

•• Help the Blind •• Foundation

VISION FOR LIFE THROUGH EDUCATION

Vol 1 Issue 4 Jan-Mar 2018

CAREER AWARENESS WORKSHOP AT PUNE

A Career Awareness Workshop was conducted in Pune with faculty support from Enable India Bangalore (EIB) on the 13th and the 14th Jan at the premises of S P College, Pune. Around 35 Visually Impaired students from different colleges in Pune participated in this event.

The program aimed at enabling VI students gain access to quality education with emphasis on IT and other enabling technologies, generating aspirations among them for careers in the private sector and setting their minds on a journey of picking up and utilizing skills and attitudes to meet the corporate sector expectations.

While the first day was spent in introductions and self-analysis, the highlights of the day were the “Role-Play” and the “Team Building” exercises that brought out the need for taking efforts to achieve one's aims and goals.

The second day was spent on subjects like Skill development, tools for self-learning, opportunities and careers for persons with vision impairment discussing business cases and company expectations. The programme ended with an impressive address on HR Skills and personality development by Ms. Vasundhara Kelkar

CAREER AWARENESS WORKSHOP AT PUNE Participants discussing in groups in Role Play Games



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HELP THE BLIND FOUNDATION

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Letter of Thanks from a Student

I take this opportunity to thank 'HELP THE BLIND FOUNDATION' for awarding me scholarship for the academic year 2017-18. It is no secret that the education has immense potential and a significant driver for the enhancement and betterment of visually impaired youngsters.

I must say this financial aid is going to be a great help in my post graduate studies. The entire scholarship process was prompt, fair and impartial. Undoubtedly, the HTBF's initiative is quite laudable. Their basic vision of empowering sight disabled and enabling them to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with their sighted counterparts is very crucial in helping them get a rightful place in a world that has been designed for and by sighted people. I must say such support encourages me and similarly many others, to attain a position in the society based on merit, empathy and understanding, rather than sympathy.

Additionally, the volunteers are very kind and supportive. Mr. Krishnamurthi, (Mumbai based HTBF volunteer), is one of the most humble persons, I have ever met. During Mr. Krishnamurthi's visit at TISS, I had good discussions with him ranging from technology-to-business-to-society-and so on. The most vivid point of Mr. Krishnamurthi was "one should forever keep alive student in oneself as there's no age for learning", and certainly, this I shall preserve all along my life!

Once again, I thank you from the core of my heart for all your support and encouragement to me as well as to the entire VI community across India.

-Deepak Jaiswal

Deepak Kumar Jaiswal is one of our "High Achievers", having consistently scored above 80% in secondary education and around 70% in Degree courses. He is presently doing his Masters in Human Resources at the prestigious Tata Institute of Social Sciences.

Job Oriented Skills for the Visually Impaired

Having helped around 2500 students (1700 in the academic year 2017-18 alone), we in HTBF are making serious efforts to get jobs for our VI students. While quite a few of them get jobs in low level positions and a lucky few in good positions like Banks etc., our concern is to get a well –focused program of providing them with organized and professional training in job related skills and enable them to take up positions in the private sector like IT and service industries where they can sit and work along with their sighted counterparts.

Training the VI, or for that matter any Person with Disability, involves much more than teaching computers and language proficiency. It involves talking to the VI in boosting their morale, getting them to realise that they too "can do" things that a sighted person does and all that is required is an effort and quite a sustained one.

Once the students become aware of their own potential, an awareness program may need to be given with details of the variety of jobs available to the VI community and the basic requirement of academic as well as skills required for taking up such jobs. The student will then be required to choose a job under the guidance of a counsellor and prepare himself to get an intensive training for the skills required. The skills training may last, depending upon the nature of job and the required skills set, from a couple of weeks to a few months.

Besides the training of the student, a bigger challenge is his acceptability among the prospective peers with whom he will be working. To achieve this, sensitising the peer level and the immediate supervisory workforce acquires a lot of significance. This is being done very successfully by a good number of NGO organisations with close links with the prospective employers.

We, in HTBF, are organising awareness workshops with the help of such NGOs.

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Senior Officials from Centrum, a diversified Financial Services Company based in Mumbai met with our V I students in Mumbai



Let us congratulate two of our current beneficiaries who have succeeded in getting employment while pursuing their studies

(1) **Mayank Agarwal**, M A Final year from Hansraj College, Delhi has joined Canara Bank. Despite getting a job, he is going to appear for the M.A final exam and thus keep his commitment to his studies.

(2) **Amit Saxena**, -BA final year from Pandit Prithi Nath College, Kanpur has been successful in RBI exam and will join the bank. He intends also to complete his graduation.

It is heartening to note that both these recipients of HTBF will not allow our scholarship go waste even though they have got good jobs

We have moved to a more spacious office. Kindly note the change of Address:

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Ms. Rita Sharma of HSBC, Singapore and Managing Trustee of Richard Hua Foundation visited India and met the Visually Impaired students of SGTB Khalsa College, Delhi as well as the Principal, Mr. Jaswinder Singh and our Volunteer Mr.D.K.Sharma



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