

SAMBHAV 2013 - A REPORT

INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Association for Learning Performing Arts and Normative Action (ALPANA) was set up in the year 2004. It is registered with the Registrar of Societies, Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi under the Societies Registration Act, 1860. The mission of the Society is to promote performing arts and to facilitate holistic human development. The Society is also actively involved in teaching of Odissi dance, music and crafts to specially gifted (mentally and physically challenged) persons. Through its regular classes, special shows and stage events, ALPANA intends to contribute towards making society more inclusive towards the differently abled.
- 1.2 For the past eight years, ALPANA has been holding an annual event called '**SAMBHAV**' which showcases the abilities of the differently abled people in the field of performing arts. It had its beginnings as a local event, but grew to become a national event. In 2008, ALPANA decided to expand '**SAMBHAV**' to include a few countries of South Asia - Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh. '**SAMBHAV**' 2009 saw a total of ten countries participate in the event. The participants were from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, India, Mauritius, Myanmar, Nepal, Nigeria, Sri Lanka, and Thailand. '**SAMBHAV**'2010 had participation from sixteen countries, namely, India, Canada, United Kingdom, Russia, Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Mongolia, Bhutan, Nigeria, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Myanmar and South Africa. The successes of '**SAMBHAV**' encouraged ALPANA to plan a bigger event in 2011 by expanding the participation to all continents and also to start new activities. In **SAMBHAV** 2011, physically and mentally challenged artistes from 18 countries such as Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Colombia, Germany, Nigeria, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Russia, Sri Lanka and Thailand besides groups from Indian States (Provinces) of Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram and Odisha participated. **SAMBHAV** 2012, showcasing the artistic talent of physically and mentally challenged artists, from 19 countries including India concluded in the weekend of 9, 10 and 11 November 2012 with a resounding success. It included international seminars on artistic empowerment of disabled persons, an exhibition of art and craft by the challenged artists and participating countries, signing of MoUs and performances by 23 troupes from 19 countries such as Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Colombia, Indonesia, Iran, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Russia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, USA and Vietnam.
- 1.3 The eighth edition of **SAMBHAV** that is **SAMBHAV** 2013, provided a platform to showcase the talent of physically and mentally challenged artists, from 17 countries including India. It was held in the weekend of 08, 09 & 10 November 2013 at India International Centre, New Delhi with a resounding success. The three-day festival, organized annually by A.L.P.A.N.A. Society, this year attracted groups from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Iran, Malta, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Thailand, UK, USA, Uzbekistan and Vietnam besides groups from Indian States of Delhi, Karnataka and Kerala. Over the years, "**SAMBHAV**" has grown to become a major event of inclusive arts in the Indian National capital. The main objectives of **SAMBHAV** are:

- i) To promote inclusive growth and be a catalyst in fulfilling commitments of the global society towards persons with disability
- ii) To showcase inclusiveness of Indian society
- iii) To empower challenged persons particularly artists, through development of skills and enhancement of creativity in various fields of arts
- iv) To work towards sharing of ideas, knowledge, achievements and experiences through sustainable interactions among different stake holders.

2. GRAND INAUGURATION

Hon'ble Shri Pranab Mukherjee, President of the Republic of India gave his blessings, by breaking from tradition, through a video telecast inaugural message for SAMBHAV 2013 on 8 November 2013. Hon'ble President said:

"I am happy to learn that ALPANA is organizing, on the eve of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru's birthday, various programmes, including seminars, performances of persons of disabilities. Indeed, they are providing yeoman's services. In the preamble of our Constitution, we assured for the people of this great country, that we will provide individual dignity, equality of status and of opportunity, assuring the fraternity for its citizens. Therefore, it is incumbent upon all of us, to ensure that equal opportunities are being provided to all concerned including the persons of disabilities.

I do believe, every individual, when provided opportunities to work in its particular area of choice, he or she can do excellent job. I am happy that ALPANA is doing this exemplary work. Government of India is seriously engaged in providing all facilities to the persons of disabilities. All stake-holders, various organizations including individuals should work in close cooperation with Government and support their efforts.

I wish all success of the events organized by the organization, ALPANA.

Thank you. Jai Hind."

3. FELICITATIONS

President Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh, Leader of Opposition Smt Sushma Swaraj, Hon'ble Leader Shri Lla Krishna Advani, Human Resources Development Minister Shri Kapil Sibal, Minister of State for External Affairs Smt Perneet Kour and Delhi Chief Minister Mrs Sheila Dikshit were among the dignitaries who sent their felicitation messages to ALPANA Society wishing SAMBHAV 2013 a grand success.

4. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

SAMBHAV 2013 set a landmark by providing a platform, where three Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) were signed between A.L.P.A.N.A Society and the representatives of organizations from Malta, Uzbekistan and Vietnam who have been working for inclusive growth of mentally and physically challenged persons through performing arts. The objective of these MoUs was to share the experience in the field for mutual benefit and to provide such platforms in the countries of the signatories to stage similar participative efforts. The MoU signing ceremony was chaired by Ambassador Damu Ravi and Deaconess Linda Olissa E Middleton, JP, Nigeria/USA.

5. THE INTERNATIONAL ART EXHIBITION

The Art and Craft exhibition was inaugurated in the IIC Main Campus foyer by by eminent artist and painter Shri Satyasewak Mukherjee on 8 November 2013 at 4:00 pm. In the International Art Exhibition segment of SAMBHAV 2014, about 96 high quality paintings by challenged artists from Bangladesh, India, Uzbekistan, Malta, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Vietnam were displayed. Also on display were craft items produced by challenged craft-students of A.L.P.A.N.A. Society. Visitors to the art exhibition appreciated the work and many purchases of paintings and craft items were made by different organization directly from the challenged artists.

6. SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS OF SAMBHAV 2013

Day 1 - 8 Nov., 2013 9:30 am - 10:30 am	Welcome & Introduction. Chief Guest : Ambassador Mrs Suchitra Durai, Joint Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs Remarks: Mrs Durai was pleased to witness representation from 15 countries of 5 different continents. She admired the mammoth task that Association for Learning Performing Arts and Normative Action (ALPANA) undertook to make this event happened at such a large scale. She was equally enthusiastic to see the energy level of the participants. She hoped that the meaningful participation would create an enabling environment and affect the rights and interests of persons with disabilities (PWDs).
Day 1 - 8 Nov., 2013 4pm - 4:30pm	International Art & Craft Exhibition (IIC Auditorium Foyer) Unveiled by: Shri Satyasewak Mukherjee The exhibition has potential to break barriers and open doors of opportunity for all persons with disability.
Day 1 8 Nov., 2013 4pm - 4:30pm	Hon'ble President of India delivers inaugural address through video Inauguration of SAMBHAV 2013 and International Performances (Artists from: India-ALPANA, Sri Lanka-Patham Uyana, Samarathanam Trust for the Disabled - India, Malta, Bhutan, Iran)

	<p>Chief Guest : Mr. Mr B. K. Goswami</p> <p>Distinguished Guests: Shri Satyananda Mishra, former Chief Information Commissioner Shri Sanjay Kumar Srivastava, Special Secretary Health, India Shri Anil Kumar Trigunayat, High Commissioner of India to Libya Shri John Aquilina UOM, High Commissioner of Malta to India</p> <p>Remarks by Mr. B.K. Goswami: While distinguished guests praised the commitment and passion of ALPANA to mainstream PWDs and reassured their association with the organization and continued support, Mr. Goswami stated that he was delighted that 15 countries spread over 5 continents participated in SAMBHAV 2013. He termed it as an evolution of ALPANA from a small seed into a big tree. He congratulated Mrs. Alpana Nayak to bring international dimension to the activities of APLPANA. He admired spirit of Mrs. ALPANA Nayak to create a global platform for PWDs to demonstrate their acquired skills. He further stated that ALPANA had won several awards since its inception but seeing the efforts and hard work to organize SAMBHAV 2013, he was sure that the Association would win many awards and would go miles to give a new perspective to the lives of PWDs in India and partner countries, organization and other groups.</p> <p>Besides, Mr. Sanjay Srivastava Special Secretary, Ministry of Health stated that performances made by the participants from all the participating countries were fabulous. He pointed out that it did not seem that these performances were made by physically and mentally challenged people. He delightfully shared that he was proud to be associated with ALPANA and admired its work to empower PWDs . He reassured his association and continued support to ALPANA.</p> <p>Shri John Aquilina UOM, High Commissioner of Malta to India stated that SAMBHAV 2013 was his first official event in India and he was moved by wonderful performances by representatives from different countries including his own country i.e. Malta. It was a wonderful event organized to display the unique traits of PsWD and there would be many events by ALPANA in years to come, he further stated.</p> <p>Vote of thanks by: Mrs. Alpana Nayak, President, ALPANA: extended her gratitude to the guests and participants. In her vote of thanks, Mrs. Nayak stated that disability has remained largely invisible in the mainstream development agenda and its processes and efforts like SAMBHAV may be seen as tool to bring the issue of disability in light and attention.</p>
<p>Day 2 - 9 Nov., 2013 10am - 10:45am</p>	<p>Inauguration of International Seminar on Physically & Mentally Challenged Artists</p> <p>Chief Guest: Prof. M. C. Misra, Director, AIIMS, New Delhi Presided by: Prof. K.E.S. Unni, Professor & Head of Deptt of</p>

Prof KES Unni spoke about the scope of the seminar

Professor Unni presented the background on origin of word handicap which was previously used to refer to PWDs, he illustrated that it was originated from a traditional game in England in which people would tie - up their hands in their pockets and do the necessary actions without using their hands. Later in 1999, Ministry of Women and Child Development and Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Govt. of India adopted the term Physically and Mentally Challenged. He also defined transitional spaces. He cited example of two sisters of Chhatisgarh by name of Amla and Kamla who spent—on account of some tragedy— some formative years of their life in forest and manifested behaviours like animals. They were then helped by a local priest to be brought to the society where their socialization could be complete.

He also threw some light on Trauma Infection Genetic Disorder. He stated that treatment of some of the mental illness is possible but rehabilitation is still a challenge. Community - Based Rehabilitation is, therefore, critical which needs extensive efforts, resources and campaigns from all sections of the society.

While discussing the hardships of working for and with PWDs, Prof. Unni talked about an institute in Romania. The care of PWDs start from family and subsequently teacher and doctors have significant roles to play in the mitigation of their problems through different therapy. He finally emphasized on qualitative analysis for prescribing treatment and normative plans for PWDs.

Prof. M. C. Misra, Director, AIIMS, New Delhi delivered keynote address:

At the onset, Dr. Misra congratulated ALPANA for the success it achieved after coming into existence in 2006. He stated that such a high - scale international event is itself a testimony to the hard work and contribution of ALPANA for making the world a better place for PWDs to live..

He stated that music & art is indispensable part of our life and our work and it has no language. It has far - reaching impacts on our cognitive functions. Drawing from his experience as a surgeon he said that it is challenging to make his fully - able students learn surgery, on the contrary to it, what ALAPANA has been doing is a an extra ordinary task as it is very difficult for differently - able person to mimic or impersonate.

To sum up, Dr. Misra stated that he was privileged, honoured and humbled. He extended gratitude to ALPANA for giving him relaxing break from stressful routine work.

10:55 - 11:45am

Forum on International cooperation

	<p>Chief Guest: Mr. Dammu Ravi and Decaoness Linda Ollisa E Middleton.</p> <p>Mr. B.K. Dash gave a detailed account of the background of the Forum on International Cooperation.</p> <p>Key address by Decaoness Linda Mr. Dammu Ravi requested leaders of Malta Team, Sri Lanka Team and Vietnam Team to come on stage to sign MoU with ALPANA.</p>
<p>12:00 pm - 1:00 pm</p>	<p>International Seminar on Physically & Mentally Challenged Artists</p> <p>Chair Prof, N.K. Chaddha Coordinator Prof. KES Unni</p> <p>Prof. N. K. Chaddha categorically stated that SAMBHAV had been the brain child of Mrs. Alpana Nayak to mainstream PWDs into the society and to help them to claim and exercise a life with dignity. He prescribed that given the size of the country, there was a need to augment the efforts like these (APLAPNA) at a large scale. The focus should be to hit the mindset of the community. He also shared that it was empirically proved that physically and mentally challenged people were more creative than who are not challenged He attributed lack of policies, services, structures etc. for the pathetic condition of the PWDs in India. He emphasized the need to build user friendly infrastructures and services for them until it is achieved PWDs would remain dependent on their able counter - parts.</p> <p>He further stated that there was a lack of scientific rigorous research in academia to fuel the policy interventions and advised that NGOs and other groups engaged in working for the issues of PWDs in the partner countries should share their findings, work and experiences with academic institutions, research organizations and individual research scholars so that the same could be empirically tested and published in renowned journals and relevant publications to invite attention of policy actors.</p>
<p>5:00 pm - 7:30 pm</p>	<p>SAMBHAV 2013 and International Performances by Challenged Artists (Artists from India-ALPANA, Sri Lanka (ESCO Rehab), APD Bangalore - India, Vietnam, Nepal)</p> <p>Chief Guest: Mr. Wajahat Habibullah, Hon'ble Chairman, National Commission on Minorities</p> <p>Distinguished Guests: Mr. PK Jha, Addl Secretary, Ministry of Culture Mr. SM Khan, Director General, Doordarshan Mr. Sudhir Vasudeva, CMD, ONGC</p> <p>Remark by Mr. Wajahat Habibullah: Mr. Habibullah admired the skills of all the performers. He asserted that the all the performances were exceptional, binding and thoroughly enjoyable. The skills exhibited by PWDs could hardly be matched by people who are fully able. The performance</p>

	<p>by Indian performers was wonderful and gave a glimpse of Indian way of welcoming. To sum up, he congratulated ALPANA and its team to organize the wonderful programme. He asserted that to realize equality and participation for persons with disabilities, they must be included in all development processes. He wished ALPANA growth and brighter future for bringing about desired changes to lives of the PWDs in India and other partner counties.</p>
<p>Day 3 - 10 Nov., 2013 10am - 11:00am</p>	<p>International Seminar Session-B Chair: Dr. G. N. Karna, Jawaharlal Nehru University Prof. G.S. Karna:</p> <p>Prof Karna expressed that he felt honoured to be invited by ALPANA to participate in SAMBHAV 2013. He stated that ALPANA had been dedicatedly working for the rights of the PWDs and efforts made by the organization must be replicated at a mass scale for awakening of the society and academia. He pointed out that In India a lot of development had been made to safeguard the rights and interests of the PWDs including adoption of the United Nation’s Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, 2006 which however proved to be a tip on the iceberg due the large population and complexities of problems of PWDs that the country has. He felt the need for a holistic effort to change attitudes and approaches to disability and ensure the full equality and participation of persons with disabilities in society. He also prescribed the following tools:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Enactment of stringent regulations and its effective implementation; •Provision of penalty for all form of unlawful discrimination against persons with disability; •Education; and training.
<p>Country presentations</p>	<p>UK , Vietnam and Bangladesh -</p> <p>(i) The presentation made by Prof. Suresh Deman from UK portrayed a comparative picture of infrastructure policy between UK and India, cited example ramp, round the clock availability wheel chairs at all railways and bus stations. He recommended the following action points to protect the rights of the PWDs while establishing linkages between social and market economy choices :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocacy , launch of nation - wide public awareness campaigns to build a positive environment in favour of the PWDs • Organization of national and international cultural & sports events and rallies for PWDs • Training to PWDs in performing arts and sports which have potential to bring dignity and employment to them. • Design and implementation of inclusive education to bring them to the mainstream of the society. • Provision of penalty and punishment for unlawful discrimination against PWDs

	<p>(ii) The presentation of representatives of Vietnam was also informative and prescriptive.</p> <p>(iii) Presentation made representative of Bangladesh was an eye-opener in terms of regulations and policy. The presentation revealed the gap between regulations and implementation and there is still a long journey to cover in achieve a barrier free environment for persons with disabilities who face physical, social, economic and attitudinal barriers that exclude them from participating fully and effectively as equal members of society.</p>
<p>Country presentations (Session 2)</p>	<p>Presentations from APD Bangalore, Nepal and Uzbekistan</p> <p>(i) The first presentation of the second session by APD Bangalore presented an overview of the aims, objective, vision and programmes of the organization. APD runs 17 programmes for PWDs who lack equal access to basic resources, such as education, employment, healthcare and social and legal support systems.</p> <p>(ii) Presentation by Down Syndrome Society Nepal summarised that their objective is to bring about inclusiveness of PWDs in all decisions of the PWDs and fight for right based opportunities and barrier- free society for them.</p> <p>(iii) Uzbekistan’s presentation set out that the country has minuscule population of PWDs and the Government is the single largest service provider to PWDs through a multi - tier robust administrative structure, NGOs, Civil Society and other stakeholders.</p>
<p>11:15 am - 12:00pm</p>	<p>International Seminar Session-C Chair: Dr. K.E.S. Unni, Professor & Head of Depatt of Psychiatry, Lady Hardinge Medical College, DU</p> <p>Chief Guest: Ms Sujaya Krishnan, Joint Secretary (Mental Health), Govt. of India expressed that she was delighted to witness the level of enthusiasm among the organizers, overseas participants and volunteers. She stated that she was moved to learn about APLANA’s passion, dedication and painstaking efforts to work for restoring rights and dignity for the people with disability. She further asserted that it is high time to establish collaboration and convergence among the efforts being made by other national/global actors. She reassured her association and contribution to ALPANA alongside her best wishes.</p> <p>Presided by: Mr Azizur Rahman, Gender Specialist, Asian Development Bank,</p> <p>Mr. Rahman extended his deep gratitude to the APLANA for providing opportunity to participate in the programme and talk about the scope of the seminar. He pointed out that SAMBHAV was a great contribution towards capturing global best practices and remarkable achievements in disability sector to ensure cross</p>

	<p>learning and would become a driving force for policy frameworks.</p> <p>The finding of such an international event will become foundation stone for information dissemination on disability issues to the far - flung areas of the country to remove barriers that affect the inclusion and participation of persons with disabilities including through changing attitudes that causes stigma and institutionalize discrimination.</p>
<p>5:00pm-7:30pm</p> <p>Closing Ceremony Hon'ble Minister for Industry (Mr. Anand Sharma)</p>	<p>International Performances (India-ALPANA Uzbekistan, Nigeria, Sri Lanka(Supun), Bangladesh, Thailand)</p> <p>Chief Guest: Mr. Anand Sharma, Hon'ble Minister for Commerce & Industries, Government of India</p> <p>Distinguished Guests: Shri GC Pati, Secretary Defence Prod, Govt of India Smt. V R Iyer, CMD, Bank of India HE Mr Prasad Kariyawasam, High Commissioner for Sri Lanka in India</p> <p>Hon'ble Minister expressed they he felt enriched by creativity of the special children bravely challenging mind set, demanding their rights and dues. They created an atmosphere of understanding and acceptance. He urged all present to work towards dignity and respectful environment for PWDs.</p> <p>He further stated that SAMBHAV 2013 like previous years had successfully attracted national and international organizations to participate. If other organizations in India also worked for the cause of promoting a dignified life for PWDs like ALPANA did, they would enjoy their lives the way they enjoyed during their performances in the event.</p> <p>Hon'ble Minister also enlightened that India was picking on issues with respect to PWDs while other developed countries such as United States of America and United Kingdom had resources that helped create a respectable space and better infrastructure for the PWDs in those countries. He urged a collaborative effort of the government, bankers, and corporate bodies and like - minded NGOs to work towards creation of the same space and infrastructure for the PWDs. We need to work harder to ensure that infrastructure and services support inclusive, equitable and sustainable development for all including PWDs. In his concluding remarks, the Hon'ble Minister opined that disability was not about one child or one member of the family but the whole family gets challenged and it becomes a question of right, dignity and love, instead of a question of sympathy.</p>