

## MAGAZINE



## உலஇSดி๐

＊Prajaahita Activities
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囚（றைஸั？：ஜาறา ஜேஸஸ8
＊Locomotor Disability in India
＊My Journey with Divinely Abled：Abhishek Nagaraja
＊Embracing Diversity：Dhanya Ravi

## Prajaahita Activities

Prajaahita Inaugural function 08 Oct 19 At Prajaahita Foundation Office 18/937 Q1, First Floor, Akkai Tower, Near Tali Temple, Chalappuram, Kozhikode-673002.


## Lamp lighting by <br> Mr.Santosh Kumar



Lamp lighting by
Mr. Balagovindan.


##  \#Nirampakaraam

It's with great delight that we inform our little steps in this momentous journey. The initial project of Prajaahita mากo 』\&லうo successfully accomplished by gifting color pencils to the students of The Amrita Institute for Differently Abled. This organization is dedicated in providing education for differently-abled children, including those with Down's Syndrome, epilepsy, autism, and intellectual developmental disability.


As team Prajaahita approached AIDA, the suggestion was clear that there is a consistent requirement for colour pencils.
Finding the supporters for this great cause, Prajahita executed the project on 10/10/19, owing to the wonderful response from the faculty and students at AIDA,


## *Learning from the pioneers:

Prajaahita director, Sooraj Santhosh Kumar on the journey for knowledge! Getting to know how the groundwork, the back-ends and literally the rolling of an organization working for social responsibility.
Even though the journey through organizations has begun so far, this time it had gifted and added perspective. It was quite evident from the experiences from various organizations visited including Giftabled \& Samarthanam that it works more like a family and that's the only way it works in the perfect flow! There are challenged individuals working hand in hand with the others, meaningfully for a protective organization. These organizations have already
marked their success stories by offering remarkable service for the development of education livelihood environment sports health nutrition community based programs.


丸Prajaahita Director, Sooraj Santhosh Kumar \& Core Volunteers Shyam Kishore and Arjun K on a meet up with the wonder woman Dhanya Ravi, National award winner \& social activist at Amrithavarshini for osteogenesis imperfecta.

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¿Prajaahita mentor, Krishna Kumar P Sreelatha submitting accessibility project proposal to Sri. B. Abdul Nasar I.A.S (District Collector, Kollam)


丸Prajaahita mentor, Krishna Kumar P Sreelatha submitting accessibility project proposal to Sri P.B Nooh I.A.S (District Collector, Pathanamthitta)


丸Prajaahita team at India Inclusion Summit (IIS) Bengaluru Sooraj Santhosh Kumar, Rejin Jose K \& Rahul Sajeevan T

$\star$ Prajaahita team in association with Ektha Foundation Chennai, conducting Boccia introduction camp at Jyothis school Kottayam around 20 students with teachers and parents participated on 25/11/2019

$\star$ Prajaahita team in association with Ektha Foundation Chennai, conducting Boccia introduction camp at Asha Deepam special school Aluva 25 persons with intellectual disabilities participated on 26/11/2019


太Prajaahita team in association with Ektha Foundation Chennai, conducting Boccia follow up camp at NIPMR Iringalakuda on 27/11/2019. Around 30 students participated


ŁPrajaahita team in association with Ektha Foundation Chennai, conducting Boccia introduction camp at Amrita Institute for Differently Abled. Around 20 students participated 28/11/2019


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FIRRE(Foundation for International Rehabilitation Research and Empowerment )team













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Official photographer Team invicibles


## My Journey with Divinely Abled

Because unlike others, most of them have accessibility issues or insufficient communication between each other, so this is where we fill in the gap. It looks tough but when they smile at your heart fully, you get the most beautiful feeling in the world. And to get that sort of feeling every time I get the opportunity, I volunteer my services without expecting anything in return.

It gives me great pleasure doing this, as I get the love, affection, and attention and moreover peace of mind. I feel like it is the divine job. I love doing this. And will do all my life. It gives me the true meaning of my life. My life is dedicated to them. The best part is they are pure at heart, Working with them gives a peace of mind in every manner as they listen and trust me. They have a lot of questions but I patiently answer them. The best part is their questions give us some new innovations and we do learn a lot from them. I also have noticed as Sometimes It takes a lot of time for me to understand that they are limited for certain postures to pose for the photoshoot. So I always give my best shot on it. I capture a memory with the amazing range of love and emotion, that they can have it forever. And finally, they are happy with my work. And the smiles they have on their faces gives you immense pleasure. It is like a dream come true. So the positive energy or the power you receive back is truly divine.
of a huge responsibility. Apart from being a photographer, one should be flexible enough to stand by them for everything.

I just want the world to know that they are not here to compete for power, recognition, and support with people. They are just here to exhibit what they are good at. They see the beauty in the everyday and live in the present, witness love and enjoy the infinite possibilities. They just want the people to
treat them like how they treat others. They just understand the language of love and affection and of course a little smile.

## Dhanya Ravi



Dhanya Ravi has rare brittle bone disease called Osteogenesis Imperfecta. From Palakkad and now based on Bangalore, she's the wonder woman works for spreading awareness on rare diseases and also a motivational speaker.

## Embracing Diversity

We are all different,
and we are meant to be so.
None can play our role better than ourselves,
for it is the uniqueness we carry
that make us who we are.

While we need to acknowledge this difference, or rather uniqueness;
we shouldn't forget that beneath all the difference
we are one.

We all have similar needs,
we go through similar emotions,
we all love to be accepted and appreciated,
we all aspire to learn, grow and express.

Let us not forget
that the difference we share can be our biggest strength or our biggest weakness,
depending on how we treat the difference.
Do we embrace them,
Or, make it a reason to stand apart?
The choice is ours,
and, I hope we choose to embrace the difference, include one another, and discover the strength of inclusivity.


## Locomotor Disability in India

Did you know that in India, around 2.68 Cr persons are 'disabled' which comprises $2.21 \%$ of the total population? That's a huge number indeed. Though the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPWD) Act 2016 has been a major breakthrough in this regard, the real matters pertaining to this community of 'Divyangs' as they are lovingly addressed by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi now, still has a long way to go. The new RPWD Act talks about non-discrimination and their inclusion rightfully into the mainstream society and assures to give them an equal opportunity everywhere. Do you think that's really happening everywhere?There are several forms of disability that have been identified in the RPWD Act including mental health issues and learning disabilities. Still, Locomotor disabilities top the list. Locomotor disability means problem in moving from one place to another, that is, disability in the legs. But, in general, it is considered to be a disability related to bones, joints and muscles. Statistics reveal that almost $20.3 \%$ of disability in India is due to locomotor problems. Out of these, disability due to poliomyelitis and cerebral palsy rank among the first two causes respectively.

Locomotor disabilities range from deformities of the hands and legs, dysfunctional limbs, paralysis of the limbs and other structural defects like a hunch back or deformed spine. Causes could be varied; from amputation to congenital defects, cancer, stroke, malnutrition, age - related, infective, inflammatory and developmental insufficiencies, they could all be important factors for a disability of this kind.
Locomotor disabilities can be prevented. These people can also be rehabilitated using best care and means to a large extent. Prevention measures include adequate nutrition, immunization (like in case of poliomyelitis), health education in the society and seeking ways to prevent accidents. In case of patients with early impairment, further damage could be avoided by initiating early therapy, surgical procedures and treatment.
Physiotherapy can be highly imperative in such cases. Setting up of Early Intervention Clinics can be of prime importance to children up to 3yrs of age. Paediatric physiotherapists have a crucial role to play here.As a doctor myself, I have witnessed many such cases who have improved and excelled in their own fields in spite of their disabilities. With provisions of accessibility, ambulatory devices, rehabilitation facilities and an inclusive attitude of the society towards them, these people with special abilities can surely carve a place for themselves in the world.
In the recent times Prosthetics have been a major revolution in this field. 3D printed prosthetic, Modular prosthetic limb, 3D printed wheelchair, Smartphone-controlled bionic prosthetics and Crutches having joints have made accessibility possible for them. Brain implants, 4D technology and brain-computer interfaces promise a brighter future for people afflicted by locomotor disabilities.

Just the advocacy pertaining to an equal place for the disabled isn't enough. In today's times, it is absolutely necessary that the entire mankind join hands to contribute to the upliftment, rehabilitation and development of this community. With proper support and encouragement, they can prove to be great assets of the nation and society.

Prajaahita

