



Global AID Times

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EDITORIAL

It is said "Information is Power", it is very much relevant in this information age. But when it comes to information regarding Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) and aged, information is hard to fetch and one has to search and go through many service providers with trial and error methods of getting it right and reliable news relevant to the sector.

Global AID Times has been initiated out of the need to address the information gaps of PWDs and aged. Be it news, views, events, jobs and matrimony of PWDs and service facilities for the aged. We wish to publish all and give the news to the extent of our abilities and with the generous support of friends of Global AID and invaluable help of volunteers.

Rehabilitation of PWDs or aged is a slow and long process. They depend on technology, assistive devices, human resources and inclusion holistically. In this, Global AID Times, we wish to include news and opinions about disability as a whole, whether visible or hidden, physical or mental and wish to create this as print platform with full contact information of organizations, care providers, agencies and corporate supporting them. We have huge hope from this society that they will help us not only carry out this work but make it more professional with relevant information, input, innovations, and evince needed funds.

Currently we are offering this paper in Telugu and English. Both the versions would be available virtually. The uniqueness of our newspaper will be most of us working in this paper are PWDs, who are keen to disseminate more news that can help our fellow citizens.

I sincerely hope and wish and seeking blessings of all sensitive people to be a support in this endeavour and prove that great interventions thrive from a society which respects and nurtures its vulnerable population.

SAI PADMA,
Editor, Global AID Times

State Government's support to Disabled Sections of Society

- Naidu



Rajahmundry: Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh N. Chandrababu Naidu has given a call to Society to act responsibly towards Persons with Disabilities (PWDs). He has participated as Chief Guest at a function organized on the occasion of World Disability Day in Rajahmundry. He stated that his Government will extend its complete support to PWDs and promote programs towards their welfare. He also quoted that AP

Government is giving Rs.1500 as pension to the disabled which he has highlighted as his Government's unique measure for the welfare of PWDs.

He stressed on the fact that PWDs possess extra ordinary capabilities and they can do wonders, provided little emotional support to them. He quoted his Government's efforts to provide employment opportunities to them. He has announced that Government is planning to appoint Koteswara Rao who is a PWD as Chairman of Department of Disabled Welfare and Elderly. Chinna Rajappa, Deputy Chief Minister, Murali Mohan, Member of Parliament, Rajahmundry and several MLA's and MP's from the region have participated in the program.

SPECIAL FACILITIES TO SPECIAL STUDENTS (Andhra University)

Andhra University is willing to provide all the required infrastructure and facilities to specially disabled students, said GSN Raju, Vice-Chancellor of Andhra University. He spoke as a chief guest at a function organized at the AU Central Library on the occasion of World Disability Day. Addressing the gathering GSN Raju said that, with great mental strength one can attain great heights in Life and career irrespective of their disability. He told that Andhra University has arranged special wheel chairs for disabled in the Library Campus which were distributed by Global AID. University is putting its efforts to make them participatory in all fields including sports, he

added. Professor Narayana, Rector, K.Ram Mohan Rao, Registrar, Gayatri Devi, Principal and staff of AU have participated in the program.



Special Notification for Employment Opportunities

- Collector Yuvaraj

Visakhapatnam: District Authorities are planning to release a special notification to increase the employment opportunities to PWDs, District Collector, N. Yuvaraj has announced at a function organized in the Andhra University on the occasion of World Disability Day. Speaking as a Chief Guest at the function, he has attributed pending legal issues in the Courts as one of the prime reason for delay in filling the back log vacancies for PWDs in the Government Sector. He has stressed on the fact that government's support will always be there for PWDs.

PWDs possess more mental capabilities than normal persons, said South Vizag M L A Vasupalli Ganesh Kumar speaking at the function. He also said that, PWDs should be given equal opportunities in the society and should be treated on par with others. MLA Ganababu has appreciated the commendable work done by PWDs in creating artefacts. Caroms, Running, Throw Ball, Cricket and Short put games were conducted for PWDs and District Collector N.Yuvaraj has distributed certificates and prizes to the winners in the competitions. Narsimha Murthy, Assistant Director, Department of Disabled Welfare and Elderly, A K



Samanth, N T P C Zonal Manager, Satya Sai Srinivas, Project Director D R D A and employees and volunteers from Non-Profit organizations who work for the welfare of PWDs have participated in the program.

WHEELATHON - WALKATHON

- March with a Purpose

Visakhapatnam: As the waves of the sea splashed on to the shores of the sand, colourful flags flew high into the sky as special individuals set their journey to mark a rally on the eve of World Disability Day. It was a rally to show their strength and perseverance to lead life with a purpose. The supreme Goddess Kali who was a silent spectator and stood majestically facing the sea showered her rays of blessing and the rally was set. It was a day marked for PWDs to celebrate their victory over disability. It was not just a rally; it was a march to exhibit their courage and determination to live in a society filled with disparities in the name of Wheelathon and Walkathon.

Disability doesn't occur because lack of physical parts, but disability occurs to every individual once they attain old age, said Professor Bal Mohan Das, Former Vice-Chancellor Nagarjuna University during this rally organized on the eve of World Disability Day. Though technology is taking strides in all the fields of development, still lot more need to be done for the welfare of disabled, he said. He further opined that, the funds catered for the development of disabled sections needs to be utilized in a proper manner. He appreciated the efforts of developed Countries like USA, Singapore, Japan in providing facilities to PWDs to enable accessibility to all public places.

Sai Padma, Founder-President, Global AID has presided over the function and called for the need on the part of Government in providing special facilities for the benefit of disabled sections of society. She stressed on the fact that in India, there are no proper accessibility or public toilet facilities for disabled and requested authorities to provide the same. On this occasion, she has announced that Global AID is planning to publish a Newspaper "Global AID Times" which caters PWDs and promote their causes.

Speaking on the occasion, Pragnanand, Founder-Secretary of Global AID has expressed his concern over the fact that the pension granted by Government of Andhra Pradesh to PWDs is not sufficient to cater to their medical needs itself and demanded for its enhancement. Manufacture of Special equipment and vehicles for the disabled helps them to enhance their life style which in turn makes them participate normally in the development of the society. In addition, he stressed on the need to make them self-sufficient during natural calamities like cyclones and storms so that their lives would not

be endangered. He felt that, by implementing measures to provide employment to PWDs, Governments promise towards a better State will be fulfilled.

Ayodhya Kumar Krishnamsetty who has participated as a Special Guest at the function has highlighted the theme of his directorial debut Movie Minugurulu (Fire Flies) which focused on the plight of children with visual impairment and the inherent creative skills that lie in PWDs.

Several PWDs manoeuvring their Tricycles and Wheel chairs have participated in the rally by raising slogans to promote their welfare.



Global AID Times – for PWDs, by PWDS – of PWDs



"We are with you during all walks of Life, This Government is with you", said Parakala Prabhakar, Chief Advisor (Communications) to the Andhra Pradesh Government during the release function of first issue of Global AID Times News Letter. He was here in Visakhapatnam as Chief Guest at the function and spoke elaborately on the Government's continued efforts for the welfare of disabled and called people to utilize Government's schemes effectively. He also stressed on the fact that, the government is committed to uplift PWDs by undertaking various skill development programmes, placements and to provide financial help to them.

India has not attained a decent level in creating adequate infrastructure facilities to PWDs and Elderly opined, Professor Bala Mohan Das,

Former Vice-Chancellor Nagarjuna University. Presiding over the function, he has explained the facilities that exist in Countries like Japan and other developed countries for the easy movement of physically disabled and told that even Persons with Visual Impairment can cross busy traffic movements without any body's help. He has called the authorities to create such infrastructure in emerging market economies like India too. He also brought to the attention that few states like Chhattisgarh has special University catering the needs of only PWDs and called for the same institutional arrangements in Andhra Pradesh as well.

Mobility, Accessibility, Employability and Sustainability are the four primary requirements which PWDs need to acquire with and her aim is to work towards that, said Sai Padma, Founder of Global AID. She has explained her journey in the field of social service for the last 20 years in spite of her physical disability and attributed her success to her Father Dr. Murthy and her spouse Pragnanand. She also quoted that she is the face of their hard work. She has introduced Global AID Board and volunteers to the gathering through her speech.

Pragnanand, Founder-Secretary of Global AID has welcomed the dignitaries on to the dias and spoke about the activities of Global AID. Mavuri

Venkata Ramana, proprietor of CMR and MVR Shopping Mall also spoke on the occasion and extended his continuous support for the welfare of PWDs.

GENEROUS HEART



Mavuri Venkata Ramana, Proprietor & Chairman of CMR and MVR Shopping Mall has shown his generous heart by contributing donation of Rupees One Lakh for Global AID activities. He has presented the cheque to Sai Padma, Founder President of Global AID during an entertainment program, HASOVAN, organized by Global AID for journalists at Vizag Journalists Forum located in Visakhapatnam.

Readers Corner

Society should think about the needs of PWDs too. People in general face troubles due to situations surrounded around them, but for PWDs, problems start from birth itself and our Life moves on in tandem with several health and other issues. People who show sympathy are more than people who wish to provide facilities to us. Leaders, Government and officials should think in these lines.

P. JOGARAO, Arilova
Visakhapatnam.

PWDs in this society are suffering due to lack of employment opportunities. No one is willing to

offer work to us though we are capable of efficient delivery of work than ordinary persons. Our meagre earnings are not allowing us to meet our daily needs too, leave about medical expenses. Government should make it mandatory to create employment opportunities for at least two PWDs in every company in order to wither unemployment problem from our Lives.

DHANRAJ, Representative,
Physically Challenged People's Association,
Visakhapatnam.

It is saddening that parking authorities are not allowing the vehicles of PWDs to park in common parking lots. This is causing lot of inconvenience to PWDs as it consumes time to park vehicles in a no-man zone. Moreover, it creates pain to us as

we had to walk/crawl long distances to park our vehicles in the zone created for us. We request authorities to empathize with our problems and accordingly provide facilities to enable hassle-free living to us.

PAVAN KUMAR,

Research Scholar, Andhra University,

Government and Merchants need to provide special facilities for PWDs to access places like hospitals, shopping malls and temples. It would be beneficial for us if trainers are also placed in respective places along with wheel chairs to assist us. Government need to supply special vehicles at a subsidized price.

NAIDU, Tatichetlapalem,
Visakhapatnam.

Equal Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities

- Union Minister for Social Justice Gehlot



Visakhapatnam, February 13: The Central government is committed to providing better amenities to the physically challenged to enable them to lead better lives, Union Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment Thawar Chand Gehlot said. He has participated in a programme conducted at AU Sports Grounds and distributed special equipment and vehicles worth Rs.1.29 crores to a total of 1353 beneficiaries.

He said that Government ensures to provide equal education and employment opportunities to disabled individuals by providing a unique identification number to them. Educational Loans would be granted to individuals who wish to pursue higher education in India and abroad at a lower interest rate, he promised. For hearing impaired children under the age of 6 years, a subsidy of Rs.6 lakhs would be granted for the purpose of surgery, he said. Motor Tri-cycles will be provided on subsidy

to those who are 80% physically challenged. He has offered a credit of Rs. 30 Lakhs to those who want to venture self-employment projects. Mr.Gehlot said that the Centre had approved construction of a Sports Complex for the disabled in the city at an estimated cost of Rs.50 crore.

Government is also planning to construct a mental hospital at an estimated cost of 2 crores in Nellore in an area of 5 acres.

Union Urban Development Minister M Venkaiah Naidu said the Centre will provide all facilities to people with disability.

Government will issue notification to fill the backlog vacancies in Government Posts, Central Minister for Education Ganta Srinivasa Rao said.

V. Ganesh, MLA, L Bhavani, ZP Chair Person, GSN Raju, AU VC, Ram Mohan Rao, Registrar have participated in the program.

Magic is my solace

- Nirikshan

Physical Disability did not dampen his creative spirits and to lead life in a dignified way. Once, his body said can't move, now the same person's fingers are doing magic to entertain people. Determination and commitment are the reasons behind this Magic, Nirikshan says. Nirikshan, who hails from Gajuwaka area of



Visakhapatnam stood victorious against the disability of skin and bone problems by resorting to Magic and Bible Reading. His childhood was not so rosy like others of his age as he was unable to attend school due to severe skin allergy and weakness in bones. The family earnings did not support his medical treatment and stayed at home. Due to his curiosity to study, his brother has helped him to learn alphabets and the journey of learning was started for Nirikshan.

He never let himself down and started learning Bible and Church Pastor Yugandhar who identified hidden abilities of Nirikshan had taught him Magic. The Magic which he has learned to kill time has become his livelihood now. He says, I just don't read Bible but also narrate the stories in Bible to school children. Apart from this, he also plays Donald Duck show during several programs that happen in the city. This is a great achievement for him as he once thought his Life was stuck without studies and ill health. Today, he is a successful person who has conquered Life in spite of his disability.

He says, every individual is unique and possesses some or the other hidden talent. One needs to identify that and hone the skill to stand in this society. Nirikshan has demonstrated his Magic at a programme organized at the local office of GlobalAid in the month of February. Nirikshan can be reached out for any Magic performance on **Mobile: 9298508305**.

Accessibility – Biggest Hurdle in Andhra University

Accessibility is the biggest issue that is being faced by many physically challenged students and employees of Andhra



University. The buildings of Andhra University are of Colonial origin and every building is annexed through stairs which makes it impossible for many aspiring students to take admission into any of the courses. There are few struggling students and employees who try to access the departments to make their living. Ch. Ramanamma, a polio survivor is one such physically challenged employee in the Andhra University Correspondence Division. Andhra University has not only provided Education to me but also Employment for which I am always thankful, she says. However, coming to work every day is very strenuous for her as she takes an auto to reach to the campus and there are no wheel chairs available for her to get into the main building. She drags herself on the floor and climbs through stairs for work. Her request to the authorities is to provide access to physically challenged persons to different buildings of the campus without much strain and pain

Sunrise in lives of Mentally Challenged

- Sreya Foundation



Challenged are those who cannot be humane but not those who are mentally challenged because of fate or circumstances. Challenged- Be it physical or mental is a burden to carry for Life time. Support in the form of care becomes necessary for them due to their disabilities. Sreya Foundation of Anakapalli was established with an aim to promote the welfare of society through Education, Training and Voluntary Service. The organization is set up to work towards the solution of special needs of mentally challenged children.

Dr. Ushadevi, a professor by profession left her profession to establish Sreya Foundation to look after the needs of mentally challenged kids. It is the birth of her niece with this disability that has prompted her to work towards their welfare. Usha, who has done psychology has shown interest to understand the behaviour of this special children and identified the gaps that are existing in the system through her extensive travel to foreign countries. She has identified that India does not have infrastructure or systems to support the needs of mentally or physically challenged and she took up the mission of training these young kids with disabilities with a small group of 5. The organization today houses 73 kids in it and her aim is not to admit beyond 100 people. Sreya Foundation provides training and hostel facility to kids with mental disabilities.

Sreya Foundation's activities include: Free Rehabilitation Training Centre, Hostel Services,

Free Medical Camps, Awareness Programmes, Organ and Body Donation – Awareness Creation.

Dr. Usha appeals that not to look down at those who are mentally challenged. She says that, persons with abilities will leave their parents one day, but these kids will never leave their parents. When a child doesn't respond to parents gestures at the age 9 months, one should consult doctor immediately she suggests. Over-Protection and over-negligence both don't act in the favour of these children she opines.

Sreya Foundation is currently functioning with a multidisciplinary team of experts from different fields like Psychology, Psychiatry, Education and Management. We aim at the qualitative improvement of the learning hub by Student Development, Staff Development and School Development.



GLOBAL AID

Global Ability in Disability-Global AID: Global AID is an organization based in Visakhapatnam and Vizianagaram Districts of Andhra Pradesh, India. It was established to explore and identify hidden abilities in Persons With Disabilities (PWDs), nurture, improve and develop them with professional and personal care, ultimately empowering them.

Its vision is 'Creation of a better world for differently abled persons, persons with disabilities, physically challenged persons to live with dignity & respect, making them 'development inclusive' and accomplishes quality of life.' Its mission is 'mainstreaming into society, differently abled persons, persons with disabilities, physically challenged persons with all natural rights and special rights that they are entitled.

Our Focus We are Four Focused k MOBILITY k ACCESSIBILITY k EMPLOYABILITY k SUSTAINABILITY

-Of Persons with Disabilities and impoverished persons and their families.

GLOBAL AID IS ESTABLISHED :

- k To deal with, and represent as an organization in all issues relating to accessible environment for the disabled people. Like accessible workplace, public place and to conduct access audits. In short, to address all access issues at large.
- k To carryout community based rehabilitation programs and projects.
- k To work actively for disability rights and human rights as a whole.
- k To carry out any publishing works in disability rehabilitation, in form of journals, newsletters, poetry, prose etc... Any print or online publications by disabled or aged persons or any work in fields of disability related to rehabilitation & development.
- k To provide job related trainings and placement services and sustainable livelihood options to persons with disability/disabilities.
- k To provide healthcare and counseling and rehabilitation services to physically, mentally challenged persons and aged persons. To run schools, hospitals, vocational training centers in the selected areas anywhere in India.
- k To network with any organizations working with similar objectives. And to give better opportunities for the disabled by using assistive, adoptive and information technology tools, appliances and aids.
- k Initiate programs and projects for providing inclusive environment for the differently abled persons.

- k To organize any program to reflect voice of physically challenged and aged persons and to enter into any sector as the board of trustees may deem fit from time to time.

Programs/Projects of Global AID

Hub n Spoke Model of Education:

We are running one hostel for underprivileged 50 children and imparting education for most disenfranchised and poor children in 5 tribal hamlets. we are catering to 200 children.

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Counselling Unit -

Counseling sessions for persons with disabilities are undertaken to extend socio-psychological support and also encourage them to take explore job opportunities according to their capabilities.

Vounteers' Ventura -

The aim of this program is to prepare youth to become care providers for persons with disabilities and elderly persons. They would be imparted with knowledge about the nature of different disabilities, requirement of persons with disabilities and elderly persons, the manner in which to extend support to them, assistive devices that support them, laws enacted and government entitlements they are eligible for.



Ability Directory - (In progress)

Ability Directory is a data directory of persons with disabilities which is planned to be available online and offline. It will be a resource directory of persons with disabilities, care providers, NGOs, CBOs, and service providers.

Employment & Entrepreneur Mentorship Unit (EEMU) -

This program is designed to extend need based support based on the Knowledge Assessment. Educated youth with disabilities are assisted in suitable job placements Entrepreneur Support Wing is an integrated initiative inclusive of exploring and establishing marketing linkages for sale of the products made by Home Based Entrepreneurs with disabilities.

Physiotherapy Consultation -

This is a service to provide qualified physiotherapist on call to those who become temporarily disabled. Insurance support for PWDs - Insurance support for persons with disabilities is an initiative to extend support towards the payment of premium every year to that acts as a social security and also take care of medical needs in emergency.



SMILE ON THE FACES

Visakhapatnam, February 23: One cannot give all the organs or provide complete support to PWDs however one can give a smile to them. With this noble intention, Global AID has distributed special wheelchairs to Five children suffering from cerebral palsy and five to other PWDs at a programme organised by Global AID, a voluntary organisation that works for PWDs with the financial support of PVR Trust and Asha Jyothi of the U.S.A.

"Besides being able to move around, children can stand and walk around with the help of CP chair by making a few adjustments. For PWDs, we have given active wheelchairs," say Founder-President of Global AID, Sai Padma and Founder-Secretary Pragnanand.

Distributing the wheelchairs to the beneficiaries, Registrar of Andhra University Prof. V. Uma Maheswara Rao said, "There is a need for inclusive education system, particularly for those with special needs as they need extra attention in every aspect. NGOs and voluntary organisations should come forward to cater to the needs of Students with Disabilities and enable them to be part of the mainstream". Five CP chairs, each costing Rs.11,000 and five active chairs, each costing Rs.10,000/- were distributed at the programme. Apart from a couple of local persons, most of the beneficiaries came from Vizianagaram, Cheepurupalli, Atchutapuram, and Pendurti to collect the aids, which were specially designed for those affected by cerebral palsy.



Distribution the wheelchairs to Special Students & Cerebral Palsy Children