

## **Sarathak Global Resource Center for Person with Disabilities in Gurugram, Haryana**

In India, the population of persons with disability is around **26.8 million**, constituting 2.21% of India's total population (Census 2011). However, World Bank data proposes the number between **40 to 80 million**. But despite the discrepancy between the numbers it is very clear that PwDs constitute a significant part of Indian Population.

Further, disability results from the interaction between persons with impairments and attitudinal and environmental barriers that hinders their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others (United Nations Conventions on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities).

Thus, on the one hand we have increasing number of PwDs and on the other paucity of resources to ensure their inclusion. And, in such a scenario a solution is required to cater both the needs of providing requisite intervention and support system to PwDs and to equip change makers and accommodate environment and social system as more accessible and inclusive. Currently, disability sector faces four major challenges,

- Paucity of efforts in the direction of promoting inclusion and empowerment of PwDs at familial, social & professional fronts at a singular setting.
- Need to create inclusive and welcoming environment outside the periphery of organization engaged in providing services to PwDs.
- Lack of skilled and dedicated human resource to best cater to the needs of the sector and beneficiaries.
- Pressing need of exploring International collaborations to promote Research & Development, Employee & Technology Exchange, and Advocacy across borders.

Thus, paying due heed to all the four requirements of the sector, Sarathak conceived **Sarathak Global Resource Center for Person with Disabilities**.

Sarathak Global Resource Centre is directed to create a world of equal opportunity and rights for Persons with disability (PwDs) through providing them required support and intervention, creating environment of acceptance, inclusion and sensitized approach, and preparing more change makers.

The major objectives are as:

1. To provide a facility to sensitize people and checking existing prejudices about PwDs through experiential learning – **Dialogue in the Dark**
2. To provide online support services to persons with disability through Mobile App, Toll Free support system and Online Portals – **SMART Centre**

3. To provide auditorium with accessible infrastructure and features to provide facility to organise accessible events for all disability categories. – **Accessible Auditorium**

4. To provide innovative and stimulating play-spaces accessible and enjoyed by differently abled children – **Sensory Park**

5. To explore and ensure diverse livelihood options for PwDs and ensuring an inclusive and equal opportunity workplace for them in terms of infrastructure as well as attitude. – **Centre of Excellence for Employment**

6. To extend vocational training services to youth with disability through practical orientation and experiential learning in state-of-the-art learning labs. – **Centre of Excellence for Skill Building**

7. To support children facing developmental delays or susceptible to such delays through therapeutic intervention and special education. – **Centre of Excellence for Early Intervention & Inclusive Education**

8. To explore prospects of International collaborations and promote Research & Development, Employee & Technology Exchange, and Advocacy across borders – **Centre of Excellence for Technology, Innovation & International Collaboration**

Sarathak Global Resource Center is directed towards becoming a one stop solution for all major requirements in disability sector, either in terms of direct services to PwDs or preparing more change makers to catalyze the momentum of crafting and drafting an inclusive world. It also aims at creating an inclusive environment through its sensitization and advocacy generation activities, clubbed with guidance and support to promote physical and psychological accessibility and acceptance.

#### **Future Plan**

- Adoption of global best practices in each vertical.

\*\*\*\*\*