

# AUTISM SOCIETY OF INDIA

ANNUAL REPORT 2017-2018



Autism Society of India

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The year 2017 - 2018 has been tumultuous

We had the new bill about which very little was understood by most. We also realized that awareness about autism and its challenges was woefully insignificant.

To address both issues in a meaningful way was our resolve.

We are on our way with the support of all our members. There is off course a long way to go.

We also are lucky that we now have Mrs. Ruby Singh on the National Trust Board. This would definitely help our cause.

To conclude I just want to say that we are all on a journey, together. We will reach our goal come what may and we will carry everyone along.

Best Regards

General Suresh Krishnan(Retd)

**02 April 2017**

World Autism Awareness Day was celebrated as part of celebrations ALFAA led by Mrs. Ruby Singh organized a run for Autism. There were different categories including an open category for general public. The response was very good. The run was flagged off by Director, Women and Child in Karnataka State Govt. Karnataka Sub Area was very kind to send the Corps of Military Police Band. We also had classical musicians. The run was followed by breakfast for all participants .The event helped in increasing awareness about autism. The Run was followed by a seminar cum panel discussion on Autism. Mayor of Bangalore was kind enough to grace the event. Her mere presence was enough to send a strong message to the general public. This was followed by a Ramp Walk by autistic children trained by team ALFAA. Many of the special schools for autism had come fully prepared to enthrall the gathering of parents and other participants. Most special schools had enthusiastically put up stalls show



### **August 2017**

December 2016 was a game changer for the entire special needs people and their families. Govt of India passed the much awaited disability bill. That set in motion the consequent actions that are required to be taken by every state government.

Women and Child department Govt of Karnataka has been in the forefront in understanding the needs of special needs people.

Mrs. Uma Mahadevan, Secretary, Women and Child Govt of Karnataka has been the driving force in Karnataka. She expressed a desire to discuss the new bill thread bare to understand the bill and modalities to be adopted in implementing the same. With the Secretary herself taking so much interest the complete department was more than willing to meet us as many times as required.

ASI was instrumental in coordinating all the discussions which took place first in-house with heads of all special schools and then with the State Govt

The bill was also discussed with parents and special educators and a few employers.

Discussions were held in various places including Vidhan Soudha. ASI had also taken a lawyer on board for correct interpretation of the bill and for drafting the rules as applicable for Karnataka. The draft copy was then handed over to The Secretary, Women and Child, Govt of Karnataka.

### **03 December 2017 was a red letter day.**

Jyothi Shetty, mother of a child with special needs was felicitated by Karnataka State Government for her untiring efforts.

We all understand efforts of normal day to day living for humans. Jyothi Shetty with sheer determination was able to overcome all the obstacles that came her way and moved ahead on her chosen path. Her selfless dedication and devotion besides her clear focus helped her achieve her goal. Her efforts were finally recognized by the state Government and give her a much needed recognition for her untiring efforts.

ASI family wishes her the very best in her future endeavors.

### **Jan 2018, Digitization of Member information.**

At present we have records of members which are in hard copy form. To overcome missing forms of members any time in the future process of digitization of data in respect of all members across India was taken up.

The job is Herculean, more so since we do not have a place of our own and no admin dedicated to ASI.

ALFAA came forward to help us with this job. As an add on we also decided to give a membership card to all ASI members. These would be mailed to each member shortly. Members are also requested to update their contact details as and when there is a change. This would help us reach out to you wherever required.



Report from Mr. Michael Pillai,  
Vice President West, Autism Society of India.

I have been associated with ASI since November 2011.

### **Activities**

**Networking:** Networking with organizations and professionals in the development sector in Ahmedabad/Gujarat with an objective to create awareness about ASI and its activities and develop contacts that can enable ASI to have collaborative programmes in future.

### **International Convention for Inclusive Education (16-18 April 2018)**

Bholaram Education Society was formed in the year 2003 by the renowned industrialist, Shri Ramesh Goenka in order to contribute its micro bit to the welfare of the society by providing quality education and contemporary education. The Society set up Delhi Public School, Gandhinagar in the year 2004, which was inaugurated by the then Honorable Chief Minister of Gujarat, Shri Narendra Bhai Modi. Moving further to create a caring, inclusive and happy learning community where all our young people are inspired to achieve their full

potential, BES launched a venture in the name of **Saaransh Foundation** for the children with Autism and Dyslexia. Saaransh Foundation organized International Convention for Inclusive Education in Gandhinagar during 16-18 April 2018.

I represented Autism Society of India in this convention and was the moderator for panel discussion on – **Techniques for working with children with Sensory Dysfunction.**

### **World Autism Day Campaign**

Created awareness on Autism among educators.