Minutes of 17th Annual General Meeting (AGM) held in Plenary Hall, Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi on 12th September 2017

The 17th Annual General Meeting of the National Trust was held under the Chairmanship of Dr. Kamlesh Kumar Pandey, Chairman, Board of the National Trust. Shri Mukesh Jain – Joint Secretary & CEO, the National Trust, Trustees of the Board along with representatives of approx. 190 Registered Organizations (ROs) were present in the AGM.

1. At the outset, Sh. Mukesh Jain, JS&CEO welcomed the dignitaries and the participants who joined for the AGM from all over the country. He started his address recalling what was envisioned in the last AGM. He highlighted that, as decided, the National Trust has sanctioned so many projects in the country. However, the target of the National Trust is to cover Rural and Suburban areas also. He called upon the Registered Organizations to start projects in the remotest places also, so that even last of the Divyangjan is not left out. While stressing upon the need of expanding the outreach, he cautioned that the National Trust will never compromise with quality of services.

2. On this occasion, Shri Mukesh Jain, JS&CEO of National Trust, placed the Annual Report of 2016-17 of the National Trust, which was adopted. He also highlighted the progress made in revision of guidelines under the schemes. He said that the proposed synergy of Early Intervention programme under Disha scheme of the National Trust with District Early Intervention Centers (DEIC) under Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK) of M/o Health and Family Welfare will enable children with special need to get the much needed early intervention services in a continuous manner. Similarly, Badhte Kadam-Community Awareness Scheme has been standardized to an extent. The ROs are now requested to organize programmes with a focused subject and target group. Inclusive India Campaign has been extremely successful in its first year with the support of SNACs and ROs. Under Prerna Scheme, a sub-committee of the Board Trustees has been set up for suggesting modifications in this Scheme.

3. Significant achievements have been made in terms of constitution and functioning of Local Level Committees and Legal Guardianship. 10 big States have been covered through Video Conferencing sensitizing the District Authorities about the LLC and their statutory role in appointment of Legal Guardians. Now the authorities are clearer on their role and duties and we feel that in the upcoming year fruitful results will come up.

4. The JS&CEO said that the National Trust is taking appropriate action on the report of Quality Council of India (QCI), which was assigned the work of assessment and quality check of implementation of the schemes by the Registered Organizations. He firmly announced that the National Trust will deal sternly with those who are found to be not implementing the schemes as per its norms and misusing the limited funds of the National Trust in any manner.
5. After address of the JS&CEO, the floor was opened for the questions from the participants. The questions raised by the ROs and the reply made on these by the JS&CEO is as under –

Q1) Benefit of Rs.1 Lakh should not be bifurcated and to be made lumpsum for flexibility of usage by the beneficiary. Size of e-card should be reduced. Reply) The JS&CEO said that Niramaya is shortly going to be merged with Swavlamban Health Insurance Scheme of DEPwD and best features would be adopted. This is under process in DEPwD.

Q2) Local Level Committee-Dhanbad is dysfunctional, even Disability Certificates are not being issued since last 26 years. Rajasthan is also having the problem related to LLCs. Disability Certificates are not issued below 6 years in Punjab and Chandigarh and this is posing as a hurdle in running the Disha Scheme of the National Trust. It was suggested that in this case, the R.O.s should be authorized to issue the Bonafide Certificate to the children with disabilities.

Reply) The JS&CEO requested SNACs and ROs to be proactive in reaching out to the District and State Authorities for expediting various issues related to Divyangians. SLCCs to be activated and all possible steps should be taken. Wherever need be the National Trust would also intervene.

Q3) Parent Training programmes and sensitization programmes for Govt. officials is necessary and should be included by the National Trust in its activities.

Reply) Parents Training programme is covered under BK Scheme and every new idea/concept for awareness has a scope in BK Scheme which may be used. Research work is covered under Innovative Project and that can be utilized.

Q10) LLC in a particular district is not functioning because there is no organization registered with the National Trust, in that particular district.

Reply) The JS & CEO informed that if in a particular district, no R.O. is there, in that case the LLC R.O. member can be from the nearby district also. He further stressed that the ROs should also work towards engaging Corporate Sector in their activities and there is no dearth of people who want to donate funds for the welfare of disadvantaged groups.
6. Other suggestions made in the meeting are –

(i) The National Trust Act Amendment should be in alignment with UNCRPD.

(ii) Social Role Valorisation is a very good concept and needs to be taken up all over the country.

(iii) At the time of Board Meetings, ROs should also be consulted by Board Trustees on agendas, so that concrete actions can be taken.

(iv) Registration Criteria should be relooked. Best practices should be promoted.

(v) Preparation of Aadhar Card for some Divyangjan is a problem. Some Divyangjan face problem in hand function and eye contact due to which they face difficulty in making their Aadhar card. This needs to be taken up with the relevant authorities.

(vi) SNAC-Haryana suggested that the staff appointed in Samarth and Gharanda Centres should have police verification. I-Card for SNACs should also be issued.

The Chairperson, National Trust in his concluding address welcomed all the participants and informed that the new RPWD Act, 2016 will be implemented soon. He emphasized the need of eradicating bad attitude towards Divyangjan from the Society. For the same, he urged all the participants for their cooperation and joint efforts. He also expressed the hope that with the help of the ROs and the Board Trustees, the National Trust will be successful to a large extent to fulfill the needs of Divyangjan.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks by Smt Indrani Basu, Trustee of the Board.

(As approved by Dr. Kamlesh Kumar Pandey)
Chairperson of the Board of the National Trust