

Message from Dr. Suri Sehgal, cofounder and chairperson, S M Sehgal Foundation on Foundation Day, June 22, 2017

All of us have good reason to be very proud of what we do. We do good work that helps others, society, community, and the country. We are good citizens who play a constructive role in making the world better. We are compassionate, and it is the compassion for others that drives us.

We stand for our core values of honesty, integrity, transparency, and accountability. We must each make sure that all of us adhere to our core values, because those are what make us strong and unique. We are not just another NGO.

Everybody is not a fit for work in the nonprofit sector. Those of us who do this work are working for a cause—not merely a pay check. The cause—helping others—keeps us motivated. The commitment to our cause makes our work different than work in the private or public sector. Doing good for others is what distinguishes us.

We have come a long way in our short history. We started out with four villages and four programs. Now we are in more than 550 villages. From one district in one state, we are now in five states. From a hodge-podge of many activities, we now have a highly focused strategy. Our growth is organic, not ad hoc. Because we are a nonhierarchical organization, we feel empowered, and this gives us confidence to empower others—especially women. All in all, it is a wonderful feeling to be doing good for people, the society, and the planet, which makes our life very satisfying. We are proud of what we do!

Our long-term objective is to work in *all* states of the country, not just five. This will take time, maybe even a generation or more, but we will get there. Our cause is just and the need is huge—and we know we can't do everything ourselves. We will continue to forge partnerships, be good role models, and inspire others to do what we do.

Thank you, everyone, for your good work. Your dedication has made our organization a credible force to be reckoned with. Edda and I are proud of you and grateful for everything you do.

