

### **At The Same Table™ - Mumbai, 27<sup>th</sup> September, 2018**

On 27<sup>th</sup> September, 2018, EdelGive hosted a dynamic conversation on trends, trendsetters and indicators of *Bold Philanthropy in India*, in its 14<sup>th</sup> edition of At The Same Table™, hosted in Edelweiss House, Mumbai. The convening was conducted in partnership with the Bridgespan Group and discussed highlights of its recently released report also by the same name; which profiled eight exemplary social change initiatives.

The event saw the presence of eminent leaders from corporate, non-profit and the consulting sectors, who shared actionable insights on the need and means to bridge the demand-supply gap of philanthropic capital which has the potential to fund critical solutions to development concerns.

Amit Chandra of Bain Capital who has systematically and strategically invested in facilitating social impact through the A.T.E Chandra Foundation spoke about the need for Indian philanthropy to grow at a rate aligned to the growth of wealth. Bridgespan's Pritha Venkatachalam called this the inflection point of the golden age of philanthropy and insisted to dispel the disillusionment of failed endeavors, stories of work that is bringing positive change, will encourage more philanthropists to go the bold route. Naghma Mulla, COO, EdelGive Foundation cautioned that aspirants of bold philanthropy should be cognizant that practitioners of bold philanthropy traversed a difficult journey before their strategies were validated.

Key highlights of the conversation, are shared below

- This is the golden age of philanthropy in India with the CSR clause, new intent, and new (young) entrants interested in investing long-term for social impact.
- Yet, Indian philanthropy needs to grow at a rate aligned to the growth of wealth in the country.
- Bold philanthropists are those who make big bets, not necessarily at a national level but bets that eliminate problems and inspire templates of change. Such initiatives have problem solving efficiency and achieve social return on investment; in some form attempt to influence public policy.
- It is important to communicate the impact of work; to highlight the value it brings and thus attract the resources it needs.
- Philanthropic contributions beyond money; expertise, intelligence, trust and collaboration are equally important.
- Inspirations for bold philanthropists – peer-to-peer networks that enable cross-learning, experiencing the joy of giving, inter-sectoral conversations between those who fund and those who drive the work at the grassroots.
- A section of the philanthropic ecosystem is exploring the opportunity they see vested in other models like Development Impact Bonds which fund outcomes; the other section believes that one cannot limit and define philanthropy exclusively on measuring impact, as “impact” in causes like social justice has many qualitative, dimensions.
- As a part of the philanthropic sector, we need to respect and enhance the identity of the civil society which safeguards freedoms and holds the Government accountable to its commitments. Bridging the gap and leveraging the beautiful synergy between “joy of giving” experienced by the
- While collaboration is desirable, philanthropic ecosystem should make it conducive. While on one hand we say NGOs do are not keen to collaborate amongst each other, as fund providers we make it difficult by making them compete for the same set of funds.
- To stay grounded in our approach, we should constantly reflect on the change our theorising and action is enabling where it matters the most; where our programs are and our NGOs operate.
- Co-creating and managing programs with and within communities and collaborating with the Government on can ensure scale and sustainability of programs.