



Devoted to
Comprehensive Development
of Persons With Disabilities

For Private Circulation Only

B.P.A.

Bulletin

YEAR 2024 ▲ VOLUME:IV ▲ OCT-DEC-2024 (This Bulletin is available on website: www.bpaindia.org)

BULLETIN
BLIND PEOPLE'S ASSOCIATION (INDIA)

Technology Centre Inaugurated



Shah Indubhai Dahyabhai and Shah Girishchandra Dahyabhai Technology Centre for the Blind was inaugurated by the donor family on 8 October 2024. The Indubhai Dahyabhai Family has earlier donated for the setting of the Indubhai D. Shah and Vipinchandra D. Shah Handika Furniture showroom. Mrs. Usha Atulkumar, President of Adult Training Centre for the Blind Trust and Trustee of BPA was responsible for mobilizing both these donations. The Technology Centre teaches computer skills to visually impaired people. It also trains them in accessibility testing. The Centre has been responsible for placing around 50 visually impaired persons in banks in the past year.

BGSS Distribution



MD & CEO, Ms. Sumit Chadha and COO, Mr. Srinivas Panda distributed high tech devices like Orbit Braille Readers to 15 youth with visual impairment empowering them to compete with the sighted world on 10 OCTOBER 2024. The Orbits are a braille display, and connect to PCs and Macs, iOS devices and Android devices. They provide Bluetooth and USB connectivity and can connect simultaneously to multiple devices. Thus all information becomes accessible to persons with visual impairment.

Perkins Evaluation Visit



BPA and Perkins India are working collaboratively to increase access to quality education for children with disabilities in 3 to 5 schools (Government/ Non-Government) in Gujarat in 2024 by increasing the capacity of teachers and program staff working with children with disabilities to provide quality educational interventions to them based on Perkins Quality Improvement (PQI) framework.

The Perkins Quality Improvement process is both an assessment tool and an approach to quality education. Developed ten years ago, the Quality Improvement process stems from Perkins' 200 years of expertise and knowledge in educating children with disabilities. It has been applied to schools and programs around the world to drive change, transform systems and support educational excellence.

The pilot project will enhance the capacity of government and non-government schools to become models of inclusive education for children with disabilities having a trained cohort of teachers and educators who are equipped with the knowledge and skills they need to effectively teach children with disabilities. Samapada and Anuradha of Perkins visited BPA and the offshoot centres at Deesa, Sala and Bavla on 7, 8 October 2024 to evaluate the efficacy of the Perkins Quality Improvement (PQI) framework.

Dashera Pooja



The machines and equipments in the BPA and ATC Workshops were worshipped as a part of Ayudh Pooja on Dashera 12 OCTOBER 2024. The BPA trustees staff trainees and students were present in the pooja and also had sumptuous snacks at the end

Garba in BPA



The Lions Club of Vastrapur and the BPA staff welfare committee organized a grand garba evening for the staff students and trainees of the BPA on 15 OCTOBER 2024. The orchestra was managed by the blind students and they sang so beautifully and entertained the audience for more than three hours till midnight.

Swabhiman Distribution and DJ Night



Swabhiman is a voluntary initiative, started by volunteers 20 years ago, to provide niche services like assistive devices, employment support, entertainment to persons with disabilities. The distribution programs are organized two to three times a year. The BPA team collects the data of the beneficiaries, vets them and prepares the final list of deserving needy people. The distribution function was held on 19.10.24. The largest donor of Swabhiman is Balesh Sharma who has been associated with this initiative since inception.

MOU with Trust



Mrs. Binaben Kaivalya Baxi and Mr. Dinesh Ramanlal Shah were executors of their friend Naliniben's will. In accordance with her wishes, they have pledged Rs. 1 crore for naming one floor in the proposed new building of the BPA Ladies Hostel. The floor will be named as the Smt. Naliniben Purohit Memorial Floor. Binaben and Dineshbhai visited the BPA on 17 October, 2024 and signed an MoU in this regard and donated Rs. 50 lakhs as the first instalment.

ICEVI WORLD CONFERENCE IN INDIA



The International Council for Education of People with Visual Impairment (ICEVI) held its World Conference and General Assembly in Ahmedabad India from 14 – 17 November 2024. The World Conference was hosted by the Blind People's Association (BPA) and Sense International India (SII), in collaboration with Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University (BAOU), Ahmedabad, which is renowned for its higher education program promoting "Education for All". The University campus was the venue for the conference. The Conference Theme was "INCLUSION IN DIVERSITY: EQUITY AND ACCESSIBILITY FOR ALL".

The Preconference was organized on 13 November at the BPA campus and had three Workshops. The first was led by Ms. Sampada Shevde of Perkins and was titled "UNDERSTAND THAT ALL BEHAVIOURS COMMUNICATE" - Communication for Persons with Visual Impairment and Additional Disabilities Including Deafblindness. The last workshop titled "Importance of Independent Living for Persons with Deafblindness" was organized by Sense International India. There was also a demonstration and distribution of "Jyoti AI: Advancing Education and Independence for the Visually Impaired" by TORCHIT. The Conference was inaugurated by the Officials of the ICEVI, Deafblind International, World Blind Union along with the Vice-Chancellor of BAOU. Ambassador Aubrey Webson and Dr. Ami Upadhyay of BAOU gave the powerful Keynote addresses. Shri Rajesh Kumar Secretary, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, could not attend and inaugurate the conference and sent his recorded address.

383 participants from 59 countries participated. A total of 152 speakers presented their thoughts through 6 Plenary and 24 concurrent sessions.

The themes were

- Accessibility
- Equity of Access to and participation in Education (lifelong learning)
- Innovations
- Assessment Procedures
- Community Based Inclusive Development Approaches
- Life Skills
- Access to ICT and Adaptive / Assistive Technology
- Professional Collaboration / Multidisciplinary and Transdisciplinary Teams
- Advocacy / International Declarations
- Climate Change
- Health

Ms. Siân Tesni, Chair of the Programme Committee with her team ensured that there was representation from all over the world and that deafblindness, multiple disability was covered along with visual impairment.

Nandini Rawal, the Former Treasurer of ICEVI and a recipient of ICEVI's International Excellence Award in 2016, was appointed by the Executive Board to Chair the 2024 Awards committee. Nandini, in consultation with the President ICEVI, invited members from the Executive Board to serve as members of this Committee. The Presidents of each region were invited to submit nominations for ICEVI awards which were conferred on winners at the ICEVI World Conference.

Mrs. Jayanti Ravi, IAS, ACS, Revenue conferred the Awards on the winners



1. International Excellence Award-
 - Ms. Gertrude Oforiwa Fefoame (Africa Region)
 - Ms. María Cristina Sanz (Latin America Region)
 - Ms. Ana Peláez Candidacy (Europe Region)
 - Shri Setareki Macanawai (Pacific Region)
 - Ms. Robyn Mckenzie (Pacific Region)
2. Honorary Life Membership- Shri Aubrey Webson,
3. Organisational Award- DAISY Consortium
4. Lifetime Achievement Award – Dr. M.N. G. Mani, ICEVI
5. International Leadership Award-
 - Dr. Frances Gentle, President, ICEVI
 - Dr. Bhushan Punani, Vice-President
6. ICEVI LONG SERVICE AWARD
 - Prof. Vladimir Radoulov (Europe)
 - Mrs. Sri Sudarsono (East Asia)

The Conference concluded with the team of BPA, Sense India coming on the stage amidst thundering applause. Dr. Sharanjit Kaur, Chairperson, Rehabilitation Council of India was the Guest of Honour and Mrs. Hon. Mercy Maruva Dinha, Hon. Deputy Minister, Ministry of Public Service, Labour, and Social Welfare, Government of Zimbabwe was the Guest of Honour.

HIGHLIGHT OF THE CONFERENCE IN THE WORDS OF THE PARTICIPANTS

“The international conference organized by ICEVI in Ahmedabad from 14 to 16 November was an enriching experience. We had the opportunity to present a paper on challenging myths and misconceptions about reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities in India. The conference brought together participants from 63 countries, creating a vibrant space for diverse perspectives. The arrangements were exceptional, with comfortable accommodation and reliable pick-and-drop services, even at odd hours. We greatly appreciate the care and professionalism, including being picked up at midnight from the airport and safely dropped by the guest house. It was a well-organized and memorable event. The sessions were insightful, we got to learn about diverse perspectives from different countries. And had an amazing experience at the reception Dinner in a place which had a village-like atmosphere. Thanks to the organizers for everything.

Rashmi Maruvada
Annapurna Maruvada

“Of all the ICEVI Conferences I have attended since the year 2000, it would not be an exaggeration that this one was the Best. The programme committee had curated very well thought of sessions on very pertinent topics. The speakers from across the world brought to the forum different perspectives yet we could see a common thread. The concerns related to inclusive education of children with multiple disabilities are universal. It provided all of us with a great platform to share and learn from each other. The organization of BPA was par excellence. Meticulous micromanagement made every delegate feel at home. The team of Sense International (India) was also actively involved in ensuring seamless flow of sessions one after the other. I also wish to acknowledge the hon'ble VC of BAOU Prof. Ami Upadhyay for being such a support by offering to host the World Conference in their beautiful campus and inspire us all by her wonderful speech during the inaugural ceremony. I will cherish these memories for a long time to come and I have come back with a rejuvenated spirit to work in the field.”

Dr. Sujata Bhan, SNTD Women's University

Dada-Dadi Distribution



The BPA is blessed to have donors who continue to support the BPA even after they are transferred to another city or another country. Shrimati Geetaben Deepakbhai Gandhi from U.K continues to help the aging grannies. She sponsored food kits and provisions, tiffin boxes and towel-napkin set to 70 aged persons on 22 November, 2024. She and her family remained present and interacted with the grannies.

Waghbakri Distribution



Shri Paras Pankaj Desai, and Shrimati Vidisha Parag Desai, both Executive Directors of Wagh Bakri Tea Company gifted Snack Stalls to needy persons with disabilities in a function at the BPA on 3 December 2024, World Disability Day. The Wagh Bakri Company will donate a total of 100 Snack Stalls under the CSR component.

SWMR Programme



The Society for the Welfare of the Mentally Retarded organized a drawing competition for children with special needs on 7 December 2024. Vyom Soni from the VIAD unit of the BPA won a prize as also Sohel from the Armaan Day Care Centre, Sarkhej.

Rahi Centre at Bhuj Inaugurated



The Rahi Vision Centre managed by Sightsavers India and BPA and supported by Chola Mandalam Investment & Finance Company Limited was inaugurated on 19th December 2024 at the hands of Mr. Keshubhai Patel MLA Bhuj. Mr. Jatin Tiwari and Mr. Dickson Charles from Sightsavers India were present. The other VIPs included Mr. Pradeepsinh Vaghela, RTO, Bhuj; Mr. Jayeshbhai Sachde, President, Raghuvanshi Samaj, Kutch; Mr. Satishbhai Mirani, President and Mr. Dharmendra Zala, Secretary of Lignite Transport Association, Kutch respectively. Mr. Rajubhai Plan, President, Shri Nakhtrana Lohana Mandal, who is a regular volunteer and donor was also present. The premises for the Rahi Centre were given totally free of charge by the owner. Mrs. Parikrita Devi and Mr. Hemanta Kumar Pamarthy, Advisor, Chola Mandalam Investment & Finance Company Limited, were also present. The Centre will provide accessible services for eye checkup, glasses and corrective surgery.

Groundbreaking Ceremony



A new and much needed project will take shape and provide services of relief rehabilitation residence and respite to persons with mental illness thanks to a large donation of \$1 million committed by Shri Tushar Shah and his wife Sara Zion in the memory of their father Rasikbhai Shah.

The groundbreaking ceremony and foundation laying was conducted by Smt. Kusumben Rasik bhai Shah on 20th December at the Vatrak site.

Rasikbhai brothers Hasmukhbhai and Ashokbhai and his wife and Kusumben's nieces were present at the groundbreaking. The BPA President, Trustees and Executives of all three Trusts were also present. The local volunteers of SVCT from all over Aravalli District were present and promised their support to the Project.

This will be the second joint project of the K. K. Shah Sabarkantha Arogya Mandal, Blind People's Association and the Samta Vikas Charitable Trust after the hugely successful Smt. Bellaben and Shri Yogeshbhai Eye Hospital which was inaugurated by the Chief Minister of Gujarat Shri Bhupendrabhai Patel in August 2023.

The new center will be hopefully inaugurated in 2026 end.

Braile reading Competition



Dr. Bhushan Punani, General Secretary, graced the Braile Reading Competition of the NAB Sanand Branch as Chief Guest on 22 December, 2024. He was very impressed by the proficiency in Braille Reading and that this was more predominant in blind girls. The first awardees were all girls.

Ranchhod Get Award



Shri Ranchhod Soni, Technology Head of BPA, was conferred the Shri Karsan Meghji Vekaria Award for his outstanding contribution in the field of accessible technology, by the Navchetan Andhjan Mandal Bhuj in a function at Bhuj on 25 December, 2024.

Jasdan Camp



The Turakhia and Parikh families donated almost Rs. 20 lakhs for gifting assistive devices like wheelchairs tricycles crutches artificial limbs to 325 persons at Jasdan. The donors donated to the needy people as a tribute to spiritual leader of Shri Raj Sobhag Ashram Param Pujya Bhai Shri for his spiritual and humanitarian leadership. Bhai Shri and the Trustees of Ashirvad Viklang Trust and Shri Rajsobhag Satsang Mandal were present on this occasion along with the local Patidar samaj officials who had given the property free of charge for use.

BPA Bulletin is issued every quarter

Phone Fax :(079)26305082, 26304070

Email : : gensecbpa@gmail.com, nandinibpa@gmail.com, bpapublications@gmail.com

Website : : www.bpaindia.org

All donations exempted under Section 80G of the Income Tax Act, 1961

Printed and Issued by: Blind People's Association, Ahmedabad-380 015. Editor: Mrs. Nandini Rawal,

Assisted by: Mr. Bhadresh Jadav, Publication Coordinator: Dr. Bhushan Punani

ONLINE SUPPORT



https://www.billdesk.com/hdfc/BPA/hdfc_blind_people_association.htm



<https://www.voiceofsap.org/>



<https://tinyurl.com/33jcm3j4>



[blind_peoples_association](https://www.instagram.com/blind_peoples_association)



[bpaindia1](https://www.facebook.com/bpaindia1)



[bpaindia - Blind People's Association \(INDIA\)](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)



[@bpa_ind](https://twitter.com/bpa_ind)