



PULSE

Winning Together

Quarterly Newsletter
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From the CEO's Desk

APD is on the threshold of launching its 2018-2021 strategy – WINNING Together. This was a truly participatory process that brought together multiple stakeholders including the APD team, APD board, peers in the sector and subject matter experts in the public space.

The major shift of focusing on the Belagavi and Kalaburagi divisions is an honourable decision, considering the poor socio-economic-political situation in the area and the needs of PwDs. We aim to reach 1,21,000 people by 2021, with a focus on 14 districts in the divisions. Another major decision is to collaborate with Government and strategic partners to ensure the ecosystem is built for long-term sustainability of disability programmes. We intend to deepen our technical expertise in all core programmes and ensure that PwDs have access to the highest standards of therapy, rehabilitation, and psycho-social counselling services. We carefully choose our partners on the way.

This plan aims to be comprehensive, providing both IBR and CBR services along with capacity building, research, and human resource development. I urge the staff at all offices and partners to embrace the plan, to ensure the needs and concerns of PwDs is at the centre of dialogues and processes. I also take this opportunity to acknowledge the exemplary involvement and guidance of Mr. Aditya Singh, TataPro Engage volunteer.

The plan calls for Winning Together, making it a reality at every step, giving it our heart and soul. Join hands to win.

Thank you.
Christy



V.S. Basavaraj appointed as the Disability Commissioner, Karnataka

On February 16, 2018, the APD team felicitated V.S. Basavaraj for his appointment as the Disability Commissioner of Karnataka. Basavaraj has been with APD for 26 years, serving as Executive Director, Strategy. His contribution to the disability sector is highly appreciated.

Annual function of Shradhanjali Integrated School (SIS) delights viewers

SIS's Annual Day on January 24, 2018 had APD staff, SIS teachers and 198 super-excited students mesmerized! The vibrant and colorful show was a culmination of the hard work of students, teachers and trainers.

"Namma Janapada Siri" celebrated Karnataka's folklore and culture with a dance drama "Mosarajjiya Kathe" and different dance forms such as Kamsale, Veeraghase, Dollu Kunitha, Booth Kola.

Mrs. Dhenuka Srinivasan, ABB, Bangalore, the chief guest, congratulated the children on their heart-warming performance and encouraged them to focus on self-improvement versus competing with others. The school principal, Mr. Kantharaju, presented the annual report and highlighted the achievements of the students through the year. The prize distribution followed. Kudos to the SIS team for the cultural extravaganza!

Leadership training for PWMI and parents motivates and instils confidence

A leadership training was conducted for 29 People with Mental Illness (PWMI) and their parents on January 6-7, 2018 at the Sri Basaveshawara Samudaya Bhavana, Hosabelavanuru. The chief guest Mr. Natesh discussed community leadership, PWMI & parents' health, economic and social challenges, RPD 2016 Act and the Mental Healthcare bill.



Mr. Natesh gave parents tasks for 6 months such as driving Mental Health awareness wall writing, joining federation activities, sending a request letter to the DHO & THO for proper supply of mental health drugs, and more.

PDO Workshops drive the importance of early intervention

One day workshops were held in Harapanahalli on January 3, 2018 and Harihara on February 27, 2018 to sensitize the Panchayat Development Officers (PDOs) on disability and the importance of intervention in early years to manage developmental delays among children. The workshops were attended by 67 people including PDOs, elected members, VRWs, MRWs and one RBSK doctor.

The PDOs were made aware of the circular issued by Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department, Government of Karnataka. It provides 5000/- for local NGOs under the allocated 3% budget to create awareness on early identification of children with delayed development, disability, ADLS activities for the mentally ill and self-employment opportunities for PwD.

Fun & frolic for SIS students, courtesy Standard Chartered Bank



The Standard Chartered Bank arranged a fun day out for the kids and staff of APD on March 3, 2018. They set up stalls and organized a magic show, pot painting, and various games. The students queued up for the tattoo and nail painting artists. It was a fun-filled day with songs, dance, and loads of playtime for the children.

APD CHAMP OF THE QUARTER



Shubhajit, Graphic Designer, APD

A massive electric shock had Shubhajit on a hospital bed for 11 months. His arms were amputated – one below the elbow and the other above – to save his life.

He fought his demons and pushed ahead, became a football champion, a graphic designer, and now – a budding guitarist!

His Mantra

If someone tells you 'NO' take it as a challenge and replace it with 'YES'.

[Click here to listen to Shubhajit's story](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3SHR20hWvVA&t=31s)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3SHR20hWvVA&t=31s>



International Women's Day celebrated with enthusiasm

Women's Day at APD was a week-long celebration from March 1- March 8, 2018. The week kicked off with an essay competition on "Why equality for women?".

A number of activities such as a movie on women empowerment, Cooking without Fire competition, a themed singing competition, awareness session on folic acid, and more were conducted through the week. March 8 was a grand celebration with chief guests Ms Nandini and Ms Kanmani, notable women advocates.

AROUND THE WORLD

Low back pain named as leading cause of disability

March 21, 2018, *The Irish News*

Low back pain has been named the leading cause of disability worldwide as experts accused doctors and policymakers of letting down patients with the condition. At any one time, 540 million people globally are affected by pain in the lower back that can be crippling and persist for months or even years.

COMMEMORATE

Noted disability rights activist Javed Abidi passed away on March 4, 2018 following a heart attack. He was 53.

A former civil servant, Abidi was one of the most authoritative voices in the field of disability rights and believed in engaging the government for ensuring betterment of the persons with disabilities.

Zilla Panchayat workshop creates awareness on disability & welfare schemes

More than 35 elected members of the Zilla Panchayat in Davangere participated in the one-day workshop on January 1, 2018. The Panchayat President, VP, DDWO and APD Branch Manager joined. The APD team discussed the 3% allocation of welfare funds for PwD and its utilization for rehabilitation. Specific benefits for PwD in different departments such as agriculture were also discussed.

96 special trainees graduate with pride

March 27, 2018 was a proud day for the 96 trainees who received completion certificates for Hospitality (14), Domestic BPO (22), Garden Specialist (20), Garden Supervisor (20), and non-formal Electronics Mechanic (20) courses. The event, held at the N S Hema Horticulture Training centre in Kyalasanahalli, was attended by 273 people including 97 existing trainees, VRWs, RSO partners, Central Recruitment Team, employers, donors,



parents of graduates, APD staff, volunteers, and guests.

The graduates herald from Bijapura, Bagalkot, Koppal, Davangere, Dharwad, Shivamogga, Tumkur, Hassan, Chamarajanagar, Kodagu, Chikkamangalore, Chikkaballapur, and Rural Development Trust, Anantapur. Of the 96 trainees, 90 have been placed while 6 are to be placed soon.

Parents shared touching stories of how their lives have changed because of their children's progress. They were appreciative of APD's support. Mr. Tanvir Mohammed from Fortius Infra and Mr. Orson D Silve from Associated Hydro Pressings Pvt Ltd appreciated the Livelihood Training Program and expressed their happiness about the trainees' work performance.

Mr. Abraham Moses, General Manager, Mind tree Foundation, commended APD's work and reaffirmed his company's support for APD programs.

Interns learn the ropes of Early Intervention

Students from various colleges enrolled in the Internship Program at APD during January-February of 2018. The interns assisted in the Early Intervention program.

They supported the parents in engaging the children in therapy, assisted the staff in therapy sessions, and developed case studies.

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Rural self-employment training paves the path to independence

A 10-days residential Rural Entrepreneurship Development Program was conducted at the campus of RUDSETI, Vijayapura from March 3, 2018. The training was attended by 6 PwD with spinal cord injury, 1 caregiver and 6 PwD with locomotor disability. Nine people among this group are expected to be self-employed in 3 months.

The participants were trained on different kinds of self-employment opportunities along with life skills, leadership qualities, accessing bank loans under different schemes, etc.

BPO Screening Camp opens doors for PwD in Davangere

A local training and placement related screening camp was held at the APD, Davangere office on March 6, 2018. It was attended by 23 PwD and 28 parents. Mr. Shridhar and Miss Puspavati shared details on APD's livelihood program, placement, and other support.

Employers, Mr. Uday & Miss Supriya described the nature of work in BPO call centres. The Branch Manager, Mr. Suresh coached PwDs in self-confidence, job value, APD's support through their journey, parents' support, and shared success stories of other PwD.



Intervention Camp for PWSCI in Chikkaballapur

The Community Aid Disability Intervention Camp (CADIC) for people with spinal cord injury (PWSCI) was held during February 21-23, 2018 in Shidlaghatta, Chikkaballapur. Dr. Rajalakshmi Hariharan, Consultant from St. John's Hospital reviewed medical/diagnostic tests and referred people to hospital for further treatment where needed.

The community was made aware of spinal cord injury. The capacity of PWSCI and their caretakers was built to prevent secondary complications and enable management of PWSCI. Social security schemes available from the government were also shared.



Commissioner of Disabilities, Rajasthan visits APD

Mr. Dhanna Ram Purohit, Commissioner of Disabilities, Rajasthan visited the APD, Lingarajapuram campus on February 16, 2018. He was given a tour of the campus and detailed on the work done across programs. He appreciated APD's efforts in rural and urban Karnataka and recommended greater use of government funds. He also invited the APD team to visit Rajasthan for mutual learning.

Annual Science Exhibition of SIS nurtures a scientific attitude

The Annual Science Exhibition of SIS was held on February 28, 2018. About 190 enthusiastic participants from Nursery to Class VII exhibited their learning through charts, experiments, and innovative static/working models.

Visiting parents and APD staff admired the exhibits and congratulated the children on their application of concepts.



No Bag Day gives SIS kids a new perspective on education

The No Bag Day on March 5-6, 2018 was a revelation for the children at SIS. The teachers planned smart digital lessons and interesting activities for the students to promote creative learning. The students enjoyed the day thoroughly and learnt the topics well.



Summative Assessment of SIS students shows excellent results

The final exams for 2017-2018 were conducted during March 21-29, 2018. Most of the students performed very well. Some students with severe CP, quadriplegic, low IQ, and non-verbal issues were assisted by 15 volunteer scribes.

Donate

Bank Transfer, Cheque or Online: <http://apd-india.org/donate>
A/C Name: The Association of People with Disability
A/C No.: 047694600000322
Bank: Yes Bank Ltd
SWIFT/BIB/Bank Code: YESB0000476
Email: accounts@apd-india.org

Cheque Payment

The cheque should be in favour of 'The Association of People with Disability'.
Manjula.K, Executive - Resource Mobilisation (9513320557) at the APD address under Visit/Connect.

For Volunteering

Contact: Archana Nayak
Email: archanan@apd-india.org

APD networks with Haemophilia Society, Davangere

Mr. Janardhana, Asst. Director, Early Intervention and Mr. Suresh Jalagara, Sr. Branch Manager, APD Davangere, visited the Haemophilia Society of Davangere. Dr. Suresh Hanagawadi has been running the society since the last 25 years and has served 714 children and adults with haemophilia.

As haemophilia is one of the 21 recognized disabilities, APD plans to create awareness of it among APD and RSO staff for identification and referral services. This partnership will help more people with haemophilia access free quality treatment across the state.

Visit/Connect

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