

I am eager to meet you



We are as much part of this society as you are. We also need our share of happiness and fun in life.

If you happen to meet some one who is deafblind, then please contact us or on this deafblind helpline. You will be guided to support your deafblind friend. But before that first promise us that you will never ignore any deafblind person.

Extend your hand and be a friend.



BLIND PEOPLE'S ASSOCIATION (INDIA)

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Deafblind Helpline

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Let's
**DISCOVER
DEAFBLINDNESS**



Mili speaks about her friends & deafblindness



Hey...

I am Mili

You know...My mom says that **I** am very naughty...**I** always tease my younger brother... My teacher says that **I** talk a lot... **I** am scared of only one thing- maths !

There are few more things that you don't know about me...

I can't see, **I** can't hear, **I** have difficulty in speaking... you see,

I AM DEAFBLIND. But that has not stopped me from living my life fully. What happened? Are you confused? Wondering how is this possible? Let's spend some time together. **I** have many more things to share with you.

Let me also introduce you to some of my friends...



Would you like to meet them?



This is Rohan

Every now and then he settles his hair and gives a very cute smile.

I am very fond of his smile. Rohan is a **rubella** child. His mother got rubella virus infection when she was expecting Rohan and was in the third month of her pregnancy. Because of that infection, Rohan was born with **cataract** in both his eyes. Now he has a little vision in his right eye but he **cannot see anything with his left eye**. He also has **severe hearing loss**. He is DEAFBLIND, like me. He is also unable to speak. Rohan uses **real objects to communicate** his needs e.g. he picks up a plate to indicate that he is hungry.



Hey now meet my friend Raj

He is a very interesting personality. He is presently studying in 8th standard. He has a passion for dance and aspires to become a film star. Every day he dresses up so well even to come to school! He recently participated in a play. He was so confident on stage!! Raj developed **hearing loss** when he was in the 2nd standard. By the time his family accepted this fact and learnt to cope with this, Raj developed **difficulty in vision** as well. He was **not able to see things in darkness** and is gradually losing his vision. Doctor says Raj has **Usher Syndrome** which is **leading to deafblindness**. He can read **large letters in good bright color background** and he is also learning Braille.



Here is Alay

An amazing artist in the making. He does fabulous paintings. He is so meticulous. He hates messy things. You should see him with other younger children in the school. He takes such good care of them. Making new friends comes easily to Alay. Alay **can see big and bright objects** at the distance of approximately 1 meter. He **can't hear and speak at all**. He too is DEAFBLIND. He was a premature baby (born before time). Today Alay is in the 6th standard. He uses **sign language** to communicate his needs and share his thoughts.



Here comes Tanvi

A loving girl, but you know she can be moody sometimes. Tanvi hates crowds but loves music. She can play all day with glossy chocolate wrappers.

Tanvi has an altogether different set of challenges. Her iris (a part of eye) is not developed. She can only see bright things in good light conditions. She can hear a little bit too. She has breathing trouble. She is also DEAFBLIND. Doctor say's she is a child with CHARGE Syndrome. Tanvi puts across her needs through facial expressions.



Now meet Pinali

Everyone calls her "Pinu". She likes it when some one holds her hand and plays with her. Pinali is DEAFBLIND too. She doesn't see at all. Her eyeballs are not developed. She cannot recognize spoken words. She is not able to speak. Hmmm too many limitations... Isn't it? But still Pinali has a right to be accepted, to be loved and to live a life of dignity. You agree don't you?



This here is Rajesh

Hey there is one more friend of mine who is quite elder to me but still we share a good bond. His name is Rajesh. Rajesh makes mind blowing samosas and pendas. He is very accurate at measurement. He is simply crazy about goggles and perfumes. He **cannot see at all**, he **cannot speak at all**, he **cannot hear at all**. He is also DEAFBLIND. He couldn't hear at all since birth. Slowly he started losing vision in his one eye. He lost vision in both his eyes at the age of 13. Rajesh uses **sign language** and **palm writing** to communicate with people. His mother has also mastered sign language and shares with him every bit of life. Rajesh runs his own sweets shop.



You must be wondering how can you talk to me and my friends, if you do not know Braille and Sign Language. But let me tell you one thing, dear. A one-year-old baby also communicates through various sounds and gestures. And the mother understands it very well. Because she loves her baby. If you will accept us and will try to talk to us, I am sure you would also understand our language.

Just like you, **all of us laugh** when we are **happy**, get **angry** when things don't happen the way we want them and we also **like to be loved**. But as you all are not exactly the same, likewise we are also different. That's the way we are.

All of us have a **right to express** our **feelings** and to be understood... isn't it? We have our **own way of learning things** and sharing our thoughts.





We live a **similar** life like you but we need some **additional support to learn to live independently**. You may have learnt things like walking, eating on your own, playing with balls etc very quickly. You may not need any specific training in these things. But we do. There are special care centres that teach and train us. These centres provide services on the basis of individual needs. Qualified educators give their best for the development of children like me and my friends.



BLIND PEOPLE'S ASSOCIATION (INDIA) is one such centre and is also a Regional Learning Centre (West Zone) supported by Sense International (India)

As a Regional Learning Centre, Blind People's Association (India) work towards developing services for deafblind people in Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa and Madhya Pradesh. It gives technical support to the other organisations working for people with single disabilities for initiating services in the area of deafblindness (dual sensory impairment). The ultimate aim of Blind People's Association (India) as a Regional Learning Centre is to create inclusive environment for deafblind people in the society and ensure a quality life for them.

Sense International (India) is a registered charitable trust that works to provide the crucial support that is needed to face the challenges caused by deafblindness through out India. It reaches out to deafblind people and their families through 37 partners and 4 Regional Learning Centres across the country.



Here is a chart of sign communication. Try to use this to communicate. Its fun. It would also help us become best friends... will you be my best friend?



Here is the observation check list. You can refer to this if you happen to meet any child who may have difficulty in hearing and seeing.

1. Does the child turn towards light ?
2. Does the child bring a toy very close to see it ?
3. Does the child miss objects placed in certain areas and direction ?
4. Does the child not look directly at objects or persons ?
5. Does the child not follow moving objects and lights ?
6. Does the child fail to imitate facial expressions and gross body movements ?
7. Does the child not awaken on hearing noise while sleeping ?
8. Does the child not respond to the sound of crumpling chocolate paper, rustling of plastic bag, radio and TV, fire works, water falling in to a bucket etc. ?

9. Does the child get ear or eye discharge/infection very often ?
10. Did the child learn late to sit, stand or walk in comparison to other children of his/her age ?
11. Does the child have difficulty in understanding what other children of his age can ?
12. Does the child have difficulty in learning to do things like other children of his age?
13. Is the child's speech in any way different from normal ? (not clear enough to be understood by people other than his immediate family)

Friends if the answer is yes to any 7 questions of this check list, please refer the child to concerned professionals or centers for special need children.