

Yatra Foundation Australia

# “Opportunity through education”

2017-18 Financial Year  
ANNUAL REPORT



**“Education offers children a ladder out of poverty and a path to a promising future. But about 264 million children and adolescents around the world do not have the opportunity to enter or complete school. They are thwarted by poverty, discrimination, armed conflict, emergencies and the effects of climate change”**

**– UNICEF <https://www.unicef.org/education>**

## Our mission

Yatra Foundation aims to:

-  **Increase access to quality education** for the most severely disadvantaged children in rural and remote India
-  **Be non-discriminatory** with regards to gender, religious background and caste
-  **Monitor outcomes and adapt programs** to suit the changing needs of our partners and the communities that benefit
-  **Increase access to education in student numbers and the years of schooling** by providing incentives for further education
-  **Incorporate child health education and public health initiatives** into the school curriculum



## Our vision

The value of education in changing the life trajectory for children cannot be underestimated.

The basic right to education is well established however in many parts of the world, access to a quality education is still not a reality ([www.unicef.org/crc/](http://www.unicef.org/crc/)) The World Development Report (World Bank <http://www.worldbank.org/en/publication/wdr2018>) state that "education has long been critical to human welfare, but it is even more so in a time of rapid economic and social change. The best way to equip children and youth for the future is to place their learning at the centre". In 2009 India enacted the Right to Education Act making India one of 135 countries to make education a fundamental right of every child (<https://www.mhrd.gov.in/rte>). This further strengthens the critical role for accessibility

to quality education for all children. Yatra Foundation together with their partner organizations, is able to make access to quality education a reality for many children.

Yatra acknowledges the many complexities in delivering education to the disparate Indian population. Currently the education system is state based in its delivery and the educational outcomes and literacy rates variable depending on state and locality. For this reason, partnering with locally based NGO's allows delivery of education that is regionally appropriate and meets the needs of those communities.

With a focus on improving access for girls and ensuring a non-discriminatory enrolment process, the vision is to increase opportunity to these children and their families through education.



## Our history

Yatra Foundation (Yatra meaning 'journey' in Hindi) was founded in 2008 by four friends with a shared common goal of improving opportunities and outcomes for some of the most disadvantaged children in India through access to a quality education.

Having been given such opportunities themselves and with a desire to 'make a difference', Yatra was conceived. Ten years into that journey, we have come a long way and are now supporting over 1200 children in their educational journeys. Our passion and determination to continue with this vision and work remains firm.

## About us

### Partner Organisations

#### Seva Mandir

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Seva Mandir is a Non-Governmental Organisation that has been working in the villages of southern Rajasthan, India, since 1968, and now covers more than 1200 tribal villages. These villages are behind in most human development indicators including education, health and income. Seva Mandir has worked in partnership with these villagers to build stronger and more ethical communities and to collectively improve their material well-being. Through its programmes on governance, health, education, sustainable use of natural resources, women's empowerment, youth development, childcare and social enterprise, Seva Mandir makes a tangible, inclusive and transformative impact.

Yatra Foundation has been supporting Seva Mandir education program (Shiksha Kendra) since 2012. The partnership between Yatra Foundation and Seva Mandir has evolved over the last six years. Input from Yatra foundation has increased with time from the initial support for 10 Shiksha Kendras (SK) increasing to 20 SKs in the succeeding years. The relation between Yatra Foundation and Seva Mandir is becoming stronger every year, not only with financial support but also strengthening the program through the visits and feedback to Seva Mandir and provision of dental and medical camps at the schools.

#### Gramin Shiksha Kendra (GSK)

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Gramin Shiksha Kendra (GSK) is a non-Governmental organization based in Rajasthan, India, on the fringe of the tiger reserve Ranthambore. GSK was first established in 1997 but the first school was not launched until 2004. GSK believes that schools are an extension of the community. They are not delinked from the society but an integral part of it. For the society to change, schools will play a crucial role. And for schools to improve, communities need to engage with the schools. The GSK program is built on the idea that the community is a partner in the process of education, rather than schools being merely a service provider to them. Thus community involvement lies at the heart of all GSK's interventions.

Yatra Foundation established a partnership with GSK in 2008 and the combined efforts have focused around the Fariya community. The strong relationship has enabled children within the nearby communities to attend the school and become engaged in co-curricular activities such as the sports programs. Yatra Foundation continue to support more than 125 students enrolled at the Fariya school and will continue this partnership until transition to full community ownership.

## Isha Vidhya

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Isha Vidhya is a not-for-profit education initiative, working for the economic and social empowerment of rural children in the villages across southern state of Tamil Nadu, India. The foundation is committed to raising the level of education and literacy in rural India and to helping disadvantaged children realize their full potential. This has created the possibility for the rural children to pursue higher education or find gainful employment and thus build a strong foundation for the future of these children and elevate themselves out of poverty. The foundation, through its Isha Vidhya schools, offer a nurturing approach to education in villages. Isha Vidhya has been an active supporter of promoting education among female children in the villages and all Isha Vidhya schools have seen an increased enrolment of girls.

Isha Vidhya functions on a grass-roots level, relying on community involvement and the support of innumerable volunteers and donors. Isha Vidhya currently runs 9 schools. Yatra Foundation has partnered with Isha Vidhya for their Cuddalore school program via teacher salary and teacher training. This enables Isha Vidhya to recruit and retain the best available teachers. The teacher training program targeted at local rural teachers further extends the reach of Isha Vidhya, and leverages the effectiveness by reaching much greater numbers of needy children.





GSK Faria school March 2018 during the medical and dental camps in conjunction with Yatra Foundation

## 2017-18 Summary of the year

- In **August 2017** Yatra hosted the annual fundraising event at St Kilda Town Hall with the generous support of City of Port Phillip and the many other donors. The event was an outstanding success with more than 300 guests attending. Students from Wesley College doing the International Baccalaureate program volunteered time and energy in the preparation and running of the event.
- In **November 2017**, Yatra Foundation directors Ravi Savarirayan and Sanjay Jain took a group of keen cycling enthusiasts on a cycling tour around Rajasthan. The final leg of the journey took the group on the dusty road to the villages outside of Udaipur, which is the location for the Seva Mandir schools (see [www.yatrafoundation.org](http://www.yatrafoundation.org) for complete report).
- The permanent brick school buildings at Faria were completed this year and a funding for a well has provided the children with a reliable source of clean drinking water.
- In **March 2018** a group from Australia consisting of medical doctors, dentists, registered nurses and a team of supporters travelled to India and visited the three Yatra schools. A medical and dental camp was conducted in conjunction with local health practitioners at each school site. Basic health parameters were collected for the children and these data can be seen in the attached spreadsheets. The children overall were underweight, but there were no major health problems. Many had dental issues and the local dental teams who assisted with the dental camps are following up on dental care for those children.



## Our people



**Sanjay Jain**

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**Director and member**

2008 – ongoing



**Sophie Beaumont**

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**Director, member and secretary**

2008 – ongoing



**Renu Biyankia**

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**Member**

2008 – ongoing



**Ravi Savarirayan**

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**Director and member**

2008 – ongoing

## Structure & management

Yatra Foundation Australia is registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC).

## Our objectives and activities

The objectives for Yatra Foundation for the upcoming year include:

- ✓ Continued support for our partner organisations
- ✓ Implementation of an independent audit of the programs
- ✓ Continue to work with our local supporters
- ✓ Improve the awareness of Yatra and it's projects and goals in Australia
- ✓ Increase the support network
- ✓ Increase the financial support
- ✓ Improve programs based on feedback from the communities
- ✓ Implementation of health and community welfare projects

*Photo of Seva Mandir village school on day of Yatra Foundation visit when medical and dental camp was conducted, March 2018*



## Financial statements



Opportunity Through Education

265 Pigdon Street, Carlton North Vic 3045

Dear Sir/Madam,

Please find the attached summary of our financial activities for the FY 17/18 of this summary.

### Opening Balance \$66,986.97

Income	PayPal	Events	Donations	GST	Int. Rec	Total
01/07/17 - 30/09/17	3,303.38	90,589.39	6,781.00	1,120.00	178.87	101,972.64
01/10/17 - 29/12/17	1,953.51	27,602.02	5,210.00		208.16	34,973.69
30/12/17 - 29/03/18		4,358.40	6,010.00		226.82	10,595.22
01/04/18 - 30/06/18	2,455.40	1,278.26	10,288.88		221.23	14,243.77
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,712.29</b>	<b>123,828.07</b>	<b>28,289.88</b>	<b>1,120.00</b>	<b>835.08</b>	<b>161,785.32</b>

**161,785.32**

	Expenses	Distributions	Fundraising Exp	Bank Charges	Other
<b>01/07/17 - 30/09/17</b>	Merchant Fees			281.52	
14/07/17	CHQ86 City of Port Philip/Security		2,353.50		
21/07/17	CHQ87 MD Insurance Brokers		732.05		
25/07/17	TFER to GSK	25,035.00			
2/08/17	TFER to SEVA	18,035.00			
	TFER to ISHA	20,535.00			
9/08/17	DJ		450.00		
29/08/17	TFER to GSK	10,035.00			
5/09/17	City Of Port Philip/Deposit Refund		- 1,000.00		
6/09/17	CHQ88/Gaylords Catering		10,200.00		
<b>01/10/17 - 29/12/17</b>	Merchant Fees			186.45	
13/09/17	TFER to SEVA	29,535.00			
<b>30/12/17 - 29/03/18</b>	Merchant Fees			214.45	
	CHQ89 City of Port Philip		1,025.00		
	TAX				640.00
<b>30/03/18 - 29/06/18</b>	Merchant Fees			347.37	
12/04/18	TFER to ISHA	20,535.00			
		<b>123,710.00</b>	<b>13,760.55</b>	<b>1,029.79</b>	<b>640.00</b>

### Closing Nab Bank Bal (81-287-6964) \$89,631.95

New FD 36-234-1371	132,529
Interest for FY 17/18	3,148.48
<b>Term Deposit Closing Bal</b>	<b>135,677.44</b>

Sincerely,

**Sanjay Jain - Director**

## Acknowledgments & thank you

Grants and funding

**City of Port Phillip CUTHS grant 2017**

Volunteers

**Wesley College Melbourne IB students**

**IPG Wesley College**

Our supporters - corporate and community

Yatra Foundation gratefully acknowledges the support both financial and in-kind from the many individuals and organisations that donate and provide support.

## How you can help

### Become a member

Contact [info@yatrafoundation.org](mailto:info@yatrafoundation.org) or go to our website [www.yatrafoundation.org](http://www.yatrafoundation.org)

### Volunteer your time

Contact [info@yatrafoundation.org](mailto:info@yatrafoundation.org) or go to our website [www.yatrafoundation.org](http://www.yatrafoundation.org)

### Make a donation

Visit our website and click on '**donate**' for more information

Electronic Funds Transfer can be made directly to:

Account name: Yatra Foundation

BSB: 083-088

Account number: 81 287 6964

Or by cheque payable to Yatra Foundation  
C/O 265 Pigdon Street  
Princes Hill VIC 3054

### Support an event or fundraising activity

Please contact **Sophie Beaumont** on **0414 834 855** or **Renu Binaykia** on **0412 109 944** for more information



**“Every child  
has a right to  
an education,  
general and  
vocational”**





## Contact us

Yatra Foundation Australia

[www.yatrafoundation.org](http://www.yatrafoundation.org)

[info@yatrafoundation.org](mailto:info@yatrafoundation.org)

