

BOOK REVIEW

GOD'S OWN KITCHEN - The Inspiring Story of Akshaya Patra - A Social Enterprise Run by Monks & CEOs: RASHMI BANSAL

Westland Ltd., 61, II Floor, Silverline Building, Alpakkam Main Road,
Maduravoyal, Chennai 600 095, 2016

Reviewer: N.S. Viswanath*

This is another, eighth one-from a prolific writer-of success from India. The other publications were well received. The present work is not of a just social enterprise but of an institution for building social capital in a land of karma bhoomi-India. The Akshaya Patra Foundation in India (TAPF) is the World's best organization in child and youth sector because of its 'impact, innovation and performance'. The author has documented in style the story of TAPF which is serving 1.6 million children through 27 kitchens in 11 States of India. The drama has unfolded due to support of various people in the roles of 'Founders, The A-Team, Start Up Kitchen Crew, The Professionals, Innovators, Well Wishers and more importantly Public Leaders'! The writing is simple, lucid and attractive. It makes you read through faster than a good novel or a short story! The photos over 50+ in number will make an indelible impact. The chapter names are sanskritized and are named-Bhakti Yoga, Aarambh, Vichaar, Sankalpa, Vighnato name a few. Each chapter connects you to a positive thought and takes a reader to further knowledge, to improve upon one's own perception. The narratives are well connected from Aarambh (Chapter1)

to Bhavishya (Chapter 27)-i.e., from the Beginning to the Future! The author uses language in a creative way. An example- "In economics, there demand, there is supply and there are 'market forces'. But the Chief Economist is invisible and omnipresent. The Force behind all forces." Who will not get attracted to such a language?! Acceptance, expansion, variation, and so on are the common words for people. Such words are used to imprint the way Akshaya Patra is moving forward! The 'People's President' Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam visited the temple, June 7, 2003 and gave out the idea of a variant of Akshaya Patra - 'now Vidya'. The Vidya Akshaya Patra began! The book is a must read for all students, scholars, administrators and men and women in public life. The author deserves the best reward when she finds later the book has induced many to begin social enterprises. The book is printed at Manipal Technologies Ltd. The book will be another best seller for the best to happen in future for the society. Akshaya Patra has influenced people in several ways. One such was that it is now a theme of research. A doctoral work on Akshaya Patra has been rewarded!

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