



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



ANNUAL REPORT 2016 – 2017

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 Pastors Society of India, Chennai)

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Chairperson's Message

Dear Stakeholders,

I have been associated with Vidya Sagar for over two decades now first as volunteer, then as member of the Governing Body and now since September of 2016 as Chair. It is an association and a journey that has taught me much and filled me with awe at what passion, commitment and sincerity of purpose can achieve.

Our organization is a remarkable organization. It has two or three defining characteristics. The first is a “can do, will do” attitude. There is no task that once we are convinced needs doing we will turn away from. Minor obstacles like lack of money or resources are simply kept aside as things that have to be dealt with. This has seen the explosion of services along multiple dimensions. From early intervention for six month old babies to pioneering work on assistive living for adults. From in house day care centers to community based rehabilitation programs. From the initial focus on cerebral palsy to a organization that covers the spectrum of neurological impairment. From breeding in house subject matter experts to providing training to other institutions in this space. And soon to running a formal B Ed program.

The second is the courage to venture forth into the unknown. Vidya Sagar enters areas where there are no answers and sets out to find them. The boundaries of thought are consistently expanded to a point where today the organization is a reference point for others in the field of disability within and outside India.

The third characteristic is the determination to never turn anyone needing our services away from our doors.

A combination of these qualities has led Vidya Sagar to where it is today. Touching over 4000 individuals with disabilities that include 1500 individuals from our School Program, Family Based Rehabilitation program, and Adult program, and 2500 individuals running over 12 Community based Rehabilitation programs reaching 150 panchayats. Inclusion program reaching 30 education institutions in Chennai, the Advocacy unit and HRD conducting awareness and various training programs

This note would be incomplete without calling out the staunch support we have received from the donor community. From large corporate houses to individuals. We are truly appreciative of your support and look forward to it continuing in the coming years.

The coming year promises much. Our existing services continue to expand and grow. We will attempt two brand new large initiatives this year – the new assistive living for adults center at Karapakkam and the B Ed program. We look forward to the ongoing support of our dedicated staff, the community, and our donors as we continue this journey. The challenges we face will be many which we have faced before and one that we are addressing now. That of transitioning from a small, entrepreneurially driven, entity to a bigger more formally managed one. In signing off some excerpts

from my note to the governing body and senior leadership team of Vidya Sagar when I stepped into the Chairman role:

“The research on the subject of the inflection point that every organization (for profit not for profit notwithstanding) faces at a point of time in its evolution when the old entrepreneurial ways give way to the more professional management approach is deep, rich and conclusive. Organizations that do not make that transition well – do not live up to their destinies ...”

“every organization comes to a point when the running of it moves from the founding team to managers.....”

Vidya Sagar is at that point of transition. This institution will outlive all of us. It MUST outlive all of us. Hopefully by a 100 years and more. How will it work once the drive and energy of the founding team is simply no longer available? Lesser mortals have to be bequeathed a system they can manage and live in and work with. We have to move from individuals to institutionalization.

The task of building Vidya Sagar to the next level, to the point where it lives up to it’s destiny challenges and drives us every day.

G.Shankaran Nair

Director's Report

Like every year Vidya Sagar was busy, buzzing and active. But there were some events which were a little different and out of the ordinary.

The ones that come to mind immediately are :The Childrens' conference on Inclusive Education ; a panel discussion with four well known childrens authors; small study of using alternative intervention for students with Autism and working towards making elections inclusive .

The children's conference was a huge learning for all of us. This conference was not only attended by children, but it was also organized by the children. The organisation committee had four students with disability - one of whom used a communication device; four children from a private school and four from a government Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan school. All the schools were in our neighbourhood.

During the three months of organizing, after the initial shyness and awkwardness , all the students really worked well together -- this included the student with very little functional speech. The leadership changed according to the situation.

The organisation committee decided to have a debate on one of the days. The topic chosen was "Is it easy to include or Is it not !" no esoteric rhetoric of rights, inclusiveness etc - just a practical question "easy or not" ! . On the final day, the debate and the open house, threw up similar problems and questions.

The review after the conference brought home the fact , that children take for granted that they all need to study together but they also mentioned that "everyone can't do everything".

The children have decided to hold this conference every year and in other schools, starting with their own school. Another interesting point that came through was the difficulty the staff (both mainstream and special) had, to let the children plan and organize entirely by themselves. We as professional teachers cannot leave the child alone to organise or plan! Finally, when we did leave them alone, the result was amazing .

The panel discussion called "Children First " was initiated by Vidya Sagar in collaboration with Duckbill publishers to encourage literature for children to include disability in a very casual and natural manner. The panel consisted of Zai Whitaker and Sujatha Padmanabhan, both well known authors writing for children; Anushka Ravishankar, from Duckbill publisher and Shobha Viswanath from Karadi Tales Company, and of course Namita Jacob, who's mission it is to make childrens' literature accessible and there by Inclusive .

It was really interesting to hear what these well known authors had to say. The result of this initiative was a competition announced by Parag a unit of Tata Trust and Duckbill for new writings which include disability . The response to this competition was amazing . There were over 350 entries and the winner was announced at the Hindu Lit Fest.

Another new initiative we tried out, was in collaboration with Trimed. Trimed is an initiative of Dr. Ennapadam S. Krishnamoorthy who is the Founder & Senior Consultant Neuropsychiatrist of Neurokrish/Trimed.

This was really interesting and most of the students with Autism benefited from this Intervention.Thank you Dr. E.S.K and the team of Trimed for working with us on this new initiative.

To make Elections Inclusive, was an initiative taken on by our Advocacy group. Smitha Sadasivan spear headed this and worked tirelessly to make Legislative Assembly Elections inclusive. Her work on this has resulted in her being asked by the Election Commission of India, Delhi to become a consultant and work on making the Electoral process inclusive and accessible for people with disabilities across the country.

Another major step that we have taken this year is to start an Early Intervention Centre in Tambaram, a suburb of Chennai. The plan for this had happened way back in 2014 when we felt that by the time the babies come to our centre they are tired and sleepy and not much intervention could happen. We had mapped out the areas in Chennai where there were few or no services. And Tambaram was one such area. We could not start it then as there were no funds. This year Azim Premji Philanthropic Initiative (APPI) supported us and we have initiated our first small centre outside our premises. The Tambaram centre has its own staff and is already buzzing with babies and their parents.

I also want to say, along with all of us at Vidya Sagar, a very warm welcome to Mr. Shankaran Nair our new Chairperson. Not so new, since he has been on our board. He knows Vidya Sagar very well. I am sure with his guidance and friendship Vidya Sagar will attain even newer heights. Welcome Shanky!

People often tell us that we are doing a wonderful job ---- Yes, we are trying our best. But the work that we do is possible because we have the support of the community, donors, parents, students, volunteers, friends and the government.

And I want to say with everyone in Vidya Sagar "We are truly grateful".

Rajul Padmanaphan

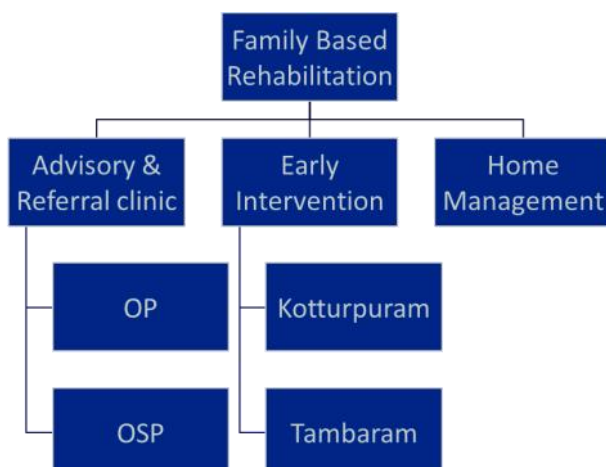
Family Based Rehabilitation



Standing Tall ! I can see myself in the mirror

Family Based Rehabilitation

Family Based Rehabilitation acts as the focal point for Vidya Sagar 's operations. Through the Advisory and Referral Clinic, persons with disability are referred to an appropriate program after a holistic assessment .



Other than the Advisory and Referral Clinic, it also comprises of the Early Intervention and Home Management programs.

Advisory and Referral clinic

The Advisory and Referral Clinic is the gateway to our centre which works with families of Persons with Disabilities.

In the year 2016-17 the team assessed 502 children and adults with disabilities , which included initial assessments and follow - ups.

Based on the assessments and needs of the person with disabilities , the team and the family together plans a programme of action to be carried on and if required referrals are also given.

During the year, we had persons with disabilities visiting our clinic from Tamil Nadu

and other states of India like Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka , Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh , Assam , Orissa and also from other countries like Sri Lanka , USA, Oman and UK.

Outstation Program :



The Mirror helps us to correct ourselves

Our Outstation program is conducted three times a year for those residing outside Chennai. We worked with 90 families from different parts of the country during the year 2016-17.

During our Out Station Programme, we offer Special Education, Physiotherapy , Occupational Therapy, Vision Therapy, Speech and Communication therapy, parent counseling and legal advice. It is a 2 or 3 day programme when the team works with the person with disability and their families .

Networking with doctors, physiotherapists, orthopedics, occupational therapists, ENT's, psychologists, psychiatrists, counselor and dieticians is one of the key aspects of the referral clinic .

Home Management

The Home management programme pioneered by Vidya Sagar in 1985 was designed to specifically suit Indian conditions.

The focus is on demystifying disability, training and empowering the parent, family and caregiver to effectively meet the special needs of their child. This programme was started to train parents, and to empower them.

This programme is particularly relevant for emerging countries where numbers are large and resources few. This programme has undergone a few changes - one of the major ones being that it has also become a support programme for students and families that are accessing different projects and programmes.

Highlights of the Home Management Programme:

- Parents are an essential part of the team while assessing the child.
- Both parent and child receive training and parents are taught the skills required to train the child on their own.
- All the parents get hands on training in all areas. The students receive one on one sessions.
- The staff makes regular home visits, adaptations are made at home and there is Interaction with the extended family.

The program conducts parent trainings and workshop. We also facilitate parent to parent support groups .



Training the parent

Achievements in HM

During the year 2016-17, the home management program worked with 26 children with disabilities.

1. There was also a guest student from Thoothukudi (down South) who attended the program for one week. The mother and child were trained and appropriate orthotic aids and adaptations were given for the child.

2. Various modes of communication aids have made remarkable improvement in peer interaction and socialization. The parents have understood the importance of AAC after the training in this program.

3. A flexible time table was made for a child who was coming from Kanchipuram once a week. The parents were very happy since their specific need was met.

4. Home visits were done for all the students which helped both the parents and the team in home management to work with the child for holistic development.

Early Intervention:



Ms. Anne Dayanand Interacting with a young student in the Tambaram Centre

Early Intervention, as the name suggests is working with the child and parent as early as possible . This programme works with children who are below the age of six / eight, in other words, babies and early childhood.

Its an exciting programme and though we have intensive specialized interventions, our work with the child is also transdisciplinary. More importantly this programme works closely with the parent and the family.

Last year, we started a new Early Intervention centre in Tambaram. The idea of starting Early Intervention centres in areas where there were no services was

thought about five years back. We had done a resource map of the availability of Early Intervention centres and recognized that the Tambaram area needed one. With a grant from Azim Premji Philanthropic Initiatives Private Limited, this was made possible . The space has been sponsored by Ramaswamy Educational Trust and the centre is now running with 19 children below 6 years. This center was inaugurated in February 2017 by Ms. Anne Dayanand.

Activities in Early Intervention:

- Outings –
 - Visit to MGM
 - Visit to Vandalur zoo
 - Visit to Guindy children’s park
 - Ride on the metro train
 - Movie
 - Visit to Anna Library
- Workshops
 - Demystifying conditions to parents
 - Importance of Early Intervention
 - Parenting and time management
 - Importance of correct posture
- Home visits
 - Home furniture recommended
 - Low adjustable writing tables given to 2 children
 - Positioning and feeding recommendations given
 - Toileting recommendations given
- Two children have moved into a mainstream school
- Four children are now in transition class
- Two children in this program, who did not have any prior intervention, were given the exposure and experience in our day center. This helped the parents and the children to understand the importance of schooling.

Day Centre



Joyful Nagamanjari in the Day Centre

The steady stream of visitors, interns, professionals, collaborators, developers of technology reflects the work of the Day center. Every day, every hour, every minute, we strive to keep up the vision and mission of Vidya Sagar. Equality and Equity is the rule at the Day center and this ensures that all students get equal opportunity.

The students and staff of the Day Center started the academic year 2016-17 with enthusiasm and zeal. The new academic year had lots of promises, opportunities and for some their first attempts to take school leaving exams. The number of students in Day center saw a increase by 20%. The classes were categorized according to age for students below 12 years and then, depending on the strengths-

academics ,functional academics and transition to work being part of both. So this academic year had four classes in primary school, 6 in middle school and 5 in high school. The excitement and anxiety of new classrooms (freshly painted), new goals for the students, new admissions settled soon and the regular regime of school started off.

One of the first student activities to start was the Interact Club .The students planned many events to work with the local community to have a clean and green environment and in the process met councilors, traffic police to high light the need for better pavements, garbage collection and auditory traffic signals.

Parents have played an important part not only in their child's life but also in every aspect of

Vidya Sagar. Continuous meetings were held with parents through the year, encouraging parent support groups, to help them understand the new Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPWD) law and also to understand the needs of their growing child.

Another initiative appreciated by parents was the introduction of Parkour dance a sort of physical movement therapy. This looked at motor planning and execution which showed good results in students with autism and cerebral palsy.

We seldom miss an opportunity to make the community inclusive. Our primary class students participated in *Traditional games workshop* which was an eye opener for the organizers. This led to the importance of adaptations in play. Our high school students attended the National Children's Festival in Bhubaneswar, Orissa and presented innovative ideas on making schools accessible like writing devices, ramps, reading devices, low tech aids and adaptations.

The middle school students made an impact at the State Science forum by sharing their knowledge on organic farming. Students sent in their ideas for "Design for Change" competition, put up a play in Krishnamurti Foundation of India (KFI) on Right to Education. They also took part in Children's meet to discuss issues in inclusion.

Senior students with high support needs identified their livelihood options and started off their unit with an aim to empower themselves and their support system with the knowledge of production, costing and marketing. The motivation and excitement was palpable and their products have hit the stands of KALAKAL KADAI. They could take home a

reasonable amount as stipend which opened many doors for inclusion and for future plans.

With a motto to spread awareness on Augmentative and Alternative communication, students with the help of staff met the administrators of Periyar Science Park, Guindy Park, Phoenix mall and Anna Library. They held discussions on accessible signage. We are proud to say Anna Centenary Library has implemented all the suggestions.

The senior students did an access audit of the new metro rails as a part of understanding their rights as a citizen and presented a detailed report including access features for cross disability.

Academics are as important as the other activities as we constantly look for exposure and rich experiences for our students. This year also saw two batches of students taking school leaving exams. Nineteen students were enrolled in NIOS (X & XII). Teachers and students had to balance their time between the various activities and academics and the students came out with flying colors.

Periodic meetings with parents, review of term goals showed good results. The team work of the Day Center staff is commendable and we move forward with a single principle – "Student First".



Life is fun with friends

Work with Adults with special needs

Our work with Adults with disability happens in three different locations. This is partly due to practical reasons, but more importantly due to the observation that the needs of the adults are diverse, while obviously recognizing the fact that there is a natural common factor of adulthood, defined by convention, a chronological age of 18.

The three projects are

1. The Employment Education Centre
2. The Sensory Training Unit and the Adult Leisure Programme which come under the Day Centre and the
3. The Youth Programme

A number of activities that these units work on are similar and overlap. But there is a subtle difference in the goals.

The Education Employment Centre focuses on employment, work culture and skill development. The adults in the STU and in the Adult Leisure Programme are adults with severe support needs, and are working out adaptations at home to lead a more meaning full life. The Youth Programme caters to all adults and young adults with disability but is a more open and flexible programme. This runs only on Saturdays.

Employment Education Centre



Learning to make paper envelopes

This project works with adults with disability in a separate premise. The focus of this project is to train the adult not only on a skill, but through this also teach them work behavior.

The Employment Education Centre is working with 32 adults, 5 of them are people with Autism and the rest are people with intellectual disability.

Weaving is an area that we focused on last year. Ms. Kalyani Pramod an expert in the area has

been taken on as a consultant. Her inputs have transformed the product and the sales have increased.

We also bought two new machines, which we adapted to suit the skills of the students.

Vidya Sagar also has a marketing outlet a small shop on the premises of the Kotturpuram building. This was inaugurated on 24th November 2016.

Along with learning work skills, the students also have regular Yoga and music sessions. A counselor visits this unit twice a week.

Finally the main challenge still remains that of facilitating some sort of co-operative that will get the adult with disability wages based on livelihood rather than a stipend based on vocation.

Youth Program



The Beach has to be accessible!

The Youth Programme's main areas of activity are Livelihood; leisure & recreation; self determination and advocacy and support services. The Youth Programme address the needs of the post 18 generation.

Livelihood

Skill Enhancing Program :

- **Digital Literacy** - Accenture corporate team trained our 8 alumni on MS office every Saturday between 2.30- 4.30pm. The adaptation for mouse and keyboard was worked out by Shoba for two of our students.
- **Logical Games**: Anand from AON corporate conducted games which focused on Verbal Reasoning. The Statement and Conclusion

were discussed. It was attended by 6 alumni students

- **Computer language**: Arun from KREA Company taught basic concepts in C++ language to Shankar. He would first learn the theory and then application.



Computer Education

Personal Growth:

- Photography - Nikhil from Loyola College conducted sessions on selfie angles and lighting for taking a perfect shot for 6 alumni students
- INCLOVE - Social Spaces - Shankar did a presentation to a group of adults on the working application of Inclove and to reach out to more social circles around Chennai. He also invited questions and suggestions on improving the website.
- Personal Resource management : Rasheed , Retd banker talked about ways of managing finance and investment options for small investment to 5 alumni.

Self determination & Advocacy

Supported decision making :



Self determination work shop

- Smitha facilitated the alumni in understanding their roles & responsibilities as adult citizens, their right to make decision pertaining to their lives themselves as well as the right to support for decision making whenever required .
- Basic understanding on legal provisions regarding one's legal capacity was addressed.

- Evolving a supported decision making network among the group initially and with involvement of peer support/friends circle from outside.

Leisure & Recreation

Kalakkal Café an Inclusive venue for leisure for people with disabilities has reached to youth clubs around Chennai. It is a café which is completely accessible and open to all youth; with or without disability.

Kalakkal café conducted entertainments / talent shows, debates & discussion. The food varied ! As people were encouraged to put up their own food stalls.

Kalakkal Kadai, an initiative of Vidya Sagar, is an attempt to work out a marketing initiative for adults who are either working from home, or in the neighbourhood. The kadai was launched on 24th November 2016.

“Kalakkal Kadai is just a beginning. This shop will house products made by adults with disability from Chennai and Tamil Nadu. Products segments include Thread painting, weaving , Tie & dye , paper products and leaf ware.



Kalakkal Cafe

Therapy



Parkour and Disability - Solving Motor Problems - Kephart Modified?

The Physiotherapy department at Vidya Sagar has a team of nine physiotherapists and three trained physiotherapy 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 had made few visits and had given technical training. The main focus for the year was to improve the posture in sitting, in the class as well as wheelchair so that the use of their hands was more functional. All the students had a detailed assessment on sitting posture, post which seating adaptations were made for most of the

students on their furniture as well as the wheelchair. There were a few students who had to do vocational activities as part of the production unit while sitting on the wheelchairs. The adaptations for the unit including furniture modifications, environmental modifications and the tools adaptation were also taken care.



Physiotherapy session

There was group therapy for all the students below 10 years daily, other than the individual therapy session. 8 students with cerebral palsy, age 6 to 8 were introduced to the Parkour activity , with experts in Parkour along with a physiotherapist, has given very good result in physical as well as the cognitive skills.

Kinesio Taping was done for 10 students and few adults which has shown some good responses.

We have purchased three wheelchairs that could go on the beach sand easily as it used to be a very tedious process for the wheelchair user as well as the assistant.

Trainings:

On going need based trainings happen as every other year. There was a workshop for all the staff on some adaptations that could be done at home for the Activities of Daily Living skills.

One week hands on training for all the therapists was taken in which designing and making adapted cushions and other necessary adaptations for wheelchair and chair were done.

Another, one day internal training was conducted in posture supportive devices that could be used in various positions in school as well as homes.

There were 4 interns from Singapore for a period of 2 weeks.

One physiotherapist and two trained therapists from Indonesia were given hands on training in therapy, assessing postural deviations and adaptations .

1 student volunteer from Notre Dame University, was trained hands on for 1 month

Orientation and guidance was given to many people from different states on setting up physiotherapy departments.

Physiotherapists from the department, conducted training for different CBR partners and participated in assessment camps.

Mrs Simy T.A, the Head of Physiotherapy Department, completed training on Kinesio Taping technique by International Association of Kinesio Taping Technique.

Simy has also successfully completed 5 days training on Basic Wheelchair Service Training package and another 9 days training on Intermediate level training on Wheelchair Service Training which looks at the appropriate wheelchair for people with sitting postural deviations. This training under International Society of Wheelchair Professionals follows the baselines of World Health Organisation.

Ms Mahalakshmi has attended a 3 day workshop on postural supportive devices, at Mobility India Bengaluru.

Students availing physiotherapy	85
Students using adaptations	62
Students using wheel chairs	54
Students using walking aids	12
Students using adapted furniture	103
Number of items issued	
Orthotic Aids	9
Wheel chairs	15
Furniture	10
Other adaptations	32

Occupational Therapy



Occupational Therapy in session

Occupational Therapy Department caters to students from Day Centre, Early Intervention Centre, Community Based Rehabilitation, Home Management and students of Inclusive school.

Individual as well as group therapy sessions happen in Occupational Therapy department, depending on the needs of students. The sessions are planned creatively with reachable goals.

During year 2016, we had two cases of LLD (Lower Limb Discrepancies). One from Reception class and one from High School. These two cases were evaluated, assessed and treated by our OT Nithya who had to leave mid academic session year 2016 -2017, due to personal reasons. Treatment strategies included modification of footwear and further management strategies.

Apart from usual feeding schedules of children, adaptation of eating utensils was done for some children and process is still going on of assessing them. Also methods and strategies for proper positioning and proper feeding methods were explained to class teacher.

Occupation Therapy has also done one low cost standing book holder, under assistive devices.

Occupational Therapy also participated in a workshop on “Creative solutions in minutes for people with disabilities” which took place at IIT – Madras during June 9th to 17th of 2017.

Occupational Therapy department also helped in Community Based Rehabilitation project at Soolaimeni which happened in January 2017 where assessment / management strategies and home management programme was given to parents of children who were assessed.

The Occupational therapist conducted a training programme for the PNR Society, Bhavnagar, Gujarat. The training was in the area of Autism

Apart from regular scheduled Early Intervention and Home Management assessments by the Occupational Therapist, she was also a part of the out station programme .

Department of Speech, Language and Communication



Learning to speak, or make faces?!

Our work continues in the area of AAC (Augmentative & Alternative Communication).

The year saw the addition of new AAC devices. Along with our old partnerships with IIT and Anna University - last year we also collaborated with premier organisation IISC Bangalore . This collaboration was to develop software for students who use eye pointing to access

communication devices . We are in the process of field testing the software.

The department functioned with the routine structure of assessment, setting of goals, planning and training of students at the Day Centre, Family Based Rehabilitation and other projects.

The department also participated in various Community Based Rehabilitation programme by assessing , training and providing relevant AAC systems. We sensitized the community and trained the CBR worker to carry out the interventions regularly. We had awareness workshops with the children in rural Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan schools. The mainstream children were very enthusiastic about AAC.

The department also carried out AAC workshops for the parents across Early Intervention Unit to pre-vocational classes. We also conducted workshops for the special educators from other organizations .

And for the first time we had a workshop for lawyers.

This department has one qualified speech therapist that works as a consultant. But Vidya Sagar has met this challenge creatively by using speech therapy interns from all the major speech therapy colleges of Chennai. Every year approx 50 to 55 speech interns work with us in the department.

This systems works well as our students get special therapy intervention while the interns learn about AAC.

Vision Centre

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.



Looking at a picture book with my mother

A MoU (Memorandum of Understanding) between Chetana Trust and Vidya Sagar, which was signed in October 2015 for one year, was renewed in October 2016. The aim was to establish a common vision for the Vision Centre and create structure to guide service development and delivery.

From June 2016 to April 2017, the number of children assessed through Advisory & Referral clinic, Day Centre, and the Vision centre were 93. The follow up sessions were 105 for the same students. Some assessments were carried out when a request for consultation was received from parents and teachers. The assessments helped to detect possible vision issues, understand their visual capacity and hence plan an appropriate intervention program through environmental modifications. Through the intervention programme, the child's movement, learning and communication skills are enhanced.



I can feel and read!

Based on the Vision Severity Rating Scale (VSRS), the split of various intervention sessions given were:

Particulars	Numbers
Infants (under 3 years)	150
Intensive sessions (training of specific visual skills)	99
Consultative sessions (specific concern)	2
Supportive (programme handed over to caregiver)	34
Group therapy	106

The children who underwent intensive training moved into supportive programme and eventually transferred skills to the class teacher/parents. The total number of sessions provided were 589, including all the above.

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

The vision centre had a Neuro Ophthalmologist from Pune observe the functional vision assessment and intervention sessions. A workshop was conducted for parents to create awareness on vision related conditions and get a better understanding of working with their child.

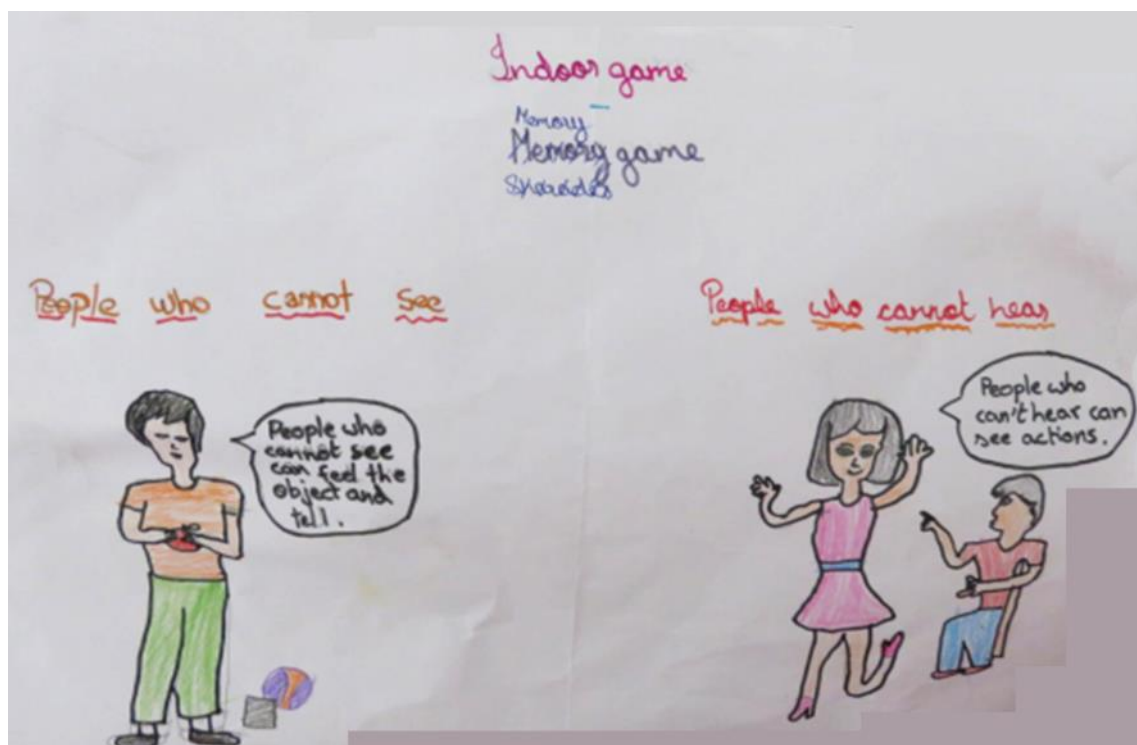
The vision centre provided orientation and training programme regarding working with children with visual impairment to CBR workers, Special Educators from National association for the Blind (NAB), NKT college of Special Education, Speech interns and teachers from Thailand. The vision centre staff also conducted training for Physiotherapists and special educators to one of our CBR partner (Sankalp) in Madurai.

The vision centre, in partnership with Chetana Trust conducted an I count training at the end of April 2017 for 3 days. This had 14 participants (including Ophthalmologists, Special Educators, Physiotherapists, Occupational therapists) from all over the country. The aim was to train the participants on function vision assessment and tools. The training consisted of hands on functional vision assessments, case study presentations and goal setting for students who have Multiple Disabilities with Visual Impairment (MDVI).



I need bigger pictures to read

Inclusion



Painting by a group of children at the Children's Conference

Vidya Sagar strongly believes in inclusive education. Access to Inclusive education is both a right and need of students with disabilities. It is an accepted fact that knowledge and skills, experience and exposure, open up many new avenues for all students in life and we believe this opportunity should not be denied to children with disabilities. Inclusive education is where all children with diversities are given equal opportunities and support to participate and contribute in the various school / college activities and learn together. When we speak about "all children" it automatically should include children with disabilities

We are aware that the road to making this concept a reality is rough and tough. But our

experience has taught us that if rehabilitation professionals, special educators, school managements, teachers, parents, the Government and the community work together, then inclusion can be a success. The focus of the inclusion department has been to bring as many students into mainstream education institutions and continue working towards making inclusion a meaningful experience for all children This year we also attempted to change perceptions and attitudes in other areas working with children ie we tried to work towards a more inclusive community. Towards this we had a Children's Conference and also a discussion on children's Literature - to include Inclusive stories and to make stories inclusive.

Sensitization and awareness programs:

Vidya Sagar has been working towards creating an inclusive climate in schools and colleges by conducting sensitization / awareness programs for various sections of the community in general and managements, teachers, and students in particular.

Support services:

It is not enough if students are enrolled into mainstream schools. Facilitating inclusive education by providing support services meeting specific needs of the students is vital.

During this year the department provided support services to 56 students. We worked with 10 schools and 4 colleges with the aim to facilitate inclusion of the students enrolled in these institutions.

Work with schools:

2 schools were covered by one staff who visited these schools regularly alternatively once a week. Remedial services were provided to 30 students. We had conducted a training program for teachers of these schools last year . So the special educator and teachers were able to work together when the visits were made. They were also able to identify other children who had difficulties. The team assessed and gave intervention plans for 10 children.

20 students are enrolled in 8 different schools. Need based intervention were provided to them. Coordinator inclusion has been holding discussions from time to time with teachers of the corporation school with regards to progress of the 6 students who had come to Vidya Sagar for assessment and intervention program.

Learning materials, Aids adaptation and furniture:

Specific Learning materials such as worksheets, large font books, picture charts, topic charts etc are essential for students in a mainstream set up so that they are able to participate in class.

The team worked with teachers and provided these materials. Reading stands were made for five students. Writing aids such as adapted pencils and alphabet charts were provided to students.

Adapted furniture was given to one student. Motorized wheel chair was purchased for two students. To quote one of them “now my friends will not have to push my wheelchair. We can all go together”..

Another highlight was the purchase of portable ramp which could be borrowed by schools. .This is very useful for schools when they take students for field trips or need it for function The schools will find it easier to replicate these ramps in the future .

Scribes:

About 30 students utilized the services of scribes. Vidya Sagar runs a portal called I.scribe. the person who administers the portal connects the students and scribes. The scribes are given orientation on their role and how to work with the particular student.

Training programs:

The Inclusion Department was invited by Spastic Society of Tamil Nadu to conduct a session on inclusive education for their CRE course. We were also a part of the team that conducted the training program for teachers/ special educators of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA). Two of our special educators did a session on Autism for the SSA training.

Work with colleges:

Visits were made to DG Vaishnav college to facilitate inclusion of a student doing his degree in travel and tourism. The lecturers are very comfortable working with him and wanted ideas to enable him to participate in the world tourism day since the topic was accessible tourism. He took an active part in all the activities of his colleges.

A plan was also worked out with the parents to make him independent while commuting to college. Guidance was given to three parents and colleges to acquire the required provisions from the university to write the exams.-

1. Assistants while doing practicals
2. Scribe
3. Permission to use the computer and
4. Extra time

These students had acquired the provisions in their higher secondary exams and they were given the same by the university.

Work with the government:

We had approached the director Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan for permission to work in the Tiruvalur and Tirunalvali district as a part of our CBR program. We have requested for a meeting to discuss the plan to work together on inclusion. The director was quite receptive and granted permission to work in specific districts. She welcomed as many resource centres as possible so that children could get services closer to their locality.

Enrollment of students:

10 more students were included into both corporation schools and private schools. They will be attending school from this year. Orientation was given to parents. Orientation to teachers will be given during the coming academic year.

Sustaining inclusion has been possible only where there has been team work of all the stakeholders. All efforts will continue to be made towards sustaining inclusion through collaborative work with the educational institutions and government officials; building resources and equipping teachers; empowering parents and eliciting community support.

Awareness program for peers:

Children's meet on Inclusive Education was yet

another effort by Vidya Sagar to take the concept of inclusion forward. Inclusive education is widely promoted today. All stakeholders including Government Officials, Managements, Principals, Teachers and Parents have had the opportunities to voice their opinion, suggest strategies and make decisions on inclusive education.

Children who play such a vital role in this journey have never been heard. The Two Day Children's Meet was an attempt to listen to children and understand the concept of Inclusive Education from their point of view. It was a platform for children to share experiences, voice their concerns and generally express themselves, through activities and games, debates, discussions and presentations.

This exciting event was planned and conducted by a team of students of Vidya Sagar, AMM. Matriculation School and the Corporation school Kotturpuram.

They met once a week for six weeks. They planned the logo for the meet, the T-shirts and caps, the kits, the menu, and topics for discussions debate and drawing/painting display and games to be adapted by the participants to make them inclusive games. This was a great opportunity for students to work together and understand each other.

60 students from 15 both mainstream and special schools participated in the meet. The teams from the mainstream schools had disabled and non disabled students. The open forum after the debate and discussion reflected how aware the students were on the challenges and opportunities in inclusive education. The students wanted to take the meet forward and spread it to other schools.

There is no doubt that it is this generation that will play a vital role in taking the concept of inclusion forward.

Community Based Rehabilitation



The CBR Team in Thiruvallur

The Objective of this program is facilitating rehabilitation and empowerment of persons with disability in rural and limited resource settings.

There are two types of projects in this program:

- A. Direct Community Project.
- B. Technical Capacity building of disability organizations.

A. Direct Community Project:

Through this approach, we reach out to persons with disability in rural areas by partnering with grass root organizations. This year we worked in 50 village panchayats and reached out to nearly 1000 persons with disability.

Our direct community projects are:

1. People Welfare and Development Trust, Thiruchuli block, Virudunagar dist.

The previous year we had just started the project with identification of PWD and

community workers training. We have worked in 8 panchayats and reached out to 150 people with disabilities in this year.

This year we focused on facilitating various schemes, additional therapeutic services to children with developmental disabilities and special education support to children going to school. Towards the end of the year, we have started a pre-vocational skills training unit in the premises of People Welfare Development Trust office.

Story of Villi:

Mr. Villi, 40 years S/O Periyanan, Keelkudi panchayat, Virudunagar dist. Villi has mental illness for the past 18 years. The chief complaints were: no sleep, no personal care, beat up family members, children and adults in the family. People were scared to come close to him. At the beginning years of mental illness, the

family tried the traditional practices, but no improvement was seen in Villi. Villi lost his father and the mother is too old to take care of him. After we started working in that village, we convinced the family to try modern medicines. Mr. Prabu - the community worker took him to Virudunagar Government Hospital, to get the medications. Also he visits villi twice in a week and taught him personal care activities. Now Villi can do his personal care by himself and also come and sit in self help group discussions.

2. Organization for Development Action

With this partner we are working in 20 panchayats in Thogamalai block of Karur district from November, 2016 and reaching 600 persons with disabilities.

We have facilitated work in the following areas:

- Identification/ registration of persons with disability in the project area.
- Training community workers in working with disability.
- Initial needs assessment of persons with disabilities has been done.
- Facilitation of services like getting ID card, medical referrals and aids and appliances done.
- Community workers are given first level guidance in working with children and adults with developmental disabilities.

3. Vasantham DPO:

We are working in two blocks of Thiruvallur Dist with Vasantham DPO:

- a. Ellapuram Block: So far we are working with 100 PWD in this project.
This is our third year covering 10 panchayats . We have trained 2 community workers that are working with 56 Children and adults with developmental disability.
- b. Villivakkam Block:
We have started work in 5 panchayats from Nov, 2016. The Anganwadi of work that are facilitated in this year

- Identification/ registration of persons with disability in the project area.
- Training community workers in working with disability.
- Initial needs assessment of persons with disabilities
- Facilitation of services like getting ID card, medical referrals and aids and appliances

4. Michelin CSR:

This is our third - fourth year with Michelin CSR. We are working in 7 panchayats in Thiruvallur dist reaching out to 200 persons with disability. Along with our regular therapeutic and rehabilitation services, the other major work in this year is:

- Inclusive education: Along with SSA, we worked with 14 children with disability that are going to school in 5 government schools.
- Livelihood study: We studied 24 persons with disability. The aim of the study is to facilitate suitable livelihood for persons with disability in the project area.
- The study focused on understanding the needs and interest of persons with disability, the level of information available, the support system and resource available to the family and community and marketing opportunities.
- Self Help Groups: Facilitated 8 SHGs in 4 panchayats.

B. Technical Capacity Building of disability organizations:

Vidya Sagar shares technical expertise with the disability organizations that are requesting our rehabilitation technical support. Based on the organization's needs, the staff training program are customized for each organization. We try to introduce new techniques to be adapted according to the situation the organizations working with.

This year we have trained 20 staff members that will work with 150 children with disability.

Following organizations have taken our technical support this year:

1.Arul Chaandru Special School, Paramakudi, Ramanathapuram dist: We have trained 5 staff members working with children with disability focusing on class room organization, goal setting, vocational training and inclusion of adolescent into common vocational training program.

Youth of Kodaganallur Endeavour (YOKE) Thirunelveli dist: We trained two staff members that will be working with 20 children with disability facilitating inclusion of children with disability in school.

Sankalp centre, Madurai: We have trained 9 staff members in Sankalp in AAC and Low vision assessment and management.

NJ foundation, Thirukalukundram, Kanchipuram dist: We have trained four staff members in this centre towards early intervention, class room management and pre-vocational skills training.

5.MCDS, Chennai: We have trained four staff of MCDS to work with people developmental disability.

Highlight Activities:

1.Multi – purpose rehabilitation training:

This is a set of training for grass root level staff to start work with persons with disability. The topics includes introduction to various disabilities, impact of disability and

developmental issues, identifying impairment, resource mapping, referral and linkages, collecting basic data, basic therapy, self care training and functional academics. This year we had conducted this training for 32 days (in 6 sets). 7 community workers participated and they are appointed in APPI funded projects.

2.Adapted Sports:

Persons with disability in rural community generally do not get involved in organized sports. To create an opportunity and raise awareness among the PWD and their families about the importance of leisure and to showcase the talents of PWD, we had organized sports like adapted cricket and boccia games at Michelin CSR project for disability day 2016. About 120 people participated and enjoyed this event.

3.Inclusion Program:

To facilitate inclusion and age appropriate learning of children with disability who are studying in government schools in villages, we have an exclusive pilot program in Michelin CSR. 14 children in 5 government schools showed marked improvement in their performance. Along with it, the regular teachers adopted some of the methods and are using it when teaching the entire class room.

Total number of working days given for CBR: 282 days (This includes the working days of 3 full time CBR staff and staff from other departments)

Month	DC	FBR	EEC	HRD	DLU	Admi	Youth	STU	CBR
June	2	-	2	-	1	0	2	0	12
July	5	0	-		1	0	0	0	10
Aug	10	0	1		1	0	2	0	11
Sep	2	3	3	3	0	0	0	0	21
Oct	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11
Nov	4	1	0	0	1	2	0	0	20
Dec	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	4
Jan	9	0	0	2	0	0	1	2	13
Feb	9	2	2	2	0	0	4	2	27
March	8	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	34
April	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14
Total	59	6	9	8	5	3	9	6	177

Human Resource Development



Two staff members Training in Erode for SSA staff

The Human Resource Development Department of Vidya Sagar works towards Enhancement of Rehabilitation Services for Persons with Disabilities by Designing, Developing and Conducting various training programs and through Internship.

This year, the focus of the Department has been to:

- Build and nurture a cadre of skilled Rehabilitation professionals
- Explore and upgrade the technical skills of Vidya Sagar staff
- Build a community of Support services
- Facilitate and conduct Need based short term courses and workshops
- Widening knowledge Network- support Institution based and community based rehabilitation through training and special education support
- Creating resource materials- Pamphlet on Mealtime in Tamil and English
- Facilitating and mentoring Internship programs of mainstream teacher trainees, special education teacher trainees
- Planning and organizing study tour for educators from other Asian countries
- Work with the Rehabilitation council of India and the Tamil Nadu Teacher education University for a B.ED special education in Multiple disabilities

Training's conducted :

Topic	Resource Persons	Duration	Participants
Remediation strategies for Reading and math-	Hemalatha, Chitrlekha, Uma Narayanan, Mohana and Ramu	Half a day	In-house staff
Training on Early Intervention-	K.S. Uma and Pushpa Priya	Four days	Ten participants including mainstream teachers and special educators around Tambaram
Training on Inclusive education	Dipti Bhatia and K.S. Uma	Half a day	Mainstream teachers , Yoke, Tirunelveli
Early Intervention training for CBR partners	K.S. Uma, Deepika Srinivasan and Jayanthi N	Three days	Seven participants from Tiruchy and Mayavaram
Overview of Early intervention	K. S. Uma	Half a day	Six teachers from Shine school Madurai
AAC and Autism-	Kalpana Rao and K.S. Uma	Two days	Fourteen participants including special educators and parents at Together -a not -for-profit organisation in Mumbai
Intervention strategies for Autism	Uma Narayanan, Saritha and Sujatha S	Three days	Special educators and parents, Bhavnagar, Gujarat
Inclusion education - Autism	Uma Narayanan, Gandhimathi S	Half a day	Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan Special educators , Erode
Working with Adults with disabilities	Anuradha Shankaran, Amrith and Gandhimathi	Five days	Staff of APAAR- Jalandhar

Workshop and Seminars attended :

Simy T. A, head of the therapy department – attended a workshop on Basic and Intermediate Level Workshop on Wheelchair access prescription and designing postural support system at Bangalore

Mahalakshmi attended a workshop on Postural Supportive Devices at Bangalore

Vijayashree Ramesh and Mangala attended a workshop to make training videos for, persons with disabilities at NIEPMD Chennai

Kalpana Rao, Saritha, K S Uma and Sujatha Chelladurai attended a one week course on adaptations – Solution in minutes at IIT Chennai.

Fund Raising Management

Vidya Sagar is known for the technical expertise and delivery of high quality services. Working with over 3800 individuals with disabilities, we are able to sustain our programs and take new initiatives only because of support given by friends and well wishers in the community. We wish to thank all our supporters, individuals, corporates and foundations for believing in our work and supporting us in so many different ways... from helping us build our corpus, through funding our projects. Funding material support or general donations. All so valuable to take our work forward.

Our corpus has grown to Rs 1.77 crores , with lot of support from the community. We had immense support from SQS BFSI India Ltd. It is very relevant to mention a BIG thank you to our volunteer fundraiser and today a board member Mrs Dwaraka Pandurangi for her continuous effort in supporting Vidya Sagar year after year. It was due to her effort that the music concert with the most beautiful music by the Havaldar family could be organized. The funds raised here also helped in strengthening the corpus.



The Sadya Trophy Winners

The Wipro Chennai Marathon 2016 also helped us in raising funds.

We had to forego our Annual Fundraiser, “Sadya” in the event of the floods in 2015-2016. We were able to have this exciting adventure sports event in 2016-2017. We are so grateful to Major Swaraj Roy and the “Sadya team for organizing and conducting this 12th edition with the same zeal and enthusiasm as every year.

Major contributors for the year are SQS BFSI India Ltd, Azim Premji Philanthropic foundation and TATA Trust.

Vidya Sagar has got support from the following companies:

Grundfos Pump sIndia Pvt. Ltd, Michelin India Tamil Nadu Tyres P Ltd, NTT DATA Global Delivery Services Private Ltd, KLA Tencor, Absolute Homes, United way, Polaris Banyan Holding Private Limited, SKCL Property Management Services Pvt Ltd, Epi Source Llear Automotives India Private Limited, Shreyas and Saraswathi Mills (material contribution).

This is not complete without the Individual Donations from the community, and funds raised through Global Giving and LetzChange (crowd funding platforms).

Special thanks to Madras Midtown Ladies Circle 7 and Madras Midtown Round Table 42 for being a part of us during the school events.

Disability Legislation Unit



Workshop on Supported Decision Making

State Legislative Assembly Elections 2016:

The Disability Legislation Unit along with members of Disability Rights Alliance worked closely with the Election Commission of India, and the disability groups towards ensuring disabled friendly elections in Tamilnadu, Kerala, Assam, West Bengal & Puducherry, the five States that had their State Legislative Assembly Elections in 2016.

They worked on Access audits of polling booths, voter education in accessible formats and sensitization of election departments. Engaging a sign language interpreter at National Voters Day event at Rippon Building and making the event accessible

Further advocacy towards Accessible & Inclusive Electoral Process in India:

Smitha, Co-ordinator , Dlu attended the International Conference on Voter Education and Electoral Participation conducted by ECI in New Delhi in October 2016. .

We also worked for accessible & inclusive by-elections in R K Nagar assembly constituency in Chennai

Achievements:

- Release of A notification on facilities by the election commission of India.
- A separate notification on additional facilities to be provided to voters with disabilities released by ECI on 7th September 2016

- Enumeration of Tamil Nadu and West Bengal electors with psycho social disabilities for the first time enabling them to exercise their franchise.
- Evolving of a data of voters with disabilities for every booth, by Puducherry the first of all other states.
- Submitting to ECI a list of accessibility indicators to be included in Election observers checklist. Accepted by the ECI.
- Developed a list of disability icons for all States for States' CEOs for inclusive voter education.

Supported decision making initiative for adults with intellectual disabilities:

DLU in collaboration with the Youth Program of Vidya Sagar initiated this project to work with persons with intellectual disabilities and evolving their support systems that would support them in taking and executing their decisions.

Legal Aid Day 2016:

On November 8th National Legal Aid Day, DLU conducted a sensitization program for advocates of Madras High Court. All the advocates assured their support in case of any further legal dealings with respect to the rights of persons with disabilities.

World Disability Day 2016:

All students and staff of Vidya Sagar, members of Disability Rights Alliance India & other persons with disabilities in and around Chennai enjoyed access to the waters of the sea on 3rd December 2016.

This was achieved by conducting a couple of access audits of Marina Beach & submission of the report to Deputy commissioner Corporation Chennai. We also facilitated an interactive session for our students with Mr. Kandasamy Deputy Commissioner (works), Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC). GCC put up a temporary pathway to the waters. We also got an assurance

from DC (works) for a semi permanent pathway till the edge of the sea.

Accessible beach project:

DLU along with Disability Rights Alliance (DRA) worked on a design for an accessible pathway on the Marina Beach. This design was in accordance with the environment laws. The design and the budget was submitted to Greater Chennai Corporation.

The proposal is in process with GCC and Tourism Department. DLU and DRA conducted an access audit of Elliots Beach in Besant Nagar and worked out accessible modifications with zone 13 officers.

Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2016:

Continued the New law campaign to be in line with UNCRPD, through media advocacy, meeting with law minister in Bengaluru,

We made recommendations to give more teeth to the RPDA 2017 National Rules.. Smitha further provided feedback to the State Commissioner on the RPDA 2016 State Rules. We gave inputs to the National Medical Board on certification of persons with disabilities under RPDA 2016. Smitha also worked out the provision of the act in a simplified version for the understanding, discussion and usage of Vidya Sagar staff. Smitha conducted sensitization programs about the provisions of the Act to persons with disabilities and Panchayat members in the community.

UNCRPD

Conducted sessions of UNCRPD & specifically articles related to Legal Capacity & Living Independently in the Community to multiple stake holders including Staff & Students of Vidya Sagar, students of Women's Christian College (WCC), persons with disabilities in the community etc.

We gave inputs on the Parallel report for UNCRPD for our country evolved by NCPEDP which is to be submitted to the UN.

Remedies by legal means & other wise:

DLU voiced the employment discrimination issue of a scientist with spinal cord injury at Central Leather Research Institute, Chennai who was given the position of a librarian on the grounds of his acquired disability. We engaged in media advocacy as well as engaged in a protest within the Institute Campus until the Director of CLRI issued an MO redirecting the post from librarian to scientist.

The other cases and issues taken up were:

1. Employment discrimination case of employees with disabilities who were lift operators at Ampa Skywalk Mall. We facilitated the case to be handled at the Labour Court .
2. Case of discrimination faced by a student with disability in a private school .
3. Advocacy for case of sexual abuse of female students with hearing impairment by members of the School management at Tirupur School for the Deaf, Karumathampatty, Coimbatore.
4. Making Madras High Court Accessible.
5. Making entrance / pathway to Anna Centenary Library and Indian Bank at Kotturpuram accessible
6. Conducting access audit of Swimming Pool at Hotel Woodlands
7. Enabling legal guardianship to many persons with intellectual disabilities
8. Dialogue with the lawyers and the District Legal Services Authority on setting up a Legal Aid Clinic at Vidya Sagar.
9. Sharing knowledge and experience with NIEPMD Disability Legal Cell towards assisting them in running a legal aid program

Obituary

Kaveri, a tough soldier with will power as her weapon, found her eternal peace after an enduring battle with cancer in December 2016.

Kaveri joined Vidya Sagar on 1st November 2000 after doing her course in special education in Vidya Sagar. We all knew her as a cheerful person who always had a smile. She worked in the pre-vocational classes and the skills training unit till 16.6.2014 . She respected all her students and had a unique way of bringing in work discipline. We miss Kaveri, a dynamic and creative team member, a friend, and of course the fun loving person with a dance at every celebration and delicious food at case conferences and picnics.

Kaveri started the paper cup unit. Amritha, her daughter, was a part of it. Along with Six other students.

A parent full of love and care.

A teacher with innovative ideas to share.

Serious work or fun fare

Kaveri was always there.

In every area she could contribute

To this wonderful friend, We pay our tribute.

Travel Details

Name	Designation	Purpose and Place	Funded by
Anuradha Sankaran,	Coordinator, Youth Program	To conduct a 5 day training on Working with Adults with disabilities at Jalandhar	APAAR, Jalandhar
Amrith	Special educator		
Gandhimathi S			
Kalpana Rao	Prinicpal Day center	To conduct a 2 day training on AAC and Autism in Mumbai	Better Together, Mumbai
K S Uma	Coordinator, HRD		
Uma Narayanan	Special educator	To conduct a three day training in Autism at Bhavnagar , Gujarat	Nataraj Special School for cerebral palsy P.N.R society Bhavnagar Gujarat
Sarita Kamble	Occupational therapist		
Sujatha S	Consultant speech therapist		
Mahalakshmi S	Physiotherapist	Attended a 3 day workshop n Postural support Devices conducted by Mobility India at Bangalore	Vidya Sagar Capacity Building, APPI
Simy T. A	Head of Physiotherapy department	Attended basic (5days) and intermediate level (9days)training on wheel chairs conducted by Mobility India at Bangalore	Mobility India
Simy T. A	Head of Physiotherapy department	Attend two workshop(2days) on Kinesio Tapping Technique conducted by Dr. Abhiya, KTAI, Bangalore	Vidya Sagar Capacity Building, APPI

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

Bank Details

Vidya Sagar (formerly, The Spastics Society of India)

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

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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 80G of the IT Act

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

Name of Bank :	State Bank of Mysore	HDFC Bank LTD	HDFC Bank LTD
Type of account :	Saving Account	Saving Account	Foreign contribution account
Saving account number :	A/c no. 54028105944	A/c 13051450000068	A/c 50100022443481
IFSC code :	SBMY0040169	HDFC 0001305	HDFC 0001305
Address :	State Bank of Mysore No:14, 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

Staff List

RAJUL PADMANABHAN	DIRECTOR	
DIPTI BHATIA	DEPUTY DIRECTOR	
RADHA MURALIDHARAN	ACCOUNTS OFFICER	
BOTTA KALPANA RAO	PRINCIPAL DAY CENTRE	
VIJAYASHREE RAMESH	COORDINATOR EEC	
JAYANTHI NARAYANAN	COORDINATOR FBR	
SIMY	COORDINATOR THERAPY	
RAJEEV RAJAN	COORDINATOR DLU	
UMA K.S	COORDINATOR HRD	
NAVAMANI	COORDINATOR CBR	
SUGUNA V	COORDINATOR ALP	
ANURADHA SANKARAN	COORDINATOR YOUTH PROJECT	
KAVITHA YESHWIN KUMAR	COORDINATOR FR DEPT	
ASHA NEDUNGADI	ADMN OFFICER	
SPECIAL EDUCATORS		
SHASIKALA R	MANJU	VALLIYAMMAL
CHITRA RAVICHANDRAN	RABECCAL	SUJATHA CHELLATHURAI
JAYALAKSHMI S	UMA NARAYANAN	CHITRALEKHA B
DHANALAKSHMI V	RAMU K	DEEPIKA S
JEEVA M	KRITHIKA V	DEEPIKA SRINIVASAN
VICTORIA M	LAKSHMI B	CHARANYA KANNAN
AMIRTHARAJ	GANDHIMATHI S	THEODORA FERNANDEZ P
SMITHA PADMANABHAN	SASIKALA D	GOMATHI M
PUSHPA PRIYA GANESH	MOHANA SUNDARI	SUBASHREE SURYANARAYANAN
VOCATIONAL TRAINERS	PHYSIOTHERAPISTS	SOCIAL WORKERS
JAYANTHI V	VIJAYALAKSHMI	SANTHOSH KUMAR M
VIMALA T.A	JEFFERSON RAJ LECKLER	DEVI SRI RAVI
BALAVINAYAGAM STALIN	MAHALAKSHMI	PRABAKARAN S
MANGALAKUMARI S		TEACHERS
	JUNIOR PHYSIOTHERAPIST	MEENA D - ART
OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS	HEMALATHA R	SHALIMA PAUL—COMPUTER
NITHYA JEBARAJ	GAJENDRAKUMAR	VAIDEKI - ASSISTANT
SARITA	PAUL ROBINSON	HARKRISHNAN- SPORTS

DLU	ACCOUNTANT	SPORTS ASSISTANT
SMITHA S.S	CHITRA KRISHNAN	VIDYA KRISHNAN
UMMUL KHAIR M		
	ACCOUNTS ASSISTANT	LIBRARIAN
SYSTEMS IN CHARGE	DHANASEKAR R	RAJALAKSHMI R
BALAJI R	MUZAMIL A.S	
		ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN
RECEPTIONIST	OFFICE ASSISTANT	KANTHIMATHI
PRABHAKARAN A	PACHAIYAPPAN	
		SECRETARY
SHOP ASSISTANT	ASSISTANT	JOSEPHINE GABRIEL
JANAKIRAMAN	SIVRAM B.P	SHANTHI R
	NIRMAL KUMAR	RAMA DEVI
CARPENTER		
MURALI S	DRIVER	COOK
	KANNAN N	RANI S
SUPPORT STAFF		
ALAMELU D	BANUMATHI S	SHANTHI A
RAJESWARI D	SHANTHI S	SHANTHI G
INDIRANI P	KOKILA E	VASANTHI M
MARIAMMAL	RAJESWARI V	CHINNAMMA
SARASWATHY	GIRIJA V	MENAKA A
RADHA K	DHEEPA K	SATHYA K
JAYA D	SELVI M-ESI	KUMARI
ANJALAI S	GNANAM R	

Staff Salary Structure	
Salary range	Number of staff
Below 9000	29
9000 to 11900	15
12000 to 14900	34
15000 to 17500	9
18500 to 23000	15
24000 to 27000	3
Total number of staff	105

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, 1, RANJITH ROAD, KOTTURPURAM, CHENNAI-600085, AAAT V2359M** [name and PAN of the trust or institution] as at **31/03/2017** 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 31/03/2017 and
- (ii) in the case of the profit and loss account, of the profit or loss of its accounting year ending on 31/03/2017

The prescribed particulars are annexed hereto.

Place **CHENNAI**
Date **25/10/2017**

Name

**SANKARAN AND KRISHNAN
CHARTERED ACCOUNTAN
TS**

Membership Number

016271

FRN (Firm Registration Number)

003582S

Address

**1-E MARBLE ARCH APPART
MENTS NO 4&5 BISHOP WA
LLERS AVENUE EAST MYLA
PORE**

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 (₹)	3007690
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. (₹)	772160
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	No

	referred to in section 11(2)(b)(ii) or section 11(2)(b)(iii), or	
(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

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 **25/10/2017**

Name
Membership Number
FRN (Firm Registration Number)
Address

SANKARAN AND KRISHNAN
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
TS
016271
003582S
1-E MARBLE ARCH APARTMENTS NO 4&5 BISHOP WALLERS AVENUE EAST MYLA PORE

Form Filing Details	
Revision/Original	Original

VIDYA SAGAR
No. 1, Ranjit Road, Kotturpuram, Chennai - 600 085
INCOME & EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH -2017

DESCRIPTION	31.3.2017	2016	DESCRIPTION	31.3.2017	2016
Expenditure	TOTAL	TOTAL	Income	TOTAL	TOTAL
Aids & Appliances	122,918.00	184,728.00	Application Fee & Registration Fee	-	1,500.00
Annual Maintenance Contract	139,712.00	175,621.00	Assessment Fund	160,700.00	98,625.00
Advertisement Charges	4,317.50	-	Course Tuition Fees	-	319,030.00
Audit Fees	21,843.00	13,696.00	Donation Fund	16,249,039.39	12,578,013.88
Bank charges	23,452.15	19,458.98	Donation Fund (Foreign)	553,424.69	206,340.50
Books & Periodicals	40,666.00	8,380.00	Donation Fund (Sadya)	-	-
Building - Repairs	291,586.00	276,188.00	Donation Fund (karpakam land)	3,085,000.00	-
Building - Paintings	975,074.00	-	Grant in aid - Global Giving	-	333,423.00
Computer Consumables	41,720.00	28,841.00	Grant in aid - Deloitte	485,860.00	224,764.00
Consultation Charges	466,549.00	589,883.00	Grant in aid - Hilton	-	15,200.00
Coffee Vending Machine	39,536.00	-	Grant in aid - NTT Data	67,500.00	90,800.00
Conveyance & Travelling	188,103.00	316,383.00	Grant in aid - Thomson Reuters	-	446,272.00
Depreciation	1,329,350.00	1,057,331.00	Grant in aid - ERSF	-	854,231.46
Electricity	401,076.00	330,562.00	Grant in aid - Michelin	345,600.00	495,981.00
Event Expenses	57,242.00	47,681.00	Grant in aid - IFMR	478,505.00	-
ESI	489,394.00	-	Grant in aid - State Commissioner	-	240,000.00
ESI Arrears	4,127,106.00	-	Grant in aid - TET	4,251,722.25	3,761,739.00
Fixed assets written off	-	9,767.00	Grant in aid - Azim Premji	1,922,567.75	-
Fund Raising Expenses	79,995.00	-	Greeting Cards	111,500.00	-
Fundraising (Music Concert)	33,800.00	-	Interest on FD	1,038,246.70	-
Gratuity	-	315,616.00	Interest on SB	478,403.73	994,979.34
Honorarium	14,975.00	75,725.00	Mobility Fund	1,117,632.00	979,005.00
Internet charges	86,198.00	50,779.00	Misc. Income	14,222.00	52,623.00
Kalakaal Café	-	49,003.00	Rent Received	400,245.00	415,895.00
Library books	24,632.00	37,426.00	Sale of Scrap	14,784.00	-
Land Expenses	-	23,425.00	Technical Fee	26,376.23	506,940.00
Insurance	20,267.00	2,841.00	Tuition Fund	1,495,130.00	1,271,225.00
Interest Paid	-	-	Training Income	93,206.06	-
Maintenance Building	477,404.00	338,750.00	Vocational Training Income	243,601.00	69,309.00
Maintenance Garden	39,000.00	-			
Maintenance & Repairs	375,493.00	386,923.00			
Miscellaneous Expenses	-	5,602.00			
Maintenance-Machines	700.00	52,045.00			
Net Working Expenses	322,135.00	-			
PF Administrative Expenses	114,179.00	102,606.00			
Provident Fund	988,650.00	819,041.00			
Postage	22,215.00	30,654.00			
Printing & Stationery	94,641.00	161,481.00			
Raw Material	110,665.00	76,200.00			
Rent	125,000.00	160,000.00			
Registration fees	23,500.00	98,000.00			
Reading software & Devices	95,496.00	-			
Recognition Fees	22,500.00	-			
Resource Cost	9,000.00	-			
Salaries	15,037,540.00	12,359,923.00			
Security Charges	263,046.00	259,773.00			
Seminars & Workshop	97,141.00	76,585.00			
Staff Conveyance	183,196.00	318,780.00			
Staff Welfare	340,018.00	285,732.00			
Student Welfare	40,824.00	59,276.00			
Student Conveyance	1,028,220.00	955,490.00			
Student Stipend	262,042.00	91,489.00			
Student Medicals	20,363.00	68,654.00			
Subscription & Membership	1,249.00	13,350.00			
TDS Expenses	809.00	23,908.00			
Teaching Aids	3,447.00	65,888.00			
Technical Fee	-	61,720.00			
Telephone Charges	75,690.00	79,064.00			
Training Expenses	71,607.06	-			
Vacces	151,784.00	38,910.00			
Vehicle Expenses	172,407.00	219,291.00			
Water & Sewerage Tax	105,127.00	33,585.00			
Surplus	2,938,688.09	3,099,841.20			
TOTAL	32,633,287.80	23,955,896.18	TOTAL	32,633,287.80	23,955,896.18

For VIDYA SAGAR
Rajul Padmanabhan
RAJUL PADMANABHAN
Director



For SANKARAN & KRISHNAN
Chartered Accountants
FRN 003582 S

M. Balachandran
Partner
M. BALACHANDRAN
M.No : 18271

For VIDYA SAGAR
G. Shankaran Nair
G. SHANKARAN NAIR
Chairman

For VIDYA SAGAR
S. Ramesh
S. RAMESH
Treasurer

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

INCOME & EXPENDITURE STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH - 2017

DESCRIPTION	DAY CENTRE	FBR	HRD	EEC	CBR	DLU	TOTAL
INCOME							
Assessment Fund	-	160,700.00	-	-	-	-	160,700.00
Donation Fund	8,742,930.00	2,185,732.50	1,457,155.00	2,406,066.89	728,577.50	728,577.50	16,249,039.39
Donation Fund (Foreign)	-	-	-	-	-	-	553,424.69
Donation Fund (karapakkam land)	3,085,000.00	-	-	-	-	-	3,085,000.00
Grant in aid - Deloitte	485,860.00	-	-	-	-	-	485,860.00
Grant in aid - NTT Data	67,500.00	-	-	-	-	-	67,500.00
Grant in aid - IFMR	478,505.00	-	-	-	-	-	478,505.00
Grant in aid - Michelin	-	-	-	-	345,600.00	-	345,600.00
Grant in aid - Azim premii	1,063,747.75	587,275.00	159,900.00	-	39,085.00	72,560.00	1,922,567.75
Grant in aid - TET	4,251,722.25	-	-	-	-	-	4,251,722.25
Greeting Cards	-	111,500.00	-	-	-	-	111,500.00
Interest on FD	1,038,246.70	-	-	-	-	-	1,038,246.70
Interest on SB	478,405.73	-	-	-	-	-	478,405.73
Mobility Fund	972,000.00	4,000.00	24,000.00	110,600.00	-	7,032.00	1,117,632.00
Miscellaneous Income	-	-	14,222.00	-	-	-	14,222.00
Rent Received	-	-	-	-	-	400,245.00	400,245.00
Sale of Scrap	-	-	14,784.00	-	-	-	14,784.00
Technical Fee	-	-	-	-	26,376.23	-	26,376.23
Training Income	-	-	-	-	21,599.00	-	21,599.00
Vocational Training Income	-	-	71,607.06	-	-	-	71,607.06
Tuition fund	1,289,150.00	115,700.00	-	90,300.00	-	-	1,495,150.00
TOTAL	21,953,067.43	3,164,907.50	1,741,668.06	2,850,567.89	1,161,237.73	1,208,414.50	32,633,287.80

For VIDYA SAGAR
Rajul Padmanabhan
RAJUL PADMANABHAN
Director

For VIDYA SAGAR
Shankarav Nair
SHANKARAV NAIR
Chairman

For VIDYA SAGAR
S. Ramesh
S. RAMESH
Treasurer

For SANKARAN & KRISHNAN
Chartered Accountants
FRN 003582 S



M. Balachandran
Partner
M. BALACHANDRAN
M.No : 16271

VIDYA SAGAR
No. 1, Ranjit Road, Kotturpuram, Chennai - 600 085
BALANCE SHEET AS ON 31ST MARCH - 2017

LIABILITIES	Rs. P.	ASSETS	Rs. P.
Trust / General Fund (Schedule A)	17,643,557.79	Fixed Assets (Schedule E)	27,873,762.00
Depreciation Reserve Fund (Schedule B)	21,161,275.00	Investments (Schedule F)	19,303,330.00
Donation Fund (Corpus)	8,407,000.00	Receivables (Schedule G)	1,869,549.95
Donation (Earmarked)	2,140,807.70		
Earmarked - Interest	244,396.80	Current Assets	
Endowment Fund (SQS)	9,362,850.00	<u>Cash in hand</u>	22,870.00
Donation (Assets)	1,681,046.00	<u>Cash at Bank</u> (Schedule H)	17,319,693.09
Grant in Aid - Handicap International	13,592.99		
Grant in Aid - Hilton perkins	248,896.91		
Grant in Aid - Global CBR	103,614.07		
Grant in Aid - Tata Trust	1,998,317.75		
Grant in Aid - Global - E.I	268,781.19		
Grant in Aid -Thomson Reuteurs	146,872.00		
Grant in Aid - Michelin	162,262.00		
Grant in Aid - Azim premji	2,140,036.25		
Grant in Aid - IFMR	8,980.00		
Grant in Aid - Global -HRD	34,798.64		
Sri Sarvatma Natarajan Trust	175,667.95		
National Award	60,623.00		
Award - Alliance Resource	140,000.00		
Counselling Course	60,911.00		
Liabilities & Provisions (Schedule D)	184,918.00		
TOTAL	66,389,205.04	TOTAL	66,389,205.04

For VIDYA SAGAR
Rajul Padmanabhan
RAJUL PADMANABHAN
Director



For SANKARAN & KRISHNAN
Chartered Accountants
FRN 003582 S
M. Balachandran
Partner 28/10/17
M. BALACHANDRAN
M.No : 16271

For VIDYA SAGAR
Sankaran Nair
SANKARAN NAIR
Chairman

For VIDYA SAGAR
S. Ramesh
S. RAMESH
Treasurer

Helping the disabled find love for two years

Inclov, a mobile app, focuses on more than match-making; it's platform is open for meeting like-minded people too

● Roshne B

If you think finding love and also a partner who is like-minded and match-making is tough, ask yourself again: is it really? There are approximately 60 million single people with disability (PwD), who are looking for a partner. Platforms where PwDs can meet and interact to find their right match are limited. But, in the last one year, things have taken a positive turn, thanks to Inclov (Inclusive love), a mobile application, which is accessible and inclusive for people with any kind of disability, disorder and also for people without disability.

The app, which was launched in January 2016, recently conducted its second Social Spaces (Chennai) meet up (Inclov's offline platform) at Zorba Yoga Studio, we caught up with its co-founder, Shankar Srinivasan and the participants there to know more. The first Chennai meet up was held in April 2015 at Elliot's



At the Inclov social meet up

Martin Louis

Beach and Shankar recalls, "This was even before the app launch. I was here for a two-day workshop and thought that we should have a meet up. We chose Elliot's Beach as it was accessible and there were just 10 to 12 people. It's not just about matchmaking, but also about meeting new people."

Since then, Inclov grew from 100 users in its first month to over 7,000 users across India. "Tamil Nadu has about 200 to 250 users and 90%

are from Chennai. The rest are from Coimbatore, Vellore and other areas," smiles Shankar.

The app matches people on the basis of cure, medical condition, and level of independence and lifestyle choices and also caters to people with visual impairment, colour blindness and retinal disorders through optimal readability of profile pages. Lakshmi, a 60-year-old mother, who was a part of the event says, "My son is 35 and he has retinitis pigmentosa (a degeneration of the nerve cells on the retina that leads to blindness, it has no cure yet). I am looking to find the right companion for him. He has been using this app for almost a year and he has met a few people... it's nice to see him meet like-minded people."

Similarly, Kaarthik a PwD, shares that in his search for a life partner, he has made several friends across the country in a year. "For us, it's not easy to meet every day or even every month for that matter. So, such of-line meet ups help us in interacting more...but, yes I am still waiting for

'the one'," he smiles.

While the main focus of the app is on PwDs and those with health disorders, Shankar reveals that half the user-base is of people without disabilities. "While some are curious to know how it works, a majority are there for different reasons. For example there is a girl whose parents are disabled and she wants to find a partner who is a PwD. There are other such cases as well," he explains.

The novel matchmaking app has active users across the country and Chennai ranks among the top seven cities, in terms of number of users. "Our next focus is to encourage these users to conduct their own off-line meet-ups, every month or so. They don't need our help to conduct these meets and we are working towards that," he says.

In 2015, Inclov registered on a crowd funding platform — Wishberry, to upgrade the app — Inclov 2.0. "The upgraded version was launched recently and it has an in-built algorithm, which shows matches around the user, based on preferences and needs. We will also be launching it outside India soon," he adds.

For details, visit: www.inclov.com

The social spaces meet up is organised in a constructive way and I am looking forward to many more meet ups

— Anjana, Author of Evolving Angel



A day for volunteers to feel special

Ravi Saravanan



Express Features

In a special effort to thank their old hands as well as new, Vidya Sagar (formerly The Spastics Society of India, Chennai) celebrated Volunteer's Day with a small event at their campus in Kotturpuram. The event, which brought together volunteers from all of the centre's several programmes, had a thank-you session for people responsible for smooth functioning of the teaching and administration of the school. It was attended by V Balakrishnan IPS, deputy commissioner of police, Mylapore. "I am in a profession where I regularly meet people. It is inspirational to be amidst people who learn and teach at the same time," Balakrishnan said. "I am looking at ways in which the police can associate with people with disabilities and look forward to more meaningful interactions with them," he said.

The gathering was also introduced to several programmes and the scope of work in Vidya Sagar, where volunteers could involve in a lot of fields, from occupational therapy to community based rehabilitation.

The event included a mime presented by students of Presidency College and two written messages from German students Nina Gritschneider and Til, both volunteers last year and associated with German Red Cross. Jeeva and Sudhakar, two volunteers who had joined recently, are also involved among others in Kalakkal Cafe, a community and school interaction effort.

Kattai Koothu Helps Train Vidyasagar Kids

With dance and basketball practice for their recently concluded sports day, kids are showing improvement

● Amrutha Varshinii

A 14-year-old clad in white is wriggling with excitement. Hani, as he is called, had an exciting day ahead. He would be performing a dance on stage for the first time. The group of kids around him sit still for a round of light make-up, while a few experienced hands dab white and red on their waiting foreheads.

On Tuesday, Vidyasagar school for special kids celebrated its annual sports day. From sack race to wheelchair racing, the 150 kids on the premises were beaming while clutching medals and certificates in their hands.

"They love sports, and the fact that it was an inter-house event made

them even more excited," says Rajul Padmanabhan, director of the institution.

But this year, something special was in store for the kids and the spectators — a group of 12 children with a dance group performed 'Kattai Koothu'. The children had been practising for over six months.

It is a sort of kinaesthetic (tactile) training for them, says principal Kalpana Rao. "There has been a marked improvement in their march past, drills and even recollection since they started practice. We have also been giving them basketball training since last year," she says. The dancers are ready by now, and Hani suddenly remembers he has other duties to attend to. "Vote of thanks," he says, to his principal before scurrying off to practice his speech. "He wouldn't have remembered this last year, but now this training has made him better at multitasking. We want to give more of this exposure," says Kalpana.



Photo ● P Ravikumar

Nifty craftsmen of Vidya Sagar

By K. Manjula

Kalakkal Kadai, is a retail outlet that displays the handmade products of differently-abled children from Vidya Sagar, a school for special children in Kotturpuram.

Housed in the school's premises, the shop is more like a boutique that sells lifestyle products ranging from hand bags, laptop bags, wallets, woven stoles, table runners, table mats, lampshades, saris, salwar materials and paper artifacts from their thread painting, tie and dye and weaving units.

Kalakkal Kadai was opened on November 2016 and it showcases more than two years of hard work of the special children who have contributed to the shop. "Vidya Sagar believes that every adult with disability should have the opportunity to not only work, but also earn a livelihood. Kalakkal Kadai is an experiment; but more importantly it is also a first step in trying to promote cooperative works of people with disabilities," says

Kalpna Rao, Principal of Vidya Sagar.

The thread painting unit under special educator S.Dhanalakshmi has about 10 students of age group 18 to 23. They use pigment paints of various colours and threads of different thickness on materials like paper, poplin and gaada to make products like bags, cushion covers, folders, wallets and many other things. The painted clothes are then used by designated tailors to stitch various products.

Kalyani Pramod, a consultant designer from NID sits with the educators and plans the week's activities with the students. "Differently abled persons have limited focus, they need breaks regularly. Thread painting offers them functional literacy, as well as therapy," says Dhanalakshmi, while patiently helping one of her students with the activity.

The tie and dye unit has students with better hand eye coordination and they basically dye materials for stoles, saris and lampshades in various

patterns after tying them with either thread or marbles. The students even mix the dyes themselves using rock salt, colour, soda ash and water before dipping the tied materials in it. The activities are supervised by S. Gandhimathi, special educator. S. Anuradha is a special educator and also the person in charge of the Kalakkal Kadai. She introduced the shop manager Janaki Raman, who is a differently abled person.

"Janaki Raman is 40 years old and is pretty shy around strangers. His family wants to open a stationary shop for him. He does billing here, and his time at the shop gives him the much needed exposure. The main aim of this initiative is to make the differently abled earn a livelihood as well as respect in the society," says Anu. Some students are genuinely interested in the sale of their products and are willing to work hard to make their products interesting.

"We are looking to take bulk orders and also open to putting stalls in



▲ A view of the Kalakkal Kadai



▲ Thread painting unit



▼ Tie and dye unit



▼ Janaki Raman, Shop Manager

other places. Our products are priced from Rs.100 to Rs.5000 and the profit made out of it will be given as stipend to the students who make them. The

money earned will go a long way in boosting the morale of these students," concludes Anu.

Kalakkal Kadai is open from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.,

Monday to Saturday, at Vidya Sagar, 1, Ranjith Road, Kotturpuram. Ph: 98401 54285, email: vidyasagar.resources@gmail.com.



Early intervention centre opening at Tambaram

Until Vidya Sagar, an organisation that has worked with differently-abled children and young adults for the last 31 years, will open an early intervention centre at Tambaram on 20th February. The centre, which will function from Flat No 101, 'Natha Kamalam' Periyalwar street, Tambaram Sanatorium, will focus on rehabilitation and education needs of children aged up to eight. It will be open all days from 9.30 am to 3.30 pm.

Vidya Sagar, which has run early intervention clinics since 1986, formulate curriculum based on a child's strengths and challenges, ascertained through a complete assessment. An assessment of the child, to construct a tailor-made plan to serve the child's special needs, will be arranged at commence. Vidya Sagar, which started out as a parent initiative and has now become a venture of national stature, believes in the involvement of parents and include them in all work plans and encourage in the parents setting and pursuing goals in the child's education.

Apart from education, the child gets physiotherapy, occupational therapy, communication/speech therapy along with music, art and crafts classes. They say that the earlier the intervention, the lesser the chances of secondary disabilities setting in. The right kind of guidance can help a child develop his abilities better.

For details and registration, call 9384007986

A Training for Counselors

Express News Service

Vidya Sagar will offer a two-month long training programme on special needs counseling, titled, 'Counselor Education-Disability and Mental Health' from February 14 to April 30.

The programme is aimed at preparing counselors, psychologists and social workers who play a vital role in vocational, educational personal adjustment of persons with physical, mental and emotional disabilities. As of now, many therapists do not feel comfortable

working with people with a disability. This is mainly because there is a lack of educational foundation, clinical experience will leave the counselor unprepared to implement specialised services.

Therefore, this programme has been conceived and designed for professionals and students in the field of counseling, psychology, psychiatry, psycho-counselors and social workers. The sessions will run for two days a week, on (4pm-7pm) and (9am-4pm). Course fee is ₹5,000. Call Shirin at 9789040184 for details.



Wheelchair users at Marina Beach on World Disability Day

A RAMP TO THE WAVE

On World Disability Day (Dec 3), people with reduced mobility visited Marina Beach for the first time

CE talks to city officials to find out if they have solutions to make beaches permanently accessible

Abinaya Kalyanasundaram

Chennai has the distinction of having the world's second largest beach. Every weekend, thousands of visitors flock to the Marina. But despite being a creek of Chennai for 15 years, Navrooz was able to experience the joy of beach days for the first time only this Sunday. He and his mother made their way all across the city for this one very special day, where many could finally experience the wonders of the sea.

The temporary ramp built by the Greater Chennai Corporation, on the occasion of World Disability Day (Dec 3) bridged the dreams of several persons with disability and others who so long had not been able to experience Chennai's simplest pleasures.

"After being married for 15 years, this is the first time I've ever coming to the beach with my wife" said one man, while another college student bawled from Delhi excitedly wheels towards the beach saying "This is the first time I'm going into the beach" he says. His parents and friends back home but well-built ramp was dismantled, leaving absolutely no trace of its existence the next morning.

Accessibility to the beach is a fundamental right for every citizen. The Rights of Persons with Disability Act 2016 provides Persons with Disabilities (PWD) to access to recreation, leisure, and all other facilities, so shouldn't something as quintessential as watching a sunrise close to the sea boundary

be easily possible? Across the world, several beaches have been made accessible through the construction of wooden or steel ramps or using specialised multi-wheeled chairs that can straddle through sand.

Speaking to disability rights activists in the city, we understand that despite several steps taken by the Government of Chennai to make an accessible beach in any normal day, we don't have any policy and many people have to volunteer to take us," opines Umami, an advocate and member of the Disability Rights Alliance India (DRAI).

Stressing the importance of accessible beaches, Shankar of the DRAI points out that visiting the beach is as much an educative experience as it is for fun. "Understanding the density of water, on sand - the kids who visited would have had so many questions! We can educate them only by taking them out into nature," he asserts.

After the success of the temporary ramp project last year, steps were taken to make it into a permanent structure, but there are many practical challenges. The Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) prevents the construction of permanent structures on the beach. The waves, making it dangerous during high-tides. An architect was roped in, and solutions were designed to overcome these challenges. "The progress is still going on, and we're seeing how to make it better," says a member of DRAI.

With pressing concerns about maintenance and vandalism after construction, perhaps companies in the city should consider adopting such projects as part of their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), thus eliminating one of the biggest hindrances to accessible beaches in the city.

How beaches around the world have been made accessible

Hanauma Bay, Hawaii - rents Mobi manual chairs called to both sand and the warm Hawaiian sea

Williamsdown Beach, NZ - rents Mobi CRD also provides beach matting available 24/7





VIDYA SAGAR

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



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