



# AAMBRA FOUNDATION



## ANNUAL REPORT

2016-17

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A A M B R A

Aambra Foundation

# INTRODUCTION

AAMBRA Foundation is a Government of India registered Non-Profit Organization, approved under section 80G of Income Tax Act 1961. AAMBRA came into formal inception in the year 2012 although it had been actively engaged in championing women's causes for quite some time. The Foundation has conducted several national level seminars; and consumer awareness and skill development workshops in New Delhi, free of cost, towards the wider objective of women empowerment through information dissemination and skill development. The foundation has been proactive in highlighting issues of contemporary relevance for the common Indian and also the, Government, bureaucracy, media and civil society. Aambra Foundation is actively involved in promoting gender equality by bridging gender gap and empowering women through She Speaks. We have successfully been able to provide the non-formal education to children who are not enrolled or dropped out or have certain specific learning problems that are not fulfilled in the formal system of education as imparted in schools and academic institutions. Our skill development training targets disempowered women with a view to making them economically independent. Training programmes on costume jewelry making are regularly organized for these women. The programme helps the trainees learn the art of trendy and fashionable jewelry making and designing. More than 500 women have benefited under the free of cost training programme.

## From the Founder's Desk



With the turn of this year, it gives me immense pleasure to present the Aambra Annual Report for 2016-17, which provides a glimpse of what we did and achieved this year through our synergized efforts.

Every small step that we take to reach out to the others is a small journey towards the mammoth task of improving the canvas of human lives. We touch human life in many ways. There are social constructs and paradigms as old as human civilization is on our planet. There are many things around us which we have observed right from the time when we were born so much so that we stop noticing them or pondering about them. We feel gender bias is one such area where more needs to be done than is being done. One of our primary objectives as an organization is to highlight issues of contemporary relevance to the modern Indian. We believe both the genders complement each other and are not in competition with each other to prove supremacy. Collaborative approaches once again paid the desired result. During the year we effectively initiated our project Shespeaks. Aambra Foundation actively involved in promoting gender equality by bridging gender gap and women empowering through SheSpeaks. The gender sensitization program under shepeaks got attention of more than 1000 women. Aambra foundation tried to spread the fragrance of colors of diverse cultures of India by celebrating AAMBROTSAVE an Indian cultural festival & celebration of Indian art, craft, culture, cuisine and literature. Our foundation activities received the constant media attention. Aambra foundation has strong volunteer support, a strong work ethic and is steered by eminent citizens of India. So, in this way we are enthusiastic in expanding our operations in women empowerment education and culture.

A small, square image showing a handwritten signature in black ink on a light-colored background. The signature appears to read 'Vinita Bakshi'.

Vinita Bakshi

# Vision and Objective

## **Vision:**

A society that promotes and protects the rights of women, children and the disempowered people, that accords primacy to the principles of equality and dignity, and wherein obscurantist principles and practices are discarded

## **Mission:**

Promote gender equality by bridging gender gap and empowering women in need of protection

Practice socially inclusive and holistic development

Strengthen enabling environment for development of dispossessed and disempowered people

Build synergy among individuals, institutions and commoners through debates, dialogues and congregations

# Our Location



# Our Projects



AAROHAN



AAMBROTSAVE



SHESPEAKS

# Aarohan

Aarohan Project has two main components:

- Non-Formal Education (NFE)
- Skill Development Training

## **Non-Formal Education (NFE)**

The constitution of India (Eight-Six Amendment) Act, 2002 inserted article 21-A provide free and compulsory education (RTE) of all children in the age group of six to fourteen years as a fundamental right for every child. Unfortunately, it was reported that those children's who did not get the proper elementary school education in their earliest age shows the bad performance in primary schools like problems attending school, making friends and in learning rather than those who got the elementary school education during their earliest age (Annual Status of Education Report).



## Our Non-Formal Education Centre at Central Delhi

So our motive through Aarohan project education (NFES) to the children (and also people of other age groups) who are not enrolled or dropped out or have certain specific learning problems that are not fulfilled in the formal system of education as imparted in schools and academic institutions Aambra Foundation has set up the first NFE Centre in Central Delhi primarily covering children from low income and underprivileged families. The Centre now imparts non lessons taught have multiple components as

1. Elementary Arithmetic
2. Basic Hindi
3. Basic English
4. Moral Education
5. Yoga
6. Curricular activities
7. Life Skills



## Skill Development Training

Our skill development training targets disempowered women with a view to making them economically independent. Training programme on jewellery designing is periodically organized for these women. The programme helps the trainees learn the art of trendy and fashionable jewellery making and designing. More than 500 women have benefited under the free of cost training programme. Trainer, Tools and Raw material were all provided by the Aambra Foundation.



India is home to a variety of ancient cultures and traditions. AAMBRA Foundation has conceptualized Ambrotsave a celebration of India's glorious tradition of art, craft, cuisine, literature and contemporary culture. Through AAMBROTSAVE, we will not only celebrate and spread our legacy through theatre, cinema, cuisine, dance and music but will also help revive waning arts and weaves. We also aspire to promote Indian literature, prose, poetry, works of fiction, reading, writing and journalism.

Through "Ambrotsave" celebration our objective is to keep ourselves connected to our roots while we progressively march ahead with modernization. India is a colourful cauldron of multiple communities, practices, heritage and traditions. Our flourished and diverse cultures have so much to share with each other and the world at large. AAMBRA Foundation aspires to be a conduit for the information within and among the diverse communities and educate them about best practices and ethics ubiquitous to our pan Indian culture. Our culture is our biggest strength and is reflected through our books, folklore, visual narratives, music, cuisine, dance and theatre. We walk this journey which enriches our everyday experiences with our distinct identities and yet something keeps us together just like a bouquet of flowers. Aambrotsave is a salute to that thread.

# Aambrotsave

Aambrotsave - our annual cultural Festival with four components, and interspersed with small cultural events throughout the year.

Literature Festival -- **Aambrotsave Kitaab**  
Instrumental and Performing Arts Festival --  
**Aambrotsave Raas**  
Art and Craft Festival -- **Aambrotsave Haat**  
Food Festival -- **Aambrotsave Pakwaan**



# SheSpeaks



She Speaks is a flagship project of the Aambra Foundation. It was conceptualized to give a voice to issues relating to women and celebrate their strength and success. We invite accomplished and inspiring men and women from different walks of life to share their stories of success, struggle and challenges and present case studies.

Across centuries and continents, especially in South Asia, a woman's voice has remained stifled due to socio-economic, politico-religious and other factors. There is a viciousness in the name of family honor/shame and so on that prevents women from openly talking about their troubles. She Speaks hence endeavors to give a voice to the silent sufferings of these women.

SheSpeaks is pleased to announce that a helpline project has been initiated with the aim of providing support services to adolescent girls and women facing mental distress. Our helpline services are also designed to cater to the specific needs of women with special needs and older women, in

order to further encourage and facilitate inclusivity of women from all aspects of life to voice their concerns.

**OUR AIM:** She Speaks is our dialogue with everyone, men and women both. One of the biggest challenges that half of the world population or women face is – Gender disparity. We at AAMBRA Foundation believe that healthy discussions surrounding the various forms of abuse will help sensitize communities. We create and facilitate a dialogue not only amongst various stake holders of women empowerment but also amongst various communities. We are building this dialogue with student community through our campaigns and contests. Student Zone – #Have Your Say contest with Cash Award incentivization. And our gender quiz during every She Speaks where correct answers win prizes.

**OUR VISION:** SheSpeaks is a platform for women that has been created under the aegis of the Aambra Foundation. Aambra Foundation is a government registered non-profit organization that works towards women empowerment and development. Apart from SheSpeaks, Aarohan and Aambrotsave are two other important projects that are carried out by the foundation. SheSpeaks aims to facilitate the building of a better nation and world for the women. It works towards the upliftment of women from all strata of society, identifying ways of empowering them, highlighting their struggles, co-working towards their resolution, celebrating their success stories and giving them a pedestal to showcase their achievements.







## SHESPEAKS

SheSpeaks was launched in 2016 on

International Women's Day in Delhi University and in year 2016-17, SheSpeaks successfully came up with the following Editions:

### Impact of Culture on Gender Discrimination

**Panelists for She Speaks edition-II**

 Poonam Saxena Editor Brunch HT group	 Padma Vibhushan Dr Sonal Mansingh	 Rashmi Singh Secretary Industry Andaman & Nicobar Islands
 Neelam Saxena Chandra JS UPSC	 Padma Shree Shovana Narayan Kathak exponent	 Padma Shree Malini Awasthi

**Date : 25 July 2016**

**Time: 6:30Pm**

**venue: Gulmohar Auditorium , India Habitat Centre**





In India Habitat Center on July 26, 2017, We explored how culture has defined gender roles. They have evolved hand in hand. We can't dispense with the culture but certainly some attention and care with the instruments of culture will go a long way in bridging gender gaps.

Culture is the single most significant factor that separates human beings from the rest of the animal kingdom.

Sociologically, It is a cumulative deposit of all knowledge, experience, belief systems, values, attitudes, meanings, hierarchies, religion, notions of time, roles, concepts of the cosmos, and material possessions acquired by a group of people in the course of generations through individual and group striving. We don't find any other species of animal kingdom which perpetrates discrimination and injustice to its feminine counterpart as does the human being. In a way we owe all evolving and learning to culture and the entire world order that we see today, we owe to this continuous process of culture. All that is good, bad, ugly, favorable and unfavorable to any class, caste, sex or gender is the by product of this all-encompassing never ending inescapable spectrum. Most evidently, it has favoured and disfavoured a few. A particular gender has been victimized in many ways and we all know over the centuries and generations what has happened? Largely due to biological differences women have been made to suffer – subjugation, confinement, we know of it all.



**Edition 2: SheSpeaks Aambra Foundation organized a panel discussion on Topic- “Impact of Culture on Gender Discrimination” at India Habitat Center on July 26, 2016.**

In this event, we explored how culture has defined gender roles. They have evolved hand in hand. We can't dispense with the culture but certainly some attention and care with the instruments of culture will go a long way in bridging gender gaps.

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few. A particular gender has been victimized in many ways and we all know over the centuries and generations what has happened? Largely due to biological differences women have been made to suffer - subjugation, confinement, we know of it all.

**Edition 3: SheSpeaks Aambra Foundation organized a panel discussion on topic- “How to make ecosystem friendlier towards Women” at India Habitat Center on February 3, 2017**



**Aambra Foundation Presents**

DATE : 3rd February 2017  
TIME : 6:00 PM



VENUE : INDIA HABITAT CENTER  
GULMOHAR HALL


*How To Make The Ecosystem More Friendly  
Towards Working Women*

**Eminent Panelists**

<b>Dr Rebecca Reichmann Tavares</b> UN India Representative	<b>Ms Vinita Sethi</b> Vice President, Apollo Hospitals
<b>Ms Archana Datta</b> former DG, Doordarshan & AIR	<b>Mr Anurag Batra</b> Chairman, Editor in Chief, Businessworld

Q&A, Ambassador - **Ms Manju Seth**  
Introduction & Moderation - **Ms Vinita Bakshi**

Breaking the walls of silence



# How to Make Eco System Friendly Towards Working Women

A major challenge that India faces today is the fact that how to optimize the contribution of women to the economic growth or optimize the impact of women entrepreneurs to the national economy. We all know that we have to create an ecosystem for this which is international in true sense and spirit to foster women's leadership roles in our economy and in general.





A A M B R A

Aambra Foundation

# Media Coverage

## SHE SPEAKS: 'Empowering Their Voices'

August 13, 2016 | Vinita Sharma-Balain - Founder, She Speaks

Delhi recently witnessed the best of women empowerment: She Speaks, organized by Aambra Foundation. It is a non-governmental organization working constantly to empower women through various initiatives. The aim of the event is to strive against gender disparity which remains an entrenched element in our society. They believe that it is imperative that everyone be made aware of this disparity, especially in this country, owing to its unique



She Speaks is a forum where people come together and discuss various socially relevant issues in our country with eminent panelists. Efforts are made to bring distinguished researchers and activists together on a common platform with women who are not so fortunate. The seminar encourages and facilitates a dialogue between the panelists, participants and the audience. Various problems are also identified and their solutions are

Have a story? Tell us!

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# नेशनल एक्सप्रेस

हर खबर समय पर

Date: 04/12/2017 | Page No. : 14 | www.nationalexpress.co.in

## आंब्रा फाउंडेशन ने किया 'शी स्पीक्स' का आयोजन

महिलाओं को जरूरत है सिर्फ अलर्ट रहने की: विनिता बख्शी



## evesly

Home Lifestyle Fashion Food Entertainment Relationship



## Getting trapped into a relationship by a married man - a case study



She kept dating, all one day when she realized, that the visits of her man who had by now relocated to a regional engineering college as a professor, were diminishing.

Vinita Sharma-Balain

209 | SHARE | G+

Healthy and joint is universal and feasible. But what we make of that joint, depends on the effort we have. At times it leads to a Hobson's choice - a dilemma and to a blank wall without solutions. With this thoughtful message, I share with you a case study which kept me awake for good several nights.

This critical case was discussed in an interesting seminar in the national capital on a platform She Speaks. A distinguished panel comprising Pooja Bhandari, Dr. Sonal Masloolik, Padmareshwari Showans Narain, Senior media person Poojanshika, women and child right activist Usha Thakur and JNU's, Neelam Saxena Chandra explored the relationship between gender and culture to packed audience.

Now Archana had the responsibility of not only feeding her own self but also her 2 small children. As a mother she wanted her children to study in a good school. Her parents who lived in Delhi agreed to keep the children only if she would contribute a major portion of the widow pension towards their household expenses and children's expenses. Archana readily agreed to this.

She stood no chance of finding a job in Delhi, as she was in high school herself. So, leaving her children with her parents, she picked up a teaching job in a remote hillside town for her subsistence and gave away her entire monthly pension to her parents towards the boarding, lodging and schooling of her 2 children. A few years passed peacefully. But suddenly one day, a school time friend came into her life, who was now doing a doctorate in IIT Kanpur.

Archana and this boy had always liked each other. He showed great sympathy and love towards her. And they both quietly married in a temple against the girl's parents' wishes. Archana kept the marriage a secret because she feared losing her widow pension and the wherewithal to raise her children. In the both secretly dated for more than a year happily. Till one day when she realized that the visits of her husband who had by now relocated to a regional engineering college as a professor were diminishing.

She decided to visit him and to her horror found that not only had he married another woman, but they also had a 2-year-old child. As if the doctor had not been unkind enough, a major crisis was still looming to unfold as she found herself 3 and half months pregnant.

What was she supposed to do? What a predicament! If she fights judicial battle with her husband for her rights she loses her widow pension, without which she cannot raise her 2 children and as also the unborn child and if she doesn't fight this battle then she loses the battle of dignity and self esteem to her own self.

Archana came to me in a state of deep depression not knowing what should be her next step. What is coming and what is right. What is morality and what is the law of land. Her story made me as speechless and as depressed as she had looked when she came to meet me. I have no answers. Do you have any? In this situation what would be your advice to her?



# नेशनल एक्सप्रेस

हर खबर समय पर

Date: 02/12/2017 | Page No. : 03 | www.nationalexpress.co.in

## आंब्रा फाउंडेशन ने किया एनुअल सेमिनार 'शी स्पीक्स' का आयोजन

### महिलाओं को जरूरत है सिर्फ अलर्ट रहने की: विनिता बख्शी

एनुअल 'शी स्पीक्स' आंब्रा फाउंडेशन की ओर से आयोजित किया गया। 'शी स्पीक्स' का अर्थ है 'स्त्री' का आवाज निकालना। एनुअल सेमिनार के दौरान विनिता बख्शी ने 'शी स्पीक्स' के अर्थ पर अपने विचार व्यक्त किए। उन्होंने कहा कि 'शी स्पीक्स' का अर्थ है 'स्त्री' का आवाज निकालना। एनुअल सेमिनार के दौरान विनिता बख्शी ने 'शी स्पीक्स' के अर्थ पर अपने विचार व्यक्त किए। उन्होंने कहा कि 'शी स्पीक्स' का अर्थ है 'स्त्री' का आवाज निकालना।

एनुअल सेमिनार के दौरान विनिता बख्शी ने 'शी स्पीक्स' के अर्थ पर अपने विचार व्यक्त किए। उन्होंने कहा कि 'शी स्पीक्स' का अर्थ है 'स्त्री' का आवाज निकालना। एनुअल सेमिनार के दौरान विनिता बख्शी ने 'शी स्पीक्स' के अर्थ पर अपने विचार व्यक्त किए। उन्होंने कहा कि 'शी स्पीक्स' का अर्थ है 'स्त्री' का आवाज निकालना।



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# Legal Profile and Governance

## Legal Profile:

Aambra Foundation is registered under the following:

- Indian Trust Act, 1882
- Section 12 A read with 12AA(1)(b) of the Income Tax Act, 1961
- Section 80G (5)(VI) of the Income Tax Act, 1961
- The Income Tax Act, 1961 for Permanent Account Number (PAN)
- NGO Darpan (NITI Aayog).

## Governance:

- Aambra Foundation practices transparency and conforms to the requirements of law and governance.
- Trustees meet at regular intervals to discuss and decide organizational matters.
- Views of Advisors and members of Core Council are obtained periodically according to needs.
- Annual accounts of the Trust are audited by a Chartered Accountant.
- Annual return of income is filed according to law.
- The Trust respects meritocracy.
- Trustees work voluntarily with selfless dedication, and do not receive any money for their services.

# Management

## **BOARD of TRUSTEES**

Nirmala Sharma, Managing Trustee, Educator, Teacher, Thinker (BA, B.Ed)

Vinita Bakshi (Founder and Director Programmes, AAMBRA Foundation) Vinita is an alumna of Delhi School of Economics, an author and a social entrepreneur.

## **EXECUTIVE BODY**

Vinita Bakshi (Founder and Director Programmes, AAMBRA Foundation) Vinita is an alumna of Delhi School of Economics, an author and a social entrepreneur.

Parantap Bakshi (Director Administration, B.Com Delhi University)

## **ADVISORY BOARD**

Rajiv Makhni (Media Personality)

ArvindSinghal (IIT-Roorkee )

Amarendra Khatua (Former DG, ICCR)

Ashok Sajjanhar (IFS, Indian Diplomat)

## **SHE SPEAKS CORE COUNCIL**

Vinita Bakshi (Founder, AAMBRA Foundation Vinita is an alumna of Delhi

School of Economics, an author and a social entrepreneur.)

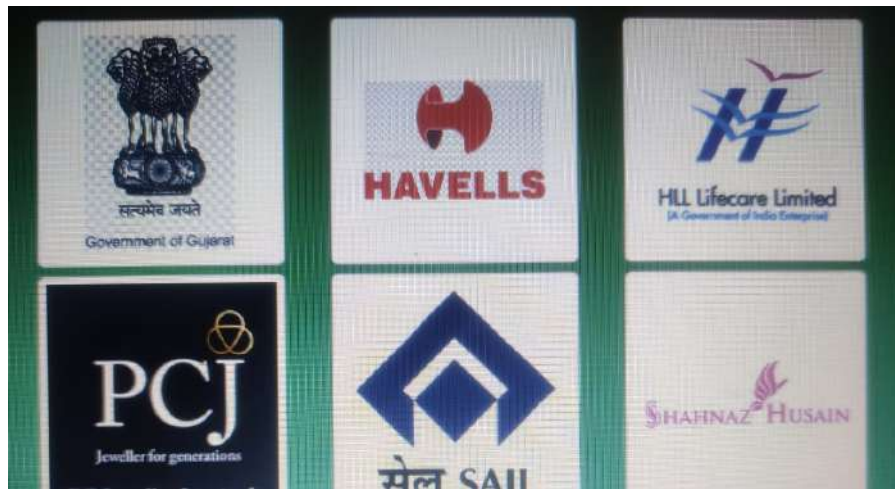
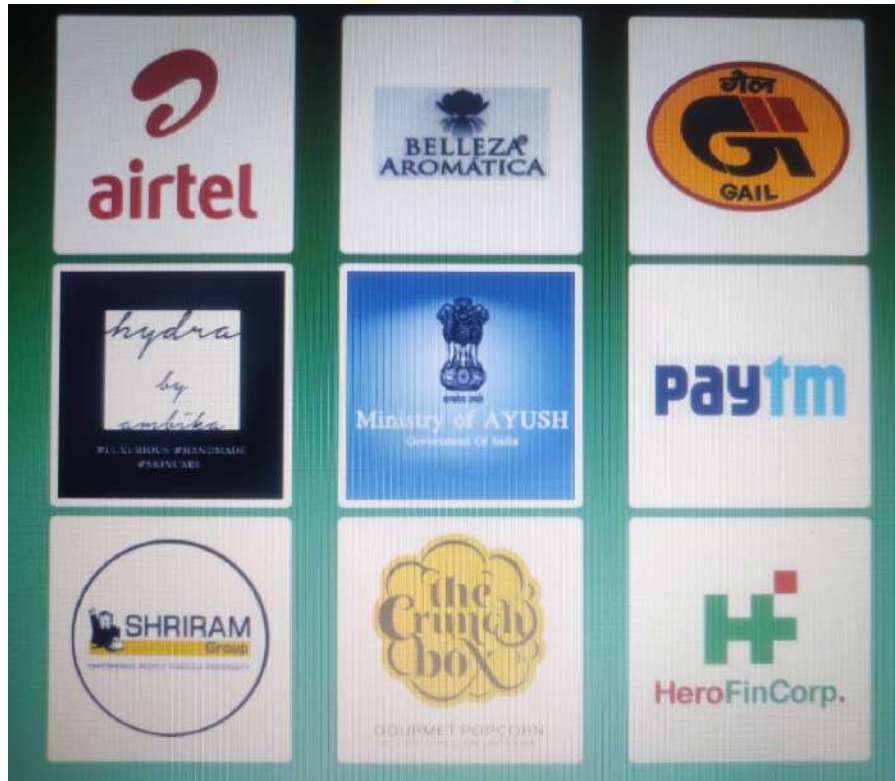


Manju Seth (IFS), Former Diplomat

Sameera Moledina (London- Based Journalist)

Deepshikha Sharma (IRS)

## Collaborators



“Just like little drops of water make mighty ocean and little minutes make eternity, what I started as a little step towards ending the suffering of women has resulted in gaining momentum as the Aambra Foundation”

-Founder President, Vinita Bakshi

Compiled by Aliya Ali

Aligarh Muslim University

Aambra Foundation