

AUTISM SOCIETY OF INDIA



Annual Report for the year 2016-2017

The year 2016-2017 has been eventful for many reasons. Some of the events in which ASI participated or attended have been spelt out below. Events listed also includes activities conducted by Project Prayas of ASI.

Dec 2016

BRAMHOS New Delhi, a Central Government Organisation, has been contributing towards the well being and development of people on the spectrum. LEGO workshop which was first conducted at Bangalore was repeated at Delhi. This was conducted by Mrs Kavita Sharma. Mr. Mahidar Shetty of SAP was kind enough to go to Delhi and assist in conduct of the program. The program was conducted as at Bangalore last year.

Some photographs from the workshop.



Jan 2017

An iPad workshop was held at Bangalore. This was well attended by special educators residing in and around Bangalore. The ease of using tablets by autistic individuals was highlighted. This workshop was conducted by Mrs Kavita Sharma and was a resounding success.

Feb 2017

Dheemahi : A national level workshop on Developmental Disabilities was held at Delhi. Mrs Kavita Sharma, Director Project Prayas, presented a paper which was very well appreciated by the audience.

Mar 2017

A two day capacity building program was organised on Prayas Daksh at Katpadi. Worth Trust, Katpadi, Vellore Dist, Tamil Nadu coordinated the event. Mrs Kavita Sharma conducted the workshop.

Some photographs from the workshop.



Towards the end of March we moved out of our comfort zone. ASI moved from Indira Nagar and rented space in Seva In Action. By doing so we have been able to reduce our rental burden to much less than a third of what we were paying earlier. A huge saving to our depleting resources. Here I acknowledge the efforts of our staff, Mrs Vidhya Krishnamurthy, not only for the move but also for setting up in the new place.

National Science day Fair involving special needs people was held at JN TATA Auditorium, IISc Bangalore. A stall was allotted to ASI where ASI displayed the activities of ASI and Project Prayas.



Autism Society of India Stall



Parent making enquiries about Project Prayas

April 2017

02 April is World Autism Awareness Day. Consequent to the RPWD act passed by Central Government in Dec 2016, all State Governments have started activities to include the new disabilities as promulgated in the new bill. Towards this Government of Karnataka did their best for WAAD. The program was funded by them.

Morning we had a 10000 m marathon open to all and 5000 m road walk and run for people on the spectrum. Breakfast was served to all. Over 250 runners participated. Director, Department of Women and Child had come to flag of the event. He also felicitated the Corps of Military Police Band who willingly played for the cause. This was completely organised by Mrs Ruby Singh and ALFAA. This was done for the first time, and for the scale in which it was done it was a great success in all respects.



This was followed by a panel discussion at Bal Bhavan where noted specialists like Dr Shobha Srinath participated. The function was graced by the Mayor of Bangalore. Stalls were put up by most NGOs, to showcase the efforts and abilities of autistic individuals who

were being trained by them. Lunch was catered for by the Government of Karnataka. All the families, who had come in large numbers, had a fun filled day. The event was a great success thanks to the untiring efforts of Mrs Ruby Singh and Mrs Jayashree Ramesh.

A video on the achievements of ASI over the years was released on the occasion. The video was voluntarily made by Mr Krishnan of IBM.

ASI also put up a stall where leaflets and flyers were distributed. Lot of enquiries were there about the activities of ASI, and enrollment. Our staff Mrs Vidhya Krishnamurthy had baked items at home and the same were sold at the stall. The proceeds though small was a big contribution to ASI. She also did some fundraising in and around her apartment.



April 2017 was a big month for another reason. Mr Ujjwal Sharma, son of Mrs Kavita Sharma, who is on the spectrum, was felicitated by National Trust and Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India, for his efforts on creative design. Posters designed and created by him have also been displayed on many other occasions on many other platforms. Indeed a great achievement.



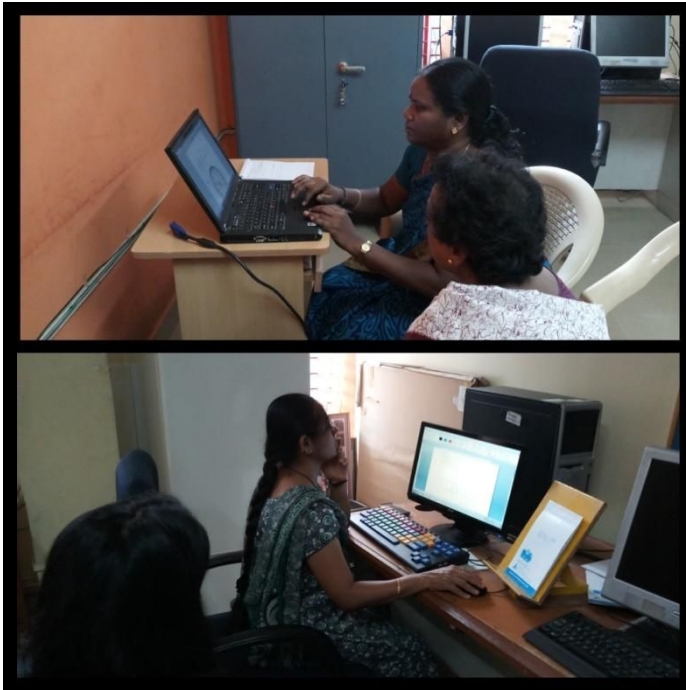
WAAD at Vigyan Bhawan New Delhi –Mr Ujjwal Sharma, son of Mrs Kavita Sharma, being felicitated for his work on creative design by Mr Thawar Chand Gehlot, Minister, Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India.

May 2017

Parents Training Workshop : A workshop was held at Bangalore to train parents in the basics of handling individuals on the spectrum.

June 2017

Train the Trainer workshop was held at Seva In Action for staff of SIA. This was attended by some parents also.



An open day was held at Prayas Lab, ASI, to inform and discuss various opportunities which are available for autistic individuals in the Information Technology segment. This was well attended and parents had lot of questions.



July 2017

RPWD act was passed by the Central Government in Dec 2016. Consequent to this all State Governments were to implement the same as applicable to them. Prior to implementation they had to frame the rules as applicable to them. For this the State Government had invited all affected NGOs to participate in discussions and framing of the rules. This was an exhaustive exercise. To give relevant inputs as applicable to people on the spectrum ASI hired a lawyer. After many sittings ASI gave points as relevant, to Government of Karnataka for incorporation.

Month of July was big for another reason also. After years of effort ASI was conferred with NGO Leadership Award. This was possible only because of the untiring efforts of all the stakeholders, people on the spectrum, parents, special educators, office bearers, etc.



Prerequisites to learn coding : a workshop was conducted by Mrs Pratibha to teach prerequisites to coding.



Velvi Art for Autism festival was conducted at Bangalore. Renowned singer Bombay Jayashree was the chief guest, who not only supports the cause besides being a leading advocate, she also uses music as a therapy at her centre in Chennai.

Autistic individuals from NGOs showcased their unique talents.



Aug 2017

Interpretation and Implementation of the RPWD act 2016 with specific reference to State of Karnataka concluded with a meeting at Bal Bhawan. Each rule as spelt out by the Central Government was read and redrafted as required before forwarding to Government of Karnataka.



BRAMHOS: has been contributing towards the wellbeing and development of people under the spectrum. LEGO workshop which was first conducted at Bangalore was replicated at Chennai. The workshop was conducted by Mrs Kavita Sharma. As usual Mr Mahidhar Shetty of SAP Bangalore readily agreed to go and help.



Sep 2017

An orientation program was organised at Air Force Golden Jubilee Institute, Subroto Park Delhi Cantt. This helped the families who had come, to understand autism better.

Mrs Kavita Sharma went to Utkal University, Odisha to give an orientation about Prayas and its Reinforcing Potential, to a group of special educators, psychologists etc. Some of the people were not ready to believe what they heard.



Oct 2017

Tata Trusts who have been contributing regularly towards the weaker sections of society came forward to help autistic people. They helped conduct a program at Mumbai.

Nov 2017

Month of November would always be remembered. ASI finally got FCRA. Untiring efforts of many over many years finally bore fruit. ASI can now get donations in foreign currency from abroad.

Sharanam charitable trust Anjanapura conducted a one day workshop to discuss issues being faced by NGOs in implementing the various schemes under National Trust. In particular implementation of NIRAMAYA and DISHA were discussed. ASI participated in the workshop.



ALFAA and AMAZE

ALFAA and AMAZE are two NGOs who have been associated with ASI for many years. They operate out of Bangalore and Coimbatore respectively. As usual they have done amazing work during the year for people under the spectrum. Their annual reports are available for perusal.

Date : 08 March 2018

Maj Gen Suresh Krishnan(Retd)

Place : Bangalore

President, Autism Society of India

