02
Samarthanam
Skilling centres
Chennai, Delhi,
Bangalore

02
Amway
Digital Library
inaugurated in
Bangalore

04
Samarthanam
one of the 6 NGO
partners for
‘code unnati’

04
Founder Managing Trustee
Samarthanam
Mahantesh GK
travels to spread
Samarthanam
cause

CITI Foundation
Volunteers add color to
Primary School
Vision
An inclusive society free from discrimination where persons with disabilities become contributing members, living with dignity and respect.

Mission
To empower visually impaired, disabled and underprivileged people through developmental initiatives focusing on educational, social, economic, cultural and technological aspects.

Samarthanam Trust for the Disabled, founded in 1997, is an NGO working towards facilitating opportunities to enable persons with disabilities and the underserved to keep pace with the rest of the society by providing quality education, accommodation, nutritious food, vocational training and placement based rehabilitation. It was established by Founder Managing Trustee Mahantesh G Kivadasannavar along with his schoolmate and childhood friend, Late. Nagesh SP. The organization is affiliated to the World Blind Union and Rehabilitation International. Acknowledging the efforts, National Award for Child Welfare (2010) by Ministry of Women & Child Development, Government of India and National Award for Child Welfare (2014) in the institution category were awarded.

Samarthanam envisions to touch 100,000 lives by the year 2020

**Statistics on Our Reach**

- **EDUCATION**: 11000 kids educated since inception
- **LIVELIHOOD RESOURCE CENTRE**: 9500 trained | 6840 placed
- **SUNADHA**: 100 artists | 3000 performances | 3 continents
- **SPORTS**: touched >25000 visually impaired cricketers
- **PARISARA**: 6552 tonnes dry waste processed since inception
- **WOW**: 198000 households support WOW
- **REHABILITATION**: 2567 women empowered since inception

100+ corporate support under CSR
10,000+ volunteer base

Samarthanam was awarded Special UN Consultative Status in 2015

Employees 492
Employees with disability 110
Women workforce 189
100% corporate support under CSR
10,000+ Volunteer Base

**Samarthanam Reach**

Spread across >15 cities in India
- Bengaluru
- Belagavi
- Dharwad
- Bellary
- Gadag
- Jharkhand
- Anantapur
- Guntur
- Delhi
- Mumbai
- Hyderabad
- Chennai
- Kochi
- Pondicherry

Environmental project in Gurgaon
Offices in USA and UK
A new financial year has begun and so also a new term for Samarthanam schools. I always believed that education is the one ideal way to groom yourself to perfection. Buttressing the belief is the making of barrier-free free residential school at Bangalore which is going to house around 700 students from various backgrounds. The school is going to be up and running by the end of year 2017. Meanwhile I would like to welcome all the new students who have enrolled into the various programmes at Samarthanam. I hope all of you succeed in your respective endeavors.

This quarter, Samarthanam’s focus was largely on expansion and widening the base for its skilling initiatives. With new skilling centres at Delhi, Bangalore and Chennai, Samarthanam’s efforts on empowering people with disabilities is going ahead full throttle. With extensive corporate support in the making of these new skilling centres, the progress has been much appreciable. Our gratitude to Citi Foundation, Bank of America and GKN Aerospace who have extended a helping hand under CSR. Alongside, the making of digital libraries helped in easing the access to digital books for people with visual impairment and that has been achieved through the Amway supported new digital libraries set up.

Samarthanam Vision 2020 is to reach 100,000 persons with disabilities by 2020 and with a step in that direction, my travel to USA and UK has been productive. With specific goals in mind, a few board meetings, making a few significant plans, proposals and decision making have taken place throughout the trip to these countries. Involving the welfare and empowerment of persons with disabilities and to take the prowess of our blind cricketers and cultural team to other nations, a few programmes have been outlined. The visit has been productive and content with great hospitality extended by these countries and people.

The Kempegowda Award comes in as an honor to me and Samarthanam, providing encouragement and motivation to take our services to many more places and people. I am thankful to BBMP and Her Worshipful Mayor for the prestigious award.

As Samarthanam moves ahead expanding its realm and as we begin the new financial year I hope to continue on all the valuable associations with friends, donors and supporters made and welcome new alliances in every aspect. Samarthanam aspires to benefit persons with disabilities and cater for everyone in need. And in this journey my sincere gratitude goes out to each and every supporter whose cooperation and generosity is paramount.

Thank you.
SAMARTHANAM

News Corner

**Bank of America** supports the new Skilling Centre launched in Chennai

Samarthanam is reaching out to more people across India and this May, it opened a new Livelihood Resource Centre at Chennai with the support from Bank of America. It was inaugurated by Senior Executives from Bank of America and Samarthanam. The objective is to train 100 persons with disabilities in IT/ITES and soft skills within one year.

Amid trainees, Samarthanam team and supporters who attended the launch ceremony, the guests inaugurated the centre and appreciated the Samarthanam documentary played on the day. The mission and vision of the organization and its efforts to empower the disabled fraternity was well received. Another aspect of appreciation was the extensive use of technology at the Centre and JAWS Software. The program was a huge success and it ended with the representatives from the Bank of America expressing great interest in taking part in different activities at Samarthanam.

**Amway supported Samarthanam Braille- Audio Library** opened at Chennai Skilling Centre

Amway supported Samarthanam Braille- Audio Library set up for visually impaired at Samarthanam Chennai centre. The Braille- Audio library was inaugurated by well-known actress and writer Ms. Suhasini Maniratnam, and Mr. Rajeev Dasgupta, Vice President Manufacturing & Projects, Amway India, who greatly appreciated the project.

The objective is to ensure easy access to Braille books, besides which the initiative also aims at encouraging Braille reading and writing among the visually impaired students helping them build language proficiency. Samarthanam expresses gratitude to Amway for supporting the initiative.

**Flipkart Holi connect with Samarthanam Children**

Flipkart had organized activities involving creative writing and painting for the school Children. As part of painting, greeting cards were made of the school Children’s paintings which were marketed and sold to Flipkart employees. The money raised was donated to Samarthanam schools. The team highly appreciated the creativity in arts of the school Children and interacted with them encouraging their talent. Flipkart congratulated Samarthanam for the brilliant work of the students.
Mahantesh GK honored with the prestigious ‘Kempegowda Award’

Mahantesh G Kivadasannavar, Founder Managing Trustee of Samarthanam Trust for the Disabled, President of Cricket Association for the Blind in India (CABI) and World Blind Cricket Ltd (WBC) was awarded the prestigious “Kempegowda Award” presented by Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) for his exceptional service to the society. Mahantesh received the award at BBMP Head Office from Her Worshipful Mayor of Bengaluru city, Smt G, Padmavathi. The Mayor has been largely involved in welfare activities for a greener Bengaluru and also prominently honouring people with a practice for social service.

Mahantesh expresses gratitude to receive the award from BBMP and Smt G Padmavathi and said that he believes in serving the society for its best and such recognition add encouragement and motivation. Mahantesh highlighted Samarthanam’s Vision 2020, to touch 100,000 lives of people with disabilities by 2020 and hoped to achieve the target with great support from people. The ceremony was also witnessed by many friends and family of Mahantesh along with his supporters, well-wishers and Samarthanam team, who were very delighted to be a part of the event.

Samarthanam expands
GKN Aerospace supported Skilling Centre in Bangalore

Samarthanam inaugurates a GKN Livelihood Resource Centre at Samarthanam HSR premises which is supported by GKN Aerospace India. The inauguration is being graced by Mahantesh GK, Founder Managing Trustee of Samarthanam, Karl David Orth, General Manager, GKN Aerospace and Prarthana, Human Resource Head at GKN. The uniqueness of the centre lies in it being completely accessible. The centre, inaugurated at HSR Layout, is equipped with completely accessible infrastructure to support persons with disabilities and enhanced facilities for persons with visual and hearing impairments. The training, food and accommodation is provided free of cost and post training, the candidates are provided with placement and post placement support.

It is aimed at transforming lives of youth with disabilities and make them self-sufficient. Samarthanam joined hands with GKN Aerospace to execute the same and the organization is highly thankful for their support. This new centre would cater to the many young individuals who seek to lead a productive and independent life.

Mahantesh GK, Founder Managing Trustee Samarthanam and Karl David Orth, General Manager, GKN Aerospace both expressed delight in joining hands for the making of Skilling centre and conveyed best wishes to the trainees. Prarthana U, HR Head GKN Aerospace India expressed her appreciation for the successful partnership in the past year towards community development and also making a difference in the lives of underprivileged youth.
Samarthanam, one among the six NGO partners for ‘code unnati’

Strengthening the Government of India’s Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyaan (PMGD-SA) to enable employability through digital literacy, SAP SE launches ‘code unnati’, a multi-year, collaborative digital literacy & software skills development initiative along with ITC and Larsen & Toubro Public Charitable Trust.

‘code unnati’ partners with 6 diverse non-profit organizations to impart digital literacy to children, adolescents, the differently-abled & other citizens and drive employment-led software skills development for the underprivileged. This initiative envisions to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals of - No Poverty, Quality Education, Decent Work & Economic Growth, and Partnership For the Goals.

‘code unnati’ will significantly emphasize on advanced software skills relevant for Industry 4.0 and employment creation, with an intent to fill the gap of 3.5 million technologically skilled and educated citizens required for India to be known as a digitally literate nation.

Along with Samarthanam other NGO Partners include NASSCOM Foundation, UNDP, HOPE Foundation, Agastya International Foundation and Pratham Infotech Foundation.

Paving way for Samarthanam from India to US and UK

Mahantesh GK, Founder Managing Trustee travels abroad exploring opportunities

Mahantesh GK, Founder Managing Trustee of Samarthanam travelled to USA and UK for 25 days which resulted in an effective and productive trip. The journey started with few specific objectives and most of them have been significantly fruitful by the end. The meeting with Tony Salard, Leadership Consultant and Prof at University of Sanbaradino, was to discuss collaboration opportunities and a few major decisions have been recorded. Alongside, a brief meeting with Pranav Desai, Vice of Specially-abled persons resulted in an agreement to promote disability cause and attract more volunteers to amplify the work of both the organizations in India and abroad. A board meeting was organized in Boston for finalizing on a few major decisions. As opportunities to promote blind cricket were trying to be explored, a plan was made to take blind cricket team and cultural team to US in Sept and portray their talent and finesse in sports and arts.

Moving onto UK, a Board Meeting was held to note a few major decisions relating to enlarging Samarthanam workforce, contacting the database of people with thorough communication channels, recruiting people to work for the cause, gathering volunteers in huge numbers like 2000 volunteers in US and 1000 volunteers in UK by 2020. Another major decision was on hiring people to raise funds which should touch 3 billion dollars in US and a billion pounds in UK. Consecutively an exchange program was drafted for people with visual impairment between India and UK. A brief meet with Blind Cricket England Wales (BCEW) ended in drafting a proposal to bring England team to India and British cricketers to US for blind cricket awareness.
SAMARTHANAM

Schools

Education stands to be the basic right of every growing Child and we understand its significance. Samarthanam Schools provide superior quality education along with encouraging co and extra curricular activities to Children hailing from various backgrounds and children with disabilities. We help them think right and act right for a bright future. As the term ends this quarter we welcome new students who have joined Samarthanam and wish them all the very best. This term new admissions at Primary school were 48 and 27 joined new at Special School for Children with Intellectual Disabilities.

NEWS FROM SAMARTHANAM WORLD

Celebrations for the quarter
Samarthanam schools cater equal importance to celebrating festivals, national holidays, events along with education. The teachers take special care in making the kids understand the significance of the day being celebrated which is in turn educational for the kids. As part of which, this quarter, Ambedkar Jayanthi was celebrated at Samarthanam Schools where kids were educated on the importance of the day and its importance in history.

Health and fitness for everyone
Health camps are conducted quite often at Samarthanam where the staff and Children are exposed to various sessions of health education and screening camps. Aloka Vision care programme, on behalf of Carl Zeiss India (Bangalore) Pvt.Ltd conducted a Vision screening Camp for the children and staff to help them check their vision healthiness. Also a dental camp was organized by Karnataka Marwadi Youth Foundation and Dr. Uttam Chand Kincha including free screening and treatment for all students and staff of Samarthanam for 15 days. Apart from health camps, around 125 children and staff from primary and ID school participated in the International day of Yoga at BBMP grounds, understanding the value of including yoga in daily routine.

On a successful note, Rakshit of ID School who was suffering from cerebral palsy- spastic diplegia and couch gait underwent a correction surgery for each leg and surgery was successful.

Visits and interactions
Samarthanam welcomed senior global leaders from GKN Aerospace who visited ID school and appreciated the improvement. A capacity building workshop was also conducted for the staff.
Exams and Results follow
After a year of study and effort it was time to put them on paper. School kids have given their term examinations successfully and received the results as well. Tenth grade students appeared for SSLC exams and cleared the exams with a pass percentage of 64%. While 36 students have appeared for the exam, 23 cleared the test. Special classes follow for those who would like to appear again.

Holidays and Summer camp
End of the term, summer holidays were a moment of joy. A summer camp was organized for primary school children for a month with activities like drawing, singing, quiz, skit, pick and speak, educational movies, environment awareness programmes, health and hygiene education and fun games. These activities were conducted by volunteers from various corporate. Dr Shantha Rao participated in the camp and explained about the human body, nature and growth to the kids.

Back to school and beginning the new term, students were distributed with free text books and note books.

Seminars and Workshops
Samarthanam employs specially trained teachers for its schools who can take care of the kids and their education in the right way. As part of which teachers are encouraged to improve on their know-how through the various seminars organized. Similarly Lalithamma from primary school participated in a work shop on Speech and hearing conducted by Flipkart Koramangala as an interpreter. Aruna S K from ID school attended a one day work shop on Social role valorization organized by Seva-in-action. Geetha K, Manjulamma D.M, and Latah Ghorpade from ID school participated in an Art Craft work shop organized by VM Ware as Trainers.
Volunteering Activities at Samarthanam Schools

Volunteering is an essential element in Samarthanam schools and we are greatly pleased at the volunteer’s interest, enthusiasm and energy involved in teaching and engaging the Children through various activities organized often.

- Exalca technologies conducted fun activities at primary school.
- Volunteers from Morgan Stanley conducted educational activities for the primary school children.
- Bharath Nagarajan and his team conducted Math Quiz for 6th standard children.
- Around 200 volunteers from Citi Group painted the school and the compound wall of the school making it look all new.

- Subhadra, well-wisher of Samarthanam, distributed school bags and books to the primary school children.
- 30 students from primary school participated in an in-house event at San Disk involving leadership based fun activities around team building, honesty, creativity, collaboration and time management.
- 25 children attended the World Autism Awareness Program at Jawaharlal Bhavan, Cubbon park organized by Department of Disability and Empowerment of senior citizen.
- Shanthi, special educator from Adventure Academy, took session on phonetics to the teachers of Samarthanam schools.
- Amount earned from paper bags this quarter in the vocational training units amounts to Rs 1515.
- Bhoomi NGO distributed gifts to hostel students
- Vasavi Trust (Pothana Setti) Arakere distributed note books to the students
- Sopona from Art of Living International conducted Yoga classes to High school students
- Morgan Stanley volunteers visit High school and conducted activities like singing, dancing, menstruation care awareness, life skills and so on.

Higher Education

- Higher education students with visual impairment exhibited their prowess in sports by winning medals in the 17th National Para Athletics Championship which was held in Rajasthan.
- The second PUC results have been appreciable with 60% results in regular batch and 75% result in correspondence.
- Among the 11 students who appeared for SSLC exams, 4 have cleared with an average 62%. Supplementary exam support is being offered for the others.
- The new batch has begun with 19 students including 7 girls and 12 boys. Total 14 students with disabilities joined for 1st PUC regular, 5 for B.A. Degree and 5 joined for SSLC correspondence.
North Karnataka

DHARWAD

KSRLPS visits
Sushama Godabole (IAS) Mission Director KSRLPS Bangalore visited the centre and appreciated the activities. Her visit has brought excellent motivation to the centre. Dharwad centre DDU-GKY activities have been transmitted to State and Central level Governments officially.

DDU-GKY
The centre welcomed DDU-GKY 6th batch with 22 candidates and closed the 5th batch successfully by imparting job and marketing skills to the candidates.

Women Empowerment Training
Women Empowerment training was successfully completed and the final report has been submitted.

An official Government visit
Bellegowda (SPM, KSRLPS) Bangalore visited the centre to know the method of training for PWDs and it was the Government official visit. He was impressed by the training procedure and appreciated the team for the good efforts.

Placement drive
Dharwad centre got 13 of its candidates placement under DDUGKY project in Hubballi-Dharwad and Bangalore cities. Post Placement Support has also been offered to a few candidates.

Mobilization workshop mela
A mobilization workshop mela has been organized across Dharwad, Gadag, Bidar and Bagalkot districts to present Samarthanam LRC activities for the beneficiaries. It is being conducted by respective district Government officials to support mobilization enrichment for DDU-GKY PIAs.

GADAG CENTRE

• Gadag LRC students participated in the audition of ‘SRIJAN’ Talent Hunt which was organized by Deshpande foundation and got selected. The students also performed in SRIJAN – “Ek Shaam Kalakaron ke Naam” Inclusion of local art with local audience Program.
• A free health checkup camp was organized in association with Indian Red Cross Society with 50 PwD’s who participated in the camp.
• LRC training of 20 students has been completed successfully of which 16 students got placed in Vindya Info media company in Bangalore.
• World environment day program was organized and visited by - Manoj Jain Honorable District
commissioner who was the chief guest of the event. Visually impaired students interacted with the Commissioner who expressed happiness after witnessing their demonstration.

- Parisara awareness rally was held in Gadag city on the occasion of World Environment Day enthusiastically participated by beneficiaries, members and public.

BELGAUM CENTER

- Dr. Usha Vashtare, Co-founder of Yogakshema Rehabilitation & Wellness centre visited the centre and gave a spiritual speech to the students who were highly motivated. Another visit was organized where Shri Shri Satwanananda Swamaji Ramakrishna Mission arrived at the centre and appreciated the activities. A spiritual speech and guided meditation was presented to students with two guests H S Shriramakrishna and R Satyamurthy.
  - Two new batches were started - OTIS and NVIDIA.
  - 15 visually challenged students have received admissions for first PUC in RPD College under Prerana project. They have begun to attend their classes amid very cooperative RPD college Principal, staff and students.
  - A new building for boys was inaugurated in Belgaum at Sahyadri nagar.
  - The students performed a song in Lodge Victoria function and received Rs 20,000 as donation.

BALLARI CENTRE

- A medical insurance camp was organized for the beneficiaries and almost 20 of them were benefitted.
  - The 12th batch was inaugurated where Abdul Muthalib, Principal SSA First grade college, Ballari and Mallanagowda Professor VVS Degree college Ballari were chief guests.
  - The students delivered a prayer song in the global education program organized by world vision of India Ballari.
  - A “Health camp” was organized by Vasavi club international and felicitated our students along with a free medical checkup to everyone.
  - A mobilization orientation was held at Hire Hadagali Gramapanchayath of Ballari.
  - More than 100 students from 10th class in Govt. High school Choranur were mobilized detailing about the organization and the programmes. Its benefits and utilization were explained to the students.
VOLUNTEERING
at samarthanam

CITI adds colours to primary school
Morgan Stanley for midday meal

Accenture volunteers
Buffalo alumni volunteers
Manhattan Associates cook a meal

Dell team at school
BMC team activity
Skilling

In an effort towards inspiring the disabled community come forward and garner livelihood skills for the building of a better independent life, Samarthanam skilling centres offer training and allied services. This quarter Samarthanam continued to explore new opportunities and successfully initiated training programmes supported by many corporate throughout India. Samarthanam is expanding and to absorb larger number of PWDs through its skilling programmes and to meet the various needs of PWDs. As part of which, Samarthanam conducted many sensitization programs, career guidance sessions and workshops regularly.

SKILLING CENTRE BENGALURU

DDU-GKY skilling program

DDU-GKY skilling program supported by Ministry of Rural Development is running successfully with 5 batches that have completed training in both Bengaluru and Dharwad locations. Currently 6th and 7th batch are receiving training in Bengaluru and 6th batch in Dharwad centre.

Women empowerment

Economic independence of women is important. Supporting the same skill development opportunities in different sectors were offered to make them job ready. Samarthanam, with support from 3M, successfully completed skilling program for 250 women across 8 centers of Karnataka.

VM Ware supported skilling program

Samarthanam is glad to continue working with VM Ware in the youth skilling program. A new batch of 25 candidates are undergoing training in IT/ITES, English and soft skills.

Digital literacy program for women

Women constitute a significantly larger workforce and to empower these women hailing from economically weaker backgrounds, and groom them for the right job, Samarthanam and NVIDIA have started a new women skilling programme. To train women for desk-oriented jobs the digital literacy program was launched at Belgaum and Jharkhand with 25 candidates in each centre.

Youth skilling program

Another milestone to Samarthanam skilling initiatives was added by the launch of ‘Youth skilling program’ at Belgaum with support from OTIS. The batch began with 32 students undergoing regular training at the centre for improving livelihood skills.

GKN – Residential skill training

A well equipped computer lab was inaugurated as a part of the aspiring skilling program supported by GKN.
Ambedkar Jayanthi
Samarthanam Guntur employees and beneficiaries participated in a rally from Samarthanam Office to Lodge Centre in Guntur. Children from Sri Shiridi Sai Dheena Jana Seva Samithi Blind School were also part of the celebration.

Improving BPO skills
In an attempt to enhance the BPO skills of the trainees at Samarthanam Guntur, the HR Manager from Phycare, Ashwini, visited the centre for a session on “BPO Skills”. She detailed on the importance of customer interaction, customer issues and solving the problems. Ashwini also explained on the various skills required for an efficient BPO operation. Around 40 members participated in the session.

HGS visits
Presenting the beneficiaries a glance at BPO jobs at Hinduja Global Solutions, Baaji Baba, HR Manager, Hinduja Global Solutions, visited Samarthanam Guntur and interacted with the beneficiaries. He detailed on the various BPO opportunities available in HGS, the facilities and nature of the job. He also talked on the efficiency factor in a BPO job and how to achieve it. Around 40 beneficiaries participated in the event.

Blood donation camp
A Blood Donation Camp was conducted in Guntur marking Helen Adams Keller Jayanthi and Saksham Foundation day. Recognizing the importance of blood donation and its life saving attribute, Samarthanam 4th batch beneficiaries and staff participated in the camp. Balaji, trainer, Vijay, Mobilizer, and Nageswara Rao, Warden, from Samarthanam Guntur were part of the event.

Motivational activity
Inspiring and encouraging the beneficiaries of Samarthanam Guntur, Aparna Seetharam, Assistant Professor, Govt College for Women, visited the centre to present an inspiration talk. She spoke on the importance of leading a stress-free good life with ideas on becoming a better employee and someone worth giving more responsibilities. She also explained on different career opportunities in the Government Sector. Around 40 members participated in the event and inspired.

Idea Franchisor Recruitment Drive
A Recruitment Drive was conducted by IDEA Franchisor at Samarthanam Guntur where Guru Chandra Shekar, Territory Sales Manager and Bhaskar, Idea Franchise Owner participated in sharing information about current openings. They detailed on the various jobs available, the profile, responsibilities, targets and executing the role. About 45 beneficiaries participated in the event.

Vidya Help Line Anniversary celebration
Vidya Help Line is a project of Nirmaan organization, a constructive citizen movement for an empowered India. It provides Tele-counseling service to give detailed information about education and career opportunities for students. As Vidya Help Line completed 7 years successfully, they celebrated the occasion at Samarthanam Guntur along with 45 beneficiaries.
LRC ANANTHAPUR

Job Mela
A Job Mela was conducted for all beneficiaries by Team Lease where Uma Shankar, Career Consultant, Team Lease Services Ltd., Bangalore spoke on the career opportunities in various organizations for disabled people. He detailed on the importance for getting a job and offered guidance on how to receive better job opportunities.

Around 40 members participated at the event. Another job mela was by MED Plus where Imran, HR Manager, MED Plus, visited the centre for selecting candidates for the post of Packers. He explained to the beneficiaries about the job role, timings, work environment and other etiquette. 7 candidates got selected for the post.

Medical camp
As part of a Medical Activity program organized by Samarthanam Anantapur along with Inner Wheel Club and Rotary Club held at Municipal High School, a general health check up was offered to all the members. Around 420 people attended the event where the Doctors conducted eye, ENT, dental and orthopedic health check.

Self-defence activity
Considering the importance of equipping oneself with self defence, an activity was organized on learning several effective self-defense techniques. Samarthanam arranged the activity for its members where Sri Valli, Inner Wheel Club and Deepthi Sankar, NGO, Delhi, participated and taught beneficiaries on how to protect themselves. 14 members participated and gained knowledge on self-defense techniques.

Motivational speech
A Motivational Activity was organized for Samarthanam beneficiaries where Prasad, Manager, HP Petrol Bunk, visited the centre to take a session. He spoke on hard work and determination being the key factors for getting success in life. He also says disability is a matter of perception. He said that if one can do just one thing well, they would be needed by many people in the world.
SKILLING CENTRE DELHI

Mobility Training
The second and third batches of training at Delhi LRC had begun. A group of 25 girls with visual disabilities are being trained in basic computers and spoken English. As these girls are at the threshold of entering college it was important to make them independent, for which mobility training has been started as well.

Improving Skillset
Volunteers from Bank of America interact once in a week with students and members of Samarthanam Delhi, engaging with them to train on soft skills and interview techniques. The volunteers in turn learnt about challenges of people with disabilities and counseled them on ways to overcome and address them as they move forward in life in their new roles as employees with companies. Two volunteers from Yes Foundation also interacted.

Career Guidance
Prof Abhishek Thakur, Assistant Professor, Delhi School of Social work and Bipin Tiwari, OSD, Equal Opportunity Cell, Delhi University took a session with the students on career guidance session, educational opportunities and employment opportunities. 5 volunteers worked round the clock helping the students fill online applications for University education.

Study higher
A session by Nipun, CEO of Nipman foundation and Aradhana, Manager, Vice President, Lemon Tree Group of Hotels was organized where they addressed the students reiterating the need for higher education. They spoke about the opportunities in the private sector and also in the hotel industry for the PwDs. Aradhana has agreed to coordinate an exposure visit to the Lemon Tree Hotel, in Aerocity, New Delhi.

Movie time
As part of the World Disability Day, students were taken for the screening of the movie Dangal in Sirifort auditorium. The movie was made in audio descriptive format for the visually impaired students and sign language interpretation was also done for the hearing impaired.

Books for everyone
A session was conducted by Homidayar Mobed ji, CEO, Bookshare on the availability and use of accessible books. Students have been enrolled in to Bookshare and now have access to nearly 80000 books in various topics in accessible format.

Recycle for a greener tomorrow
Waste Management Project was launched in Gurugram with support from Bank of America. The project was officially launched on World Environment Day.
Environment

Parisara

Parisara is perceived as a reliable and sustainable waste management service provider with an objective to create a waste free environment and constantly work on sustainable technologies for common man’s usage. In the last 3 months, materials weighing 1, 70,435 kgs have been processed by Parisara.

Samarthanam Parisara has been efforting to provide sustainable dry waste management services to various corporate, industrial companies, institution, apartments and communities. Many new companies are showing interest in the programme and Prax-Air, Great West Power, Sea Gate, Lower have been added to the list. In the pipeline are Menzies Bobba, BIAL, Zinsar, Molez Cables and E&Y Global.

Well-being Out of Waste (WOW)

Propagation

Each month WOW continues to propagate the importance of waste segregation and recycling in each ward of Bangalore. A total of 51143 bags were issued in ten wards namely Mangammanapalya, Puttenhalli, KP Agrahara, Hosahalli, Attiguppe, Deepanjali Nagar, Begur, Arekere, Mahalakshmipuram & Girinagar. The dry waste collected stands at 1176 tons.

Meetings and visits

A meeting was held between the Propagation Officer and Expert Committee members gathering in Jakkasandra ward 173 and attended by Executive Engineer Srinivas Reddy, SWM AEE Niranjan, Corporator Saraswathamma, Sudhakar and other RWA members. In another BBMP Meeting, propagation officer met the Executive Engineer of Basavanagudi and AEE of Chamarajpet to discuss on the MOU for DWCCs in the respective wards.

In Koramangala the program coordinator, Penchala Reddy from ITC visited DWCC and suggested the franchisee to maintain cleanliness, electrical board and circuit properly.

Spreading awareness

The Corporator of Girinagar distributed bags to many residents along with WOW team. She also explained about the 3 types of segregation and its importance. Similarly, house hold waste segregation awareness was given by the Corporator of BTM layout. The walk was joined by BBMP & RWA members along with WOW team through the ward. A black spot in Adugodi ward was cleared and beautification was done with the help of the RWA, BBMP & WOW team together. In BTM layout the
Health Inspector, RWA and other BBMP staff along with WOW-Samarthanam warned the commercial establishments for using plastic bags and discouraged their sale in shops. To improve the segregation practice, a jatha was organized in Hongasandra attended by RWA members, BBMP staff and WOW- Samarthanam team. Another jatha and PK orientation was held at Puttenahalli and Adugodi.

Environment programmes on air
Samarthanam environment program was covered by DD Chandana where the activities of Parisara and WOW were showcased. The PKs were interviewed by the channel regarding the benefits received after WOW Samarthanam team has started working with a positive feedback. The RWA Divya was also interviewed where she told the channel about the changes she has seen after WOW Samarthanam started propagating about segregation in the ward. She had also mentioned that the dry waste is reaching the DWCC unlike the previous years.

WOW team felicitation
Appreciating the work of WOW team members of BTM constituency, the team was felicitated during the PK program in Lakkasandra ward. It was attended by Minister Ramalinga Reddy, Corporator of Lakkasandra, PK Association President, PKs from different wards of Bangalore and Executive Engineer of BTM constituency.

WOW training
A team building and training session was held for WOW members where Penchala Reddy, Manager ITC, interacted with the team and explained about the importance of team work and also an activity was organized to highlight team work significance. Girish, Head Operations along with Penchala Reddy, Manager ITC and the core team interacted with WOW members.

World Environment Day
World Environment Day was organized by ITC – WOW and Samarthanam on the theme, ‘Connecting People to Nature.’ On the occasion, Chief Guest, Satish Reddy, Member of Legislative Assembly, Bommanahalli Constituency, addressed the public, Residents of welfare Associations (RWA), School Children of JSS, PKs and WOW staff. He encouraged everyone to nurture the planet and be committed to “Protecting Environment.” He also appreciated the team efforts of WOW in Bangalore and the change witnessed in his Constituency. Other distinguished guests were Suganga, Superintend Engineer, Bommanahalli zone, BBMP, Rupesh Reddy, Garbage Contractor for HSR Layout, Dr. Shanthi, Active member in Resident welfare Association, HSR Layout and Senior Officials in WOW team.
Indian blind cricket team played an exhibition match with Thomson Reuters at BEL Ground Bangalore and a donation of Rs. 557000 was given. The donation will be used for Cricket Coaching Camp for the year 2017-2018 for 50 players.

National Association for the Blind India (NAB India) felicitated the Indian blind cricket team at Mumbai and awarded each player Rs. 7500.
Arts & Culture

Sunadha
The artists at Sunadha have been excelling in their performances across the country and beyond. This quarter, Sunadha troupe performances include:
• Madhura Madhurave Manjula Gana event conducted by DD Chandana where dancer Jayalaskhmi and group put on stage a stunning dance performance.
• A scintillating orchestra program in Jayanagar.
• Separate Dance Programmes at Max Travaganza in St. Johns Auditorium, Food World at Gandi Bazar and at Mobility India respectively.
• Music program in Jayanagar.
• Many talented students are being groomed for a State level dance and music competition which might be organized in Feb 2018.
• Jayalakshmi is a visually challenged dancer and also a sports personality. She participated in National para athletics in Delhi in the month of April 2017 and won 2 gold medals in track events. Along side, Netravathi V, a visually challenged dancer and sports person won 3 medals in Delhi National para athletics.

Rehabilitation

Swadhara Gruha
Swadhara Gruha has always been the pillar of support to women in distress and this quarter 9 women have walked in to seek help from Samarthanam Swadhara. The beneficiaries are being provided with rehabilitation and counseling assistance. Swadhara also had organized Yoga classes to all the residents rejuvenating mind and body. Counseling sessions are also on the move every week to all the residents.
On the other hand, 11 residents of Swadhara have completed their respective choice of training and rejoined with families through to move on with a happy living.

WORKING WOMENS HOSTEL
The working womens hostel in Prashant Nagar, Bengaluru provides secure residential facility under vigilant supervision to working women with disabilities, employed with various organizations in Karnataka. This quarter, 9 women with disabilities have walked in to stay in the hostel and receive the food and accommodation services. Alongside, 10 students have enrolled into Degree and Pre-Universities to pursue higher education. Apart from food, shelter and secure living, the hostel also involves in celebrations and activities like May Day marking the importance of labor laws and the International Yoga Day for a healthy living.
Volunteering at Samarthanam

A total of 39 volunteering activities were conducted by corporate in this quarter. To name all corporate who volunteered with us this quarter we have Oracle, Citi, Morgan Stanley, Wells Fargo, Dell, Genpact, Alumni University of Buffalo, AT&T, SLK, ANZ, Manhattan, Sandisk, BMC Software, CommScope and GKN Aerospace.

Total of 707 volunteers have participated and contributed 2121 hours of service.

Citi lifts the colors

On the Citi Global Community Day, a team of 120 volunteers participated in a painting activity. Under the theme Swach Bharat, they cleaned up the primary school which was followed by painting of the school walls as well as the art work on the compound wall of the primary school.

A meal for the kids

Morgan Stanley prepared a nutritious meal for our kids under their Global volunteer Month (GVM) program. Total of 35 volunteers participated in the activity. They started early morning and did everything right from cleaning and chopping the vegetables till the serving. They also shared the table with our kids giving a feel of family warmth and environment. A similar activity was done by Manhattan for the primary school children. A team of 30 volunteers cooked and served meals and also shared the table with kids.

Internship Programs

About 20 plus students completed their one month internship at Samarthanam in this quarter. They were exposed and engaged in all the programs right from schools to LRC. Students from Christ University, SPJain-Mumbai, Lovely Professional University, Oxford College of Arts and Commerce, Nirma University- Ahmedabad, IIFM Law college, Sastra University- Thanjavur, St Joseph College- Kannur, WBNJUS- Kolkata and Mount Carmel were the interns.

Regular, Audio, Braille and Digital Libraries

- The Library Coordinators from 7 centres of Samarthanam attended the Epub workshop hosted at Mitra Jyoti, Bangalore for three days in April 2017
- The two Digital Libraries supported by Crisil Foundation and Brillio at HSR Bangalore were launched in June 2017. Siddharth Iyer from Crisil Foundation, Mumbai visited the recording labs at HSR and JP Nagar the following week.
- Conducted workshop at Crisil, Bangalore for their Mumbai employees, remotely, just before the digital books campaign; IT support was also provided at their Powai office personally.
- Conducted workshop for SLK Global Solutions on digitalizing of books.
- Deloitte and BMC has supported with books and racks extensively for the library at our HSR centre.
CRISIL Foundation in association with Samarthanam Trust for the Disabled has supported Digital library to produce audio books for the benefit of visually impaired and print disabled community at JP Nagar and HSR Layout, Bangalore.

We have successfully achieved to set up the both the recording studios on time; JP Nagar in June 2016 and HSR layout in June 2017. We held a campaign to record number of books useful to the visually impaired community both times, before launching the centres.

We are glad that we received timely coordination in setting up the centres and in conducting the workshop for the volunteers as well. We are more than happy to have done our bit to the community whom we appreciate and who are on par with the main stream of the society. We wish the scope of the project ensures that the students will be receiving continuous support for their education from the facilities, as volunteers come on day-to-day basis to record books. We wish them best.

**Varun Yeggina**  
Crisil

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**Samarthanam expands its realm**

Samarthanam’s cutting edge disability-friendly free residential school which is under construction in HSR Layout Bangalore (India) has completed its phase one building. The school is designed to house around 700 students with and without disabilities from economically deprived communities and enabled with completely accessible features being to address all needs of the persons with disabilities with ultramodern infrastructure.

As per the current construction progress the basement is all set and ready to be used. Ground floor has just completed its electrical work and plumbing is half way through. For the first and second floor flooring and wall tiles have been laid and the third floor, flooring is under progress. The school is going to be ready by the end of this year.

On another note, Mysore Urban Development Authority has allotted a CA site of around 25,500 sq ft to Samarthanam in Bogadi layout, Mysore. Samarthanam expresses gratitude for helping us take our cause to Mysore and reach out to people in need.
Corporate Acknowledgment

We are thankful for the support and encouragement received from the following corporate organizations. And look forward to a long term relationship.

INB
Oracle
Thomson Reuters India Pvt Ltd
The Boston Consulting Group India Pvt Ltd
Intel Volunteer Grant Programme
Adobe Foundation
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ACC SOL Pvt Ltd
GKN Sinter Metals Private Limited
Deshpande Foundation
The American Indian foundation
Give India Foundation
NASSCOM FOUNDATION
ANZ Support Services India Pvt Ltd
ANZ Operations & Technology Pvt Ltd
Deloitte

Samarthanam Human Resources

The Human Resources team of Samarthanam getting together all the facilities for a hassle free work environment. Also employee welfare is on the team’s list for which many activities and camps are organized often. Similarly this quarter the HR team has organized health camps for all the employees including sessions on hygiene & cleanliness, Eye checkup camp and Dental camp.

The total headcount at Samarthanam as on June 2017 is 492 employees out of which around 110 are persons with disabilities.
Stories of Change

NIKITA SHUKLA

Nikita Shukla stands to be a great inspiration for all those who would want to achieve their life ambition despite obstacles. Nikita is a visually impaired student who hails from a poor economic background. She completed her primary education from Shreemati Kamala Mehta School for blind girls in Mumbai. She passed her secondary school certificate exam of Maharashtra Board by securing 65% marks and later enrolled into Ruia college to clear Higher Secondary Certificate by securing 70%. Nikita aspires to be a lawyer and joined the Government Law College, a well-known college dedicated to legal studies, for her LLB degree. Having no support from her family, she started staying in the College Hostel and has currently appeared for BLS LLB (Third Year) awaiting results. To get the professional degree in law, she has to complete two more years which will include a moot court practice which is attending court rooms and internship with a Senior Lawyer. Nikita is just a step away from becoming an advocate and we are positive that she is going to be a good one. She also has great interest in participating in debates and theatre.

LILA PRASAD

Lila Prasad is a 23 year old Graduate in English who hails from Karnataka. Lila has partial visual impairment and life was not easy for him. Coming from a family of farmers, he was financially not stable and could not receive any support. With a family of five relying on him for economic support Lila was facing difficulties till he encountered Samarthanam. He joined as a trainee for 3 months at Samarthanam Centre and learnt computers and English. Later Lila joined PETOO where he is currently employed with a decent salary. He aspires to complete his MA in Political Science and become a lecturer. Lila says that he is indebted to Samarthanam for showing him the way in difficult times.

HARISH REDDY

Harish Shiva Reddy is from a farming family of four members. Being a physically challenged individual his struggle started quite early in life but with great determination he completed his Bachelors in Commerce. Harish could not find a job easily and so joined Samarthanam to enhance his skills in English and Computer education. After 3 months of training at Samarthanam he was placed at Flipkart making him self-sufficient. He aspired to be the manager one day and also to pursue MBA in Human Resources.
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Head Office
CA: 39, 15th Cross, 16th Main, Sector 4, HSR Layout, Bengaluru – 560102 Karnataka State, India
Tele: +91 80 25721444, Mob: 099449864784
Email: info@samarthanam.org

Administrative Office
#11, Villa Suchita, 1st Cross, 17th ‘A’ Main J.P. Nagar II Phase, Bengaluru - 560078

National Office
E-18 A, East of Kailash, Ground Floor, New Delhi-110065

Hyderabad Division
Plot No. 3, B BSNL Lane, Sainagar Colony, Survey No. 22, Picket, Secunderabad, Telangana-500009

Guntur Division
4-14, 223/6, 1st Floor, Anjaneyapet Main Road, Amaravathi Road, Opp. Sri Rama Hospital, Guntur, AP 22002

Ananthapur Division
Rayalaseema Branch (Microsoft Project), DRDA TTDC Building, Rapthadu, Ananthpur AP - 515722

Dharwad Division
No. 48, Dasappa & Sons Building, 5th Main, Gandhi Nagar, Dharwad - 580 004

Mumbai Division
B Wing, 302, 3rd Floor, Mangalya Society, Maroshi Road, Opp. Moral Fire Brigade, Near SBI Moral Andheri East, Mumbai-59

USA Office
Samarthanam USA, Inc., 127 Boston Rock Road, Melrose, MA 02176781-526-6649

Jharkhand Division
Bodh Devi Nivas, Awadhuri Colony, Near Masjid PO-Kitadih, Jamshedpur – 831002, Dist. East Singh Bhum

Chennai Office
Plot No. 120, Sri Bhuvaneswari Nagar, 1st Main Road, Velachery, Chennai-600042

Dharwad Division
No. 48, Dasappa & Sons Building, 5th Main, Gandhi Nagar, Dharwad - 580 004