3, was launched by the Wonderoom. The I-Wonder series draws its popularity from the fact that it allows children to express themselves through various performing arts, such as drama, music, poetry, art, and dance. I-Wonder 3 saw enthusiastic participation from 72 children who recited poems, performed puppet shows, drama, dance, songs, and captivated an audience of 300+ with creative storytelling and wonderful clown shows.

Remembering Icons and Celebrating diversity and the rich heritage of our country

The Wonderoom used festivals as opportunities not only to celebrate but also engage children with refreshing ideas. The diversity of India found a sweet expression in the manner in which Wonderoom children from different backgrounds



came together to celebrate and inculcate values and the secular ethos of our country.

Special Invitations to Wonderoom children

The year 2016-17 offered Wonderoom children multiple opportunities to showcase their talents at various platforms. The kids were specially invited to perform the play "Par Hume khelna hai" at the GD Goenka International School, Ghaziabad. Wonderoom children also performed 'story-telling' during the World Book Fair, organized in January 2017, where they interacted with famous writers, poets, and storytellers. Our Wonderoom kids presented a 'Clown show' in the festival of Creativity Adda.

Partnerships and Outreach

The Wonderoom team organized regular outreach programmes to ensure that the children become aware and can access the library's services. The team physically toured areas with pamphlets to meet parents, teachers and school principals. They also partnered with NGOs- National Book Trust, Salam Balak Trust, Child Support, Sharifan Educational and Welfare Society, FXB India Security, Inder Public School, and Teach For India amongst others to help them reach and impact the maximum number of children.

From fear to confidence

Twelve-year-old Abhay remembers the first time when Anju Ma'am from Wonderoom visited his house 5 years back. She shared the details about Wonderoom with his parents and their three kids. Excited by the idea, Lalita, and Ankit, Abhay's older siblings started coming

to the Wonderoom. Though Abhay also accompanied them, he was very scared to visit a space like Wonderoom as he had never been to such a place earlier and didn't know how to behave. Abhay remembers, "I had never really been the outgoing types and to cross the three huge roads between our house and the Wonderoom was a big deal." Tables have turned today and the shy and scared Abhay is an active participant at Wonderoom. He has engaged in drama sessions, makes useful materials from the waste in the craft sessions, and celebrates all festivals from Holi to Christmas with his friends at Wonderoom. He recently recited a story in the storytelling festival titled 'Alibaba aur 40 Chor'.



The transformation has been very joyful for me. I never want to leave the Wonderoom. – **Abhay**

The story of four siblings

Nirali, Sagar, Suraj, and Deepak live in Kalibari Marg, New Delhi with their parents. While touring the Kalibari Marg, Wonderoom's outreach team handed the pamphlet to Sagar who took it to his mother. Sagar's mother came to Wonderoom to clarify if the library services were paid or free. After assurance that the services were totally free, she allowed her four children to come to the Wonderoom. Nirali, the eldest is a dwarf child and was particularly scared to face the crowd or play with other children. The Wonderoom allowed her to explore her skills. She developed a fondness for writing and reciting poems. Sagar's rap songs are so popular that people consider him the official rapper of Wonderoom. Deepak loves the fun science and art & craft sessions in Wonderoom. In the recent storytelling festival organized by Wonderoom, all the siblings took to the stage and performed stories, poems and rap songs of their own. Their parents recognize the transformation in their children's personality after joining Wonderoom and the kids acknowledge Wonderoom as a part of their family.



Rajiv Gandhi Access to Opportunities Programme

Based on the belief that ‘enhancing mobility’ can transform the lives of people with disabilities, the Foundation launched its flagship Rajiv Gandhi Access to Opportunities (RGATO) programme in 1992. Through this program, the Foundation provides specially designed motorized vehicles to individuals with locomotor disabilities. In addition, the RGATO programme has been spreading awareness about government schemes for differently abled in the areas of education and livelihood.

Activities Selection of Vehicle

The Foundation conducts a comprehensive market research every year to identify vehicles that can be modified to suit the needs of individuals with loco

motor disabilities. In 2016-17, after a thorough evaluation of 12 shortlisted vehicles, the vehicles from Honda and TVS were selected.

Selection of Applicants

The Foundation continued with its rigorous three-tier process in selecting awardees in the reporting period. At the preliminary level, applications received from across the country are shortlisted based on strict criteria. This is followed by an exhaustive verification of each applicant. Based on need, merit and potential, the sub-committee headed by Shri Mani Shankar Aiyer, former Minister, and comprising of experts, finally selected 101 awardees of the RGATO program in 2016-17.

Vehicles Awarding Ceremony 2016

The Rajiv Gandhi Foundation distributes vehicles under the RGATO programme on 20th August, the birth anniversary of Shri Rajiv Gandhi, every year. The 2016-17 award ceremony was held at Jawahar Bhawan, New Delhi and Shri Rahul Gandhi awarded the vehicles to 101 selected individuals from 17 states. The state wise break up of awardees is presented in the table.

During the ceremony, four past awardees shared their inspiring journeys with the audience. They shared their life stories and how the vehicle from the Foundation benefited them. The increased mobility and independence helped them in their day to day life as well as in raising their self and social esteem. They reported that they had become popular in their community. Not only this, the vehicle helped them assist other differently abled people.

Training and workshop

In August 2016, the Foundation carried out a detailed and customized training by representatives from Honda and TVS on Safe

Vehicle awardees 2016-17

S.No.	Name of state	Number of awardees
1	Andhra Pradesh	2
2	Bihar	5
3	Chhattisgarh	2
4	Delhi	5
5	Gujarat	8
6	Haryana	16
7	Odisha	7
8	Punjab	6
9	Rajasthan	12
10	Madhya Pradesh	2
11	Maharashtra	4
12	Tamil Nadu	2
13	Telangana	7
14	Jharkhand	1
15	Karnataka	4
16	Uttar Pradesh	16
17	Uttarakhand	2
Total		101



Driving and Vehicle Maintenance for all the awardees. Around 200 participants Awardees (with their escorts) attended the training program. In addition to training the awardees, the Foundation supported all of them in obtaining learners' licenses and registering the vehicles in their respective states.

“Swawlamban ki aur”

- RGATO celebrated the silver jubilee year with “Swawlamban ki aur”, a two-day national meet on 18–19th February 2017 at Jawahar Bhawan, New Delhi
- 170 past awardees from 16 states and four NGO partners from different states participated
- Shri Mani Shanker Aiyer delivered the valedictory lecture on 19th February 2017
- A verified Facebook page of the Foundation, initiated in November 2016. It has 200,000 likes

- Social media platforms created to facilitate exchange of ideas and information between beneficiaries

Past awardees speak

Inspiring the participants
Discussions on unaddressed issues that limit the differently abled people

Inspiring the participants

Shri Javed Abidi, Director, National Centre for Promotion of Employment for Disabled People shared personal adversities and achievement

Policy makers speak

Shri T.D. Dhariyal, Ex-Deputy Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disability, Government of India, and representatives from partner organizations shared details of various government schemes and how to access them. Participants sought advice on practical issues they face on a daily basis





Initiation of Online applications

The application process for the vehicle distribution in 2017 was initiated in December 2016. In order to ease the application process, the Foundation launched a user-friendly bi-lingual online application module through its website. The Foundation received over 5000 applications from 25 states for 2017.

Program Impact

To understand the effectiveness of the RGATO program, the Foundation carried out detailed interviews with over 306 past awardees during 2016-17. The goal was to understand the changes in the lives of the beneficiaries. It was very heartening to understand that the vehicles have transformed their mobility, increased the employment rate and have had a significant impact on their personal lives.



Not just perceived, but benefits experienced

Enhanced mobility Time and money saving	Could pursue higher education Gain employment or start own business	Higher income Independence Dignity and respect socially
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When there's a will, there's a way

Since the age of four, Ramkumar Rai—born in a poor family in Madhubani (Bihar) in 1977—was unable to move without assistance due to untreated polio. After attaining basic education in a government school in Madhubani, Ramkumar shifted to Delhi with his older brother in 1993 and started selling tea leaves through a rented tricycle. In 2000, Ramkumar applied for a vehicle under the RGATO program and was selected. The vehicle helped him save time and pursue livelihood opportunities.



The steady income helped him get married. Ramkumar is currently associated with several NGOs and has been an active whistle blower on corruption issues in MCD.

He was finally allotted a telephone booth by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) under the disability quota. The steady income helped him get married. Ramkumar is currently associated with several NGOs and has been an active whistle blower on corruption issues in MCD. He has also been working for the welfare of the disabled in Delhi.

The champion who never gave up

Rajaram Ghag works in the Western Railway as a chief office superintendent and lives in Ghatkopar, Mumbai. Ghag is an international level swimmer; in 1988 he won accords for being the fastest swimmer in Asia to cross the English Channel. He has won numerous medals in swimming at various competitions across borders. But life was not always easy for him. He suffered from polio at a very young age but never gave up on hope to do something worthwhile with his life.



Rajaram loved swimming and had to travel for several hours very early in the morning to reach his stadium to practice. He heard of the RGATO program and applied for it in 2001.

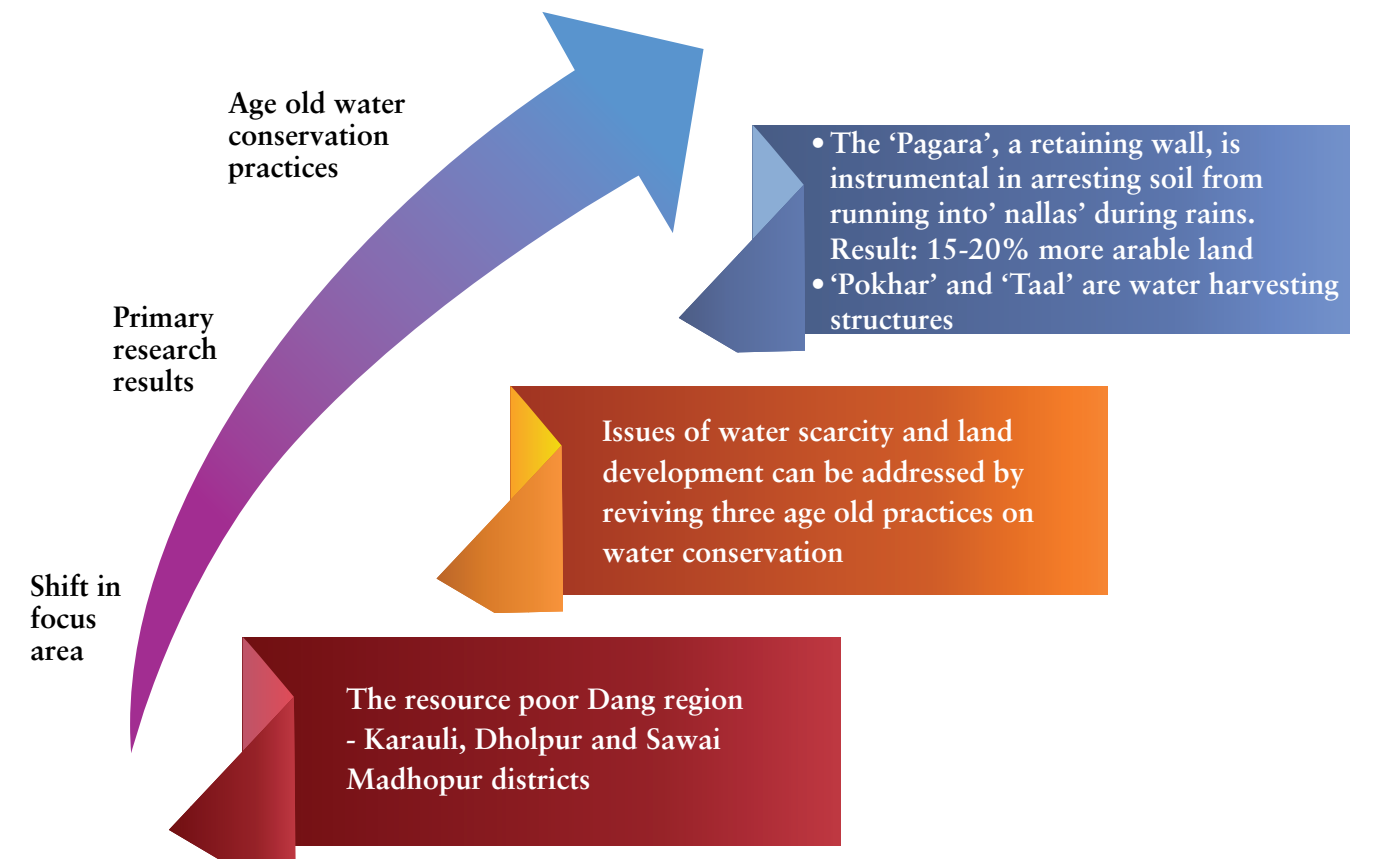
He loved swimming and had to travel for several hours to reach the stadium to practice. He heard of the RGATO program and applied for it in 2001. With the vehicle, Rajaram was able to save crucial time and take proper rest before practice, which improved his swimming. He got selected for a government job with the Western Railways under the sports quota. Since he knew the importance of increased mobility for a differently abled person, he mobilized funds to help other people get specially designed motorized vehicles from various sources.

Natural Resource Management

The Natural Resource Management programme of the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation commenced in November 2001 in seven districts of Rajasthan. Considering

the low income of farmers and difficult situation of loan repayment, the program endeavors at increasing rural employment, improving water management and increasing agricultural productivity.

NRM- The Foundation's initial involvement





In 2016-17,
346 members of
33 functional SHGs
saved over
Rs. 6 lakhs in three
clusters of the
Dang region.

The Sansthan
and the Foundation
has impacted 1,760
families through the
construction of over
400 structures in
more than
70 villages.

Creation of Gram Gaurav Sansthan

In 2011, the Foundation strengthened its natural resource management efforts by helping Gram Gaurav Sansthan, an independent organization to take forward the work on soil and water conservation. The Gram Gaurav Sansthan is based on the model of ‘Rural Participatory Appraisal’, which empowers disenfranchised groups in building water conservation structures. These structures are built with up to 40% contribution from community and remaining additions from the Sansthan. Till date, the Sansthan and the Foundation has impacted 1,760 families (and several indirect beneficiaries) through the construction of over 400 structures in more than 70 villages.

Activities 2016-17

In 2016-17, the Sansthan continued its ongoing efforts to preserve natural resources, nurture

new partnerships, expand the self-help group (SHG) network, and promote System of Rice Intensification (SRI) while strengthening the dialogue and exchange on water conservation. In addition, the Sansthan worked towards scaling up its operations by leveraging resources from government and other agencies.

To better integrate with rural development programs of the government and NABARD, the Sansthan team made preliminary visits to the areas of the Foundation of Ecological Security in Bhilwara and Prakriti Foundation in Jalod, Gujarat. This four-day visit in August 2016 helped Gram Gaurav strengthen its existing strategy for generating more livelihood opportunities for the local community in the Dang region of Rajasthan. The Sansthan constructed 32 structures and 11 small Atwads with support from the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation.



Gram Gaurav Sansthan	- In 2011, the Foundation helped create Gram Gaurav Sansthan, an independent organisation registered under Rajasthan Society Registration Act,1958, to take forward its work on soil and water conservation
Working model	- The Gram Gaurav model is a highly participative model - Water conservation structures built with close to 40%community contribution by way of labour (Physical and local material) - The Sansthan contributes by providing cement, masons, and water
Result	The Sansthan and the Foundation has impacted 1,760 families (and many indirect beneficiaries) through the construction of over 400 structures across more than 70 villages

The Sansthan helped individuals and community construct a total of 50 structures with help from rural welfare schemes such as MGNREGA. In addition to building the above-mentioned structures, the Sansthan also carried out following activities during the year:

Strategic Planning Workshop

A workshop on strategic planning was held at Gram Gaurav Sansthan in August 2016. It was attended by Dr. Yashwant Thorat (Former chairman, NABARD), Shri. Rajendra Jaiswal (Founder, Prakriti Foundation) and representatives

from the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation and Gram Gaurav Sansthan. These planning sessions, led to identification of 21 most needy villages where the Sansthan envisages to focus in the medium term of 5-10 years.

Micro Planning

The Sansthan’s team conducted Participatory Rural Appraisals to develop micro plans for the 21 villages. Relevant water and soil conservation and government schemes were discussed and included in the plan. A census household survey was conducted in every village to collect spatial



data. Lastly, all the suggestions and grievances raised during these exercises were listed and registered by the Sansthan with the Gram Panchayats in all the villages.

Reconstituting community institutions

Nukkad Sabhas have emerged as the novel yet effective ways to improve community participation. Accordingly, the Sansthan organized such Sabha's to not only encourage bottom-up participation but also to revive indigenous knowledge and skills. Further, 'Gram Sangathans' and 'Gram Samitis' were constituted to align the community level institutions promoted by Gram Gaurav with the local governance structures. The Sansthan works by constituting local village bodies with participation from every household and an integrated Samiti to represent the village. This Samiti takes crucial decisions from collecting contributions to the maintenance of newly built structures. The Sansthan works by constituting local village bodies with participation from every household and an integrated Samiti to represent the village.

Leveraging resources from the local government

To dovetail the Sansthan's plan and the needs of the villagers with the existing government

schemes, in-depth discussions were held in 10 out of 21 villages and activities that could be covered under the Government schemes were identified. The Gram Panchayat's networking with local government agencies helped Gram Gaurav solicit INR 140 lakhs of government funding into its project villages. New structures were built by the community with support from local government and panchayat bodies. The Gram Gaurav Sansthan's role moved towards capacity building and documentation while building on their natural resources and structures.

Self Help Groups

To empower women in the Dang region, the Sansthan has been mobilizing them into self-help groups (SHGs) by encouraging them to do regular savings. This micro-finance is used for lending purposes for meeting their productive and emergent needs. The Sansthan has also been linking them to formal financial institutions, such as banks, to help them gain access to larger amounts of credit. In 2016-17, 346 members of 33 functional SHGs saved over INR 6 lakhs in three clusters of the Dang region. These developed groups are now significantly involved in addressing the key issues of land degradation, lack of drinking water and reduced agricultural returns.



The padded pond

Birka, a village situated in middle of the forest in Karauli district (Rajasthan), is home to 50 families from the backward community who practice farming and animal husbandry. The barren land and unsteady rainfall have made livelihood impossible in the village. The villagers of Birka reached out to Gram Gaurav in order to gain some benefits from the Sansthan's water harvesting techniques. Upon visiting Birka, the Gram Gaurav team realized that agriculture would flourish if harvested rain water is made available by building a pokhar. With contribution from the villagers, Gram Gaurav built a pokhar in 2013-

14. The first rain itself filled the pokhar with water, resulting in an increased food security for six months. Bachchu Singh Gurjar, the beneficiary, intimated that 42 years ago when "I was only eight years old, my mother died. My father had to work in the mines nearby and raised us four brothers with great hardship. By the age of 15, I too started travelling to a neighboring village to work in the mines in order to ensure food security for the family. After a year, my younger brother also started working along with me. Our lands were barren due to lack of water supply; hence we were totally dependent on the mines for subsistence. After 15 years of hard-hitting work in those subterranean mines, we realized that we have developed a chronic occupational disease named Silicosis and could not continue working there. With no arable land of our own we started working in other farms as hired labour. At the age of 30, I had no savings, no agriculture worthy land, no food security and as living with a life-threatening disease." The story of other villagers was not different. "It was then that the Gram Gaurav Sansthan came to our aid and built this Pokhar. Since then we have been able to develop four bighas of land, which provide enough wheat to feed our children for the whole year," he added.

“It was then that the Gram Gaurav Sansthan came to our aid and built this Pokhar. Since then we have been able to develop four bighas of land, which provides enough wheat to feed our kids for the year.”



Table 1 Structures built with support from the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation:

S. No.	Name of Structure	Type	Name of Village	Institutional	Community Contribution	Total
POKHAR						
01	Aam wali Pokhar	Pokhar	Teen Pokhar	68211	33855	102066
02	Kolu wali Pokhar	Pokhar	Teen Pokhar	97992	48746	146738
03	Footi Pokhar	Pokhar	Teen Pokhar	69833	34667	104500
04	Madanmohan wali Pokhar	Pokhar	Rahir (Gherkapura)	94029	64314	158343
05	Manni wali Pokhar	Pokhar	Rahir (Gherkapura)	84243	44321	128564
06	Patar wali Pokhar	Pokhar	Rajpur	71270	35666	106936
07	Sumera ka Anicut	Anicut	Barki	195200	210158	405358
08	Tetu Kriya ki Pokhar	Pokhar	Teen Pokhar	60500	30000	90500
09	Jhilan ke ghair ki Pokhar	Pokhar	Koolraki	35179	17939	53118
10	Bahari ki Pokhar	Pokhar	Rajpur (Kot)	189914	94707	284621
11	Dhokasata ki Pokhar	Pokhar	Teen Pokhar	58277	26888	85165
12	Gambhiri wali Pokhar	Pokhar	Teen Pokhar	70012	34755	104767
PAGARA						
01	Aam wale khet ka Pagara	Pagara	Barki	50130	52800	102930
02	Behre wale khet ka Pagara	Pagara	Angadkapura	70500	75600	146100
03	Banjare ki kriya wale khet ka Pagara	Pagara	Kurlaki	19397	23500	42897
04	Banjari khet ka Pagara	Pagara	Kashyapura	58400	52650	111050
05	Bare kipatar wali khet ka Pagara	Pagara	Kashyapura	80900	83750	164650
06	Bari kekhet ka Pagara	Pagara	Kashyapura	114500	107250	221750
07	Bhakula wala Pagara	Pagara	Bamuda	40784	43800	84584
08	Chaje wale khet ka Pagara	Pagara	Kashyapura	80300	81850	162150
09	Chaje wali gher ki kriya ka Pagara	Pagara	Nareki	21123	22600	43723
10	Chaje wali nichli kriya ka Pagara	Pagara	Nareki	14240	16700	30940
11	Dho wale khet ka Pagara	Pagara	Bamuda	33265	33600	66865
12	Hatila wale khetka Pagara	Pagara	Bamuda	84285	74600	158885
13	Jamun ke dabrawala Pagara	Pagara	TeenPokhar	93000	93800	186800
14	Kanjar wali gher ki nichli star ka Pagara	Pagara	Daulatiyaki	28980	27000	55980
15	Katan ki gher ka Pagara	Pagara	Daulatiyaki	38824	38300	77124
16	Khoran ki gher ka (Jhiranya) Pagara	Pagara	Manikpura	55802	49400	105202
17	Sahejna wale khet ka (Rondaka) Pagara	Pagara	Manikpura	55199	46200	101399
18	Samai wale khet ka Pagara	Pagara	Kashyapura	92850	99000	191850
19	Solu wale khet ka Pagara	Pagara	Barki	70566	34600	105166
20	Tilli wale khet ka Pagara	Pagara	Kashyapura	106250	100000	206250
ATWAD						
01	Banjare ki kriya wale khet ka Pagara	Atwad	Kurlaki	1600	1600	3200
02	Bhakulawala Pagara	Atwad	Bamuda	6000	7300	13300
03	Chaje wali nichli kriya ka Pagara	Atwad	Nareki	3600	6000	9600
04	Dho wale khet ka Pagara	Atwad	Bamuda	6800	18200	25000

05	Kanjar wali gher ka nichli swar Pagara	Atwad	Daulatiyaki	3200	7000	10200
06	Katan ke gher ka Pagara	Atwad	Daulatiyaki	8000	16100	24100
07	Khoran ki gher ka (Jhiranya) Pagara	Atwad	Manikpura	10000	15300	25300
08	Manni wala Pokhar	Atwad	Rahir (Gherkapura)	7600	9100	16700
09	Sahejnawala khet (Rondaka) Pagara	Atwad	Manikpura	7200	7600	14800
10	Solu wale khet ka Pagara	Atwad	Barki	5600	32200	37800
11	Sumer ka Anicut	Atwad	Barki	8000	9100	17100

Table 2 Facilitated construction of structures with assistance from other sources

S. No	Village	Gram Panchayat	Panchayat Samiti	Taal	Pokhar	Pagara	Anicut
01	Chaudiyakhata	Daulatpura	Sapotra	0	02	0	0
02	Shrawatpura	Daulatpura	Sapotra	0	02	0	0
03	Barhada	Daulatpura	Sapotra	0	03	0	0
04	Daulatiyaki	Kailadevi	Karoli	0	02	0	01
05	Nareki	Kailadevi	Karoli	0	01	03	0
06	Barki	Kailadevi	Karoli	0	01	02	0
07	Biramka	Nibhaira	Sapotra	01	02	0	0
08	Albatki	Rahir	Mandrayal	0	01	02	0
09	Kasiyapura	Langra	Mandrayal	0	01	0	0
10	Shyampur	Nindar	Mandrayal	0	01	16	0
11	Rahir	Rahir	Mandrayal	0	02	0	0
12	Raibeli (Daulatpura)	Badalpur	Mandrayal	0	01	0	0
13	Morochi	Daulatpura	Sapotra	01	01	0	0
14	Paatipura	Daulatpura	Sapotra	01	01	0	0
15	Chaudakya	Daulatpura	Sapotra	0	02	0	0
	Total (50)			3	23	23	1

Table 3 Women Self Help Groups

S. No	Name of the Cluster	Total SHG's	Total Member	Total Savings
01	Gajsingh pura	12	120	213605
02	Khijura	05	50	21244
03	Shyam pura	16	176	369600
	Total	33	346	604449

Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Contemporary Studies

The Rajiv Gandhi Institute for Contemporary Studies (RGICS) was set up in 1991 as an independent policy think tank. Over the past quarter century, RGICS has provided valuable inputs in policy making across a wide spectrum of issues. Over this last year, RGICS continued to work to meet a growing gap in policy advice—the lack of a liberal, social democratic think tank providing policy support for issues concerning marginalized sections of society. RGICS continues to focus on its vision of catalysing egalitarian change—social, economic and political—to realize the Constitutional idea of India that emerged from our national movement for freedom.

RGICS work continues to focus on three broad areas:

- Capacity building of “change agents”—civil society and political activists through policy briefings and training;
- Development of efficacious policy recommendations and strategies (including draft legislation);
- Raising public awareness of key policy issues through organizing public events and both on-and off-line outreach activities.

During the period of April 2016–March 2017, RGICS successfully produced and delivered its regular knowledge products and services, organised several seminars, conferences and round table discussions that helped take our vision and mission forward. Our work in this past year included the following:

Advisory Services

• Policy Briefs

More than 193 policy briefs* have been prepared on key issues of social, economic and political significance.

**the detailed list of briefs is presented in the Annexure*

• Seminars and Conferences

A series of monthly seminars were organised for social activists, academics etc. on significant socio-economic issues such as the Surrogacy Bill-The Battle for the Womb, Population Aging-Politics, Role of Family and Agency of the State and the Idea of Constitutional Democracy to name a few (please see Table for a full list).

Knowledge Products

• Policy Watch E-zine

Policy Watch is a weekly e-zine that includes a Lead Story that analyses topical policy-related matters and also includes a set of insightfully curated news pieces that cover key policy developments over the week. In the period, April 2016–March 2017, 44 issues of Policy Watch has been published and disseminated to a large cross-section of people which includes academics, activists and students.

• Communalism Watch

Communalism Watch tracks communal incidents that have been reported in the media across the country and has been widely appreciated by readers. It is an endeavor to collate information about those who are working to break the unity and harmony of the country. In 2016-17 we published and disseminated 12 issues of Communalism Watch.

• Gender Watch

In March '2017 we have started a new initiative that focuses specifically on Gender-related issues. On the lines of Policy and Communalism Watch, every month, Gender Watch will bring to its reader's relevant news, analysis and policy updates from across the country on gender issues. It will also feature a lead essay on topical issues.

• Social Media

RGICS has strengthened its presence on Twitter, Facebook and Youtube. Together these platforms help us engage with a diverse set of influential voices across a cross-section of society and geographies. We also saw direct communication increasing with a diverse set of individuals and institutions that include policymakers, academics, journalists and activists. Our social media engagement helped shape perceptions about issues and policies and their ramifications with engaged citizens – both at the national and international level. We believe, that going forward, Social Media will help us build in our efforts to disseminate our work and help achieve our vision to empower citizens with values that inspired India's freedom struggle and are codified in the Indian Constitution.

Public Events, Seminars, and Discussion Series

• Battle for the Womb-Surrogacy in India

A conference was held in Jawahar Bhawan, New Delhi to discuss the proposed Draft Surrogacy Regulation Bill 2016. The aim of the Conference was to put forward views from both sides of the debate and the speakers included Gynecologists, Fertility Clinic Owners, Lawyers, Academicians and even surrogate mothers. The conference brought forth various stakeholder's views and the important nuances between advancement in science and its implications on society and laws that govern it. The conference concluded that there needs to be a concerted effort to legislate surrogacy as there are sensitive issues like motherhood, societal morality and class exploitation at stake.

• A seminar on “Population Aging

Policies, Role of Family and Agency of the State” was organised on the 22nd of February, 2017. India has the world's fastest growing aging population after China. Our population in the age group of 60 and above has risen gradually from 5% to 7.5% in 2010 and is expected to rise to 20% in the year 2050 representing more than 300 million people. A combination of advances in medical sciences,



increase in life expectancy and the breakdown of the traditional joint family system as the primary caregiver to older adults has led to a situation where the needs of older adults remain largely unfulfilled today. With India's recent focus on the 'population dividend', older adults have increasingly become a marginalized group from a policy perspective too and it is important that attention is focussed on the responsibility of the State which must ensure that the rights of the elderly are protected. The conference brought together several experts to discuss the larger role the State can play, so that older adults experience a safe and secure ageing process in India.

• Discussion Series: Narratives on Contemporary India

A series of talks and conversations, each providing a distinct narrative on India from the margins has been created. The series of talks are meant to demonstrate the vast diversity and plurality of India and help contradict the attempt to create a monotonous, homogenized narrative that is being imposed on the country. The series of talks have attracted a diverse audience ranging from researchers, political workers, activists and are regularly uploaded on a YouTube channel to ensure that they reach a growing audience.

RGICS Work Products (1 April 2016 – 31 March 2017)

POLICY BRIEFS			
Brief analysis, background papers (issue briefs/ legislative briefs/ policy briefs) were prepared for MP's on various issues /topics as listed below:			
S. No.	Title	Nature of Work	Date
1	Emerging Fault Lines in Punjab	Issue Brief	5-Apr-16
2	Uttar Pradesh: A brief on rising crime rates	Issue Brief	9-May-16
3	The Geospatial Information Regulation Bill 2016	Talking Points	11-May-16
4	Public Health Care in Uttar Pradesh	Issue Brief	25-May-16
5	The State of Delhi Bill 2016	Talking Points	30-May-16
6	Analyzing the Draft National Policy for Women, 2016	Issue Brief	30-May-16
7	Controversial changes to the Citizenship, Act, 1955	Talking Points	10-Jun-16
8	Review of Central Schemes	Supplementary Questions	26-Jul-16
9	Supply of Fertilizers	Supplementary Questions	26-Jul-16
10	Lokpal and Lokayuktas Amendment Bill, 2016	Talking Points	29-Jul-16
11	Electrification of Villages	Supplementary Questions	3-Aug-16
12	Compensation for Victims of Naxalism	Supplementary Questions	8-Aug-16
13	External Support to Insurgent Groups	Supplementary Questions	8-Aug-16
14	The Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2016	Legislative Brief	8-Aug-16
15	Draft New Education Policy 2016: Emerging Issues of Concern	Issue Brief	9-Aug-16
16	Lateral Entry of Civil Servants	Supplementary Questions	9-Aug-16
17	PESA Act	Talking Points	9-Aug-16
18	The Employee's Compensation (Amendment) Bill, 2016	Talking Points	9-Aug-16
19	The Transgender Persons (Protection Of Rights) Bill, 2016	Legislative Brief	9-Aug-16
20	Entry of Foreign Universities: From Privatization to Commodification of Higher Education	Issue Brief	10-Aug-16
21	The Mental Health Care Bill, 2013	Talking Points	10-Aug-16
22	The Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill, 2016	Issue Brief	19-Sep-16
23	Reform of the Indian Medical Council Act 1956	Policy Brief	22-Sep-16
24	Women's Rights: Current Challenges	Issue Brief	26-Sep-16
25	Good Governance, Privacy and Surveillance	Issue Brief	31-Oct-16
26	Anti Trafficking Bill 2016	Legislative Brief	16-Nov-16
27	Sterilization Camps in India: Gaps and Measures	Issue Brief	16-Nov-16
28	Employment in IT Sector	Supplementary Questions	29-Nov-16
29	Ambulance Service	Supplementary Questions	1-Dec-16
30	The Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill, 2016	Legislative Brief	5-Dec-16
31	Tribal Protest and Government's Oppression over Proposed Amendment to Tenancy Laws	Policy Brief	5-Dec-16
32	HIV AIDS (Prevention and Control) Bill 2014	Legislative Brief	5-Jan-17
33	Triple Talaq	Issue Brief	9-Jan-17
34	Ports Bill 2016	Legislative Brief	17-Jan-17

35	Medical Device Draft Rules	Legislative Brief	7-Feb-17
36	The Payment of Wages (Amendment) Bill, 2017	Talking Points	7-Feb-17
37	The Indian Institute of Management Bill, 2017	Legislative Brief	21-Feb-17
38	The Indian National Defense University Bill, 2015	Legislative Brief	28-Feb-17
39	MTP Act 2014	Legislative Brief	1-Mar-17
40	The Divorce [Amendment] Bill, 2017	Legislative Brief	8-Mar-17
41	Maternity Benefit 2016	Legislative Brief	9-Mar-17
42	Anganwadi Centre	Supplementary Questions	9-Mar-17
43	The Enemy Property (Amendment & Validation) Bill, 2016	Legislative Brief	9-Mar-17
44	The Factories Act Bill	Legislative Brief	10-Mar-17
45	Bharat Net Project	Supplementary Questions	16-Mar-17
46	Construction of Toilets	Supplementary Questions	16-Mar-17

POLICY WATCH (WEEKLY)	
Detailed Weekly Round Up of Policy Developments – State/Regional, National and Global. Distributed to about 1200 recipients by email	44 Issues published

COMMUNALISM WATCH (MONTHLY)	
<i>Communalism Watch</i> tracks communal incidents and ideas which are being expressed in several ways in different parts of the country. It is an endeavour to understand the communal agenda of certain organisations/ parties and expose their efforts in trying to break the unity and harmony of the country. Distributed to about 1200 recipients by email	11 Issues published

GENDER WATCH (MONTHLY)	
In March this year we have started a new initiative that focuses specifically on Gender. On the lines of <i>Policy</i> and <i>Communalism Watch</i> , <i>Gender Watch</i> will bring to its readers relevant news, analysis and policy updates from across the country on gender issues every month. It will also feature a lead essay on topical issues. Distributed to about 1200 recipients by email	1 Issue published

MAJOR PUBLIC EVENTS	
April 7–10, 2016	I-Parliament- Support for model parliament organized by Students
Sept. 30–3 Oct. 2016	I-Parliament-II- Support for model parliament organized by Students

MEETINGS/DISCUSSIONS ON POLICY ISSUES				
S. No.	Date	Nature of Event	Title	Participants
1	15-Oct-16	Conference	Battle for the Womb-Surrogacy in India	Ms. Radhika Thapar, Advocate and Advisor, Fertility Law Care (FLC) Gurgaon. Mr. Hari G Ramasubramanian, Chief Consultant, Indian Surrogacy Law Centre. Dr. Shivani Sachdev Gaur, Director, SCI Healthcare & ISIS Hospital. Dr. Rita Bakshi, Proprietor International Fertility Centre. Dr. Manju Dagar, Head of the IVF Centre, W Prateeksha Hospital Gurgaon. Dr. Punit Bedi, Senior Consultant in Obstetrics and Gynecology, Indraprastha Apollo Hospital, New Delhi. Ms. Archana Prasad, (AIDWA) Professor, Centre For Informal Sector and Labour Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University and CEC Member Charu Wali Khanna, Former member of National Commission for Women Four Surrogate Mothers (two each from Delhi and Gujarat).
2	25-Oct-16	RGICS Discussion Series “Narratives on Contemporary India”	“The Trishanku Nation: Memory, Self and Society in Contempt” a Talk	Prof. Deepak Kumar, Professor, Zakir Husain Centre for Educational Studies JNU, New Delhi
3	9-Jan-17	RGICS Discussion Series “Narratives on Contemporary India”	Screening of Documentary Film ‘Rambuai – Mizoram’s Trouble Years’	Dr. Sanjoy Hazarika, Director, Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative New Delhi
4	17-Jan-17	Discussion	A brief interaction on discrimination against dalit communities in the rural electrification program in UP	Dr. Urpelainen, Associate Professor Political Science, Columbia University, U.S.A.
5	1-Feb-17	RGICS Discussion Series “Narratives on Contemporary India”	‘Nachni Tradition in West Bengal and Jharkhand’	Dr. Urmimala Sarkar Munsu, Associate Professor, Centre for Arts and Aesthetics, JNU, New Delhi

6	20-Feb-17	RGICS Discussion Series “Narratives on Contemporary India”-	The idea of Constitutional Democracy and the Maoist insurgency problem in India ‘Narratives of Contemporary India Series - 3’	Dr. Ajay Gudavarthy, Associate Professor, Centre for Political Studies, JNU, New Delhi
7	22-Feb-17	Conference	Population Aging: Policies, Role of Family and Agency of the State	Ruchika Kuba, Associate Professor, Indira Gandhi National Open University Sandhya Gupta, Lecturer, All India Institute of Medical Sciences Jagriti Gangopadhyay, Senior Research Associate, Rajiv Gandhi Institute for Contemporary Studies Moneer Alam Professor, Institute of Economic Growth Mala Kapur Shankardass, Associate Professor, Maitreyi College, Delhi University Manisha Sabharwal Assistant Professor Lady Irwin College, Delhi University Anupama Datta, Director of Policy Research, HelpAge India Manju Chhugani, Principal of Nursing Sciences and Allied Health, Jamia Hamdard
8	10-Mar-17	RGICS Discussion Series “Narratives on Contemporary India”	“Notions of caste and tribe; case of the Jaunsar region of Uttarakhand”	Mr Lokesh Ohri, Author, activist, heritage interpreter. Doctoral fellow in Anthropology South Asia Institute, University of Heidelberg, Germany
9	20-Mar-17	RGICS Discussion Series “Narratives on Contemporary India”	“The Poetics of Reclamation, Dr Bhupen Hazarika’s vision for India”	Mr. Punnap Tej Hazarika,
10	27-Mar-17	RGICS Discussion Series “Narratives on Contemporary India”	“India through the Lenses of Muslim Women”	Ms. Sheeba Aslam Fehmi, Muslim Women’s Rights Activist

THE RAJIV GANDHI RESEARCH ASSISTANTS TO LEGISLATORS PROGRAMME
Rajiv Gandhi - Research Assistants to Legislators Two young interns have been working as the RG-RALS for the year 2016-17

Donors

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 Oodaan Shepherd Society
 SEWA

Audited Financials 2016–2017

Balance Sheet as at March 31, 2017

RAJIV GANDHI FOUNDATION BALANCE SHEET AS AT MARCH 31, 2017			
Particulars	Schedule	As at March 31, 2017 ₹	As at March 31, 2016 ₹
SOURCES OF FUNDS			
Corpus fund	1	1,00,69,29,962	1,00,59,43,624
Restricted fund (Unutilised grant balance)	2	51,98,615	53,84,196
Income and expenditure Account	3	12,13,18,853	10,43,30,516
		<u>1,13,34,47,430</u>	<u>1,11,56,58,336</u>
APPLICATION OF FUNDS			
Fixed assets	4		
Gross block		2,32,30,684	2,30,33,085
Less: Depreciation and amortisation		2,00,43,650	1,90,48,120
Net block		<u>31,87,034</u>	<u>39,84,965</u>
Investments (at cost)	5	1,07,03,65,057	1,06,02,18,193
Current Assets, Loans and Advances	6	7,12,12,106	6,14,91,422
Less: Current liabilities and Provisions	7		
Current liabilities		25,37,498	32,31,439
Provisions		87,79,269	68,04,805
		<u>1,13,16,767</u>	<u>1,00,36,244</u>
Net current assets		5,98,95,339	5,14,55,178
		<u>1,13,34,47,430</u>	<u>1,11,56,58,336</u>
Summary of significant accounting policies and notes to accounts 12			
The schedules referred to above form an integral part of the Balance Sheet			

As per our report of even date attached
 For Haribhakti & Co. LLP
 Chartered Accountants
 ICAI Firm Registration No: 103523W/W100048

Raj Kumar Agarwal
 Partner
 Membership No. 074715



Place : New Delhi
 Date : October 26, 2017

For and on behalf of
 Rajiv Gandhi Foundation

Deepak Chandra
 Secretary

Suman Dubey
 Trustee

Sonia Gandhi
 Chairperson

Sandeep Anand
 Director-Finance

Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended March 31, 2017

RAJIV GANDHI FOUNDATION INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2017

Particulars	Schedule	For the year ended March 31, 2017 ₹	For the year ended March 31, 2016 ₹
INCOME			
Income from investments	8	9,19,38,035	9,28,23,193
Grants and donations		1,23,28,080	1,30,43,685
Other income		33,97,567	8,59,075
		10,76,63,682	10,67,25,953
EXPENDITURE			
Program implementation expenses	9	6,82,59,778	8,03,52,765
Administrative expenses	10	1,93,87,945	1,30,09,649
Non cash expenditure	11	30,27,622	15,85,248
		9,06,75,345	9,49,47,662
(Deficit)/surplus for the year		1,69,88,337	1,17,78,291

Summary of significant accounting policies and notes to accounts 12
The schedules referred to above form an integral part of Income and Expenditure Account


As per our report of even date attached
For Haribhakti & Co. LLP
Chartered Accountants
ICAI Firm Registration No: 103523W/W100048


Raj Kumar Agarwal
Partner
Membership No. 074715



For and on behalf of
Rajiv Gandhi Foundation


Deepak Chandra
Secretary


Suman Dubey
Trustee


Sonia Gandhi
Chairperson


Sandeep Anand
Director-Finance

Place : New Delhi
Date : **October 26, 2017**



The Rajiv Gandhi Foundation (RGF) was established in 1991, to realize the vision of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. He dreamt of a modern India, secular, independent and progressive; a country that enshrines the democratic principle of equality, and blends progress with rich cultural traditions. He imagined a country with an educated people free of prejudice; where women participate as equals; a nation with the space and will to empower all citizens, and especially the underprivileged.

This vision is the Foundation's mandate: to help create a peaceful modern nation with a just society, in which every Indian has the opportunity to fulfil his or her potential.

Since its inception, the RGF has worked on many wide-ranging issues, from literacy, health, disability, and empowerment of the underprivileged, to creating livelihoods, to natural resource management.

RAJIV GANDHI FOUNDATION

Jawahar Bhawan, Dr Rajendra Prasad Road, New Delhi 110 001

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