The deaf are not dumb!

IT is their new language and it is helping them turn a deaf ear to their disability. Making their silent voices heard is Ruma Roka, through the Noida Deaf Society (NDS)

Vandana Keelor

Most people rely on their hands in some way for their livelihood, but for Ruma, a trained interpreter from NIHH (National Institute for Hearing Handicapped), her hands have been the key for gaining entry into an all new sphere. And this fact is often illustrated even as she speaks. Like most hearing impaired people fluent in sign language, she uses brisk hand and facial gestures for emphasis as she talks. While her lively face is conveying her feelings, her fast-moving hands and arms elucidate her thoughts. Talented and determined, she is busy fulfilling her vision by means of her gift for communication. Her aim is simple: To build a bridge between the deaf and hearing people by breaking the deafening silence, using technology. She explains, "The NDS helps individuals focus on their ability rather than their disability."

English-speaking courses to sustain themselves after their basic schooling, as proper higher educational avenues for the hearing impaired in India are not available."

Having started with five hearing impaired the organisation currently boasts of 58 students pursuing different courses. The NDS has two certified hearing impaired teachers: for the basic office application course and the Indian sign language course. Other than this, there is a specialised DTP course, which has been created by the NIIT media staff and is being conducted twice a week on a voluntary basis by NIIT.

Although this live-wire woman has helped many to be self-reliant and independent, her task hasn’t been easy. Her successful candidate list is not long yet, but 20 trained and six employed, thank having come into contact with her.

Signs Nisha Thomas, who was born hearing impaired and is presently pursuing her DTP course at NDS, "I am looking forward to working as a graphic designer." She gesticulates, "The computer has burst my bubble of silence and isolation. Today I have a new meaning and direction in life."

Echoing Nisha’s sentiment and never-ending support, NDS was started two years ago by Roka. Today the organisation gives vocational training to the hearing impaired in various products, was to let the hearing impaired special, but 20 trained and six employed, thank having come into contact with her.

Celebrating Educa-

In continuation of the anniversary celebrations of Education Times, we present to you a 4-page education special (Page 3-6) in today’s issue of Noida Plus Rating Educa-

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