



REGIONAL ABILYMPICS 2019

Mumbai. Delhi. Chennai. Kolkata

SARTHAK NAAI JUNE BULLETIN

South Zone Regional Abilympics: July 19-20,2019
East Zone Regional Abilympics: August 09-10,2019

www.abilympicsindia.org
www.sarthakindia.org

West Zone Regional Abilympics 2019



"We must change our mindset towards disabled people from sympathy to empathy. The size of the disabled people in India is more than the entire population of many countries. Our society and government must be sensitive to the needs and aspirations of the disabled people. Countries such as Japan and New Zealand have developed conducive environment for disabled people. The railway station in the city of Utsunomiya in Japan has special ramps and pathways for disabled people," said Ms. Pooja Bhatt, veteran Bollywood actress, producer and director while addressing the 19th edition of India's Regional Abilympics hosted by MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai on June 14, 2019.

The two-day regional Abilympics in Mumbai received overwhelming response from more than 450 persons with disability who participated in competitions across 10 vocational skills such as floral arrangement, cookery, jewellery, e-sports, tailoring, beauty & wellness, desktop publishing, character designing, desktop publishing, bakery. The two-day Regional Abilympics (June 14 and June 15) featured exhibitions, Regional Conference, Abilympics and job fair, where persons with disabilities demonstrated their talent in the commercial capital of India.

The event was organised by the National Abilympics Association of India (NAAI), under the aegis of Sarthak Educational Trust with the support of The Hans Foundation, IHG and trade sponsors. Speaking on this occasion, Ms. Rupa Naik, Senior Director, MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai said,

"Empowering persons with disabilities is one of the means to attain the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which are the guiding principles of the activities of MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai. Through such events, we can directly and indirectly promote SDG 4 (quality education), SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth) and SDG 10 (reduced inequalities). Nobody on this earth is disabled; everybody is specially-abled. I am confident that events such as this will demonstrate the extraordinary talent of specially-abled people and create employment opportunities for them. In future, MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai is planning to organise an exhibition with NGOs for displaying the arts and crafts made by specially-abled people."

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(cont.)



Sharing his thoughts on this subject, veteran Bollywood Film Director, Producer and Screenwriter Mr. Mahesh Bhatt remarked, *“It is indeed a humbling experience to see how people with disabilities are overcoming their challenges in remarkable ways. Today, on my way to this event, I saw a disabled car driver demonstrating his extraordinary skills behind the wheels and skillfully riding past my car. After seeing this driver, I have shed all my stereotypes about disabled people, who are considered unfit in this competitive world. I was alarmed to realize my ignorance about the special abilities of the disabled people.”*

In th welcome remarks, Dr. Jitender Aggarwal, Founder and CEO, Sarthak Educational Trust & Secretary General – NAAI said, *“Corporate India must provide employment opportunities for disabled people as it will lead to their financial empowerment. Disabled people have demonstrated that they are equally competent and they are loyal to their employers. By employing disabled people, companies can reduce the employee attrition rate.”*

Dr. Aggarwal informed that currently there are 2.68 crore persons with disability in India and he expects this number to increase to 10 crore by Census 2022 as Government of India has introduced new categories of disability. Government of India has recognized disabled people under 21 different categories, which is higher than the seven categories followed earlier.

Speaking about the policy initiatives for disabled people, Dr. Aggarwal informed, *“In the last five years, Government of India has taken around five initiatives to empower persons with disabilities. Under the National Action Plan for Persons with Disability, the government aims to train 22 lakh people by 2022. However, so far, not even one lakh disabled people are trained. So, we need to ensure effective implementation of these initiatives at the ground level.”*

The event was also addressed by other dignitaries such as Mr. Sanjay Bhatia, Chairman, Port Trust of India, Mr. Ashish Kumar Chauhan, MD & CEO, Bombay Stock Exchange, Ms. Rosimar da Silva Suzano, Dean of Consular Corps Mumbai and Consul General of Brazil in Mumbai and Mr. Edgard D. Kagan, Consul General, Embassy of USA in Mumbai, among others.

"Emerging Employers" & "Catalyst of Change"

Sarthak Prominent Hiring Partners



During Regional Abilympics 2019, Team Sarthak and NAAI proudly felicitated Aditya Birla Capital, Hindustan Unilever Ltd, Reliance Retail, Tata Croma, Amazon and Marriott International under the category of "Emerging Employers" for empowering the lives of Persons with Disability.

Sarthak Prominent Funding Partners

During Regional Abilympics 2019, Team Sarthak and NAAI proudly felicitated, The Hans Foundation, Capgemini, Mahindra Finance, SBI Foundation, Credit Suisse under the category of "Catalyst of Change" generous support and contributions in helping us reach significant milestones in the last decade.



Centers in Progress

Guest Lecture at Ghaziabad Center



Knowledge is the treasure of the mind, but discretion is the key to it, without which it is useless. The practical part of wisdom is the best!

A guest lecture was organized at the Sarthak Ghaziabad center. Mrs. Poonam, Management

Expert, guided trainees about practical knowledge, Job Importance and different sectors available to them. She motivated and encouraged trainees to avoid 'Dis' and to look at their 'Ability' in order to tackle all the upcoming challenges.

Thanks to Mrs. Poonam for conducting the session. Reach us at our Ghaziabad center.

Tata Motors at Sarthak Thane Center

Dare to live the life you have dreamed for yourself. Go forward and make your dreams come true! Mr. Vinod Kulkarni, Head CSR-Tata Motors, at Sarthak Thane centre, guided trainees about the career opportunities available, motivating them to work hard, to pursue their dream jobs and to live their life with dignity.



Stories of Change & Empowerment

Paving ways towards Success- Shraddha Tari



Shraddha Tari has single-handedly molded her Destiny. 25-year-old feisty girl from Borivali, Mumbai, has only one hand! An unfortunate accident let her left arm completely paralyzed from the elbow down. However, not to be bogged down with the handicap, which comes with a social stigma, Shraddha today has paved her own niche. She works as a Back Office Executive at Tradimpex through the CSR initiative of Capgemini supported Sarthak leap Inclusion Centre in Mumbai. Finally, she turned her wounds into wisdom!

Sarthak Little Champ- Vaibhav

At age eight, Vaibhav was diagnosed with Autism spectrum disorder. He had limited social skills and exhibited difficult to manage behaviors, but it was his lack of developmentally appropriate language skills that most worried his parents.

That was then, this is now. In the last two year, following intensive early intervention services provided by Sarthak Early Intervention center, including occupational and speech therapies, Vaibhav has made remarkable progress. He is friendly and initiates interactions with other children, His anxiety has almost completely disappeared, and has developed strong communication skills. Vaibhav mom does not believe in the word "can't". She explains that *"As a parent, you have to guide your child. We believe that most things are possible and are so grateful that the staff at Sarthak also believe this."*



Stories of Change & Empowerment

Abilympics Champion Leliben Vadilya won again!



Her single-minded dedication to her goals in life is what makes her a winner every single time. Meet Gujrat girl, Leliben Vadaliya who was born with Orthopedic impairment, but that didn't stop this determined and optimistic young woman from becoming Abilympics champ twice. After winning award at Regional Abilympics 2018 in Embroidery, once again she won in Regional Abilympics 2019 in Tailoring and proved that disability cannot come in the way of success.

Pawan Patel - National Abilympic Winner

Holding on to the medal that he had just won, young Pawan Kumar Patel son of a farmer, strained every nerve in his body to hear the loud round of applause! A Computer Science engineer from IIT Kanpur who suffers from albinism a condition which leads to depletion of retinal cells, Pawan not only won at the regional level but also rose to victory at the National level. He is currently pursuing BT-MT Dual - CSE 2014-2019 from IIT Kanpur. Today Pawan is an example for millions of those who succumb to their physical shortcomings and he describes how The Abilympics can help an individual showcase his/her talents.



Messages by Changemakers

It gives me paramaaananda to have the opportunity and privilege to write this Message. The opportunity arises from Sarthak completing 11 dedicated years, in the service of India's Divyangjan. The privilege comes from my Sowbhagyam of being the Mentor to such a committed Founder, Organisation and Team.

Last year, in July 2018, we celebrated Sarthak's first decade. The end of ten years, a decade, is a significant milestone in any organisation's history. The year 11 has a special significance. In our culture, adding 1 is considered auspicious. That is why at Weddings, birthdays, etc., we present gifts of Rs.101/-; 1001/-; 5001/-, etc. It is my praarthana that the coming 12th year of Sarthak is a year of consolidation, for "scaling up". The needs of India's divyangjan calls for organisations like Sarthak to scale up, both from within, and through dozens of Partner NGOs. The environmental opportunity is limitless. The challenge is one of mobilising Human, Physical and Financial Resources; building a highly motivated and productive organisation; developing professional Systems and Processes; and helping our Partner NGOs to do the same. Let us march forward together on this missionary journey.

~Padma Bhushan Dr. MB Athreya, Sarthak Mentor ad Guru

The very fact that Sarthak was founded by someone, who had himself lost his central vision, while running a thriving 'Dentistry Practice', makes it a special organization in as much as the 'founder' and his dedicated team fully understand the travails of someone in that position - or with any other disability! No one but the sufferer can appreciate better the hurdles at every step. Hurdles such as (a) access to various places, including government offices which everyone has to visit for all sorts of common everyday requirements (b) gross lack of training and skill development facilities for those denied some physical capability by nature (c) by and large indifferent attitude of employers towards PwD job seekers (d) social stigma of being a PwD (e) even rejection by one's own family!

Dr Jitender Aggarwal has done pioneering work by starting Sarthak and adding value to it over the last 11 years. Training and finding jobs for over 15,000 PwDs is a Herculean task but this simple man is not resting on his laurels. He continues the struggle and is passionate about his dream of 'reaching all PwDs in the country' - a task, admittedly, impossible for any one person or organization - but hopefully, his example will encourage many more well meaning people to replicate the 'Sarthak Model'. The 28 million (GOI's 2011 figure but actually perhaps closer to 100 m) do need, and deserve, tens of thousands of Sarthaks in the country. It is really their right to get employment and live a life of dignity.

Here's wishing Jitender, his wife Dr Suman and their committed 'Team Sarthak' many more decades of relentless public service.

~Krishan Kalra. President- NAAI & Sarthak Advisory Board Member

Let's Learn more about Disability

Job Profiles for Persons with Disabilities

Hospitality Sector:

Food & beverages Steward, Housekeeping-Public Area Cleaning, Housekeeping- Room Attendant, Cashier, Receptionist, Bell Boy/Bell Captain, Valet Parking, Banquet Attendant, Call Operator, Delivery Boy, Laundry, Kitchen Steward

Retail Sector:

Customer Sales Associate, Retail Sales Associate, Store Operations, Packaging, Billing, Cashier, Security, Warehouse Assistant, Store Manager, Dept. Manager, Visual Merchandiser, PRO/Announcer

IT/ITes Sector:

Data Entry Operator, CRM Domestic Voice- Inbound, CRM Domestic Voice- Outbound, CRM Non Voice, Pantry, Technical Associate, Software Tester, Quality Analysis, Project Engineer, E- commerce, Delivery Associate, Wish-Master

Auto:

Washing, Helper

Manufacturing:

Packaging, Labelling

Packaging:

Data Entry, Record Keeping

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