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Madhu Bala Singh

Research Scholar, Department of Textiles & Apparel Designing, Sam Higginbottom University of Agriculture, Technology and Sciences, Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh, India

Dr. Nargis Fatima

Asstt. Professor, Department of Textiles & Apparel Designing Ethlend College of Home Science, Sam Higginbottom University of Agriculture, Technology and Sciences, Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh, India

Dr. Ekta Sharma

Asstt. Professor, Department of Textiles & Apparel Designing Ethlend College of Home Science, Sam Higginbottom University of Agriculture, Technology and Sciences, Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh, India

Corresponding Author:

Madhu Bala Singh

Research Scholar, Department of Textiles & Apparel Designing, Sam Higginbottom University of Agriculture, Technology and Sciences, Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh, India

Organizations transforming specially able into skilled professionals

Madhu Bala Singh, Dr. Nargis Fatima and Dr. Ekta Sharma

Abstract

In India, numerous initiatives are undertaken to improve the livelihood of especially abled person. With the help of the several civil society and organizations, there has been a larger response to rehabilitate these especially able and push them towards the mainstream of the nation. Several efforts have been made in this regard to provide better opportunities to the especially able starting from providing education to offering other necessary support. However, empowering the specially able have been a real challenge lately because the people are scattered throughout the community and many of them chose to stay at home for being immobile.

So, the organizations who act as the vital organs of the civil society work towards creating a congenial climate and an environment free of barriers where the disabled can also lead a healthy life like its mainstream counterparts in the society.

This systematic review aims to list down the mission and vision of organisations, working for the empowerment of specially abled persons. For A systematic review, Articles and reports were considered when they described roll of organisations and their importance of the growth of the specially abled person skills and lifestyle. The study revealed that organisations highly motivated specially abled person for making them enthusiastic, successful professionals, who contribute to the total wealth of a developing nation. specially abled person professionals or entrepreneurs, will be a new breed in the developmental spectrum of developing India. Each and every specially abled person have a residual potential power than their non-disabled peers. Six to seven percentage of population in India is people with disability nearly 8 to 9 crore people the number is increasing with accidents and aging. Nearly one third of total number of people in India is affected with some sort of disability. specially abled person professionals emerged as a need of an existence, than financially motivated. Who contribute a major chunk to the economic development of our nation.

Keywords: specially-abled, empower, skill, organizations

Introduction

In the present era, the term disability has undergone a transformation specially in the last few years by what is popularly known as the social model of disability. So to deal with this growing concern affecting the nation, several organisations plays a proactive role in offering the necessary opportunities in empowering this budding group.

It is matter of great concern that the potential and abilities of these specially abled or rather 'differently abled' people are not utilized or explored to its fullest. It is perhaps a great loss of human resources if, utilized or channelized properly to its fullest potential could prove to be an asset in the growth of the society as a whole. This is where the role of some organisations becomes prominent.

In this era of globalization, the inclusion of the disabled in the country's mainstream constitute a significant portion of the country's population. The organisations and NGO's who are known to be the key drivers of the society play a proactive role in helping the nascent group to acquire growth so that the disabled can contribute to the development of the country. Though it is not possible to provide employment to the entire specially abled population, it is possible to impart the necessary vocational training, motivating them to become independent and self-sufficient. In achieving that, the role of organisations and NGO in empowering the specially abled in India holds immense significance.

Economic empowerment is the capacity of specially abled person to participate in, contribute to and benefit from growth processes on terms which recognize the value of their

contributions, respect their dignity and make it possible for them to negotiate a fairer distribution of the benefits of growth. Economic empowerment means people thinking beyond immediate survival needs and thus able to recognize and exercise agency and choice. The economic empowerment of persons with disabilities can be achieved if they have access to jobs and livelihoods and basic entitlements, such as education, health services, and housing. In turn, economic participation facilitates the social integration of specially abled person.

However, specially abled person have poor access to education and training which often results in their economic exclusion. Even data from UNESCO has revealed that the majority of especially abled person are unable to earn a livelihood for similar reasons which include lack of education or training. Livelihood activity is important for specially abled person as it is the sum of ways and means by which individuals make and sustain a living. And participation in economic activity is necessary for every human being, not only for sustenance, basic survival or supplementing the family income, but also to contribute to one's self-esteem and enhancing self-fulfilment which is very important for specially abled person. Therefore specially abled person should be encouraged, promoted and supported to become self-employed, to develop their entrepreneurship capacity or even to own and operate their business.

1. Hans Foundation

In an era where 'inclusive development' is being emphasized as the right path towards sustainable development, focussed initiatives for the welfare of disabled persons are essential. Disability is one of the core areas of work for the foundation and it have been supporting programs aiming at the empowerment of people with disabilities (PwDs) since inception. Every year, THF supports 30-40 NGOs/Partners. These projects cover all types of physical disabilities, intellectual disabilities and people with mental health issues. THF support is extended through funding, technical assistance and advocacy support to organizations already working in this sector. Our focus on disability complies with the UN convention on the rights of people with disabilities, to promote a shift from the institutional care system to the community – based services. Hans foundation working with a diverse set of stakeholders ranging from non-governmental organizations, National Trust (under Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment), Ministry of Health and Social Welfare and international organizations like Keystone Human Services International etc.

Vision: Work towards creating an equitable society with the aim of enhancing the quality of life for all through the empowerment of marginalized and underprivileged communities in India.

Mission: To identify and implement social development projects in areas of health, education, livelihoods and disability which are scalable and replicable, in partnership with NGOs, government and institutions, aimed at holistic development of all underprivileged and socially backward communities in India.

2. Samerth Charitable Trust

Samerth Charitable Trust has been actively working with PwDs through their Chhattisgarh Social Inclusion Program (CSIP). Under the CSIP, one of the major areas is the

economic empowerment of PwDs through the creation of PwDs Self Help Groups in two districts in Chhattisgarh i.e. Raipur and Mahasamund. The SHG is a holistic programme of micro-enterprises covering all aspects of self-employment, organization of the rural poor into self Help groups and their capacity building, planning of activity clusters, infrastructure build-up, technology, credit, and marketing. It emphasizes activity clusters which are based on the resources and the occupational skills of the people and availability of markets.

Mission

- To work towards strengthening capacities of vulnerable communities & groups to get their entitlement in every aspect of human existence
- To influence policy making to include provisions for excluded and marginalized groups by creating alternative models.
- To engage and advocate towards gender balanced development through collective, participatory and empowering actions

Vision: To build a humane, sustainable and equitable society.

3. Samarthanam Livelihood Resource

Samarthanam Livelihood Resource Centres are established across major cities of India which impart livelihood training to youth with disabilities and the underprivileged, enhancing their skill-sets and paving way for a sustainable livelihood and economic independence.

The Skilling Programme facilitates the youth with basic skill-based livelihood training to broaden their employment opportunities. The first LRC was established by Samarthanam in 1999. More than two decades down the road, the centres, today are spread across 13 cities of India. Samarthanam is looking forward to expanding and embracing the rural populations of the country significantly improving the socio-economic status of the disabled communities.

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.

4. Setu

SETU believes in self-sustainable growth of the artisan community and provides self-employment opportunities to the underprivileged and downtrodden sections of the society.

Handmade products have a large potential, requires less investment and offers infinite self-employment as well as job opportunities. Special needs people with disabilities and persons with weak mental strength can also create handmade products beautifully and can support themselves & their families financially.

Mission: To empower the socio-economic standing of underprivileged & marginalized artisan communities, by providing them sustainable growth opportunities, at the same time ensuring environmental sustainability. The main motto is to make them self-sustainable by creating livelihood opportunities for them, following Fair Trade standards.

Vision: Our vision is to create a world alleviated of poverty & vulnerability, where all humans are respected, empowered and inspired. To create a global community lacking any form of discrimination or exploitation, a society where trade is practiced fairly and serves its underlying purpose of supporting people with dignity and respecting our environment.

5. Kshitij NGO

Kshitij (meaning "New Horizon" in Sanskrit) is a Mumbai-based NGO that employs adults with intellectual disabilities to create exquisite hand-crafted items and chocolates. They make excellent corporate and personal gifts. In the sheltered and nurturing environment of the workshops, they are supervised by professional instructors as well as their own family members, engaged in various recreational activities with their peers and provided with a salary for their work.

At Kshitij participants for the mature adults that they are and aim to assist them in leading dignified live, as independently as possible. They not only provide them with paid employment, but through the therapeutic mediums of creative and culinary activities, enable them to foster self-expression, stress management and emotional growth. Founded by four mothers of intellectually disabled young adults in 1998, Kshitij is a close-knit support network of families, staff members, therapists and volunteers. Kshitij constantly strive to dispel societal stereotypes about the adults with intellectual disabilities and to promote their inclusion in mainstream society.

Mission: To give meaning and respect to the lives of intellectually challenged adults by progressively enhancing their emotional health, self-esteem and integration into mainstream society by developing skills to live an independent life through vocational and job-specific skill development.

Vision: Kshitij envisions becoming a professionally managed, self-sustaining and role model organization working for the welfare and well-being of adults having intellectual disability.

6. Giftabled

Ms. Prarthana Prateek Kaul's brain child 'ArtAble' is a concept to bring together persons with disability to a single platform in order to celebrate the talent and art by differently abled. Prarthana being the Co-founder and Managing Trustee of GiftAble Foundation dreams of an inclusive world where all are respected and treated for their abilities and not ignored for their limitations/disabilities.

"Our aim is to create opportunities and transform the lives of people with disabilities. We believe in the value of human spirit and provide a platform that encourages talents of artisans with disabilities, celebrates their success and helps them live a livelihood with dignity and self-esteem," says Prarthana. Every month, her team conducts 4-5 workshops, seminars, and training programmes for NGOs and other partners where people are sensitised to the issues the disabled face.

7. Srishti Charitable Trust, NGO based in Munnar, Kerala

In 1991, had pledged to educate & further rehabilitate differently-abled children & young adults. The network of the then Tata Tea facilitated and assisted Srishti in the identification of the differently-able children of the plantation

workers through their specially appointed welfare officers in various divisions of the wide-spread tea plantation who were forced to be left alone at home for lack of day-care or special education possibilities.

"It all began with a walk in the plantation one afternoon. A plantation home on the estate, a specially-abled child and the need to provide day-care and a regular education." *Ratna Krishnakumar*

Mission: The mission of the Srishti was to impart vocational education & further generate sustainable livelihood possibilities when they graduate. The youth are nurtured into artists by experts in their respective craft domains to develop their skills in the Universe of Human Craft and Handicraft. The specially-able youth are imparted education in functional academics & are trained in social & self-help skills along with vocational skills.

Vision: We had pledged to educate & further rehabilitate differently-abled children & young adults.

8. Smile Foundation

This Mission Education project in Ahmadabad, Gujarat, is focused on helping the differently able people. The project has been implemented to develop and initiate a variety of services on the promotion of education and community based rehabilitation of this special community.

The centre runs various programmes for the prevention of blindness and other disabilities, besides providing professional and vocational training to the specially-able. Rehabilitation and assistive devices, community based rehabilitation, research and development are some of the other programmes conducted at the centre.

Vision: Work as a catalyst in bringing sustainable change in the lives of underprivileged children, youth and women, with a life-cycle approach of development.

Mission: Smile Foundation, a non-profit organization in India is to empower underprivileged children, youth and women through relevant education, innovative healthcare and market-focused livelihood programmes.

9. Jyoti Foundation NGO

Jyoti Foundation NGO was established in year 2017 by Founder and President Ms. Jyoti Shah. It has been established with her vision to empower Divyangs and physically challenged. Being affected by cerebral palsy, she suffers from about 85% disability, thus bound to use wheelchair at all times. Self-experience and self-suffering from disability and her determination to battle with hardships of life have been the key motivation behind setting up this institution through which she envisions to help people of her kind in leading a dignified and meaningful life. Despite the challenges, she went ahead and completed her M. Com and then joined Dena Bank as an E-Officer. Similarly, she desires to help as many people as she can through the foundation. She has received National Award from Government of India on 3rd December, 2018 at National Awards for the Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan), 2018 at the hands of Shri Venkaiah Naidu, the Vice President of India, 'Jhansi Ki Rani' award from Lion's Club International, for her efforts. She has also been a part of several NGOs in the past and has gained experience in working with people who need support.

Vision: To empower Divyangs and physically challenged.

10. People First Foundation

People First Foundation, Established in 2014, and People First Foundation works for the empowerment, integration and rights of people with disabilities. With mainstreaming and inclusion as its constant theme, the Foundation has initiated a slew of innovative programmes that aim at total inclusion of people with disabilities. For us at People First Foundation, disability is an issue that concerns the rights of people. The site connects people with disabilities, their families and caregivers to helpful resources on topics such as how to apply for disability benefits find a job, good health and care etc. Our efforts and message are sensitizing the masses towards the difficulties of the physically challenged and we believe,

Vision: Every citizen including disabled will be literate and employed. India will reach to great heights and will be free of violence, terrorism, hunger and sufferings. It will be filled with compassion, peace and happiness.

Mission

- To recognize the talent of specially abled.
- Bring together the talent hub of specially abled, providing equal opportunities that will enable them, integration in mainstream society.
- Campaign for Employment of especially abled.
- Awareness and Exposure among common man about disability.
- Bringing out the exclusivity of the International Day of Persons with Disability (3rd Dec) through awareness, recognition, interaction and entertainment.
- We also intend to bring the programs and policies of government and international agencies to the door-step of real beneficiaries.

Anything is possible if People with Disabilities will believe in themselves. They can overcome with any challenge & something beautiful will emerge.

11. NASEOH (National Society for Equal Opportunities for the Handicapped)

The most difficult hurdle for differently-able people to cross is to attain economic independence. They find it hard to get hired and have very limited job opportunities to choose from. NASEOH runs a vocational training Centre which teaches trades like pottery, tailoring, communication skills, etc. After completion of the course, the trainees are offered jobs in external or self-employment. This NGO for differently-able accepts donations to help sponsor the vocational training of individuals with special needs.

Vision: Rehabilitation of the differently abled.

Mission: To enrich the lives of differently abled persons and develop a world of equal opportunities.

Conclusion

The kind of initiatives taken up by this organizations have potential not only to improve the lives if specially abled person and bring them into societal mainstream, they also play crucial roles in poverty alleviation among the most vulnerable groups and in changing the deep rooted negative mindset of the majority towards these vulnerable groups. Such initiatives set an example for improving living

conditions of other vulnerable and marginalized groups in society through innovations in the skilling value chain.

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