



NOIDA DEAF SOCIETY



2018

Annual Report

Message from Our Founder

NOIDA DEAF SOCIETY

Dear Friends and Supporters,

Greetings!

There are times in this journey when you get an opportunity to really feel blessed for the work that we do. One such time was seeing the mother of a young Deaf boy learning sign language and saying that she finally feels that she can communicate and understand her son for the first time in his life!



Ms. Ruma Roka, Founder of Noida Deaf Society (NDS)

This amazing mother learnt sign language even though she is not literate herself but it didn't stop her! These are the stories that keep us going in our mission to spread the importance of Indian Sign Language not only to educate and train but also to get families together, bridging the human gaps.

The importance of communication in sign language specifically in the Deaf Schools also saw great momentum. 13 Deaf schools across the country opened their doors to first, accept a Deaf Teacher as part of their staff and second, to have their teachers learn ISL too. It has taken years to sensitize, explain and persuade such an initiative in the schools and I am happy that the schools are finally seeing the need of this simple tool to bring about accessible education within their classrooms. All this has given us the motivation and push to go ahead and reach out to many more schools in the months ahead.

At our centers students continue to come from across the country to learn skills and a hope for the future. It has kept us striving to expand and to accommodate all the children and youth in nearby localities.

This is the journey of many people and organizations walking and working together.

I cannot thank our friends and supporters enough for being with us through the thick and thin of it all!

Thank you so much!

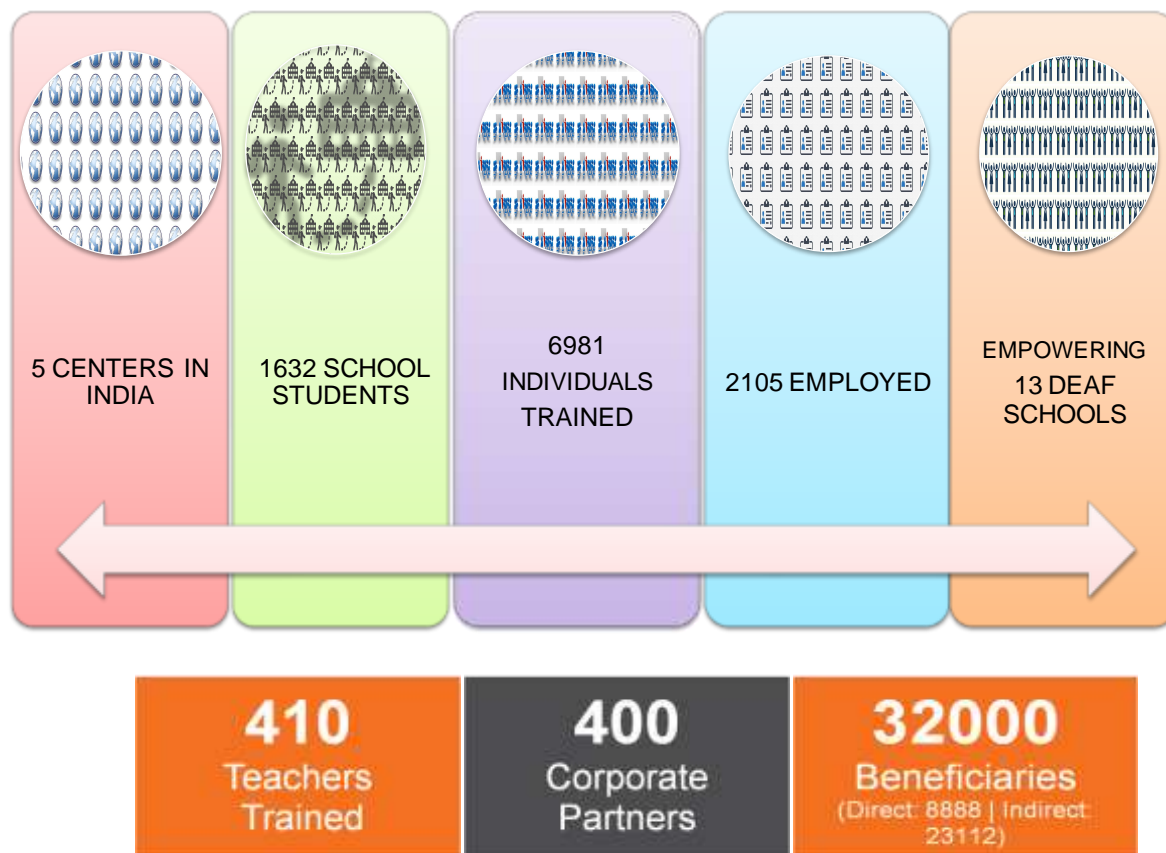
Ruma Roka
Founder, Noida Deaf Society

NDS GROWING WITH CONFIDENCE

Noida Deaf Society (NDS), set up in 2005 as not-for-profit society by Ms. Ruma Roka, envisions enabling a positive change in the lives of Deaf children and youth. To mitigate severe issues that the Deaf community faces, NDS has started a number of interventions which have seen development and change in the overall education levels, skill development and the sensitization of the key stakeholders of the community such as the students, teachers, parents and employment partners. Deaf children and youth at NDS come from economically weaker sections of society and are often considered a burden on their families. Our students are coming from the interiors of the country, urban slum and rural areas of states like Jharkhand, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh etc.

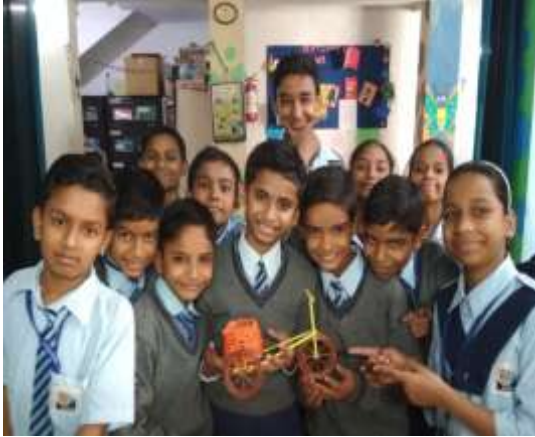
Mission: To empower and enable the Deaf community to develop their capabilities so that they can lead self-reliant lives and be a productive partner in our society.

Program Impact



Programs

PRIMARY EDUCATION



The program serves Deaf students, ages 5 – 15, and their families. It has more than 80 children getting formal education from Nursery to Class V. The classes are graded based on skills and not age. The school follows the Bi-Lingual method of teaching educational content and core life skills, giving the children a strong first language i.e. Sign Language.

SUPPLEMENTARY EDUCATION



This is a special afternoon program for school going Deaf children. The focus of this program is to bridge the gaps in the education system for the Deaf students and develop core life skills. Through this project, these school going students from classes IV to XII are able to develop better learning capability in different subjects and enhance interest in formal curriculum.

DEAF STRENGTHENING PROGRAM



Program aims at creating an ecosystem in collaboration with Deaf Schools to make trainings and content delivery accessible to students in Deaf schools. Enabling and aligning teachers to learn Indian Sign Language and understand that Deaf children are not to be treated as Disabled but a group of people with different language.



SKILL DEVELOPMENT & LIVELIHOODS

NDS has succeeded in transforming the industry perception and carving a niche for deaf youth in the industry. Till a few years back the only option available for deaf youth was menial labour. With customized curricula and market aligned training NDS has been able to provide the right skill sets to its youth. Intensive awareness building efforts have sensitized the industry.



PARENT ENABLING PROGRAMME

NDS Works with parents of the children/youth to develop family support systems and reduce stress related trauma through workshops and counseling sessions. The bridging of communication gaps through teaching ISL leading to better home environments. The involvement of parents forms an integral part of all our program verticals.

DO YOU KNOW?

*Over 90% NDS students belong to economically weaker sections of society
Up to 60% of the students belong to the Scheduled caste/Scheduled Tribe / Other
Backward class backgrounds
69% of NDS Staff is from the Deaf community*

Innovations at NDS

- Accessible education and training for Deaf children and youth
- Creation of a Pool of Deaf Trainers
- Opening up employment opportunities across sectors in the formal industry
- Creation of Customized visual curriculum at school level and skill development
- Enabling ecosystem NDS education and training ecosystem is meant to create accessible education and growth
- Enabling families of the Deaf to develop better family communication & support. Parents are counseled to understand the future employment opportunities of their wards and encouraged to learn sign language
- Creating an ecosystem in collaboration with Deaf Schools to make trainings and content delivery accessible to students in Deaf schools
- Mainstreaming in the context of sensitizing schools, universities and corporate about the needs, challenges and abilities of the Deaf community.



THE STORIES OF CHANGE

No one knows my ability better than me

Chirag Taksali is a 23 year old Deaf from Jaipur. He is the only Deaf in his family. After completing his 10th from Seth Anandi Lal Poddar Deaf School and 12th from St. Joseph School, he wanted to join his father in the family business. However, his father felt, Chirag could hardly be of any help owing to his Deafness. He was disappointed and felt let down by his own family. Rather than becoming depressed or withdrawn, he followed his passion and love for cooking and joined a Diploma course in food production.



After successful completion of his course another challenge came his way, this time it was the lack of employment opportunities for the Deaf along with the lack of awareness in job agencies in regards to the possibilities of placing Deaf candidates. When he was struggling with the situation, a friend led him to NDS and Chirag joined the pre-employment training to hone his soft skills. He was clear right from the beginning that he wanted a job profile where he could apply his cooking skills. We took him to Chool Restaurant for an interview and he immediately got selected.

Today Chirag is happily working there and there has been a marked improvement in his level of confidence. There has been a change in the outlook of the family towards Deafness as Chirag lives a self reliant life.

One moment can trigger something and change your life

Heena Kharetiya, 20yrs is a young Deaf girl in a family of four. Her father, who was a peon in the postal department passed away when she was a child. Since she is the only Deaf in the family with 2 hearing siblings, her mother broke societal stereotypes to get her enrolled at the Poddar School which has residential facility as well. Heena realized early in life that life is never going to be easy. After completing her 10th, she sought her mother's support in moving out of the hostel and to allow her to avail a rented accommodation with other Deaf girls. She took the decision as she wanted to explore opportunities of part time jobs in Jaipur and simultaneously pursue her studies of class 12th at Poddar School.



Her mother and siblings visited NDS Jaipur to understand more about the courses. It was her training in the Retail Trainee course that Heena landed in a part time job at Reliance Fresh.

Today is able to earn enough to manage her lodging and boarding expenses in the city and does not need families monetary support. Her supervisor says, the level of confidence in Heena has grown gradually and is using the opportunity to better her skills and explore full time jobs once her formal education gets over.

OVERVIEW OF THE YEAR 2018-2019

This year we were able to touch 00000 Deaf children and youth through our programs. This year we laid emphasis on expansion of our Deaf Strengthening Program. This is a first every initiative of teaching Indian Sign Language to the students and teachers in the Deaf schools.

Besides education, for empowerment of Deaf youth activities on life-skill workshops, exposure visits, talent events, awareness generation on sexual health for children through various medium etc were conducted. Health camps were also organized for their health checkups

Activities of parents meeting, stakeholders meeting, and volunteering activities were organized to empower parents and other community members to seek their involvement in the projects.

Activities



iPledge-Swachhta Hi Seva Campaign

Noida Deaf Society- Primary School conducted 'iPledge-Swachhta Hi Seva Campaign' on 1st October, 2018 as part of Tech Mahindra Foundation's events on Swachhta Hi Seva Campaigns all over India.

The teachers taught the students importance of cleanliness and how to keep their surroundings clean. A rally was organized with the school students & the staff members around our school premises. Our students also signed the Swachhta Pledge in Indian Sign Language.



Students of Pathways School, Noida volunteered to paint portions of our primary wing.



Workshops & Events



Workshop for student of Noida Deaf Society Primary School on adolescent



Workshop for Parents

Session at Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre, New Delhi



Science Workshop

Students learnt basic principles of science such as-how to create an electric circuit and parachute making under the guidance of Mr Akhlesh Agarwal, Founder of 'I Love Science'.



Blue Dart Blue Edge
Empowering Lives- Graduation
Ceremony



Employment, Exposure & Sensitization



Sensitization & Indian Sign Language Session at Welcome Hotel, Dwarka, Delhi



Exposure visit to Toni and Guy Sec 41, Noida

Students experienced hands-on training, enriching them with new learning & insights in Beauty Culture.



Exposure Visit to JBJ Technologies Greater Noida.

Such visits are immensely helpful for our students in gaining an understanding of various kinds of workplaces and their working environment.

Volunteerism

Greatest barrier for differently able people is the attitude of other people towards them. To break the stigma and misunderstanding surrounding deaf and other disabilities, Noida Deaf Society encourages volunteers to engage themselves at our centre. It is an opportunity to understand our world and become sensitized towards this invisible disability.



Celebrations



NDS's 13th year of establishment was celebrated at the Indira Gandhi Kala Kendra auditorium in Noida. Over 450 Deaf students attended the function



We celebrate our special occasions together with much pride and enthusiasm.

AWARDS & IN THE MEDIA



Business Standard, Nov. 17, 2018

More Noida corporates, F&B outlets hiring differently-abled employees



Article in Times of India Newspaper



Story covered in News Hook



The Quint, Aug. 14, 2018



OUR EMPLOYERS



Thank You to All of Our Donors FY 18-19

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