



Newsletter – April 2024

Divya Jyoti Disabled Development Society

International Day of Persons with Disability - 3rd December

On 3rd December 2023, Divya Jyoti celebrated the International Day of Persons with Disability (World Disability Day) at Chota Nagpur Lane, Assi, Varanasi. Along with students of Divya Jyoti day care and tuition centres, the students of Jeevan Jyoti and Asha Deep participated in the cultural and sport events conducted by Divya Jyoti.



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The Chief Guest namely Neepa DeVries was present on this occasion and appreciated the activities of Divya Jyoti and the performance of the students.

The staff set up the handicraft stall and the stage. All the students gave a mind blowing performance of play, music, dance, and singing which was appreciated by everyone who attended.



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As part of the celebration the staff gave awareness to the public about the importance of good support for persons with disability. A good support means a person feels enabled and part of society so that they can participate in community, and work.



Children from Dashashwamedh Tuition Centre performed an awesome cultural dance which impressed the audience.



Childrens from Sigr Tuition Centre performed a thought provoking play about the crimes against girls and spread awareness about saving girl child.



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Day Care Activities

- The main activities of Divya Jyoti include life skill and vocational trainings such as social skills, emotional skills, and thinking skills. Our
- aim is to provide high quality support to the persons with disability and to spread awareness to the family and community about the importance of this support.
- **What do we mean by high quality support?** – Every disabled person is unique and different. We provide care, support and training according to the severity of the disability. For example, for persons with severe disability, the individual will require extra support and they will depend heavily on family. For such cases we spread awareness to the parents on the ways to provide support.



- **Why is good support important?** – Like everyone else, a person with disability also wants to be understood. They want to be understood by their parents, friends, relatives and society. If their needs are met, they feel more confident and have greater motivation and willingness to participate in community activities, work and socialization.

How has Divya Jyoti Impacted the Lives of Persons with Disability?

Please see below examples of how support provided by Divya Jyoti had an impact on the lives of the persons with disability.

Before Divya Jyoti: Kunal who has autism with attention deficit disorder joined Divya Jyoti three years back. He has speech issues, shouting, hyper behavior and often bites himself.

After Divya Jyoti: His hyper behavior, yelling and self biting has reduced significantly. He has settled into the day care and participates in activities and works on complex tasks such as running lamination machine. His parents have given a testimony on how greatly he has developed and how their life has improved after he joined Divya Jyoti.

Before Divya Jyoti: Tanmay has mental disability, speech issues and appeared very scared and

After Divya Jyoti: Our staff paid special attention to Tanmay and continuously communicated with him to understand why he was always scared. Eventually he expressed the fear and harassment that he faces due to his elder brother at home. Staff has patiently worked with Tanmay to enable him to open up. Now his confidence and socialization has increased a lot. He also does shopping on his own and sings confidently.

Before Divya Jyoti: Raman is 27 years old mentally disabled and has speech issues. He joined from a previous organization focused on disabled

After Divya Jyoti: The staff has motivated and trained him to be independent and be more active. Due to poor training provided in previous organization he does not feel like participating in any activities. Development is always a continues process and we hope that Raman is able to be improve even more and becomes more independent in life.



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Administrative and other updates

Generous Donation: Our donor friend Jean-Pierre and his group members (Amtao) sponsored a E-Ricksha for Divya Jyoti. Due to this, the students who live in far away places are now able to attend day care regularly. As it was mentioned in the last news letter, we were facing challenges to bring students up and down to the Centre without any transport. We are really grateful to Jean-Pierre and his group for donating E-Ricksha for Divya Jyoti. **Community based Rehabilitation (CBR) program:** As before, Divya Jyoti has been doing home base rehabilitation program for the children and adults with disabilities. As mentioned before, Rubina whose daughter namely Albina with multiple disability had passed away. Her family is very poor and her husband is an alcoholic so Divya Jyoti has trained her in tailoring so that she can stitch clothes to earn money. Divya Jyoti gives her product orders for stitching regularly so that she can earn a livelihood. **Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA):** After a long wait of three years, Divya Jyoti was granted FCRA Certificate on March 2024 for another five years by the Government of India to receive international donations. The process of granting the certificate involved investigating into the Divya Jyoti activities and financial transactions. The government officials also visited Divya Jyoti premises and verified all the documents and activities. Finally, the certificate was granted which will allow Divya Jyoti to continue to receive international donations. **Himanshu:** We are deeply saddened to inform that our beloved student Himanshu passed away in the month December. This was very uncertain and heartbreaking for us.



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We would like to express our sincere thanks and gratitude to our donor friends and well-wishers for the continued support for our mission to empower the persons with mental disability.

Together we will achieve even greater heights for our aim and objectives.

Regards,
J Savari Nathan
Secretary
Divya Jyoti Disabled Development Society.

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