



VIDYA SAGAR

(Formerly The Spastics Society of India, Chennai)



ANNUAL REPORT 2013-14

OUR MISSION

We focus on

- Persons with cerebral palsy, no matter how profoundly affected and other disabilities for which facilities are inaccessible
- Their families and the communities they live in
- Demystification of disability
- Independence and inclusion of persons with disability

We believe

- In the right to equality of opportunity
- In the right to make informed choices and thereby meet individual needs
- That disability is both a development and human rights issue

We value

- Differences
- Collective initiative
- The spirit and positive attitude we bring to work each day

Motto:

Positive and Proactive

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CHAIRPERSON'S MESSAGE

"When vision is pure and creation is pure there is always joy"

- Juan Mascaro

The year 2013 was marked with a celebration, as Vidya Sagar received the "Resource Alliance India NGO" award in the medium size NGO category in July 2013. This was a proud moment for all of us as Rajul Padmanabhan, Director of Vidya Sagar received the organizational award at New Delhi. The award was presented for promoting good standards and practices in resource mobilization, accountability and transparency; for being a role model for other nonprofit organizations and for cross regional learning, amongst other factors. It is an affirmation of our belief and value systems, as transparency and accountability are woven into the fiber of our work.

The pursuit of excellence in ethics never stops at Vidya Sagar. New programmes and strategies have evolved over the year towards finding relevant answers for a changing population and environment. We are aware that much needs to be done towards creating awareness, removing physical and attitudinal barriers toward people with disabilities, and translating the UNCRPD (United Nations Convention for Rights of Persons with Disabilities) that India has ratified way back in 2007 into practice.

UNCRPD has created universal design standards and solutions that benefit all. It validates our mission of education, employment, inclusion and empowerment of persons with disabilities. Interestingly, the joy is in the challenging work itself. The face of Vidya Sagar is changing with the new profiles of children receiving services. Our children are instrumental in making creativity flourish and adding credibility to our work. Every day, in every way, we learn from their fascinating diversity and the need for an alternate way of doing things which will benefit many. Whether it is addressing an early intervention, learning, communication, social or emotional requirement; an advocacy or recreational need;

A marketing strategy for the products made; or leveraging capacities for independent living, the start always lies in brainstorming with stakeholders to understand the requirement correctly before getting new answers just right. Just when we think we have the answers to enable better potential, a beautiful young person with disability pops in to say, "What about me.....I have different needs and the same rights!" This spurs the team to create new designs, strategies and programme templates.

Combine it with parental needs, limited resources and a mission to enable the best and we have a new research project with every child/teen/young adult! Many ideas have germinated at Vidya Sagar, born of the need of a child and a creative team coming together. It has helped better function at work and play and, removing physical and attitudinal barriers.

The team is creative, responsible and motivated, persevering against all odds, thinking new answers. This atmosphere is contagious. Vidya Sagar space allows for creativity. Ideas flourish, learning is shared and the awards come in as recognition of hard work put in. Vidya Sagar has been fortunate, for along with a great team, we have the support of remarkably talented volunteers, who readily and cheerfully give their time and expertise.

And importantly, leading institutes, centres of higher learning and organizations are joining hands with us to provide the unique expertise required for creating new answers. Corporate organizations, philanthropists, media, government and many quiet contributors who believe in our work, continue to support us in every valuable ways. For our not-for-profit organization, it is these very many who have made the work at Vidya Sagar possible. They have helped us reach further heights to earn accolades and make meaningful differences in the lives of persons with disabilities and their families.

As we step spiritedly into our 30th year, wiser yet always learning, Vidya Sagar looks forward to new creation, continued excellence at work, transparency, accountability and the valued friendship of the community.

Usha Ramakrishnan



DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Vidya Sagar works for the rights of persons with disabilities in the areas of education, livelihood and access to opportunity.

The last year has been a year of stock taking before we enter our 30th year in 2015. There have been some projects that have done exceedingly well, some that are still facing challenges, and some that have subtly changed direction.

Financially (though we are still struggling), the support from Dorabji Tata Trust and some other funding organizations has eased some of the strain. It has also been interesting to see how companies approach NGO's to spend the mandatory 2 % on CSR. Vidya Sagar has used this mandate to partner with corporate organizations, to work on disability issues and intervention programmes in rural areas.

The Community Based Rehabilitation programme, one of our flagship projects, is working closely with the municipal corporation and government projects to include disability issues. And though we still work on the time bound partnership model with disability organizations in second tier cities, we are also now weaving in issues of disability into rural development programmes. Similarly, our inclusive education programme is working more with the community. Again, though we still give peripatetic support to schools, we are now finding ways of working with the school management committees (which is mandated in the Right to Education (RTE) Act) and are working at transforming resource rooms into community facilitating centers. We have just taken the first few steps but I hope by the end of the year there would be positive results.

Training and research is the other area that has taken huge strides. Vidya Sagar staff have been invited to train in other states of India, and in neighboring countries like Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, Philippines and Oman. The training modules have ranged from Inclusive Education, Therapy for Multiple Disabilities with Low Vision, Alternative and Augmentative Communication (AAC) and Early Intervention.

The counseling course, "Counselor Education - Disability And Mental Health", launched two years back for professional counselors, is doing exceedingly well and is much sought after. We are currently training our 3rd batch, and are planning more courses in the upcoming years.

The research study in the area of Inclusive Education, investigating the challenges faced by mainstream teachers in taking ownership of children with disabilities in the classroom is now complete. The findings were that teachers were able to take ownership when a structure (using tools such as goal banks and comprehensive checklists) was established.

Our biggest challenge is to find livelihood options for adults with disability. Though we have been successful with students with cerebral palsy who have graduated, the students who could not attempt conventional education still pose a challenge. We have worked on a model based on the co-operative system, and hope to launch it in 2015.

The other challenge is to address the need for Assisted Living for Adults. Last year we conducted a participatory workshop with parents, adults with disability and professionals to help find answers and determine a model. It was interesting to note that persons with disability were not worried about models, but had a list of non-negotiables which they felt had to be put into place. The non-negotiables listed by the adults and youth with disability were

- Security
- Freedom of movement
- Separation of work or/vocation from home
- No religion
- Accessibility
- Freedom of decision making
- Availability of entertainment and
- Diversity

One area that we have successfully addressed for persons with disability is leisure! Kalakkal Café is one of its kind: inclusive and accessible, with good music and good food. It's a happening place. We are happy to report that Kalakkal Café rocks!

Rajul Padmanabhan

FAMILY BASED REHABILITATION



Learning is fun

Family Based Rehabilitation comprises of Advisory and Referral Clinic, Early Intervention Class, Home Management Programme and the Vision Clinic. The project encompasses activities such as assessments, programme planning, referrals, follow-up services, providing aids and adaptations for specific needs. The project works with children and adults of any age, with any disability. Last year, we worked with 470 persons with disabilities.

Advisory – Referral Clinic:

The Advisory-Referral Clinic is our gateway, which works with families of persons with disabilities. In the last year, the team assessed 344 children and adults with disability, which included initial assessments, previous programme reviews and follow-ups. Based on the assessments, the team and families together planned a programme of action and the required referrals were given.

50-60% of persons with disabilities visiting the clinic are from Tamil Nadu state. We also worked with families of persons with disability from Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Assam, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Orissa. Persons with disabilities from UK, Sri Lanka, Mauritius and Oman also came to the clinic.

Out Station Programme:

Persons with disability located outside Chennai can opt for our Out Station Programme (OSP). It is conducted thrice a year. During the OSP conducted in January, April and August 2014, we worked with 71 families from different parts of the country.

The programmes offered are special education, physiotherapy, speech and communication therapy, vision therapy, occupational therapy, parental counseling and legal advice. Based on the requirement, orthotic aids and adapted furniture are made to order. The team and family create a programme plan together. The plan is elaborated adequately, to ensure parents can implement the plan independently.

Early Intervention Programme:

A child's holistic development occurs mostly in the crucial period of its early infancy, and childhood.

Our Early Intervention (EI) programme leverages this period, and engineers interventions with families during these early years.

The EI programme has two sessions, based on the child's age:

- Early months-3 years
- 3-6 years

In the last year, the EI programme worked with 27 children.

Methodology and Outcomes:

- Rather than emphasizing the role of institutions and caregivers, we believe in empowering parents. Our aim is that parents will understand disability thoroughly and enjoy raising their child. We demystify disability, so that they can take full charge of their child.
- The child's focus is shifted from disability to capability through stimulation, play and therapeutic rehabilitation.
- Enhancing language development is important as communication plays a focal role in fostering independence.

Home Visits:

- Regular home visits from the EI team have built structure in the child's daily life. In our experience, routine fosters greater independence in the child.
- Through home visits, the EI staff assesses the support system extended by the child's family.
- Adaptations for toilets, and orientation and mobility training for children with low vision, were advised to parents.

Home Management:

In certain cases, a person with disability is not able to access rehabilitation services on a daily basis. The reasons could be:

- Non availability of parental involvement for programme planning owing to daily wage jobs
- Transportation, inaccessibility from remote areas
- Health conditions of the person with disability or his or her family

The Home Management programme works closely with parents and caregivers of such persons. Based on the individual's need, the family visits our facilities once a week. Both the child/adult with disability and the parents/caregiver are trained simultaneously in special education, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, vision therapy and speech and communication therapy.

In the last academic year, the Home Management programme worked with 28



Ms. Jayalakshmi working with a family

children with disability and their parents/caregivers.

The strength of this programme is flexibility. For example, two students from Vaniyambadi and Chenglepet rural areas could not travel on the required weekly basis, and were thus given a week's programme and training.

In another case, due to health reasons, two children from the Day Centre could not attend school regularly, but opted for the Home Management programme with favorable results.

The programme solicits feedback from parents. The format of the feedback form is customized to the programme requirements. This has been effectively used to update and incorporate innovative planning into the programme.

Workshops Conducted:

- September 2013: "Balanced Healthy Diet and Hygiene" conducted for parents by Dr. Poorna Shankar, Dietician.
- January 2014: "The Joy of Parenting" workshop conducted for parents of the Early Intervention class, by Ms. Theresa Francis, Special Educator and Counselor.
- February 2014: "Feeding Interactive Session for Parents" conducted by Ms. Elizabeth Torrey, Speech Therapist from Perkins School for the Blind, Boston, USA.
- March 2014: "Oral Stimulation Techniques" workshop for parents conducted by Ms. Priya, Special Educator, and Ms. Vijayalakshmi, Physiotherapist.

DAY CENTRE



Using a Communication Chart

The Day Centre has four major sections. The primary section caters to 40 students between the ages of 6-10 years. The junior academic stream is comprised of 75 students between the ages of 10-17 years. The senior school caters to 24 students above the age of 17. In total, the school had 139 students in the academic year 2013-2014.

While the sections are broadly classified by age, students are placed in grades based on their skills and abilities. Most classrooms have students with multi-ability skills, diverse cognitive and mobility capabilities, and we practice differentiated, personalized teaching in all classes.

The fourth section, Adult Leisure Programme (ALP), is intended for persons with multiple and severe profound disabilities. The programme aims to provide both leisure and livelihood options for these persons.

Sections and Streams:

Primary (Reception):

Students below 10 years of age constituted the reception classes. There were 40 students with 7 teachers. They were divided into 4 classes.

The focus of the reception class was academic, covering the grades 1-3 curriculum,

communication, mobility and hand function. Students received physiotherapy daily, speech and communication therapy twice a week, computer training and sports once a week.

Junior Academic Stream:

The junior academic stream has 15 students in the grades 2 -5. This group includes students with cerebral palsy and autism. These students receive exposure to both the standard academic curriculum as well as prevocational skills.

This year, they participated in the “Design for Change” competition; the “Festival of Drama and Dialogue” hosted by Krishnamurthy Foundation India, and the “Science – Technology” competition at the Birla Planetarium. The students visited parks, supermarkets and the zoo, and also explored cultural heritage sites in Kancheepuram.

Senior School:

The senior school has 75 students. They were divided into two streams: the pre-vocational section which has 45 students and the academic section which houses 2 classes of 30 students.

The focus of the prevocational classes was to improve the work skills, work behavior and functional literacy of the students. Post completion, pre-vocational students will go on to

the Employment Education Center, while the academic section will aim to move into NIOS to attend board examinations and work toward a college education.

National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS):

15 students appeared for their 10th grade through the National Institute of Open Schooling. The subjects studied were Indian Culture, English and Data Entry. 13 of the 15 students passed the board examination and are eligible to continue to grade 12 studies.

An enhanced reading programme was introduced and implemented. Since independence in communication is among the high priority goals for these classes, students were exposed to different situations including focus group discussions and participation in group activities with students from surrounding schools.

Student Clubs:

The students of the senior section had the opportunity to form “Interact Club of Vidya Sagar” in partnership with the Rotary Club of Meenambakkam, Chennai. Student leaders were elected for the post of President, Vice President and Secretary. The Interact Club of Vidya Sagar successfully conducted events, such as poster making and painting competitions.

Adult Leisure Programme (ALP):

This programme caters to adult persons with profound disabilities, who have completed their education to the extent possible, and usually have no access to an active livelihood option. Keeping in mind their need, the programme aims at active leisure which stimulates cognitive and mobility maintenance, and develops livelihood options. This year, the programme had 24 adults on a regular basis. Some attended on a daily basis, while others attended once or thrice a week.

Leisure activities involve the exploration of Chennai city, as well as arts and crafts, music and games. ALP members visited temples, malls, concert halls and cinemas in the city. Such city explorations are combined with vocational purposes where ever possible.

A sheltered vocational unit was introduced and runs regularly during the mornings for all ALP members. Meticulous planning, innovations and adaptations enabled the members to successfully make gift covers, momento bags, handkerchiefs with block printing, scribble pads and jewellery boxes which were sold during the annual mela. They earned an income from this venture.

New Aids and Adaptations:

For students with profound physical disability and limited hand function, we facilitate the creation of devices and software that enables task performance towards a vocation. Prototypes of two devices and a software based billing tool were developed with support from the Centre for Innovation, IIT Madras.

Two staff members worked with Centre for Innovation, IIT Madras and Anna University, and developed the block printing and punching machines. These machines can be accessed by students with a customized switch to produce block printed paper and cloth. The machines can be replicated and made available to others with profound physical disability.

Block Printing Device:

An entire sheet of paper or cloth gets printed with a pull or tap of a switch.

Paper Dye Cutter:

This enables students to make paper dye cuts with a pull or tap of a switch

Billing Software:

It is an accessible software for persons with severe physical disability, which executes billing of products at a shop.

Students tried and tested the devices and worked hands on with them. They also played adapted sensor games which enable accessible leisure.

We are working towards forming a marketing federation which can transform these activities into sustained livelihood options run through a cooperative model.



Block Printing Device

ADULT PROGRAMMES



*Weaving in progress
at EEC*

Adults at Vidya Sagar access services through programmes such as the Employment Education Centre, Youth Programme and Adult Leisure Programme. The Adult Leisure Programme is run by the Day Centre; the remaining programmes run independently of the Day Centre and receive referrals from the Advisory and Referral Clinic. All adult programmes provide training towards livelihood through open placement, self employment and neighborhood initiatives.

Employment and Education Centre (EEC):

EEC focuses on the training and employment of adults with intellectual disabilities above the age of 18, who move in from the Day Centre. The Advisory and Referral Clinic at FBR assesses adults and refers them to the EEC, or to another institution for higher education if that is more suitable.

This year the EEC had 28 students at various levels. For a group of 10 students with severe mental retardation, we formed a sheltered workshop on leaf cup making. The students were accompanied by one staff, two parents and a supervisor. Production has commenced.

Other students were trained in weaving, block printing on paper or cloth, lamination and production of paper products. The students made dhurries, doormats, telephone mats, coasters, laminated book marks, trays, block printed paper bags, folders, block printed duppattas and notepads.

EEC also participated in sales of their products conducted in different places in Chennai such as:

- Larsen & Toubro (L&T) – ARUNIM (Association for Rehabilitation Under National Trust Initiative of Marketing), L&T campus
- SATTVA company, Chennai
- V-Excel Educational Trust at Nandanam, Chennai
- Thomson Reuters, at Alwarpet, Chennai

Kalakkal Sandhai:

We conducted our annual mela “Kalakkal Sandhai” for two days in April. The aim of this exhibition and sale was to create a platform for individuals with disabilities to showcase their products and create a market. Three individuals and 25 organizations participated in this event.

YOUTH PROGRAMME



Music and fun at Kalakkal Cafe

Vidya Sagar's success lies in educating the young child with disability and in facilitating the education of the young adult with disability. But finding livelihood options is proving to be a challenge. This is primarily because:

- a. Though we ensure a holistic education and rehabilitation programme, it is still in a special education setting and therefore the child loses out on what he or she could have learned incidentally by interacting with the community in mainstream life.
- b. Though 3% of all private and public sector jobs are reserved for people with disability in the People with Disability Act of 1995, such reservation is not manifested in reality. Where there is employment of persons with disability, the job provided may be completely unsuitable or uninteresting.
- c. Finally, most private sector organizations are yet to recognize, and realize the right to work of the person with disability.

When it comes to self-employment, the challenges are different. One of the primary setbacks is the product produced by the persons with disability does not always meet the market need in terms of design, quality and quantity. As

a result, the persons with disability earns very little.

In addition, adults with disability often do not have access to public transport and leisure, which isolates them further.

Vidya Sagar attempts to address these challenges. We attempted to meet this challenge through a three pronged approach.

1. We look at open placement by sensitizing the corporate. We also support the adult with disability by giving him a job coach, who will be his ally and help him 'settle' into a job.
2. We are in the process of forming semi-formal co-operatives of persons with disability, who can then produce products which meet the needs of the market. This can be done if we take on consultants who can help us design and market the products and,
3. We make it possible for the adult with disability to access trainings and workshops to upgrade their skills or learn new skills.

The main focus areas of the Youth Programme, for its target audience, the 16+ to adulthood generation, are skill upgradation, establishment of a marketing federation, counseling and leisure.

Training and Skill Upgradation:

The following achievements were facilitated by the Youth Programme.

Rakesh completed a one year diploma in multimedia from the Industrial Training Institute (ITI), Guindy.

Sai Preethi was enrolled for a 6 month diploma in bakery and confectionery at Winner Bakery in collaboration with Chennai Corporation.

8 Day Centre alumni were trained in the use of MS Office software. Volunteers from Accenture company trained our alumni in 20 sessions of “Skills to Succeed”.



Skill Training

Events Participation:

5 of our alumni participated in “India Inclusive Summit” held in Bangalore on 30th Nov 2013.

Collaboration with National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT):

This collaboration is an endeavour to enhance the design of the products made by adults with disability, to attract a greater market. After initial interactions to understand the capabilities and skills of the respective adults with disability, NIFT faculty conducted design workshops in creative art skills. The art motifs were then converted into 15 design products ranging from pouches to saris. The theme was “Namma Chennai”.

We also participated in the NIFT graduation day celebrations by showcasing our products at the trade centre. We hope to conclude a

memorandum of understanding (MoU) with NIFT regarding joint production and other forms of future collaboration.



Alumni Workshop

Counseling:

Counseling is an integral part of the Youth Programme. This year we focused on relationship counseling, through weekly workshops on “Maintain a Healthy Relationship” conducted by Usha Krishnamurthy, Counselor. All alumni of Vidya Sagar have access to these sessions.

We also ensure adults with disability are sensitized to the advantages and aims of counseling, so they can make an informed choice to avail it. Sivagami Arumugham, Counselor conducted an introductory workshop where she highlighted the benefits of counseling to alumni.

Leisure:

Kalakkal café, which celebrated its second anniversary this year, is a concept café that is accessible, reasonably priced and open to all youth. It’s just a café, where you have coffee, something to eat, and hang out. It runs on all Saturdays, has live music and if the numbers/crowds are anything to go by, it is definitely a success.

INCLUSION

Aim and Vision:

Inclusive Education in Vidya Sagar has come a long way from the year 1995, when we included our first student in a mainstream school.

But entry alone is not sufficient to ensure inclusion. The specific needs of a child with disability, including therapy, must be met. Moreover, the teaching and resources provided must translate into an atmosphere in which each child can learn in his or her style. We provide support to schools and colleges to ensure that this vision is realized.

Strategy:

The model of inclusive education we pioneered in Chennai has three main features:

1. The parents choose the school, and we work towards making it inclusive by giving it peripatetic support.
2. We also choose three schools and work with the management to address the education needs of children with disability enrolled in those schools.
3. We work with the government programme, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), to implement Inclusive Education.

Today, Vidya Sagar is re-examining the model of providing direct services to schools and colleges which we have successfully practised for so many years. For instance, by ensuring that schools and colleges provide resource rooms for persons with disability, we can scale up inclusive education and ensure that larger numbers of persons of disability are supported in terms of the infrastructure they require.

How We Support Private Schools and Colleges:

We continue to work with private schools and colleges to provide direct services and support. 120 students in 19 schools and 4 colleges were supported by Vidya Sagar.

Working with the schools includes assessment and intervention, remedial education, therapy intervention and review, as well as, providing the appropriate devices. We support teachers and parents by providing scribes and conducting need based workshops. The department works with the students enrolled from Vidya Sagar, as well as students referred by other schools.

For example, Kids Central is one of the schools in our neighborhood. Upon their request, two staff members worked with 10 students with disability. The staff observed the children, assessed them, provided an intervention programme and worked with the teachers and parents. The programme was completed during the last academic year.

One fulltime staff member covered 5 schools. Five staff members provided support to various schools once a week.

With colleges, we worked on orienting the staff on disabilities, arranging scribes during exams, and stressing the importance of resource rooms for all persons with disability.

Some of the colleges we work with are Loyola College, Madras Christian College, M.O.P Vaishnav College for Women, DG Vaishnav College, Ethiraj College, Ramakrishna Mission Vivekananda College and Madras University.

How We Support Government

Vidya Sagar is a part of the state resource group in the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan programme. As a part of this group, two training programmes were designed and conducted for mainstream school teachers.

One programme trained participants for three days on Cerebral Palsy, while the other trained participants on Autism for two days. 60 teachers from Thiruvallur and Kancheepuram districts attended the training.

DISABILITY LEGISLATION UNIT (DLU)



DLU conducting an accessibility audit

The Disability Legislative Unit advocates for rights of persons with disability, and lobbies with the state and central governments towards framing and effective implementation of appropriate policies for persons with disabilities.

Gender, Sexuality and Disability:

Sexuality:

There is an urgent need for accessible information, especially on sexual rights and reproductive health. A primer of information on sexual and reproductive rights was developed in accessible formats by TEJAS, a self advocacy group formed by DLU.

Parliamentary Voice for Women:

Women with disabilities need to voice their needs and opinions. Smitha attended a Master Trainers programme on parliamentary training for women from the social sector. DLU subsequently conducted a parliamentary training workshop for women with disabilities.

Gender Violence:

DLU members also attended and presented issues of women with disabilities regarding marginalization, violence and abuse in a public hearing held by State Commissioner's Office and Federation. A film on gender based violence and disability was made with Pragnya Trust.

Empowerment:

DLU conducted a women's empowerment workshop in association with Green Globus Pvt Ltd, and successfully made the entire three day conference of 'The Lady 2014' accessible for all persons with disabilities.

The DLU was part of a World Social Forum preparatory meeting.

Smitha, of DLU had attended the Women's Institute on Leadership and Disability (WILD) conference last year. She reviewed the MIUSA (Mobility International USA) WILD training Manual.

DLU analyzed and gave comments on the guidelines for sexuality issues of children with disabilities, which are being developed by National Commission for Protection of Children's Rights (NCPCR). Vidya Sagar attended the consultation conducted by NCPCR.

Access and Infrastructure:

One of the main focus areas of DLU is access.

Making Public Transportation Accessible:

DLU was a part of the Corporation Commissioner's planning workshop. We conducted/attended consecutive workshops and meetings on the topic of accessible pavements.

The team with its network conducts several audits of various roads and pavements where construction is in progress.

The Unit coordinated a visit to the Ashok Leyland factory to advise design of buses delivered for MTC. The DLU team also met the Principal Secretary for transport on this topic. The team conducted access audits in Adyar depot and for buses on the road.

Our staff attended auto rickshaw fare regulation meetings and raised issues faced by persons with disabilities on road and auto usage.

The team reviewed the access manual that National Trust developed for schools.

The DLU team coordinated the visit of Indonesian student researchers on accessible transportation and conducted a DRAI meet with them.

The Coordinator of DLU conducted an access audit and assisted in the establishment of a disability resource centre at Krishnamurthy Foundation India (KFI) Outreach programme at Chenglepet and linked the centre to our CBR programme for technical support.

Making Elections Accessible:

DLU carried out several activities to increase access to the general Lok Sabha elections of 2014. The Unit also participated in a consultation conducted by Ektha, a self advocacy group formed by people with neurological impairments, to build a disability manifesto. We lobbied with the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) on accessible elections, and developed and circulated an awareness film on issues faced by persons with disability in elections, among relevant officials.

The team attended the State Commissioner's meeting on accessible elections with the special CEO. DLU worked with the CEO and Corporation Commissioner to sensitize district election officers about accessible elections.

Making Higher Education Accessible:

DLU worked with Mr. Miranda, an UGC candidate who is deaf-blind. He required his question paper in Braille to write the UPSC exam. He had attempted it twice without this facility and failed. DLU helped him fight his case

and obtain an interim order from high court. The question paper was successfully obtained in Braille format, and he wrote the exam dictating to a scribe.

DLU also helped a student with learning disability acquire the required provision for using a scribe to write a PG diploma course.

Making Banking Accessible:

DLU is currently working on banking rights of persons with disabilities with Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Indian Banks Association (IBA). National Trust was planning to conduct a consultation on banking rights, and evolve a mechanism for the exercise of banking rights of persons with disability. The team wrote a concept paper in this regard for National Trust.

Making Independent Living Possible:

Independent living of persons with disabilities remains a distant vision. The future of persons with profound disabilities is a concern for parents. Various models of group homes are being discussed at present.

DLU was a part of the consultation processes on independent living conducted by Ektha.

Our team played a major role in group home and independent living meetings at Vidya Sagar. We assisted persons with disability in the guardianship process as well as the process of obtaining disability ID cards.

We have initiated lobbying for a personal assistant programme for persons with disabilities with the Department for the Welfare of Differently Abled, government of Tamil Nadu.

Advocacy for Policies and Laws:

Fighting for a New Disability Law:

The disability sector is fighting for a new disability law in line with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), which India has ratified. A bill was introduced in the Rajya Sabha in early 2014, which, in our view, deviated from the spirit of the UNCRPD. DLU participated in the state level consultations with Disability Rights Alliance India (DRAI) to agitate against the draft bill.

The Unit participated in the protests at Satya Moorthy Bhavan and Raj Bhavan, and

campaigns with Members of Parliament (MPs) and the media to effect the required changes. A national alliance and Tamil Nadu alliance with DRAI was formed. These efforts resulted in the bill being referred to the standing committee.

The team participated in the National Consultation on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Bill 2014 at Hyderabad, conducted by Centre for Social Development and in the National Consultation at Delhi, conducted by All India Disability Alliance. We will continue our efforts until laws related to disability fully reflect and align with UNCRPD.

Other Laws and Policies:

DLU gave its feedback and recommendations to different bills that were amended. For example, the unit was a part of discussions on CSR – Companies Act bill. The unit also attended a workshop on the Mental Health Bill conducted by Banyan, and plans to monitor mental health issues related to disability on an ongoing basis.

The team was a part of planning priorities in the upcoming Union Budget and drafting the demands from the social sector in Delhi and Hyderabad.

Vidya Sagar attended a consultation on inequalities at Delhi held by the Centre for Budget and Governance Accountability (CBGA) as a part of an international project held in all BRIC countries in partnership with Oxfam. The team reviewed the disability and health status paper sent by Rajiv Raturi and sent in its recommendations. The Coordinator of DLU took part in the South Regional Convention on health and disability, where he performed advisory work on issues involving the rights of persons with disabilities.

Vidya Sagar has also initiated a research study on the prevailing practices of legal capacity in different countries with Trust Law Connect, from whom Vidya Sagar won the best NGO award.

Training, Events and Publicity:

World Disability Day and the Human Rights Day:

The World Disability Day is celebrated on 3rd December and Human Rights Day on 8th December. The issue of access was taken up this

year. Awareness pamphlets on access designed by DLU and printed by the Corporation of Chennai were distributed in 10 zonal offices of Chennai by Vidya Sagar team. The Corporation officials and public signed a solidarity pledge.

We continued releasing articles and programmes to press and media to shift perspectives in society towards a rights-based approach to disability.

Training Activities:

The following formed part of DLU's training activities for 2013-2014:

- Conducted a disability sensitization programme for Tamil Nadu Electricity Board (TNEB) staff from all districts of Tamil Nadu.
- Attended a sign language class for DRAI members conducted by Deaf Enabled Foundation.
- Handled sessions for the Teacher Training course and Counseling course conducted by the Human Resource Department of Vidya Sagar.
- Facilitated the participation of 17 students from Vidya Sagar in wheel chair sports training.
- Coordinated with Accenture to arrange computer training for students and alumni of Vidya Sagar.
- Partnered with Choice International in organizing the International Conference on Disability Equality and Accessibility.
- Attended the Disability Sports and Inclusion workshop conducted by Choice international.

Other Activities:

- DLU was involved in lobbying for facilities for sports persons through the National Paralympics meet held at Chennai.
- Coordinated acquiring of computers for partner organizations.

Attended protests, meetings, and marriage ceremony conducted by Tamil Nadu Federation for the Physically Handicapped.



COMMUNITY BASED REHABILITATION (CBR)



Our CBR staff engaging with the community

Our CBR programme works with people with disability, in rural and remote geographical locations. Our strategy is to partner with disability and development organizations in local communities.

Trainings are conducted for community partners and organizations upon request. Our CBR programme takes special care to address mental health issues where present. In 2013-2014, we expanded CBR work to urban slum areas.

Focus:

Our work last year was focused on:

1. Empowering families and caregivers with knowledge and skills to work with people with disability.
2. Creating manpower by training interested candidates to work with disability.
3. Spreading awareness among community organizations about the needs and rights of people with disability.

Client Bases:

Our Client bases are:

1. Rural – 1580 persons with disability
2. Semi urban – 100 persons with disability
3. Urban Slums – 22 persons with disability

Partners:

Summary of Partners

Type	Organization(s)
Parent-led initiatives	Mahaeswar Training Centre for children with neurological impairment, Mayiladuthurai
Development Organization	Integrated Rural Community Development Society (IRCDS), Thiruvallur district
Disabled People Organization	Vasantham Disabled Peoples Organization, Thiruvallur district; Leonard Cheshire Nagapatinam, Thiruthuraiipoondi.
Special School	Chaitanya Special School, Palakad
Government Project	Pudhu Vaazhvu, Achirupakkam block, Kancheepuram district; Sarva Siksha Abhiyan (government national programme)
CSR Programme	Disability component of Michelin CSR Programme, Thiruvallur district.

Mahaeswar Training Centre:

We conducted capacity building, so that Mahaeswar Training Centre can provide holistic rehabilitation services to children in Mayiladuthurai. Currently, Mahaeswar is reaching out to 20 children with disability.

Integrated Rural Community Development Society (IRCDS):

We guide the community workers of Integrated Rural Community Development Society, to work with children with cerebral palsy and mental retardation in 20 panchayats. We reached 44 children with disability and their families last year.

Vasantham Disabled Peoples Organization:

Vasantham Disabled Peoples Organization, as part of an initiative to facilitate rehabilitation of children with developmental disabilities, invited our contribution. We worked with 20 children with disability and their families.

Leonard Cheshire Project:

The Leonard Cheshire (LC) project, located at Nagapatnam runs a residential centre for children with cerebral palsy, mental retardation and autism at Pallankoil panchayat of Thiurthuraipoondi block. 16 children with disability are enrolled in the centre. Vidya Sagar trained the LC project staff in technical skills, to facilitate inclusion of children with disability in education and livelihood.

Chaitanya Special School:

Chaitanya Special School houses 80 children with disability. Vidya Sagar trained Chaitanya staff in topics such as working with children with autism, and occupational therapy.

Pudhu Vaazhvu Government Project:

As part of the Pudhu Vaazhvu Government rural development project, we were a "Block Disability Facilitating Agency" at Achirupakkam block, Kancheepuram district. In this capacity, we reached 1500 persons with disabilities to facilitate livelihood rehabilitation and managed 159 special self help groups.

Michelin India Tamil Nadu Tyres Pvt Ltd CSR Programme:

We recently signed a Memorandum of

Understanding (MOU) with Michelin India Tamil Nadu Tyres Pvt Ltd to facilitate rehabilitation services at their CSR Panchayats in Ellapuram, This project aimed at creating a model which would include existing government systems / legislations and policies, along with Vidya Sagar's expertise in the area of rehabilitation, inclusive education and advocacy.

In the first two months, initial work of contacting officials of Sarva Siksha Abhiyan, Integrated Child Development Scheme Commissioner, and Panchayat presidents to obtain permission to work in the two Panchayats with their cooperation was completed. Community workers were appointed and training was given. A community awareness programme through street play was conducted, which had a very positive impact. Community resource mapping was done along with the community workers. Initial assessment was done for 18 individuals. The space for the resource rooms were chosen. Contact was established with the Public Health Centre and block level hospitals in Gummidpundi block.

Slum project:

We have just located people with disability in 16 slums around Saidapet.

Training:

We conduct training for community workers, special educators and caregivers on various disability modules. Training is given to our partners as well as any other organization upon request.



Caregivers Meeting

Training Conducted by CBR

Month & Year	Topic	Training period	Project Title	Target Audience	Trained
Apr-2013	Sensory integration and hand function	2 days	Montfort Community Development Society (MCDS)	Community workers	7
Jul-2013	Curriculum modifications and adaptations	1 day	Amar Seva Sangam, Tenkasi.	Special educators and trainees	12
Sep-2013	Working with children with CP and MR. Activities of Daily Living (ADLs) training, functional education, positioning and handling of children with CP and MR.	2 days	Mother Theresa, Pallipat	Community disability facilitators	20
		2 days		Care givers	42
Oct-2013	Importance of medical treatment and follow up	1 day	Pudhu Vaazhvu, Achirupakkam	Caregivers of people with mental illness	12
Nov-2013	Low vision assessment and planning an occupational therapy programme. Neuro Developmental Therapy (NDT) facilitation and hand function facilitation	2 days	Chaitanya Special School, Palakkad	Special Educators	8
		2 days	Mahaeswar, Mayiladuthurai	Physio-therapists	2
Jan-2014	Handling children with multiple disability	1 day	ADD India, Tiruvallur district	Community workers of ADD India partners	44
Feb-2014	Train the Trainer training: rehabilitation skills (physiotherapy, ADLs, functional academics)	6 days	Pudhu Vaazhvu, Ramavaram	Community disability facilitators	16
Mar-2014	Working with children with hearing impairments.	2 days	MotherTheresa, Pallipat	Caregivers of children with visual and hearing impairments	17

HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (HRD)



Training Programme in Muscat

Training:

The training courses at Vidya Sagar aim to create professionals, fully skilled at working in the field of rehabilitation services and inclusive education. Our training is mandated by the following principles:

- We train comprehensively, without stint in the knowledge and best practices shared.
- The charges are nominal and reflect our true resource cost of conducting training, and sustaining the work that creates expertise in this field.
- We train all stakeholders, including parents, NGOs and governmental organizations, as per their needs, with custom designed programmes.

To enhance the quality of training, we partnered with other organizations, such as the Perkin School of Blind, part of Perkins International, USA. We have also conducted several trainings abroad.

Long Term Courses:

PG Diploma in Special Education:

We run a one year Post Graduate Diploma in Special Education, Multiple Disabilities (physical and neurological), recognized by the

Madras university and the Rehabilitation Council of India. 14 students were enrolled this year and they actively participated in all the activities of the school.

Short Term Courses:

We enhanced the skills of the existing professionals, by conducting short term courses on specific disability related conditions and issues.

New courses are designed to meet the changing needs in the sector. The three month course on "Counselor Education - Disability and Mental Health" is a pioneering venture. This certificate course is for practicing counselors and this year eight of them took up this course.

Trainings Conducted Abroad:

As a continuation of the last year's programme, Vidya Sagar staff conducted a one week training in Inclusive Education for mainstream teachers in Muscat, Oman. It was attended by 70 mainstream teachers. We also conducted training for staff of the Centre for Special Education in Indian Schools Muscat (ISM).

The department was a part of conducting training for teachers of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA).

Trainings Conducted with Perkins School for the Blind, Boston, USA:

A two week workshop on feeding was conducted in partnership with Perkins School for the Blind, which is part of Perkins International, USA. Trainings were also conducted for community workers and volunteers in the various projects of the Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) programme run by Vidya Sagar.



Participants of the Feeding workshop conducted by Perkins School for the Blind, Boston

Vidya Sagar and Perkins conducted the programme. 22 rehabilitation professionals from all over India, staff members of Vidya Sagar and some parents of children from Vidya Sagar participated in the workshop.

Continuing Rehabilitation Courses:

Vidya Sagar is endorsed by Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI) to offer the Continuous Rehabilitation Education (CRE) courses, an RCI certification requirement this year, for professionals in this field. Many of our trainings qualify for CRE requirements.

A CRE on Alternative and Augmentative Communication (AAC) was conducted. There were 30 participants from Tamil Nadu and Karnataka, including the staff of Vidya Sagar.

Evaluations:

RCI Evaluations:

Vidya Sagar is frequently asked to perform evaluations for RCI licensing. We conducted evaluations of the following organizations for RCI:

- Kusum Giri Mental Health Center in Cochin
- HOPE (Handicapped Orientation

Internal & External Training:

We look at continuously exploring and upgrading the technical skills of our staff, by means of trainings and workshops:

Programme	Content	Participants
Workshop	Our senses and learning - This 2 day workshop was conducted by Ms.K.S. Uma of Vidya Sagar at Vidya Sagar	10 Day Centre staff attended this workshop
Workshop	Seating and Positioning - Ms.T.A. Simy and Ms.S. Jayalakshmi of Vidya Sagar conducted this workshop in Vidya Sagar	All staff of Day Centre took part in this workshop
Workshop	Vision Assessment - Dr. Namita Jacob a vision expert trained our staff on performing vision assessments	7 staff from Day Centre were trained on vision assessment
Workshop	Calendar Skills – Ms.K.S. Uma, HRD Coordinator conducted this training to help improve time management skills of staff	10 Day Centre staff participated in this training
Training	Avaz (AAC device) - A training programme on using Avaz, an AAC device, was conducted by Invention Lab	10 Day Centre staff were trained on using Avaz
Workshop	Sexuality and persons with disability was conducted by a trained counselor in this area. This was conducted in Vidya Sagar	All staff from Day Centre took part in this workshop



Programme	Content	Participants
Workshop	Continuous Rehabilitation Education programme was conducted by Vidya Sagar staff on Alternative and Augmentative Communication	30 participants from Tamil Nadu and Karnataka including the staff of Vidya Sagar
Workshop	The Musical Brain from Science to Therapy - Neurokrish with support from the Chatnath Trust, Vidya Sagar and Opera Circus conducted this half a day workshop	All Day Centre staff participated in this workshop
Workshop	Musical Residency – This one week training programme was conducted by Opera Circus in Vidya Sagar	10 Day Centre staff participated in this programme
Workshop	“Alternative and Augmentative communication workshop” was conducted by Bridge School, USA in Vidya Sagar. The Bridge School specializes in working with students with motor and communication difficulties.	All Staff of Vidya Sagar
Workshop	Two weeks workshop on “Feeding issues in children with multiple disabilities” was conducted by Vidya Sagar, in collaboration with Perkins International – Boston, USA.	Staff members and 3 parents of children from Vidya Sagar took part in the training.
Workshop	Workshop on Hand function and Diet conducted by John Miller of Vidya Anjali in Vidya Sagar	5 Vidya Sagar special educators underwent this workshop
Workshop	A two day workshop on “Low Cost Playground Equipments” was conducted by NIEPMD	Mr.Gajendra Kumar, physiotherapist attended this workshop
Training	Two months training on Neuro Development Treatment was conducted by Neuro-Developmental Treatment Association (NDTA) at Goa	Ms.T.A.Simy, Coordinator, Physiotherapy department underwent this training in Goa
Workshop	A 3 day medical conference on “Recent development of Developmental Pediatrics” by Kasthurai Medical College, Manipal	Attended by Mr.Jefferson Raj Heckler, Physiotherapist
Workshop	Workshop on Boccia was conducted by Choice International, UK in Nehru Stadium Chennai	Smitha S from DLU attended this workshop along with physiotherapists Mr.Hari Krishnan, Mr.Gajendra Kumar and Mr.Robinson
Workshop	3 day National Conference on Deaf Blindness conducted in New Delhi	2 special educators Mr.Ramu.K and Ms.Valliammal.A attended the conference. They were sponsored by Perkins School for the Blind, Boston, USA
Seminar	Seminar on “Group homes and adult independent living” was conducted in Vidya Sagar	15 staff members and parents of adult students participated in this seminar
Paper Presentation	In the National conference organized by Ramakrishna Mission Vivekananda University, Coimbatore, Vidya Sagar staff presented paper on “Challenges and rehabilitation practice for the differently abled“	Mr.Hari Krishnan, Ms.Kirthika V and Ms.Anu Alex presented the paper

THERAPY



A child performing activity during occupational therapy session

Occupational Therapy Department

(OT)Occupational therapy department works with children to leverage their dexterity skills, work on their sensory needs and other skills required for activities of daily living. The department began the academic year 2013-2014 with the addition of necessary therapeutic equipments.

We setup a calming area, named “Bubbles”, for children with Sensory Processing Disorder. This room comprised of beanbags, therapy mats, attractive lights, light music and a pleasant aroma. The children were provided massage machines and warm water foot therapy. We also have outdoor physical and sport activities.

We employed a full-time occupational therapist (OT) for five months, but for the rest of the year we employed a part-time OT. We were assisted by two volunteers, who were trained by the therapists to work with the children.

Through the above arrangements, the department worked with 30 children through the year. We focussed on improving hand function. Two sets of thumb abductor splints were made for two children, with a small piece of

splinting material provided by The Bridge School, USA.

A donor also provided chewy tubes which were useful to children with oromotor issues that require intervention

Physiotherapy Department

The physiotherapy department oversees the neuromuscular development of all children with physical challenges. Various departments and programmes such as the Day Centre, Early Intervention Unit, Advisory and Referral Clinic and Home Management refer children for



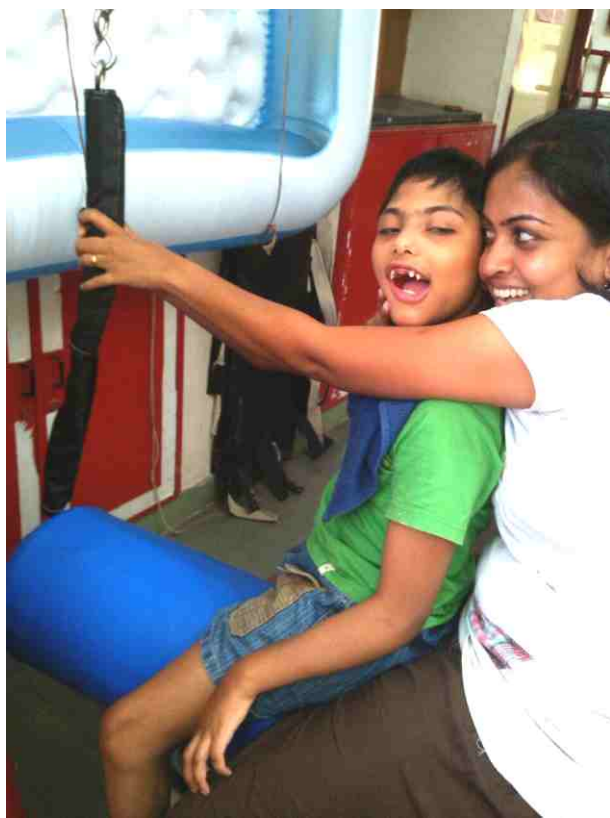
Group therapy

physiotherapy. We also worked with referred students from inclusion schools and our Community Based Rehabilitation programme.

Physiotherapy intervention starts with a detailed assessment of different internal systems: namely, neuro-motor, musculoskeletal, sensory, respiratory, gastro-intestinal and cardiac. In these assessments, the child's maximal functional abilities and his or her functional limitations are identified.

The assessment team includes physiotherapists, class teachers, and the parents. After the assessment, the functional goals for the next six months are designed, taking teacher and parent input into consideration. Smaller sub-goals are set from the functional goals.

The number of sessions required per week for effective physiotherapy depends on the child's age and the severity of impairment. A variety of helpful therapies, including different postures, mobility exercises, feeding techniques, play activities, skill-transferring activities and adaptations are administered. Mobility aids,



Individual therapy session in progress

orthotic aids and seating adaptations are also provided for use within the school and at home.

Our focus areas this year were mobility and eating related issues. With the support of students from IIT Madras, a therapeutic mobility device was introduced to students with poor trunk control who could not walk (even when assisted). The device is an automatic chair named "I-TAG" i.e. I tilt and go. It is programmed to respond to directive active weight shifts in the trunk, and the child is able to use the device by sitting on the chair with supportive straps. 10 students were trained to use I-TAG. The improvement in trunk control, head control, body awareness, coordinated and controlled movements, directionality and above all, self-esteem, was noticeable. The use of posterior walkers enabled four students to walk with escorts, while three students were able to walk without escorts. A two-week workshop on "Eating difficulties in people with multiple disabilities" was conducted in collaboration with Perkins International, USA in February 2014. Various eating issues such as structural, tonal, sensitivity and other oral motor issues were discussed. Assessment and treatment of correct seating positions for feeding, understanding the impact of texture and types of food were emphasized. After the workshop, there were remarkable improvements in many students who had previously experienced difficulties in eating.

In house workshops:

In-house workshops conducted included the 3-day "Principles of Neuro Developmental Therapy" workshop for all therapists. A one-day version of the same workshop was conducted for teachers.

Use of Physiotherapy Department 2013-2014	
Students availing physiotherapy	61
Students using adaptations	49
Students using wheel chairs	45
Students using walking aids	6
Students using adapted furniture	41

Number of items issued	
Orthotic aids	10
Wheel chairs	18
Furniture	10
Other adaptations	24

Speech and Communication Department

Conducting speech, language and communication assessments, setting goals and working to implement those goals, are the major functions of the Speech and Communication department.

A total of 500 students received services from the department. The department also conducts training workshops for parents, teachers, special educators, community workers and professionals working in other organizations.

We also collaborate with the engineering and technology students of Anna University and Indian Institute of Technology in Chennai, to develop indigenous assistive technology.

17 speech and language pathology students from Sri Ramachandra Medical College interned in the department. The interns spent 40 working days in the department to learn strategies of Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC).

The department conducted a one day hands-on-training in Alternative and Augmentative Communication (AAC) for therapists from



Using communication chart in a class session

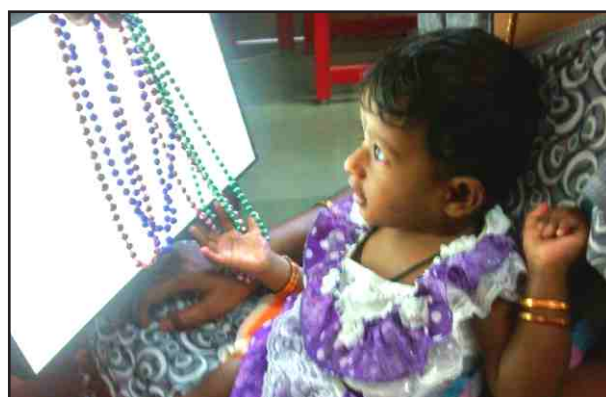
Christian Medical College in Vellore and doctors from The Child's Trust Hospital in Chennai.

A number of voice output devices were procured in the academic year. Non-contact switch access devices named Aditis were distributed free of cost to 50 students. Ten communication devices named Avaaz were made available for students on mini tablet devices.

The department actively promoted awareness of AAC during the AAC awareness week conducted by the International Society for Augmentative and Alternative Communication (ISAAC).

Vision Clinic

Functional vision assessments are performed at our Vision clinic for children and adults with vision impairments.



A child during vision assessment

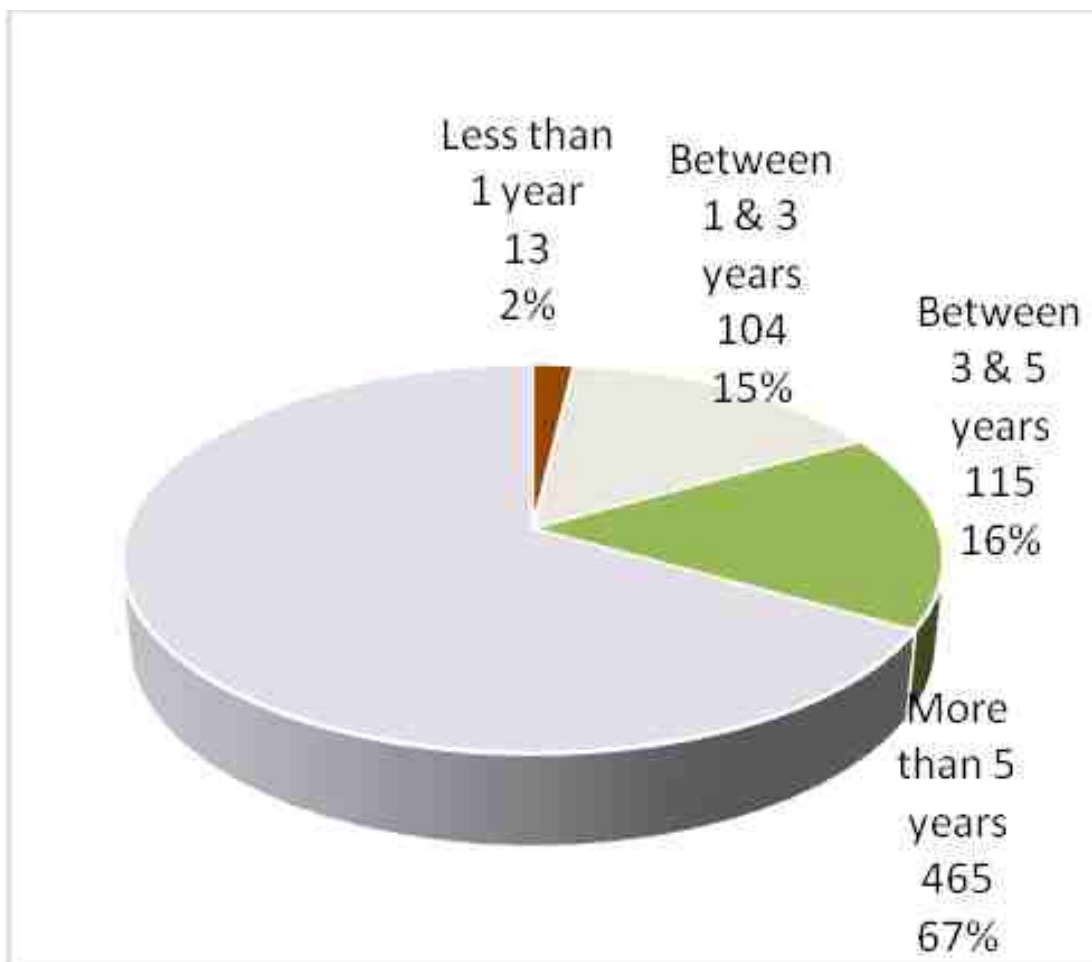
Children as old as a few months access our centre for intervention strategies. Following the one-on-one assessment performed by the therapist with the child, strategies for intervention are planned and implemented by the therapist, teacher and parents as a team. A typical assessment and intervention cycle reduces the challenges associated with low vision significantly. The aids and adaptations recommended are based on the requirements of the child. These recommendations leverage the communication skills, orientation and mobility skills, and the learning capacity of the child.

In the last year, a total of 78 initial functional vision assessments were performed. The

youngest child who came to our Vision clinic was just 3 months old. Leading hospitals such as Sankara Nethralaya and Frontline hospital, various pediatric neurologists, and mainstream schools referred children with vision impairment to us. Persons from other states of India and other countries also access a week long programme designed for out-station patients. Upon conclusion of the week, they are able to

continue the intervention strategies at home, and visit the Vision clinic for regular reviews.

Where possible, vision therapists conduct home visits to create an adapted environment for the child's toilet and mobility needs. This facilitates the creation of routine in the child's life and thus fosters greater independence in the activities of daily living.



Vision Clinic 2013 - 14 (Age wise)

SOME EVENTS 2013-14

April 2013

1. 2nd April 2013 – World Autism Day – Media personnel came to Vidya Sagar and interacted with our staff and students as a part of awareness campaign through media.

June 2013

1. 20th June 2013 – Theatre workshop organized by Krishnamurthy Foundation India was conducted for our students who were to participate in the play.

July 2013

1. 5th July 2013 – Festival of Drama and Dialogue, organized by Krishnamurthy Foundation India – The street play enacted by students of NIOS was based on a theme on water pollution.

August 2013

1. 15th August 2013 – Independence Day celebrations in school auditorium. Our students did a presentation on “Rivers of India”.



Independence Day celebrations

September 2013

1. 6th September 2013 – Staff picnic at Adventure Zone, Maturantakam, where everyone enjoyed various games and adventure activities.



Group pose on staff picnic day

October 2013

1. 2nd and 3rd October 2013 – Garage sale – Sale of food items, crockery, furniture, books, etc as a staff fund raising event.

November -2013

1. 6th November 2013 – Workshop – The students of the Day Centre and staff enjoyed



Students making music at the Opera Circus workshop

a 2 day workshop, conducted by Opera Circus, to enhance their musical skills. It was conducted by Professor Nigel Osborne, Darren Abrahams, and Prakrithi Dutta of Nachiketha, musical theatre production. The event ended with our student's show of creative movement and music.

2. 10th to 15th November 2013 – Anjali Children's festival 2013, Bhubaneswar, Orissa –Collage competition, rally and different workshops attended by students of Vidya Sagar along with staff and parents.
3. 12th and 13th November 2013 – Symposium on "Our neighborhood atlas"
4. 14th November 2013 Children's day - Our students got to invite their siblings for a fun day of carnival.
5. 18th November 2013 – Children of Early Intervention and Reception classes participated in the fancy dress competition held at Spastics Society of Tamil Nadu, Taramani.



Our EI student participating in a fancy dress competition

6. 21st November 2013 – The Early Intervention parents attended a story telling session conducted at Hotel Savera, which was organized by National Association for the Blind, Chennai.

December 2013:

1. 3rd December 2013 – World Disability Day – Awareness on accessibility in 10 zonal offices of Chennai Corporation.
2. 6th and 7th December 2013 – Regional Abilympics 2013, South Zone was conducted by Vidya Sagar, with support from the Department of Disability Affairs, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India. The event had vocational skills competition for adults above 16 years and there were 487 participants from South India who took part in events conducted at Vidya Sagar, Takkar Bapa, Little Flower Convent School and Anna University campus.



9th Regional Abilympics

3. 19th December 2013 – The Early Intervention children went on a trip to Express Avenue mall to celebrate Christmas. The children enjoyed a visit to Hamley's toy store.



Early Intervention class outing

- 21st December 2013 – The children enacted a nativity play during Christmas celebration in school. The cultural events were organized by Teacher Trainee Course (TTC) students.



Students celebrating Christmas with peers

January 2014:

- 9th January 2014 – The Early Intervention class was invited by a neighboring play school, “Bloom Kidz” for Pongal celebrations, and our children participated in inclusive activities.
- 10th January 2014 - Science exhibition - Two students from NIOS class attended the "Science invention in daily life" exhibition in Science city, Birla Planetarium and used an adapted camera for model presentation.
- 25th January 2014 – Sports day – various adapted sports events took place in Takkar Bapa campus with students from Early



March past during sports day

Intervention, Reception, Transition, Prevocational, and NIOS participating.

February 2014:

- 1st February 2014 – S’PAEDOFEST 2014 – Day Centre students participated in drawing, craft making and cultural competitions conducted at University of Madras, Chepauk campus.
- 4th February 2014 – Educational tour – Students of NIOS and prevocational classes went on a heritage tour to temples in Kancheepuram such as Kailasanathar temple and Vaikunda Perumal temple.
- 8th and 9th February 2014 – Sadya, annual fund raising event –Seven corporates participated in team building activities in Adventure Zone, Madurantakam.



Vidya Sagar staff and student during Sadya event

March 2014:

- 8th and 9th March 2014 – Annual Mela – The sale of handmade products made by Vidya Sagar vocational students.
- 20th March 2014 – Ishoo day - Remembrance of Ishwar Natarajan and homage to our students who passed away in the last year.

TRAVEL DETAILS

International Travel Details

Name	Designation	Place and Purpose	Funded by
Ms.Rajul Padmanabhan	Director	Lisbon, Portugal - Conference on AAC	International Society for Augmentative and Alternative Communication (ISAAC)
		Muscat, Oman - Training for Inclusive Education	Indian Schools Muscat (ISM)
Ms.Simy T.A	Coordinator - Physiotherapy	Vietnam - Training on Feeding, Hand functioning and Creative Movements	Perkins School for the Blind, Boston, USA
Ms.Jayalakshmi	Physiotherapist	Vietnam - Training on Feeding, Hand functioning and Creative Movements	Perkins School for the Blind, Boston, USA
Ms.Uma K.S.	Coordinator - HRD	Muscat, Oman - Training on Inclusive Education	Indian Schools Muscat (ISM)
Ms.Kalpana Rao	Principal - Day Centre	Muscat, Oman - Training on Inclusive Education	Indian Schools Muscat (ISM)
Ms.Dipti Bhatia	Deputy Director	Muscat, Oman - Training on Inclusive Education	Indian Schools Muscat (ISM)
Ms.Jayanthi Narayanan	Coordinator - Family Based Rehabilitation	Muscat, Oman - Training on Inclusive Education	Indian Schools Muscat (ISM)
Ms.Pushpapriya Ganesh	Special Educator	Muscat, Oman - Training on Inclusive Education	Indian Schools Muscat (ISM)

National Travel Details

Name	Designation	Place and Purpose	Funded by
Rajul Padmanabhan	Director	Trivandrum - 3 visits to develop a model for Assisted Living for Adults with Disability in Kerala state	Government of Kerala
Ms.Simy T.A	Coordinator - Physiotherapy	Goa - Certificate course on NDT	Perkins School for the Blind, Boston, USA
Ms.Uma K.S.	Coordinator - HRD	Peer Evaluation - The Spastic Society of Thirchirapalli (SST)	Christoffel-Blindenmission (CBM), Bangalore
Ms.Vijayashree Ramesh	Coordinator - EEC	Peer Evaluation - The Spastic Society of Thirchirapalli (SST)	Christoffel-Blindenmission (CBM), Bangalore
Ms.Navamani V.	Coordinator - CBR	Peer Evaluation - The Spastic Society of Thirchirapalli (SST)	Christoffel-Blindenmission (CBM), Bangalore
Mr.JeffersonRaj Heckler	Physiotherapist	Kasthurai Medical College, Manipal - Conference on "Recent development of Developmental Pediatrics"	Vidya Sagar
Kirthika V.	Special Educator	Ramakrishna Mission Vivekananda University, Coimbatore - Paper Presentation on "Challenges and rehabilitation practice for the differently abled"	Vidya Sagar
Mr.Hari Krishnan	Coordinator - Sports	Ramakrishna Mission Vivekananda University, Coimbatore - Paper Presentation on "Challenges and rehabilitation practice for the differently abled"	Vidya Sagar
Ms.Anu Alex	Special Educator	Ramakrishna Mission Vivekananda University, Coimbatore - Paper Presentation on "Challenges and rehabilitation practice for the differently abled"	Vidya Sagar
Mr.Ramu K.	Special Educator	New Delhi - Attended conference on Deaf Blindness	Perkins School for the Blind, Boston, USA
Ms.Valliammal A.	Special Educator	New Delhi - Attended conference on Deaf Blindness	Perkins School for the Blind, Boston, USA
Ms.Smitha S.S	Assistant Coordinator, DLU	Hyderabad - Consultation on RPDB 2014	Council for Social Development (CSD)
		Delhi Consultation on "Priorities to Union budget"	Centre for Budget and Governance Accountability (CBGA)

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT



Few fun activities during Sadya event

Involvement:

By and large, the community and well wishers support the major activities of Vidya Sagar. In today's scenario, with a slight change, the corporate initiative's as part of the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) policy has started to take shape. 2014 was a year where we could see strong support building in from donor NGO's and corporates. Support from trustees and volunteers to build this base are worth more than the mention.

The strategy involved was to create more awareness to attract added support from the community, identify potential donors, breaking up bigger projects / events into smaller modules to facilitate more donors to support affordable projects, constant updates about the progress of each project to the specific donor and clear, transparent information exchange. This has helped us increase our donor database and thereby inviting more like minded people into the network.

Sources:

Our major fundraising event is Sadya, which constituted 23% of our income. General donations from the community, donor NGO's

and corporate contributed to 46% of our total funds. 9% of income was generated through grants.

Sadya 2014:

Sadya is our big fund raising event and we have travelled this journey for 14 yrs now, with lot of zeal and enthusiasm. Every time, we have had tremendous support from the corporate and 2014 was no exception. The 2014 event was a grand success and a heartfelt thanks to all the corporates, participants and of course, our pillars –Sadya Volunteers.

The participant companies were

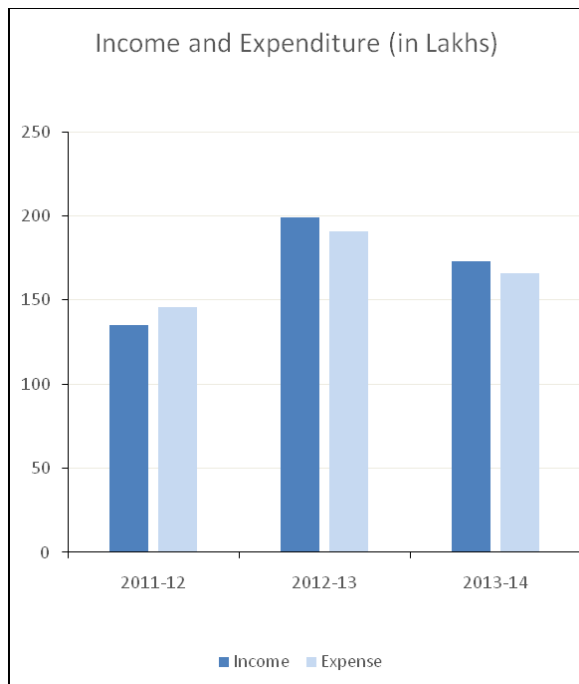
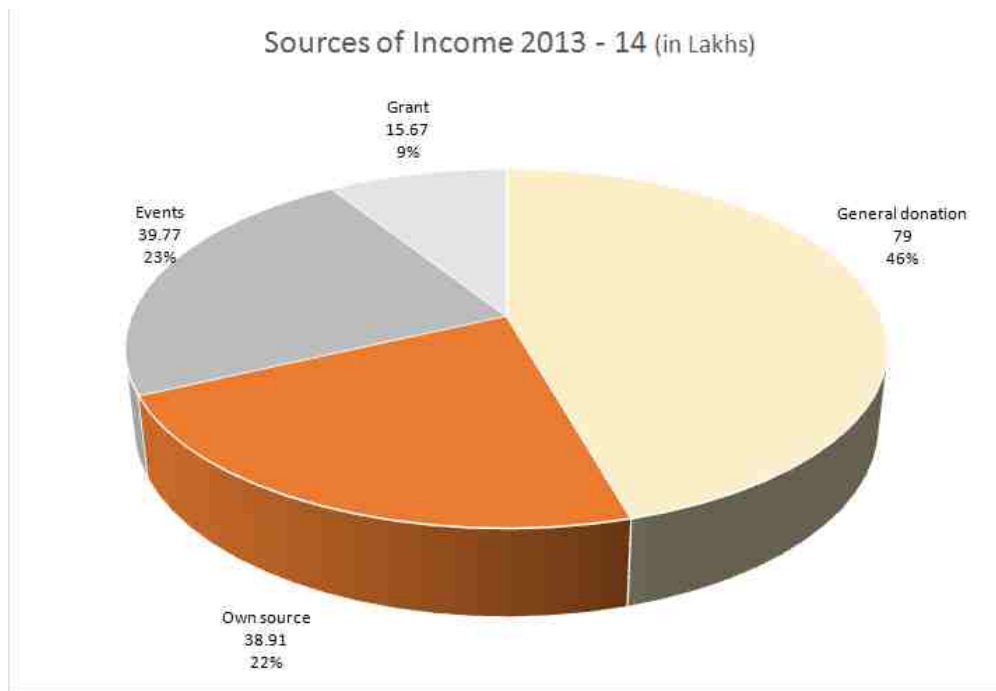
- Hofinsoft Technologies
- Royal Images
- Hyundai Motors
- Thinksoft Global Services Ltd.
- Grundfos Pumps Ltd.
- Episource
- Larsen & Toubro

The winners were - "**Grundfos Pumps Ltd**"

1st runner up –Formerly Thinksoft Global Services Limited and

2nd runner up – Larsen & Toubro. The amount raised in Sadya 2014 was Rs. 28, 31, 859.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT



No of Staff	Salary Range for the year 2013-2014 in Rupees
3	20,000 and above
10	More than 15,000 less than 20,000
28	More than 10,000 and less than 15,000
48	More than 5000 less than 10,000
11	More than 3000 less than 5000
Nil	Less than 3000

BANK DETAILS

Vidya Sagar (formerly The Spastics Society of India)

Address: # 1, Ranjith road,

Kotturpuram,

Chennai 600085

Phone: 044-22354784/85/4980

Fax: 044-22200533

Email: vidyasagar.resources@gmail.com; accounts@vidyasagar.co.in

Registered under Act 27, Tamil Nadu Societies Registration Act R.No.467 of 1998

Founder: Ms.Poonam Natarajan

Chairperson: Ms. Usha Ramakrishnan

Director: Ms.Rajul Padmanabhan

Phone: 044-22353757

Email: director@vidyasagar.co.in

Donations are exempt under 80G of the IT Act.

Registered u/s 12 A application no. DIT (E) No.2 (374) 98-99

Bank details			
Name of bank	State bank of Mysore	HDFC Bank Ltd.	HDFC Bank Ltd.
Type of account	Savings account	Savings account	Foreign contribution account
Savings account number	A/C No. 54028105944	A/C No. 13051450000068	A/C No. 50100022443481
IFSC code	SBMY0040169	HDFC0001305	HDFC0001305
Address	State bank of Mysore	HDFC Bank Ltd.	HDFC Bank Ltd.
	No 14, North Usman Road, T Nagar, Chennai 600017	46, Gandhimandapam Road, Kotturpuram, Chennai 600085	46, Gandhimandapam Road, Kotturpuram, Chennai 600085
Phone number	044-28340121	044-30751912	044-30751912
			FCRA regn No : 075300693, 13th Jan – 2000
			Swift: HDFCINBB
			PAN number: AAATV2359M

THE GOVERNING BODY

Names of the members	Qualification	Designation in other Organisations	Designation in the Board
Ms. Usha Ramakrishnan	Graduate/ Special Educator	Honorary Member Council-Bala Mandir Research Foundation; Hony.Executive Committee Member-Indian Council for Child Welfare, Tamil Nadu.	Chairperson
Mr. Shankaran Nair	B.A (Economics); M.B.A	President- Servion Global Solutions	Vice Chairperson
Ms. Anuradha Venkatesh	PGDM (IIM,B)	CEO - Vivitsu Mentoring Academy	Secretary
Mr.Ramesh.S	C. A.	Chartered Accountant	Treasurer
Ms.Poonam Natarajan	Post Graduate/ Special Educator	Chairperson- National Trust	Member
Mr.N.Gopinath	Business Management	Managing Director - Fluid Therm Technology Pvt Ltd.	Member
Ms.Rasheeda Bhagat	M.A.(English Literature)	Senior Associate Editor and Member -Editorial Management Committee, Business Line (The Hindu)	Member
Mr.Sriram Panchu	Post Graduate (Law)	Advocate and Senior Counsel	Member
Ms.Aarti Arvind	B.Sc; M.B.A	Executive Vice President - Thinksoft Global Services Limited	Member
Dr.Soumya Swaminathan	M.D. (Paediatrics)	Director - National Institute for Research in Tuberculosis, Chennai.	Member
Mr.Siddharth.G.J.	B.Com; M.A (Economics)	Manager - Trade Services Operations-Corporate and Global Market Operations - IndusInd Bank	Member

THE GENERAL BODY

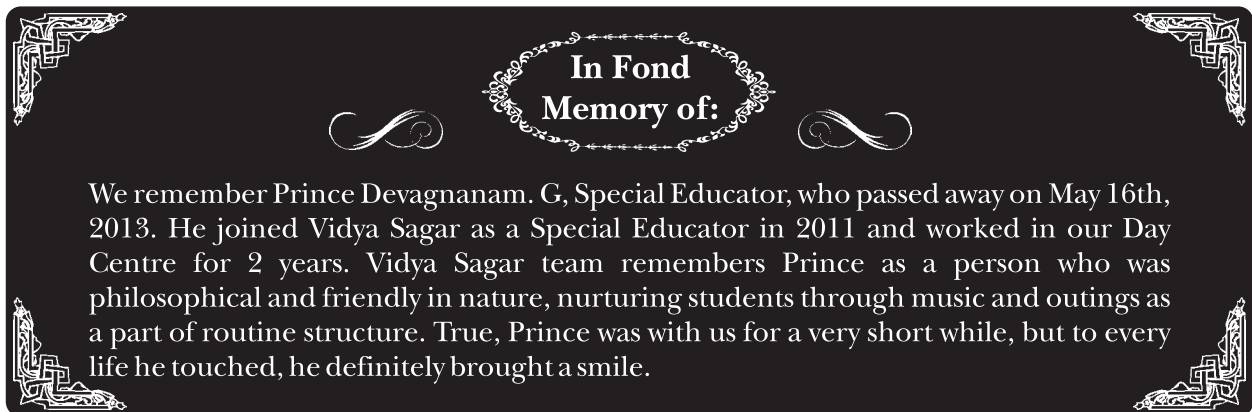
Names of the members	Qualification	Designation in other Organisations	Designation in the Board
Ms.Seetha Ratnakar	Graduate/Media	Former Assistant Station Director Doordarshan Kendra; Freelance Film Director	Member
Ms.Preethi Mehra	B.A (Hons) English	Associate Editor at 'The Hindu'	Member
Ms.Kalpana Rao	Graduate	Principal - Day Centre, Vidya Sagar	Member
Mr.Rajiv Rajan	Post Graduate	Coordinator - Disability Legislation Unit, Vidya Sagar; Board member - 'Asia-Pacific Disabled Peoples Organisation United'	Member
Ms.Suguna.V.	Physiotherapist	Senior Staff and Coordinator - Adult Leisure Unit, Vidya Sagar	Member
Ms.Prabha Sekar	B.Sc (H.Sc); PGDip (Comp Ed); PG Dip(Journalism and Mass Comm)	Volunteer - Parent of child with disability	Member
Ms.Mallika Ganapathy	Graduate/ Special Educator	Consultant	Member
Ms.Dipti Bhatia	M.Phil	Deputy Director-Vidya Sagar; Honorary Secretary – National Association for the Blind	Member
Dr.Ms.Namitha Jacob	Ph.D	Education Specialist - Perkins International; Asia Pacific Region Programme Director- 'Chethna'	Member
Ms.Dwaraka Pandurangi	M.Com	Volunteer (Fundraising)	Member
Ms.Urmila Agarwal	Graduate	Entrepreneur	Member
Ms.Rajul Padmanabhan	Postgraduate/ Special Educator	Director - Vidya Sagar	Ex-Officio Member

STAFF LIST

Senior Management Team	
Ms.Rajul Padmanabhan	Director
Ms.Dipti Bhatia	Deputy Director
Ms.Jayanthi Narayanan	Coordinator-Family Based Rehabilitation
Ms.Kalpana Rao	Principal - Day Centre
Ms.Navamani V.	Coordinator-Community Based Rehabilitation
Ms.Radha Muralidharan	Coordinator - Accounts
Mr.Rajiv Rajan	Coordinator-Disability Legislation Unit
Ms.Shirin Mammen	Coordinator-Human Resources Development
Ms.Simy T.A.	Coordinator-Physiotherapy
Ms.Suguna V.	Coordinator-Adult Leisure Programme
Ms.Sumithra Nath	Administrative Officer
Ms.Uma K.S.	Coordinator-Human Resources Development
Ms.Vijayshree Ramesh	Coordinator - Employment Education Centre
Ms.Anuradha .S	Co-ordinator - Youth Programme
Resources	
Ms.Madhulika Dhindaw	Coordinator - Resources
Special Educators	
Ms.Aarabhi Badri	Mr.Prasanna Venkatesh
Mr.Anandh T.M.	Ms.Pushpriya Ganesh
Ms.Anu Alex	Ms.Rebecca K.
Ms.Chitra Ravichandran	Mr.Ramu K.
Ms.Dhanalakshmi V.	Ms.Rinku Bandyopadhyay
Ms.Gandhimathi S.	Ms.Sasikala D.
Ms.Jayalakshmi S.	Ms.Shasikala Ramalingam
Ms.Jayanthi K.	Ms.Shefali
Ms.Jeeva M.	Ms.Shruthi P. Atmaram
Ms.Kaveri V.	Ms.Smitha Padmanabhan
Ms.Krithika V.	Ms.Suganya D.
Ms.Kruthika Arun Kalyanpur	Ms.Teena K.
Ms.Lakshmi Balasubramanian	Ms.Uma Narayanan
Ms.Lakshmi Prabhakaran	Ms.Valliammal A.
Ms.Manju Rani Sarkar	Ms.Victoria H.
Ms.Meenakshi K.	Ms.Viswapriya Narasimhan
Ms.Minothi Sen	Mr.Prince Devagnanam G.
Ms.Mohana Sundari N.	Mr.Harikrishnan J.

Teachers	Social Workers	Vocational Instructors
Ms.Roopa Saldanha	Mr. Simeon Joshua	Mr.Amirtharaj I.
Ms.Meena Doraiswamy		Ms.Jayanthi V.
Ms.Shalima Paul	Transport	Ms.Vimala T.A.
Ms.Vaideki V.	Mr.Antony Raj M.	
Occupational Therapist	Library	Disability Legislative Unit
Ms.Ramya K.M.	Ms.Rajalakshmi R.	Ms.Meenakshi.B -Associate Coordinator
	Ms.Kanthimathi	Ms.Smitha S.S. - Associate Coordinator
Accounts Department		
Ms.Chitra S.	Mr.Dhanasekar R.	Mr.Muzamil A.S.
Physiotherapy Department	Administration	
Ms.Caroline Jothi E.	Mr.Balaji R.	Systems in Charge
Mr.Gajendrakumar	Mr.Dhanapal N.	Office Assistant
Mr.Hari Krishnan M. (Sports)	Mr.Janaki Raman	Shop in Charge
Ms.Hemalatha R.	Ms.Josephine G.	Secretary to Director
Ms.Jayalakshmi S.	Mr.Murali S.	Carpenter
Mr.Jefferson Raj Leckler	Mr.Mustafa	Wheel Chair Maintenance
Ms.Lakshmi S.	Mr.Nirmal kumar	Office Assistant
Ms.Mahalakshmi V.	Mr.Prabhakaran A.	Reception
Ms.Malini Parthasarathy	Ms.Rama Devi M.	Secretary
Ms.Mohana G.	Ms.Revathy S.	Secretary
Ms.Nirmala M.	Ms.Deepa A.	Secretary
Mr.Paul Robinson R.	Ms.Shanthi Srinivasan	Secretary
Ms.Shanthi R.	Mr.Shivaram	Assistant
Ms.Sumitra K.	Ms.Sunara K.P.	Office Assistant
Ms.Vijayalakshmi M.	Ms.Vidya Krishnan	Assistant

Consultants	
Ms.Amutha T.	Occupational Therapist
Mr.Dandapani T.R.	Admin / Legal
Ms.Geraldine M. Daniel	Occupational Therapist
Ms.Meadhini T.	Occupational Therapist
Ms.Ramah Guruswamy	Fund Raising
Ms.Savita Thapliyal	Counselling
Ms.Srimathi Kaver	Inclusion
Ms.Sujatha Sriram	Inclusion
Ms.Thresiamma Francis	Counselling
Ms.Vimala Srinivasan	Vision
Support Staff	
Ms.Alamelu D.	Ms.Indirani P.
Ms.Amudha I.	Ms.Jaya D.
Ms.Anjali S.	Ms.Jaya R.
Ms.Banumathi S.	Ms.Kokila E.
Ms.Dheepa K.	Ms.Kuppulakshmi
Ms.Erukalammal (a) Lakshmi K.	Ms.Mariammal M.
Ms.Girija V.	Ms.Mumtaj J.
Ms.Gnanam R.	Ms.Radha K.
Ms.Selvi M.	Ms.Rajeshwari D.
Ms.Shanthi A.	Ms.Rajeswari T.
Ms.Shanthi G.	Ms.Rani S.
Ms.Shanthi S.	Ms.Saraswathy
Ms.Sugunavathi	



AUDITOR'S REPORT

SANKARAN & KRISHNAN CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

"Rosewood Offices"
130, Mahathma Gandhi Road,
Nungambakkam, Chennai - 600 034.

Phone : 2833 1550
2833 0723
Fax : 4218 2018
E-mail : sk@sankrish.ind.in

FORM NO. 10-B

AUDITORS' REPORT UNDER SECTION 12A(b) OF THE INCOME-TAX ACT, 1961.

We have examined the Balance Sheet of VIDYASAGAR, 1, Ranjith Road, Kotturpuram, Chennai 600 085, as on 31st March 2014 and the Profit and Loss Account for the year ended on that date, which are in agreement with the books of accounts maintained by the said Institution.

We have obtained all the information and explanations, which to the best of our knowledge and belief were necessary for the purpose of the Audit. In our opinion, proper books of accounts have been kept by the above named Institution.

In our opinion and to the best of our information and according to the information given to us, the said accounts give a true and fair view:

- (i) In the case of the Balance Sheet of the State of affairs of the above named Institution as at 31st March 2014.
- (ii) In the case of Income and Expenditure Account, the excess of Income over Expenditure of its accounting year ended 31.03.2014.

The prescribed particulars are annexed hereto.

For **SANKARAN & KRISHNAN**
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
FRN 003582S

PLACE: CHENNAI
DATE: 23.09.2014



M. Balachandran
(M. BALACHANDRAN)
PARTNER
Membership No.016271

Branches : HYDERABAD, VIZAG, NEW DELHI, BANGALORE



STATEMENT OF PARTICULARS

I) APPLICATION OF INCOME FOR CHARITABLE OR RELIGIOUS PURPOSES

	Rs.
1. Amount of income of the previous year applied to Charitable or religious purposes in India during the year.	1,66,89,492
2. Whether the trust/Institution has exercised the option under clause (2) of the EXPLANATION to section 11 (1). If so, the details of the amount of income deemed to have been applied to charitable or religious purposes in India during the previous year.	No
3. Amount of Income accumulated or set apart/ finally set apart for application to charitable religious purposes, to the extent it does not exceed 15% of the income derived from property held under trust wholly / in part only for such purposes.	26,00,210
4. Amount of income eligible for exemption under section 11(1)(c) give details.	N.A.
5. Amount of income, in addition to the amount referred to in item 3 above, accumulated or set apart for specified purposed under section 11(2).	NIL
6. Whether the amount of income mentioned in Item 5 above has been invested or deposited in the manner laid down under in section 11(2)(b) ? If so the details thereof.	NO
7. Whether any part of the income in respect of which an option was exercised under clause (2) of the EXPLANATION to section 11(1) in any earlier year under section 11(1B)? If so, the details thereof.	NO
8. Whether, during the previous year, any part of income accumulated or set apart for specified purposes under section 11(2) in any earlier years.	NO
a) has been applied for purposes other than Charitable or religious purposes or has ceased to be accumulated or set apart for application thereto, or	NO
b) has ceased to remain invested in any security referred to in section 11(2)(b)(i) or deposited in any account referred to in 11(2)(b)(iii), or	NIL



III. INVESTMENTS HELD AT ANY TIME DURING THE PREVIOUS YEAR(S) IN CONCERNS IN WHICH PERSONS REFERRED TO IN SECTION 13 (3) HAVE A SUBSTANTIAL INTEREST.

S.No. (1)	Name and address of the concern (2)	Where the concern is a company No. of class if shares held (3)
Total		----- NIL -----

Nominal Value of the Investment (4)	Income from the Investment (5)	Where the amount of Col 4 exceed 5% of the capital of the concern during the previous year - say Yes/No (6)
Total		----- NIL -----

PLACE: CHENNAI

DATE: 23.09.2014

For **SANKARAN & KRISHNAN**
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
FRN 03582S



(Signature)
(M. BALACHANDRAN)
PARTNER
Membership No. 016271

SANKARAN & KRISHNAN
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

"Rosewood Offices"
130, Mahathma Gandhi Road,
Nungambakkam, Chennai - 600 034.

Phone : 2833 1550
2833 0723
Fax : 4218 2018
E-mail : sk@sankrish.ind.in

VIDYASAGAR
No.1, Ranjith Road Kotturpuram Chennai 600085

Statement of Total Income for Income Tax purpose as on 31st March 2014

PAN : AAATV2359M Status : Charitable Trust	Asst. Year : 2014 - 15 DOF : 11-11-1998
---	--

Particulars	Rs.	Rs.
Donation Received	10999864	
Grant in Aid	1566719	
Interest Received	453868	
Rent Received	530020	
Other Receipts	3784265	
		17,334,736
Less: 15 % accumulated or set apart for application charitable purposes		2,600,210
		14,734,526
Less : Expenditure/Application as per Income & Expenditure		16,689,492
Balance		NIL

TDS & Refund due 31375/-

Prepared for the purpose of Income Tax as per explanations and information
Furnished by the Assesee.



Sankaran & Krishnan
Chartered Accountants

Branches : HYDERABAD, VIZAG, NEW DELHI, BANGALORE



VIDYA SAGAR
No1. Ranjit Road, Kotturpuram, Chennai-600 085.

CONSOLIDATED INCOME & EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2014

DESCRIPTION	2014	2013	DESCRIPTION	2014	2013
Expenditure	TOTAL	TOTAL	Income	TOTAL	TOTAL
Aids & Appliances	208,533.00	44,620.00	Assesment Fund	139,050.00	127,100.00
Advertisement Charge	11,806.00	-	Application & Registration fee	5,365.00	-
AMC	130,285.00	73,354.00	Course Fee	245,000.00	-
Audit Fees	5,618.00	5,618.00	Donation Fund	7,510,032.00	10,825,486.00
Bank charges	6,302.40	11,194.00	Donation Fund (Foreign)	202,832.42	346,826.22
Books & Periodicals	8,364.00	7,255.00	Donation Fund (Sadya)	3,100,000.00	2,064,000.00
Consultation Charges	512,368.00	467,360.00	Donation Fund (Visaca)	187,000.00	-
Conveyance & Travelling	230,077.00	311,409.00	Fund Raising	283,580.00	639,827.00
Depreciation	1,249,582.01	954,265.65	Grant in aid ERSF	-	652,392.00
Electricity	301,108.00	358,198.00	Grant in aid State Commissioner	240,000.00	-
Event Expenses	83,712.00	69,657.50	Grant in aid MSJE - Day Centre	451,230.00	965,324.00
Fund Raising Expenses	11,436.00	253,744.00	Grant in aid MSJE - FBR	875,489.00	-
Gratuity	16,875.00	28,038.00	Greeting Cards	20,020.00	302,121.00
Honorarium	56,950.00	63,085.00	Interest	453,867.97	674,093.44
Internet charges	26,049.70	30,372.00	Internship Fees	-	74,500.00
Interest Paid	28,596.00	392,400.00	Mobility Fund	769,165.00	658,270.00
Kalakaal Café	25,831.00	-	Misc. Income	28,749.00	67,442.50
Library Books	14,208.00	21,228.00	Rent Received	530,020.00	301,148.00
Maintenance Building	294,441.00	307,644.00	Sadya - Other Income	8,405.00	-
Maintenance Garden	44,000.00	-	Souvenir	565,000.00	900,000.00
Maintenance & Repairs	219,671.50	155,862.00	Technical Fee	565,714.00	213,865.00
Miscellaneous Expenses	12,059.56	4,870.00	Tuition Fund	1,015,025.00	1,020,740.00
PF Administrative Expenses	120,399.00	105,524.00	Vocational Training Income	139,192.50	106,703.00
Provident Fund	735,045.00	786,488.00			
Postage	20,123.00	14,163.00			
Printing & Stationery	123,240.25	137,729.25			
Raw Material	51,749.00	33,495.00			
Rent	120,600.00	103,100.00			
Sadya FR Expenses	276,546.00	-			
Salaries	9,764,316.00	11,860,581.00			
Security Charges	225,843.00	259,043.00			
Seminars & Workshop	42,141.00	45,744.00			
Staff Welfare	289,574.00	236,341.00			
Staff Transport	76,950.00	44,665.00			
Students Welfare	15,818.00	94,037.00			
Students Conveyance	761,214.00	1,179,961.99			
Students Medicals	89,905.00	263,436.00			
Subscription & Membership	18,049.00	28,050.00			
Teaching Aids	81,805.40	123,511.00			
Telephone Charges	111,359.00	118,455.43			
Vocational Training Expenses	-	13,202.00			
Vehicle Expenses	164,103.00	152,062.00			
Web Maintenance	33,990.00	6,750.00			
Water Tax	68,850.00	924,490.00			
surplus - Excess of Income over Expenditure	645,244.07	-	Deficit - Excess of Expenditure over income		151,164.66
TOTAL	17,334,736.89	20,091,002.82	TOTAL	17,334,736.89	20,091,002.82

For VIDYA SAGAR

Rajul Padmanabhan

RAJUL PADMANABHAN
Director

For SANKARAN & KRISHNAN
Chartered Accountants
FRN 003582 G



M. Balachandran
Partner

M. BALACHANDRAN
M.No : 16271

VIDYA SAGAR
No1. Ranjit Road, Kotturpuram, Chennai-600 085.

BALANCE SHEET AS ON 31ST MARCH 2014

LIABILITIES	Rs. P.	ASSETS	Rs. P.
Trust / General Fund (Schedule A)	10,317,014.59	Fixed Assets (Schedule E)	25,598,821.00
Depreciation Reserve Fund (Schedule B)	17,714,130.00	Investments (Schedule F)	1,617,074.00
Donation Fund (Corpus)	1,650,000.00	Receivables (Schedule G)	1,145,186.21
Donation (Earmarked)	276,632.00	Current Assets	
Donation (Assets)	1,531,106.00	Cash in hand	21,465.00
1. Grant in Aid - Handicap International	13,592.99	Cash at Bank (Schedule H)	7,979,368.32
2. Grant in Aid - Hilton perkins	61,136.00		
3. Grant in Aid - ERSF	509,380.00		
4. Programme Grant in Aid (Tata Trust) (Schedule C)	3,387,115.00		
5. Sri Sarvatma Natarajan Trust	62,549.95		
6. National Award	46,989.00		
7. Award - Alliance Resource	140,000.00		
Liabilities & Provisions (Schedule D)	652,269.00		
TOTAL	36,361,914.53	TOTAL	36,361,914.53

For VIDYA SAGAR
Rajul Padmanabhan.
RAJUL PADMANABHAN
Director



BANKARAN & KRISHNAN
Chartered Accountants
FRN 003628

M. Balachandran
26/6/14 Partner
M. BALACHANDRAN
M.No : 16271





The wheels are turning

Michael Rosenkrantz was in the city recently to guide a group of people in wheelchair basketball

IN GOOD COMPANY Michael with a bunch of wheelchair basketball players in the city

In his 50s now, Michael Rosenkrantz is living out his childhood dream — of travel, living abroad and helping differently abled people move ahead in life. His dream came true with joining Voluntary Services Overseas (VSO), an international development NGO that gets its volunteers to work with local partners to tackle disability, poverty, educational needs and other issues in the Third World. Michael was in Chennai recently to coach and guide a bunch of mobility challenged basketball players who have their targets set — winning medals for the country at the forthcoming Paralympics.

Training the coaches

Michael is known for building the Nepalese Army's wheelchair basketball team (of injured Army personnel) as for his efforts in getting corporate groups to invest in promoting sports for the disabled. In Ne-

pal, Michael has made great progress and set up a system to carry forward the movement. He trained Nepali school sports instructors and college students in wheelchair basketball coaching. Now, thanks to him, there are 60 wheelchair players in Kathmandu, who train every weekend. In Nepal, Michael also conducts sessions for children on life lessons from basketball. He says, "I would love to help build a wheelchair basketball team in India too."

In the city, Michael coached

a group of physically challenged persons who are trying their hands on wheelchair basketball for the first time. He pointed to Jagannath, one of the wheelchair players, and said, "If you ignore the wheelchair, you see at once that he is a natural athlete, he just needs some training to become a champion." There was also young Smitha, who works at Vidyasagar, learning the nuances of the game. Besides those aiming for the Paralympics, there are those who turned up to improve their fitness

through wheelchair basketball, such as B. Shanbu, who arrived at the court on her covered scooter. A.P. Raja, an accountant, 60-year-old Uthra Ramachandran and a few others. All of them were delighted to take part in sports. There was also S. Ananthan, a first year student of MOC and State-level basketball player who stepped up to assist Michael.

All about team spirit

"While playing the Paralympics is part of the vision, disability sport is not just about winning medals. It is about inclusion, team spirit, and experiencing the joy and benefits of sports. It is great that so much is happening in disability legislation in India. The challenge now is in ensuring accessibility for the disabled in sports. This includes accessible sports infrastructure from on the part of the government, besides getting corporate groups to back

disability sports," said Michael. In the West, corporate groups have stepped in to fund wheelchair basketball, financing sports wheelchair and other initiatives," he said in Nepal. Michael had helped companies invest in and gain from Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives in disability sports. "As a volunteer working abroad, I have gained too — in terms of a unique and enriching experience, global outlook and an appreciation of diversity," Michael said. Originally from Los Angeles, Michael obtained MEd. in Northeastern University, Boston, MA. Sociology is Boston College and a BA in Political Science from the University of California, Irvine. A wheelchair user, Michael wears several hats. He is also a freelance writer. Catch him on michaelrosenkrantz@blogspot.com. **HEMA VIJAY**

'Women with disabilities must be treated as equals'

Staff Reporter

CHENNAI: The trauma that a woman with a disability goes through when faced with gender violence goes much beyond the incident, and extends to filing a First Information Report (FIR) at the local police station and at every step in the case there on.

But women, said Amba Saelkar, fellow, Inclusive Planet Centre for Disability Law and Policy, must not only go ahead and file an FIR but also demand assistance, assistive devices and provisions available to them to help them register a case and identify the accused. As part of the 16 days of activism against gender violence campaign which began on November 25, Prajnya Trust released a preview of a video resource on 'Disability, gender violence and the law' as part of its 16-day campaign against gender violence — **PHOTO: M. KARUNAKARAN**



On Thursday, Prajnya Trust released a preview of a video resource on 'Disability, gender violence and the law' as part of its 16-day campaign against gender violence — **PHOTO: M. KARUNAKARAN**

The video touches upon overt and covert forms of gender violence unique to women with disabilities, accessibility issues, misuse of government schemes, legal provisions and acts, the United Nations Convention of Rights of Persons with Disabilities and issues relating to sexuality among other aspects.

Smitha S., assistant coordinator, disability legislation unit, Vidya Sagar who is part of the video said that women with

amend or create laws or facilitate procedures, which will help them redress any grievance," said Ms. Saelkar.

Right now, she said, the government must have a woman representative with a disability on every panel related to women and their safety. "There are various committees and sub-committees being set up and we find that we do not have enough representation from persons with disabilities, let alone women with disabilities. It needs to be rectified immediately," she said.

The final version of the video, said Ms. Rajagopalan, will have subtitles, and anyone can create subtitles in other languages. While the rough-cut will be available as a free resource immediately on YouTube, the final video will be up within a few months, she said.



PHOTO: M. SRINATH

Exhibition of handmade items at Kotturpuram

'Kalakkal Santhal,' an exhibition-cum sale of handmade products organised by Vidya Sagar, ends today. The key feature of the exhibition is that all products are exclusively made by differently-abled people. Nearly 20 forums from different parts of Tamil Nadu, including Tirunelveli and Tiruvallur districts, have put stalls. On sale are gift articles, batik, saris, preserved food items and others. The objective of organising the expo is to provide a platform to market products made by differently-abled people and thereby lending them an helping hand. The fair will be open from 1 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Vidya Sagar, No.1 Ranjith Road, Kotturpuram. For details, contact Dipi Bhatia, Deputy Director, Vidya Sagar at 9849 17344.

'Access for all' campaign held in city

Staff Reporter

CHENNAI: The civic body, in association with NGO Vidya Sagar, organised 'solidarity booths' to promote access for all in every part of the city, on Tuesday.

Persons with disabilities, at the solidarity booths in each of the Chennai Corporation zones, created awareness on the need to develop structures that permit access to senior citizens.

There was also emphasis on barrier-free access for persons with medical complications, pregnant women, children and persons carrying luggage.

Better response

"People have been more responsive to the campaign

They are becoming more sensitive to the challenges faced by persons with disability. Barrier-free environment is universal," said Smitha Sadasivam, assistant coordinator, disability legislation unit of Vidya Sagar.

"The section of people who need barrier-free access is not just three per cent, it is 30 per cent," said Rajiv Rajan, coordinator, disability legislation unit of Vidya Sagar.

55 footpaths to be barrier free

A Corporation official said: "The Corporation will create barrier-free environment on 55 footpaths in the first phase. We will take persons with disability to the new footpaths and check if it



CREATING AWARENESS: Persons with disabilities created awareness on the need to develop structures that permit access to senior citizens, persons with medical complications, pregnant women, children and persons carrying luggage

Waking the talk: Corp. gears up to support disabled

Civic body to partner with activists for disability day; will work towards barrier-free access for all across city



SPEAKING OUT Every year, awareness programmes and rallies are held to make residents and officials aware about the rights and needs of those with disabilities — **FILE PHOTO**

Ramya Kannan

CHENNAI: This year in Chennai, access rights activists have a powerful, sturdy partner on the occasion of the International Day for the Rights of Persons with Disability.

This time's partner, Chennai Corporation, is sure to lend a whole deal of support to the cause of barrier-free access, and the long-term impact of such a commitment is bound to be beneficial to the city, activists say. Vidya Sagar conducts awareness programmes regularly on World Disability

Day and this year, they will set up solidarity booth in all 15 zonal offices of the Corporation on Tuesday to sensitise the public and civic body officials on the right to access for all, including for persons with disabilities. "In the past, we set up booths in public places like railway stations, and airports. Last year it was in public sector banks. But we are very excited about the role of the Corporation in this campaign. In fact, the Corporation commissioner himself has asked us to spread awareness among the staff," said Smitha S., of Vidya Sagar.

This year, 'Access for All' is the theme. "We are going to be talking about barrier-free environments, including footpaths, public transport and buildings, as we believe these are part of universal design. It will cater to the accessibility requirements of diverse groups such as senior citizens, persons with health issues, pregnant women, children, even those carrying heavy luggage," she said.

But this campaign is also about other forms of access — as the pledge that the civic body staff will be taking claims: "Universal, barrier-free design in built environ-

ment, roads and pavements as well as products ranging from chairs to machines, services such as banking, medical treatment, education and transportation, programs and information and communication in public and private sectors for all, including persons with disabilities."

"We are very happy to be working with the Corporation, which has of late put effort into activities such as ensuring wide pavements, disabled-friendly footpaths in some areas and generally making this city pedestrian-friendly," Ms. Smitha added.



VIDYA SAGAR

(Formerly 'The Spastics Society of India, Chennai')

Kid's Cerebral Palsy strike up fur-iendship



Two young boys have become friends after one of them was diagnosed with cerebral palsy. The boy, who is now in a wheelchair, has found a friend who is not afraid of his condition. The boy's name is...

included athletic brought... I've seen how the interaction with my friend... has helped my son who has cerebral palsy.

Kids get bonding with the furry four-legged friends of the field for the first time.

'Music has therapeutic powers'

Chemicals: "Music as a tool can be used to link with the brain. It can be used to stimulate and control movement in the body," said Dr. E. S. Krishnamoorthy, director of Institute of Neurological Sciences, VHS Medical Centre, Taramani. Music can be used to bring in rhythm to human movements, the neurologist said.

Music not only connects with people, it also develops a rapport because of its universality. Dr. E. S. Krishnamoorthy, Director, Institute of Neurological Sciences, VHS Medical Centre.

MIRANDA TOMKINSON'S BRAILLE QUESTION PAPERS ARRIVED HERE BY FLIGHT FROM NEW DELHI ON SATURDAY VISUALLY CHALLENGED CANDIDATE MAKES UGC HISTORY



Miranda Tomkinson taking the University Grants Commission's National Eligibility Test in Braille, at the MGK Jansukh College on Sunday.

She was one of the few candidates who had not been seen for long. A visually challenged candidate, she had to write the UGC National Eligibility Test in Braille. She was the first visually challenged candidate to appear for the exam. She was the first to be seen for the exam. She was the first to be seen for the exam.

On December 27, Miranda Tomkinson, a visually challenged candidate, arrived at the examination centre at MGK Jansukh College on Sunday. She was the first visually challenged candidate to appear for the exam. She was the first to be seen for the exam.

Autism simulation



Participants in an autism simulation activity.

Participants in an autism simulation activity. The activity was designed to help people understand the experience of living with autism. It was held at the VHS Medical Centre.

Disorder: kids find voice in music, art



Children performing a musical piece on stage.

Children performing a musical piece on stage. The performance was part of a special initiative to help children with disabilities find their voice through music and art.

'Music has therapeutic powers'



Music can be an effective medium to connect visually challenged children. It helps them express their emotions and find joy in life.

Exhibition on all things Specially handmade made



Exhibition of handmade items.

Exhibition of handmade items. The items were made by visually challenged people. The exhibition was held at the VHS Medical Centre.

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