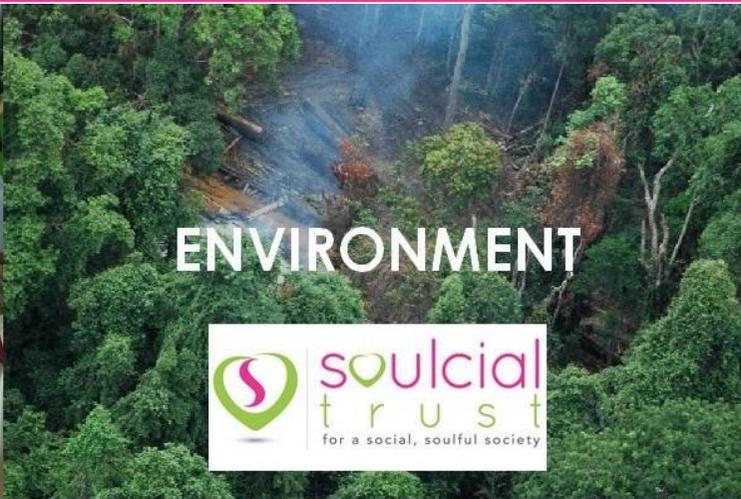




EDUCATION



ENVIRONMENT



DISABILITY

## The Soulcial Trust New-Delhi, India

*Annual Report 2016*

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The Soulcial Trust  
Registration N° 2280  
B-24/3 Okhla Place 2  
CP 110020 New-Delhi, India

## The Beginning

Rajiv Gupta, a Delhi businessman and Agui Panme, a music teacher and professional musician and singer, are two of the founders of the Soulcial Trust.

Together with Michael Barrett, who is appointed director, they were motivated to set up the Trust after seeing the inequality and lack of consideration for people with disability in Delhi and India generally.

They set up the Soulcial Trust with the aim to seek ways together with the community to help raise awareness about the needs of disabled people living in India. After meeting and getting to know the “Delhi Warrior” wheelchair rugby team members through the association ESCIP India (Empowering Spinal Cord Injured Persons) the founders initiated the work on Xlability, to help promote disability rights through sports. The trust founders and their co-workers hope to put accessibility at the forefront of society’s mind to help improve the lives of disabled people in India and beyond.

Director



The Founders



## *Our Mission*

The Soulcial Trust is an international NGO with a branch office in New-Delhi, India, and in Siem Reap, Cambodia. The trust's mission is to raise awareness about social issues and causes in developing countries, in particular for disabled communities and environmental concerns, and to connect individuals wishing to volunteer for causes while living or travelling abroad with NGOs in need of volunteer services. We do this through two major activities – our “pillars”: Soulcialtravel.com and XLability.

### Our Actions:

- Educational programme for schools
- City cleaning missions in New-Delhi
- International Wheelchair Rugby exchange

## *Our Current activities*

- [www.soulcialtravel.com](http://www.soulcialtravel.com) website

The Soulcial Trust runs the website Soulcialtravel.com, which serves to promote meaningful travels and to connect NGOs and people living or travelling abroad to promote opportunities for volunteering. The Soulcial Trust is partnering with NGOs all over the world to communicate on their needs and promote a responsible way of involving themselves in the society. The website is also listing Social Enterprises all over the world, giving back to local communities, for tourists who wish to make their journey more impactful and rewarding for the whole society.

- Project XLability

XLability is the **disability awareness project** of the Trust, implemented in partnership with the eponymous French NGO, that focuses on the ability of people with disability through **sports** and **education** in India and in developing countries.

1. Educational programme on disability

The Soulcial Trust team created an **educational programme on disability** presented in schools in India, made of 12 chapters, in order to raise awareness among children about the various forms of disability, the challenges people with disability face at all levels, and what solutions exist to help disabled people.



## 2. City Cleaning missions

Mixing **people with disability's empowerment** and the **protection of the environment**, The Soulcial Trust organizes various “**Swachh Bharat missions**”, cleaning city missions in New-Delhi gathering able-bodied and disabled people.

The purpose of those missions is to show that everyone can help protecting the environment and that disabled people are as abled as everyone.



## 3. International wheelchair rugby exchange

The Soulcial Trust, in partnership with ESCIP and the French NGO XLability, is organizing a **three-year international wheelchair sports exchange programme** which involves the wheelchair rugby team of the **Delhi Warriors** from New Delhi, and two teams from France: Toulouse and Toulon. The project has several aims: **teaching new skills** to the players from India, helping them to be able to then go on to coach other disabled people locally, **and raising awareness** both locally and internationally about the cause for disability rights.

## Benefits for people with disability in India

Life is a challenge for disabled people the world over – it is infinitely more so in India and in developing countries where physical, psychological and social barriers are a daily reality.

XLability enables disabled people to become more autonomous. It strives to improve accessibility and promote public awareness for disability issues to remove the inequality and exclusion they face every day.

The objectives for the people with disability taking part in our projects are to:

- Build their independence and self-esteem
- Develop their physical ability and skills in the discipline
- Contribute to the movement for social equality as ambassadors for the disabled in India

Those projects aim to give more visibility to people with disability in a country where many stereotypes still exist. Accessibility is another challenge they have to face in their everyday lives and bringing solutions for a better access to any facilities is a key element that has to be improved.

Sports is also very important in people with disability's lives as it helps them become more autonomous and confident in their skills. While being involved in a team and playing, it brings them hope for a better future.

## Story



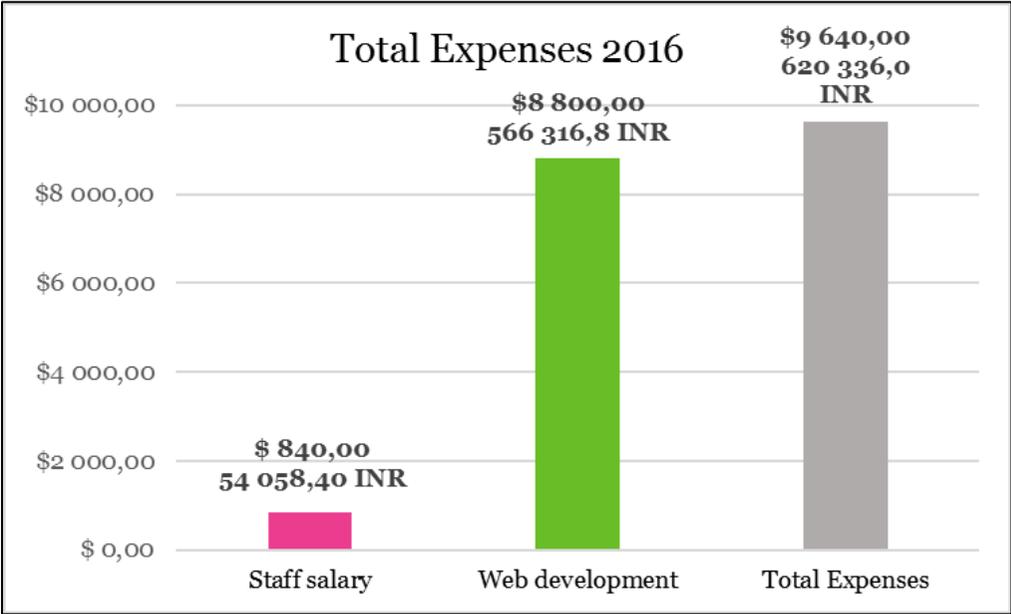
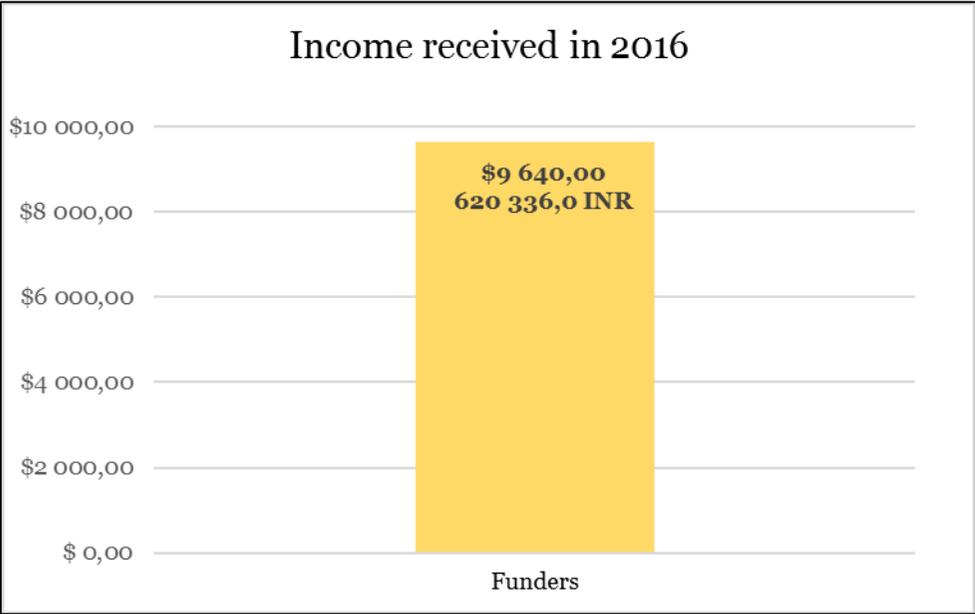
Nikhil Gupta is a Software Engineer. In 2008, he went to Bangalore to attend a Friend's birthday party in a resort. He dived into a swimming pool that was not deep enough and stroke his head entered in collision with floor. He is paralyzed since that accident.

Nikhil is also the captain of the « Delhi Warriors' » team. His dream is to represent India in the Wheelchair Rugby International Exchange and to Spread awareness on Spinal Cord Injury.

He explains how wheelchair rugby positively affected his life and his teammates':

*“In India it's never easy to live a life in a wheelchair. After a spinal cord injury (SCI), it's common to go through emotional and financial breakdown and each of our Wheelchair Rugby team member has faced the same too. For most of us there was no hope to escape this mental trauma. Wheelchair rugby has given us a new hope to live a more fulfilling life in a wheelchair. Wheelchair rugby has given us the means to interact with each other, to know how they cope with SCI related issues and to rebuild our strength and confidence by giving our best for this game. Today and at every training session, we encourage each other and we discover skills we never imagined we had. At first, our disability was depressing, but now we've got over the depression. We want to live!”*

Our budget 2016



## The Team



Michael  
Director

Agui  
Advisor

Rajiv  
Secretary

Guddu  
Operations  
Manager

Laura  
Intern in  
Marketing and  
Communications

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### **The Soucial Trust**

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