



Act to Empower

5th National Conference on Disability,
New Delhi, November 15, 2018



Conference Proceedings

5th National Conference on Disability – Overview

- Inaugural session and Setting the Theme - Act to Empower
- Annual Report Release of Sarthak Educational Trust and National Abilympic Association of India by Chief Guest by Smt. Shakuntla Gamlin, Secretary, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities and with other dignitaries.
- 9 Panel Discussions –Interaction with Government, Corporate, Academicians, Media, Persons with Disability and also their concerned.
- Sarthak Lifetime Achievement Award Has been conferred upon Dr. Bharat Vatwani, Founder Trustee, Shradhha Rehabilitation Foundation for Mentally Ill, recipient of the Ramon Magsaysay Award 2018
- Valedictory Session & Way Forward



Panel Discussion 1

Stories of Change & Empowerment

Panelist -

- Dr. Bharat Vatwani (Founder Trustee, Shradhha Rehabilitation Foundation for Mentally Ill)
- Shri Md Asif Iqbal (Principal Consultant, PWC)
- Shri Rimo Saha (Indian swimmer holding the record for swimming the English Channel)
- Shri Sai Krishnan (Senior Executive, HCL)
- Smt. Madhu Sharma (Senior Manager, Concentrix)
- Dr. VP Singh (National Advisory Board Member- Moderator)



Highlights of the Session

- The session infused attendees with exuberance and motivation with the real life stories of struggles and eventual success of Champions.
- Mr. Rimo Saha inspired all with his grit and determination when he shared how he crossed English Channel despite his orthopedic impairment and his dream of swimming across seven channels by 2022.
- Ms. Madhu Sharma talked about her journey and how despite being visually impaired and female, she led life on her own terms giving mention to her current role of team leader which involves coaching national and international team members.
- Mr. Asif Iqbal instilled awe and inspiration among all by sharing how he is playing active role in inclusion of PwDs by his various efforts such as advocating for disability quota in Educational Institutes, Aadhar Card for PwDs, and designing PwD friendly mobile app portal for emergency situations.
- Mr. P. Sai Krishnan shared his achievement and experience in Olympics and Abilympics events in shooting and photography categories respectively.
- Ramon Magsaysay award winner Dr. Bharat Vatwani shared about Shraddha Foundation and its efforts to reunite mentally ill and homeless people with their families.





Panel Discussion 2

Assessing Disability as a Cross-Cutting Issue in International Development

Panelist -

- Shri Gerald L Davis (President, Workability International)
- Shri Rajeev Talwar (President, PHDCCI)
- Smt. Uma Seth (CSR Leader, FICCI)
- Smt. Dolly Chakrabarty (Joint Secretary, DEPwD)
- Shri Sandeep Bhargava(Exec. VP Vodafone Idea Ltd. – Moderator)



Highlights of the Session

- Sustainable development of PwDs calls for significant focus over attitudinal, societal, technological and accessibility concerns as posited in PwD Act, 2016.
- Equipped and dedicated professionals and resources pave the way for building capacities of PwDs and ensure their real inclusion.
- Family and community plays a pivotal role and due emphasis must be provided to parental awareness and education and community based rehabilitation.
- Inclusive Workplace and hiring of PwDs needs to be promoted through advocacy, knowledge sharing and publicity campaigns.
- Further initiatives such as facilitating in adapting with continuous change in work methodology and providing start ups and entrepreneurial opening as employment opportunity carries potential to benefit larger population.
- Continuous reality check is direly needed to ensure achievement of goals in disability sector and allied areas, namely health, education, and others, out of 17 Sustainable Development goals.



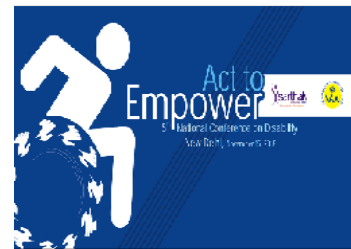


Panel Discussion 3

Setting the Theme - Act to Empower

Panelist -

- Padma Bhushan Dr. M. B. Athreya (Mentor & Guru, Sarthak Educational Trust)
- Smt. Shakuntla Gamlin (Secretary, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment)
- Dr. MP Poonia (Vice Chairman, All India Council of Technical Education)
- Smt. Deepti Srivastava (Director, Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship)
- Dr. Jitender Aggarwal (Founder & CEO, Sarthak Educational Trust)
- Shri Krishan Kalra (National Advisory Board Member – Moderator)



Highlights of the Session

- Sarthak Educational Trust is actively engaged in inclusion and empowerment of PwDs through its work in the areas of Early Intervention, Inclusive Education, Skill Development and screening talents and providing a platform by organizing regional and national Abilympics.
- Hans Foundation, MSDE and AICTE has been instrumental in organizing Regional and National Abilympics successfully and for the first time National World Skill Competitions of Non Divyangjan and Abilympic Competitions of Divyangjan were organized together as an inclusion initiative.
- AICTE is actively contributing to inclusion led empowerment of PwDs by providing free training to PwDs in Polytechnics across India.
- Different initiatives are being taken by MSDE towards the inclusion of the PwD, aiming at training at least 25 Lakh PwDs by 2022.
- Skill Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion (SANKALP) and Skill Strengthening for Industrial Value Enhancement (STRIVE) schemes are started to incentivize states for using technology and innovative ideas for skill training of PwDs.





Panel Discussion 4

Triggering the Change - Government & CSR support system for Disability

Panelist -

- Smt. Leena David (CSR Coordinator, Capgemini)
- Dr. GV Rao (Executive Director, The Hans Foundation)
- Dr. Prabodh Seth (Joint Secretary, MSJE)
- Smt. Diksha Singh (CSR Head, Power Links)
- Shri Sidhartha Rastogi (Managing Director, Ambit – Moderator)



Highlights of the Session

- Government and CSR support system must be spread across various needs of PwDs to ensure real inclusion and empowerment ranging from health, education to employment and others.
- Civil societies must act hand in hand with Government and corporate to ensure the reach of various initiatives to grass-root levels.
- A mix of welfare, access, awareness, and empowerment initiatives are being taken by Government to achieve the desired inclusion, accessibility and empowerment of divyangs.
- Private organizations have great responsibility in ensuring inclusive work place and career development opportunities for PwDs across sectors and although positive shift is being observed more efforts are required.
- Digital inclusion through technology is at its nascent stage and efforts are required to quicken the pace of development in this direction.





Panel Discussion 5

Corporate Leadership for PwD Inclusivity

Panelist -

- Shri Nihar Mehta(Corporate HR Manager, Sarovar Hotels Pvt. Ltd)
- Shri Piyush Dutt (CHRO,V ishal Mega Mart)
- Smt. Pallavi Kumari (Regional Head of Equality, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) - South Asia,British Council)
- Shri Anup Srivastava (CEO, SCPwD)
- Shri S.M. Gupta (Global Chief People Officer, Aegis – Moderator)



Highlights of the Session

- Corporate groups carry immense potential to contribute towards the inclusion and mainstreaming of divyang through Employment opportunity.
- The approach to inclusion in corporate needs to be top-down to ensure quick implementation of proposed plan of action in this line.
- Educational Institutes also play significant role in ensuring inclusion of PwDs across sectors and at different profiles based on interest areas of divyang.
- Various corporate houses are continuously working for PwD inclusion through regular placement and ensuring a fixed percentage of PwD workforce across its units.





Panel Discussion 6

Reflection of Disability through Media: Speak of me as I am'

Panelist -

- Shri Rajat Gupta (Account Group Manager ,Torque)
- Shri Ranjan Singh (NSDC Head, Customer Relations)
- Shri Amit Nayyar (CSR Head,Times Now)
- Shri Manash Pratim Gohain (Senior Assistant Editor,Times of India)
- Shri Saurya Sengupta (Content Producer ,Hindustan Times)



Highlights of the Session

- The session dealt with the pivotal role of media in the empowerment of divyangs across different media platforms.
- Speakers deliberated upon the impact media could create by spreading awareness and sensitizing masses quoting various examples.
- Along with masses in general, media must focus towards promoting different policies and systems to aware divyang of their rights and how they could entail it.
- Media must promote various systems such as CSR Act, Government Policies, Accessibility requirements through dedicated thematic programs to promote awareness among stakeholders in general.
- Success Stories of champions with disability needs to be promoted to large scale to motivate and sensitize masses.





Panel Discussion 7

Early Intervention and Inclusive Education

Panelist -

- Prof. (Dr.) Jayanti Pujari (Dean, Faculty of Rehabilitation Sciences)
- Dr. Rajive Bhatia (ENT Specialist)
- Smt. Sunita Singh (Professional Consultant-Disability Sector, Special and Inclusive Education)
- Dr. Nagaratna Vallamkonda (Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital)
- Shri Satish Kalra (Smile Train-Ex Founder & Chairman – Moderator)



Highlights of the Session

- The session dealt with importance of improving the quality of lives of the PwDs at an early stage.
- Early identification, intervention and prevention play significant role in curing or curbing disabilities.
- Intervention efforts lead to best outcomes between 0 to 2 years of age in terms of minimizing the extent of disability, as feasible.
- Current scenario calls for a change in people's perception of PwDs to identify the talents facilitate in improving those.
- Proper terminology must be focused to check stigmatizing of PwDs, using inappropriate terms, such as 'deaf and dumb'
- The required infrastructure for quality skill training must improve. Cross disabilities approach should be inculcated with continuous training sessions and availability of online training modules can improve training qualities.





Panel Discussion 8

Scalable and sustainable models for skilling youth with disability -Role of Abilympics

Panelist

- Shri Sanjaya Pradhan (Lead - Affirmative Action, National Skill Development Corporation)
- Shri Ramesh Duraikannan (Youth 4 Jobs Program Manager - Corporate Connect)
- Shri Naveen Sharma (General Manager,CSC)
- Dr. Sudhir Gupta (National Vice President NAAI)
- Prof. Ashok Kapoor (Ex Dean,MDI - Moderator)



Highlights of the Session

- Organizing sensitization workshops in villages can engage more rural youth with disabilities, providing them with better job opportunities.
- MSDE and MSJE are directed towards skilling 25 lakh PwDs by 2020 through concerted efforts and achieved the numbers of 2.5 lakh, so far.
- Sector Skill Councils are playing pivotal role in skill building of PwDs through structured systems, defined curriculum and desired standards.
- With the intent to extend reach to PwDs residing in rural pockets, sensitization workshops and/or Community Based Rehabilitation, seems feasible option.
- Support from Common Service Centre can be engaged in enhancing the reach and awareness at district levels.
- Under Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY), a flagship program of MSDE, a minimum of 125 Centre will be opened across India, to quicken the pace of skill building.





Panel Discussion 9

Future of Accessibility through the Lens of Technology

Panelist -

- Smt. Surabhi Srivastava (Co founder & COO, Innovision)
- Shri Mohan Sundaram (Founder, Artilab Foundation)
- Shri Pradeep T.(Director,Enability Foundation)
- Shri Prashant Ranjan Verma (General Secretary, National Association of Blind & Consultant DAISY)
- Smt. Janahavi Joshi (Founder, Blee Tech)
- Shri Atul Bhatnagar(Ex COO, National Skill Development Corporation - Moderator)



Highlights of the Session

- Inclusion of PwDs in mainstream and paving the platform for their empowerment calls for technological intervention.
- A shift from manual to digital modes would contribute immensely in improving the lifestyle of PwDs.
- Foremost focus should be towards ensuring accessible transport system for PwDs to address mobility challenges faced by them.
- The biggest barrier between existing technology and their usage by PwDs is cost based, thus the prime focus is to provide local and low cost solutions in various areas such as education, recreation, mobility and employment.
- Ensuring the diverse forms of study materials well catering to the needs of different disability categories is direly needed to ensure their right to education.





Valedictory Session & Way Forward

Speakers-

- Padma Bhushan Dr. M. B. Athreya (Mentor & Guru, Sarthak Educational Trust)
- Dr. Bharat Vatwani (Founder Trustee, Shradhha Rehabilitation Foundation for Mentally Ill)
- Dr. Jitender Aggarwal, Founder & CEO, Sarthak Educational Trust
- Dr. Sudhir Gupta, National Advisory Board Member, Sarthak
- Sh. Sandeep Bhargava , National Advisory Board Member, Sarthak
- Dr. VP Singh , National Advisory Board Member, Sarthak
- Shri Siddartha Rastogi, Mumbai Advisory Board Member, Sarthak
- Prof. Ajai Srivastava, Nodal Officer, Disability Affairs



5th National Conference on Disability at a Glance...

- During the deliberations and discussions during the 5th NCD, several ideas and initiatives were proposed by panellists and participants, and the key points are listed hereunder:
- Government, Corporate and CSR need to work in synergy to act towards empowerment of divyangs.
- Dedicated efforts are required in the areas of health, education, employment, accessibility and various other allied areas to achieve the required shift in ensuring empowerment of PwDs.
- Media and public in general can play a pivotal role in creating awareness and sensitized attitude for empowerment of divyangs.
- Achievements and struggles of champions with disability must be promoted through different mediums to reach to larger number and sensitize and inspire masses.
- Organizations and professionals working in disability sector must be equipped and updated with best practices and skills on regular basis to quicken the pace.
- Early Intervention projects must be provided due significance as prevention and timely identification and intervention actively contributes in limiting the extent of disability.



