

Awareness Conclave on Assistive Technology

Samarthanam Trust's Assistive Technology Accelerator (ATA) Labs is organizing an 3rd awareness conclave on **21st February 2025** at Samarthanam Art Centre, HSR, Bangalore to spotlight the transformative potential of assistive technology (AT) in empowering individuals with disabilities focusing on user centric design with 360-degree holistic approach. The event will bring together experts, researchers, policymakers, industry leaders, and persons with disabilities to exchange knowledge on the latest advancements, challenges, and opportunities in the field of AT.

Objectives:

- **Technology:** "Empowering individuals through accessible and inclusive technology."
- **Innovation:** "Driving ground-breaking solutions that bridge the gap between disability and digital participation."
- **Advocacy:** "Championing equitable access to assistive technology for all."
- **Disability Specific Intervention** (esp. Invisible Disabilities): "Unveiling barriers and fostering independence for individuals with hidden disabilities."

Proposed Agenda

First Half (10 to 1 PM) For All Participants

1. **Main Event:** Panel Discussions on Technology and Innovation, Advocacy and Policy, Disability-Specific Interventions, along with discussions on emerging trends and future directions.
 - Panel 1: Responsible AI for Accessibility & Inclusion
 - Panel 2: Policy & Advocacy
2. **Side Event:**
 - AT Exhibition by AT start-ups, Product Showcase and Demos & Live Demonstration of assistive technology products and services

Second Half (Time 2 to 4 PM)

Main & Side Event: Break Out Sessions by AT Ecosystem Stake holders such as Start-up Enablers & Start-ups & parallel breakout sessions by Special Schools, Universities & NGOs & General Participants attend the AT Exhibition/Cultural Event.

- Breakout Session 1: Start Enablers & Start up round table, Pitch Deck Session & Launch of the Start-up ATA Ecosystem portal. **(Invite Only)**
- Breakout Session 2: Special Schools & NGOs Session **(Invite Only)**
- Breakout Session 3: AT Exhibition & Cultural Event in Auditorium (For All)

Breaks & Networking Sessions (Tea Break 11:30 to 11:45 PM & 4:00 to 4:15 PM, LUNCH Break 1 to 2:00 PM)

Conclusion & Closing Ceremony (Time 4:15 - 5 PM)

For All participants in Auditorium

Expected Outcomes:

- Increased awareness of AT among the general public, policymakers, and disability rights activists
- Fostered collaborations between stakeholders to drive innovation and accessibility
- Influenced policies and programs to promote AT adoption
- Encourage Disability Specific Interventions especially on invisible disabilities.

Target Audience:

- Persons with disabilities
- Caregivers and family members
- Disability rights activists, professionals
- Government officials and policymakers
- Researchers and academicians
- Industry leaders and entrepreneurs
- Educators from Special Schools & Academic Institutions
- AT Start Ups & Social Venture Capitalists

By bringing together diverse stakeholders, this conclave aims to create a platform for knowledge sharing, networking, and advocacy, ultimately contributing to a more inclusive and accessible society.