

NAD's Annual Activities Report 2014-15

1. Meeting of National Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

New Delhi on 12-13 April, 2014

National Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (NCRPD) meeting was held in Delhi on 12-13 April, 2014. Nearly 25 leaders and experts from across disability and across the country participated in this very important meeting. NCRPD was formed in 2008 and has in the past, led advocacy initiatives vis-a-vis disability issues. In fact, the idea of a new law on disability came from a meeting of NCRPD (something that many opposed & ridiculed at that point). Day 1 of the meeting discussed important issues such as the way forward on ALL disability legislations; presentation from the Gujarat National Disability Network (NDN) partner; a presentation on rights of persons affected by leprosy and work done by Disabled Rights Group (DRG) and NDN in inclusion of disability in the formulation of the 12th Five Year Plan

Anuj Jain and Vishal Arora of the National Association of the Deaf (NAD) at the National Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (NCRPD) meeting in New Delhi, India.

2. National Workshop on the Rights of Persons With Disabilities Bill 2014 "Discussion for changes and drafting of RPWD for benefit of Deaf People in India"

Indian Social Institute, Lodhi Road, New Delhi on 12th to 13th April, 2014

Organised by National Association of the Deaf on 12th to 13th April 2014 at Indian Social Institute, 10, Institutional Area, Lodi Road, New Delhi, the workshop summarizes the perspectives of the different 75 deaf leaders from all over the country on the desired revisions of the RPWD 2014 bill before it becomes into an Act.

Mr JavidAbidi - address through video with ISL interpretation.

Mr Abidi stated the condition of the disabled in India post Independence. With no laws the disabled were marginalized at all times and everywhere. Things began to move with the 1995 PWD ACT, however this was mostly on paper. In time due to the hard work of DRG, NCEDP India ratified the UNCRPD in 2007. Again DRG and NCEDP worked diligently and asked the government to draft a new law which in 2011 culminated in the RPWD Bill. The 1995 PWD Act recognized only physical disabilities. However the RPWD Bill recognized mental disabilities also and provided rights for people with mental disabilities for the very first time in India. Many disability groups looked at the RPWD bill with only their personal interests in mind and opposed the Bill. This resulted in divisions in the Disability community, difference of opinion, created doubts in the minds of many and today it is at the standing committee awaiting the approval after a new government is formed. The RPWD bill 2013 has so many benefits even for the deaf. Section 41 on access to information and communication

technology says that the government should ensure that persons with disabilities have access to electronic media by providing sign language interpretation and close captioning. Sections 15 and 16 also ensure that education to the deaf is provided in the most appropriate means of communication and that teachers should be trained in sign language. Therefore, this bill had many positive points. We are going to keep fighting now to get this bill passed in the parliament.

Dr. Madan Vasishtha address through Video.

The PwD act of 1995 was not very powerful and did not have many benefits. I hope the RPWD bill gets passes in the parliament. I had a discussion with a deaf lawyer here about the RPWD bill. He said there are a number of good points.

The most important thing to remember is to have access for Deaf.

1. Sign Language Interpreters
2. Close Captioning
3. Accessible and Quality Education for Deaf
4. Relay services

With the above mentioned services and access to information, communication every Deaf individual can be an active and equal citizen of any country. If Dr Madan Vasishtha did not have access to sign language interpreter services he would not have been able to complete his Phd, he would not have been able to head educational institutions in America. The same needs to happed in India too. Education is very important. Deaf need education to get jobs. There should be schools and colleges so that the deaf can study, and get degrees and jobs. In America, the Americans with Disabilities Act was passes in 1990 which had provisions for interpreters, close captioning, etc. The deaf benefitted from the provision of these services and were able to develop. Today here in America, we have deaf professors, teachers, actors, lawyers, doctors, etc. A deaf person has access to all services and can do whatever they want to do and develop.

Mr. Aqil Chinoy - “Accessibility: Communication and Technology”

Drove down the message - accessibility in communication is the most important aspect for the Deaf community. The current requirements for access to communication with long term benefits –

1. Interpreters
2. Technology like VRS, close captioning, etc.

Further more after a scrutinizing the RPWD Bill and comparing it with the UNCRPD the following aspects came to light.

1. The UNCRPD defines “languages” to include signed languages but the RPWD 2013 version does not include signed languages. The definition of languages should be included in RPWD.
2. The UNCRPD defines “freedom of speech” very clearly and includes sign languages and augmentative and augmentative communication (AAC). But the RPWD 2012 version’s definition of “freedom of speech” is very narrow and does not include sign languages and AAC. The definition of AAC in RWPD is also very limited.
3. For access to information and communication technology, the RPWD draft 2012 version was more elaborate and detailed. The 2013 version does not have many of the points included in the 2012 version.

4. The UNCRPD has a separate article on accessibility which is not there in RPWD. The UNCRPD provisions for research and development and assistive technologies in article 4 are also missing from the RPWD.
5. On participation in cultural life, recreation, leisure and sport, the UNCRPD article is detailed and clear. But the RPWD is not specific on which kind of accessibility. Also, UNCRPD's article 30 clearly recognizes sign languages and deaf culture. But RPWD does not.

The positive aspects of the RPWD Bill

1. For accessibility, both UNCRPD and RPWD 2012 mention interpreters and close captioning.
2. The RPWD draft 2012 has a section on personal mobility, which is one good point in RPWD that is missing in UNCRPD.
3. There are many benefits for the deaf from the current provisions due to the emphasis on use of technology for information.

Mr. Gyananda Purohit – “Accessibility: RPWD bill 2014”

Mr. Gyananda Purohit focused on the rural development and accessibility issues. Parents in rural areas are hesitant to send their children to schools and hostels in cities that are far.

The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) guarantees education for all. But deaf students are put in hearing schools where teachers don't know sign language. It is better to have deaf people as teachers to teach deaf students. The SSA provides for special schools for children with disabilities. But here also, the completely deaf and blind are refused admission. Only children with low vision or who are hard of hearing are accepted. So this is a problem. But now under MRC, deaf also get reservation.

In MP, there is a department called GAD which can be questioned if the deaf are not given jobs. Unemployed deaf are given an unemployment allowance.

Misuse of Laws by non disabled people for personal benefits by issuance of disability certificates through incorrect means is high. The RPWD Bill needs to be more specific and clear if it aims at working towards providing Rights to Persons with Disabilities. At the same time the disabled communities, the Deaf need to educate themselves with the laws so that they can question the authorities if they are being discriminated. Renting of apartments, accessibility in communication, information for Deaf in prison, hostels, hotels etc has still not been looked into. The isolated deaf in rural areas are not even fluent sign language users to protect their rights one needs to reach out to them as well.

Dr. Melissa G. Wallang – “Accessibility and Deafness”

The main barrier for deaf people is communication. Accessibility is of three types:

1. Physical and built environments
2. Transportation
3. Information and technology

UNCRPD emphasizes on communication. Communication is a two-way process between a speaker and a hearer. Language is the foundation of communication. Communication can be in many forms – writing, speaking, signing, etc. The deaf have been excluded from life, they have been isolated and have no access to information in the hearing world.

UNCRPD acknowledges that communication systems can be of many varieties. Most events and programs on deaf celebration days gift hearing aids to the deaf children. But hearing aids are not the complete solution. Example, when there is thunder, hearing aids can hurt the ear. We need to ask ourselves what do we need. How do we see ourselves? Do we see ourselves as someone who needs hearing aids? With sign language, we can have communication access. And with communication access, we can access justice, health, science and technology, media, etc. and most importantly with sign language we can access education. National Curriculum Framework 2005 (NCF) says that according to law, sign language and braille should be used in schools and teachers should be trained in ISL. The disability issue here comes under the concept of inclusive education. The NCF text books have one page on ISL which is not enough. NCERT keeps changing the curriculum. It becomes difficult to keep up with the changes and adapt the books in Braille or in Sign Language. Again Deaf children are being mainstreamed and it's a major task to reach out to the teachers of mainstream education. The special educators of the Deaf are not very open to learning Sign Language. So do you think that RPWD can change the situation? Can it bring sign language into schools? The law should clearly say what sign language means – that it has a grammar. Just saying that it is a language is not enough.

We should not see ourselves as a disabled people. We should see ourselves as a community speaking a different language. If the government gives funds to develop textbooks and other material in the minority languages and also protects these languages, then the government should also protect ISL and develop material in ISL.

Mr. Sunil Sahasrabudhe – “Deaf education and deaf ways of educating deaf children”

How do we teach deaf children? The Deaf way of teaching relates to Deaf culture and sign language.

Javed Abidi stated that the 2012 RPWD for deaf education mentions sign language however Sunil disagrees. Just knowledge of sign language for teachers is not enough. Sign language is included in AAC but only sign language is not important. The most important key in Deaf Education is Sign Bilingual Education for the Deaf. Oralism per se is fine but should not be taught in schools or be the main focus in schools. Sign language plus reading and writing, developing literacy of Deaf children is important. Teachers need to have subject knowledge and clear concepts, the skills to convey these in sign language to deaf children.

The 1995 PwD act had provisions for special schools. However looking at the RPWD Bill the emphasize is on inclusive education. Inclusive education may work well for children with other disabilities, however it is not suitable for deaf children, it does not work as effectively as it has been thought to be. In a classroom, an interpreter alone is not enough. For deaf children, we need deaf schools where a Deaf child will understand the Deaf culture, his identity with the community, learn, use and excel in his language – sign language. The RPWD also encourages higher education but does not mention interpreters in colleges. Interpreters are necessary for higher education of the deaf.

Dr. Surinder P. K. Randhawa – “Education of the deaf in the light of the RPWD”

As a teacher of the Deaf for many years Dr Randhawa realized that teaching Deaf children through Oralism was not a total success. Children failed to learn, and ironically they had a

separate way of communicating among themselves and understood each other very well through sign language. However the B.Ed Special Education (HI) course does not even mention sign language as an option for communicating with Deaf. Around 50% deaf are oral and have no experience and knowledge of sign language and deaf culture, therefore it is hard to give proof to the government of deaf community, deaf culture and sign language.

The RPWD talks about inclusive education, but government schools are in a very poor condition with little infrastructure and material. This poses a major problem. The PwD Act had many provisions, however there was not enough awareness among parents and teacher of Deaf of these provisions.

Close scrutiny of the UNCRPD and RPWD Bill the following observations were made.

1. UNCRPD ensures secondary and tertiary education for people with disabilities. But the RPWD does not touch this topic in the same way.
2. Chapter 3 of RPWD Bill on education mentions building accessibility but not communication accessibility. It also mentions monitoring of attainment levels but the reality would be different. Deaf children attend schools but there is very little learning taking place. Who would be accountable for this?
3. Both special education and inclusive education for the deaf have failed for various reasons. In special schools spoken language is used but the requirement is sign language. In inclusive set-ups, teachers are given only a few days training which is not enough.
4. Point 5 acknowledges the special needs of deaf and blind but only says that education of the persons who are blind or deaf or both should be imparted in the most appropriate language and modes and means of communication. Here there is only a reference to the specific needs but there is no clarity about those specific needs and it does not mention the need for use of sign language or special schooling if needed.
5. Clause 16 (g) mentions assistive devices but hearing aids are not very useful in a noisy environment. There is no mention of instructional material in ISL or support services in the form of interpreters.
6. Section 17 is about adult education, however we need to talk about secondary, tertiary and pri primary education. There needs to be clarity in the provisions and choices.
7. Chapter 4 on skill development and chapter 5 on social security and health also, there needs to be specific mention of interpreters. The Americans with Disabilities Act has a separate chapter on telecommunication services for the deaf. The Individual Disabilities Education Act in US also mentions TTY services.
8. The Right to Education Act 2009 also focusses on the age group 6-14 years and ignores the crucial early years from 0-6 years and higher education which are very important.
9. In chapter 8 on duties of the government, points 39, 40 and 41 also need to mention sign language's benefit for the deaf. Point 46 on human resource development should add interpreters.
10. Chapter 2 on ethics is good and important as deaf themselves can become members of ethics committee to safeguard research ethics while working with deaf communities or sign language. Currently, research grants are given to hearing researchers and there is little involvement of the deaf, and they are not aware of the research taking place.

Mrs. Renuka Rameshan – “Clauses in the RPWD bill 2014”

Section 37 on education in RPWD 2011 talks about inclusive education. The section implies that teachers would be trained in ISL and that there would also be professional interpreters for educational purposes available in the classroom. The clauses talking about education to blind and deaf children in the most appropriate means of communication for them should

specify braille and sign language. Another addition could be to make necessary adjustments such as IEPs (Individualized Education Program) as mentioned in the Americans with Disabilities Act 1990.

There need to be measures to ensure that the clauses are implemented and programs to teach and train teachers of deaf should be in place and they should be effective. There also needs to be an emphasis on interpreter training, license for interpreters, and a revised syllabus/course in the sign language interpreting course.

Mr. Sujit Sahasrabudhe “Understanding the diversity of hearing loss and how it applies to employment”

In India, the possibility of employment is linked to hearing loss levels. The terms used in India – Hearing Impaired and Hearing Handicapped – are not used internationally now since they focus on the loss. The term “Hearing disabled” is used internationally. Hearing impairment (HI) and speech impairment (SI) are different and not related to each other. SI is not related to hearing loss.

Comparing the PwD 1995 and the various versions of the RPWD with regard to definitions and reservations for jobs. The definitions in the 2011 version were simple and clear. The 2012 version added a new category of speech and language disability. For reservations for jobs, there is 1% reservation for HI and SI in the 2013 version. Here the meaning of “and” is not clear. In the 1995 act, the term was just HI which was clear but the RPWD versions’ terms are complex and confusing.

Sujit asked the gathering the following –

- Do you want that there should be a division between HI and HOH? If yes, why?
- Are the terms HI and deaf same or different?
- We need to identify jobs that are suitable for deaf and HOH.

Sujit ended his session by stating we need to accept the diversity of hearing loss and call all deaf.

3. State Level Workshop on Empowerment of Deaf Youth

Auditorium, PHD Chamber of Commerce & Industry, PHD House, Sector 31-A, Chandigarh
13th May, 2014

We have also been able to successfully conduct the State Level Workshop on Empowerment of Deaf Youth at Auditorium, PHD Chamber of Commerce & Industry, PHD House, Sector 31-A, Chandigarh on 13th May, 2014.

The seminar started with the welcome note by Mr. Yogesh Kumar, Public Relation Officer of NAD. Mr. Anuj Jain, Joint Secretary of NAD talked to the audience that he shared the problems of human rights for the deaf in India. Mr. Ashish Doval, Deaf Youth Team of NAD shared the powerpoint presentation about the experience of NAD. Mr. Rahul Garg, NAD’s Deaf Youth Team explained the meaning of the attitude powerpoint presentation. Mr. Vishal Arora, Treasurer of NAD explained about the importance of the attitude in deaf people’s lives need to be changed. Mr. Dilip Jangir, Executive Member (a unit of Rajasthan) & Mr. Jagdip

Singh Sodhi, Executive Member (a unit of Punjab) of NAD shared how much they took their time to learn themselves being better than they could help deaf others.

Mr. Rahul Garg and Mr. Ashish Doval, NAD's Deaf Youth Team organised a one on one question-answer round where N.A.D. was supposed to answer questions asked by the participants, any questions regarding their functioning, administration, fund raising, etc. This session led to trust building between the organisation and its members. There are about 175 deaf young people from Himachal Pradesh, Punjab & Haryana participated in the Workshop. They are a lot of excitement by our workshop.

4. NATIONAL WORKSHOP ON GOOD PRACTICES IN THE AREA OF EMPLOYMENT AND ACCESSIBILITY

USI, New Delhi on 21-22 May, 2014

The focus is on Employment. Case studies being presented by M. Srinivasulu from Andhra Pradesh, Arman Ali from Assam, Nita Panchal from Gujarat, Javed Ahmad Tak from Jammu & Kashmir, Kanchan Pamnani & Ketan Kothari from Maharashtra, Anuradha B. and Pradeep Raj from New Delhi, and Dr. Sruti Mohapatra from Orissa. Rama Chari of DEOC is the expert for the day. NCPEDP is pleased to organise this event in collaboration with Handicap International - India. Tomorrow the focus will be on Accessibility.

DAY 1: This workshop is an offshoot of the Making it Work project of Handicap International in Gujarat. Under this project, they are working with Disability Advocacy Group (DAG), Gujarat on documenting good practices on employment and accessibility in the State. DAG is a member of the National Disability Network (NDN). DAG and HI wanted to bring these case studies from Gujarat to the national platform to get inputs and feedback from other States. Day 1 of the workshop was on employment. As part of the knowledge sharing endeavour of NDN, several NDN partners presented case studies from their States. Case studies on employment were presented by M. Srinivasulu from Andhra Pradesh, Arman Ali from Assam, Nita Panchal from Gujarat, Javed Ahmad Tak from Jammu & Kashmir, Kanchan Pamnani & Ketan Kothari from Maharashtra, Anuradha B. and Suvarna Raj from New Delhi, and Dr. Sruti Mohapatra from Orissa. Rama Chari of DEOC is the expert for the sessions on employment.

DAY 2: The workshop focussed on accessibility. Apart from the presentations from Gujarat by Disability Advocacy Group (DAG), there were case studies presented by Balbir Guleria from CORD, Himachal Pradesh; Javed Ahmad Tak from Jammu & Kashmir; Ketan Kothari & Kanchan Pamnani from Maharashtra; Pradeep Raj from Delhi; Geeta Chaturvedi from VISHWAS, Haryana; Dr. Ram Goel and Mridu Goel from Uttar Pradesh; and Dr. Sruti Mohapatra from Odisha. The expert for the day was Shivani Gupta.

Mr. Anuj Jain, Joint Secretary of NAD, Mr. Vishal Arora, Treasurer of NAD & Mr. Sachin, Member of NAD & Deaf Individual from Lucknow participated in the Workshop.

5. Core Committee of National Disability Network (NDN)

USI, New Delhi on 23rd May, 2014

Core Committee of National Disability Network (NDN) during their discussions. Core Committee members include: Kanchan Pamnani, M. Srinivasulu, Pradeep Raj, Arman Ali and A.S. Narayanan (represented here by Anuj Jain of NAD) and Dr. Shanti Auluck (not in picture) in New Delhi, India

National Disability Network (N.D.N.)

The idea of forming a national-level disability network came from the need to build a strong cross-disability rights movement in India.

The genesis

To create a movement it was important to link disability groups around the country so that they could all share ideas and participate in the decision-making process. So far, groups in different parts of the country had been doing exemplary work without sharing their experiences.



NDN members at India Gate: The National Disability Network has brought together a large number of groups and individuals who have a common goal – equal rights.

The network's mission

The aim of the National Disability Network (N.D.N.) is that the cross disability rights movement is spread equitably across the entire country, and that there is an environment of empathy towards the rights and the needs of persons with disability. The goal of the N.D.N. is to have at least one disability organisation/disability group in all 593 districts of our country.

Objectives

- To promote local advocacy groups and **build leadership** in the disability sector.
- To facilitate local advocacy groups to join hands with state-level groups to eventually form a National Network that will act as a **pressure group** to influence meaningful policies at various levels – village, block, district, state and national – regarding persons with disabilities.
- To empower disabled people and organisations and to sensitise other concerned sectors through **systematic information dissemination** on disability related issues like legislations, relevant policies, research findings and current developments.
- To closely monitor and **jointly lobby** with the governments, corporates and other allied sectors to advocate the adoption and implementation of appropriate policies /legislations.
- To bring issues related to disability to the **forefront of national development** through a network that will have representation from all states, union territories and districts of the country.

- To build a **common cross-disability platform** for sharing of concerns by disabled people from all the corners of the country and to build a joint strategy for a cohesive disability movement in India.

Role of the State Partners

The National Disability Network has carved a niche for itself at both the state and national levels. Many disabled leaders and self help groups have emerged at not just the state level but also at the district levels:- 1. The N.D.N. provides its partners with a clear set of expectations to guide their activities. These are:**Expansion of the network:** A state partner, in the first year, must forge three partnerships at the district level. These could be with an N.G.O. or a disability group or even a disabled individual, who is interested in taking the disability movement forward in that district. The responsibilities of the state partner would include coordinating with the district partners to carry out the various activities at the state/district level; keeping the state network vibrant through regular communication with its partners; planning the agenda for advocacy in the state and communicating back to N.C.P.E.D.P. and other state partners on the various activities of the State Network.

In the second year, three more partnerships will have to be forged at the district level. The idea is to map the entire state in a span of five years.

2. **Information dissemination:** It is the responsibility of the state/U.T. partner to send disability related information and important updates that they receive from N.C.P.E.D.P. and other sources from time to time, to their district partners and others in their state and to also encourage them to disseminate those materials widely.

3. **Joint advocacy campaigns and activities with partners:** Our state/U.T. partners are expected to provide the much needed momentum to the disability movement in their respective states/U.T.s in collaboration with their district partners. Joint activities and campaigns should be taken up to bring to the fore and to the attention of concerned authorities the various issues concerning disabled people.



There are various instances of collective pressure applied by our network members at the policy level, which have yielded positive results.

4. **Unified World Disability Day celebrations:** The World Disability Day (3rd December) offers an excellent opportunity to bring the needs, concerns and rights of people with disabilities to national attention. One of the annual events for the National Disability Network is celebrating World Disability Day in a unified manner. This is done by having a common theme for an All India celebration.

Sustaining the N.D.N. is a very big challenge for all of us. All the Partners should work towards making the Network vibrant. From our side, N.C.P.E.D.P. would like to make a commitment to send an information package to all the state/union territory partners at least once every month. This is apart from the regular mailers that go out to everyone on our mailing list. We would organise national and zonal Meets for the Partners for them to interact with each other and get further trained in advocacy issues/strategies. We would also

diligently compile all the reports received from the state/union territory Partners and present them in the form of a 'Yearly Report of the National Disability Network'.

Similarly, we would like our state/union territory partners to also make a few commitments. They should endeavour to work towards fulfilling the goals of the Network and keep other partners and N.C.P.E.D.P. informed about the various achievements and challenges faced in building the state union territory Network. The state/union territory partners should send a report on their state network once a quarter (once in every three months). The state partners should encourage their district partners to share information and report progress on a regular basis with them.

6. Delegation of NAD Team Meetsn& Congratulates Shri Rajnath Singh, President BJP

New Delhi on 24th May 2014

Anuj Jain (Joint Secretary), Sonia Bhatia, Rajesh Khandelwal & PinkeyKhandelwal (Sign Language Interpretation) of National Association of the Deaf (NAD) meets & congratulates BJP President, Rajnath Singh for his victory election for his MP on Saturday morning on 24th May, 2014 to request that the Prime Minister's Swearing In Ceremony on Monday, 26th May 2014 must feature sign language interpretation.

BJP President listens intently as Anuj Jain explains his point regarding the importance of Sign Language for India's 18 million deaf citizens.

A visibly pleased NAD delegation at the end of the meeting. We are told that orders have been issued and 3 Sign Language interpreters are being put on duty for the occasion.



NEW DELHI, May 25, 2014

Sign language interpreters at Modi's swearing- in

Aurally challenged Indian citizens will be able to follow Narendra Modi's swearing-in on Monday with three sign-language interpreters on duty at the function, the Disabled Rights Group (DRG) said in a statement on Saturday.

Long-standing demand

"This is a historic first. It has been a long-standing demand on the part of the Indian disability movement that at all important public events, sign language interpretation should be made available so that 'deaf people' are not left out and that the event is made accessible for them as well," DRG convenor Javed Abidi said.

Anuj Jain of the National Association of the Deaf (NAD) said a delegation called upon Bharatiya Janata Party chief Rajnath Singh on Saturday and expressed the wish to have the interpreters, which was immediately acceded.

"Doordarshan confirmed to us that the sign language interpreters would be available not only at the ceremony but also that the telecast would feature the facility for deaf viewers across the country and even across the world," Mr. Jain said.

Please read more:- <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/sign-language-interpreters-at-modis-swearingin/article6044952.ece>

Sign language for deaf citizens at Modi's swearing-in ceremony

IANS New Delhi, May 24, 2014 | UPDATED 21:12 IST

Around 18 million deaf Indian citizens will be able to follow all details of Narendra Modi's swearing-in ceremony on Monday with sign language interpretation facilities at the installation of a new prime minister for the first time in India.

Three sign language interpreters would be at duty to ensure that the oath-taking and other ceremonies of prime minister-designate Modi are made available to deaf citizens of India, the Disabled Rights Group (DRG) said in a statement on Saturday.

"This is a historic first. It has been a long-standing demand on the part of the Indian disability movement that at all important public events, sign language interpretation should be made available so that deaf people are not left out and that the event is made accessible for them as well," said DRG convenor JavedAbidi.

Anuj Jain of the National Association of the Deaf (NAD) said a delegation Saturday called upon Bharatiya Janata Party chief Rajnath Singh and expressed the wish, which was immediately acceded.

"Doordarshan confirmed to us that the sign language interpreters would be available not only at the ceremony but that the telecast itself would also be featuring the facility for deaf viewers across the country and even across the world," Jain said.

Read more at: <http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/modi-narendra-modi-swearing-in-sign-language-for-deaf-rajnath-singh-drg-nad/1/363446.html>

Once bitten, Doordarshan plans many firsts in coverage

Written by Raghvendra Rao | New Delhi | Published on: May 24, 2014 2:10 am

Having courted controversy recently for airing an edited version of Narendra Modi's interview during the Lok Sabha polls, state broadcaster Doordarshan is set to try a slew of new ideas while covering the Prime Minister-designate's swearing-in on May 26.

These ideas, officials said, were intended to ensure a more customised viewing experience across the country.

In a first, the coverage of the swearing-in will include an anchor describing the evening's proceedings through sign language in a small window on the TV screen. "We tried this during this year's Republic Day parade coverage. This is the first time sign language would be used during the swearing-in broadcast," DD Delhi's additional director general Nadoja Dr Mahesh Joshi told The Indian Express.

All 15 regional channels of DD have been asked to ensure the event's commentary is done in their respective regional languages. "DD Saptagiri in Andhra Pradesh, for instance, will have Telugu commentary. DD Kashmir will air the ceremony in Kashmiri," Joshi said. This too, he said, was being done for the first time to give viewers the option of watching the proceedings in their preferred language. In another first, the ceremony will be telecast live on YouTube, officials said.

The broadcaster has put a team of 46 people to plan and execute the coverage. Two outdoor broadcast vans and 12 cameras will be used to cover the ceremony in the Rashtrapati Bhavan forecourt. "We are planning to set up cameras on Rashtrapati Bhavan's roof to get aerial shots of the forecourt," a senior DD official said.

This team will first conduct a dry run on Saturday and then a full rehearsal on Sunday, officials said.

While DD will provide its exclusive live-feed to Indian broadcasters free of cost, it is also making prior arrangements to be able to share its satellite parameters with broadcasters from some of the SAARC countries.

While live telecast of the ceremony will begin at 5.55 pm, it will be preceded by a small segment starting 5.30 pm, which is likely to be short feature on Modi, sources said.

Readmore:-<http://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-others/once-bitten-doordarshan-plans-many-firsts-in-coverage>

7. Sign Language Interpretation of Prime Minister's Swearing-in Ceremony

Rashtrapati Bhawan, New Delhi on 26th May 2014

For the first time ever in the history of the nation, Sign Language interpretation of Prime Minister's swearing-in ceremony! However, much work ahead as its only on DD News. There should have been efforts to convince private broadcasters to take this feed.

Sign Language interpretation of new Prime Minister's swearing-in ceremony only on DD News! Sadly, a good beginning marred by half-hearted efforts by Doordarshan. Unlike on Republic Day, no advisory was issued by Doordarshan and none of the private broadcasters are taking the Sign Language feed!

8. Independence Day Telecast with Sign Language Interpreter

Red Fort, Delhi on 15th August 2014

National Association of the Deaf (NAD) once again advocated with the government for Sign Language interpretation of India's Independence Day telecast.

This was made available only on DD News and just one private broadcaster NDTV picked up this feed. Small victories but many battles ahead for full inclusion.

9. 57th International Week of the Deaf Celebration 2014

“Strengthening Human Diversity” & “2nd Punjab Deaf Conference”

Govt. Medical Hospital & College, Saral Building, Sector-32, Chandigarh on 21st September, 2014

57th International Week of the Deaf Celebration 2014 on 21st September, 2014 i.e. on Sunday was organized at Govt. Medical Hospital & College, Saral Building, Sector-32, Chandigarh. 550 deaf people from different districts of Punjab gathered at Govt. Medical Hospital & College, Chandigarh for the celebration of 57th International Week of the Deaf on Sunday. 2nd Punjab Deaf Conference was also organized by National Association of the Deaf on the topic “Strengthening Human Diversity”.

Shri Satya Pal Jain, Ex-Member of Parliament, BJP from Chandigarh was invited as Chief Guest and Guest of Honour Shri Deepak Sharma (Cell BJP, Chandigarh).

The function started with the welcome note by Mr. Yogesh Kumar, Public Relation Officer of NAD. Mr. Vishal Arora, Treasurer of NAD spoke the problems for the deaf in India to deaf audience.

Speaking on the occasion, Anuj Jain, Joint Secretary of NAD said there is no college is being set up by the Government. Govt. should help the deaf of Punjab and should provide them jobs for reserved 3% for Disabled including blind, deaf and handicapped people as well.

Ex-Member of Parliament, BJP from Chandigarh, Shri Satpal Jain assured the association for the support and raising their voice in the Govt. for getting full support.

Shri Deepak Sharma from BJP Cell said that it's a unique experience for me to be the part of this event and these people use the language of heart for communication, which is far better than other languages.

10. 57th International Week of The Deaf Celebration 2014

State Level Workshop on Empowerment of Deaf Youth

“Strengthening Human Diversity”

Auditorium, Fr. Agnel School, Gautam Nagar, New Delhion 21st September, 2014

We have also been able to successfully conduct the State Level Workshop on Empowerment of Deaf Youth at Auditorium, Fr. Agnel School, Gautam Nagar, Delhi on 21st September, 2014.

The seminar started with the welcome note by Ms. Nirupama Kaul, Co-Worker of NAD’s North India Deaf Women Committee. Mr. Zorin Singha, President of NAD started the keynote with the deaf young people in the workshop. Mr. Rishikesh Anand, Deaf Youth Team of NAD shared the powerpoint presentation about the reports of NAD’s Activities 2005 to 2014. Mr. Rahul Garg, NAD’s Deaf Youth Team explained the meaning of the Strengthening Human Diversity. Members of Noida Deaf Friendship Club & Delhi Deaf Friendship Club showed their different skits. Ms. Rupmani Chettari, Co-Worker of NAD’s North India Deaf Women Committee shared her powerpoint presentation about International Day of the Deaf. There are about 350 deaf young people from NCR participated in the Workshop. They are very impressed by our workshop.

One of the major goals of NAD is State Level Workshop on Empowerment of Deaf Youth creating awareness about the problems of the Deaf and hard of hearing young persons in India and creating more deaf young leaders to become the NAD Leaders. Toward this end, NAD is working with various Deaf organizations of India such to meet common goals.

NAD is imparting the State Level Workshop on Empowerment of Deaf Youth to empower the deaf young people and enable them to stand up for their rights. This helps the Deaf community to become more participative in social and legal matters that concern them as citizens.

State Level Workshop on Empowerment of Deaf Youth helps the Deaf Young Persons when they have to interact with Deaf Leaders & Govt. Officials and when they need to approach the authorities for needs. It helps remove their fear of authorities and helps them access and utilize their rights to life so they can live fearlessly as citizens.

11. 57th International Week of The Deaf Celebrations 2014 “Strengthening Human Diversity”

Select Citywalk Mall, Saket, New Delhi on 27th September, 2014

We organized the 57th International Week of the Deaf “Strengthening Human Diversity” on 27th September, 2014 at Select Citywalk Mall, Saket, and New Delhi. We are happy to share the work the done by the National Association of the Deaf. It was the great experienced to done such a nice event at Select Citywalk Mall, Saket, and New Delhi. Our mission was to promote the Human Rights of Deaf people and also promote the Indian Sign Language so that ordinary people can also communicate with the deaf people. We, 10 deaf staff and volunteers have given the Literatures of Deaf Culture and the brochures of IWD 2014 to the hearing people. We were getting a good response from the people came over there. They appreciated our team work a lot. They also showed their interest to be a part of our organization. We spread awareness about the Indian Sign Language and Human Rights of Deaf People so that the ordinary people can also help them in different manner. Through this event ordinary people came to know how they can communicate with the deaf people. After they talked our 6 Sign Language Interpreter they came to know how they communicate with deaf people through sign language. We aware the people about Sign Language through our screen projectors or our interpreters were also there to help the hearing people to communicate with deaf people.

Most of the people were not aware about the NAD. Though this event people become to know about Deaf People and Indian Sign Language. People showed their interest to learn the Indian Sign Language. They were giving a good response to us. They wanted to join our organization or support us. They also gave donation for this good cause. They praised our organization for doing this Event. We were very thankful to Select Citywalk Mall for supporting our organization and other supporters who helped us a lot.

12. 57th International Week of The Deaf Celebration 2014 “Strengthening Human Diversity”

Select Citywalk Mall, Saket, New Delhi on 28th September, 2014

We organized the 57th International Week of the Deaf “Strengthening Human Diversity” on 28th September, 2014 at Select Citywalk Mall, Saket, and New Delhi. We are happy to share the work the done by the National Association of the Deaf. It was the great experienced to done such a nice event at Select Citywalk Mall, Saket, New Delhi. Our mission was to promote the Human Rights of Deaf people and also promote the Indian Sign Language so that ordinary people can also communicate with the deaf people. We, 10 deaf staff and volunteers have given the Literatures of Deaf Culture and the brochures of IWD 2014 to the hearing people. We were getting a good response from the people came over there. They appreciated our team work a lot. They also showed their interest to be a part of our organization. We spread awareness about the Indian Sign Language and Human Rights of Deaf People so that the ordinary people can also help them in different manner. Through this event ordinary people came to know how they can communicate with the deaf people. After they talked our 6 Sign Language Interpreter they came to know how they communicate with deaf people through sign language. We aware the people about Sign Language through our

screen projectors or our interpreters were also there to help the hearing people to communicate with deaf people.

Most of the people were not aware about the NAD. Though this event people become to know about Deaf People and Indian Sign Language. People showed their interest to learn the Indian Sign Language. They were giving a good response to us. They wanted to join our organization or support us. They also gave donation for this good cause. They praised our organization for doing this Event. We were very thankful to Select Citywalk Mall for supporting our organization and other supporters who helped us a lot.

13. 57th International Week of The Deaf Celebrations 2014 “Strengthening Human Diversity”

DLF Place Mall, Saket, New Delhi on 28th September, 2014

We organized the 57th International Week of the Deaf “Strengthening Human Diversity” on 28th September, 2014 at DLF Place Mall, Saket, and New Delhi. We are happy to share the work the done by the National Association of the Deaf. It was the great experienced to done such a nice event at DLF Place. Our mission was to promote the Human Rights of Deaf People and also promote the India Sign Language so that ordinary people canalso communicate with the deaf people. Generally people were not aware about deaf people. We, 10 deaf staff and volunteers have given the Literatures of Deaf Culture and the brochures of IWD 2014 to the hearing people. They had no idea how they communicate with deaf people.

After they talked our 6 Sign Language Interpreter they came to know how they communicate with deaf people through sign language. We aware the people about Sign Language through our screen projectors or our interpreters were also there to help the ordinary people to communicate with deaf people. We got very good response from the people come over there. People encourage us to organize such more events. Some person were come and got the knowledge about the institute of Sign language. They were desperate to learn the sign language. Our team Members were did a great job.....They also gave donation for this good cause. They praised our organization for doing this Event. We were very thankful to DLF Place Mall, Saket for supporting our organization and other supporters who helped us a lot.

14. 57th International Week of The Deaf Celebrations 2014 “Strengthening Human Diversity”

Elante Mall, Chandigarh on 28th September, 2014

We organized the 57th International Week of the Deaf “Strengthening Human Diversity” on 28th September, 2014 at Elante Mall, Chandigarh. We are happy to share the work the done by the National Association of the Deaf. It was the great experienced to done such a nice event at Elante Mall. Our mission was to promote the Human Rights of Deaf People and also promote the India Sign Language so that ordinary people canalso communicate with the deaf people. Generally people were not aware about deaf people. We, 10 deaf staff and volunteers have given the Literatures of Deaf Culture and the brochures of IWD 2014 to the hearing people. They had no idea how they communicate with deaf people.

After they talked our 6 Sign Language Interpreter they came to know how they communicate with deaf people through sign language. We aware the people about Sign Language through our screen projectors or our interpreters were also there to help the ordinary people to communicate with deaf people. We got very good response from the people come over there. People encourage us to organize such more events. Some person were come and got the knowledge about the institute of Sign language. They were desperate to learn the sign language. Our team Members were did a great job.....They also gave donation for this good cause. They praised our organization for doing this Event. We were very thankful to Elante Mall, Chandigarh for supporting our organization and other supporters who helped us a lot.

15. NAD Team Organised the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan

Village Patparganj, Mayur Vihar Phase-I, Delhi on 2nd October 2014

We, NAD Team organised the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (Clean India Campaign) at Restaurant, Balcony, Tea Stall, Food Stall & Roads near NAD Office, 102, 19-A, Vishal Complex, Village Patparganj, Delhi on 2nd October, 2014. There were including Mr. Anuj Jain (Joint Secretary of NAD), Ms. Sonia Bhatia (Staff of NAD), Mr. Raj Kumar Jain (Staff of NAD), Ms. Harmeet Kaur (Interpreter of NAD), Mr. DeepuBalani (Volunteer of NAD), Mr. Surya Pratap (Volunteer of NAD), Mr. Bharat Sharma (Volunteer of NAD) & Mrs. Deepa (Volunteer of NAD) attending support the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan.

We followed our Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi launching Swachh Bharat Abhiyan. He's so good leader of India. We follow his example.

16. Departmentally Related Standing Committee on Social Justice & Empowerment Invite Sugesstions/Comments on “The Rights of Persons With Disabilities Bill, 2014”

New Delhi on 10th October, 2014

Lok Sabha Secretariat has issued a notice on 26th September, 2014 inviting suggestions and comments on "The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Bill, 2014". It has been 5 days and we haven't seen any movement in the disability sector to do with this crucial and much awaited development. Chances are that people were not even aware that this announcement has been made! Interestingly, the Standing Committee has given only 15 days out of which 5 were over. Roughly, the deadline is the 10th October, 2014. With the nation in a bit of a holiday mood, it seems like a daunting task for the leadership of the sector to wake up, sacrifice the holidays, and respond to the challenge. Let's see how this story unfolds!

The deadline for sending feedback/comments to the Standing Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Bill 2014 has been extended!!

The Press Communique (as seen above) that was published on 10th October, 2014 was inviting suggestions and comments which would be sent within 15 days of this day's advertisement. We encouraged the disability sector to send their feedback to the Committee, the details of which are given in the Communique.

17. The Standing Committee on Social Justice & Empowerment on “The Rights of Persons With Disabilities Bill, 2014” Meeting

Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi on 3rd December, 2014

There is some movement on the new Disability Rights Bill. The Standing Committee is now contacting various disability groups and inviting them for an interaction. Most "hearings" are on 3rd December, 2014. So, the rumour that the Modi government may expedite things and pass the new law by the World Disability Day is obviously not happening now. We have no choice but to wait till 2015 and hope that millions of disabled people finally get some of their basic human rights without any further delays.

The very long journey of the new disability rights legislation enters a new phase, hopefully a decisive one, finally leading to the much much awaited new law. The Parliamentary Standing Committee have held the hearings on 3rd December, 2014.

Mr. Narayanan, Secretary of NAD, Ms. Shyamala, Director of AADI, Mrs. Shanti, Director of Muskan, & Mr. Deepak of Sight went to Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi on 3rd December, 2014 to meet Mr. Ramesh Bias, Director of Lok Sabha Secretariat, (Standing Committee on Social Justice & Empowerment on “The Rights of Persons With Disabilities Bill, 2014”). We are hopeful that they will wrap up their work by mid January latest. Then the ball will go back in the court of Minister for Social Justice & Empowerment. And from there to the Cabinet and finally, back to the Parliament. In all likelihood, we should get the new disability rights law in 2015.

18. Workshop on the Kids of Deaf Adults Workshop (KODA)

Carmel Mount School, Sector 47, Chandigarh on 13th December, 2014

National Association of the Deaf organised the Kids of Deaf Adults Workshop (KODA) on 13th December, 2014 at Auditorium, Carmel Mount School, Sector 47, Chandigarh. Over 15 kids of deaf adults & 65 deaf adults participated in this workshop which was led by Mr. Sanjay Taneja, (President of Noida Deaf Friendship Club) & Ms. Surbhi Taneja, (Sign Language Interpreter).

Both Mr. Sanjay Taneja & Ms. Surbi Taneja took a session with kids of deaf adults (KODA) discussing how the deaf world and hearing world is different and children bridge that gap. Children had their doubts cleared, had some back and forth questions for their parents moderate by Ms. Surbhi Taneja.

This workshop took a more practical approach with a lot of brainstorming which had left a positive impact on our hearing children and we hope that next one would be the same kind and better!

Mayor of Chandigarh, Sh. Harphool Chand Kalyan grace the event as Chief Guest. These Deaf Parents and their children are really inspiration for all of us in the society. With the Disability also, they are working hard in their life, to earn their living and upbringing of their children, said Sh. Kalyan.

Municipal Corporation, Chandigarh is committed to extend full support to the NGO's and organisations who are working for the development and upliftment of handicaps in the society.

Mr. Trivedi from National Rural Health Mission was also present on the occasion. He described and informed the deaf parents and their children about the various training programs being run by the government of India for the upliftment of different sectors of the society. He also appealed to all the handicaps to join the vocational training programs, being runned by the government, so that they can also get employment in their life.

Surbhi Taneja (Sign Language Interpreter) felt about the KODA workshop which happened Chandigarh on 13th December, 2014. She said, "NAD is very close to my heart and I feel that I must tell you of what I felt about yesterday. I myself being a KODA felt that the workshop was very enriching and helpful for many deaf people and their children as there were a lot of people approaching with their problems and suggestions. Despite that there were many things which were not appropriately done."

19. NATIONAL WORKSHOP ON EMPOWERMENT OF DEAF WOMEN

Indian Social Institute, 10 Institutional Area, Lodi Road, New Delhi on 14th December, 2014

The National Workshop on Empowerment of Deaf Women was held on 14th December, 2014 in New Delhi organised by National Association of the Deaf. It was a half day workshop on empowerment of deaf women from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Smt. Geeta Sharma is a deaf person and also, the woman secretary of National Association of the Deaf, New Delhi. She starts the workshop every 3 month to conduct the workshop for deaf women for NCR/Delhi.

Ms. Michelle Morris from USA made various presentations referring to deaf women. Deaf women leaders attended the workshop from all over the country. Most were enthusiastic and keen to have learnt things presented by Smt. Nirupama Kaul who is a Committee Women member of NAD.

Programme was held in order to raise awareness and create a positive space in society for the deaf community and women's issues. 65 deaf women leaders attended the workshop in Delhi.

20. Sign Language Interpretation of the 66th Republic Day Parade

New Delhi on 26th January, 2015

It has been confirmed that the Republic Day Parade telecast would feature sign language interpretation but only on DD News and DD Bharati. We are happy that last year's gains have

not been lost and that the telecast would be accessible this year also. But why the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is still not willing to feature sign language interpretation on DD National is beyond our comprehension. DD National is important because all other channels, especially the private ones like NDTV, Times Now, etc take their feed from DD National and not from DD News or DD Bharati.

Sign Language interpretation of the 66th Republic Day Parade. Sadly, the interpretation could only be seen on DD News and Colors, unlike last year when almost all private channels picked up the DD News feed with the sign language interpretation inset. This can easily be seen as an impediment, but we must not lose hope. The advocacy will continue. With the momentum of the Disability Rights Bill picking up again, we hope to see more interpreters in the country and all forms of media being accessible to all persons with disabilities.

**21. NAD Team Met Shri Nitin Gadkari, Hon'ble Minister
of Road,
Transport & Highways
New Delhi on 28th January, 2015**

Shri Zorin Singha, President, Shri A.S. Narayanan, Secretary, and Ms. Angel Singha (Interpreter) National Association of the Deaf (NAD) met Nitin Gadkari, Hon'ble Minister of Road, Transport and Highways on 28th January, 2015. NAD requested for his intervention vis-a-vis the issue of driving licenses for deaf persons. NAD is also working with the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (MSJE) to work towards a solution. Hope a positive response from the Ministry.

**22. Roundtable on the Rights of Persons with
Disabilities Bill**

India Habitat Centre, Lodi Road, New Delhi on 31st January to 1st February, 2015

The Disability Rights Fund (DRF) organized a 'Roundtable on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Bill' on 31st January to 1st February in New Delhi, India.

The Bill was referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MSJE) earlier in 2014. The Committee then invited feedback and suggestions from the general public on the Bill and received an overwhelming response from various organizations, activists and individuals.

NCPEDP commissioned a Study to the Diversity and Equal Opportunity Centre (DEOC) to collate feedback and suggestions that were sent to the Committee. This was completed in December 2014.

Based on the findings of the Study, NCPEDP decided to organize a Roundtable meeting of a few key leaders of the Indian disability movement from across the country. Mr. A.S.

Narayanan, Secretary of NAD, Mr. Anuj Jain, Joint Secretary of NAD & Mrs. Geeta Sharma, Women Secretary of NAD were invited to participate in the workshop.

23. Core Committee of the National Disability Network (NDN)

India Habitat Centre, Lodi Road, New Delhi on 1st February 2015

The Core Committee of the National Disability Network (NDN) met recently at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi. Various issues related to the composition of the Network, induction of new members and chalking out a future plan of action, especially vis-a-vis advocacy for the passage of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Bill, were discussed.

Members of the Core Committee during their discussions. Seen from left to right are Arman Ali, Director, ShishuSaroithi; JavedAbidi, Honorary Director, NCPEDP and NDN Convenor; M. Srinivasulu, President, Network of the Persons with Disability Organizations (NPDO) ; Dr. Shanti Auluck, Director, Muskaan and A.S. Narayanan, Secretary, National Association of the Deaf (NAD).

Members of the Core Committee. Seen here are Kanchan Pamnani, Advocate; Sign Language Interpreter and Pradeep Raj, General Secretary, Federation of Disabled Rights amongst other members.

24. Workshop on the Indian Sign Language for 70 Hearing Teachers by organized Sarva Sastha Abhiyan, Jammu & Kashmir

Jammu on 23rd on 27th February 2015

First time Sarva Sastha Abhiyan (SSA) from Jammu & Kashmir Invited Mr. Anuj Jain, Project Director of NAD, Mr. Rahul Garg, Assistant Coordinator of NAD, Ms. Angel Singha, Interpreter and Asha Singha, Interpreter trained the Indian Sign Languages to 70 Hearing Teachers all over Jammu & Kashmir participating in the workshop for 5 days.

We conducted different varieties of activities with the teachers including Alphabets, Numbers, Weeks, Months, Verbs, and so on.

PROPOSAL

The Proposal of 'A' level introductory course in Indian Sign Language through Basic English has been drafted with reference to the request from SSA in Jammu & Kashmir for five days training for teachers in deaf schools based in Jammu & Kashmir.

National Association of the Deaf will be sending a team of four experts: Two Deaf trainers and Two Indian Sign Language Interpreters. Since there will be group work, two on two

dialogue sessions therefore, two Sign Language Interpreters are required for simultaneous and shift by shift translations. The names of the team members are:

1. **Mr. Anuj Jain** – Project Director of National Association of the Deaf and a Professional Trainer for deaf and hearing participants for awareness of Indian Sign Language and the Indian Deaf Community.
2. **Mr. Rahul Garg** – Assistant Coordinator of National Association of the Deaf & Former Student of BAASLS (BA Applied Sign Language Studies).
3. **Ms. Angel Singha** – Indian Sign Language Interpreters of National Assistant of the Deaf for over a decade with training experience and an Indian Sign Language Consultant to Delhi University.
4. **Ms. Asha Singha** – Indian Sign Language Interpreter of National Association of the Deaf and an Interpreter and Mediator for Companies' Employment Training for Deaf persons.

COURSE

The 'A' level Introductory Course in Indian Sign Language Training Programme of five days covered the following syllabus mentioned below. There were group sessions as well to practice Indian Sign Language and work on dialogues and smooth conversation.

1. Introduction

What is Indian Sign Language? Why is it important? What is the connection between the Deaf community and this language?

2. Common Wrong and Belief about Indian Sign Language. This session will touch upon solving various myths and presumptions about Sign Language. For example, "Sign Language is the same all over the world", "Sign Language is not a complete language. It is just a sort of pantomime or gesturing and it has no grammar" among many others.
3. Theory: "Sign Language in India"

This session will explain the history of the deaf community in India, their issues, communication and its relationship with Sign Language

4. Practical: Overview of Units

Unit 1- Finger Spelling of alphabets

Unit 2- Simple Sentencing: Greetings, Subscribing people and objects

Unit 3- Simple Question: Family Relationships, Common objects

Unit 4- Questions with Question Words: Places, People and Professions, Actions

Unit 5- Revision: Dialogue – Meeting new students, introducing yourselves, Talking about time

Unit 6- Negative Sentences: Opposites, Problems at home, Colors, Places,
 Week/Months/Year
 Unit 7- Number Dialogue – Talking about money
 Unit 8- Relationship in Action: Dialogue – At a deaf school, expressing movement,
 talking about language
 Unit 9- Possession: Independence and Obedience, Talking about school, Geometrical
 shapes
 Unit 10- Counseling with a deaf student: Dialogues & Discussions
 Unit 11- List of ‘A’ Level spoken words in Indian Sign Language
 Unit 12- Revision

There was a detailed workbook on which the training was based. Reading materials and practice was distributed to the participants (70 Hearing Teachers from all over Jammu & Kashmir).

25. National Level Disabilities People Organisation Meet

VishwaYuvak Kendra, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi on 26th to 27th February, 2015

Ms. Reena Mohanty, Shanta Memorial Rehabilitation Centre, Bhubaneswar, Odisha organised the National Level DPO Workshop at VishwaYuvak Kendra, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi on 26th to 27th February, 2015.

Mrs. Geeta Sharma, Women Secretary of National Association of The Deaf and Ms. Sonia Bhatia, Assistant of National Association of the Deaf participated in the National Level Disabilities People Organisation Meet.

They have talked a lot of issues about women rights, domestic violence, & dowry etc.

Women are generally discriminated due to gender bias but disabled women face compound discrimination by being both women and disabled. Isolation and confinement based on culture and traditions, attitudes and prejudices often affect disabled women more than men. Some societies go so far as to assign fault to a mother who gives birth to a disabled child, especially so if the mother is a disabled woman. Disabled women and men can experience different kinds of attitudes based on gender discrimination. While men are still seen as the major breadwinners and leaders of society, a disabled man, considered "less of a man", won't conform to that stereotype. Similarly, a disabled woman won't conform to the feminine stereotype of wife, partner or mother and some lose the right to keep their children.

In these cases women in general are more vulnerable and marginalized in any crisis, they are double cursed if disabled.

Despite their significant numbers, women and girls with disabilities, especially in the India remain hidden and silent, their concerns unknown and their rights overlooked. Throughout the region, in urban and rural communities alike, they have to face the major problem of triple discrimination by society in general not only because of their disabilities, but also

because they are female and poor. Prejudice prevails even within each of the three categories. Among women, the woman with a disability is seen as inferior, and even among other people with disabilities she is not their equal. They are forced into being among the most isolated and marginalized and are the poorest of people, leaving them at increased risk of ill health. They are doubly discriminated due to disability & gender.

Women in poorer communities, and particularly those in the developing countries, appear to be more vulnerable to disability. It is seen that disabled women between 15 and 44 age group suffer more from ill-health caused by too many pregnancies, inadequate post-natal health and medical care, and poor nutrition, all of which put them at greater risk of disability.

Women with disability have minimum access to education, employment, health care, mobility aids and transport.

Many disabled people, especially elderly disabled women, lead isolated lives –unable to go out of their own homes or even move around adequately inside them. In most countries, at least two-thirds of disabled people are unemployed. Disabled women find it four times harder than disabled men to get work. Access to communication and information, especially for those with visual, hearing or learning impairments, is limited.

26. World Federation of the Deaf Regional South Asia met NAD & AIFD Teams

New Delhi at 4th March, 2015

Mr. Ichiro Miyamoto, Director of WFDRSA from Japan met Mr. A. S. Narayanan, Secretary of NAD, Mr. Zorin Singha, President of NAD, Mr. Anuj Jain, Joint Secretary of NAD, Mrs. Geeta Sharma, Secretary of NAD, Mr. Onkar Sharma, General Secretary of AIFD, Mr. Suresh Ahuja, Executive Member of AIFD & Mr. E. K. Jose, Executive Member of AIFD at Café Coffee Day, Janpath, New Delhi on 4th March, 2015. We, A. S. Narayanan, Secretary of NAD, Mr. Zorin Singha, President of NAD, Mr. Anuj Jain, Joint Secretary of NAD, Mr. Vishal Arora, Treasurer of NAD had an informal discussion with Mr. Ichiro Miyamoto, Director of WFDRSA from Japan about want to work together with AIFD in the future and have the talks about the Deaf Community in India.

27. Mr. Ichiro Miyamoto, Director of WFDRSA Visited NAD's Office

New Delhi at 5th March, 2015

Mr. Ichiro Miyamoto, Director of World Federation of the Deaf Regional for South Asia visited the NAD's Office, Delhi on 5th March, 2015. We, Mr. Anuj Jain, Project Director of NAD, Ms. Sonia Bhatia, Coordinator of NAD, Mr. Rahul Garg, Assistant Coordinator of NAD & Mr. Raj Kumar Jain, Supervisor of NAD had an informal discussion with him about our work's report files, participant files, NAD policy files, etc and also have talked with him about the Deaf Community in India.

28. International Women's Day

Indian Social Institute, 10 Institutional Area, Lodi Road, New Delhi on 8th March, 2015

We organized the International Women's Day at the Auditorium of Indian Social Institute on Sunday, 8th March 2015. This is a step taken for raising awareness and creating a positive space in society for disability and women's issues. The deaf women are doubly disadvantaged first by disability and second with the added vulnerability of their gender. We are a gathering of around 75 deaf women.

The seminar started with the welcome note by Mrs. Manta Nagpal, NAD's North India Deaf Woman Committee. The first session was taken by Mrs. Nidhi Singha, NAD's North India Deaf Woman Committee, performed the inspiration game about fist signing. Deaf women pointed out full sentences one by one. Ms. Rupmani Chhetri, Co-Worker of NAD's North India Deaf Woman gave the presentation on International Women's Day' and the story of Mother Teresa.

The next session was taken by Mrs. Ritu Panda, Member of NAD where she related the issues with the existing laws, international treaties and organizations that can be a valuable tool. She explained the issues while she went to the World Federation of the Deaf Regional for South Asia Meeting in Mauritius last past months ago.

These three topics had never been discussed before on the event of International Women's Day. It was a refreshing and an eye opener to all the participants. We concluded the seminar by cutting the cake and celebrating the day.

29. World Bank India's Country Director

New Delhi on 10th February, 2015

DPI delegation consisting of Javed Abidi, G. Syamala, Jagdish Chander, Meenu Mani, Samuel Mani, A. S. Narayanan and Geeta Sharma met the Country Director of World Bank, Onno Ruhl on Tuesday, 10 February 2015. The meeting was a very productive one with Onno Ruhl's very pragmatic and positive approach. The delegation highlighted/emphasised on the following 4 points:-

1. World Bank should view disability in a cross-cutting manner i.e. inclusive of age, gender, caste (with respect to India), socio-economic background, etc. Also, their focus should be on all disabilities.
2. World Bank should carry out an Impact Assessment Study: as to what impacts (positive/negative/none) have their projects had on persons with disabilities.
3. Financial Inclusion: World Bank should plan their projects which include livelihood generation for persons with disabilities. For this they should engage with DPOs, activists, experts and Government institutions.

4. When the Bank gives loans to countries, one of the yardstick or deliverable should be increased social, financial, political, universal inclusion of persons with disabilities in all spheres. They should develop monitoring mechanisms for the same.

30. National Deaf Conference on Demand Indian Sign Language & Research Training Centre, Autonomy

New Delhi on 15th- 16th March, 2015

National Association of the Deaf organized Nation Deaf Conference to come up with strategies for demanding the autonomy of Indian Sign Language Research & Training Centre. This was held on 15th March, 2015 in Action for Ability Development and Inclusion (AADI), 2, Balbir Saxena Marg, Hauz Khas, New Delhi.

Around 85 deaf participants came from all over India which included national deaf bodies like Mr. Zorin Singha (President of NAD), Mr. A. S. Narayanan (Secretary of NAD), Mr. Onkar Sharma (General Secretary of All India Federation of the Deaf), Mrs. Uma Kapoor (General Secretary of All India Foundation of Women Deaf), Mr. T. K. M. Sandeep (CEO of Deaf Enabled Foundation), Mr. Aqil (India Deaf Society), Mr. Sunil Sahasrabudhe (ISL Teacher), Mr. Sujit Sahasrabudhe (ISL Researcher), Mr. Sibaji Panda (Lecturer of Uclan University UK), Dr. Madan Vasishta (PhD of Gallaudet University USA) & Dr. Surinder Randhawa (PhD & Professor of BAASLS). It was unanimous decision to demand for the autonomy of ISLRTC.

On 16th March 2015, We met with three Ministers:

1. Shri Arun Jaitley, Hon'ble Finance Minister
2. Shri Nitin Gadkhari, Hon'ble Minister for Road and Transport
3. Shri Thaawar Chand Gehlot, Hon'ble Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment

We made them aware our strong disagreement with the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment's decision to merge ISLRTC with NIHH. We asked them for their support to make ISLRTC a standalone, autonomous centre under the Ministry.

We are writing this to seek your support in preventing a great injustice towards 10 million deaf citizens of India. Majority of our deaf countrymen use Indian Sign Language (ISL) as their primary mode of communication. ISL is an integral part of the lives of our deaf countrymen an women; it does more than transmit idea and encourage self-expression, it is grounded in their culture and their communities. Whereas in other countries, government are actively encouraging research in their respective singed languages, including prominent members of the sign language community in the process as well as providing support for

interpreter training and access to higher education, our Indian government continues to suppress the use of ISL.

This is also to bring to your kind notice that it was because of the advocacy led by National Association of the Deaf that the Indian Sign Language Research & Training Centre was put in the 11th Five Year Plan. NAD has from the beginning, demanded that this Institute should be an independent autonomous body. This also announced establishment of such a Centre in his Budget Speech for 2010-11.

However, the MSJE ignored the input from Deaf Community and leaders and asked IGNOU to take over the project, which resulted in years of delays in implementing all the work proposed and approved by the governing and advisory committees. Additional transgressions include IGNOU's liberal use of project funds despite not contributing to the project as well as renegeing on their promise to provide land for buildings. Though there was much relief when MSJE finally took the ISLRTC out of IGNOU in 2013 in promise of establishing it as an autonomous body, that relief would be short-lived.

After dragging its feet for over 18 months, the Ministry is taking a step that is proving to be worse than putting ISLRTC under IGNOU. It has decided to put the project under Ali Yavar Jung of the National Institute of Hearing Handicapped (NIHH) in New Delhi. On the surface it sounds logical, however, given the history of NIHH, the move is analogous to asking a wolf to raise a lamb.

NIHH is strongly rooted in oral philosophy and all it has little more for ISL during its 32 years of existence than providing few ISL classes in few cities. We are sure that the entire budget allocated for developing ISL interpreters, training teachers in bilingual education of deaf children and involvement of Deaf people in making decision on their education and rehabilitation will be used in other areas.

This is unacceptable and should not be condoned. The project goals and outputs that were approved in 2007 by 11th Five Year Plan have yet to be actualized and it is imperative that the process involves the right people. For example, When a centre to support a spoken language – say Sindhi – is established, it is NOT managed by people who are not Sindhi themselves or do not speak Sindhi. ISLRTC must be managed by people who use ISL and support it.

Later in the day on 16th March, We held a press conference emphasizing the same demand at Indian Women's press Corp. (Newspapers clipping enclosed).

31. International Women's Day

Chandigarh Club Ltd., Sector-1, Chandigarh on 21st March, 2015

We organized the International Women's Day at the Auditorium of Chandigarh Club Ltd., Sector-1, Chandigarh on Saturday, 21st March 2015. This is a step taken for raising awareness and creating a positive space in society for disability and women's issues. The deaf women are doubly disadvantaged first by disability and second with the added vulnerability of their gender. We saw a gathering of around 75 deaf women. We invited the Deaf Women Lecturer Smt. Geeta Sharma, Women Secretary, National Association of the Deaf, Chief Guest of Honour Sh. Sanjay Tandon, President of Bharatiya Janta Party Chandigarh, Guest of Honour Smt. Heera Negi, Ex-Senior Deputy Mayor Chandigarh, Guest of Honour Shri Devi Singh, Zila President of Bharatiya Janta Party, Chandigarh, Chief Guest of Honour Sh. Sanjay Tandon, President of Bharatiya Janta Party Chandigarh, Guest of Honour Smt. Heera Negi, Ex-Senior Deputy Mayor Chandigarh, Guest of Honour Shri Devi Singh, Zila President of Bharatiya Janta Party Chandigarh and guest of Honour Shri Jasjeet Singh, Director of Mansukh, Investment & Trading Solutions Chandigarh.

The seminar started with the welcome note by Mrs. Reena Jain, NAD's North India Deaf Woman Committee and performed the inspiration game about fist signing. Mrs. Geeta Sharma, Woman Secretary of NAD explained about the problems of ISLRTC merging with NIHH and what is the benefit of ISLRTC. Chief Guest of Honour Sh. Sanjay Tandon, President of Bharatiya Janta Party Chandigarh, Guest of Honour Smt. Heera Negi, Ex-Senior Deputy Mayor Chandigarh, Guest of Honour Shri Devi Singh, Zila President of Bharatiya Janta Party, Chandigarh spoke the praise for deaf women wonderfully work well for themselves which they could not see deaf women who are brave before. Guest of Honour Prof (Dr.) Vikas Singh (Campus Director) Chandigarh Group of College talked about domestic violence etc.

The last session was taken by Ms. Nirupama Kaul, Co-Worker of NAD's North India Deaf Woman on 'Emotional Intelligence' where the ability to understand others and act wisely in human relations was discussed along with the functioning of our brain, that during a situation that triggers us, it tends to leave us with less space to think and act wisely.

These two topics had never been discussed before on the event of International Women's Day. It was a refreshing and an eye opener to all the participants. We concluded the seminar by cutting the cake and celebrating the day.