



# RAYS OF HOPE



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## Foundation Day of KIRAN

Half a century ago, in a town of Switzerland, seed of KIRAN was sown. The seed sprouted in 1990 when KIRAN Society had a humble beginning with a small non-formal education centre for the children with disabilities. This small sprout firmed its root on 27 January 1994 by registering as a society under Society Registration Act. Now in 2020, the small sprout of KIRAN has grown like a big banyan tree embracing thousands of children and persons with disabilities and from marginalized communities in its big arms.

KIRAN is grateful to all the patrons who fed this small sprout and nurtured it to become a big tree of compassion, love, care, joy and help.

KIRAN celebrated the day with all our children and person with disabilities, our communities, our supporters, our friends, our alumni and with our leaders.

The Foundation day happens to be the birthday of the founder. Founder Sangeeta J.K. has celebrated her birthday with the children who have grown with KIRAN and children who are now growing under the care of KIRAN.

# Republic Day

26 January is a day of immense prominence in the history of independent India. The Great book called constitution has given the shape to our nation. To impart the values among the children KIRAN family celebrated Republic Day of India with much joy and love. Flag hosting was followed by the National Anthem. Children were made aware of the importance of constitution.

Mr. Sanjay Chaurasiya was the chief guest on this great occasion. Secretary of KIRAN society Dr. Kaushal Agrawal and Dr. L.V. Bhawe was also the guest of KIRAN on Republic Day.



## Visit to Rural Development Trust

KIRAN is working for the holistic development of children and youth with disabilities through various interventions. KIRAN regularly work to improve services to make them more comprehensive. Knowledge sharing is one of the ways through which KIRAN try to improve. From 19th to 22nd January 2020 KIRAN senior leadership Mr Ahyan Shandilya (Executive Director) and Ms Sangeeta (Founder and President) visited Rural Development Trust (RDT), Anantpur, Andhra Pradesh .Mr Ramakrishna Surdeo, one of the known development trainers, coordinated and facilitated the whole visit. During the visit, they had an exposure of key activities of RDT and their mode of operation. This has helped in exploring the possibility of future cross-learning collaboration.



## Workshop on Rights of Person with Disabilities

KIRAN works for the holistic development of children with disabilities. Advocacy is one of the many instruments KIRAN utilize to promote the rights of the person with disabilities. A workshop on the rights of the person with disabilities was organized at DAV collage Varanasi on 31st January 2020. The large number of the participants were the youth with disabilities. The major topics in the workshop were

- The rights of the person with disabilities.**
- Social security schemes for persons with disabilities and the process to avail them.**
- Legal tools and provisions for persons with disabilities**

Booklets which KIRAN has developed on Inclusive Education was also disseminated among participants. The workshop was supported by one of our collaborating partner SOIR-IM.





# We shall overcome

KIRAN's physio-occupational unit regularly organizes group activities with aim to strengthen relationship, group interaction and improve self-control in the children with disabilities. In the month of January, a group therapy was organized in outdoor playground area to improve motor functioning with various activities such as passing through different type of obstacles and riding on various outdoor play equipment like tunnel walk, stair climbing, crossing swinging foot bridge, sliding platform. This will support in improving motor control and planning, coordination and physical strength in the children with disabilities.



## Swar Yatra A Musical Journey

Music exists everywhere, it is the most beautiful creation which pours solace in the souls. Indian Classical music is one of the richest musical tradition in the world. A music consort of Indian Classical Music was organized in KIRAN society on 24th January 2020 where children had experienced various Indian Classical instruments and Indian Classical vocal. Artists from India, USA and Europe has introduced children to the timeless classical music.

Renowned artist K.G. Westman, Mohsin Ali Khan, Azeem Ali Khan, Suranjana Ghosh Amanda Welch and Katarina Dahlbeck has entertained the children. The consort was organized by KIRAN Society and MUSIK VERKET.



# Disability Certificate : Challenges

## A Case Study

**Scenario:** In India, the 2011 census identified 26.8 million people with disabilities. Only social provisions intended to alleviate the burden of disability for these individuals are the Persons with Disabilities Act of 1995 & Rights of Person with Disabilities Act of 2016. The Rights of Person with Disabilities Act 2016 constitutes an important step towards enabling the disabled in India. Based on the provisions of the Person with Disabilities Act 1995 those who are 40 per cent disabled, as certified by a governmental medical authority, are entitled to receive benefits from the government of India and according to the Rights of Person with Disabilities Act, 2016 number of disabilities increased from 7 to 21. A certain percentage of government jobs, for example, is reserved for those with certified disabilities. Educational institutions that receive aid from the government of India must reserve at least three per cent of their seats for persons with disabilities. Travel concessions and tax rebates are also available for the disabled and their escorts or caregivers. Disability certificate is an important and necessary document for the person with disabilities to avail their entitlements.

**Action taken:** The development is a two way process which required equal participation from the Government and the beneficiaries. When KIRAN started advocacy interventions in Pindra block of Varanasi a gap has been observed due to lack of awareness among the person with disabilities about their entitlements its procedures. The identified gap was addressed with awareness-raising activities and sensitization session. The motive was to empower and enable persons with disabilities in particular and community members in general to help themselves and other persons with disabilities. This has significant outcome as in one year 63 persons with disabilities got their disability certificates and are availing the schemes meant for them. Among these 49 per cent were females and 51 per cent were males.

### Findings:

- There are 21 categories of disabilities according to Rights of Person with Disabilities Act 2016, This information is being internalize therefore some gaps were observed.
- Improvements are required in the diagnosis of disability mentioned in certificates.
- Children who belong to moderate to severe level of disability they are facing problem to get Aadhar\* which is mandatory to apply for disability certificate.
- Disability certificates issued by Government-authorized medical officers/hospitals must be given the full and final binding status.
- It has been observed that the status of disability certificate should not be subjected to revisions; by independent medical evaluations or organizations and institutions in the private sector. This will save legal hassles for students with disabilities as well as help them utilize the benefits afforded to them through various Acts and legislative bills for their assistance.
- The procedure for accessing/securing a disability certificate must be simplified using existing legal frameworks.

### The Internal Review

KIRAN strive to improve the quality of its programmes to serve children and person with disabilities in a better way. An internal review workshop was organized on 18th January 2020 to evaluate the work of different functions of rehabilitation programme namely outreach camps, orthotic and prosthetic, advocacy, women empowerment, community-based rehabilitation, home-based education etc. The motive was to identify gaps in the functioning of the programmes and move towards improvement. Many points of improvements have churned out from this workshop which will be incorporated in programmes to improve their competency and effectiveness.

### INCEPTION WORKSHOPS

KIRAN works on the development of children with disabilities through different intervention. One of the major intervention is the promotion and implementation of the inclusive education. Inception workshop of two inclusive education programme was organized.

#### Advocacy programme for inclusive education - 22nd January

#### Improving infrastructure and developing inclusive environment in KIRAN School programme - 28 January

The motive of these workshop was to disseminate information about the objective, activities, challenges, risks, alternative approaches and learnings of the programme in order to get better results in the next phases of the programmes.

\*Aadhar is a twelve digit unique identification number issued by the Indian government to every individual resident of India



## Dissemination of knowledge

The Right of Person with Disabilities Act 2016(RPWD) recognized 21 types of disabilities as compare to 7 in the former act. This and other crucial information should be internalized. Organization has developed various information education and communication material on RPWD Act 2016 and inclusive education with the support of SOIR-IM. These material has been placed in the various key areas in KIRAN village



## The celebration day with specially abled



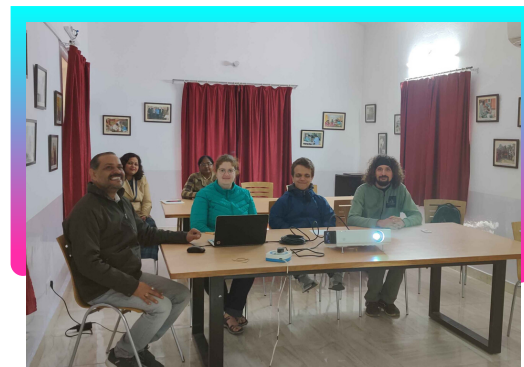
On 2nd January 2020, at St John's School, an event was organized to celebrate the day with children with disabilities. Many special schools and organizations participated in this event. KIRAN also participated in the event where children of KIRAN School and children with disabilities from villages have also participated in the event. All children with disabilities have presented various cultural programmes. Youth with disabilities and without disabilities have presented an inclusive dance with wheelchairs. Children with hearing impairment participated in the 100m sprint.

## Supporting Hands

An induction programme was organised for overseas volunteers on 10th January. Three volunteers have joined KIRAN.

- From France; Pauline Magenta
- From Italy; Matteo Zattra
- From Ireland; Sean Hannon

The induction programme has introduced the functions and services of KIRAN to volunteers. The volunteers were also explained the guidelines for the volunteers. To help these volunteers to contribute to the best of their potential a discussion was also done to assess where they fit best with services of KIRAN. What are the best of supports they could provide? This induction will help volunteers to understand KIRAN's work and it will also help them to optimize their time in the best interest of the children with disabilities of KIRAN.



## Major Upcoming Events

- Manthan- The review workshop
- Evaluation of D.Ed special education course
- Visits of technical experts for from Europe for various functions of KIRAN
- Transition phase assessment workshop
- Medical Camps
- Dissemination of documentary film on inclusive education

**GIFT A SMILE**  
**to the children with**  
**disabilities**



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*Who will be the happiest person?*  
*The one who brings*  
**HAPPINESS TO OTHERS**  
*Sri Swami Satchidananda*