

Sarthak Ke Anmol Ratan – Our Decade Old Alumni Series

Dr. Jitender Aggarwal (Founder, CEO's message)

"I am happy to inform you that Sarthak Educational Trust is commencing 'Sarthak Ke Anmol Ratan' services to be in touch with our Alumni. This will help to maintain relationships and build strong ecosystems together. I, with the entire team of Sarthak, wish all the Alumni a very good luck".

Introduction-

Sarthak Educational Trust is a Civil Society Organization that works for the empowerment of the Persons with Disability since 2008. It is our pleasure to introduce '**Sarthak Ke Anmol Ratan**'- series for our decade old alumni. Ever since our alumni have learnt to comprehend the world with their disability, a prominent part of their lives has been through the teachings of Sarthak Educational Trust.

Some of them were good at communication, some recognized their potential in computers, but one thing that was common in them, was the spirit of never giving up. Their relentless motivation to work and learn new disciplines inspired many. They have helped Sarthak to grow and connect more. Sarthak's family is growing beautifully with other verticals of early intervention, skill development, sustainable employment and advocacy for the persons with disability. We take this moment to capture their beautiful life changing experiences at Sarthak Educational Trust. We earnestly look forward to their continuing involvement in the coming years as we march ahead in unison.

Ms. Megha Batra, is Sarthak's 10-year-old Alumni. She has a disability of **visual impairment** she completed her schooling from **Holy Child School**, Delhi and went further to study from Lady Sri Ram College, University of Delhi. Her parents reached out to provide her the best education possible. Education has been an imperative tool in Megha's life. Owing to her interests she started learning computers in an organization called National Association for blind (NAB) in Delhi, where she not only gave boost to her career graph but that also aimed at instilling in her the confidence to go against odds. It was during her stint at NAB that her friend introduced her to Sarthak's training and employment programs. She soon joined Sarthak and it was a complete revelation for her. Ms. Megha became more zealous and enthusiastic with her introduction to computer software like JAWS. With her computer skills and honed communication skills she got recruited in Iyogi. She is currently working in Bank of Baroda. She elevated her skills to another level with her course in District institute Education and Training.

She remembers the warmth of her parents and the values with which she has grown up.

"My parents always kept a line of communication with me as a teenager and instilled in me the vigor and enthusiasm to perform myriad tasks. They never let me feel any different from other kids and tried to reach out to the best possible. However, my first encounter with the societal isolation was in college when there was a different list for the handicapped. It definitely heartbreaking, but my relentless motivation to do something for self, kept me going"

Ms. Megha's message to the persons with disability:

Education helps in emancipation from all extremities of life. It is the most powerful tool that helps in reconstruction and reorganization of thoughts, giving a more reflective lens to life. People with any kind of disability must educate themselves and break all the shackles of society. Sarothak Educational Trust has been a powerful path for me that helped me discover the tools for life.



Mr. Arun Kumar

He is a fun-loving warm person who loves to sing, search for latest gadgets in the market and spend time with family. Mr. Arun Kumar completed his schooling from DPS, RK Puram and then further went on to complete his schooling from Utras Vidyalaya. He further went to study from Indira Gandhi University. Being a **Visually impaired person**, he had to face major challenges with mobility. He became more aware through National association for the blind and elevated his skills. While he was associated with NAB, he got to know about Sarothak and their skill and employment programs.

His first encounter with Dr. Jitender was during his days in Jamia Hamdard University where he was pursuing a course named as *New Economy skills*. Dr. Jitender guided him for learning the medical transcription at Sarothak.

He enrolled himself in Sarothak and he learnt a lot during the 6 months of his medical transcription training. Being a sincere person that he is, he soon started volunteering for Sarothak programs. He gave 21 interviews, as daunting it may seem he did not give up and secured himself a position in tech Mahindra. His sheer hardwork and Sarothak's continuous motivation made him believe in self. It was all possible through Sarothak's planned modules and training sessions with the help of trainers.

Arun's message to the persons with Disability

"Through personal experiences I have learnt that education and awareness are important tools to do anything in life. Being a person with disability can bring a set of challenges but You need to get out of your shell, explore the world, meet people who have made it big and take inspiration that I, as an individual can also do it. Always try your best to reach out to gather Information. Sarothak has led me to a path of light and power, many organizations are working to hone skills for the persons with disability, but a few like Sarothak truly works on the employment model and makes sure that their candidates are emotionally and financially strong. I can never be thankful enough to what Sarothak has done for me."



Mr. Hari Narayan

Everyone's story is different, some might be completely comfortable with their disability whilst others might be on the complete opposite end of the scale but either way, it is difficult to accept any kind of disability. We have **Mr. Hari Narayan**, Sarthak's 10-year-old Alumni who took big leaps to achieve his dreams.

Mr. Hari completed his schooling from Mount Carmel School and further went on to pursue his graduation from University of Delhi. There was an atmosphere of camaraderie in both school and college but he had to face a lot of challenges because of his visual impairment post college for employability.

It was during his struggle days for employment that his dear friend introduced him to Sarthak's model of skill development and Employment. He soon enrolled himself in the new Medical Transcription course that Sarthak offered during those days. It was challenging since he was from a non-medical background but with Sarthak's planned modules and relentless motivation of trainers, he could do justice with whatever was taught to him. The reason he enrolled himself in Sarthak was because of its employment model where people at Sarthak are determined to empower people with disability. His first recruitment through Sarthak was in V.G.S in Delhi, Shahpur, marking his first milestone. He felt that Sarthak is his safe haven where things like mobility, communication and access to information are prevalent. He is currently working in Saksham an NGO, where he recently completed 10 years of his tenure. He lives in a happy family of 6. Apart from his routine and work he loves to listen to music and spend time with friends.

Hari Narayan's message to persons with disability

"Disability can leave some people feeling anxious, broken, lonely and scared, I say this because I've felt all of the above for myself and these emotions have made me feel like giving up on the positives, thinking that they weren't as prominent as the negatives—but that is not always true because the organizations like Sarthak educational trust that are working day and night to empower persons with disability. I as individual feel grateful to have met Dr. Jitender and being guided in his imminent presence was a gift to my life that I will forever cherish"



Mr. Raman

Discovering your passion can potentially be invaluable, it gives you the opportunity to express who you really are and show that to others. It can be even more difficult for people with disability. Mr. Raman is a **Visually Impaired** alumnus of Sarthak.

Mr. Raman faced challenges and honed his potentials in life to achieve his dreams. He grew up with a very lovable family, who supported him through all the endeavors of life. He completed his schooling from Blind school Association and pursued his further studies from Hindu college, University of Delhi.

Lack of awareness of English language added more to the bag of insecurities and fear. It was his friend during computer training days that he found out about Sarthak. He was initially provided training in basic computers, English and soft skills and then, based on his interest and progress mapping, he was screened for sector specific training. During the training, various exposure visits he got recruited in V.G. S. and marked his initial steps.

He is currently working in Magic software an e-learning organization in Noida. He is an independent, fun loving person who loves to explore different tools of research in education sector. One of his encounters with a local shopkeeper left him baffled when he was ridiculed him for not being to work on a computer but he left no stone unturned and transformed his fears into his dreams.

Raman's message for people with disability:

"Having a well-established network has become an important part of our lives. The easiest way to expand your network is to build on the relationships with people you know; family, friends, classmates, colleagues and acquaintance's. This can be tough for people with disability but this truly makes all the difference. Sarthak was that network for me. Sarthak is a perfect platform for skill building, networking with motivating people and getting an employment. I highly recommend Sarthak for people with disability, who are finding it difficult to shed off their inhibitions."



Mr. Yogesh Chabra

There is always an alternative way to getting to where you want to be in life. If one road leads to a dead end, find another one and follow it until you reach where you want to be.

Mr. Yogesh Chabra is a **Visually Impaired candidate** of Sarothak. He was hopeful for his actions and hard work and thus took the road he wanted to walk. This zealous and curious personality is truly successful in forming a beautiful world of his own. He completed his schooling from Delhi Public school. He comes from a beautiful family of 5. He has always been around supportive friends.

However, life with disability has been full of challenges for him. After having completed his computer training sessions with National Association for Blind, he was introduced to Sarothak by a family friend.

The Societal pressure and isolation were a big challenge for him. Thus, immediately he started learning the medical transcription and soon after completed his transcription course, Sarothak paved the way to his first job in V.G.S and celebrated the true happiness of independence. Amidst all these challenges, Sarothak team relentlessly worked with Mr. Yogesh and were finally able to empower, both emotionally and financially. He is currently working in State Bank of India and is extremely happy. Apart from working, he also has keen interest in playing chess with friends and often likes to sing.

Yogesh's message to people with disability

"There are people out there who think that a life with a disability is a completely negative one that having fun or achieving your goals doesn't seem to tie in to a life with a disability but it's definitely not the case. Disability can be restricting in some aspects but it doesn't mean that you can't go out there and have a good time, so go out connect with organizations like Sarothak, develop your skills and embrace your unique skill set."