

Sarthak Educational Trust

Sarthak Advocacy Program - Awareness initiatives for persons with Disability

(Progress report – February 2021)



The primary focus of Sarthak's awareness & advocacy initiative is to create opportunities for a life of equality and dignity for Persons with Disability and their families through holistic approach by providing Medical Rehabilitation, Inclusive Education, Skill Development Training & Sustainable Employment and Advocacy to those in need.

Advocacy for Sarthak means to take action to create change. Advocacy has been described as "speaking truth to power". The perennial struggle of the rights of people with disability, including the right to have access to public resources, right to education, right to be employed, and other community support services necessary to support living an independent, unsegregated life is advocated through advocacy programs of Sarthak. **Sarthak Educational Trust takes pride in mentioning that more than 200+ corporate houses have been sensitized and converted into the prospective hiring partners of persons with disability.**

What Does Sarthak advocate?

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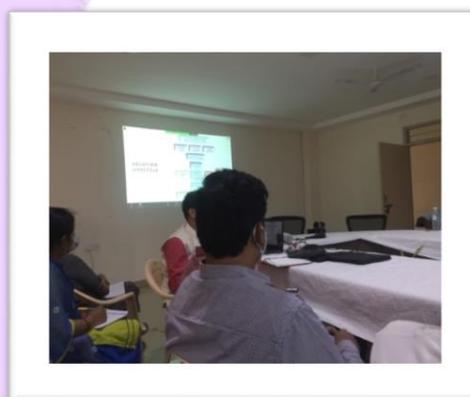
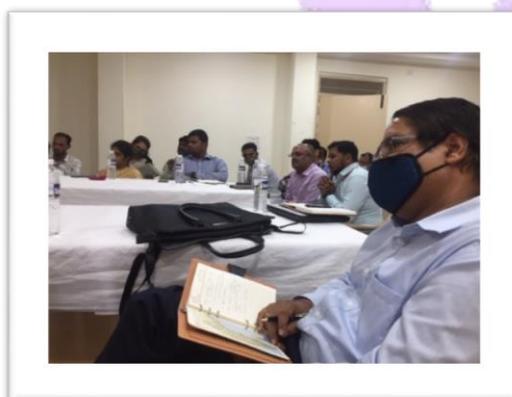
Glimpses of Advocacy Events - February 2021

Levels of Advocacy at Sarthak

- **With Government** - As an outcome of advocacy with center and state government of India, Sarthak advocacy events came with varied thought leadership over various areas of action for PwDs, namely, National Action Plan Accessibility India Campaign, Sector Skill Council for Persons with Disabilities, and passing of the Rights of Persons with Disability Act, 2016 was the positive outcome.

Glimpses of Sarthak's interaction with Telangana Government

Telangana government recently reached out to Sarthak on **19th Feb 21** for special employment program for persons with disability. They also appreciated the **Capsarathi app** which is an app built by a joint initiative of **Capgemini** and Sarthak. This enables people to gather all the information from one platform.



Sarthak with Telangana government

Sarthak had a meeting with the census body on **19th Feb 21**– for best practices. The session topics involved of how different tools can be enhanced in order to make the best sustainable and inclusive policies for the persons with disability.

- **With Corporate** –We envision a society of humankind to be stronger. This is also done where we involve the corporate stakeholders, study job profiles with person with

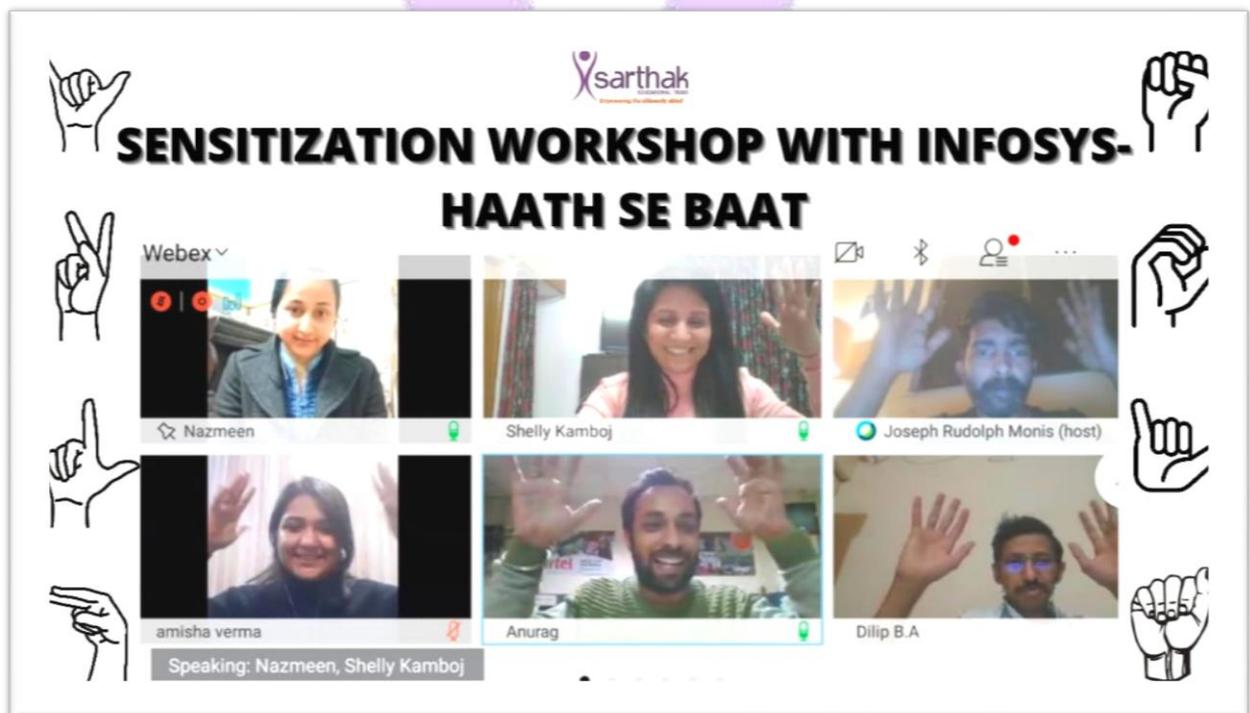
disabilities with the mutual consent of the human resource manager. Not only this, a basic orientation session is conducted for the non –disabled employees of the organization to acquaint them with the basic know – how to deal with the persons with disabilities, for instance, sign language sessions, basic infra support for accessibility at workplace etc.

Sensitization Workshops

Sensitization for them becomes an important agenda in inclusive hiring initiatives. Once they are sensitized and understand the value proposition with the PwD, it leads to successful inclusion and long-term benefits to them producing diverse and strong teams.

With this approach Sarthak had an opportunity to present sensitization workshops **“Haath se baat”** on 10thFebruary 2021 with 60 **Infosys** employees and with **Reliance Retail** on 11thFebruary, which made people come closer to understanding disability.

We express our immense gratitude to team Infosys and Reliance for giving Sarthak this opportunity.



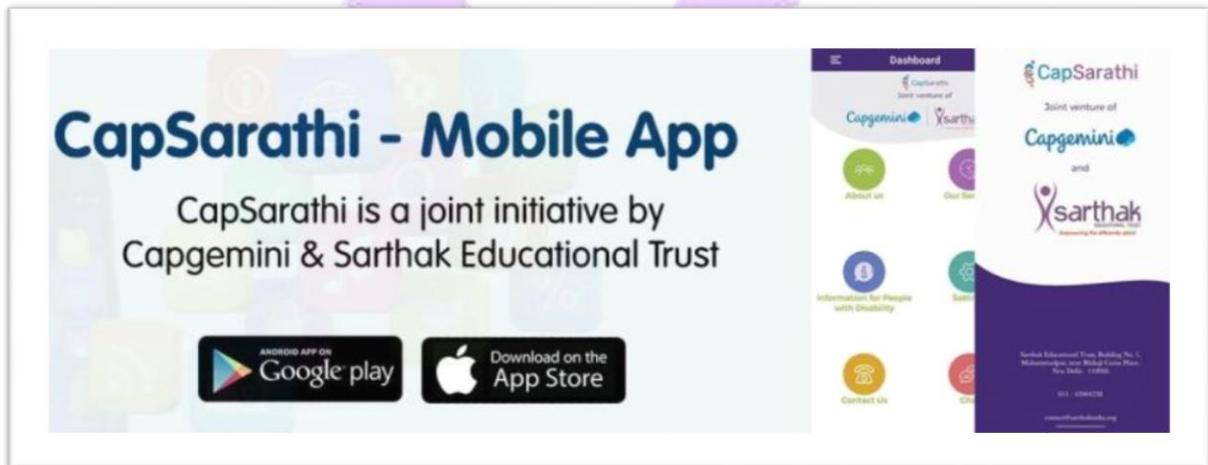
Sarthak sensitization workshop, “Haath se Baat “



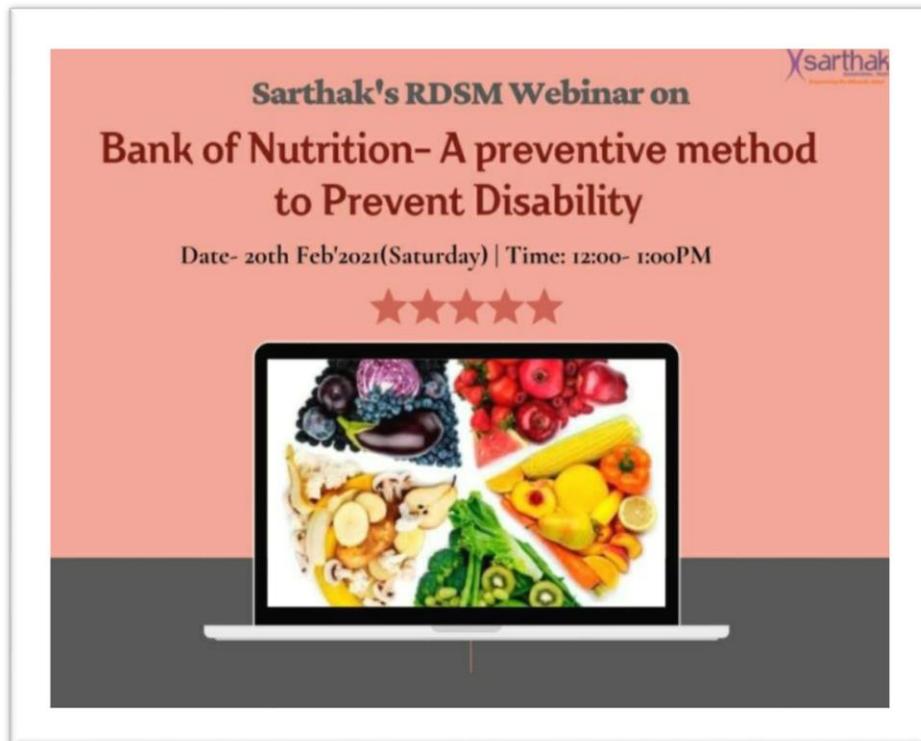
Sarthak with Reliance Retail

- **With RDSM**– NGO capacity growth is an essential tool to share mutual benefits to share resources. This helps in building an ecosystem of stronger humankind where all people irrespective of the abilities, flourish.

RDSM online session on the topic for the session was “Introduction to CapSarathi (Mobile app). This app is a platform for the PwDs where they can access all the disability related information.



Sarthak works in all sections, one of them is NGO capacity growth, which also aims at spreading awareness and sharing mutual benefits. **Sarthak Conducted a Webinar on 20th feb, 21 on the “Preventive methods of Disability”.**



- **With Media-** Media is an important instrument in raising awareness and countering stigma. Sarthak during advocacy events ensures the disability awareness is spread to large masses at once.

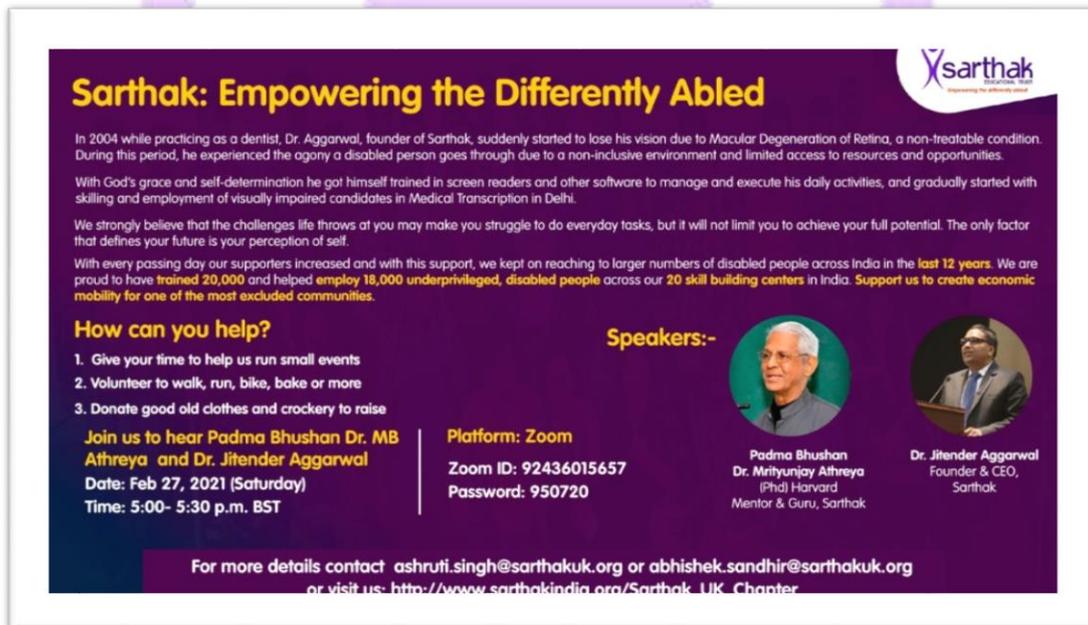
February highlights for Media - Sarthak will soon come up with ranking of disabled friendly cities in India - enabling mobility, safety and access.



“Combination of extreme physical deformity and intellectual steadiness throws a very clear message that physical structure may cause challenges, may make you struggle for day-to-day tasks, but it has nothing to do with defining your potential. The only factor that defines one’s potential is his/her perception of self.” - Dr. Jitender Aggarwal, CEO, Sarthak

Introducing Sarthak – UK Chapter

Let’s together empower persons with disability



Sarthak: Empowering the Differently Abled

In 2004 while practicing as a dentist, Dr. Aggarwal, founder of Sarthak, suddenly started to lose his vision due to Macular Degeneration of Retina, a non-treatable condition. During this period, he experienced the agony a disabled person goes through due to a non-inclusive environment and limited access to resources and opportunities.

With God’s grace and self-determination he got himself trained in screen readers and other software to manage and execute his daily activities, and gradually started with skilling and employment of visually impaired candidates in Medical Transcription in Delhi.

We strongly believe that the challenges life throws at you may make you struggle to do everyday tasks, but it will not limit you to achieve your full potential. The only factor that defines your future is your perception of self.

With every passing day our supporters increased and with this support, we kept on reaching to larger numbers of disabled people across India in the **last 12 years**. We are proud to have **trained 20,000** and helped **employ 18,000 underprivileged, disabled people** across our **20 skill building centers** in India. **Support us to create economic mobility for one of the most excluded communities.**

How can you help?

1. Give your time to help us run small events
2. Volunteer to walk, run, bike, bake or more
3. Donate good old clothes and crockery to raise

Join us to hear **Padma Bhushan Dr. MB Athreya and Dr. Jitender Aggarwal**
Date: Feb 27, 2021 (Saturday)
Time: 5:00- 5:30 p.m. BST

Platform: Zoom
Zoom ID: 92436015657
Password: 950720

Speakers:-



Padma Bhushan
Dr. Mritunjay Athreya
(PhD) Harvard
Mentor & Guru, Sarthak



Dr. Jitender Aggarwal
Founder & CEO,
Sarthak

For more details contact ashruti.singh@sarthakuk.org or abhishek.sandhir@sarthakuk.org
or visit us: http://www.sarthakindia.org/Sarthak_UK_Chapter

Introduction to Sarthak ke Sarathi

Shahdab – Sarthak Delhi Center

He was born in Farrukhabad, Uttar Pradesh. He is an **OH candidate**. He has been on creches since he was 7 years old. He completed his schooling and graduation from his hometown and transitioned to Delhi for a firm future. He came in contact with Sarthak in 2010 for employability. Other than the **vocational training, Sarthak also helped him boost his moral confidence**. Sarthak’s mock interview rounds proved to be beneficial, as it prepared him for proper professional paradigm.

In 2013, Shahdab got recruited in **IBM as a Senior Practitioner**, in the finance department. He identifies the struggles that comes along disability but embraces it and urges others also to do the same.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v08igDZ1040>

Asif Aalam – Sarthak Delhi Center

Asif was born in a small village in Bihar. He is an **OH Candidate**. His parents have reached out to provide him the best education. Never in life has his father compromised his education. Even after completing his education from a reputed engineering college the job prospects were reduced to nil because of his disability and the stereotypes revolving around the same. During his struggle days he **reached out to Sarthak** for training and employability.

Sarthak helped him with **solution solving, communications and honed his computer skills**. He worked in rhythm with Sarthak and secured a position in **Global logic as a Senior Analyst** and envisions a society where persons with disability are enthused with vigor to do great things in life.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mfDF7WCZ-eo>

Vijay Sharma – Sarthak Ghaziabad Center

People with disabilities are much more likely to experience material hardships such as food insecurity, inability to pay rent, mortgage and utilities or not being able to get needed medical care than people with disabilities at the same income levels. The intersection of disability and poverty is too rarely discussed. Poverty with disability has been the two major challenges for Vijay Sharma who hails from Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh and has **44% locomotive disability**. With utmost difficulty, Vijay completed his 12th and transitioned to Delhi for his health treatments and with most income gone in treatment, he then realized how important it is to work and be financially independent. He soon came to know about Sarthak and was affirmative to join the **3-month free of cost training program**.

The **target specific training at Sarthak** gave a comprehensive lens to Vijay. He together with Sarthak trainers honed his communication, computer and English skills. After the successful completion of his course, **Sarthak Educational Trust** helped him get recruited in the biggest retail company named, **Marks and Spencer as a Store Operator**. He truly believes that people are not physically disabled as long as they are determined to take big leaps.

Vijay urges for people with disability that one should face challenges and not run away from that. Sarthak for him was a platform that made him embrace his disability.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SoHLzCvrvik>

Jyoti Singh – Sarthak Lucknow Center

Ms. Jyoti Singh is an **OH candidate**. Life with disability has been extremely challenging for her. Having completed her 10th standard, her parents got her married. She wasn't able to comprehend her life and its values, as paralysis in both legs restricted her mobility and orientation. Jyoti was determined to study more as education helped her transport from one part to the other.

It was her encounter with Sarthak that she was able to recollect her skills. With Sarthak's trainers, Jyoti even fastened her typing skills and overcame all her inhibitions. **Sarthak's 3 month free of cost training program** helped her get recruited in **108 call center as a call operator**, where she helps people who need assistance.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xmwjrm6Bhfw>

Bhagyashree Raskar – Sarthak Pune Center

In 2017, Bhagyashree's friend gave her **Sarthak's contact**. Although, she was educated, she required better English, communication skills and a confident approach to prove her mettle. The motivating work environment, supportive team and opportunity to grow, made her feel at the top of the world.

Bhagyashree feels happy, proud and excited working at **IFCO, Kisan Sanchar Limited as a coordinator** after successfully completing her training from **Sarthak Educational Trust**. She is an OH candidate. For her strength does not come from physical capacity, but from an indomitable will. Born in a middle-class family from Ahmednagar, Maharashtra, Bhagyashree received a lot of love from her parents but was often a victim of societal isolation but Sarthak enthused her with motivation to do great things in life. She explored possible ways to live a normal life.

[youtube.com/watch?v=nFic2RDE-No](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nFic2RDE-No)

Nagraju – Sarthak Vishakhapatnam Center

Its rightly said, if you can dream it, you can achieve it. Born and brought up in a poor family, Nagraju transitioned to Hyderabad to help his family financially. Little did he know that the train accident on the way back home after 2 years would change his life. In 2010, Nagraju lost his legs and right hand in a train accident. He was declared dead by the doctors in the village but with God's grace, Nagraju regained consciousness and was brought to life. It was a life-threatening period from 2010-2015 for him as he was bed ridden. After years of struggle and emotional turmoil, Nagraju went on to pursue his education.

He was facing isolation from the society because of his disability, until he met Sarthak. With the help of **Sarthak's 3 month free of cost training program**, Nagraju learnt the **basic principles of communication, correct usage of English and computers**. It became a silver lining for Nagraju as he regained confidence in self. Nagraju is currently working in **Millennium solutions as a Mobilizer** and also gives motivational speeches to the underprivileged. He extends his gratitude to Sarthak for giving him such a life changing opportunity and that now he is providing able people with job opportunities.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FbfqgoDGghA>

CALL FOR ACTION

For people with disabilities, the ability to advocate for oneself is essential. For disabled people, advocacy is also an effective way to make changes in systems, policies and procedures that affect their daily lives. So, we at Sarthak try our best to advocate their rights and disseminate into the society.

For more information, reach out to Sarthak Advocacy Team

ceo@sarthakindia.org

011-42004238

Link for Donation - [sarthakindia.org/donation.php](https://www.sarthakindia.org/donation.php)

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