



# Annual Report

2019-20



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## The Guru Speaks

### **Thoughts of Sujaya Foundation's Managing Trustee, Ms Neelambari Rao**

Enabling someone is one of the most difficult task & also one of the most fulfilling. At Sujaya Foundation we have addressed a key need in our society.

The dedicated team of Sujaya Foundation striving to enable these young people sometimes faces a sense of 'mission impossible'. I would like to make a special mention here of our team that has made this a 'mission possible'. They greet our learners every morning, they teach them, they try to tune into their moods, their feelings , they maintain discipline, they cajole, they motivate, they step up to deal with unimaginable difficult circumstances & often step back to make the learners move forward.

The Experiential Learning Program is unique as the program not only trains but is able to provide a paid internship. The internship is real time corporate work. At the end of a successful internship, this differently abled young man or woman is placed appropriately & becomes a part of the country's workforce.

In a country with so many challenges, this journey has been a powerful agent of change in the face of odds, an accomplishment that all the partners can be proud of.

## History

The seed of Sujaya Foundation was sowed by Ms. Neelambari Store Rao, Managing Trustee in 2002 where she started collaborating with municipal schools by teaching English.

17 years down the line, we now have expanded to a variety of activities and programs, all in an attempt to make a difference to youth who do not get the opportunity that they deserve to excel.

We also work with youth with disabilities in an attempt to help them become financially independent.

Sujaya Foundation tutors underprivileged school-going children in Mathematics and English, as well as teaches Spoken English and Basic Computers to underprivileged youth, giving them a much needed equal opportunity to boost their confidence.

The youth who complete the program are placed in reputed corporate houses.

## **Empower Youth Program:**

The underprivileged youth do not get an opportunity to arm themselves with the basic skills required to be gainfully employed in today's competitive world. Sujaya Foundation is trying to bridge this gap by training them in **Communicative English, Life Skills** and **Computers** as these are the core skills required for an entry level job.

### **Projects under the Empower Youth Program:**

#### **Projects for Youth with special-abilities:**

#### **The Experiential Learning Program (The ELP): I Learn- I Earn Project in association with Larsen and Toubro Infotech's (LTI) 1Step**

The ELP is a unique Training and Skill Development model designed to equip the Youth with special-abilities with skill sets leading to 'aspirational' employment. This project, "I Learn- I Earn", is funded by Larsen and Toubro Infotech's CSR 1Step for Mumbai and Navi Mumbai centres. The ELP trains youth in computer skills followed by a paid internship before placing them in corporate organizations. Both the hiring partners and the new joiners undergo initial hand holding and periodic follow-ups to ensure quality and enhanced performance at the workplace. After successfully implementing the program in Mumbai since 2008, the ELP was replicated at NMMC's etc (Education, Training and Service Centre for PWDs) in 2016-17. Every year we train around 150 specially abled students and mainstream them. LTI has been our funding partner since 2016.

The project is implemented at Bandra East, Mumbai and Vashi, Navi Mumbai

#### **SMART + Project in association with Tech Mahindra Foundation**

This office is situated in a green belt that nature lovers will be proud of. Sujaya Foundation along with Tech Mahindra Foundation runs a SMART+ Centre for the last 3 years. The foundation skills include training in Basic IT, Spoken English and Workplace readiness.

The aim is to provide specially-abled youth data entry and data management skills along with the job placement in the IT/ITeS sector. It aims at integrating the specially-abled workforce in an inclusive environment. On successful completion of the course, students are placed at Data Management & Healthcare technology firms like Viaante Business Solutions, Webtel India, Citius Tech etc.

The project is implemented at Kurla East, Mumbai.

#### **Smile Twin e-learning (STeP) program**

Smile Twin e-learning (STeP) program aims to bridge the digital divide and empower underprivileged youth with basic and advanced computer skills. The project targets youth from surrounding grassroots communities where they are trained in Basic IT, Spoken English, Personality Development and Retail Marketing. At the end of four months of training they are placed at corporate organizations.

The project is implemented at Chembur, Mumbai.

### **English Immersion**

Designed to immerse the beneficiary in an English-speaking atmosphere, this one-month intensive program helps build conversational English skills and further enhances the confidence cum employability skills among college students and youth. This program is implemented through the use of Sujaya Foundation's digital content. This enables students to grasp finer concepts of conversational English. Students get immersed in the language and are able to express themselves in communicative English. The program also has a striking feature where the students are taken to a corporate at its initiation and completion. This gives an aspirational opportunity to the students and they get to interact with people from a professional background. Also, the volunteers at the corporate can gauge the difference in the diction, confidence and conversational skills of the students.

The project is implemented at Bandra, Mumbai.

### **Employability Skills Enhancement**

Sujaya Foundation is running a skill development centre partnership with Bandra East Community Centre. The centre caters to the youth from slum communities of Bandra East who are first generation English learners from low budget schools and also from vernacular medium. The youth are trained in English Communication, Basic Computers, Tally and Life skills.

The project is implemented at Bandra, Mumbai

### **Higher Education Project**

Sujaya Foundation is conducting a Higher Education Program that provides coaching for specially abled students in subjects of the Commerce stream. It has been observed that there are no state run colleges to meet the needs of such students. They join mainstream colleges and are unable to handle the pace and pressure of the curriculum. Sujaya Foundation is training such students in Book Keeping and Accountancy, Economics, Secretarial Practice as well as Information Technology. They are trained to give the HSC examination conducted by the Maharashtra Board.

<b>Program</b>	<b>Centres</b>	<b>No of beneficiaries</b>
Experiential Learning Program	Bandra & Vashi	225
Smart + Program	Kurla	73
Smile Twin E Learning Program	Chembur	152
English Immersion Employment Skills Enhancement	Bandra	254
Higher Education Project Spoken English	Higher Education Project	38
<b>Total beneficiaries</b>		<b>742</b>

### Key Highlight:

#### Spirit of Humanity Award:

Sujaya Foundation had applied for the Spirit of Humanity Award hosted by Americares Foundation (India). The process had started in July. A rigorous screening and shortlisting of 300+ NGOs was done by KPMG and esteemed jury members.

Sujaya Foundation made it to the top 24 Finalists. We are incredibly happy to share that Sujaya Foundation is the Regional Winner in the Disability Sector. The award ceremony was held on 26th September, 2019 at J.W. Marriot, Juhu.



#### Quizabled 2019:

Sujaya Foundation hosted '**Quizabled**' – a special quiz competition exclusively for children with disabilities on Saturday, 7th December, 2019 at St. Andrews, Bandra West. This was the first ever quiz conducted in Mumbai for children with disabilities making it one of a kind. The event was implemented by Seva in Action (SiA), a Bangalore based organisation and was powered by LTI (Larsen and Toubro Infotech). Ms. Varsha Bhagat Director, NMMC's etc was the Chief Guest of the event. Various important delegates like Mr. Manjit Bali Head-Global Corporate Services and Shipra Sharma Head- Corporate Social Responsibility from LTI, Jheel Mehta, TV actress, Ruma Banerjee, Chairperson, Seva In Action and Ms. Neelambari Rao, founder, Sujaya Foundation attended the event.

The quizzing was done for four categories of disabilities: Intellectually Challenged/MR, Autism/CP, Hearing Impaired and Visually impaired. 148 specially abled children from 49 schools (special and regular) and 11 NGOs participated in the event. A footfall of about 142 people, including the participants, teachers and parents, about 48 volunteers from LTI, 34 volunteers and 15 staff from Sujaya Foundation and 31 other invitees attended the event. A total of 418 people participated in the event and made the quiz competition, 'QUIZABLED 2019' a grand success in Mumbai.

The winners from each category were given a cash prize of Rs. 8,000/- and runners received Rs. 5,000/-



## **Sports Day:**

Sujaya Foundation organized a Sports day for specially-abled youth on November 17, at St. Mary's School, Mazgaon. More than 100 specially-abled youth participated in the event from different centres of Sujaya Foundation. It began with Fr. Jude, the Principal of St. Mary's, speaking a few words of appreciation and lighting the torch. The event involved various sports like relay race, tug of war, cricket, sack race, running, etc followed by the prize distribution. The students were thrilled and in high spirits. They thoroughly enjoyed the event.



## **Alumni Appreciation:**

We are glad to share that three of our alumni from Vashi & Kurla, Mr. Pankaj Lingawale, Mr. Reeve Gonsalves and Mr. Ashish Nissel were appreciated by Citius Tech Healthcare Technology Pvt Ltd. for their outstanding attitude towards work and their desire to take up challenges.





## The Success Stories

Stories of a few have passed with flying colors & are an inspiration

Anju Kamlaprasad, a 23 year old hearing & speech impaired student joined the SMART + Project at Kurla. At the inception of the training she was an introvert. With the encouraging intervention of our trainers she became participative. Eventually she gained confidence through life skill sessions. After her course completion, she was placed at *Pizza Hut* in February 2018. It has been two years that she is employed with Pizza Hut, and recently, she was felicitated with the '*Employee of the Month*' award.



Abhishek Ganesh, 23, a student of I Learn-I Earn Project has cerebral palsy. This disability did not deter his will to improve himself. He would work hard to increase his accuracy in data entry. He would make it a point to participate in all the activities at the centre. Abhishek has been placed at Dusters Total Solutions Services Pvt Ltd (DTSS), one of India's leading Facility Management Service Providers in September 2019 and he has been recently awarded as the 'Employee of the Month' at his workplace at Ventura, one of the clients of DTSS.



## Annual Events

**Disability Sensitization Workshop:** I Learn- I Earn project team conducted a disability sensitization session for trainees at LTI, Mahape. The session sensitized the trainees about various disabilities and thus promoted active engagement through volunteering. Trainees learnt the basics of sign language such as alpha-bets, greetings and how to ask questions. Specially-abled youth also displayed a hand-made product stall. Jewelry items made in an eco-friendly way were a hit among buyers!



**World Earth Day:** The Tech Mahindra Foundation SMART+ students at Kurla centre celebrated World Earth Day with interesting activities and video shows. The students enthusiastically participated in making posters and writing their individual pledges, in order to show their solidarity to the cause of preserving our environment. The video shown also helped them learn the various types of pollution that our planet is suffering from, and the ways by which we all could reduce the wastage of food and other natural resources.



**English Immersion Programme:** Sujaya Foundation's English Immersion Program began with a thumping start at the LinkedIn Mumbai office. The LinkedIn volunteers were highly enthusiastic, self-driven and steered their group of students well in the activities. The 4-week program concluded with an English skit presentation by the students at LinkedIn. The confidence, presentation, voice modulation and diction were highly lauded by the LinkedIn employees.



**Talent Showcase:** Sujaya Foundation's specially-abled students participated in Abilympics 2019 – a talent event organized by Sarthak Education Trust. Some of the students participated in floral arrangement. One of our students – Ms. Firdaus Ansari received the first prize. Furthermore, students also felicitated the guests with handmade bouquets and graced the event.



**All Get Through:** Sujaya Foundation is thrilled that the five students with special abilities, who appeared for the Std 12/ HSC examinations, under the higher education training project, successfully passed the exams! A female student obtained 60.30%, - the highest percentage amongst the five students. Bravo to ALL!



**Power of First Impression:** Ms. Jaya Gawande, an image consultant and a certified soft skills trainer conducted an interesting session on the power of first impressions, at Kurla centre. The aim was understanding the importance of self esteem, positive image and first impression. The session stressed on having a positive image of oneself. To boost one's confidence, the trainer suggested methods like positive self talk, affirmation and mirror exercises. The session helped students gain insight on making a good impression, especially at the start of their professional journey.



**Volunteer Feedback:** Delna Bharucha, a Commerce graduate has been actively volunteering with Sujaya Foundation for the spoken English classes. She says, 'The interactive teaching methods at Sujaya Foundation encourage students to use their imagination when engaging with the content of the lessons. Sujaya Foundation is an organisation that embodies the true spirit of public service. I feel very fortunate to work with such professional and positive people. The students here are certainly getting the best quality of education and support from the community.'

Sujaya Foundation collaborated with the NGO Together Foundation, which works with young people with autism and other intellectual impairments, to train their teachers in basic Computers. The idea was to transfer the IT skills learned by trainers to the specially-abled youth of Together Foundation. Trainees shared that they found the program highly beneficial and are using the concepts learned in the classroom training to teach Together's youth.



**International Day of Sign Language:** Tech Mahindra Foundation SMART + Project students from Kurla conducted a workshop on Basic Indian Sign Language for the Tech Mahindra staff members on September 23, 2019, on account of International Day of Sign Languages. The objective of the event was to foster an inclusive environment. The students confidently trained the Tech Mahindra employees on Basic Indian Signs like days of the week, months of the year, basic conversation etc.





**Art & Craft Workshop:** I Learn I Earn students with intellectual disabilities in Bandra centre made eco-friendly products, such as, jewellery and home decoration items under the mentorship of an Arts and Craft trainer. Furthermore, they sold the creative products in the LTI Mahape office, Navi Mumbai. The learning from the activity boosted the students' self-confidence and created a perspective of the possibility of self-sufficiency.



**Exposure Visit:** An exposure visit was organized to Brand Factory, Raghuleela Mall, Vashi for the Chembur centre students. The managers in the outlet informed the students about various aspects of day-to-day the operations. They emphasized on code of conduct and the salary growth in the retail sector.



**Career Counselling:** A Career Counseling session was conducted by Ms. Shweta Mahganani, Counseling Psychologist for the Chembur centre students. The session focused on various career options available to them with computer knowledge and public speaking skills. She further encouraged students to take up jobs and enter the Labor market.



**Work Ethics & Toilet Hygiene:** Savita John, a seasoned corporate trainer with many years of experience, conducted a session on Work Ethics and Toilet Hygiene for the abled students of the Bandra centre. She informed the students about the importance of various facets of work ethics that includes time management, eye contact, pre hiring requisites and post hiring parameters. She mentioned about punctuality, discipline, lunch time break sessions, the protocol of applying for leave, etc.



**LinkedIn Coaches:** LinkedIn Corporation conducted a session called LinkedIn Coaches for the abled students of Bandra. This was a mentorship program where in the students were teamed with the LinkedIn employees on a one to one basis. The session facilitated the students to be counseled and mentored under the expert guidance of the employees. The students shared their aspirations in terms of education and employment. The mentors guided them in terms of researching for courses and jobs. They also fine tuned them in terms of their interview preparation skills. The session gave the students a first time peak into a corporate scenario and thereby set their aspirational benchmark.



**Eco-Friendly Ganesh Idol Making:** Sujaya Foundation's specially-abled students made eco-friendly Ganesh idols. The workshop helped the students in understanding the importance of using environment friendly products. The students used their creativity and innovative style to make the idols from clay called- shadhu mati



**Live Project for Specially-abled Youth:** To give real-time work experience to the Tech Mahindra SMART + project specially-abled students, a live project of a Technical Institute was offered to them. This provided a simulated work environment for the students through apprenticeship. Our students performed information management tasks like scanning data, uploading data in addition to the data entry tasks. The project also helped the specially-abled students to understand the elements to succeed at a corporate. The quality of work was appreciated and another live project has been offered to our students by the Technical institute.





**Seed Plantation Drive:** Our specially-abled youth from the Navi Mumbai centre were made to realize the importance of increasing the green cover. They were taught how to use the available eco-friendly resources to the maximum level. Empty tender coconut shells and bottles were used by the students as flower pots to plant the seed balls. They nurtured them with care and saw them grow into tiny saplings.



**Financial Literacy:** A financial literacy session was conducted by Sushma Das, a SEBI trainer, for the students of Bandra and Kurla centre, she spoke about the importance of savings. She made the students aware about the existing government schemes and initiatives and the helpline numbers for complaints and redressal for the general public. She emphasized on the need to have bank accounts for every individual. Overall, it was an informative and interactive session.



**Daan Utsav:** An exhibition stall and sign language training session was arranged at LTI Mahape. Handmade Products like quilled earrings, pendants etc made by our specially-abled students were displayed at the stall and many LTI employees purchased the products. Enthusiastic volunteers learnt sign language in the training session, executed by our specially-abled students.



[Our Centres :](#)

<u>Sujaya Foundation</u>	
<u>Centre</u>	<u>Address</u>
<u>Marine Lines</u>	<u>401 A Lotus House, Near Liberty Cinema,</u> <u>New Marine Lines , Mumbai - 400020</u>
<u>Chembur</u>	<u>Hariharaputra Bhajan Samaj, Shankaralaya,</u> <u>P. L. Lokhande Marg, Chembur, Mumbai - 400089</u>
<u>Bandra</u>	<u>Bandra East Community Center (BECC), 341 - A,</u> <u>Siddharth Colony, Near Cardinal Gracias School,</u> <u>Bandra (E), Mumbai - 400051</u>
<u>Vashi</u>	<u>Etc Center for PWDs, Plot No. 3D, Sector 30A,</u> <u>Opp. Imperial Banquet of Raghuleela Mall,</u> <u>Near Vashi Railway Station, Vashi,</u> <u>Navi Mumbai - 400703</u>
<u>Kurla</u>	<u>Sujaya Foundation - Bungalow- 44/C, First Floor, The</u> <u>Kurla Kamgar Co-op Hsg Society Ltd, S.G.Barve Marg,</u> <u>Kamgar Nagar, Kurla (E), Mumbai 400024</u>
<u>Seawoods</u>	<u>Mathrumilan Vikas Kendra, Sector 42, Seawoods,</u> <u>Navi Mumbai, Thane - 400706</u>

THANK YOU - SIGN language photo

