

SAMHITA

A SAMARTHANAM PUBLICATION



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Founder Managing Trustee

Mahantesh GK

honored with

CavinKare Ability award for Eminence



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5th ODI World Cup

Indian Blind Cricket team bring home the winning trophy!



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conclave



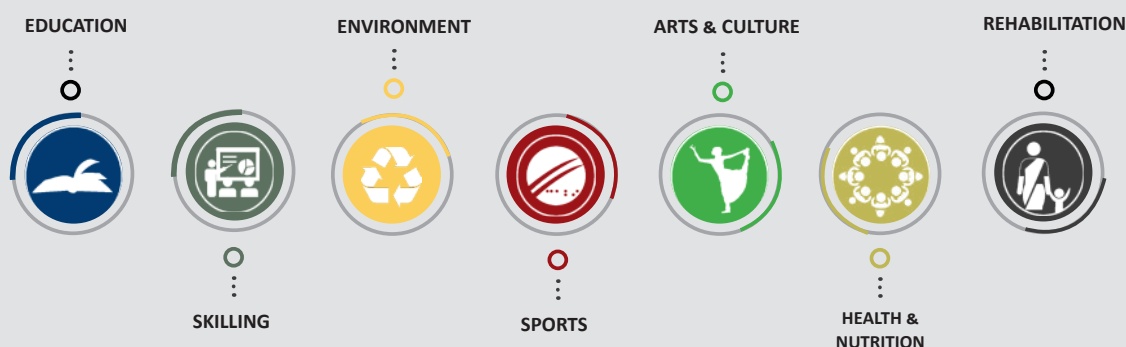
Samarthanam at a glance

Samarthanam Trust for the Disabled, founded in 1997, is an NGO working towards facilitating opportunities to enable persons with disabilities and the underserved to keep pace with the rest of the society by providing quality education, accommodation, nutritious food, vocational training and placement based rehabilitation. It was established by Founder Managing Trustee Mahantesh G Kivadasannavar along with his schoolmate and childhood friend, Late. Nagesh SP.

The organization is affiliated to the World Blind Union and Rehabilitation International. Acknowledging the efforts, National Award for Child Welfare (2010) by Ministry of Women & Child Development, Government of India and National Award for Child Welfare (2014) in the institution category were awarded.

Samarthanam also received the National Award for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities 2017.

Samarthanam envisions to touch 100,000 lives by the year 2020



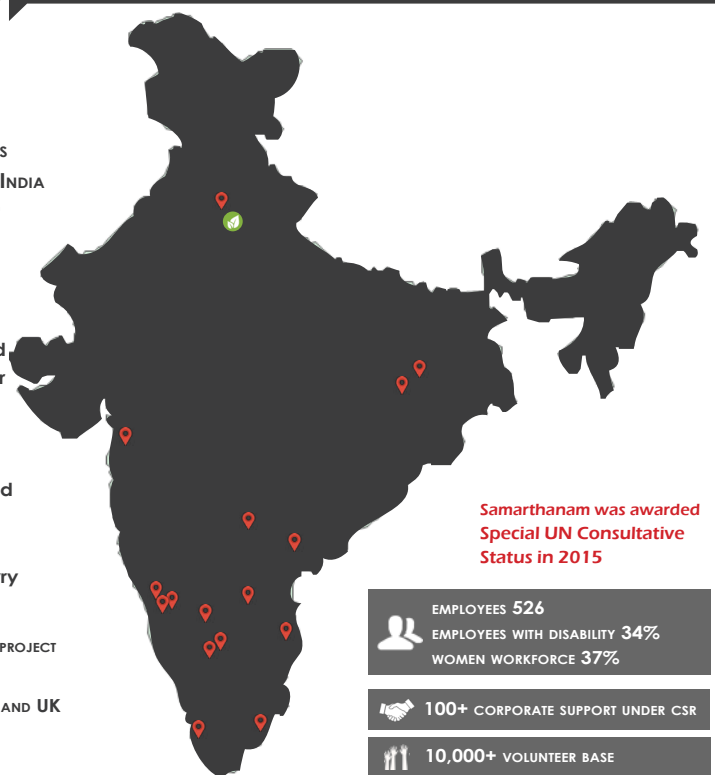
Vision

An inclusive society free from discrimination where persons with disabilities become contributing members, living with dignity and respect.

Mission

To empower visually impaired, disabled and underprivileged people through developmental initiatives focusing on educational, social, economic, cultural and technological aspects.

Samarthanam's Reach



- EDUCATION**
11000 kids educated since inception
- LIVELIHOOD RESOURCE CENTRE**
9550 trained | 7100 placed
- SUNADHA**
100 artists | 3000 performances | 3 continents
- SPORTS**
touched >25000 visually impaired cricketers
- PARISARA**
2.4 lakh tonnes dry waste processed
- WOW**
300000 households covered
- REHABILITATION**
2567 women empowered since inception

ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT IN GURGAON
OFFICES IN USA AND UK

From the FOUNDER's desk

Mahantesh G Kivadasannavar
Founder Managing Trustee



Another glorious year passes by bringing in new opportunities to grow and transcend newer horizons. The new quarter marks the end of a very productive and eventful year alongside the closing of the fiscal year 2017-18. To begin on a cheery note, it gives me immense pleasure and fills me with a sense of pride to announce team India's victory in Cricket World Cup for the Blind this year where we beat the hosting team Pakistan at the renowned Sharjah Cricket Stadium, UAE. It was an experience of a lifetime on international grounds for the cricketers and me to be a part of the victory celebrations of team India as the President of CABI & WBC. The preparations for the World Cup were full-fledged leaving no stone unturned accentuating the skills of the team right from yoga to special coaching by some of the cricketing legends like Former Wicket Keeper and Batsman, Shri. Syed Kirmani and former Indian cricketer, Shri. Ajay Jadeja.

Post the victory, the team was showered with felicitations and recognition by the eminent leaders of our county right from our Hon Prime Minister, Shri. Narendra Modi, to the Hon President and Vice President of India, Shri. Ram Nath Kovind, and Shri. Venkaiah Naidu respectively. Some of the very prominent names in the field of E-commerce like Cleartrip and the renowned VRL media groups honored the players by hosting prestigious conclaves which left us with an overwhelming feeling of satisfaction garnered by achievements in the field of sports for the blind.

The 21st year of Samarthanam's anniversary was celebrated with gusto where the beneficiaries, faculties, well-wishers, and the staff of the organization exuded enthusiasm and joy, uplifting the morals and spirits which ended on a happy note with the prize distribution recognizing the winners of our annual sports meet 2018 for both staff and the students.

The new quarter brings new beginnings marked by the onset of construction of our Dharward office in full swing. Another emotional and bittersweet moment is the demolition of our very first office at JP Nagar, where the reconstruction has begun to cherish the old memories and to begin the new ones. With the emphasis on health and fitness, of not only our beneficiaries but also that of our staff, Samarthanam teamed-up with Infinera and inaugurated the NGO's very first full-fledged gymnasium and fitness room which is now open for all of its fraternity. The new year can be described as energizing and eventful marked by over two decades of memories both good and otherwise which has solidified the foundation of the organization with the ideologies of empowering the disabled, and the underprivileged.

Here's thanking all our sponsors and CSR supporters. Personally, the past year and this quarter have been a hectic and eventful year so far with many international travels and explorations (5th ODI Cricket for the Blind World Cup 2018) which was not only enlightening but also being resolute for the betterment of our multifaceted nonprofit and its numerous causes. Also the visits to different parts of the country for various corporate events and gatherings where it fills me with honor for being invited as the chief guest, keynote speaker, guest speaker, and lecturer where we made use of the opportunities to introduce our organization which lead to successful discussions for establishing the synergies by bridging our name with some of the prominent and big names in various industries.

Hopefully, the successes of the quarter will trail in the months and years to come as the precursors of newer ventures and opportunities for the further growth and development of the foundation.

Mahantesh GK
Founder Managing Trustee

SAMARTHANAM

News Corner

Mahantesh GK honored with CavinKare Ability Award

Mahantesh GK, Founder Managing Trustee of Samarthanam, has been honored with the CavinKare Ability Award for Eminence 2018 at an event held in Chennai.



CavinKare Ability Awards were jointly instituted by the Ability Foundation and Cavin Kare Pvt Ltd, in 2003 to honor achievers with disabilities who have soared beyond conventional barriers to realize their chosen dreams. They are national level awards recognizing the exemplary services as well as the accomplishments of the achievers.

CavinKare Ability Award for Eminence is given to one person with disability, who has demonstrated a commitment to people beyond personal triumphs. The Award comes in as an honor to Mahantesh who has devoted his life to serve people with disabilities through Samarthanam.

Samarthanam organizes Walkathon in Lucknow and Hubballi

With an objective to spread awareness on environment conservation Samarthanam organized a Walkathon in Lucknow with the theme, "Green Mission Clear Vision." The walk helped in bringing together people who wish to see a green change for the betterment of the environment. Lucknow Walkathon 2018 was to spread awareness on the importance of the environment conservation and make each person realize the significance of a healthier environment. Over 700 people that included corporate employees, NGOs, young and old, students, and the differently abled showed their support for the green change by joining the walk. The initiative was appreciated by Swati Singh, Minister of State of Women Welfare, Family Welfare, Maternity and Child Welfare, Government of Uttar Pradesh and Priyanka Raina, wife of Suresh Raina, Indian Cricketer, who were a part of the event. Samarthanam also announced its presence in Lucknow at the Walkathon.

Alongside, Samarthanam organized Hubballi Walkathon with the theme "Walk for the Employment of Persons with Disabilities" was to convey that people with disabilities poses equal capabilities as others to be a part of the workforce. Many corporate, NGOs, organizations and people have joined hands for the event to spread across the message on inclusivity and the need to embrace it. The event witnessed more than 1500 people from various verticals including 500 PWDs.



Lucknow Walkathon



Hubballi Walkathon

Recreating history! Defending champions, India blind cricket team bring home the 5th ODI World Cup 2018

It was a moment filled with pride and honor. Indian Blind Cricket team has won the 5th ODI World Cup Blind Cricket Championship 2018 held in Dubai and Pakistan from 7 to 20 January 2018. India remained unbeaten throughout the tournament and achieved victory in the final match against Pakistan, chasing 307 in 40 overs. It was an exciting game and the Indian team poured in their complete efforts to gain victory. The success was celebrated by the entire nation with appreciation received from Hon President, Hon Prime Minister and other eminent personalities.

As the entire team made the country proud by winning the World Cup, the support received from people, the cheering crowd, and the sponsors is noteworthy. The team had worked hard and displayed excellent performance to make the country proud. The support extended by public, sponsors, supporters, and partners was an imperative element.



Hon President Shri Ram Nath Kovind



Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh



Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment
Shri Thaawar Chand Gehlot



Hon Vice President Shri Venkaiah Naidu



Ministry of Women Welfare, Family Welfare,
Maternity and Child Welfare (UP) Smt Swati Singh

Societe Generale leadership team visits Samarthanam Schools

Societe Generale Global Solution Centre (SG GSC), a 100% owned subsidiary of European banking major Societe Generale (SG), partnered with Samarthanam Trust for the Disabled supporting its skilling-wing in Chennai. The objective of the synergy was to train 100 women with disabilities and also those from the underserved or underprivileged backgrounds.

The Senior leadership team comprising of Sylvie Prea, Director of CSR, SG, Etienne Demoulin, Chief Operating Officer, SG GSC, Jasmin Ignatius, Head- Corporate Communication, SG GSC, Delphine Leconte, Impact Sourcing, SG, and Sowmya Suryanarayanan, Head - CSR, SG GSC along with other delegates recently visited Samarthanam, Bangalore where they interacted with the children studying in Samarthanam's Inclusive schools and a special school for children with intellectual disabilities.

The team also volunteered at Samarthanam's digital library, where they lent their voices to audiobooks to aid the visually impaired students as not many high school textbooks are available in Braille. This visit gave them an understanding of our organization and the challenges involved in providing education and job opportunities to the persons with disabilities. Samarthanam is very proud to partner with Societe Generale GSC under the CSR initiative.



On a special note, Samarthanam was glad to be a part of the Societe Generale CSR Conclave- themed #SparkSocialChange organized by Societe Generale Global Solution Center (SG GSC).

Allergan West Zone School Cricket Tournament

Allergan West Zone School level Cricket Tournament for Visually Impaired was organized at Barkatulah Cricket Ground –Bhopal by Cricket Association for the visually Impaired, Madhya Pradesh in association with CABI- Cricket Association for the Blind, India and sponsored by Allergan, Bal Samrakshan Ayog –Madhya Pradesh. The Tournament was inaugurated by Dr. Raghavendra Sharma, Chairman- Bal Samrakshan Ayog-MP, R.S.Thakur –Sr Manager-Indian Overseas Bank-Bhopal, Madhumitha Naqui- Social Worker, Sri Paras Chand Jain, Energy Minister –MP Government, Narayan Tripathi-MLA- Maihar.

Six teams from Madhya Pradesh, three teams from Rajasthan, one team from Chhattisgarh, one team from Maha-rashtra participated in the tournament.

CABI lays the stage for IndusInd Bank Blind cricket conclave

Cricket Association for the Blind in India (CABI) and Samarthanam Trust for the Disabled in association with IndusInd Bank organized Blind Cricket Conclave at New Delhi to recall the blind cricket achievements, success stories and discuss the future of blind cricket with ways to widen its reach. IndusInd Blind Cricket conclave had corporate, sponsors, aspiring cricketers, Government bodies and renowned sportspersons gathered together to witness the current scenario of blind cricket and explore collaboration opportunities.

The session started with a splendid performance by the Sunadha Group followed by lightening of the lamp. The inaugural session was graced by Ms. Swati Singh, Minister of State of Women Welfare, Family Welfare, Maternity and Child Welfare in the Uttar Pradesh (UP) government, Chetan Chauhan, former cricketer and State Minister of Sports and Skill Development in Uttar Pradesh, legendary cricketers like Syed Kirmani, Madan Lal, Bishen Singh Bedi and Ajay Jadeja. On this occasion, a Souvenir on blind Cricket was also released.

After all the successful sessions, the Conclave ended by a felicitation ceremony for the Blind Cricket Team. Sanjeev Anand, Country Head - Commercial Banking, IndusInd Bank, assured continued support of IndusInd Bank to blind cricket. The Conclave ended on a very positive and progressive note for a bright future for Blind Cricket. More than 150 representatives from various organizations participated in the interactive Conclave, including 80 cricketers from across India.



Sunadha troupe's dazzling performance on Colors TV

An epic performance by Sunadha troupe was aired on the eve of Ugadi on Colors Kannada TV in a programme named "Master Dancer."

The team performed the show's opening act whilst re-ceiving a standing ovation from the audience and the judges of the show, Chandan Shetty - composer, singer, and the winner of the Reality Show "Bigg Boss," Popular Kannada actress, Shruthi Hariharan and renowned dancer of international acclaim, Mayuri Upadhy.

Mahantesh GK, Founder Managing Trustee of Samarthanam and Vasanti Savanur, Trustee of Samarthanam were also present at the event.



CELEBRATIONS AT SAMARTHANAM

21 years and more! Samarthanam Annual Day Celebrations

Samarthanam has been the umbrella organization for many people with disabilities and poor economic background since 1997. 21 years down the road the organization continues to cater to people in need through its diversified initiatives. Celebrating 21 years of Samarthanam made each and every person on board proud to be a part of the family. As part of the anniversary, celebration on 26th February 2018 at HSR premises, Primary and ID school children presented excellent dance, skit and singing programmes with huge applause from audience while the events was graced by Mr. Akul Balaji, a popular television personality. Reminiscing the journey, words by Mahantesh GK, Founder Managing Trustee, Samarthanam added great value and motivation to the entire event.



Akul Balaji, Film actor,
at Samarthanam Anniversary celebrations



Mahantesh GK, Samarthanam Founder Managing
Trustee and other guests on stage

SAMARTHANAM Schools



Samarthanam Schools provide inclusive education to children from various backgrounds. Along with education, equal focus is laid on arts, sports and other developmental activities with huge contribution from volunteers. We believe education is the building block for every person and we make sure the foundation is strong and reliable for a well-built personality.

NEWS FROM SAMARTHANAM WORLD

Celebrations for the quarter

Celebrations do not go amiss at Samarthanam schools adding fun to their everyday study routine. Students and staff celebrated Swami Vivekananda Jayanthi, Republic Day, and Holi with lots of enthusiasm, joy and a note on the importance of the occasion. Eze Tap celebrated International Women's Day at Primary School and distributed gifts to the female staff of Primary School.



Visits and interactions

Educational tours and exposure visits by various schools, executives and corporate provide increased exposure to Samarthanam students making them confident and social. Kavery school, Singasandra, University of IOWA (USA), Datamatics, Micro Focus, DDWO, Mercedes Benz, Handicap International, Afghan Land Mine Survivors Organization, Empowered Women Self- help group and Disabled Women Social Association are some of the visitors this quarter. A visit to an old age home was also arranged by Marriot Hotel.

On the Big Screen

The ID School children took part in the film shooting "Naanu mathu Gunda," an art movie under the banner of "Poem Pictures" shot at HSR premises. Pani Ramakrishna Prasad, student of ID School was part of the movie cast.

Fitness programmes for a healthy routine

Oxford Physiotherapy/Dental College has been an indispensable part of Samarthanam organizing Physiotherapy programmes regularly, catering to the special needs of the children. Many students from Primary and ID school took part in the physiotherapy sessions which have been arranged almost three to five times a month.

Sports events adding the energy element to schools

- Samarthanam sports academy has been inaugurated on the day of "Sports Meet" which witnessed the participation of Primary and ID school children in a march past and various sports activities.
- State level Special Olympics held at YMCA saw the participation of children from ID school in games such as Running race, Shotput, Softball throw, Kabaddi and Volleyball in higher ability and lower ability categories.
- The 3rd edition of TISB Swimathon conducted various events at the International School, NAFL Valley where ID School children took part in the cycling race.
- ID School children participated in the sports meet organized by Special Olympics Bharath, a National Sports Federation designated by the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports.



Samarthanam Sports Meet

Training and Workshop for teachers

- Dhananjay and Aruna.S.K., the staff of ID School attended the Community Coaches Training for Special Educators at Ambedkar Samudaya Bhavan.
- Karabasappa and K. Beerappa attended a workshop on "Sensory Processing Challenges – An Informal Assessment and Management" conducted by Fame India.

Volunteering Activities at Samarthanam Schools

Volunteering is an essential element in Samarthanam schools and we are greatly pleased with the volunteer's interest, enthusiasm, and energy involved in teaching and engaging the kids through various activities organized often.

- Children with disabilities from Primary and ID School participated in the Kite Flight Program organized by Rotaract Club of PES University
- Target Company organized Interschool Sports Meet where students from 12 schools had taken part. Children from Samarthanam Primary School also had participated and won many prizes.
- ID School children participated in a dance competition organized by Sri Paripoorna Charitable Trust
- Volunteers from Xchange Leasing and Bhoomi NGO distributed gifts to Primary and ID School children
- Experts from ANZ, HGS, KRYPT India and volunteers from Micro Focus conducted educational activities for Primary School children.



- Volunteers from "Make a Difference" organized Dream Camp for girls and boys on separate dates.
- Interns from Christ University conducted cultural activities with ID School children
- Experts from GKN Aerospace organized a session on personal hygiene and adolescent issues attended by Primary School children
- NET-APP conducted drawing competitions for Primary School children and distributed prizes
- Volunteers from Sutherland conducted English classes as a part of their CSR activity.
- Officials from AMBA conducted an awareness program for the parents and evaluated the performance of the students.
- Uber visited the Primary School, interacted with the kids and distributed goodies to them.
- Micro Focus visited all the programmes of Samarthanam, appreciating the efforts. They had a brief activity with the Primary school childrens



Uber visits Primary School



Micro Focus activity at Primary School

Higher Education

Samarthanam higher education programme offers complete support to students who wish to pursue higher education at any level. Apart from study support, recreation is also given equal importance motivating the students at large. This quarter, a two-day educational tour was organized for Bangalore Higher Education students, abled and differently abled, covering few historical places in Shimoga and Udupi Districts of Karnataka. The tour brought home the basics of theatre, literature, music and visual arts which were distinctly appreciated by the students. Alongside, a one-day educational trip to Sandur and Hampi was organized for Ballari Higher Education students.

Samarthanam was filled with admiration when Higher Education students from Bangalore took part in the Republic Day march-past parade and won a special prize given by the Hon Governor of Karnataka.

Educational tour



Republic Day March-past



Deeksha Vashisth is a visually impaired student whose limitation did not stop her from excelling in the field of her choice. She completed her graduation in Science from Miranda house College, Delhi University and at present pursuing Master's degree in Geophysics from the reputed educational institute, IIT Mumbai. Deeksha also holds a creative side and loves to make useful artistic articles from waste materials. She aspires to be a Scientist and Samarthanam appreciates her ambition. Deeksha received support from Samarthanam for starting her college education.

Skilling

In an effort to inspire the disabled community to come forward and to garner livelihood skills to build a better and independent life, Samarthanam skilling centres offer training and allied services. This quarter Samarthanam continued to explore new opportunities and successfully initiated training programmes supported by many corporate throughout India.

SKILLING CENTRE, BANGALORE

- Samarthanam organized a job fair at Bangalore Centre where 19 companies and several organizations interviewed around 600 candidates with disability. The companies have come forward encouraging inclusivity and offered placements to many deserving candidates.
- Graduation day was organized for the outgoing students supported by Via.com and NDLM and were greatly motivated with words of advice for their bright careers ahead.

SKILLING CENTRE, DELHI

- The fourth batch of trainees under Samarthanam Citi project were delighted that their convocation ceremony was presided over by G.K. Mahantesh, Founder Trustee, Samarthanam, John David, Secretary of CABI and the entire Indian Cricket Team for the Blind. Over 35 trainees were awarded their completion certificates at the ceremony.
- Dr Kathuria's, a multispecialty dental setup, organized a lecture on oral hygiene for the LRC students and also a dental camp for the Indian Blind Cricket Team.
- Samarthanam LRC students participated in the Sports Meet organized by Barclays Bank for its employees which served as a platform to sensitize participants, audience and fundraisers.



Dental camp by Dr Kathuria's

SKILLING CENTRE, MUMBAI

- Samarthanam Mumbai Centre arranged a one day excursion to Silent Resort with Adventure team, sponsored by the Proprietor of "Adventure."
- A cricket match for the blind was organized on Louie Braille Day led by CAB, Maharashtra with the support of Lion's Club, Mumbai.
- A voluntary activity by Fintellex as part of their Daan Utsav was conducted at Samarthanam Mumbai. Sixteen volunteers took time-out from their routine to spend some festive time with the beneficiaries.
- Mumbai LRC organised a workshop on financial literacy conducted by a team of finance executives. The students were introduced to various banking services, types of accounts, Govt saving schemes making the workshop highly informative.
- The students of Narsee Monjee College, under the aegis of their annual festival "Insight 2018" felicitated players of victorious Indian cricket for the Blind team and honored Mahantesh GK and John David for bringing laurels to the country.
- Personality Development sessions, mock interviews, hygiene and safety learning sessions, knowledge sharing and educational sessions proved to be completely beneficial to the students.
- A creativity workshop in collaboration with Leo Club volunteers taught the students Origami, a Japanese art of paper folding.



Fintellex voluntary activity



Origami workshop

NIPUNA GUNTUR - supported by Microsoft

- Nipuna Guntur hosted a BPO Session led by the Deputy Manager of Hinduja Global Solutions. As part of the session he visited Samarthanam Guntur to interact with 7th batch beneficiaries and presented a brief on the company and its presence across the globe. He also detailed on the various categories of BPO, the diverse job roles, accounting and customer/call center relations. At the end, he appreciated the services provided by Samarthanam, Guntur LRC for specially-abled candidates and underprivileged students.
- In another session addressed by the HR Manager of Big Bazaar, on "Interview Preparation and Job Opportunities at Big Bazaar" he detailed on significant attributes required for a successful interview. He discussed on the skills, abilities and experiences, being articulate, confident and positive for a good performance. The session proved to be helpful to the trainees with useful tips for their future interviews.
- An interaction with the HR Executive of Big C Mobiles Private Limited was organized to provide a brief on the various job opportunities available at Big C Mobiles in Vijayawada and Guntur. He gave an introduction on the company and the available vacancies for normal and Orthopedic and Partially Blind persons.
- Apex Solutions Private Limited visited Samarthanam Guntur LRC to illustrate the various career opportunities available at the company. The HR Manager presented a brief on the various vacancies, skill requirements and responsibilities. He also suggested beneficiaries to utilize the opportunities and build their career confidently.



ACT Volunteers



Apex Solutions visit

Livelihood Resource Centre, ANANTHAPUR - supported by Microsoft

- Samarthanam started Nipuna in 2016 with the support of Microsoft for providing training to specially-abled and under-privileged candidates. Training to improve Communication skills, Computer Skills, Soft Skills, BPO Skills & Placement Skills are provided enhancing their abilities and opportunities in the job world.
- Samarthanam LRC at Ananthapur to encourage the 7th batch beneficiaries organized a motivational class led by a visually impaired retired Principal of GRVHS College, Visakhapatnam. She interacted with the beneficiaries to share views and inspire them. Her words of motivation greatly encouraged the trainees.
- Another session by Deputy Commissioner of Labour was organized where she communicated with the beneficiaries and shared her thoughts and experiences to inspire them. Being visually impaired, she stood as an ideal example to achieve goals despite severe obstacles.
- Samarthanam organized a "Mega Job Fair" in favor of specially-abled and under-privileged candidates at Ananthapur, in association with District Employment Office and Inner Wheel Club. 35 students from JNTU MBA Campus also supported by providing their services as volunteers in order to assist disabled persons. This is the first ever Mega Job Fair for the disabled and under-privileged students in Ananthapur District where 8 companies had taken part.

- Samarthanam, Ananthapur LRC conducted Graduation Day to give out course completion certificates. Mahantesh GK, Founder Managing Trustee, Samarthanam, Anupama, CSR Department, Microsoft, and Rani, Deputy Commissioner of Labor Department participated in the ceremony. Furthermore, Anupama, visited Samarthanam Ananthapur LRC and interacted with the beneficiaries and staff to know about the progress of training and activities at LRC.
- The MRO of Chilamattur visited Samarthanam and interacted with the students to share his views and beliefs. He added loads of confidence through his words on optimism, hard work and faith.



Job Fair

Livelihood Resource Centre, HYDERABAD

- Samarthanam Hyderabad centre had taken visually impaired students on a trekking and rappelling trip organized by Adventure beyond Barriers.
- A volunteer team from Amazon had come forward to teach candidates resume building and also conducted mock interviews, making them understand its significance. In a separate session, Salesforce team also conducted group discussions and mock interview sessions along with some fun activities.
- Girl students from the centre actively participated in Pinkathon event largely raising awareness. IBM Hyderabad initiated sports for disabled employees and organized events across 3 locations in Hyderabad.
- As a part of volunteering, Tata Communications Limited in association with Samarthanam Hyderabad joined hands to plant trees at Botanical gardens followed by a volunteering activity at an old age home.



Amazon session



Activity by Salesforce



Pinkathon



Tata Communications Activity

NORTH KARNATAKA

Livelihood Resource Centre, BALLARI

- Samarthanam Ballari Centre, apart from training the students, organized medical camp in association with Ayush & Kannada Chaithanya vedike, campus drive by Vindhya E-Info Media & India Info line, special lecturing classes by CREAM and interactive sessions by volunteers for a holistic development. Graduation day was held for the outgoing batch and a new batch was welcomed, supported by Akamai technologies. A one day trip was also organized to Sundur and Hampi.

BELAGAVI CENTRE

- Samarthanam Belagavi Centre started a new batch who displayed great potential and learning aptitude.
- A bike rally was organized to welcome Basappa Waddagol, Indian Blind Cricket team player, whose performance in the recent 5th ODI World Cup was widely appreciated. Basappa was also felicitated by District Commissioner.
- A trip to historical places like Badami, Banashankari, Pattadakallu, Iholleshiviyogmandir and Mahakoot proved to be educational and revitalizing.
- The 3rd State Level Cricket Tournament for the Blind was inaugurated and successfully held at Belagavi. 12 teams from Karnataka participated in the tournament and Belagavi team lifted the winning trophy.

DHARWAD CENTRE

- Samarthanam Dharwad centre started its 10th batch with 25 students who attended screening test and counseling at the centre. 10 candidates from the outgoing batch have received placements in different companies as well. The Center was visited by MORD team, KSRLM team & NLM team along with Dharwad & Belagavi CEOs to discuss the DDUGKY project.
- A Mock Interview session was organized for DDUGKY candidates with suggestion to improve communication skills and self confidence.
- A three day on-job training session from C3 Solution was organized where the trainer visiting the centre helped the students understand the working of BPO sector.



Akamai visit



Trip to Badami



On job training

CASE STORY



Shanta Lamani is a 24-year-old graduate who hails from Karnataka. Being a physically disabled individual her struggle started quite early in life but with great determination she completed her Bachelors in Arts. She was informed about DDUGKY Training at Samarthanam Dharwad where she received training in BPO Voice, Computer, English and Soft Skills. After completion Shanta got placed at Indian Money.com making her completely independent. "Days in Channapur (Native place) and days in Dharwad are so different. The village boundaries restricted my independence and I feel that this training (DDUGKY) helped me to see the real world and fly high," says Shanta.

Environment

Parisara

Parisara is a waste management service provider set in Bangalore with focus on creating a waste free environment and constantly works on building sustainable technologies.

Parisara also works on raising awareness on the importance of waste management. In the last 3 months, materials weighing 1,71,812 kgs have been received by Parisara for processing.

Samarthanam with help of Bank of America organized a workshop on Financial Linkage at Ghata Village where more than 50 people from the ragpicker community at Ghata village participated. BOA volunteers addressed the need for savings, financial security and financial linkages. An interaction with the children of the waste pickers led to an awareness session on health and sanitation related issues.

Majority of the children in rag pickers colonies do not receive basic education and have no option but to join the waste collection work. In order to break the cycle, Samarthanam with the help of BOA volunteers started a teaching program at Sheetla Colony unit, Gurgaon. Parisara has created a space in the premises of the dry waste unit, where children can be imparted with basic education by BOA volunteers through fun learning and interactive methods. Classes are conducted thrice a week and around 30 children are being benefitted from the teaching program.



Well-being Out of Waste

"Well-being Out of Waste (WOW)" is a recycling programme executed in associated with Paperboards and Specialty Papers Business of ITC. It focuses on ensuring proper segregation, recycling of waste and create awareness on "Reduce-Reuse-Recycle". This quarter, officials from ITC along with the Program Coordinator made separate visits to the various warehouses to interact with the team and offer suggestions for improving the quality and the quantity of the material. In a meeting with PKs, the Programme Officer, WOW appreciated their continuous efforts to make the city clean and green. He also discussed the issues faced in the field and advised to encourage household waste segregation. This quarter a total of 23,27,378 kgs of dry waste has been collected.



Programme Officer meets PKs

Sports



Indian Cricket Team for the Blind training

CABI and team have been in high spirits from the day the Indian Cricket for the blind team started training until the day the winning trophy was lifted. Indian team poured in lots of hard work and dedication throughout the course. A training camp was organized for the team including fitness sessions, balanced food & nutrition, personality development sessions, meditation & Yoga, training sessions with expert cricketers, learning technicalities from cricket coaches and team building activities. A press meet was called at KSCA for briefing the media regarding the activities in the training camp.



Delhi Press Meet

Before departing to Dubai, CABI had a press meet at Delhi to brief the media regarding the preparation for the world cup and also unveiled the Indian Jersey. The press meet was also attended by Ajay Jadeja, a former cricketer who conveyed his best wishes. More than 90 various media groups have supported in promoting the onset of the world cup and later as well.



Indian Cricket for the Blind Team's Felicitation

The Union Minister for Social Justice & Empowerment, Shri Thaawarchand Gehlot felicitated the Blind Cricket World Cup winning Indian Team and presented them with a cash award of Rs.34 Lakhs at a function in New Delhi on 21st February. The Minister of State for Social Justice & Empowerment, Shri Ramdas Athawale, Secretary, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Ms. Shakuntala Gamlin and senior officers of the Ministry were among those present at the occasion.



Arts & Culture

Sunadha

Showcasing their talents and skills, the team of Sunadha has risen above the bars of expectations. An epic performance was presented at "EPIC (Encouraging Potential in Community) AWARDS" commemorating ten EPIC-inspiring individuals in the likes of Mr. Abhishek Thaware, India's first teeth archer; Mr. Dhaval Khatri who holds the record of painting 400 portraits using his amputated limbs. Sunadha's very own Lingaraju was felicitated with the "Most Inspiring Dancer for the year 2018 Award" by eminent personalities of the city.

Sunadha artists mesmerized the audience at JDA's "Crystal Ball showcase 2018" with their beautiful singing performances. The spectators were spell-bound listening to the music team perform admirably and appreciation was expressed with a standing ovation.



EPIC Awards



Crystal Ball Showcase

VOLUNTEERING at Sunadha

When inspirations make a difference it becomes legendary and one such story is that of Abhiramy who is a volunteer associated with Samarthanam's Sunadha. The synergy started when the then 5-year-old Abhiramy who was beginning to learn Bharatanatyam witnessed the Sunadha dancers perform at one of the famous Ganesha temples in New York. She says that she was so very taken with the performance that it motivated her to take up Bharatanatyam as a serious passion.

She believes that there is an overwhelming difference in the numbers of persons with visual impairment in the USA when compared to that of India where the number is very high. She feels that it is the responsibility of every individual to spread awareness and determine the root cause. She will be starting her medical schooling in August as she aspires to become an ophthalmologist to serve her country offering free service to the persons with visual impairment.

As a dancer, she appreciates the efforts of the teachers training the performing artists of Sunadha who are visually-impaired and also some of the artists who are hearing and speech impaired. Abhiramy believes that her association with Samarthanam and especially Sunadha is for life and she is more than happy to do her bit in the long run that will make a difference in the lives of many persons with disabilities.



Rehabilitation

Swadhara Gruh

A music program was organized for the beneficiaries by Vimala Hiremat and group along with the distribution of basic essentials to the women.

Meditation, Yoga, and English classes were conducted for a week by Vidhushi (volunteer) helping the beneficiaries recuperate.

A medical checkup session was held by Dr. Chandhrika for a month who offered complete guidance pertaining to their health and fitness.

Banjara Academy and Samadhana Counseling Center offered counseling sessions to beneficiaries restoring morale and instilling confidence.

Swadhara team attended the International Women's Day Celebrations organized by Women and Child Department at "Ravindra Kalakshethra."

CASE STORY

At just 22 years of age, Latha poses the sagacity of a wise woman who has lost in life but with her vibrant spirit sets examples to many to face life at its brutal best. She has made a home at 'Swadhara Gruh' for her one-year-old daughter and herself, working as a tailor for independence and to provide a good life to her daughter, she is an epitome of true courage, standing tall amidst the vindictive tides of the society after being abandoned by her in-laws and parents when her husband went missing while she was four months pregnant. She is quite optimistic but also is well-prepared with her enthusiasm and motive to provide a better life for her daughter. She feels that Samarthanam has been a life-changer providing her with the encouragement that has boosted her self-confidence.



WORKING WOMEN HOSTEL

Samarthanam Working Women Hostel organized an educational trip to Shivamogga, Agumbhe, Nenasum, and its surrounding places. The trip provided recreation as well as an insight into the world of arts and history.

Students had taken part in various competitions winning prizes along with their regular exams. A few students took part in State Level "Wall Climbing" competition and were selected for the Nationals that is going to be held in Jammu and Kashmir.



Volunteering at Samarthanam

A total of 41 volunteering activities were conducted by corporate namely HGS, Datamatics, Xchange Leasing, Akamai, Target International, Lowe's India, Ian Martin, Micro Focus, Krypt Inc, LinkedIn, ANZ, GKN Aerospace, Amazon, Western Digital, Brillio, Adobe, Tata Communications, Societe Generale and Sutherland.

719 volunteers participated and contributed 2,284 hours of Voluntary Service.

The major highlights were the clean-up drive taken by Lowe's India; International Women's Day celebration by Amazon and Tata Communications.

To detail, Lowe's India in association with Samarthanam conducted a cleanliness drive at Dasarahalli Park, Bhuvaneshwari Nagar. Total of 113 volunteers participated in the activity who cleaned, painted the park and planted saplings as well.

Furthermore, Lowe's India cooked a nutritious mid-day meal for 250 children and actively participated in other programs of Samarthanam. Lowe's had engaged close to 300 volunteers in Samarthanam activities this quarter.

Tata Communications celebrated International Women's Day at Samarthanam LRC in Chennai where they invited all female trainees to conduct informative sessions. They also played a Cricket Match with our Blind Cricket Team at Bangalore apart from taking up a green drive initiative wherein 60 saplings were planted. Amazon also celebrated International Women's Day at Samarthanam Chennai, Hyderabad and Bangalore with 80 volunteers conducting sessions on resume building and digital literacy.

Social Awareness visits:

A group of 12 students from IOWA University, United States conducted a two day field study at Samarthanam. Alongside 11 students from Zurich University of Applied sciences, Switzerland who attended an orientation program at Samarthanam.

Internship programs:

About 37 students from Christ University, NPS, BMS College, ISBR Business School, Symbiosis Law College-Pune, IFIM Law College, NMIMS-Bangalore, Oxford College of Arts and St John of God-Kottayam have completed their internship at Samarthanam this quarter. They were engaged in all the programs right from schools to LRC.



Lowe's India volunteers cleanliness drive



Lowe's India volunteers cooking activity



Tata Communications cricket match with Samarthanam's Blind Cricket team

Samarthanam Digital Library

Digital library caters to the needs of people with disabilities with digital books in various formats suiting their requirements. Around 45 volunteers have come forward to digitalize books this quarter. 10 student beneficiaries were in need of 14 books which were duly recorded and converted into CD/DVD enabling them to study hassle-free. A few students have been provided with scanned books as well. For the Samarthanam Children's Library around 350 regular books, 30 Braille books and 3 Braille magazines (white print) were donated by volunteers.

This quarter companies including Lowe's India, Krypt, Micro Focus, HGS, Dell and Akmai have visited Samarthanam Digital Library.

One of the important visits to DAISY was a group of Government officials from Afghanistan visiting Samarthanam. The visit was sponsored by Association for Disabled People, a DPO. The exposure visit was led by Handicap International, Afghanistan with a delegation of eight people with disabilities and Govt officials from Department of Disability Afghanistan. The visit was first of its kind and is an asset for the promotion of solidarity amongst all associated stakeholders.

The group was presented with an awareness programme on Samarthanam Digital Library and other initiatives across the country. The group was impressed and preferred to initiate digital recording of books (audio books) in Afghanistan as well. Samarthanam also assured support for working with people of Afghanistan in disability space.

Samarthanam Human Resources

The Human Resource team creates a perfect work ambience for Samarthanam employees and ensures uninterrupted implementation of initiatives along with employee welfare programmes. This quarter Culture Councils have been drafted and initiated. Culture Councils are aimed towards building a stronger culture of performance and collaboration at Samarthanam. Three Culture Councils have been launched.

The first Leadership Development Townhall has been conducted where Mahantesh GK, Founder Managing Trustee of Samarthanam, Vasanti Savanur, Trustee of Samarthanam and other Culture Council leaders made a few key organizational announcements.

Encouraging Samarthanam employees and beneficiaries to start a healthy lifestyle, a Gym and Fitness Center supported by Infinera was launched at Samarthanam HSR Layout premises.



Samarthanam expands its realm



Samarthanam disability-friendly free residential school at HSR Layout Bangalore (India) is designed to house around 700 students with and without disabilities from economically deprived communities and enabled with completely accessible features being to address all needs of the persons with disabilities with ultramodern infrastructure. By end of the quarter, setting up of RO water plant has been completed along with lift installation, sewage treatment plant set up, Gym and Fitness Center, multipurpose hall, auditorium and kitchen equipment set up.

On the other hand, two new infrastructures have been initiated in JP Nagar and Dharwad.

Corporate Acknowledgment

We are thankful for the support and encouragement received from the following corporate organizations. And look forward to a long term relationship.

Exilant Technologies Pvt Ltd
 Intuit India Product Development Centre Pvt Ltd
 SLK Global Solutions Pvt Ltd
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SPECIAL FEATURE

Dr. Anupriya Chadha

Mrs. Sinha is very distraught and upset. Her 6 year old son Rajeev, despite adequate teaching, a stimulating environment and with a generally normal intellect, has difficulty with movement and specific aspects of learning. He usually performs fine and / or gross motor skills in an immature, disorganized, erratic, slow, irregular or inconsistent fashion. Rajeev also shows problems like poor balance, difficulties with vision, poor social skills

and emotional and behavioral problems. This condition is generally called Dyspraxia or Clumsy Child Syndrome.

Dyspraxia is a difficulty with thinking out, planning and carrying out sensory/ motor tasks. It is an immaturity of the brain resulting in messages not being properly transmitted to the body. It affects at least 2% of the population in varying degrees and 70% of those affected are male. Dyspraxia is a disability, but those affected do not look disabled.

Dyspraxics can be of average or above average intelligence, but are often behaviourally immature. They try hard to fit in the socially accepted behaviour when at school, but throw tantrums at home. They may find it difficult to understand logic and reason. Not all dyspraxics have all of these problems, but have a common link. Earlier a child is treated, greater the chance of improvement. Extra help at home and school can all help a child to cope and overcome the difficulties.

The child with dyspraxia may have a combination of several problems in varying degrees. These include:

- Poor fine and gross motor coordination
- Motor planning and perception problems
- Tactile dysfunction
- Poor awareness of body in space
- Difficulty with reading, writing and speech
- Poor social skills
- Poor sense of direction like finding rooms across the campus
- Poorly developed organizational skills
- Easy tiredness
- Problems with awareness of time
- Confusion over handedness
- Lack of awareness of potential danger

How is Dyspraxia Identified?

Children with dyspraxia may be present with some or all of the following:

The pre-school child: Late rolling, crawling, walking, difficulty with steps, climbing, puzzles, difficulty with eye movements may move head instead of eyes; difficulty with learning new skills instinctively and slow to develop speech.

The older child exhibits the following:

- Difficulty dressing
- Tying shoe laces
- Using cutlery
- Poor balance
- Difficulty with riding a bike
- Poor reading skills
- Poor handwriting
- Copying from blackboard
- Ability to express themselves.

What can be done to deal with Dyspraxia:

The following can help dealing with dyspraxia:

- Break down tasks into smaller manageable slices
- Allow the child to finish a task before moving on
- Don't force the child to take part in team games
- Ensure they are aided to find their way round, they will forget where they should be
- Don't expect them to copy large chunks from the board or books, coordinating eyes, brain and hand are not easy for most of us, for these children it can be impossible
- Don't set them to fail. Do be aware of what you are asking them to achieve
- Ask them to repeat any series of instructions given, it helps to internalize it
- Never allow a child with Dyspraxia to be compared to an able child. Not by teachers or peers.
- Praise every effort and every small accomplishment. A Dyspraxic child has been used to failure repeatedly: every effort must be made to raise their self-esteem.
- Remember that they have difficulty in taking on board information during lessons. Allow them extra time: teach in small bursts, allowing opportunity's to rest, if necessary.
- Ensure that the child has understood what is being taught, repeat if needed. Check that they are not falling behind because they cannot copy from the blackboard.
- Teach on a one to one level, with few distractions, when appropriate. If there is a learning support worker available, allow them to assist the child so they are taught at the same pace alongside their peers. Children with Dyspraxia so better in a relaxed environment with one to one support.
- Establish a parent- professional link.

* The author is an expert in inclusive education and currently is the National Program Manager- Education at Samarthanam.



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Income Tax exemptions available under section 80G of Indian Income Tax Act
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Choose Samarthanam as your CSR partner this financial year! We welcome employee engagement, monetary contributions, volunteering, diverse projects and long-term partnerships.

Contact Kumaraswamy at kumar@samarthanam.org or 9449864775 for associating with Samarthanam

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Samarthanam is also qualified to receive contributions through Give India, Give to Asia, United Way, Charity Aid foundation, USA and American service to India, USA

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