

# A PLACE CALLED HOME

Finally, here's a book that finally lays to rest the eternal debate between nature and nurture. David A Manuel recommends this book as a 'must read' for all families who care

## *A FAMILY FOR EVERY CHILD*

Perspectives on Adoption in India  
An Initiative by CATALYSTS FOR SOCIAL ACTION

Edited by Shibani Jain  
Publisher: Cinnamon Teal Print and Publishing India  
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Here's a book that stirs up the soul to take a look at the fate of those countless innocent faces with trusting eyes that are consigned to a life not of their choosing in some shelter or orphanage.

Imagine an assembly line in a manufacturing unit. There are only nuts and bolts on the moving belt. The workers have to choose between a nut and a bolt and some are undecided and let the line move on. At the end of this moving assembly line, the nuts and bolts, if not picked up, are just dropped into a bin and taken away to the scrap yard — to be left to rot or picked up to be used for purposes not really intended in the first place.

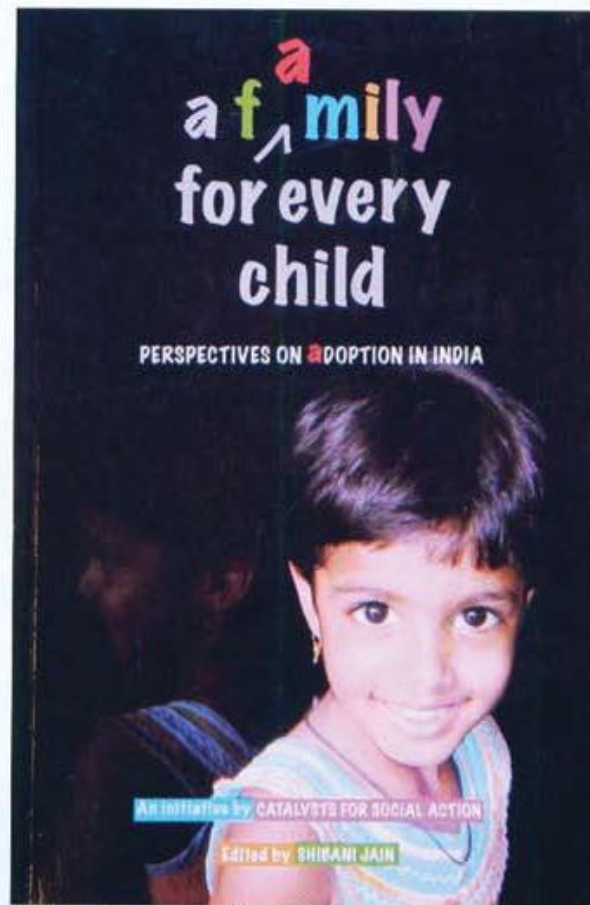
This book is not about nuts and bolts or an assembly line. It is neither about wasteful production practices, nor about a manufacturing unit. It's about the innumerable children stashed away in adoption centres and *bal kendras* who are crying out for a home, much like the hapless nuts and bolts.

Shibani Jain has put together 29 articles on adoption and its various aspects in this compilation. Some are breezy; many recount in meticulous details the difficulties encountered while adopting a child; and some, again, are replete with staggering statistics about the sheer size of the task ahead. But one thing this book guarantees is that you will be forced to think... and think. Notably, by the first article in the collection, a hard-hitting piece by Brajesh and Arpana Mishra. I suggest that this article be lifted in toto and published in all the leading dailies on Children's Day just so that all of us who are cocooned in our comfort zones shake off our stupor and squarely face the enormous moral obligation that we tend to sweep under the carpet.

But Shibani Jain has done a disservice to this book. She has recommended it to five categories of people who are in some way or the other connected with the process of adoption.

I believe this book is also for those who were children once upon a time and who have benefitted

enormously from being nurtured by a family where the mother played a very important role. ■



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