

Sarthak Ke Anmol Rattan – 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' series 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 goodluck".

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.



Rinku

Rinku was born in Shah Ganj, Jaunpur in Uttar Pradesh in 1986 and later moved to Delhi with his family, when his father decided to open up an artificial jewellery store in Kalyanpuri. Born with full vision, Rinku led a very normal lifestyle till the age of 7, until his retina started deteriorating and damaging his vision. Upon the advice of local doctors, he was taken to AIIMS but eventually, after prolonged treatment, ended up losing his total eyesight.

Life took a sudden turn for little Rinku at a very early stage in life. After having seen and lived the world through god given eyes, he suddenly fell from a position of privilege. Not only was he left to ask for help for everyday chores and functions, he also fell into a deep well of sadness and emotional turmoil. It was a never-ending cycle. The family was left to fend for themselves; nor Rinku or the family received any help from anyone. Brave Rinku collected himself, joined a blind school and graduated from Delhi University.

In 2008-2009, he lost his parents and was abandoned by his own brother. He was totally dejected, hopeless and was beginning to resign from life, when in 2010 he arrived at Sarothak. Sarothak extended its wide and long arms to support him. Rinku was trained in a new fashion to go through everyday performance.

At Sarothak, he was constantly supported to transform his older ways into new beautiful ways that would get very well with the world around him. He got trained to hone his skills and acquire new ones to become employable. In the process, Sarothak ensured that Rinku developed his language and his confidence to be feel motivated to achieve what is destined for him.

Rinku eventually got recruited to Max hospital and lives a very normal seamless life. He has learnt to not let disability hamper his idea of a happy life. Sarothak has shouldered the pain and responsibilities of disabled people like Rinku and helped them feel included in the society again. Sarothak has pioneered some of the best steps taken to ensure inclusivity of the persons with disability and it always promises to stay alongside those who arrive at their doorstep in distress.

Rinku's message for the persons with Disability

"I as an individual would like to urge everyone who feel disadvantaged due to their disability, to take help from Sarothak Educational Trust and give their dreams an upsurge."



Rashid

Rashid is Sarothak's 10-year-old alumni. He hails from Sangam Vihar, New Delhi. He had a traumatic childhood. Apart from the trauma of the mishap, the surgical treatments that Rashid had to go through were also quite life threatening. After sometime, orientation and mobility became critical areas of concern for him as it was essential for him to learn to move as independently as possible.

He studied in NAB and met multi-talented people from all walks of life. It was then that he came to know about Sarothak, in the very initial days of his battle with disability, and decided to approach Sarothak to seek help regarding his employment opportunities. Since Sarothak believes in the all-round development and empowerment of individuals with disabilities, they took Rashid under their wings and trained him day and after to fit various job profiles and also go through the hurdles of everyday life easily. Mr. Jitender, along with other trainers at Sarothak, never left his side and assisted him through his journey of unlearning and relearning the ways of life and become independent by all means.

After his training at Sarthak, he got recruited to Speed Infotech, which was an ultimate sign of growth, development and a bright future. Currently, Mr. Rashid works in Punjab National Bank, Okhla, New Delhi and leads a healthy and happy life. He continuously credits Sarthak and their efforts in helping him embrace himself and live a life of social, physical and mental dignity. Not only is Rashid now capable of providing his livelihood and doing everyday chores, he has also found unprecedented joy in learning new things around him. At Sarthak he found and sharpened the perfect tools required to express, emote and describe a myriad of emotions he lives every day to get by a life of such hardships.

Rashid's message to the persons with disability

"Education is the most important tool in life. It has made me feel empowered at all points of life. Sarthak made me realise the importance of education and gave me wings to fulfil, what I envisioned for myself."



Rajat

Rajat, visually impaired alumni hails from Karnal, Haryana. By the time he was 6 months old, he had to go through two major eye operations due to increasing cataract but unfortunately nothing worked for him, causing 75% disability in his eyes. This did little to quell his ambitions.

He soon calmed his nerves and transitioned to Delhi for a firm future. He completed his initial years of education from blind school, Delhi and then further went on to study from R.K Puram School, following which he also completed his bachelors from Open School in Delhi University.

He often asked of what matters the most to him, the answers he got were empowering and sometimes deliberating but he never lost his zest to make it big. Although, this is not a highly unusual scenario, but what sets Rajat apart from others is the vision he carries inside.

One encounter with Sarthak Educational Trust enthused Rajat with the motivation and vigour he needed to start something new with a completely different perspective. He met Dr. Jitender Aggarwal, Founder, CEO of Sarthak Educational Trust who paved his path. With proper guidance and mentorship of Sarthak trainers and Dr. Jitender himself, he completed the Medical Transcription Course and got placed in a small company called Vanigar Technology with a remuneration of INR 6K per month.

He never judged a book by its cover and did every task with utmost sincerity. With years, he developed a skill set, honed his capabilities and built a persona that got him placed as an office assistant in Patel Chest with a CTC of INR 40K.

Rajat's message to persons with disability

"No job is small or big, one must have a lens to grab opportunities and make the most of it. Life is not easy with disability but with perseverance everything is possible. Don't be afraid to take help and make connections because the world is full of hope. I truly believe that Sarthak Educational Trust has been lucky for me and I owe a big part of my life to it."



Gufran

Life is seldom fair and has its share of ups and downs. But then again, life is also what you make of it. You can choose the lens you want to look at life through, and sometimes even the most helpless of situations appear cheerful if you happen to look at it that way. This is what Gufran, Sarthak's decade old alumni truly believes in. Gufran, hails from Kolkata and has 100% disability in eyes.

He had a smooth schooling from National Association for the Blind in Delhi and further went on to study Bachelors from Indira Gandhi National University. He made great friends and learnt to be independent from them. He didn't have a lot of money, but was keen to develop a detailed lens of the world around him. In 2009, his lucky encounter with Sarthak changed his life and made him believe in himself. The Medical Transcription Course at Sarthak boosted his confidence and helped him get placed in Intel Soft tech. The trainers at Sarthak recognised his potentials and polished his skill set to make him financially and emotionally independent.

As years passed by, Gufran learnt the difficult ways of life and got a job in State Bank of India as an Assistant Manager with the CTC of INR 40K. When we interviewed Gufran about his struggles, he said that *"as long as I have dreams inside, everything is good to go"*

Gufran's Message to Persons with Disability

"Sarthak has been a small family to me that has truly been special. It has taught me that life is beautiful, if you want it to be, keep brushing up your skills and keep yourself motivated to take up any challenge that comes your way."



Sachin

Sachin is an orthopedic alumnus from Sarthak Educational Trust who hails from Delhi. His parents reached out to provide him with the best education possible. Although he has always been a bright and enthusiastic but his disability barred him into exploring more around him. He with the help of family and friends completed his bachelors from School of Open learning and further did masters in Hindi from Rajdhani college.

His encounter with Sarthak was after his visit to Vikaspuri Aasra in 2010. After then he enrolled himself in the training program. Sachin received training in all the developmental areas like motor skills, communication, orientation & mobility, activities of daily living etc and has come a long way leaving behind the traumatic experiences of early childhood.

His journey has been very transformational. He is currently working in BSES as a Computer Operator, drawing a salary of INR 36,000. He extends his deepest regards for Sarthak.

Sachin's message to the persons with disability

"Once you can accept and understand your situation, then you can begin to make changes, seek help and look forward to the future. An important step to start to accept your disability is to talk to someone who will listen to you. For me, that 'someone' was Sarthak. Sarthak has given me a new lens and I consider myself lucky enough to have crossed paths with Sarthak."