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Who are we?





'Ektara' is an NGO, registered under a Trust working relentlessly towards providing free & compulsory education, livelihood skill and Vocational training to the children, girls and women of economically backward communities in the slum areas of Topsia and Tiljala in Kolkata. The mission of 'Ektara' is to uplift and provide social and educational opportunities for disadvantaged children and women residing in these and adjoining areas.



Ektara was set up in August, 2011, as a very small establishment, with the sole purpose of educating those women and children, who would not normally get the opportunity to avail quality education. It is a non-profit organisation, dedicated to the cause of spreading education as a way to empower the youth and to develop within the underprivileged women



vocational skills that would give them a fighting chance at earning their own livelihood.

With the completion of our fifth year since inception, we are faced with the daunting task of commencing the Primary section Class 1, to start with. It is delightful watching teachers bring alive new curriculum through various interactive modules, worksheets and also encouraging students towards fun learning and help them assimilate the overall syllabus at best of their ability.

Our resources are being used to their full capacity, and with a dedicated staff we have been able to achieve heights we never imagined possible. This journey started with small hearts harbouring big dreams, and it is the blessings of our well wishers and the determination of those involved in this project that has brought us this far. We hope that our well wishers continue to believe in us so that we, as an organisation, can continue to flourish the way we have.

Namrata Sureka & Vinita Saraf.

Advisory Board

Ms. Kumud Agarwal, Ms. Kusum Khemka, Ms. Sangita Karnani,

Ms Anita Kanoi, Ms. Malika Jalan, Ms. Bela Saraf, Ms. Alka Patodia

Ektara's Mission

Ektara' is an NGO, registered under a Trust working relentlessly towards providing free & compulsory education, livelihood skill and Vocational training to the children, girls and women of economically backward communities in the slum areas of Topsia and Tiljala in Kolkata. The mission of 'Ektara' is to uplift and provide social and educational opportunities for disadvantaged children and women residing in these and adjoining areas.

Objectives

- 1. Provide holisitic care for overall development.
- 2. Provide quality education for all ages.
 - 3. Introduce good personal and general hygiene practices in THE COMMUNITY.
- 4. Encourage and enable each child to become an INDEPENDENT

THINKER AND SELF LEARNER.

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- 5. Provide employment oriented skill training.
- 6. Help transform the community by encouraging community **ACTION FOR SOCIAL CHANGE**

Initiatives

- 1. Hand washing: a supervised practise among the children.
- 2.Survey conducted on menstruation.
- 3. The Garbage Project, in association with Connect Club, Modern High School for Girls.
- 4.Distribution of undergarments to all children attending school at Ektara.
- 5. Eye Camp conducted on 8th August
- 6. General Health Camp conducted on 21st November.

From the Coordinators' Desk



Ms. Manjusmita Bagchi coordinator of the Education Program, and the designated 'Mother' of Ek Tara, finally caught a break on Saturday. Having switched roles from a teacher to her current role as a member of the administration, she did not expect to work in the social sector having come from an archaeological background. However, she has now become an intrinsic part of the organisation. She looks forward to the day when Ektara will be a full fledged, self sufficient school.

Mrs. Anupriya Bhattacharyya, a lawyer by degree is constantly resolving in-house problems, while also always managing to arrange fun activities and meals for the kids, does not wish to change anything. As the coordinator of the Health and Hygiene Program, she hopes to see more branches of Ektara blossoming in other parts of Kolkata within the next few years.



Ms Supriya Singh, the youngest member of the administration, a woman of few words and instantaneous results says "each day is a fun and learning experience at Ektara." the dreams and vision that each and every member of the Ektara family harbours is what works best for the organisation according to her.

Mrs. Sharbani Das, the Admin coordinator has a background in Commerce(her work includes networking and liaison, among other things). She is normally glued to her computer, sending out emails and making calls, says that she Ektara as a full developmental package that can only benefit the women and children. Each day is a new battle to fight illiteracy and ignorance amongst the uneducated.





Mr. Sudipta Chowdhury, who manages the accounts at Ektara, feels more at home in the building among his children and his colleagues than anywhere else. He believes that the harmonious functioning of the organisation is what has helped it reach such great heights.

EMPLOYEES' VOICES

"It is a very friendly environment to work in, and the superiors are very helpful and supportive." ~Ankita Yadav (teacher)



"Everybody here does their work responsibly and we all help each other out. This feels like family." ~Shontu Das (kitchen staff)

"It's been 4 years for me as a teacher at Ektara, and everyday is just as exciting as the last." -Daraksha (teacher)

"I feel like I have family here. I'm a cleaner here, but if there is a member of the staff on holiday I do their job too. I don't ever want to leave Ektara." ~Nilufer Ezaz (support staff)

"I share a very good rapport with the children I teach. With each class that I take and fun activity I conduct, I learn a lot from the children as well. ~Afreen Ahmed (teacher)



FAMILY SUPPORT





Razia is a single mother with a young daughter who studies in Ektara. Razia is also employed at Ektara currently as a health advisor. She has played many roles in Ektara since the past two years. She initially finished her teacher's training and joined as a helper teacher. Working at Ektara gave her the confidence

to fulfill her fathers' dream and complete nurse's training, after which she recently became employed as the health advisor for the school children.

Sangeeta started out as a part of the kitchen staff at Apne Aap, and then joined Ektara when it took its roots here.

Sangeeta is a mother of two and has been a paid employee of Ektara for the past 10 years. With time Sangeeta was withdrawn from the kitchen staff and introduced to the outreach program, where her skills were better suited. Both her son and her daughter study at Ektara.

Farzana has been working at Ektara for the past 3 years, and her youngest son has been a student here since he was 3. He is now 7. She works as a member of the support staff at Ektara. Farzana views Ektara as a miracle of sorts, as this organization has rescued her from a very trying time. When she was running her family from a very meager income, and could not even ensure three square meals a day, the job opportunity at Ektara came like a boon. Her husband, who was suffering from an oral disease was also employed by Ektara, and his treatment was also arranged by the organization. "Being employed at Ek Tara has made life tension free for me. I will always remain thankful to all the teachers here," says Farzana.

Childrens' Day celebrations at Ektara

HIGHLIGHTS



Ektara Sports event - Amra Sobai (organised by Modern High School - Connect Club)



Garbage cleaning drive by the school children



Students admitted to mainstream schools



Ektara works with the children and women from the slums of Topsia and Tiljala in the Park Circus area of East Kolkata. For the last 4 years we have been working to ensure availability of education and vocational training to maximum number of beneficiaries from these areas. After moving into our own premises at the beginning of 2014, our efforts multiplied in bringing more women and children under our program

Education Programme:

Ektara has 430 children registered under our formal and non-formal education program.

Montessori:

Ektara runs a free in house pre-school from 10.00am -2.00pm for 150 children aged between 3 to 5 years, who are taught with the help of Montessori aids. We have employed 5 Montessori trained teachers and 3 assistant teachers from the community. The teachers from the community are the girls whose entire education was supported by 'Ektara' and later empowered them as salaried staff member of the organisation. There are 5 caregivers as constant support in this section.

With the help of our trained Montessori teachers 'Ektara' enables the underprivileged kids to compete with the mainstream children when we enrol them into schools.



Primary education:

Class 1 (primary section) was started in April 2015, with 100 students to meet the needs of the increasing numbers of children coming under our facility. This initiative was taken to improve quality and as an attempt to provide them with education to match main stream schools Classes are designed along the lines of a mainstream primary school. Dance, Theatre, Music etc are taught alongside regular school subjects for holistic growth of the children. There are 7 class and subject teachers and a supervisor in this section

The need to start Ektara Primary Education- Keeping in mind the difficulties we face every year with regard to admitting our Montessori trained children into different schools, we set up our own class 1 which will go up to class 2 and so on subsequently. Due to lack of good schools, there is a continuing demand for seats from the relatively affluent communities. Therefore our kids do no stand a chance in this regard.

Lack of good government English medium schools, and private schools being far too expensive, this seemed to be a good option. Our focus is to enable our children to be as close as possible to any mainstream child with access to the same opportunities and education system.

With different schools and increasing numbers of children our transport costs and logistics of getting so many to different locations at varying timings became unmanageable. . As our centre is located very close to the community we work with, we do not need to worry about dropping / picking up the children. They are all within walking distance thereby making it convenient for the mothers.

With us being close to the Community we can have increased involvement from the parents in their child's development. They are called periodically to the community centre to understand the progress and improve upon lapses.

By including Class 1 in our programme, we have given employment to several mothers who look after the cooking of meals of these children, cleaning of the rooms and the toilets, gatekeeping to ensure safety, doing community outreach to get in more children and ensure attendance and health of the children under the program. No one understands their needs better than the mothers.

These children are with us all through the day - as after school hours we do extracurricular classes like dance, theatre, yoga and personality development. This way they stay away from boredom and ill company and also get equipped with better capacity. We provide a safe space near the community where the parents are willing to leave the child for the whole day. This keeps them away from possible anti-social elements and negative influences which they are otherwise susceptible to.

The Class 1 syllabus has been designed in a way to ensure that these children are at par with mainstream schools. We have studied several syllabi and prepared ours, keeping in mind the academic strength of our children and the requirement of the education system. There are 7 main subjects taught: English, Social Skill Development, Hindi (second language), Math, Science, Social Studies and E.V.S. Classes are the 4 main subjects that is held 5 times a week, while the other 3 is conducted on alternate days.

Apart from the regular subjects, there are weekly classes on storytelling (library), art and craft, dance/music, physical training/games and yoga.

Classes commence at 10 am everyday (Mon-Fri) and get over at 2:30 pm. The children get 2 breaks in the middle- a short break after the 3rd period and a 40 min long lunch break after the 7th period.

Meal Program: Ektara ensures every child in the Primary section gets a hot meal cooked in our pantry by our own staff members, who are also women from the community we work with. The meal program of Ektara has been designed by our empanelled nutritionist with utmost care, keeping in mind the required calorie count for the age group. The Menu for lunch is strictly vegetarian which has a varied proportion of food grains, seasonal vegetables soya chunks etc. with a combination of high protein and vitamin diet. Community Involvement-

Parents are encouraged to play an active role in the progress of every child. Twice a month a parent- teachers meeting are held at the centre to make them appreciate the value of education and to involve them in the development of the child. In the event of mid-term drop-out, a member from Ektara visits the parent and if need be counsel them as well. In the event of repeated absenteeism the child is given a warning and parents are called upon to monitor the situation. Assessment and Examination Process-

Weekly assessments are conducted with the help of class tests and work sheets There will be quarterly review of the performance of each child At the end of the second and last quarter, grades are given and final promotion greatly depends on the overall performance of a child throughout the year. Report cards are signed by the parents at the end of each term. Non Formal and NIPS batch: Age group (7-14 yrs)

There are 45 girls in the non-formal education, who have not attended schools before or are drop-outs. There are 2 teachers in this section, specially trained by 'Ektara' workshops to handle the kids to complete the bridge course, eventually training for the school enrolment and eligible for NIOS registration.

<u>School Going Programme:</u> 'Ektara' has 130 children aged between 4 to 18 going to English Medium mainstream schools like 'Jyotirmai Vidya Mandir' at Garcha Road, 'Indira Academy'at Eliot Road, 'Loreto' at Sealdah .The school going children come to the centre at 2:00 pm. and stay till 5:00 pm.

'Ektara' provides facilities to these children like transportation for pick up and drop, school uniform, academic fees and session charges, books and stationeries and after-school tuitions.

After school support: Every school going child comes to Ektara after school to attend the remedial classes. There are designated teachers to take care of their daily homework and examination help. Regular monitoring is conducted on every batch of school going students, be it in terms of attendance or a portion of nutritious snack provided to each child.

Ektara provides support and space to High School students who have full access to the library and computers. Teachers are employed to assist them to complete educational projects, writing skill, developing social skills and Public speaking.

Apart from this, we have volunteers from reputed schools in Kolkata like Modern High School who visit us to teach and interact with our children .Ektara has a continuous flow of overseas volunteers coming to help in our various running projects..

<u>Mainstream School Programme:</u> Ektara has been successful in enrolling 10 brightest young minds into different mainstream schools such as The Park English school, Jewish girls school to name a few.

School Going Programme:

"Ektara' has 130 children aged between 4 to 18 going to English Medium mainstream schools like 'Jyotirmai Vidya Mandir' at Garcha Road, 'Indira Academy'at Eliot Road, 'Loreto' at Sealdah .The school going children come to the centre at 2:00 pm. and stay till 5:00 pm.

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Apart from this we have Volunteers from reputed schools in Kolkata like Modern High School who visit us to teach and interact with our children. We also have Overseas volunteers coming to 'Ek Tara' to help in our Education Program.

Computer literacy is now an integral part of the education program. 'Ektara'computer lab is equipped with nine running computers and a printer which enable the school going kids to complete their syllabus with the help of professional guidance.



Ektara has been successful in enrolling 10 brightest young minds into different mainstream schools such as The Park English school, Jewish girls school to name a few.



VOCATIONAL TRAINING

Ektara has always been a firm believer in women empowerment, be it through education, or the training to enable them to earn a living for themselves.

The vocational training program has been a success ever since its inception. The students under this program are guided and mentored by Rita Roy.

All our products are made from recycled materials Clients have taken an immense liking to the products hand made by our students, and often invite them to showcase their products at events.



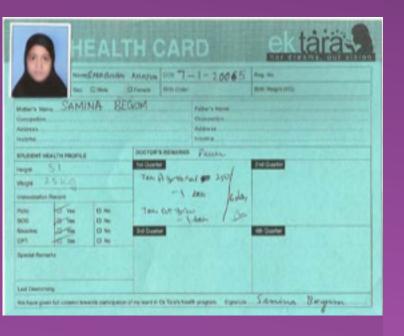






HEALTH

At Ektara all children are issued with a health card.





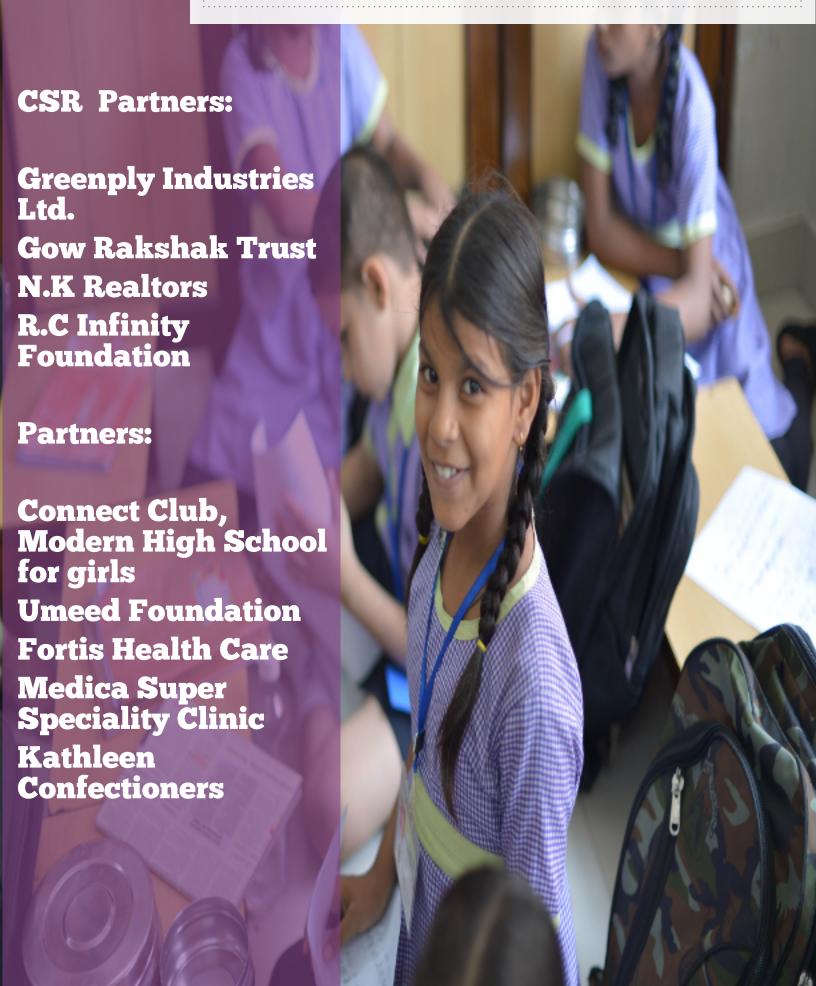


EKTARA'S STAFF





PARTNERS AND WELL-WISHERS



Form No. 10B (See Rule 17B)

Audit Report under section 12A(b) of the Income-tax Act, 1961, in the case of charitable or religious trusts or institutions

We have examined the Balance Sheet of EKTARA (AAATE4228J) as at 31.03.2016 and the Income & Expenditure account for the year ended on that date which are in agreeement with the books of account maintained by the said trust or institution.

We have obtained all the information and explanations which to the best of our knowledge and belief were necessary for the purposes of the audit. In our opinion, proper books of account have been kept by the head office of the above named trust / institution visited by us so far as appears from our examination of the books.

In our opinion and to the best of our information, and according to information given to us, the said accounts give a true and fair view : -

- In the case of the balance sheet of the state of affairs of the above name trust / institution as at 31.03.2016,
- (ii) In the case of the Income & Expenditure account, of the excess of Income over Expenditure of its accounting year ending on 31.03.2016.

The pescribed particulars are annexed hereto.

For, DAVA & ASSOCIATES

Chartered Accountants Firm Regn No. 114157W

(CA. Roshan Agrawal) Partner

M.No. 404539

PAN - AAEFD6895L

Place : Kolkata

Date: The 27th day of June, 2016

Other Offices : Chandrapur & Delhi

31/1. TOPSIA ROAD (SOUTH), KOLKATA - 700 046

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH, 2016

Amount (3)

LIABILITIES	AS ON 31.03.2016	ASSETS	AS ON 31.03.2016
TRUST FUND (As per Schedule "A")	1,10,96,014.00	FIXED ASSETS (As per Schedule "C")	15,33,339.31
CURRENT LIABILITIES & PROVISIONS (As per Schedule "B")	4,91,707.00	CURRENT ASSETS, LOANS & ADVANCES (As per Schedule "D")	2,63,302.00
		CASH & BANK BALANCES BALANCE WITH SCHEDULE BANK	22.55.520.60
		(As per Schedule "E") Axis Bank Limited (Fixed Deposit)	23,55,520.69 70,00,000.00
		CASH -IN-HAND	4,35,559.00
TOTAL	1,15,87,721.00	TOTAL	1,15,87,721.00

Significant Accounting Policies

Schedule "F"

The Schedule referred above form an integral part of the Balance Sheet.

In terms of our report of even date attached

For, DAVA & Associates Chartered Accountants Firm Regn. No. 114157W Marra 12 -

(CA. Roshan Agrawal)

Partner M.No: 404539

Place: Kolkata

Dated: The 27th day of June, 2016

Vannala Smelle Vinta lang

31/1. TOPSIA ROAD (SOUTH), KOLKATA - 700 046

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 2016

Amount (₹)

EXPENDITURE	AS ON 31.03.2016	INCOME	AS ON 31.03.2016
Program Expenses		By Donation received	82,37,788.00
To Nutrition Program Expenses	15,34,136.00	By Income from Vocational Training	7,66,686.00
To Health Program Expenses	13,81,308.00	By Income from Interest	
To Student Education Program Expenses	41,31,734.00	On Savings Account	1,68,440.00
To Vocational Training Program Expenses	17,57,109.00	On Fixed Deposits	4,92,034.00
		On I.T. Refund	1,135.00
Office & Administrative Expenses			
To Audit Fees	17,175.00		
To Bank Charges	608.22		
To Conveyance Expenses	2,641.00		
To Depreciation	1,91,552.00		
To Electricity Expenses	20,562.00		
To Misc. Expenses	4,512.00		
To Office Expense	49,674.00		
To Postage & Courier	1,613.00		
To Printing & Stationery	1,04,351.00		
To Professional Fees	68,875.00		
To Repair & Maintenance	18,625.00		
To Salary	1,61,400.00		
To Telephone & Internet Charges			
To Travelling Expenses	28,746.00		
	6,352.00		
To Website Development Expenses	1,68,852.00		
To Excess of Income over Expenditure	16,257,78		
TOTAL	96,66,083.00	TOTAL	96,66,083.00

Significant Accounting Policies

Schedule "F"

The Schedule referred above form an integral part of the Income & Expenditure A/c.

In terms of our report of even date attached

For, DAVA& Associates Chartered Accountants Firm Regn. No. 114157W

- CEMATR

(CA. Roshan Agrawal)

Partner M.No: 404539

Place: Kolkata

Dated: The 27th day of June, 2016

EK TARA

FOR, EKTARA

EK TARA

TRUSTEE

TRUSTEE

Schedule Annexed to and forming part of the Balance Sheet as at 31st March, 2016 and Income & Expenditure Account for the year ended on that date

FIXED ASSETS AS ON 31ST MARCH, 2016

Schedule- "C"

Amount (₹)

BLOCK OF ASSETS	RATES	WDV AS	ADDIT	10NS	TOTAL ADDITION	DEDUCTIONS	TOTAL AS		WDV AS
OF DEP	OF DEP.	0N 01.04.2015	UPTO SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER ONWARDS	DURING THE YEAR	DURING THE YEAR	ON 31.03.2016	DEPRECIATION	ON 31.03.2016
BLOCK-1				- CHINALOS	167.00	100	31.03.2010		31/43/2010
PLANT & MACHINERY	15%	19,862.16					19,862.16	2,979.00	16.883.16
AQUAGUARD	15%	8,619.00					8,619.00	1,293.00	7,326.00
OFFICE EQUIPMENT	15%	17,297.45	12,203.00	43,176.00	55,379.00		72,676.45	7,663.00	65,013.45
AIR CONDITION	15%	5,504.00					5,504.00	826.00	4,678.00
CCTV CAMERA	15%			48,147,00	48,147.00		48,147.00	3,611.00	44,536.00
VEHICLE - TATA MAGIC	15%		4,50,000.00	-	4,50,000.00	-	4,50,000.00	67,500.00	3,82,500.00
	H	51,282.61	4.62.203.00	01 222 00	5 50 50/ 60				
		31,606,01	4,62,203.00	91,323.00	5,53,526.00		6,04,808.61	83,872.00	5,20,936.61
BLOCK - 2 COMPUTERS	60%	27,698.10							
COMPUTERS (GR)	60%	27,698.10		2,222.22			27,698.10	16,619.00	11,079.10
COME O LENG (UR)	0070			26,350.00	26,350.00		26,350.00	7,905.00	18,445.00
		27,698.10		26,350.00	26,350.00		54,048,10	24,524.00	29,524.10
									27,024.10
BLOCK-3									
FURNITURE & FIXTURES	10%	5,72,048.60	15,941.00	4,04,084.00	4,20,025.00		9.92,073.60	79,003.00	0.12.020.00
FURNITURE & FIXTURES (GP)	10%		- 17	25,750.00	25,750.00		25,750.00		9,13,070.60
FURNITURE & FIXTURES (GR)	10%	- 1		39,121.00	39,121.00		39,121.00	1,956.00	24,462.00
FIRE EXTINGUISER	10%	9,090.00					9,090.00		37,165.00
							7,070,00	909.00	8,181.00
		5,81,138.60	15,941.00	4,68,955.00	4,84,896.00		10,66,034.60	83,156.00	9,82,878.66
									7,00,010
TOTAL:		6,60,119.31	4,78,144.00	5,86,628.00	10,64,772.00		17,24,891.31	1,91,552.00	15,33,339.3



Schedule Annexed to and forming part of the Balance Sheet as at 31st March, 2016 and Income & Expenditure Account for the year ended on that date

Schedule- "A"

TRUST FUND

Particulars		
	Amount (₹)	Amount (₹)
Trust Fund		
Opening Balance	0.000	
Add: Donations received towards Corpus Fund	97,33,120.00	
	10,00,000.00	1,07,33,120.00
excess of Income over Expenditure		
pening Balance	244404	
add: Excess of Income over Expenditure during the year	3,46,636.22	
r and an ing the year	16,257.78	3,62,894.00
TOTAL		
101110		1,10,96,014.00

Schedule- "B"

CURRENT LIABILITIES & PROVISIONS

Particulars	Amount (₹)	Amount (₹)
<u>Current Liabilities</u>		
Audit Fees Payable	15,675.00	
Liabilities for Expenses	4,69,200.00	4,84,875.00
Duries & Taxes		
TDS Payable		6,832.00
TOTAL		4,91,707.00



Schedule Annexed to and forming part of the Balance Sheet as at 31st March, 2016 and Income & Expenditure Account for the year ended on that date

Schedule- "D"

CURRENT ASSETS, LOANS & ADVANCES

Particulars		
Deposit	Amount (₹)	Amount (₹)
School Bus	23,600.00 24,000.00	47,600.00
Loans & Advances Accrued Interest on F.D. Advance to Employees Prepaid Expenses Sundry Advances	1,21,390.00 1,400.00 16,625.00 903.00	1,40,318.00
Balance with Revenue Authority TDS Receivable		75,384.00
TOTAL		2,63,302.00

Schedule- "E"

BALANCE WITH SCHEDULE BANKS

Particulars	Amount (₹)	Amount (₹)
Axis Bank Limited - 911010040363125 Axis Bank Limited - 915110056226456 HDFC Bank Limited - 50200006771901	14,69,787.69 8,40,733.00 45,000.00	23,55,520.69
TOTAL		23,55,520.69



