



ANNUAL REPORT 2017 - 2018

On the cover : Senior staff member Chitra Ravichandran on the swing with Nimmalan
Photograph taken by Mr.Fiete (Red Cross Volunteer from Germany)

Our Mission

WE BELIEVE:

Every person is valuable

Disability is part of human diversity

Disability is a development and human rights issue

In creating and sharing knowledge

WE FOCUS ON:

Persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities of all ages and abilities

And other disabilities where facilities are inaccessible

Active participation of family and community

Providing holistic rehabilitation and enabling access

WE VALUE:

The capacity of persons with disabilities including the evolving capacity of children with disabilities and their right to make decisions

The right of persons with disabilities to celebrate their identity

Collective initiative

The spirit and positive attitude we bring to our work each day

VIDYA SAGAR
(Formerly Therapeutics Society of India, Chennai)

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Chairperson's Message

Dear Stakeholders,

In my message last year, my first as Chairperson, I had touched on the values and passion that drives us, the spread and depth of our services, and on a couple of the brand new initiatives we have on the anvil. This year has been a milestone year because of some significant changes at the leadership level which I would like to appraise you of.

Our Director Rajul Padmanabhan retired on March 31st 2018 in line with our retirement policies. Rajul came to Vidya Sagar in 1990 and took over as Director in 2006. The year that our founder Poonam Natarajan moved to New Delhi as the Chairperson for National Trust for autism, cerebral palsy, mental retardation and multiple disabilities. This is a statutory body with Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. Rajul has run this institution for 12 years and taken it forward.

She brought a deep and thoughtful expertise to the field and concealed a steely determination under a cover of easy going affability. Above all she was respected by the entire community of staff, students and donors, and Vidya Sagar as an Institution has gone from strength to strength during her tenure. Rajul from all of us associated in different ways with Vidya Sagar – a deep and heartfelt thank you.

Rajul has accepted our request to join us on the Governing body and we will continue to have the benefit of her knowledge and wisdom in the coming years.

Our founder, who needs no introduction, Poonam Natarajan, had agreed to relocate from her Delhi home to Chennai to help us navigate this critical phase ahead of us.

Critical because of two things: Rajul's exit and the transition to the new Director. And the milestone, the new initiative to pioneer a model resource centre for living independently in the community. This is going to be at our new Karapakkam location. Poonam has been based in Chennai since September. She directly drives all activities at Karapakkam and will be a mentor to our new Director.

And so, last and not least, to our new Director Ms. Radha Ramesh a warm welcome.

We went through a rigorous process of selection, advertising the position, putting a large number of candidates through a two stage interview process before a final personal interview with a panel that included a very senior external HR professional before concluding on Radha.

She is an old Vidya Sagar hand, spent 10 years at Vidya Sagar - out of which, 6 years in the role of Co-ordinator HRD She came on board on April 1st and has immediately settled in.

The transition of leadership from one person who has held the post for 12 years to another is never

easy and I am happy to inform you that the process while ongoing has been smooth.

To the work. Vidya Sagar continues to expand in many directions and to strengthen and grow. Our B Ed program has received formal approval from the Tamilnadu Teachers Education University.

We have selected an architect for the Karapakkam project, first cut designs are on the table, and project proposals have gone out to potential donors.

We are strengthening all our internal processes to deal with the transition to a much larger multi location institution. Processes across finance and accounting, fund raising and donor relations, communication, HR.

We continue to enjoy the support of the donor community and are seeking to widen and strengthen in that area.

And we continue to be driven by the same sense of passion that has always been a Vidya Sagar trademark.

G. Shankaran Nair

Director's Report

I write this report with mixed feelings – this is my last report for Vidya Sagar – as I retire on the 31st March 2018. So, even as I write of our work over the last year, I keep thinking of all that has happened over the last decade, and how my work and relationship with Vidya Sagar has impacted my thinking.

An aspect that stands out: This is one institute that has given space for people to grow, try out ideas, develop and change. And that has kept Vidya Sagar moving forward.

This has resulted in older programmes evolving to keep abreast and in line with newer thoughts and legislations in the disability world-and newer , need based programmes being initiated .

Vidya Sagar is an unusual organisation - (even as I write this, I am aware that most people say this about their own organisations). So be it. - For me , it has taught many very valuable lessons . One, that each person in Vidya Sagar brings with her/him their own skills and expertise . Vidya Sagar recognizes that and gives them the opportunity to develop and fine tune that skill.

And also, I now firmly believe that a happy staff makes a happy organisation - and that leads to everybody pulling together and giving of their best .

For me, Vidya Sagar is a very very special place. And I have absolutely no doubt that it will always be a path breaking organisation leading in areas of disability and education - in areas where others have not yet trod.

Now for the report

The details of all our programmes and projects are reported by the project heads further in this issue.

I just want to mention that the last year, in Vidya Sagar seems to have been dominated by our involvement in the arts.

The students of Vidya Sagar worked towards their biennial theatre experience Vikasa. The script, direction, costumes, music, et all was chosen and worked out by the students.

The end production called “ Adhisaya Atithi..... an unusual guest” was put up in Vidyodaya School Auditorium.

It would definitely not have won any conventional theatre award ! but it was clear that the whole show was stage managed by the students. And that is what we wanted. The learning from this experience was huge. From working in teams to designing costumes, learning lines etc , it was all the students work. As Mrs. Krishnaswamy from Madhuram Narayanan Trust , commented, that the “ the children seem to be having a great time”.

Paragon Music, a group of musicians from England held a three day workshop with our students and this culminated in a performance that the students put up in our auditorium. What was interesting was the musical instruments that the musicians from Paragon used to elicit some wonderful sounds.

It took just three days for our students to put up a sophisticated beautiful performance. Thank you Paragon and I do hope that we can carry on this partnership further.

Our students' participation in Graeae theatre was a dramatic experience that they will not forget. Graeae Theatre Company (www.graeae.org), is a world-class theatre company based in London that champions for theatre by Deaf and disabled artists.. The British Council and the Graeae theatre put up a show called "Aruna and the Raging Sun". This spectacular performance had people with disabilities suspended from crane like structures ! Some of our students and staff were part of this show . The performance was held in Queen Mary's College on the Marina.

An organization like Vidya Sagar can rarely work with a single focus though over the last few years we have tried very hard to bring in some academic rigour to the numerous areas that we have been working on. This has resulted in staff being re-trained , while at the same time training others.

An area that was initiated and introduced to us by professionals from Teach for India was the concept of encouraging students and teachers to be responsible for their own learning .The students were introduced to 'visioning ' their own work and the work in the classroom. As a result each class had a class vision - and the students had to work towards realizing this . This is an important area to take forward in the coming years.

The Advocacy unit in Vidya Sagar has always been small, but has always created a huge impact both in the State and the Centre. Smitha Sadasivan, the co-ordinator, DLU, has been selected as a consultant to The Election Commission of India, to work on making the upcoming 2019 elections accessible.

Another area is the development of two indigenous switches to make Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) more accessible – "Vboss & Vinner" . More about this further in the report.

Before I sign off, I want say a warm welcome to our new Director Mrs. Radha Ramesh. Vidya Sagar is lucky and honoured to have her. She is an alumni of our Teacher Training Course, who later went on to head the HRD department. She was instrumental in getting our training department recognized by Madras University. Along with this, she is also a mother of two young adults with disability. But being the special person that she is, she has facilitated and empowered her two sons to start a small industry "Twin Twigs" - which they now manage on their own – leaving their mother to guide, facilitate and empower other students with disability to help them find their feet.

Before I end I also want to report that the initiatives on our new land in Karapakkam is going great guns. The concept is being facilitated by Mrs. Poonam Natarajan who is the founder of Vidya Sagar . She will take the story of Vidya Sagar forward to address the issues faced by adults with disabilities. She does this in her inimitable style , which is anchored in her complete belief in the capacity of people with disability – and her own belief that all minority groups need to be counted and their rights to be met .

And finally, in the last paragraph – a big thank you, to you my team at Vidya Sagar. I have been fortunate and lucky to have worked with people who are so diverse, so interesting, so committed and so full of fun. Very often other special education professional have told me that they have learnt from their students .I want to say that I have learnt from my colleagues – people I have worked with , people who have the confidence to contradict, debate and then join hands to get the task done. Thank you all from the bottom of my heart.

"For (all) thy sweet love remembered, such wealth brings.
That then I scorn to change my state with kings"

Shakespeare

Rajul Padmanabhan

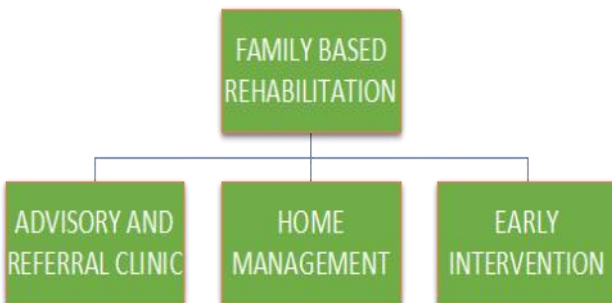


Family Based Rehabilitation



Help me reach the spiral ball!

The focus of the Family Based Rehabilitation department is to empower the parent, to understand their child's ability/disability, to follow the intervention programmes and above all to enjoy their child.



ADVISORY AND REFERRAL CLINIC:

The first point of contact to Vidya Sagar is the Advisory and Referral Clinic. In the year 2017-18, the team assessed 512 children and adults which included initial assessments, previous

program reviews and follow-ups. Based on the assessments, the team and the families together plan a program of action and the required referrals were given.

Through the year, we worked with families and persons with disability from Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Assam, Odissa, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi and Pune. Persons with disability from UK, Singapore, Canada, USA and Muscat also came to avail the services of this department.

OUTSTATION PROGRAM

People with disabilities located outside Chennai opt for our Outstation Program. It is conducted thrice a year, in the months of January, April and August. Last year we worked with 154 families from different parts of the country. We also conducted two assessment camps, one in Kodaikanal and one in Trichy. A team from Vidya Sagar went and assessed 57 children in Kodaikanal and Taragampatti in Trichy. This happened in the months of October and January.



Parents learn about therapy and mobility

The Outstation Program offers special education, Physiotherapy, speech and communication therapy, vision therapy, Occupational therapy, parental counselling and legal advice.

Based on requirements, orthotic aids and adapted furniture are made to order. The team and family create a program plan together. This is elaborated adequately to ensure that parents can implement the plan independently.

HOME MANAGEMENT

After assessment in the Advisory and Referral Clinic, students who are not able to access services everyday, for various reasons are admitted in the Home Management program.

They attend the program once a week. Here students get all the services and the parents are trained to carry out the program for the rest of the week. The hands on training helps the parent understand the condition of their child, their needs and abilities and work with confidence. This program also aims at empowering the parents by disseminating information to the parents on the rights of their child and various schemes of the Government. It also facilitates the parents to access services such as schools in their neighbourhood. There are 27 students attending the program.

Both the child/adult, parents/caregivers are trained simultaneously in special education, Physiotherapy, Occupational therapy, vision therapy and speech and communication therapy.

Regular Home visits were done by the staff which helped them to assess the support system

extended by the child's family. Adaptations for toilet and orientation and mobility training for children with Low Vision were advised to parents.

EARLY INTERVENTION:



Children having fun

Vidya Sagar has a comprehensive, co-ordinated Multi disciplinary Early Intervention system that provides services for infants and toddlers with multiple disabilities under the age of 6. The wholistic development of the child occurs mostly in the crucial period of its early infancy and early childhood. Hence our Early Intervention Centre works closely with families during these early years.

The Early Intervention program has 2 sessions, based on the child's age.

* Early months - 3 years

* 3- 6 years

The areas we work in are; motor development, cognitive development, communication, social and emotional development. We also work very closely with the parents and the families.

In the last year we had 23 children in the Early Intervention program at the Early Intervention Centre in Kotturpuram.

We also have an Early Intervention Unit in Tambaram, a suburb of Chennai. This is a year old and has been functioning successfully. 16 children attend this centre.

We have started 2 rural Early Intervention centres, one in **Trichy in Taragampatti** village and another in **Kodaikanal**.

The Trichy centre has 18 children and was started in October 2017. Children below 6

years, in and around the village, access the centre. The babies, who are not able to come to the centre, are given a home based program. The community worker visits them once a week to facilitate, encourage the parent and review and do a follow up.

The Kodaikanal Early Intervention centre has 19 children. A special educator, a Physiotherapist and a Speech therapist work with the children. The staff of both these centres were trained in Vidya Sagar. A team from Vidya Sagar visits the two centres regularly to review follow up and update the programme.

High lights of our work in the last year in Early Intervention:

- 3 children have moved into mainstream schools. (two children into government schools and one child into a private school near her home).
- Various modes of communication aids have made a remarkable improvement in peer interaction and socialization.
- A year-long internship with the German student proved to be a source of mutual learning for us.
- Expansion of Early Intervention centre in rural areas- Trichy - Taragampatti and Kodaikanal.

OUTINGS:



Overnight stay at Yelagiri

Movies (Cars and Jungle Book) - On June 21st 2017. The EI children went on a special screening of the movie Jungle Book at Raja Annamalaipuram.

Ride in the Metro Train- The children had a jolly metro train ride from Alandur to Koyambedu in July 2017

Vandaloor Zoo - On the 13th of September the children with their teachers and parents visited the animals and birds at the Vandalur Zoo.



Metro ride with children and parents

Rail Museum - On the 15th of March, our Annual Day was celebrated with a visit to the Rail Museum, Chennai

On the 6th and 7th of March 2018 a two day family trip to Yelagiri was done. Teachers and helping staff had accompanied the children and parents . It was a fantastic night overstay for the children and the families.

FBR WORKSHOPS:

- Augmentative and Alternative communication workshop for the parents of Home Management and Early Intervention class done by Ms Kalpana and Ms. Sujatha - Speech Therapist in the month of September 2017.
- Back care exercises workshop for parents done by our physiotherapist Ms. Jayalakshmi
- Seizure Management workshop done by Ms. Jayanthi Narayanan and Ms. Jayalakshmi – both of them, Special Educators.
- “Demystifying therapy” by Ms. Simy - Therapist, Ms.K.S.Uma - Special Educator, Date 8th and 9th February 2018
- Feeding workshop and Oro motor exercises done by Ms. Sujatha , Speech Therapist. 11.8.17
- Vision Workshop done by vision dept- Ms. Jeeva -Vision Therapist & Ms.Sujatha- Vision Therapist
- Story Building workshop done by Ms. Priya Special Educator.6.3.18

Day Centre



Learning from field trips

The students and staff of Day center started the academic year with excitement and in anticipation for a whole lot of new things like NCC training, Multi Media training and Vikasa, the biennial theater show slotted for July.

The Day centre (165 students) meets the rehabilitation and education needs of students. Special education, prevocational training, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, speech, language and communication therapy, counselling and computer sessions are provided along with extra and co curricular activities..

New furniture, aids and adaptations were procured during the new academic year. The goals were explained to the students before the teachers started the new curriculum.

This academic year had 35 students in primary section pursuing grade 1-4 curriculum; 44 in the middle school doing grade 5 to 8 in academics

and pre vocational skills training; 76 students in the high school doing tenth grade and 12th grade and vocational training. A group of 15 students were enrolled for NIOS 10th exam in Tamil Medium, a pioneering effort in the history of Vidya Sagar. The goals for all the students were set in academic, life skills, vocational, organizational, socio emotional and self advocacy.

The primary sections with 35 students were divided into three classes and followed graded curriculum. The focus of this group was accelerated learning, reading, writing and mathematics. Most of the students in this section had low vision so the adaptations were made for teaching learning materials. Worksheets and wooden stamps were prepared to enable the students to work independently. Each class room also had a computer which provided opportunity for self learning.

Physiotherapy, speech, Language and communication classes were scheduled for the students according to their needs. They also had independent computer classes. Movement therapy was conducted by Wind Dancers, an organisation which works with music and movement.

The middle school had both academic stream and prevocational classes. Many students in this section needed sensory integration. So Parkour dance was introduced. This is a French form of movement and dance. The Parkour dancers come in twice a week to facilitate movement and encourage motor experiences in students with cerebral palsy. This form of art also meets the sensory needs of students with Autism.

The academic classes, along with their curriculum focusing on conventional subjects also explored vocational and skill training and self advocacy .

A group of students with high support needs are trained in assistive technology which they use for communication and prevocational skills.

15 students enrolled for their Xth grade public exam. The exciting aspect of this was, that for the first time Vidya Sagar was doing this in Tamil medium. So now Vidya Sagar offers NIOS in both English and Tamil Medium- thus ensuring that language is not a barrier to education.

Ten students enrolled for a 14 month course in multimedia conducted by AIMS Media Pvt. Ltd. New Delhi . The students showed promising results.

Fifteen students learnt batik and tie & dye skills from a consultant designer.

A group of 17 students in the vocational training learnt about color combination and texturing and mastered the art of thread painting. They created the raw material which was then outsourced and made into bags. An exciting moment was when the senior vocational training class got their first big order. They met this order through working extra long hours to reach the target.

The students in the Adult leisure program had started supported vocation and are able to produce paper technology utility furniture.

Computer classes, communication classes and speech classes were given according to the needs.

The students' effort in working with a curriculum and at the same time engaging in extracurricular activities was very creditable.



Nature club students on turtle walk

In the Second term students across the classes in Day Center participated in a very exciting month long Science Fest held by "Science Film Festival." The staff and students had to watch the videos and conduct experiments and do the recordings. All these had to be documented and submitted to the organizing agency. This was a pioneer effort and our students made us all feel proud with their scientific temper and inquiry.

Our school basket ball team is being trained by a volunteer sports personality.

On August 9th the students elected for Interact Club were formally inducted. On the same day NCC training started under the leadership of Capt Suresh Babu. The NCC group is being trained by Anna University students' NCC group. Our NCC students also had the unique opportunity to be a part of the inviting team-Children Rotary Conference -Vannangal.

We had a first level discussion on disaster risk reduction committee from TISS Mumbai and future workshops were planned which would involve teams not only managing crises but also building up community support and group initiatives.

The year end assessments and goal settings went on as per schedule with the whole team sitting together with parents to review the work and set new goals.

The Adult Programme

The programme for adults in Vidya Sagar has always raised many questions. There have been heated debates, leading on to many experiments. The special school model – a model that has existed in the field of special education has very often failed to recognize the needs, aspirations and skills of adults; thus leading on to a lacunae in our programme to address the myriad of issues that face the adult.

Our programme in Karapakkam is going to be a path breaking initiative in this area.

What this write up, reports is just an aspect of our work with the adults. It does not portray the questions that have been raised, and the debates that have taken place. Suffice it to say in Rainer Maria Rilke's words that we have tried "to love the questions themselves" The Youth Project and the transition curriculum were two tentative attempts to answer some of the questions. The next report, I am sure, will have much more to report, as the focus of our work is also going to include the whole spectrum of adulthood for people with disabilities.

Employment Education Centre

Employment Education Centre is a part of the Adult Programme focusing on developing livelihood for adults. It trains people with disability on vocational skills, self help skills, recreational skills and other skills required for life.

A new skill that was introduced this year was that of making hand made paper. The students worked in an assembly line, each student contributing his skill to complete this activity. This was a very successful project and we aim to take it further.

The weaving unit is now an established activity in the Employment Education Centre department.

A new adapted loom was added to the existing looms. Now we have eight looms. Three of which are big traditional looms and five are modern and smaller looms. Most of the looms are adapted.

The weaving products are niche and stylish, beautiful and unique. The students are now well trained to make dhurries, stoles, scarves, table mats and runners.

We are also experimenting with weaving with other materials, like paper strips. This is then converted into files and notebooks. The other skills the students work on, are making leaf ware, plates, cups and smaller plates. This was an idea developed in Vidya Sagar many many

years ago. These eco-friendly disposal plates are made from Bahuguna leaves, which is sourced from Orissa. The making of this product requires machines which are adapted, and a lot of manual work before the leaf is put into the machine. This unit is manned by six students.

We also have an envelope making machine. Again, the gift envelopes that are made in this unit are different and beautiful. The six students involved in this project have high functional needs and they also work in assembly line. Working on a product requires more than just skills.

The students have to learn time management, skills related to production, finishing of products and speed in production. They also have to be flexible - for example if there is a target to be met, a dead line to adhere to they have to work longer hours to finish the task.

Along with livelihood skills, the students are also involved in other activities. They discuss news, have a basket ball team, understand self advocacy plus sing and dance.

Regular counselling sessions are also given to the students who require them.



Our new machine to make leaf plates

Youth Program



At the end of a music jam session!

The Youth Project runs on Saturdays, though the planning and preparations for the Saturday obviously goes on through the week.

The Youth Programme is just four years old, and one of the successes of this programme has been the participation of the Youth in the Saturday activities without the centre or the family supporting the transport. Of course the down side is that some students are left out. But if this trend continues, it would be interesting to see how creatively they could support each other to come on Saturdays.

The activities that are conducted are also flexible and change to the needs of the Youth. This is a programme planned to be unstructured and not fall into the constraints of boundaries of a project.

The report that follows is obviously under specific heads but this is more for convenience rather than the way it is run.

LIVELIHOOD

Swaminathan & Rakesh got calendar assignment to do 12 concept based art for Curatio Healthcare Pvt Ltd.

Satyam Cinemas : Swami's art designs were converted into popcorn tubs. A great moment for all of us where artist and their work was promoted.

SKILL ENHANCEMENT :

Computer session for 12 students on MS office was conducted every Saturday by a team from Accenture company.

HIGHLIGHT : 5 Students from other organisation along with our alumni were part of

the sessions. This year the focus was to operate the MS office- xcel & power point templates effectively. Nagamenjeri showed marked improvement by using two fingers to type and control her involuntary movements while using the keyboard. Namitha, a very shy youth showed rapport building with the team with ease and confidence.

Logical and reasoning games was conducted by Anand from AON.

Functional math in planning a holiday was conducted by Saujanya from Travel & Tourism

LONG DISTANCE LEARNING : This was introduced when one of our much loved alumni staff member, Mrs. Radha Basu (She now moves between Calcutta and America) offered to conduct classes for the alumni students. This was learning for the love of learning ! Krithika & Gayathri took classes on Modern history and geography on the long distance mode.

CYBER COUNSELLING: Similarly, we experimented with counselling sessions on Skype. Mrs. Maya John from Switzerland took skype counselling for 5-6 alumni twice a week.

SOCIAL SPACES : INCLOVE, social spaces conducted two meeting in Chennai. This is a platform for youth to meet friends and maybe develop relationships. Many of our alumni participated in such gatherings.

OTHER SERVICES : 4 alumni took the physiotherapy sessions on Saturdays .

WEEKEND STAY : Janakiraman & Anjana wished to experience staying away from their home. They were accommodated in our guest room at VidyaSagar.

SCUBA DIVING : Janakiraman and a couple of other youth experienced scuba diving conducted by professional divers in Chennai.

GRAEAE THEATRE : Karthik & Satish were thrilled with the experience of being suspended from a 60ft high crane. Graeae Theatre is a UK based theatre company

LEISURE :

EVENING GET TOGETHER : As a part of disability day , around 25 alumni had a get together at Baywatch restaurant.

KALAKKAL CAFE : Two major event performers : Rhythm of life & Tamil kavippom had an inclusive show, where 150 youth from across Chennai participated. The cafe also had few Youth clubs from various colleges come over for a coffee and chat.

MARKETING :

KALLAKAL KADAI : The Kadai has 129 products. These products are made from Thread painting, Tie & dye and weaving. Paper products and leafware are also available. Janakiraman & Rajashree manage the shop.

Promotion & sales : Our marketing team were able to support in getting shelf spaces at Writer's Cafe & Cupcake Amore.

Customized orders added a boost to our sales figure and production.

We participated in 12 stall exhibitions across Chennai.

SUNDAY BAZAAR : A marketing initiative to reach out to the community participation was well received. We had 26 stalls consisting of products, food, games and books. Around 350 chennaites walked in with just social media promotions.



The Sunday Bazaar

Therapy



Therapy sessions together can be fun

Physiotherapy

Physiotherapy department at Vidya Sagar has a team of 10 physiotherapists. (Two of them are Masters from UK, three Bachelors in Physiotherapy, three Junior physiotherapists and three Therapy assistants). The therapists are spread across various departments including Early Intervention units, Advisory and referral clinic and Day Center. The therapists take care of the assessments, setting short term and long term goals along with the class teachers and the families, and plan activities accordingly. They are also a part of Community Based Rehabilitation project where they make visits and give technical training.

We focused more on the seating adaptations and mobility training this year. Many adaptations were made for students for seating. Furniture

was designed as per the student's requirements. Postural support devices were designed and fixed on the chairs and wheel chairs for students who required it. Adaptations required for classrooms, student specific adaptations for self care, adaptations for art materials were all made. Adaptations required for Sports day, Carnival and Vikasa were also made by the Department.

There was group therapy for all the students below 10 years daily, other than the individual therapy sessions. 5 students with cerebral palsy, age 5 to 7 were getting Parkour sessions, with experts in Parkour along with a physiotherapist. This has shown great results.

Physiotherapy Department also co - ordinated and was involved actively in training NCC students. We have taken 4 adults with Cerebral

Palsy for Scuba diving, in association with an NGO Adventure beyond Barriers.

Trainings:

There were four interns from Singapore for 2 weeks, 2 German volunteers and one Notre Dame intern for Two months in the Physiotherapy Department for training, Forty five students from Saveetha Physiotherapy College came on an orientation visit. A workshop was conducted on Basic Wheelchair Management skills for physiotherapy students and professionals. Two days workshop for parents in Early Intervention was conducted on Demystifying Physiotherapy. There were other ongoing hands on training happening in the Department.

Mrs Simy T.A, the Head of Physiotherapy Department, attended a five days workshop on Neonatal Screening and Early Intervention for children with Multiple Disabilities .

Mrs Vijayalakshmi, has also successfully completed five days training on Basic Wheelchair Service Training package at APD,Bengaluru.

Students availing physiotherapy	92
Students using adaptations	48
Students using wheel chairs	63
Students using walking aids	12
Students using adapted furniture	119

Number of items issued	
Orthotic Aids	16
Wheel chairs	7
Furniture	15
Other adaptations	48

Occupational Therapy



Occupational therapy

The Occupational Therapy Department worked with 48 students from the Day Centre - where the student got individual sessions. We also worked with groups once a week, for the students from Early Intervention unit.

Students with Autism also get group therapy along with individual therapy to meet their sensory needs.

We made home visits to make adaptations at home and trained parents to carry on the intervention at home.

The Occupational Therapy staff was also involved in Out Station Programme and Community Based Rehabilitation.

Speech Therapy & Communication

Today, the Speech and Communication department has a team of two communication therapists, two consultant Speech Therapists and a volunteer. The department is also very adequately supported by Speech Therapy interns from four Speech therapy colleges.

The department provided Speech , Language and Communication therapy to 300 students.

One of the objective of the department is to research and develop indigenous communication devices. Also to create awareness and disseminate information and devices to whoever needs them. Towards this end three major break through happened this year.

1. The department had in the previous year sensitized the department of Human resources Government of Tamil Nadu about the various AAC devices that are needed to enhance the communicative ability of the non verbal children in the State. The government recognized the need and took the initiative of distributing an AAC device called 'AVAZ' initially one for each school. This year the department head and the Director went to meet the District Collector to sensitize them to the need to improve the usage of devices by children with motor impairment. This was done by using the Bluetooth System. This is the major initiative by taking forward the latest technology to the disability sector .

2. The second huge step that the department took was to tie up with the prestigious institution, IISC, Bangalore to develop a program called 'EYE GAZE TECHNOLOGY'. Though it is still on a trial basis, once fully developed it would be a boon to severely motor impaired children as they can access the computer, learn, write exams and further more they can communicate by eye gazing at the program of the system.

The third is one more feather in the cap of the department. One of Vidya Sagar's missions has been to develop innovative aids to make life more interesting for people with disability. We have been working with IIT and Anna University and more recently with the Indian Institute of Science in Bangalore. And we have come up with a number of technology devices where access to communication, education and leisure has been made possible.

The technical team of the department had researched and developed low cost indigenous devices. And came up with Vboss and Vinner. "Vboss" is a low cost switch which enables the left click of the mouse and "Vinner" is the USB interface for a switch.

Ms. Nandhini Botta, Electrical Engineer working in the USA, who is also a sister of a person with limited functional communication, came up with a prototype of these two simple, affordable devices.

And with apologies to Stephen Hawking's as we modify his statement "Technology is not only a discipline of reason but, also, one of romance and passion."

This was obvious in the Vidya Sagar campus in the last 15 days. Because after the prototype was developed, there was no stopping the Vidya Sagar team! Mr. Balaji our IT coordinator and Mrs. Sujatha Siva our special educator and an engineer, worked tirelessly to replicate the prototype and produce many more. Ms. Vaishnavi worked out the brilliant logo and the explanatory film was made by Mr. Jay Raiveeson.

So, we have done this yet again! We have used technology to open doors for people with disabilities to access mainstream experiences and life.



You also need to know numbers to communicate

Vision Centre



Young child trying to figure out boundaries

The Vision Centre of Vidya Sagar works with children and adults with MDVI (Multiple Disabilities with Visual Impairment) and the areas of focus are Functional Vision Assessment, Intervention, Training of parents and Rehabilitation professionals and Documentation.

From June 2017 to April 2018, the number of assessments through Advisory & Referral clinic, and other departments of Vidya Sagar were 78 and the follow up sessions were 95. These assessments also included requests for consultation from parents and teachers. The assessments helped to detect possible vision issues, understand visual capacity and hence plan an appropriate intervention program through environmental modifications, material adaptations, positioning of the person. Through this the use of vision for student's movement, learning and communication skills are enhanced.

The details of various intervention sessions given were:

<i>Programme</i>	<i>Numbers</i>
Infants (under 3 years)	155
Intensive sessions (training of specific visual skills)	117
Consultative sessions (specific concern)	2
Supportive (programme handed over to caregiver/teacher)	15
Direct Service	49

The students who underwent intensive training moved into supportive programme and eventually the skills were transferred to the class teacher and parents. The total number of sessions provided were 511, including all the above.

Leading hospitals such as Sankara Nethralaya, Frontline Hospital, Radhathri Nethralaya, various paediatric Neurologists, and few mainstream schools referred children with visual impairment to us. Apart from Chennai, we also had few referrals from out of state who accessed our week long program designed for out station students.

There were two workshops conducted for parents (of children in Early Intervention stage) to create awareness on vision related conditions and get a better understanding of ways to support their child's use of vision functionally.

The vision centre provided orientation and training programme regarding working with children with visual impairment to psychology students, CBR workers, Special Educators from NKT college of Special Education, Speech interns from MERF and SRMC. We had 5 Optometrists from Sankara Nethralaya who did a 2 day observation of our sessions. We had 6 rehabilitation professionals from the vision department of LV Prasad eye hospital, Hyderabad and 1 Paediatric Ophthalmologist from Trivandrum hospital visit our centre for a one day observation.

The staff of vision centre conducted 2 days training in Aruppukottai, training the CBR field workers to create low cost materials for vision rehabilitation.

As a follow up of our Icount training for rehabilitation professionals (including Ophthalmologists and therapists) last April 2017, we had rehab professionals from CMC Vellore hospital, SPASTN and MN Eye hospital who presented documentation of their assessment and intervention programmes.

The vision staffs were also invited for a 3 day onsite follow-up training at HV Desai eye hospital, Pune for intervention programmes. The training consisted of hands on functional vision assessments, visit to blind schools for counselling the parents and staff and goal setting for students who have Multiple Disabilities with Visual Impairment (MDVI).

A paper was presented by the vision centre about our services for young children, during

“The International Council for Education of People with Visual Impairments” (ICEVI) annual meet in Ahmadabad.

The staff of vision centre were invited to conduct a 6 day training to enhance the skills of professionals working with MDVI at Cerebral Palsy Lanka Foundation School in Colombo, Sri Lanka. The training was totally attended by 29 participants including Ophthalmologists, Occupational therapists, Physio therapists and Teachers.

The vision centre has also brought out a new one page pamphlet about our services which would be used to create awareness about the unique services of vision services of Vidya Sagar.



Low vision training through light and glittering objects

Inclusion



Communicating with his friends in a mainstream school

The inclusion department works towards:

- creating an inclusive climate in education institutions through awareness and orientation programs and
- facilitating the process of inclusion through direct intervention for students and capacity building programs for teachers and students.

In the year 2017-18, 57 students benefited through the program. We worked with ten schools and one college.

After enrolment of students with disabilities direct intervention and interaction with the schools makes inclusion a richer experience for the students and teachers. Two staff members, one from the day center worked in the inclusion department twice a week and one staff from the

family based rehabilitation program worked once a week. They visited five schools. The coordinator inclusion, worked with the other 4 schools and the colleges. Intervention included:

- Remedial program reviews and work along with the teachers to include students in all activities.
- Vision assessments were done for four students;
- OT and communication assessments were done for 3 students.
- 5 students were given aids and adaptations.
- scribes were arranged for 50 students through the iScribe portal (a portal run by Vidya Sagar connecting scribes and students). There are over 3000 scribes from whom around 200 are very active.

- iScribe (www.iScribe.co.in)is a portal which connects scribes and students . It is managed full time by a person employed by Vidya Sagar. There are over 3000 scribes . 200 are very active. iScribe also took on activities like reading for students and completing college assignments.
- Parents meetings were held in Learning tree for 7 parents along with the class teachers and the principal. This meeting helped parents to understand the programs given for their children .
- Presentation of the work of Vidya Sagar inclusion department in Monford Matriculation higher secondary school to the new principal. Vidya Sagar has been working with the school for over six years. The parents and caregivers present in the meetings shared the positive experiences that they had because of the intervention from Vidya Sagar

We believe that empowering teachers through training and sharing more information gives them the confidence to work with the children with disabilities in their class. It also help them to create inclusive activities rather than focusing only on child with disability..

The focus in 3 schools was to provide hands on training to teachers. The special educators gave inputs to teachers on specific children, explained the condition, and why the particular goals were set. In due course, both professionals set the goals and planned the activities together. Teachers were happy to know about the specific children but also asked for training programs in teaching children with various disabilities . They wanted more strategies on working with children with attention deficit disorder and learning disability.

The team conducted assessments in corporation schools for children in grade, 7, 8 and 9. Teachers and the special educators worked on the remedial program together.

There were two students who did their 10th and 12th standard. It was a challenge to get the reasonable accommodation required for them to appear for the exam. since both of them had speech difficulties. They required a scribe who could understand them. Though this accommodation was provided in the past it was refused this time saying that Government Order had withdrawn this facility. The Commissioner for Persons with Disability had given guidelines for provisions for students at school and university level to write the exams. We approached the State Commissioner for intervention and it was his that enabled the students to write the exam.

The Inclusion Department has been striving to make a positive impact on the quality of learning of students who have been included into mainstream institutions by working both at ground level and at systemic level.



All for the students for all students!

Community Based Rehabilitation



Gathering information from local women about disability

The objective of this program is to facilitate rehabilitation and empowerment of persons with disability in rural area and other settings where resources are limited. With our mission of sharing information and setting up services, we have been able to reach out to 1875 persons with disabilities (PWD) through our programmes.

We work on two types of projects in this program:

- A. Direct community project
- B. Technical capacity building of organizations working with disability

A. Direct community project:

Partnering with local organisations working at the grass root, we continue our work in 51 panchayats in rural Tamil Nadu. We have initiated community based work in the urban slums of Chennai. Across projects, 15

community workers deliver services and programmes - assessed and made with the resource team's inputs.

Our primary goals across projects has been to

- Identify/ register persons with disability in the project area
- Initial needs assessment of PWDs and their families
- Facilitate necessary services for the PWD - disability ID card, maintenance grant, medical referrals, aids and appliances, etc
- Detailed assessment of rehabilitation needs, programme planning and goal setting
- Support inclusion of the child with disability in ICDS centres, schools
- Identify feasible livelihood opportunities, conduct/connect to vocational trainings, set up groups where required to facilitate income generation

- Conduct parent/caregiver trainings
- Conduct awareness and advocacy activities through community interaction and creation of self help groups
- Train community workers - Eight new community workers were inducted as eight of our trained staff had to leave. This new batch of workers had to sustain ongoing work, build a rapport with the PWD and their families and have the skills to execute the programme

1. Organization for Development Action (ODA)

With ODA, we are working in 20 panchayats in Thogamalai block of Karur district reaching over 690 PWDs. As one of the strength of ODA's work is advocacy, the functioning of self help groups has become more efficient and inter loans are being availed.

Early Intervention Centre, Keezhveliyur village

This centre is accessed by about 8 children with disability below the age of 6 years from in and around Keezhveliyur. Our community's workers regular work at homes with children and our efforts to bring the parents together as an association resulted in the organic formation of this centre. With a community worker overseeing the activities of the centre, the parents are getting trained parallelly to plan and run sessions. The space was given by the Panchayat.

Caregivers livelihood training

In the afternoons, the EI centre doubles up as a tailoring unit where mothers are undergoing a six month training. To have a livelihood skill in a poor setting is so crucial. It gives way to financial and self empowerment, leisure and respite from a demanding job of being the primary caregiver of a child with disability.

Livelihood

A petty shop has been set up for Subash Chandra Bose, adult with intellectual impairment. He mans the shop knowing the

price of the goods he sells. Bhagyalakshmi, a woman with locomotor disability, runs a petty shop and Sivakumar with hearing impairment, a fancy store. As she also knows to stitch, a tailoring machine was facilitated.

2. People Welfare and Development Trust, Thiruchuli block, Virudunagar district

We work in twelve panchayats in the dry and hot vast lands of Aruppukottai reaching 160 persons with disabilities and five persons with mental illness. Three community workers deliver home based, school based and facilitation services as planned.

Livelihood

- Soundarapandi, an adult with hearing impairment attended a three month vocational training in Chennai and has been working with Rane Bricks.
- Two adults, one with locomotor disability and hearing impairment have got jobs at a cotton mill as an operator and cleaner
- Rajan who attended a mobile repair training now has set up a shop with support from PWDT and Ayyanar, a petty shop. Ramamurthy, a person with locomotor disability works as a cashier in a hotel.

Inclusion support

Due to resistance from SSA teachers to our work in schools, work in all the government schools hasn't been continuous. The same issues have cropped up in the Villivikkam block. This is a challenge we hope to overcome in the coming year.

Sustaining activities of SHG

It has been difficult to get some SHGs to maintain their monthly savings and come together regularly to discuss issues and find solutions. Several trainings have been conducted across projects on the importance of regular documentation, book keeping and deposit of their savings. They are still lackadaisical and change is slow.

Rehabilitation of people with Mental Illness

In Aruppukottai, we have identified 5 people with mental illness and have been able to facilitate regular medication. Rehabilitation beyond medication - counselling and livelihood support has been a challenge. We are looking to work with NGOs working in the mental health sector in that area.

3. Vasantham DPO:

We are working in 10 panchayats of Villivakkam Block, Thiruvallur District reaching 279 PWDs. Home based supplementary rehabilitation programmes, referrals, inclusion support in schools, awareness and advocacy activities are ongoing in full swing.

Caregivers training

The caregivers training held in Vasantham Villivakkam Project for parents and siblings of adults with disability with a focus of creating awareness of the need and importance of vocational training and income generation was an eye opener for many. They promised to work together with our community workers to facilitate the same. This was also an opportunity to educate the adults with disabilities and their caregivers on the provisions of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 as knowledge of their rights was minimal.

Community awareness programme

A community awareness programme to highlight importance of good health, nourishment and hygiene was attended by about 60 parents of children with disabilities.

Livelihood - Small scale vocational unit

In Vellanur Panchayat in Villivakkam block, a business/vocational unit which assembles coffee filters manually, makes artificial jewelery, paper and jute bags came into being in February 2018 organically. Previously, small group trainings for adults with disability was conducted in the houses of our community

workers. The need for an exclusive space for the same was felt and the community workers made efforts to find a panchayat space. As that did not work out, they rented a space and it now engages 18 adults with disability from surrounding areas regularly.

Story

Uma, a 32 year old woman with locomotor disability lives in Palavedu Panchayat, Villivakkam Block. She was at home engaging in household activities only. She was part of the livelihood resource mapping process in her area which showed her possibilities of various livelihoods. She was hesitant to take something on and was not interested in travelling a long way to go to work. After several discussions with her, she chose to start making wire baskets and bags. The baskets she made were sold at a market in Chennai. The generation of income and the customised orders she got motivated her to make more. She now travels out of her village to buy required materials.

4. Michelin CSR:

In January, we entered our fifth year of work with Michelin. Extending work to 9 panchayats over the years, we have reached out to 296 persons with disability delivering appropriate and necessary health, rehabilitation, education, aids and appliances, advocacy and government services.

Multi stakeholder approach to sustainability

With a vision to make the CBR programme sustainable and the community taking eventual ownership, a plan to partner and work with NGOs working in other sectors in the project area and the government set-ups was made. The action plan for the same has been drawn out in consultation with Pratham (An NGO which works to improve the quality of education and address learning gaps of children across India), Foundation for Rural Recovery and Development -FORRAD, (an NGO which works on natural resource management, community

health and sustainable development) and Bala Mandir Research Foundation (working in the ICDS centres and with parents).

We will work together with them in government schools and ICDS centres to include the child with disability and to facilitate health services.

Self Help Groups

Nine self help groups (SHGs) are running now. The formation of the ninth SHG in Thervoy was a result of the perseverance of our community workers to establish a good rapport with the community, fight the resistance and get across the message of importance of a self help group and the benefits that could be availed. After several trainings for SHG leaders and members, depositing monthly savings been more regular. We aim to link the self help groups to a federation so that their activities are monitored by the federation

Michelin CSR Campaign

A two day campaign was conducted at the Michelin Office, Thervoy to sensitize over 850 employees about our work with persons with disabilities in the area. The aim of this initiative was to raise awareness about the needs of PWDs and find volunteers who could support our programme.

Livelihood

Jewelry making – adult group at Soolaimeni Centre

The first big sale of the jewelry was made at the Sunday Bazaar, held by Vidya Sagar. The group got their first payment and was most thrilled by it. The next set of raw materials was bought out of profit made and next sets are getting ready for sale.

Organic farming & Paper product units

We are exploring collaborations with Mother Theresa Magalir Kuzhu to set up terrace/organic farming activities and with a paper press in Chennai to supply raw paper materials from their waste to make into various products.

5. Urban slum project with Oasis India

We started work in the Kannigapuram and Basin Bridge slums of North Chennai in January 2018. These slums are thickly populated with over one lakh households and a majority of the population work as daily wage labourers. Through our engagement with Oasis, an organisation which has been working with the community closely for over 8 years, we selected two community workers. Oasis's staff and our community workers together collected details of persons with disabilities in the area. Two assessment camps were held to understand the needs of the PWD and their family. As the word of the assessment camp spread, we got leads to many more PWDs in the area. Till now, 51 persons with disabilities have been identified.

Though Vysarpadi is a bustling part of Chennai, not far away from the central hub, most persons with disabilities have not been linked to Government entitlements and rehabilitation services. A lot of PWDs have outdated disability ID cards which are not accepted anymore to avail benefits. Most people with multiple and severe disabilities that we identified are mostly confined to their houses with no access to education, rehabilitation services, social life, play and livelihood.

Story

Balaji, a 12 year old bright boy with cerebral palsy in the Basin Bridge slum has had no intervention at all in all these years but finds his ways to communicate with his eyes and gestures. He wants to go to school with his brother and will benefit in many ways. Hence, an intensive programme to bridge the learning gaps and make him school ready is going on.

B. Technical capacity building of disability organizations:

Vidya Sagar shares technical expertise with disability organizations that request our support to improve their programmes. Based on specific organization needs, the staff training program is customized. We share with them, new techniques and advancements that we have

learnt. This year, we have trained 21 staff from four organisations and 16 government school teachers that will work with over 280 children with disability.

Organizations that have sought our technical support this year

1. YOKE, Kodaganallur

Through our partnership with YOKE, we trained 20 Government School teachers on inclusive education and how as mainstream teachers they can cater to the learning needs of the child with disability. As working with the government systems is crucial to make a long term impact, this was a great opportunity. We aim to create model inclusive classrooms in the Kodaganallur government schools the coming year.

2. Jyothis School, Kottayam

- Work in classrooms to make appropriate learning groups of children
- Giving structure to the time table and various activities of the day
- Parent and staff trainings on Autism and management strategies, AAC and using it in classrooms and at home.
- We learnt that some parents in Jyothi's School, Kottayam were hesitant to take their children on outings and learning trips because of the way people outside would perceive them. So a parent workshop was conducted to discuss the importance of children experiencing and participating in community activities and how they learn through experiences. Ideas for outings and making it a medium for teaching and learning was discussed.

3. Arul Chaandru Special School, Paramakudi, Ramanathapuram district

- Review visits to check on the execution of suggested programmes
- Ideas for expanding the vocational programme was discussed - marketing and selling products locally
- Staff training on assessment of children with disability and goal setting conducted

4. Shine School, Madurai

- Grouping students into appropriate classrooms
- Training on assessments, goal setting and making teaching learning material
- Brainstorming on possible vocational training options and pre-vocational programme suggested
- Initiated a visioning activity with the management and staff on where they were going as a school. As the school did not have a plan and an annual working budget, we facilitated the process of making one.

5. NJ foundation, Thirukazhukundram, Kanchipuram district

- As all trained staff had to leave for various reasons, the programme which had been running well got derailed
- Inputs on early intervention, class room management and prevocational skills training have been given to rebuild the programme with the help of parents
- Teachers and staff to be trained

Overall highlights

Exposure and participation in sports events

27 Persons with Disability from our project areas - Aruppukottai, Villivakkam and Madurai participated and won some events in the State Sports Meet for Persons with Disabilities on February 2 2018 held in Chennai. This was an empowering opportunity and exposure for Persons with Disabilities and their families to be part of a big event outside their village and district; as most of them have never travelled outside before.

Sale of products made by PWDs from CBR Projects

At the Sunday Bazaar organised by Vidya Sagar, a CBR stall sold products made by PWDs from all our project areas. The products ranged from artificial jewelry, jute/cloth bags and purses, wire baskets.

Human Resource Development



Training workers for Early Intervention

The focus of Human Resource Development Department of Vidya Sagar is to build and nurture a cadre of skilled Rehabilitation professionals and enhance the professional capacity of the existing rehabilitation professionals. This department also supports a community of volunteers, personal assistants, caregivers and other support services. We act as a technical resource for other organizations that seek technical support.

This is done by designing, developing, conducting and attending various training programs and through Internship. The training programs are designed to address specific needs of Persons with Disability or the family.

The HRD conducted various need based programs on topics that addressed the needs of babies as well as those of adults. The department also conducted programs for other stake holders including medical professionals, teachers, community workers and staff of rehabilitation centres .

In the coming year we will be starting a two year full time B.ED in special education-

Multiple disabilities. This course is recognized by the Rehabilitation Council of India and the affiliation is from the Tamilnadu Teacher Education University.

This course will help to create a cadre of well trained and motivated group of special educators to work with persons with multiple disabilities. The HRD will also work towards running more courses to create support services like job coaches, support workers etc and also explore avenues to build the capacities of persons with disabilities.

Training programs at a glance:

Training for professionals

Vidya Sagar offers low vision rehabilitation services for infants and children with visual impairment and additional disabilities (MDVI). In order to enhance services for such infants and children , the HRD with the Vision centre of Vidya Sagar and the Chetna Charitable trust, Chennai conducted a three day “I Count” workshop titled “Supporting Vision in Infants and Children with Visual impairment and Additional disabilities”.

Fourteen professionals from seven major eye hospitals and special schools that were interested in offering rehabilitation services to children with MDVI were invited for the training.

The training group was a multidisciplinary group and consisted of ophthalmologist, optometrist, occupational therapist, physiotherapist, special educators and developmental psychologist. They were trained in the use of Tools and Assessment protocols followed in the vision centre of Vidya Sagar. A ten month mentorship program was also offered to participating organization and the HRD coordinated the program.

A study was carried out by the department on the training effectiveness of the three day training and the mentorship program that followed

Continuous rehabilitation education (CRE) program- Program to build professional capacity

- A three day Continuous Rehabilitation Education program for practising special educators and therapist on Augmentative and Alternative communication for children with Cerebral palsy and multiple disabilities was conducted with the certification of the Rehabilitation Council of India. 28 professionals from various part of Tamil Nadu and Kerala attended the training. Some staff of Vidya Sagar also participated in the training
- A CRE on Adults with disabilities is being planned for the month of may2018

Need based programs

A training program on “ Working with Persons with CP” was conducted for staff and care givers of Balavihar training institute. This was a two day practical Workshop that addressed learning, communication, positioning, transfers, mobility and feeding and activities of daily living.

A one day workshop on Wheel chair skills for students of therapy and therapist was conducted along with the therapy department and with a WHO trained professional

In order to help parents understand holistic intervention, a two day workshop titled “Demystifying therapy for parents of young children” was conducted along with the therapy department. Seventeen parents of early intervention classes from the Tambaram and Kottur center took part in the training.

Programs to support other projects of Vidya Sagar

The Family based rehabilitation department of Vidya Sagar is in the process of setting up Early intervention centers in various parts of the state. A three day training on Early Intervention and an assessment camp was conducted in the town of Trichy and a near-by village. This was done to facilitate the setting up of Early intervention centre in the village. 8 community workers including parents of children with disabilities attended the training. A similar training was also conducted in Kodaikanal

The second level of this program was conducted at Vidya Sagar to equip the trainees run early intervention center and monitor programs and train parents and community workers. Three master trainers were created out of this whole training process.

In preparation for adult independent living, it is necessary to have a trained cadre of support workers. A 25 day certificate program for support workers was conducted by the HRD. Eight trainees including an alumni of Vidya Sagar successfully completed the course. The group has started their service to persons with disabilities.

Presentations

K.S. Uma presented a paper on “ understanding Inclusive education through the voices of children” in the International conference on Inclusive education “conducted at SRM University, Chennai.

K.S. Uma and Kalpana Rao shared the use of the Better together curriculum in the second level workshop for senior professionals on working with children with Autism spectrum disorders and visual impairment.

Disability Legislation Unit



Advocating for access to the beach— yet again!

The Disability Legislation unit has celebrated several proud moments the last year.. This year the former coordinator of DLU was appointed as a consultant by the national election commission for consultation on accessible election for person with disability . Smitha has been responsible for leading the group to bring about many changes in the inclusion of person with disability in the election process.

The Dlu team along with interns consultants and stake holders continued its work on

- Empowering persons with disabilities by interacting with the students of Vidya Sagar and through its initiative of supported decision making group
- access to justice by facilitating the setting up of the legal aid clinic

- physical access including access to the beach and to the high court
- accessible election
- access to banking.

DLU also worked towards the effective implementation of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, RPWD Act.

Supported decision making for adults with disabilities

DLU in collaboration with the Youth Program initiated this project to work with persons with disabilities and evolving their support systems that would support them in taking their decisions and carrying them out. A team of alumni of Vidya Sagar had come forward to work this out every Saturday, which involved regular group

interactions, expert meetings, discussions enhancing the concepts of empowerment & legal capacity among the group, exploration of different models on this subject in different parts of Country / world, opportunities to fellow members to facilitate the weekly meetings.

As a step ahead in Supported Decision Making we conducted a Day workshop on SDM model by Mr.Vijaykant from Parivaar, January 2018.

Setting up of the Legal clinic:



Advocate Ummul Khair inaugurating the legal aid clinic

Vidya Sagar realizes that access to legal aid is a huge challenge, for people with disabilities, considering the attitudinal, physical and financial barrier while approaching the judicial system.

There is a great need for a Free Legal Aid Clinic for persons with disabilities especially psychosocial disability who face several legal issues such as availing Guardianship, family pension benefit to mentally disabled dependent, issues related to properties, institutional care.

Any form of discrimination on bases of disability needed attention.

DLU approached Tamil Nadu State Legal Service Authority to set up legal clinic for person with disabilities

The Legal Clinic was set up by Tamil Nadu Legal Service Authority in 2017 in Vidya Sagar.

Our twin objectives for the clinic are:

- (1) to increase the availability of legal aid to disabled people across the country and
- (2) to ensure the implementation of disability legislation through advocacy.

The Legal clinic functions on 2 days a week, A panel of lawyers meets every Tuesday 2pm to 5pm and every Saturday 10am to 1pm.

In the last eight months, 22 persons availed the legal support from the Legal Aid Clinic.

In the coming years, we are planning to organize programmes that will make the legal service more visible to people. This would result in better utilization of free aid services at the grass roots.

DLU is also working on setting up legal clinic in each district.

Free legal aid clinic was opened in Vasantham federation with the support of Tamil Nadu Legal Service Authority

Access to the beach:

On World Disability Day : The on-going process of beach accessibility for persons with disabilities from 2016 was taken up. This year again we approached the Greater Chennai Corporation, who arranged a temporary pathway till waters on Marina beach for the World Disability Day. A public awareness campaign for accessible beach was carried out by the students throughout that week and we collected over 1000 signatures from various sections of the community supporting the cause. The Campaign culminated on Sunday 10th December 2017 in Besant Nagar with an awareness program from 6am to 9am. This program consisted of activities including painting, sign language, crossword puzzles and test driving beach wheelchairs. We submitted a representation for beach access along with documentation of the campaign to the Commissioner, Greater Chennai Corporation and the Tourism Department.

The exciting news was that government had allocated an amount of 1.6 crs towards beach accessibility. Dlu along with DRA had interaction with GCC Consultants regarding accessible beach, along with the smart city team. The consultants presented their plan for accessible pathway to beach. The design was a concern, since it involved concrete base structures, that breach CRZ rules. They agreed to work on accessible parking, 3 accessible toilets and accessible drinking water facility. Beach wheelchairs was included in the plan. They raised financial concerns over making the pathway and all toilets in the marina stretch accessible. They also clarified that maintainance and coastal guards was not under their pervue of work.

High court Accessibility

DLU got the permission from justice Manikumar to do access audit of Madras High Court

DLU and DRA expert team went to do an access audit in Madras High Court on 27th of September

The list of places where access audit was conducted was:

High court pass section, Additional old law chambers, Main litigant entry of High court, judicial section, Criminal section and Corresponding slope, MBA entrance and corresponding slopes.

The places that need to be visited are:

Govt law Chamber, Canteen and press office, Judges Chamber, Annex High court campus, Family court complex, City Civil Court Complex, Small causes court complex. All side entrance to the High Court and other court as well

Challenges Faced

There were places in the High Court which we could not access due to CISF restrictions.

No pictures were allowed inside the court room.

The League club swimming pool issue:

Manager of League club gave a statement that persons with disability are not allowed to swim in swimming pool.

The Disability legislation Unit (DLU) met with the manager of the club, and sensitized them about the rights for accessibility.

Similarly, The Woodland Hotel swimming pool was not accessible for persons with disabilities. DLU coordinated with Mr.Bhargav Sundar manager of Calidai Motors for making the swimming pool accessible. He, with his team took measurements of the Woodland swimming pool. This was done so that a pool hoist could be installed.

Youth program organised a trip to the Baywatch restaurant and in preparation to the trip, Dlu proceeded with an access audit of the restaurant.

RK Nagar Elections

Ms. Smitha Sadasivam from DLU worked on making the RK Nagar elections accessible.

Rights of Persons with Disabilities act 2016:

- Smitha & Ravi attended a deliberation on Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2016 at Amar Seva Sangam in August 2017. Smitha presented the Supported Decision Making model during the deliberations as well as conducted orientation program on the disability law to the community workers associated with Amar Seva Sangam. Ravi Shankar conducted a first level sign language session to all community workers.
- Smitha attended the meeting on implementation of RPDA 2016 & Way forward conducted by National Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in New Delhi.
- Smitha contributed to the development of a handbook on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2016 with FAQs as well as the tamil translation of the Act for NCPEDP. Tamil

version of the Act was released in February 2018. She was also part of the advisory team that developed sign language version of the Act.

- The State seminar on Rights of person with Disabilities act 2016, was jointly organised by National Centre for promotion of employment for disabled person (NCPEDP), New Delhi, Vidya Sagar and IP DOME. This was held on 21st March 2018, to promote awareness on the provisions and implementation of the new act. Vidya Sagar organized the conference in Chennai.
- DLU has been working on an easy to read / understand version of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2016.
- DLU and Legal Resource Centre for Child Rights released the Tamil translation of RPDA 2016 at Vidya Sagar in February 2018. Translation of the book was supported by NCPEDP, Delhi and ANZ
- Smitha Sadasivan sent a representation to the Medical committee formed under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2016 on the need for functional assessment of disability against the traditional assessment of disability indicated in percentage.
- DLU also worked with the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities on draft State Rules pertaining to the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2016, its translation in tamil, developing accessible versions of the same and uploading them in State Commissioner's website.
- DLU along with DRA has been working on setting up of the special Court mandated by the act.

Remedies by legal means & otherwise:

Smitha from Dlu worked on Kotturpuram traffic signal which is out of order. DLU represented the issue to various authorities and to the inspector of J4 Kotturpuram Police station along with our students.

Chennai traffic police worked again on putting up an audible traffic signal. The real issue is not the audible signal for blind pedestrians. It is the lack of safety for any pedestrian at such signals.

DLU Vidya Sagar conducted special Adhar card camp with biometric exemption for persons with disabilities in Vidya Sagar, in August 2017.

Smitha from DLU wrote a letter to State commissioner for persons with disabilities to ensure Adhar authentication for young adults with intellectual disability.

Three camps were held in Vidya Sagar for people with disabilities to facilitate them getting their Aadhar cards.

Other Engagements:

- Dlu organised AP DPO team from Afghanistan's visit to Vidya Sagar, Chennai in March..
- Mr.Javed Abidi's sudden demise on 4th march 2018 left the disability sector of the country in absolute shock. He was a real leader in the disability for more than 2 decades. DLU organised a tribute meeting for him in Chennai. Smitha and Poonam attended his remembrance meeting in New Delhi.
- Disability Legislation Unit took part in the GST reduction lobby as the GST introduced by the Union Government which imposed an additional tax upon aids and appliances purchased by persons with disabilities as well as their services which were not taxed earlier. We wrote to the Central Government as well as engaged in media advocacy on its implications and the need for its removal on aids and appliances used by persons with disabilities.
- DLU took part in National Policy Workshop organised by Sri Ramakrishna Hegde Chair on Decentralization and Development at ISEC, in Bangalore during 22-23 Feb 2018. A Draft

document titled as 'ISEC Declaration 2018 on Mainstreaming Differential Ability in Local Governance and Development' was formulated.

Declaration is in final stage. Final version will be uploaded in ISEC website by first week of April.

DLU provides solidarity in all the protests and campaigns conducted by the local disability groups demanding restoration of their human rights.

DLU had been contributing to most of the submissions from disability sector with regard to any mainstream law / bill/ policy from a disability point of view.

Praveen, a young man - an alumni of Vidya Sagar



Praveen was working in Savera Hotel and enjoying his job and enjoying life. He was a popular staff member and had been working for seven years.

On 14th January 2018, he missed his bus to work and was lost in the city of Chennai.

For four days, the staff, friends, volunteers and family combed the streets and lanes of our city.

Unfortunately, on the 18th- four days later, we were informed by the police that Praveen had been hit by a water truck and died on the spot.

Praveen's untimely death has taught us and the disability sector many lessons!

We all miss you Praveen

Fund Raising Management

As Mother Theresa says , “To keep lamp burning we have to keep putting oil in it” and thats how at Vidya Sagar we have been growing and expanding in new direction with massive support from Donors, Corporates and stakeholders in the community. We believe that our growth in fund raising has happened with continuous support from our friends, well wishers, individuals, corporates and foundations.

This year we had the following fund raising events which had a huge impact in reaching out to the community about Vidya Sagar and our quality services.

Battle of Buffet - in the month of October - 1st and 2nd 2018

Bharat Sangeet Utsav in aid of Vidya Sagar was conducted in the month of Nov 1st to Nov 8th

ADHM - Airtel Delhi Half Marathon through Deloitte in the month of November

Wipro Marathon from Letzchange in the month of december

Our 16th edition of annual fund raising event SADYA 2018 in the month of March 2018

SADYA 2018 was an exciting adventure event and had attracted a new team from Michelin India. We are so grateful to Major Swaraj Roy and the Sadya Team for organising and conducting the 16th edition with great enthusiasm. This Sadya was dedicated to the memory of Mr Nandagopal who had sculpted our adventure Sadya Trophy way back in the year 2000.

Corporates through their CSR initiatives have extended their support to Vidya Sagar. Major contributors for the year are SQS BFSI, APPI - Azim Premji Philanthropic Foundation, Larsen & Tourbro and Michelin India.

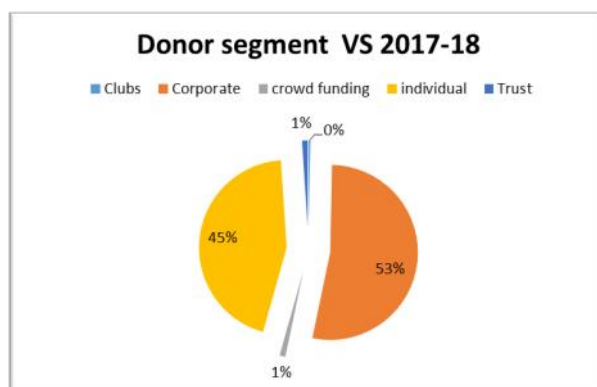
Vidya Sagar has got support from the following companies and Trusts.

Grundfos Pumps India Pvt. Ltd, NTT Data Global Delivery Services Pvt. Ltd, KLA Tencor, Absolute Homes, SKCL property Management Services for mobility aids, VSEI, AV Thomas, Ashok Leyland, Goyal Metal Industries Pvt Ltd, Jenoptik India, NOCIL, Ammu Ambadi Trust, Mallikal trust and Accenture

We have got support through crowdfunding through Global Giving and Letzchange with individual initiation challenge of 100 donors.

Our operating Budget has increased to Rs 3.2 crores, with support from our well wishers and other stake holders.

Our special appreciation to the clubs - Madras Midtown Ladies Circle 7 and Madras Midtown Round Table 42 for supporting us in school events.



The Sadya Trophy Winners

Travel Details

Name	Designation	Purpose and Place	Funded by
International travel			
Jeeva M	Special Educator	To conduct a six day training on vision rehabilitation for children with CP and additional disabilities for special educators, physiotherapist, doctors and other rehab professionals at Cerebral Palsy Lanka foundation, Srilanka	Cerebral Palsy Lanka foundation
Sujatha Chellathurai	Special Educator		
National travel			
Kalpana Rao	Prinicpal, Day center	To attend the second level two day workshop for senior professionals on working with children with Autism spectrum disorders and visual impairment at Mumbai	Perkins Voice and Vision India
K S Uma	Coordinator, HRD		
Sujatha Chellathurai	Special Educator		
Jeeva M	Special Educator	To provide on site support on Vision assessment and intervention for children with Visual impairment and additional disabilities to optometrist and ophthalmologist, parents and educators at HV Desai Eye hospital, Pune	HV Desai Eye hospital Pune
Sujatha Chellathurai	Special Educator		

The Governing Body

Name of the Member	Qualification	Designation in other Organization	Designation in the Board
Mr. Shankaran Nair	B.A Eco., MBA	Consultant, TAPAS Personnel Consultants	Chairperson
Mr. N Gopinath	MBA	Managing Director Fluidtherm Technology P Ltd	Vice Chairperson
Ms. Anuradha Venkatesh	PGDM (IIM Bangalore)	CEO - Vivitsu Mentoring Academy	Secretary
Mr. S Ramesh	Chartered Accountant	Freelance Chartered Accountant	Treasurer
Ms. Rasheeda Bhagat	MA Eng.Lit	Sr. Associate Editor, Rotary New Trust	Member
Mr. Sriram Panchu	PG-Law	Advocate & Senior Counsel	Member
Ms. Poonam Natarajan	PG. Spl Education	Founder-Vidya Sagar	Member
Ms. Dwaraka Pandurangi	M.Com	Freelance Fund Raiser	Member
Mr. G J Siddharth	B.Com, M.A Econs	Bank Executive, IndusInd Bank	Member
Ms. Radhika Alkazi	B.A Hons in Sociology M.A Mass Communication	Founder, ASTHA, an organization for children with disabilities	Member
Mr. E K Parameswaran	B.Tech,M.S	Sr. VP, IT Services Firm	Member

The General Body

Name of the Member	Qualification	Designation in other Organization	Designation in the Board
Ms. Seetha Ratnakar	Graduate/Media	Freelance Film Director	Member
Ms. Preeti Mehra	B.A Hons (English)	Associate Editor, The Hindu BusinessLine, Delhi	Member
Dr. Namitha Jacob	PhD	Education Specialist, Perkins International-Asia PacificRegion/Programme Director Çhetna	Member
Ms. Dipti Bhatia	M.Phil	Honorary Secy, National School for the Blind, Dy. Director, Vidya Sagar	Member
Ms. Mallika Ganapathy	Graduate-Special Educator	Consultant	Member
Ms. Kalpana Rao	Graduate	Principal-Day Centre, Vidya Sagar	Member
Mr. Rajeev Rajan	Post Graduate-Human Rights	Consultant-Advocacy Board member, Asia Pacific Disabled Peoples ' Organization Ltd	Member
Ms. V Suguna	XI STD	Senior Staff & Co-ordinator, Adult Leisure Unit, Vidya Sagar	Member
Ms. Prabha Sekar	B.Sc (H.Sc), PG Dip -Comp Education, PG Dip in Journalism and Mass Communication	Volunteer - Fund raising	Member
Mr. P Rajasekaran	B.E MBA, MS	Co-founder and Director-V-Shesh	Member
Mr. Sathish Kumar	MBA	Corporation Bank- SWO clerk	Member
Ms. Anuradha Naidu	PG. M.A,M.Phil	Guest faculty, Women's Christian College	Member

Name of the Member	Qualification	Designation in other Organization	Designation in the Board
Ms. Urvashi Saikumar Pathak	LLB,LLM	Sr. Legal Counsel, Inter Globe Enterprises Ltd	Member
Ms. Radha Ramesh	P.G Dip in Spl Education	Not employed	Member
Ms. Mallika Rama Rao	MBA, PG Dip in Spl Education	Trustee-Basic Needs India,an organization in the field of mental health	Member
Mr. Prabhakar	VIII STD	Receptionist, Vidya Sagar	Member
Ms. Krithika Venkatraman	B.A Econs		Member
Mr. Karan Pillai	B.A	Self employed	Member
Ms. Amba Salelkar		Independent legal consultant	Member
Ms. Vaishna Roy	B.A Eng.Lit, PG in Journalism	Associate Editor, The Hindu	Member
Ms. Archana Viswanathan		Apurvag Paper Bag Unit	Member

Staff List

RAJUL PADMANABHAN	DIRECTOR	
DIPTI BHATIA	DEPUTY DIRECTOR	
RADHA MURALIDHARAN	ACCOUNTS OFFICER	
BOTTA KALPANA RAO	PRINCIPAL DAY CENTRE	
VIJAYASHREE RAMESH	COORDINATOR EDUCATION EMPLOYMENT CENTRE	
UMA K.S	COORDINATOR HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT	
JAYANTHI NARAYANAN	COORDINATOR FAMILY BASED REHABILITATION	
SUGUNA V	COORDINATOR ADULT LEISURE PROGRAMME	
NAVAMANI (Till December 2017)	COORDINATOR COMMUNITY BASED REHABILITATION	
ANU ALEX (From January 2018)	COORDINATOR COMMUNITY BASED REHABILITATION	
SMITHA S.S	COORDINATOR DISABILITY LEGISLATION UNIT	
ASHA NEDUNGADI	ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER	
ANURADHA SANKARAN	COORDINATOR YOUTH PROGRAMME	
SIMY T.A.	COORDINATOR PHYSIOTHERAPY	
SPECIAL EDUCATORS		
AMRITRAJ	CHARANYA KANNAN	CHITRALEKHA B
CHITRA RAVICHANDRAN	DEEPIKA SRINIVASAN	DHANALAKSHMI . V
GANDHIMATHI S	GOMATHI M	JAYALAKSHMI S
JEEVA M	LAKSHMI B	MANJU
MOHANA SUNDARI	PAMEELA CORREYA	POORNIMA B
PUSHPA PRIYA GANESH	RABECCAL	RAMU K
REVATHI M	SASIKALA D	SHASIKALA R
SMITHA PADMANABHAN	SUBASHREE SURYANARAYANAN	SUJATHA CHELLATHURAI
THEODORA FERNANDEZ P	UMA NARAYANAN	VALLIAMMAL
VICTORIA M		
VOCATIONAL TRAINERS	PHYSIOTHERAPISTS	THERAPY AIDE
BALA VINAYAGAM STALIN	JEFFERSON RAJ LECKLER	NIRMALA M
JAYANTHI V	MAHALAKSHMI	SHANTHI R
MANGALAKUMARI .S	VIJAYALAKSHMI	SUMITHRA K
VIMALA T.A	NITHYA MURALIDHARAN	SOCIAL WORKER
	JUNIOR PHYSIOTHERAPIST	ABIDA A
OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS	GAJENDRAKUMAR	DEVISRI RAVI
SARITA	HEMALATHA R	SANTHOSH KUMAR M
	PAUL ROBINSON	

TEACHER	TEACHER ARTS	SPORTS TEACHER
SHALIMA	MEENA D	HARIKRISHNAN
ASSISTANT TEACHER	ADVOCACY STAFF	ACCOUNTANT
VAIDEKI	UMMUL KHAIR	CHITRA KRISHNAN
	RAVI SHANKAR	
ACCOUNTS ASSISTANT	ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT	LIBRARIAN
DHANASEKAR R	SUMATHI ARAVENDAN	RAJALAKSHMI R
MUZAMIL A.S		
	SYSTEM INCHARGE	SECRETARY
RECEPTIONIST	BALAJI R	JOSEPHINE GABRIEL
PRABHAKARAN A		RAMA DEVI
	ASSISTANT	SHANTHI R
ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN	JANAKIRAMAN	
KANTHIMATHI	SIVRAM B.P	COOK
	VIDYA KRISHNAN	RANI S
OFFICE ASSISTANT		
SUNARA KP	CARPENTER	DRIVER
NIRMAL KUMAR	MURALI S	KANNAN N
PACHAIYAPPAN		
SUPPORT STAFF		
ALAMELU D	ANJALAI S	BANUMATHI S
CHINNAMMA	DHEEPA K	DONTALA
GIRIJA V	GNANAM R	INDIRANI P
JAYA D	KOKILA E	KOMALAVALLI B
KONDAMMA	MARIAMMAL	MENAKA A
MONIKA JAYASRI	RADHA K	RAJESWARI D
RAJESWARI V	SAMUNDEESWARI S	SARASWATHY
SATHYA K	SELVI M	SHANTHI A
SHANTHI G	SHANTHI S	VASANTHI M

Staff Salary	
Salary range	Number of staff
Below 9000	29
9000 to 11900	15
12000 to 14900	32
15000 to 17500	9
18500 to 23000	15
24000 and above	3
Total number of staff	103

Bank Details

Vidya Sagar (formerly, The Spastics Society of India)

Address: # 1, Ranjith Road, Kotturpuram, Chennai -600 085

Phone: 044 22354784/85/4980

Fax : 044 22200533

Email id: 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: Mr. G.Shankaran Nair

Director: Ms. Rajul Padmanabhan

Phone: 044 - 22353757

Email : director@vidyasagar.co.in

Donations are exempt under section 80G section of the IT Act

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

Name of Bank :	State Bank of India	HDFC Bank LTD	HDFC Bank LTD
Type of account :	Savings Bank Account	Savings Bank Account	Savings Bank Account (For Foreign contribution)
Saving account number :	A/c no. 54028105944	A/c 13051450000068	A/c 50100022443481
IFSC code :	SBIN0040169	HDFC0001305	HDFC0001305
Address :	State Bank of India No:1427, North Usman Road, T. Nagar, Chennai - 600017	HDFC Bank Ltd No:46, Gandhi Mandapam Road Kotturpuram Chennai - 600 085	HDFC Bank Ltd No:46, Gandhi Mandapam Road Kotturpuram Chennai - 600 085
Phone number :	044 - 28340121	044 - 30751912	044 - 30751912
			FCRA regn no. 075300693 13 th Jan- 2000
			Swift - HDFC INBB
			Pan no: AAATV2359M

Auditor's Report

FORM NO. 10B

[See rule 17B]

Audit report under section 12A(b) of the Income-tax Act, 1961, in the case of charitable or religious trusts or institutions

We have examined the balance sheet of **VIDYASAGAR, I, RANJITH ROAD, KOTTURPURAM, CHENNAI-600085 . AAAT Y2359M** [name and PAN of the trust or institution] as at **31/03/2018** and the Profit and loss account for the year ended on that date which are in agreement with the books of account maintained by the said trust or institution.

We have obtained all the information and explanations which to the best of our knowledge and belief were necessary for the purposes of the audit. In our opinion, proper books of account have been kept by the head office and the branches of the abovenamed institution visited by us so far as appears from our examination of the books, and proper Returns adequate for the purposes of audit have been received from branches not visited by us, subject to the comments given below:

In our opinion and to the best of our information, and according to 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 **31/03/2018** and
- (ii) in the case of the profit and loss account, of the profit or loss of its accounting year ending on **31/03/2018**

The prescribed particulars are annexed hereto.

Place **CHENNAI**

Date **20/09/2018**

Name

**SANKARAN & KRISHNAN, C
HARTERED ACCOUNTANTS**

Membership Number

016271

FRN (Firm Registration Number)

003582S

Address

**1 E MARBLE ARCH APARTM
ENTS 4&5 BISHOP WALLERS
AVENUE EAST MYLAPORE
CHENNAI-600004**

ANNEXURE

Statement of particulars

I. APPLICATION OF INCOME FOR CHARITABLE OR RELIGIOUS PURPOSES

1.	Amount of income of the previous year applied to charitable or religious purposes in India during that year (₹)	28736097
2.	Whether the 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 for application to charitable or religious purposes, to the extent it does not exceed 15 per cent of the income derived from property held under trust wholly for such purposes. (₹)	4699022
4.	Amount of income eligible for exemption under section 11(1)(c) (Give details)	No
5.	Amount of income, in addition to the amount referred to in item 3 above, accumulated or set apart for specified purposes under section 11(2) (₹)	0
6.	Whether the amount of income mentioned in item 5 above has been invested or deposited in the manner laid down 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 is deemed to be income of the previous 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 year-	
(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 section 11(2)(b)(ii) or section 11(2)(b)(iii), or	No

(c)	has not been utilised for purposes for which it was accumulated or set apart during the period for which it was to be accumulated or set apart, or in the year immediately following the expiry thereof? If so, the details thereof	No
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II. APPLICATION OR USE OF INCOME OR PROPERTY FOR THE BENEFIT OF PERSONS REFERRED TO IN SECTION 13(3)

1.	Whether any part of the income or property of the institution was lent, or continues to be lent, in the previous year to any person referred to in section 13(3) (hereinafter referred to in this Annexure as such person)? If so, give details of the amount, rate of interest charged and the nature of security, if any.	No
2.	Whether any part of the income or property of the institution was made, or continued to be made, available for the use of any such person during the previous year? If so, give details of the property and the amount of rent or compensation charged, if any.	No
3.	Whether any payment was made to any such person during the previous year by way of salary, allowance or otherwise? If so, give details	No
4.	Whether the services of the institution were made available to any such person during the previous year? If so, give details thereof together with remuneration or compensation received, if any	No
5.	Whether any share, security or other property was purchased by or on behalf of the institution during the previous year from any such person? If so, give details thereof together with the consideration paid	No
6.	Whether any share, security or other property was sold by or on behalf of the institution during the previous year to any such person? If so, give details thereof together with the consideration received	No
7.	Whether any income or property of the institution was diverted during the previous year in favour of any such person? If so, give details thereof together with the amount of income or value of property so diverted	No
8.	Whether the income or property of the institution was used or applied during the previous year for the benefit of any such person in any other manner? If so, give details	No

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	Name and address of the concern	Where the concern is a company, number and class of shares held	Nominal value of the investment(₹)	Income from the investment(₹)	Whether the amount in col. 4 exceeded 5 per cent of the capital of the concern during the previous year-say, Yes/No
1	NIL	NIL	0	0	No
Total					

Place **CHENNAI**
Date **20/09/2018**

Name
Membership Number
FRN (Firm Registration Number)
Address

SANKARAN & KRISHNAN, C
HARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
016271
003582S
1 E MARBLE ARCH APARTM
ENTS 4&5 BISHOP WALLERS
AVENUE EAST MYLAPORE
CHENNAI-600004

Form Filing Details	
Revision/Original	Revised
Reason 1	Others
Description	DATE OF REPORT WRONGLY TYPED

VIDYA SAGAR
No. 1, Ranjit Road, Kotturpuram, Chennai - 600 085
INCOME & EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH -2018

DESCRIPTION	31.3.2018	2017	DESCRIPTION	31.3.2018	2017
Expenditure	TOTAL	TOTAL	Income	TOTAL	TOTAL
Aids & Appliances	-	1,22,918.00	Assesment Fees	1,20,600.00	1,60,700.00
Administrative Expenses (Schedule L)	34,15,929.16	36,81,317.65	Donation Fund	1,13,49,036.74	1,62,49,039.39
Audit Fees	30,290.00	21,843.00	Donation Fund (Foreign)	18,83,337.69	5,53,424.69
Consultation Charges	19,38,804.00	4,66,549.00	Donation Fund (Sadya)	15,00,000.00	-
Coffee Vending Machine	-	39,536.00	Donation Fund (karpakam land)	40,95,262.00	30,85,000.00
Depreciation	14,75,941.00	13,29,350.00	Fund Raising	1,80,000.00	-
Event Expenses	86,776.00	57,242.00	Grant in aid - Global Givng	1,52,100.00	-
Fund Raising Expenses	1,39,475.00	79,995.00	Grant in aid - Deloitte	-	4,85,860.00
Fundraising (Music Concert)	-	33,800.00	Grant in aid - NTT Data	-	67,500.00
Gratuity	1,30,362.00	-	Grant in aid - Larsen & Toubro	11,59,558.00	-
Insurance	-	20,267.00	Grant in aid - Michelin	3,92,462.00	3,45,600.00
Library books	-	24,632.00	Grant in aid - IFMR	-	4,78,505.00
Medical & Home Visit	15,769.00	-	Grant in aid - TET	19,97,791.50	42,51,722.25
Mobility Aids	1,79,252.00	-	Grant in aid - Azim Premji	27,79,907.25	19,22,567.75
Net Working Expenses	-	3,22,135.00	Greeting Cards	-	1,11,500.00
Materials	1,90,147.00	1,10,665.00	Interest on FD	13,35,582.52	10,38,246.70
Registration fees	-	23,500.00	Interest on SB	3,71,809.74	4,78,405.73
Reading Software & Devices	-	95,496.00	Misc. Income	7,36,583.25	14,222.00
Recognition Fees	-	22,500.00	Rent Received	4,44,463.00	4,00,245.00
Resource Cost	-	9,000.00	Registration Fee	25,794.00	-
Staff Salaries Allowances etc (Sch. M)	1,85,71,875.50	2,12,80,083.00	Sale of Scrap	-	14,784.00
Seminars & Workshop	48,858.00	97,141.00	Souvenir	1,13,125.00	-
Student Welfare	68,185.00	40,824.00	Trasportation Charges	12,27,500.00	11,17,632.00
Student Conveyance	15,04,090.00	10,28,220.00	Technical Fee	5,000.00	26,376.23
Student Stipend	-	2,62,042.00	Tuition Fees	14,56,900.00	14,95,150.00
Student Medicals	-	20,363.00	Training Income	-	93,206.06
TDS Expenses	-	809.00	Vocational Training Income	-	2,43,601.00
Teaching Learning Materials	5,62,885.00	3,447.00			
Training Expenses	-	71,607.06			
Vacces	-	1,51,784.00			
Vehicle Expenses	2,99,544.00	1,72,407.00			
Water & Sewerage Tax	33,695.00	1,05,127.00			
Youth Programme	44,220.00	-			
Surplus	25,90,715.03	29,38,688.09			
TOTAL	3,13,26,812.69	3,26,33,287.80	TOTAL	3,13,26,812.69	3,26,33,287.80

For VIDYA SAGAR

Radha Ramesh
RADHA RAMESH
Director

For SANKARAN & KRISHNAN
Chartered Accountants
FRN 003582 S



Sankaran
Partner
SANKARAN & KRISHNAN
10/10, 10/271

For VIDYA SAGAR

S. Shankarannair
S. SHANKARANNAIR
Chairperson

For VIDYA SAGAR

S. Ramesh
S. RAMESH
Treasurer

Place: Chennai

Date: 4/7/18

VIDYA SAGAR
No. 1, Ranjit Road, Kotturpuram, Chennai - 600 085

SCHEDULE 'L' OF ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES AS ON 31ST MARCH - 2018

DESCRIPTION	31.3.2018	31.3.2017
Annual Maintenance Contract	2,07,563.00	139712.00
Advertisement Charges	14,750.00	4317.50
Bank charges	25,369.91	23452.15
Books & Periodicals	9,680.00	40666.00
Conveyance & Travelling	2,96,028.00	188103.00
Computer Consumables	20,310.00	41720.00
Courier & Postage	36,036.00	22215.00
Electricity	3,84,665.00	401076.00
Honorarium	4,600.00	14975.00
Internet Charges	79,184.00	86198.00
Lease Rent	50,000.00	-
Maintenance Building	6,82,066.00	516404.00
Maintenance & Repairs	7,65,081.00	1642853.00
Miscellaneous Expenses	53,233.75	-
Printing & Stationery	1,26,797.50	94641.00
Rent	2,03,639.00	125000.00
Security charges	3,22,560.00	263046.00
Subscription & Membership	47,699.00	1249.00
Telephone Charge	86,667.00	75690.00
TOTAL	34,15,929.16	3681317.65

For VIDYA SAGAR
Radha Ramesh
RADHA RAMESH
Director

For SANKARAN & KRISHNAN
Chartered Accountants
FRN 003582 S



S. Ramesh
Partner
S. RAMESH
10/11/2018

For VIDYA SAGAR

D. Shankarannair
D. SHANKARANNAIR
Chairperson

For VIDYA SAGAR

S. Ramesh
S. RAMESH
Treasurer

VIDYA SAGAR
No. 1, Ranjit Road, Kotturpuram, Chennai - 600 085

BALANCE SHEET AS ON 31ST MARCH - 2018

LIABILITIES	Rs. P.	ASSETS	Rs. P.
Trust / General Fund (Schedule A)	2,02,34,272.82	Fixed Assets (Schedule E)	3,09,16,107.00
Depreciation Reserve Fund (Schedule B)	2,26,37,216.00	Investments (Schedule F)	2,37,63,379.00
Donation Fund (Corpus)	84,07,000.00	Receivables (Schedule G)	6,35,068.55
Endowment Fund (SQS)	1,01,82,036.00	Current Assets	
Donation (Assets)	16,92,896.00	<u>Cash in hand</u>	33,686.00
Grant in Aid - Handicap International	13,592.99	<u>Cash at Bank</u>	1,29,89,152.64
Grant in Aid - Hilton perkins	2,07,865.95	(Schedule H)	
Grant in Aid - Global CBR	14,541.29		
Grant in Aid - Global - E.I	1,01,720.23		
Grant in Aid - Thomson Reuters	1,46,872.00		
Grant in Aid - Michelin	1,29,600.06		
Grant in Aid - Azim premji	35,83,573.26		
Grant in Aid - Global -HRD	32,298.64		
Sri Sarvatma Natarajan Trust	1,80,171.95		
National Award	64,915.00		
Award - Alliance Resource	1,40,000.00		
Counselling Course	60,911.00		
Tata Trust	25,287.00		
Liabilities & Provisions (Schedule D)	4,82,623.00		
TOTAL	6,83,37,393.19	TOTAL	6,83,37,393.19

For VIDYA SAGAR

Radha Ramesh
RADHA RAMESH
Director

For SANKARAN & KRISHNAN
Chartered Accountants
FRN 003582 S



Sankaran
Partner

For VIDYA SAGAR

G. Shankarannair
G. SHANKARANNAIR
Chairperson

For VIDYA SAGAR

S. Ramesh
S. RAMESH
Treasurer

Place: Chennai

Date: 4/7/18

What the Press Reports...

For the disabled, the booths weren't friendly

More facilities need to be provided for them, says activist

ZUBEDA HAMID
CHENNAI

Some people with disabilities experienced difficulties while casting their votes at the R.K. Nagar bypoll on Thursday, while a few did not know about arrangements made for them. Disability rights activists say that while some booths were accessible, more needs to be done at others.

When S. Mohan Raj, a voter with poor vision, went to the booth, the candidates' list was not available in Tamil Braille.

This had been one of the demands of disability rights groups, who conducted an access audit of the polling booths last week. "The list was only available in English, which made voting somewhat difficult. Also, there are four EVMS but they were not labelled so we did not know one from another," said Mr. Raj. He said that his wife, who too has a poor eye sight, also faced difficulties. "The quality of the Braille paper was not very good, making it hard for us to



A disabled woman at a booth. • B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

read," he said.

S. Vinod, another voter with visual impairment, however, said he managed to vote without difficulty and added that the booth personnel had been helpful. P. Chandran, who also had a visual impairment, said he was not told that Braille was available. "My mother came with me to help me vote," he said. Another visually impaired voter, S. Raghu, was accompanied by a volunteer from the booth to help press the EVM button.

Despite some work done on accessibility, many

booths remained difficult to access said P. Saravannan of the December 3 movement and Smitha Sadasivan of Disability Rights Alliance India. "At one booth, a voter on a wheelchair came in and was directed to the stairs instead of the ramp. Even when he finally got to the ramp, he needed help as it was not up to the standard," she said. At other places, ramps were steep or there were barriers at the door, said Ms. Sadasivan.

However, she said that some ramps had been modified to make them less steep, and a few booths were completely accessible. Wheelchairs were provided at most booths, and volunteers were available, as was accessible information, posters and signages.

"There continue to be some barriers and ramps were still not up to the standard. More needs to be done, and training too, needs to be given to volunteers and staff," she said.

(With inputs from Vidya Venkat)

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Now You Can Choose Your Dishes In Braille As Cafés And Restaurants Get More Inclusive

Feel the menu, taste the food

Priya.Menon@timesgroup.com

Browsing through the menu is what usually gets your gastronomic juices flowing. But in a city that's not disabled-friendly, the visually impaired are deprived of the experience. That's why some cafes and restaurants have begun offering menus in Braille.

On World Sight Day this year, Grand by GRT Hotels in Chennai launched specially crafted Braille menus at its global street food restaurant J.Hind. "We have been working to make our hotel more disabled-friendly and inclusive by putting in ramps," says Vikram Cotah, chief operating officer, GRT Hotels and Resorts. "So this was the next step, facilitated by the St Louis Institute for Deaf And The Blind," he says, adding that it will also be introduced in their other branches.

Chennai got its first inclusive café in 2012, when Vidya Sagar launched Kalakkal Café in Kotturpuram. The café, open from 5pm to 7:30pm on Saturdays, aims to create awareness about making social spaces inclusive for persons with disability and also give them an opportunity to meet and interact with new people.

"We have a youth programme and the café is a part of its leisure component, where youngsters can hang out," says Anuradha Shankaran, coordinator, youth programme, Vidya Sagar, adding the inclusive hangout is open to all. Apart from ramps, the menu is written in print, and in Braille, has photos of the dishes, and the food is affordable.

In Bengaluru, homemaker Bhavna Jain, 48, launched Om restaurant in 2010 as she felt that there were very few, if any, vegetarian restaurants that offered tasty, simple, healthy food. But it was a chance encounter with a blind customer that prompted Jain to offer menu cards in Braille. "My restaurant is next to EnAble India, an NGO which works with the disabled, and many of them used to drop in," says Jain.

"One day, I met a young woman, a Bharatanatyam dancer who had returned from the US. When it was time to



A Prathap



OPEN FOR ALL: Kalakkal Café is Chennai's first inclusive café; (left) J.Hind restaurant in Grand by GRT launched a Braille menu on World Sight Day on October 12. The menu was designed with the help of St Louis Institute for Deaf And The Blind

place the order, she asked for the menu to be read out. I felt it was unfair that a person who had accomplished

so much and travelled across the world had to depend on someone just to order food," says Jain, who began working with EnAble to design a Braille menu.

"When I first gave it to a girl, she was so happy she could read the menu that she began reading it like a book and forgot to actually place her order," says Jain. What's more, the Braille menus have been just the baby step forward for many ventures. Cotah says that they are planning to also put in Braille lift buttons at their facilities in Tirunelveli and Bengaluru. Jain says launching the menu helped sensitise her employees, who began coming forward to help customers.

"One thing led to another; we put in a little ramp in front of the building and a wheelchair as some customers find it difficult to reach the restaurant from their vehicle," says Jain. "I have also learned a lot from my disabled customers who are willing to share what they need."

Legal aid clinic for the disabled launched

It will function two days a week

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

The Tamil Nadu Legal Services Authority launched a free legal aid clinic at Vidya Sagar on Tuesday in order to help people with disabilities access justice, a note said.

The initiative is a result of Vidya Sagar's disability legislation unit, a project that focuses on creating aware-

ness among persons with disabilities and multiple stakeholders about rights and entitlements.

The clinic will function two days a week - Thursday from 2.30 p.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

The event was presided over by Nazir Ahmed, member secretary, T.N. State Legal Services Authority.

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Getting Aadhaar is harrowing for persons with disability

It took several attempts to get some children enrolled

ZUBEDA HAMID
CHENNAI

For persons with disabilities in the city, getting an Aadhaar card is a difficult and stressful experience.

"The Aadhaar enrolment process is not equipped at all for persons with developmental and intellectual disabilities and those with high support needs," said Smitha Sadasivan, member, Disability Rights Alliance.

At a 10-day enrolment camp last month, Vidya Sagar, an organisation that works with people with disabilities, attempted to get as many people as possible enrolled, but a number of difficulties arose: children with autism and neurological disabilities were not able to sit still for the photograph and were scared of the iris biometric scanner; some with cerebral palsy were not able to get their fingers scanned and many simply couldn't cope with the process, while others struggled.

"A 30-year-old woman with an intellectual disability

had seizures due to the stress of the process," Ms. Sadasivan said.

For parents too, it was harrowing: a parent of a teenager with autism said her daughter was not able to sit still and look at the camera and for many, it took hours and several attempts to have their children enrolled. One parent said she had gone to two other centres previously but had not been able to get her child enrolled.

Aadhaar was a must for all schemes earmarked for persons with disabilities, said Ms. Sadasivan.

Exemption sought

The organisation is seeking an exemption of both biometrics (iris and fingerprints) based on the requirements of the persons with disabilities, and is asking for the Aadhaar to have only the photograph.

Since the experience with the camp, Ms. Sadasivan said she had engaged with and written to several offi-

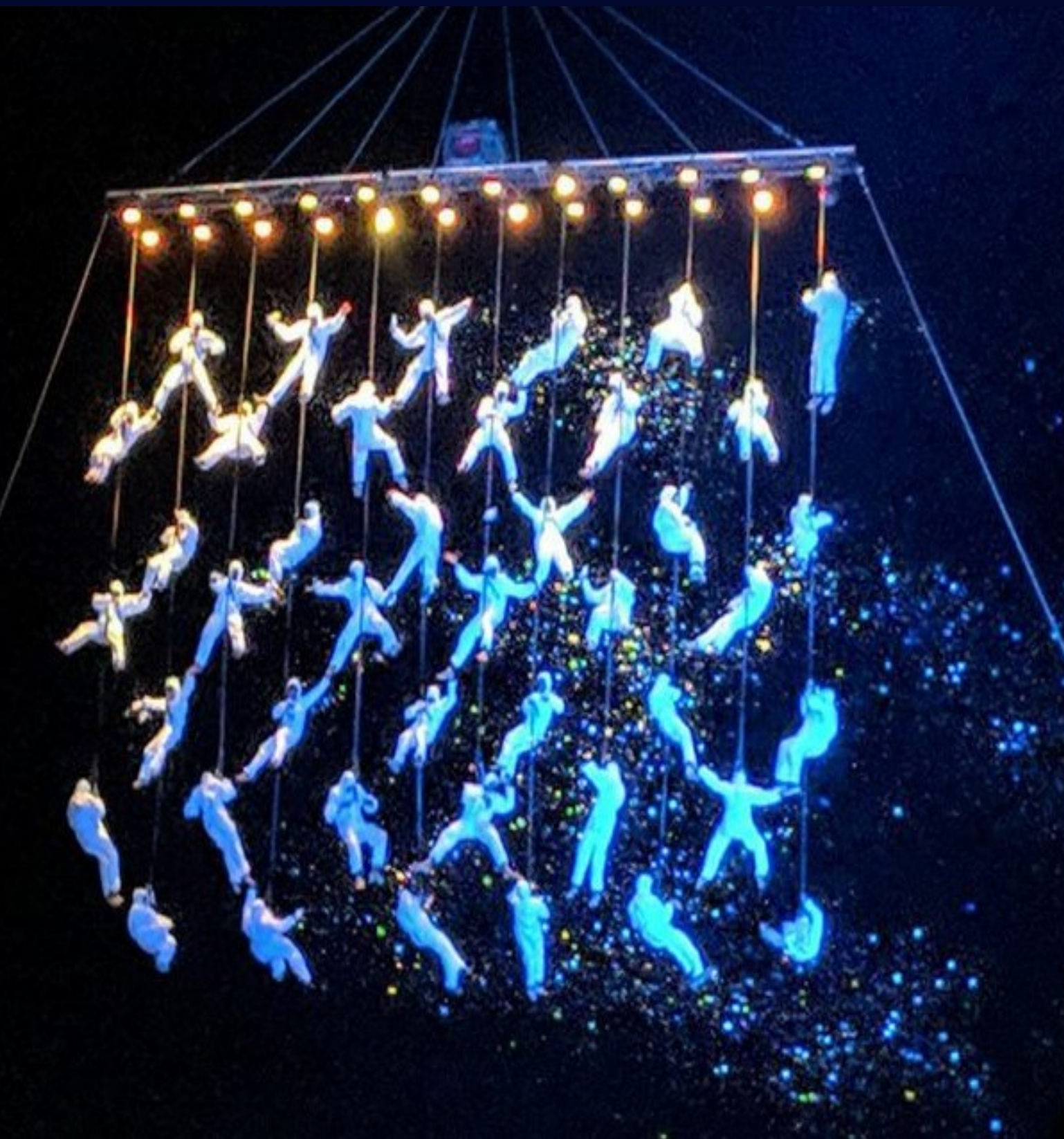
cial of UIDAI, the Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities and the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities - but in vain.

Many persons with disabilities have not been able to get Aadhaar cards, said disability rights activist S. Nambu Rajan and have not been able to get their disability pensions owing to this. "There are lots of difficulties with the process," he said.

Reaching an Aadhaar enrolment centre too, is a challenge for many persons with disabilities, said T.M.N. Deepak, State president, December 3 movement.

"The first centre I went to was on the first floor and inaccessible. The next one I went to was extremely cramped and access was difficult. We flagged this issue a few years ago and the then State Commissioner for the Differently Abled wrote to the UIDAI to make the process more accessible. However this has not happened," he said.

Over leaf: Some of our students suspended! A scene from **'Aruna and the Raging Sun'** an Inclusive play put up by Graeae Theatre , UK



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

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