

'What makes me different is not the way I am...but the way you look at me.'



aadi

Action for Ability Development and Inclusion
Formerly The Spastics Society of Northern India

YESTERDAY...



In 1978, the Spastics Society of Northern India started as a small school for children with cerebral palsy. We were the first school of this kind in North India.



From a school with just about 13 children, over the years we've grown - and provided high quality services to over 1500 families every year. We worked out of schools, homes, with outstation families and in rural regions.

IN OUR 25 YEARS WE HAVE

Initiated the first Community Based Rehabilitation programme in the Northern Region that works across disabilities.

Mainstreamed at least 600 children with disability into regular schools in urban and rural areas.

Trained more than 500 professionals in the field of disability and development.

**AADI
MEANS
'BEGINNINGS.'
IT IS A
NEW JOURNEY,
A NEW PATH.**

Pioneered employment opportunities for persons with multiple disabilities.

Influenced policy makers for the enactment of the Persons with Disability Act 1995 and the Inclusion of Persons with Disability in Census 2001.



In our rural programme at Ballabgarh, the community always played a big role in providing for the needs of the disabled. This prompted the larger organisation to move into Integrated Service Delivery.

The reaction from many of the people we had worked with was that growing up in a secluded environment did not equip them to face life in a larger society. So we realized we had to make our services more relevant and inclusive; we had to work as an agent of social change.

TODAY



TOMORROW...

The constitution of India gives every citizen the right to 'justice, equality and dignity'. Like every other citizen, all that people with disability are asking for is this basic right - the right to live a life, just like anyone else.

The only way this can happen is if society becomes inclusive. When we say inclusive, what we mean, is that the facilities and opportunities that exists in a society, is also available to people with disability.

We believe that this need not be one- way. That along with rights, there are also responsibilities - and the person with disability can be a contributing member - within their family, classroom, workplace or a larger society.

It's actually quite simple - it's not very different from what any individual wants, whether disabled or not - a chance to live life to its fullest, achieving his or her potential.

At AADI we want to:

- Work across disabilities, not just with people with cerebral palsy.
- Work with the lifespan approach responding to changing needs irrespective of age.
- Work in partnership with people with disability, parents, professionals, other service providers and the larger society.
- Move away from segregation to inclusion; from rehabilitation to empowerment.

OUR VISION IS OF A
WORLD IN WHICH
PERSONS WITH
DISABILITY ARE AN
INTEGRAL PART OF
SOCIETY WITH
EQUITABLE ACCESS TO
SERVICES
AND OPPORTUNITIES
ENABLING THEM
TO LIVE LIFE
TO THE FULLEST.



OUR SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES

Direct services to people with disability and their families

URBAN SERVICES

- Early Intervention Programme.
- AADI School.
- Inclusive Education Programme.
- Adult Training Programme.

All these programmes work with families and communities; work across developmental disabilities and other marginalized groups; provide services for individual development; develop support systems through self - help and advocacy groups; decrease barriers through creating awareness; increase access to schools, work places and community institutions.

RURAL SERVICES

Ballabgarh, Haryana
The focus of the rural programme is to facilitate the creation of a responsive community, which fulfils the needs of people with

disability. This includes collaborative efforts with persons with disability, families, local leadership, policy makers and the larger society; capacity building of volunteers, professionals and institutions from Health, Education, Employment and other sectors; formation of advocacy and support groups at the village, block and district level. Focusing on disability, poverty and gender issues, the programme works towards convergence of services that benefit all people in the community.

OUTSTATION

AADI caters to the needs of families and people with disability coming from the Northern Region with a need-based intensive, holistic programme for families and persons with disability.

Strategies directed to create an enabling environment

- Social change through Jagriti.
- Dissemination of information.
- Development of technology and material.

Capacity Building through the School of Rehabilitation Sciences (SRS). SRS is the training and research wing of AADI. It runs two full time Post Graduate Diploma courses in:

- Special Education;
- Developmental Therapy.

Both the courses are recognised by RCI and affiliated to University of Delhi.

SRS also develops need based training modules and conducts trainings and workshops for professionals, NGOs, Training Institutes and other professional bodies.

- Building partners for inclusive services and convergence of issues.
- Building networks for impacting scope and range of services.
- Impacting policy development and change at a macro level.
- Offering consultancy to other service providers.



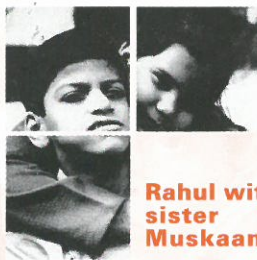
**Aruna
Parashar**

Dreams are universal. Like any other 26 year old, Aruna dreams of an interesting career, of finding a life partner. Aruna also has cerebral palsy - so her dream has qualifications. 'I always thought that I would marry a normal person' she confides, 'but my parents think that I should marry someone with disability. I don't know whether I could do something they did not like...'

Aruna is one of the first students who came to AADI. Today she is a confident, well qualified adult. She has worked at the Hutch call centre; as a receptionist at AADI and at Balloons. She now gives tuition to young children.

Aruna's passion is acting. She has done some theatre with Barry John and hopes that she will have other opportunities to explore this interest.

Opportunities for Aruna - like for many other adults with disability - are much tougher to come by. But Aruna has a nice mixture of optimism and reality. With all its uncertainties - she feels the future beckon - and believes that her dreams will come true.



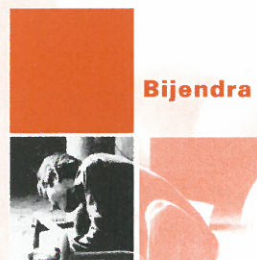
**Rahul with
sister
Muskaan**

Being a parent of an 11 year old is never easy. For Rajesh and Anita Mahajan it is tougher. Rahul has hearing and speech impairment; he uses a wheelchair since his motor movements are affected.

When his parents first realized that Rahul had a disability and came to AADI, they cried for days. 'I never realized that there were children like this... children whose entire body was affected by disability.' After the initial shock, they went about equipping themselves to give Rahul the best life possible.

Today - Rahul is an avid cricket fan. He knows all the statistics, watches all the matches and has a trophy that he can hold up triumphantly when India wins! He loves computers and Math, and his least favourite subject is Hindi. Routine is hugely important - he has a time for everything - eating, study, fun.

Contemplating a future for a child with a disability is a daunting task. But Rahul's parents have armed themselves with a gallant attitude, "We feel if we do our job today - the future is fine."



Bijendra

Bijendra doesn't say very much, but he smiles often and disarmingly. Bijendra is 22 and lives in a village called Junheda in Ballabgarh district, Haryana. Earlier he could easily have been called 'slow' or 'retarded', but today Bijendra commands a slightly different position in his family and society because he runs a small commercial enterprise.

With the help of AADI he got a loan of Rs.50, 000 from the National Handicapped Finance Development Corporation. With this he was able to buy the equipment that helps him make tractor seats. He assembles the seats and later sells them to large companies like Eicher or Escorts.

For a large part of his life Bijendra's potential was undiscovered. He would spend most of his time just wandering about. Now he is able to channel his energies into constructive activity. As society grows to recognize him as an individual, there is hope that he will command respect and finally earn a place in his community.



“You must be the **change** you wish to see in the world.” - *M.K. Gandhi*

Walk with us along our **journey**.

We need **partners** for our work to continue.

We need your voice to create **awareness**.

We need your **ideas** to propel us forward.

We need your **involvement** to achieve our dream.

We do get support from the government and other donors, but this is not enough. We need you to support us. We need funds and human resources. Work in the field of disability. Be a part of our movement.



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Action for Ability Development and Inclusion

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