

Visited for Deaf Manipur in Imphal (Manipur), India



On 21st March, 2009 NAD, Secretary Mr. A.S. Narayanan, was invited for two days workshop by the Secretary of All Manipur Association of the Deaf and Mute. This was the first time experience to attend a workshop in Imphal. Mr. Narayanan explained all deaf about the unity for the deaf which he felt the people there were interested to learn about it. But the major problem they faced was the different Sign Language as it varies from place to place.

Here the question is that there should be a uniform Sign Language for all Indian. If there is a standard language it bring hearing impaired people more closely and makes them communicate well without any hurdle in course of their communication. We hope that NAD which has made a pioneer effort to reach the North East region shall grow further.

Prerna Kids get help to nail Totu's paedophiles

Our deaf volunteers Geeta Sharma, Nidhi Singha, Vishal Arora and our camera man Pratap along with our interpreter Mrs Narmata Patro went to Shimla to meet the deaf girl victims & other related people who were involved with this incident.



It's an absolutely horrifying case which took place at Shimla an NGO named Prerna was caught embroiled in a sexual abuse case... Prerna was established in 2003. There were 5 teachers, 4 male & 1 female at present 3 male teachers were staying in the hostel. The institute has 24 students out of which 9 deaf girls and 11 deaf boys were staying in the hostel. It was here where the atrocities that the staff was indulging are with the students came to light. 3 staff members along with the Vice Principal were found guilty of raping 6 girls in the age group of 13, 14, 15, 18, 21, and 22 respectively. A girl even became pregnant at the tender age of 18.

This incident came to light, thanks to the courage of a young girl named Shilpa (Name Changed). She was a student who in the month of March'2009 joined

the organization. Initially the students were very shy and hesitant to open up the problems they were facing because they feared their teachers, but as she became closer and friendly to the other deaf children at Prerna she came to know about two things: Firstly the teachers were not trained and were not qualified to teach sign language. Secondly she came to know that they were being imposed to sexual abuse. She then told her mother about the whole conspiracy going on at Prerna. She told police and arrested one principal, three teachers on 19th March, 2009

It was only after the culprits arrested that the extent of torture that the children had been exposed to became evident. The smallest girl was 13 yrs of age. Children were all traumatized as they were victims of sexual harassment. And the girl who had been impregnated by them 2 yrs back was also present and underwent the same ordeal.

We met Mr. Shekhar (named changed) father of Aarti (named changed) victim who told us he had been a member of a club in the name of the same institution which was a big fraud. Apart from the government they used to charge money from the parents very often. This society was basically eye-wash to show the parents the dedication and sincerity to their profession.

This is a very sad case that has come to everybody's attention. It is very essential that something is done about and the law doesn't set these culprits free. It is a shameful incident and we should ensure that their punishment is so harsh that everybody will think twice before doing such heinous crime.

**2ND NATIONAL DEAF CONFERENCE, Warangal,
Andhra Pradesh**



On 25th and 26th of April'09. The 2nd national deaf conference was held at Warangal. The conference was inaugurated by Mr. Zorin Singha, President of National Association of the Deaf and Mr. A.S.Narayanan, General Secretary of NAD , Mr. Arun C.Rao, President of ASLI by lighting the lamp. People from different parts of India participated in a large scale and made the programme a grand success. There were nine interpreters who attended this conference.

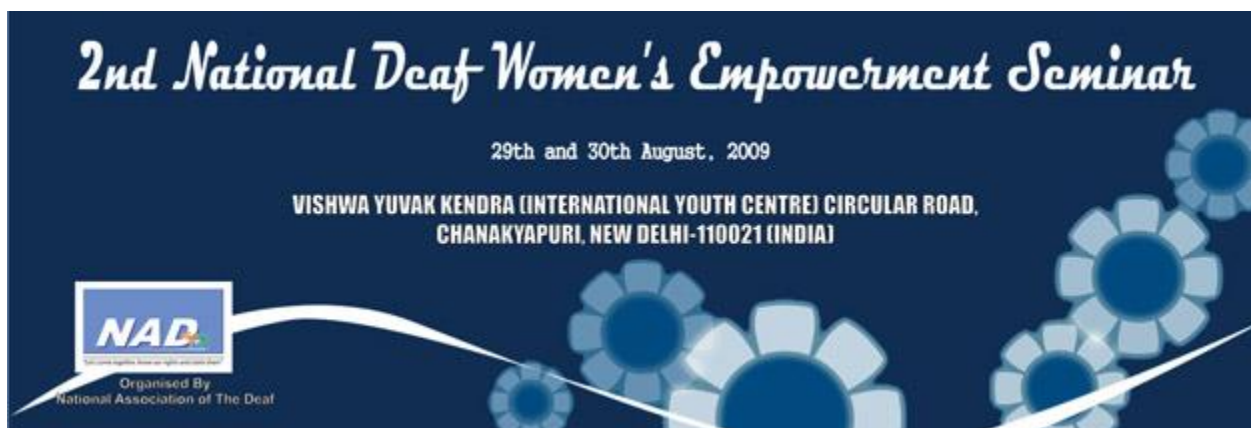
Mr. A.S.Narayanan explained about the laws and rights which are present to help the deaf to live their livelihood. He also talked about NAD and stressed on

the fact that all associations coming together for a cause constitute NAD. He mentioned about the job crises among the deaf community and how discrimination was done between deaf and partially deaf candidates.

Mr. Zorin Singha spoke about the lack of a systematic education system in India for the deaf people. Here the deaf are hardworking and sincere but still they don't have job opportunities. In foreign countries they have all the provisions available for the deaf are far cry from the provisions available in our country. In India things haven't changed much since independence. He also explained about the struggles which he has faced in his life as a deaf. He spoke about how it was time for the deaf to rise up to the situation and become aware of their rights and claim them from the Govt. He wants the deaf to take charge of their own rights as the past is gone and the future is yet to come. Alone a person can't do anything but millions can do many things.

Mr. Arun. C. Rao explained about a new world of opportunity for the interpreters. Interpreters should be experienced in their profession. He talked about WASLI and ASLI and how to become a member of them. There is a huge necessity for more interpreters. The deaf must have interpreters as this would help break the communication barrier between the normal and the deaf. Sign language should be taught in all normal schools as a part of their syllabus and how it is vital for interpreters to hail from all fields.

In the end it was a very enlightening conference as most of the participants had an opportunity to clarify their doubts and meet more people from all walks of life.





On 29th and 30th August, 2009 The 2nd National Deaf Women's Empowerment Seminar was held at Vishwa Yuvak Kendra, Delhi. The Seminar was inaugurated by Ms. Geeta Sharma, woman Secretary of NAD, Mr. Zorin Singha, President of NAD, Mr. A.S.Narayanan, Secretary of NAD and Mr. Arun C.Rao, President of ASLI by lighting the lamp, Around 200 women from different parts of India participated on a large scale and made the programme a grand success.

Mr. A.S Narayanan welcomed all the participants. He explained about the laws and rights which are present to help the deaf to live their lives. He also talked about NAD and stressed on the fact that how all associations coming together for a cause constituted NAD.

Ms. Geeta Sharma spoke at length about the Shimla expose with the help of visual aid. She explained in details how the helpless children were exploited. In this regard Ms. Shilpa (Name Changed) who brought out the terrible crime to light was facilitated with an award for her act of bravery.

Mrs Roma Bhagat spoke at length about sexual harassment and how one should be aware of handling unpleasant situations at work place or at home. This was followed by a question and answer session which went on for about two hours and most of the participants queries were addressed to their satisfaction.

A presentation on the famous life story of Helen Keller, who even after losing hearing and vision was no less than any other hearing person was shown to the present audience.

In the seminar NAD's board members were announced who have the potential of being our future leaders and who will create awareness among deaf people.. Women leaders are also very crucial for deaf women's development.

- 12 members each from North and South were handpicked to be our members.

WOMEN COMMITTEE MEMBERS (NORTH)

1. REENA JAIN (DELHI)
2. SONIA CHAVAN (GURGAON)
3. NEETU DONGRE (BHOPAL)
4. RENU GUPTA (DELHI)
5. VANDANA VARSHNEY (DELHI)
6. PRIYANKA JAIN (JAIPUR)
7. MAMTA NAGPAL (DELHI)
8. NIDHI SINGHA (DELHI)
9. RAJNI KHANDELWAL (DELHI)
10. BELA CHITWADGI (BHOPAL)
11. ANU SAIGAL (CHANDIGARH)
12. MONICA ISAAC (DELHI)

WOMEN COMMITTEE MEMBERS (SOUTH)

1. UMA DEVI (HYDERABAD)
2. M.SWAROOPA (HYDERABAD)
3. V.JANAKI (HYDEERABAD)
4. K.RAMA (HYDERABAD)
5. SWATI SOHONI (PUNE)
6. J.SRIMATI (CHENNAI)
7. T.VASANATH (HYDERABAD)
8. USAILAJA (VISAKHAPATNAM)
9. KAVITA JAYSING KALE (NASHIK)
10. MUNIRA GILANI (WARANGAL)
11. K.R. SHYAMALA (HYDERABAD)
12. T.R.V.SATYAVANI (VIJAYAWADA)

International Day of the Deaf 27th September, 2009

NEW DELHI



LUCKNOW (Uttar Pradesh)



JAIPUR (Rajasthan)



CHANDIGARH, (HARYANA)





CHANDIGARH, (PUNJAB)



BHOPAL (MP)





HYDERABAD (AP)



CHENNAI (TAMIL NADU)



KOLKATA (WEST BENGAL)



PATNA (BIHAR)



DEHRADUN, UA





WORLD DISABILITY DAY CELEBRATION and National Association of the Deaf.



Day celebrations on December 3. The event was organized by National Centre for Promotion of Employment for Disabled People (N.C.P.E.D.P.) in collaboration with National Association of Deaf (N.A.D.). This was the 13th 'Walk to Freedom' and this year's theme was 'Say No to Amendments. Say Yes to New Law'.

The three demands that the disability sector put forward were the need for a new Disability Act, in line with U.N. Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities; implementation of promises made to the disability sector under the XIth Five Year Plan; and easy and faster access to disability certificates.

There are according to varying estimates, between 20 - 25 million people who are deaf in India add to this the hard of hearing figure and you have a rather large total of 50 or more million people who are affected by hearing impairment.

A cultural Programme was organized where disabled children from various organizations took part. An exhibition was also organized by National Trust on

its 'Badhte Kadam' initiative which aimed at spreading awareness on disability issues. Posters, booklets, etc. were showcased in the exhibition

National Association of the Deaf, Protest, at Planning Commission, New Delhi 2009



Thousands of deaf protestors bring Planning Commission to a standstill

As the Government celebrated another cosmetic World Disability Day on December 3, around 2000 hearing impaired people from across the country under the banner of National Association of the Deaf (N.A.D.) stormed Yojana Bhawan in New Delhi, which houses the office of the Planning Commission, protesting against the non-implementation of the XIth Five Year Plan.

The protestors blocked the entry to the building and the road and refused to budge from there till their demands were heard. The XIth Five Year Plan has an entire chapter on disability with maximum benefits for the deaf community. The Plan mandates the setting up of a Sign language Research and Training Centre, a National Captioning Centre, at least one residential school up to class

XII for hearing impaired students in every state and one degree college in every zone, among other things. But more than 2 years after the Plan came into force, implementation has been zero.

N.A.D. had been trying to meet with the Deputy Chairperson of the Planning Commission, Dr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia for close to 3 months without avail. Ironically, half an hour into the protest, Dr. Ahluwalia agreed to meet the leadership of N.A.D.

A.S. Narayanan, Secretary, N.A.D.; Zorin Singha, President, N.A.D.; along with Arun Rao of The Deafway Foundation and Javed Abidi, Convenor, Disabled Rights Group (D.R.G.) expressed their deep displeasure at the non-implementation of the promises made to the disability sector in general and the deaf community in particular, under the XIth Five Year Plan. Dr. Ahluwalia immediately offered to have a Committee constituted to review this issue as a part of the ongoing mid term appraisal of the Plan. But the delegation categorically refused this offer and said that mere assurances and reviews would no longer work. They needed a tangible time frame.

After much back and forth, Dr. Ahluwalia conceded to personally put in a word with the Prime Minister at a cabinet meeting scheduled for 6 p.m. that very day. He also agreed to talk to Mukul Wasnik, Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment, the nodal ministry for disability related issues.

Undeterred by the cold, the thousands of deaf protestors continued on with their 'indefinite dharna'. As the word spread, a large number of media people started descending at Yojna Bhavan. With the clock ticking and virtually with every passing minute, the embarrassment only kept increasing for Government of India! The pressure was truly mounting.

Finally at around 8 p.m., Mukul Wasnik personally spoke to Abidi over the cellphone and invited the N.A.D. delegation for a meeting at his residence. Wasnik listened patiently to the demands. Shockingly, he was not even aware of the chapter on disability in the XIth Five Year Plan. Arun Rao told Wasnik that due to the lack of sign language training, education for hearing impaired children in the country is vastly neglected, as a result of which the level of their

employment is pretty dismal. Rao informed the Minister that India only has 6 trained sign language interpreters! He firmly reiterated that only the setting up of Sign Language Institute will address these needs. Rao also lamented the absence of the post of sign language interpreter at public utility services like railway stations, airports, passport offices, etc.

Wasnik assured the delegation that he would look into all the mandates of the XIth Five Year Plan and will schedule another meeting soon. Finally, the protest was called off at about 10 p.m., nearly 8 hours after it all began. Issues. Posters, booklets, etc. were showcased in the exhibition.

Report on the Advanced Leadership Training & Women's Leadership Workshops held on 1st & 2nd February 2010 in Hyderabad, (AP), South India Part1



The National Association of the Deaf (NAD) & Deaf Enabled Foundation (DEF), Hyderabad jointly organized two workshops, namely the Advanced Leadership Training Workshop & the Women's Leadership Training Workshop on the 1st & 2nd of February 2010 in Hyderabad. Professor Madan Vasishta was the resource person for both the workshops. Dr. Madan M. Vasishta was born in India. He completed his B.A., M.A. and Ph.D. degrees at Gallaudet University which is the only University for Deaf people in the world. Dr. Vasishta has

worked in various capacities such as teacher, supervisor, program evaluator, principal and superintendent in several schools around the United States. He is currently a lecturer at the Gallaudet University

Advanced Leadership Training Workshop:

There were 110 participants for the Advanced Leadership Training Workshop of which 70 were Deaf men and 40 were Deaf women who came from several cities around India. At the workshop Dr. Vasishta taught the participants about the relevant laws and the rights they could exercise to live better lives. He informed the participants about various subjects including United Nation Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), the American Disability Act (ADA) and Persons with Disabilities (PWD). He presented his observations on a comparative study of the American Disability Act (ADA) and the Persons with Disabilities Act (PWD) in India. He also made a presentation on the technology for the Deaf that is currently available and also those which will be available in the future such as Video Relay Interpreting, etc.

Dr. Vasishta conducted a group exercise in which six groups of 15 members each were given the task of discussing and suggesting what they wanted to include and change in the current PWD Act. Each group was then asked to prepare a chart with their suggestions. Following this there was a question and answer session for about two hours which addressed the queries of the participants. The participants found the workshop very good and empowering.

Report on the Advanced Leadership Training & Women's Leadership Workshops held on 1st & 2nd February 2010 in Hyderabad, (AP), and South India Part2





Women's Leadership Training Workshop:

This workshop was attended by about 100 Deaf women leaders from all over India. During this workshop the women who came from different backgrounds shared that they felt helpless in almost every area of their lives. They shared that they had many complaints to make to their parents or schools concerning domestic violence, harassment, cheating cases related to property matters and sexual abuse.

Dr. Vasishta got the women to form five groups of 20 each and gave them the exercise discussing and writing down how the Deaf women could be empowered and how they could face their problems and find solutions to them. Most of the women expressed that there was a need for educating women about the laws and their rights, providing information on pregnancy, birth and health awareness and also providing awareness about abuse.

Dr. Vasishta then collected the charts and spoke to the women encouraging them saying that it was important for them to have knowledge of their rights and be educated about abuse and alimony. He emphasized that the women leaders played a very crucial role in the development of Deaf women. The video recording of both the workshops which were held in Sign Language are available.

3rd National Deaf Conference organized by National Association of the Deaf & Deaf Welfare Association. 13th to 14th June, 2010





The 3rd National Deaf Conference was jointly organized by The National Association of the Deaf (NAD) & Deaf Welfare Association (DWA) at the Indian Institute of Management, Dehradun (Uttarkhand) on the 13th and 14th of June 2010.

The Chief Guest for the occasion was Shri. Matbar Singh Kandar, who is the Minister of Social Welfare from Uttarakhand. The other prominent persons present there included the Mayor Shri Vinod Chamoli; Shri. Zorin Singha, the President of National Association of the Deaf (NAD); Shri A.S. Narayanan, General Secretary of NAD and Shri Umesh Grover, General Secretary of Deaf Welfare Association. The conference was inaugurated by the Guest of Honour Shri. Matbar Singh Kandar. Many Deaf leaders and Deaf persons from across the country participated in the conference to make it a big success. A total of 125 deaf people and leaders attended the conference.

Shri. A. S. Narayanan, General Secretary of NAD shared about the background of the Sign Language Institute which has been approved by the Finance Minister, Shri. Pranab Mukherjee. This has been included in the 11th Five Year Plan after the Deaf community had done several demonstrations and conducted strike on four occasions at various places in New Delhi.

Shri. Zorin Singha, the President of National Association of the Deaf (NAD), shared about the paper on Social Justice and Empowerment (SJE) drafted by the Deaf leaders and made an appeal to the Minister to remove the Persons with Disabilities Act and force the SJE to draft and pass a new law instead. There have been many recommendations to get a new law since there are many problem areas in the PWD Act. It is insufficient in dealing with the problems of the disabled appropriately. Shri. T.K.M. Sandeep, Treasurer of NAD made a presentation on the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) and made comparisons with the current PWD Act. The Conference instilled a lot of confidence in all the participants as they were better informed

on the opportunities available for the Deaf and many of them stated that they would spread this information on Deaf Rights to many more people. They expressed their happiness at having gained so much through this conference.

This is to inform you that a Seminar on DEAF RIGHTS under United Nations Convention of Rights for People with Disabilities (UNCRPD) was organized by National Association of the Deaf, Delhi (INDIA) from 26th and 27th June, 2010 in Vyattla, Ernakulam, district in Kerala State, South India for first time. The NAD invited two deaf leaders from each district of Kerala. They were interested to learn things from us through India Sign Language. Shri A.S.Narayanan, Secretary, National Association of the Deaf, Delhi made presentation to the deaf participants about UNCRPD. He explained that the India Government has already ratified UNCRPD on 1st OCT, 2007. He also gave examples to them about PWD Act 1995. This disability law the India Government already has, but still not have implemented yet. There has been no benefits for the deaf through PWD ACT since its passage in 1995. It is wonderful to good news from India Govt announced about passing a New Disability Law in the month of April this year. We must give our Hearty congratulation to Mr. Mukul Wasnik, Minister for Social Justice and empowerment, Government of India, for paving the way to opening the New Disability Law.

Finally, Good News! After a long time, the need to establish an India Sign Language Research and Training Institute is being addressed. Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, Finance Minister announced for India Sign Language last month of Feb 26th, 2010. India Sign Language Institute is established very soon! We need you in support and unity in work for the deaf in India.

**3rd National Woman's Deaf Empowerment Seminar
being held in Indira Holiday Home, sector-24-b,
Chandigarh 2010**



The 3rd National Woman's Deaf Empowerment Seminar being held in Indira Holiday Home, sector-24-b, Chd, on 28th & 29th August, in which 75 Woman participated from all over the places i.e. Hisar, Bhopal, Pune, Hyderabad, Delhi, Gurgaon, Dehradun, Shimla, Patiala, Ludhiana, Abohar, Bathinda, and so on.

This seminar was presented by deaf woman, Mrs. Geeta Sharma from Delhi and Anu from

Chandigarh. In this seminar, deaf women were the volunteers and took care of all the arrangements.

On the first day, i.e. 28th August, the brief presentation was given by our special guest, Mrs. Veena, Lawyer of HRLN on the topic of 'Domestic Violence'.

Then, on the last day, two special guests were invited to make this program more valuable, Ms. Manju Sharma, Gold medalist of Woman & Child Development, spoke on the topic of 'Empowering the woman' & 'to access their rights'.

At the closing ceremony, Dr. Vinay Verma, MBBS, MD(Medicine), MBA(Hospital Management), Senior Consultant Physician from Alchemist Hospital, congratulated the deaf women & wishing them all the success in their lives.

Their eyes and hands act as their voices. They cannot comprehend what you are saying neither would you be able to understand their expressions. But it does not make their life difficult.

There were hundreds of hearing impaired persons who had converged at the third national seminar on promoting empowerment of hearing-impaired women organised by a Delhi-based NGO, Deaf Way Foundation, at the Indira Holiday Home in Sector 24, Chandigarh.

At the seminar, attended by hearing impaired persons from different parts of the country like Bhopal, Pune and Hyderabad, the speakers were not only greeted in a different style, the participants waived both arms to express their desire to clap while welcoming the speakers.

Disclosing about their mode of communication, coordinator of the foundation, Era Walton, said, "I have been working with hearing impaired people for the past 27 years and I have been in Chandigarh for the past 10 years. Interacting with them is always a pleasure."

Soon after the seminar concluded all participants gathered at the banquet hall to celebrate the birthday of one of their colleagues Geeta. Yet again they raised their arms in order to clap as Geeta cut the cake and sang the "birthday song" in their own special way. The youngsters were excited to be with the people with whom they could relate and most importantly "communicate" as well.

There were different speakers namely Veena, a lawyer, and Geeta Sharma who tipped women on developing their personality and enlightened them on their rights.

It was party time for these impaired persons who were trying to capture every moment in their cameras.

Sharing her experiences with the hearing impaired persons, Era Walton asserted, "A couple of years back I had acted as a translator for a hearing impaired lady whose husband had deserted her after 20 years of marriage. The husband was not impaired. It was a learning

experience.”

Being impaired makes these people more careful than us, shared Era, “Once I was in Kasuali along with this girl who was hearing-impaired. I was talking on the phone and trekking. She noticed that I might slip and held me and saved me from getting injured.”

National Workshop on Deaf's Women Empowerment on 17th December 2010



National Workshop on Grassroots Deaf Leadership, Hyderabad on 13th & 14th February 2011

