



aarambh
शोध नव्या क्षितिजाचा

Annual Report for the Year
2019-20

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Founder's Story

“Until you have a kid with special needs you have no idea of the depth of your strength, tenacity and resourcefulness.” - Anonymous

As a mother of a child with Autism, I knew I had been granted an opportunity to realize my strengths and do what it takes to help my child, and other children with similar challenges. I recognized that my journey towards making a difference for the community of individuals with disability had begun. I completed my degree in Special Education from Bhoj University and other short-term courses from Pune, Mumbai, Chennai and Delhi, to understand Autism better. Ten years ago, when I started AARAMBH Society for the Autistic and Slow Learner Children, there were no facilities for training, treatment or education for children with disabilities in Aurangabad district. Nine people trusted my vision and came on board to initiate the process.

Being the first special school in the Marathwada region in Maharashtra, the sole purpose was to improve the quality of life of children and adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder and Slow Learners in the area. The center began with just two children and today we have grown with 67 students who are Autistic and Slow Learners. Today as we embark on a new decade, touching lives and making them better, we look back at our journey that led us to being who we have become.

AARAMBH was a vision, which translated into action only with the tireless commitment of all the team members, parents, students and community at large. Striving to spread awareness amongst the people about Autism, the team could identify children and adults with Autism from the locality and redirect them to AARAMBH center for further intervention. The goal was to support the children at every stage, thus making them independent by training them to their maximum capacity.

The organisation team comprises of a well-qualified Special Educator, Physiotherapist, Psychologist, Speech Therapist, Music and Dance Teachers, who come together to provide holistic learning environment. The commitment of the parents, and their trust in the organisation's work brought more and more students to our doorstep. We are grateful for the same.

AARAMBH is a movement that has taken momentum to make lives better for every student with Autism and Slow Learning by providing them with happiness, dignity, security, meaning and productivity. The holistic approach works to educate, motivate, assist and guide the children, their parents and the community at large.

Challenges are part of growing up. And AARAMBH had its share too. Even amongst all the difficulties we faced, we strengthened our determination to do more and do better. There was a time when we were unable to hire a single trained teacher for the school, today we have six of them and the students are coming from all across Maharashtra to take benefit of the Outreach Program. Apart from the school, the vocational center currently has 10 students under training who receive a stipend from the organisation for their work, into their own bank accounts.

Our struggles have given us the scope to understand our strengths. Our achievements have given us hope to know how much more we can do. With the intention to do more, and with the support of my team, we are stepping into our next decade of work.

Thank you

Ambika Takalkar

Founder and Director

Aarambh society for autism and slow learner children Aurangabad



AARAMBH: A beginning with a purpose

Children with disabilities face multiple forms of discrimination which leads to their exclusion from society and school. Attitudes toward children with disabilities, as well as lack of resources to accommodate them, compound the challenges they face in accessing education. While lack of access to school is an issue, an equal concern is the inability of the education system to ensure quality education for children with disabilities. In India, the policy of '*Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan*', brings forth equal access to education for all, including special provisions for those with special needs. Yet, visionaries like Mrs. Ambika Takalkar, the Founder - Director of Aarambh Trust Center for Autism and Slow Learner, translated the mission into a center for the individuals with disabilities.

She recognized the need for a special school in the city of Aurangabad, Maharashtra. And, thus began a journey with just two children joining school in the November of 2011. Since then, the organisation has strived to reach out to every child with special needs in the age group of 3 to 40 years. Today the school caters to 67 students (Boys - 55 and Girls - 12), both in the category of those with Autism as well as Slow Learners. The organisation provides personalized support and interventions by trained staff members, along with the therapeutic infrastructure over the past few years. This is a glorious beginning that will impact more lives and support hundreds of individuals with disabilities in the district.



Vision
Mission
Values

Vision: A holistic intervention center for individuals who are Autistic and Slow Learners

Mission: The organisation has two main mission that they work towards as a team;

- To provide quality special education, therapy and vocational training to individuals on the Autism spectrum and Slow Learners

- To support parents and caregivers through guidance and assistance for a holistic development of the children.

Values: AARAMBH is an organisation that stands for its core values that align with its mission and vision, thus guiding all its stakeholders towards a single goal.

Supportive

The organisation believes that when support is rendered to the team, the students as well as the parents, that the best for the individual with special needs is achieved.

Proactive

This value stems from the founder’s vision. It encourages the organisation to bring the best to the beneficiaries, to achieve their highest potential.

Commitment

The organisation is committed towards special needs, by continuing care and support for the community as a whole.



Activities / Programs

-
- **School for all**
 - **Reaching out**
 - **Vocation for self-reliance and learning**
 - **Training to do**
 - **Round the year activities**

School for All



A proud moment in the past year, few students have successfully passed the National Open School (NIOS) exams for **grade 4** and **grade 5** with good grades.

The concept of having a school for the children with disabilities is primarily aimed at starting interventions early and in the academic as well as life skill training. The regular school day consists of academic sessions, therapies as well as vocational training for identified students. The organisation also believes in overall health and wellbeing of the children, and ensures the same through yoga sessions. The multi-professional team consists of Special Educators, Physiotherapist, Psychologist, Speech Therapist, Music Teacher and Dance Teacher, thus ensuring overall development of the children attending school. The school also conducts co-curricular activities like sports and marathons, cultural activities like celebrating festivals and important days in the organisation to allow the students to experience and learn in more participative ways. Students of AARAMBH center have participated in competitions and won prizes in singing, dance and other cultural activities. One of the students also got a glorious moment to sing in front of the famous singer, Uttara Kelkar, and 2500 spectators. It is also a proud moment that in the past year, few students have successfully passed the National Open School (NIOS) exams for grade 4 and grade 5 with good grades. The school also plans field visits and invites people to come over and have interactions with the students. This promotes social exchange and learning.



Parents Teachers Meet

This is very crucial to the development of the students of AARAMBH. Parent Teacher meetings are held at regular intervals to interact with parents of the students and to update them about the progress and performance of their wards at school. The parents are the pillars of the center, who ensure their children come to school and participate in all the activities wholeheartedly. It is also through them, the organisation's work spreads to the nearby localities, from where Outreach Program students come.



Reaching Out



Through their outreach programs, AARAMBH extends its services to children outside Marathwada region. Since there are families that visit the center from across the state of Maharashtra, for seeking support for their children, the organisation team does everything it takes to ensure the family gets the needed support and the children gets the training that will enhance their skills. A detailed assessment is carried out at the center and the team prepares a monthly or a quarterly individualized educational and therapy plan, depending on the family's repeat visit schedule. The Outreach Program ensures every child is supported. This also works to encourage the team to have new experiences and learning on the job.

Vocational activities for Self-Reliance and Learning



Age groups 14

Years **and above**,
Paper envelopes,
decorative bags,
diyas and rangoli,
bookmarks,
etc.

The Center houses a Vocational Training Unit, where students are taught different vocational skills to enhance their abilities in a journey towards self-reliance. Starting from the pre-vocational training involving the pre-skills that are necessary for actual training, to guiding them into taking up the vocations they are ready to master, the trainers take utmost care at every step. Somewhere in the middle of 2012, the AARAMBH Art Zone was founded, encouraging teenagers in the age groups of 14 and above, with Autism. Some of the things that the Vocational Unit prepares are paper envelopes, decorative bags, diyas and rangoli, bookmarks, candles and jewelry boxes, to name a few. With an aim at making the students independent in their own ways, the unit also trains few students to grind flour and rice for making powders for sale. Currently two of the trained adults with Autism are employed and 8 others are in the process of being trained for placement. For parents, the future of their children is always a matter of concern, and AARAMBH steps up to hold their hands to walk them through this journey, with assurance and action. The skills are constantly checked and more inputs are given through retraining. They also put up stalls at different events across the district as well as during their cultural functions, to exhibit the work of the students and to help students earn a stipend, which is very encouraging.

Training to do better



150 Parents
have
immensely
benefited

AARAMBH believes in a holistic approach to achieve its vision. With a fully functioning school for the children and vocational training unit, it also reaches out to the parents and caregivers through their workshops. Workshops on different topics are conducted to give guidance, information and also approaches to handle their children back home. Counselling sessions are also conducted as part of the workshops, since the organisation recognizes the untiring contribution of the parents in the lives of the children who come to the center. Till date, more than 150 parents have immensely benefited from the different workshops. Apart from this, short workshops are also carried out for the students on life skills, vocational skills, self-care skills, or event-based workshops like making of Ganesha idols for Ganesh Chaturthi, skills that specialized focus and attention. Some of the trainings conducted by the organisation are Rights of the Disabled, Importance of Early Intervention, Importance of Vocational Training and Awareness of different disabilities. This way, the organisation strengthens the community that it caters to.

Achievement and Accolades



Awards and achievements are recognition for the work that begins with a thought and takes deep roots into action in the right direction, with the intended goals to achieve. When an organisation is recognized for the value it has added through its work, it motivates the team to do more, do better, yet another time.

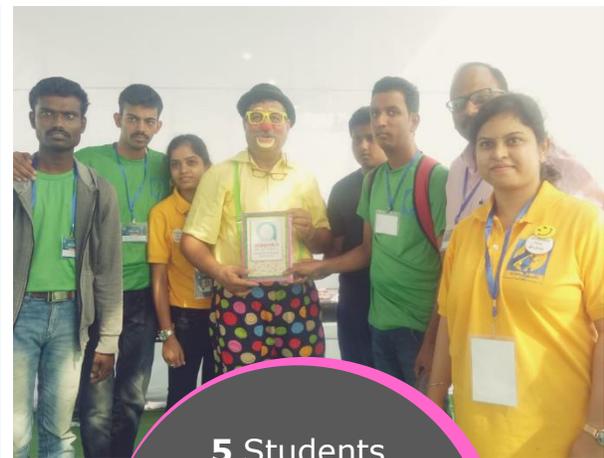
AARAMBH has won many prestigious national level awards, worthy of mention, during the year 2019-20. The prestigious Mahila Samiti Aurangabad was awarded to Ms. Ambika Takalkar, the Founder Director of AARAMBH, for outstanding work in the area of disabilities in the district. On the occasion of World Disability Day on the 3rd of December 2019, the Founder Director of AARAMBH was invited for a talk on Radio Mirchi 98.3 FM, hosted by RJ Shreyas. It was an opportunity to reach out to the masses, to spread the awareness about Autism and the work of AARAMBH itself.

Some of the achievements and accolades that have brought glory to the organisation are below



Anjali Children Festival

The festival is highly acclaimed for its yearly events based on literary, creative and performing arts for young audiences, since the year 2001, in the city of Bhubaneswar. This festival attracts a lot of youth from across India. AARAMBH had the privilege and honour to be part of this festival last year, from the 14th to the 18th of November 2019. The Anjali International Children and Youth Festival aims to create bridges for an inclusive society and capture the imaginations, creative spirit and curiosity of children and youth. A team including 5 students from AARAMBH participated in the festival, and attended different workshops that were organised. This was one of the first long distance travel for the students, and they thoroughly enjoyed the entire journey to a new city and the event. Experiences like these have enriched the learning as well as the confidence of students and their parents.



5 Students
have
participated
in the festival



Rs 5000

Goods crossed
itself on
Inauguration
Day

AARAMBH Art Zone

Inaugurated on the 12th of October 2019, by the famous writer, Shri Vijay Diwan, the AARAMBH Art Zone, was a step towards making Vocational Training meaningful. The aim of the Art Zone was to provide a platform for the sale of products prepared by the adults with Autism at the Vocational section. The sale of goods on the day of inauguration itself crossed Rs.5000, which gave a boost to the enthusiasm of the 20 students under training. Different products like candles, art work, craft items, decorative items were some of the products that were on display for sale. During Diwali in 2019, the AARAMBH Art Zone stalls were set up at various locations across the city of Aurangabad, including the offices of Bajaj Company. The Art Zone products are also being sent to other cities like Mumbai, Pune, Nashik, Goa, and parts of Madhya Pradesh and exported to even countries like Germany. The reach is slowly increasing, with the demand for quality products prepared by the students. With the assistance of staff members, students were able to have firsthand experience of selling goods, handling funds, interacting with customers and managing stalls. From the amount received from the sale of products, the organisation give the students their pay cheques for their efforts in making the products. The AARAMBH Art Zone is working towards making the vocational students, financially independent through this program.



Going Solo

Master Swaraj Rajput, a young student with Autism, is an artist, with unique skills. The teachers at AARAMBH Center recognized his talent early. They prepared him for his first solo art show to be held between the 3rd and 5th of December 2019. The first Art Exhibition, was organised by AARAMBH to encourage young Swaraj to showcase his art work in and around Aurangabad. Out of 35 paintings on display, 20 got sold over the 3 days of the exhibition, fetching close to Rs.18000 for the paintings. This grand event was covered by all media channels, including Zee New 24 Taas. This brought a lot of people to know about the work of AARAMBH as well as a budding artist, Swaraj who had won hearts with his stroke of the brush. The team is now confident to identify more such budding artists at school, who have different interests, to groom them for a stage to share their talent and work.

स्वमग्न बालचित्रकाराच्या चित्रांचे आजपासून प्रदर्शन

म. टा. प्रतिनिधी, औरंगाबाद

मुले होतात चित्रांतून व्यक्त

जागतिक अपंग दिनानिमित्त (तीन डिसेंबर) स्वराजसिंग राजपूत याने काढलेल्या चित्रांचे प्रदर्शनचे आयोजन करण्यात आले आहे. मालती आर्ट गॅलरी, काल्डा कॉर्नर येथे मंगळवारी सकाळी दहा वाजता बाल मानसोपचारतज्ज्ञ चिन्मय वाराळे आणि मराठी चित्रपट अभिनेत्री आराधना देशपांडे यांच्या उपस्थितीत कार्यक्रमाचे उद्घाटन होणार आहे. यावेळी अभ्यक्ष डॉ. विनायक पाटील व सुवर्णा पाटील उपस्थित राहणार आहेत.

आरंभ ऑटिझम सेंटरचा विद्यार्थी असलेला १६ वर्षांचा स्वराजसिंग हा स्वमग्न आहे. स्वराजसिंग याने काढलेली ३० चित्रे प्रदर्शनातून रसिकांना पहायला मिळतील. हे प्रदर्शन तीन ते पाच डिसेंबर दरम्यान सकाळी दहा ते रात्री नऊ दरम्यान प्रदर्शन सुरू राहणार आहे. सर्व शाळा, विशेष मुलांच्या शाळा, संस्था यासह रसिकांनी उपस्थित रहावे, असे आवाहन मालती आर्ट गॅलरीच्या क्युरेटर विजया पातूरकर आणि आरंभ



वऱ्याच स्वमग्न मुलांना बोलता येत नाही. पण ती चित्रांतून स्वतःला उत्तम व्यक्त करतात. स्वमग्न मुले जरी सर्व क्षमता लवकर प्राप्त

करू शकत नसली तरी त्यांची बुद्धी सामान्य मुलांप्रमाणे असते. त्यांच्यातले सुप्त गुण प्रत्यक्षात उतरवण्याचे काम आर्ट झोनच्या माध्यमातून आरंभ ऑटिझम सेंटरने केले आहे. यामुळे विशेष मुलांकडे वषण्याचा दृष्टिकोन बदलण्यास मदत होऊ शकते.

ऑटिझम सेंटरच्या संचालिका अंबिका टाकळकर यांनी केले आहे.



I owe it to Society

“Artistry”, an event management organisation, every year organises an unusual social event ‘Dene Samajache’ (I owe it to society) for promotion of activities and different kind of work conducted by various social service/ charitable organisations, since its inception, 2005. AARAMBH participated in the fund-raising event on the 6th, 7th and 8th of February 2019, in Mumbai, where they put up a stall, which had almost 5000 visitors over two days. The stall helped to spread awareness and sell the products prepared by the students. Honorable Veena Gokhale, Founder of Artistry, was very supportive and encouraging of the work of AARAMBH.



The fundraising event organised in Mumbai, over **5000** visitors visit in **2** Days



Dance to Win

As part of the Lions Club of Aurangabad's dance competition program, called 'Azad Dil Se', conducted in the month of August 2019, AARAMBH was invited to participate. Students took part in the competition with enthusiasm. Students also got an opportunity to participate in the prestigious Gunjan Competition organised by MARG, an NGO working for empowerment of children with disabilities in Aurangabad. On January 2020, students from AARAMBH participated in the events at the Gunjan Competition. AARAMBH students won the 1st prize in both the singing and dance competition. Master Swaraj Rajput bagged the 1st position in the singing category, bringing laurels to his school and his parents. A troupe of 42 students also put a dance drama titled 'Shivaji Rajabhishek'. The performances were highly appreciated both by the guests and media. This has put AARAMBH on the map of performers, and now students and teachers are always prepared to make their entry into many such events and win, all along.



AARAMBH students won the 1st prize in both the singing and dance competition



Making a Difference

AARAMBH has always had the strength and support of members of the society and institutions that value the work done by the organisation. Apart from supporting the organisation financially, AARAMBH donors have always reached out, with their presence and volunteering their time, contributing to the functioning of the organisation, as well as, building the visibility and accountability of the organisation, by sharing the work with others in their network. It has been a wonderful journey with the donors of AARAMBH, who have always ensured that every individual matters. The organisation is ever grateful for the support and encouragement provided by the donors and funders.

It has been a
wonderful journey
with the donors of
AARAMBH

Round the Year Activities



With the shifting of the premise to a new building on 2nd April 2019, AARAMBH sprung up many new activities for the year 2019-2020.

Autism Awareness Week 2019

World Autism Awareness Day (WAAD) aims to put a spotlight on the hurdles that people with autism and other living with Autism face every day. This is also an opportunity for organisations to spread awareness and sensitise the local people about the disability and how they can participate to make the community more inclusive. Every year, AARAMBH celebrates the World Autism Awareness Day as an Autism Week, with line of events to include the community around. Activities like Yoga with Autism, Lecture on Autism, Dance with Autism, Fashion Shows mark the week of togetherness. Poster Competitions and other awareness campaigns were held across different medical colleges in the district. Zumbathon was an inclusive Zumba activity conducted to bring more local communities together during the awareness week.







Summer Camp 2019

The center organised Summer Camp involving all students through a varied set of activities that would support their learning. Children with Autism usually tend to have difficulty sustaining learnt information. Through this camp, the center ensured that there is continuity as well as learning for the students.





The Divya Marathi newspaper launched a campaign “Save Trees and Gardens in the city”. With the consent and support of the parents, the students participated along with students from other local regular schools in watering the plants around the local garden and cleaned the park of all the dry waste. This was a good example of inclusion in activity and experience for both sets of students with one and other.





Food Court

The Food Court was inaugurated within the premise by Ashokanand Pratishthan for supporting the students with meals during school hours. This served nutritious meals that were utmost importance for the health of students.

औरंगाबाद, बुधवार, ३ जुलै २०१९ | ४

स्वयंमुलानाही पाककलेत स्वयंपूर्ण करण्याचा अशोकानंद प्रतिष्ठानचा उपक्रम आरंभ ऑटिझम सेंटरला संपूर्ण किचनसेटची मदत



प्रतिनिधी। औरंगाबाद

स्वयंमुलानाही वाढवण्याच्या पद्धती वेगळ्या

विशेष मुलांना समाजाच्या मूळ प्रवाहात आणण्याच्या त्यांच्या सर्वांगीण विकासासाठी गरजेचे आहे. याचा विचार करून आरंभ ऑटिझम सेंटरच्या बाबतीत खाद्यनिष्पादन मुलांसाठी पाककलेची प्रतिष्ठानाची सुरुवात केली जात आहे. या प्रतिष्ठानासाठी संपूर्ण किचनसेटची आवश्यकता सादरला होती. यामुळे अशोकानंद प्रतिष्ठानच्या यादीतील अशोकानंद किचनसेट मेट देण्यात आला.

स्वयंमुलानाही नाईटमुलकांची राती ही सामान्य मुलांपेक्षा कमी असते. त्यामुळे ते प्रत्येक वेळट अंतरांनी हो शिकतात. ही गोष्ट समजावून घेता पाककलेची त्यांना प्रशिक्षण केली पाहिजे. इतर मुलांमध्ये ही मुले संपूर्ण स्वयंपाक कलाविषयी वागणूक घालता, पण यांच्या गरजेनुसार त्यांचेच करू शकतील असे शिवायच आहे. यामुळे पाककलेची काळजी कमी घेतले, हे महत्त्वाचे

साधा स्वयंपाक करणे शिकवले जाणार आहे. महिला या ही मूल कुणवरींनी असाईन करू शकते, या उद्देशाने हा उपक्रम हाती घेण्यात आला आहे. आरंभ सेंटरमध्ये मुलांना विविध प्रशिक्षणे दिली जातात. यापैकी इतरकलेच्या प्रशिक्षणांतर मुलांनी निर्माण केल्याचा वस्तु प्रदर्शन मांडण्यात आल्या. यातूनच या वर्गाच्या खोटीच्या आहारी मुलांनी मिळवल्या. यामुळे दरवर्षी नवे प्रशिक्षण मुलांना दिले जाणार आहे. यामुळे अशोकानंदच्या असाईनमेंटमध्ये मुलांना, यामुळे जैवशास्त्र, इंग्रजी, गणित, इतर विषयांचे शिक्षण देणे शक्य होईल. यामुळे आरंभ सेंटरचा जैव शास्त्रातील असाईनमेंट देणे शक्य होईल. आरंभ सेंटरचा जैव शास्त्रातील असाईनमेंट देणे शक्य होईल.



A Visit to Remember

Ms. Leena Mehendale, IAS officer visited the center and met the students and the team. This gave the team a lot of confidence and encouragement.





Dance Participation

The local Lion's Club of Aurangabad organises the yearly event called 'Azad Dil Se', a dance competition in front of a huge audience. Students participated in the inauguration dance for the event. This was highly appreciated by all.





Festivals are an integral part of the center's celebrations. Ganesh Chaturthi, Raksha Bandhan and other festivals are celebrated at the center for inculcating the local cultural temperament as well as a way of bringing everyone together.





Drama Therapy Workshop

A five-day Drama Therapy Workshop was held for students to give them an opportunity to express themselves creatively. It also brought out the elements of emotional changes during the workshop which helped students to share their feelings and participate.





Students were also part of the 'Quiet Hour' by Big Bazaar, a unique shopping experience for individuals with Autism in the month of September 2019. The students were given an opportunity to launch the Shopping List book for the showroom. This increased their confidence and gave parents an experience of inclusive shopping.





School Trips

As part of their school trips, the students have done trekking at Lonar, which they thoroughly enjoyed. They also visit local doctors on Doctor's Day to thank them and wish them.

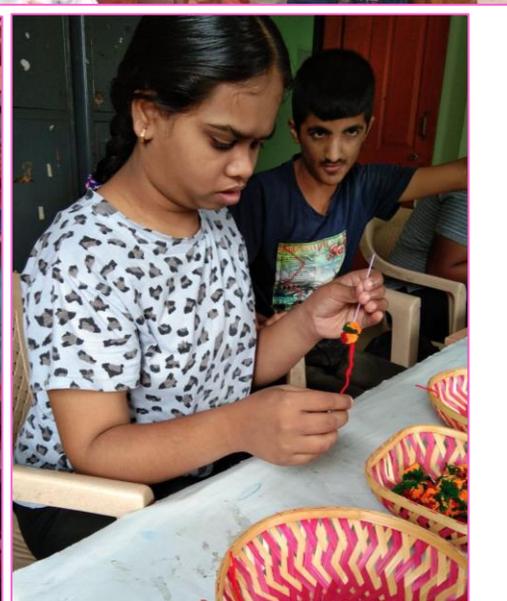




Sports Activities

Yearly sports activities are held for students of AARAMBH. This helps students to participate and develop healthy competitive spirit. Sports are good for their health and wellbeing. Teachers prepare the students for various sports activities well in advance for them to perform in front of an audience.











AARAMBH: Success Stories

Vijayshree Jainahar

Parent of Tejas Jainahar

“Namaskar!!!

Tejas’s doctor Varsha Neurologist suggested me about the initiative of Ms. Ambika Takalkar Madam and about the Aarambh Autism Center School. I was very worried initially about Tejas, whether he will be able to stay there, sit there and whether he will be able to adjust himself to the surroundings and environment. I had such fears and was extremely worried about him as he was little hyper in behavior and did not sit at one place calmly. Tejas was the first student of the school. Initially he had several issues such as his saliva used to drop from his mouth, entire time he used to cry sitting at the doorstep of the school. He did not understand how to use the toilet and was not able to understand what is to be done when he felt like urinating and disposing his faeces. Finding rickshaw to commute and van was also not possible due to such problems. His grandfather everyday used to commute by vehicle to drop him to the center and return back. Many a times he used to get down of the running vehicle and people used to just be by lookers rather than helping. Some people on the streets used to help Tejas’s grandfather and showed great humanity. Tejas used to not eat food until mobile was given to him, he was habitual of this. This is why his teachers also used to play mobile phones and give him so that he eats food. Tejas was initially very afraid of the school’s Maushi but later he builds very nice relationship with her. Ambika madam was very encouraging to us and my sweet Tejas and I saw his first school trip due to the encouragement of Ambika madam. I can still remember the amazing trip to Verul Mahismal. He was getting very hyper in the trip; he is very fond of cars so he was not ready to get down for the car. In that trip, Teacher and Principal Madam helped us a lot and due to their efforts, we also got the opportunity to go for trip after such long time.

After this trip we participated in all such trips held and played games and had fun. Initially Tejas was very scared of water but in H2O park trip, he enjoyed playing in water for the entire day and enjoy playing there. When we went to the Devgad trip, all thanks to Ambika Madam's support and encouragement we also participated in boating. On the sports Tejas participated in various games, he started playing football on the sport day, now he plays football even in the house. Now he has also gained confidence and when his school van comes, he gets down of the staircase on his own and sits in the bus by himself and when bus starts he himself shuts the door and sits on his seat and says bye to me, we are very happy about his improvement. Teacher has taught him various activities like peeling the vegetables, painting. because of his training he is able to peels the vegetables and he himself peels the garlic every day. Now he also sings songs in melody and when we have to go out, he chooses his clothes and takes them out of the drawer and tells others to help him wear clothes. In the lockdown as all members of the family were home and speaking with each other, he has picked many words and is speaking very fluently now. He has learnt to wear shoes and also watches himself in mirror. These changes could not have been possible without Aarambh center. I thank Ambika madam and Aarambh team for making Tejas to improve and we are extremely happy to see positive changes in him.”





Manjusha Raut

Music Therapist

Manjusha Raut has been associated with Aarambh School since the beginning as Music Therapist.

“Music Therapy is proven to be the best supporting therapy for the overall development of children with special needs, especially autistic children as they love/live music in some way or other. Knowing them very well, Aarambh School has been giving music therapy sessions to their children regularly since the first day of the school. My music therapy sessions are specially designed to focus on developing their physical, social, emotional and cognitive skills along with calming, relaxing and entertaining the children.

Children of Aarambh have been responding fantastically to my music therapy sessions. They have shown great improvements in different areas like concentration, eye contact, memory, imitations, speech, vocabulary, sensory issues. Their self- confidence, self-esteem and self-determination has shown wonderful improvements. Music therapy is particularly effective for Autistic children is developing their speech, language, communication and socializations. Aarambh children have been very active, alert, interested and responding in Music therapy session which has resulted in their social skills development. Some children have musically developed so well that they can perform well in big audience too.

Due to my interactive musical sessions, children have become quiet alert, focused which is helping them in their daily living activities. Weekly music session is very much awaited by children and this has given me inspiration and energy to experiment new variation of rhythm, songs, instruments, accessories in my session.

Music has become part and parcel of their daily routine activities, keeping them in high spirit and good mood.”



Lalita Nitin Khapre

Teacher at the Aarambh Autism center

Before Coming to the Aarambh Autism center I had no idea what Autism means and what exactly is it to be autistic. But after joining here Ambika madam taught me how to identify the Autistic children, how to understand their symptoms, how to observe the kids and then how to decide the goals, she trained me in all such aspects. She trained me in setting goals for the children and thought me how to ensure that these goals are fulfilled by the children. I can say that from here only I started my real training of teaching. I initially had the smallest class of primary education, here I trained children toilet training and I actually trained them like my own kids. Because of these trainings the students in my class like Bhavesh, Deepak, Siddhi, shlok, Anuradha, Sakshi started taking their lunch with their own hands. Ambika madam gave me training on speech therapy and psychotherapy, this led to improvements in the student's communication a lot. Autistic children have some amount of sensory problems, Ambika madam held a workshop on how to identify sensory problems and cope with it. In this way my experience was extremely informative and helpful in understanding various problems and challenges in handling Autistic children. These 5 years were extremely crucial for my personal development as well.



Master Shlok Kalyanam

Our Student

He is 4-year-old, his father is economically poor, working as contractual worker in the construction field, and He came to AARAMBH six month back, Aarambh's management given admission to Master Shlok without any fees. That time he was very hyperactive, had very less speech (few words only), no eye contacts, no eye and hand co-ordination and no balance while walking. After six months of various therapies, he is now able walk with balance, he sits at one place for more than two hours and he able to speak sentences due speech therapy, he also sing a few lines of song due to Music Therapy. Now his parents are happier, such noble cause is being done by AARAMBH due to help and support of the M/s. Bajaj Auto Ltd. CSR Dept.

Anuradha Ratan

Our Student

Ms. Anuradha Ratan is 10-year-old girl, she came to Aarambh Autism center six months before, at the time of admission she was able to speak very few words, and academically she was able to write 1-5 figures and letters. Now she is able to speak sentences due to speech therapy, she is able to write few sentences and figures from one to 100. She is very good in drawing and dance performance; her parents are very happy on her progress in very quick time.



Mind and Heart at Work

AARAMBH has a dedicated team of staff members who regularly bring to the forefront their skills and services to provide the best to the students, parents and community at large. With a strong team, Mrs. Takalkar has been able to create magic year after year, since 2011. Channelizing thought into action is the first step to achievement of goals. That is exactly what the team at AARAMBH has done. Being the first special school in the district, they have studied, and identified the needs and possibilities for the community alongside the approaches that are well established in other places. The programs of AARAMBH range from a school set up for the children with disabilities, therapy center to a vocational training unit that gives greater scope of work for the team and opportunities for children with special needs to participate to the best of their capacities.



From Beginning, Until Now

Over the years, AARAMBH has evolved, grown and reached out to more children in the community they serve. From a humble beginning of just **2 students**, today they have about **67 of them across the age groups of 3 to 18 years**. The team intends to expand its services to serve more children with disabilities in the district.



In the past 10 years, since its inauguration, the work of AARAMBH has impacted more than **1000 individuals with disabilities** and a large population of parents, caregivers and teachers across Aurangabad.



Awards are Rewards of Hard work

The commendable work of Mrs. Takalkar in the field of special needs is worthy of appreciation. Her persistent efforts have proven impactful results in the lives of many of the students who have completed their program with the center in the past. The community has highly appreciated the work of the organisation for bringing hope into the lives of the children with special needs in the district. The recognitions are as follows;

Awards

- Mrs. Ambika Takalkar was felicitated by Matsyodari Engineering College, Jalna, Maharashtra on the occasion of International Women's Day
- Other felicitations recognizing the work of the organisation were given by the All India Banking Cell, the Hivra Ashram in Buldhana district, the Garware Community center
- The founder as received felicitation by Jay Sahitya Pratishthan, from the hands of the Divisional Commissioner. Hon. Purushottam Bhapkar.



Media Recognition

- The work of AARAMBH was also featured on All India Radio (AIR), Mumbai and Akashwani in Aurangabad, through a radio interviews of Mrs. Takalkar herself.
- The radio channel 94.3 FM took up the organisation's work under the CSR wing and RJ Rohit today is the brand ambassador for the NGO.





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Member



A Decade of Great Work

AARAMBH completes a glorious ten years, with many feathers to its hat. Being the first special school in the district, the organisation had a grand vision, and have been steadily walking the path towards the same with a strong team and a great visionary like Mrs. Ambika Takalkar and other board members. With simple beginnings, the organisation has created waves that has drawn families from other parts of Maharashtra in seeking support for their children. Every victory has been appreciated and encouraged by the community and the local government. It takes a dynamic team to keep going to make it valuable for those who matter. The milestone achievement has successfully brought together like-minded people and created opportunities for learning, enhancement and overall growth.



They Walked the Journey with Us

The organisation is grateful to have prominent corporate houses and organisations, who have funded various projects, events and work within the organisation. Apart from these, the organisation has had some local philanthropists who contribute from time to time in supporting the goals of AARAMBH. With continued support from the community, the parents, the students, the staff and the local government bodies, the organisation has passionately walked a brilliant decade and promises to achieve greater heights in the space of special needs.

Corporate Houses and Organisations

- **Bajaj Auto Limited**
- **Bajaj Finserv**
- **Endress and Hauser**
- **Dene Samajache Pune**
- **Lions Club of Aurangabad Icon**
- **Yeshshree Press Comps Pvt. Ltd**
- **Setco Spindles India Pvt. Ltd Pune**





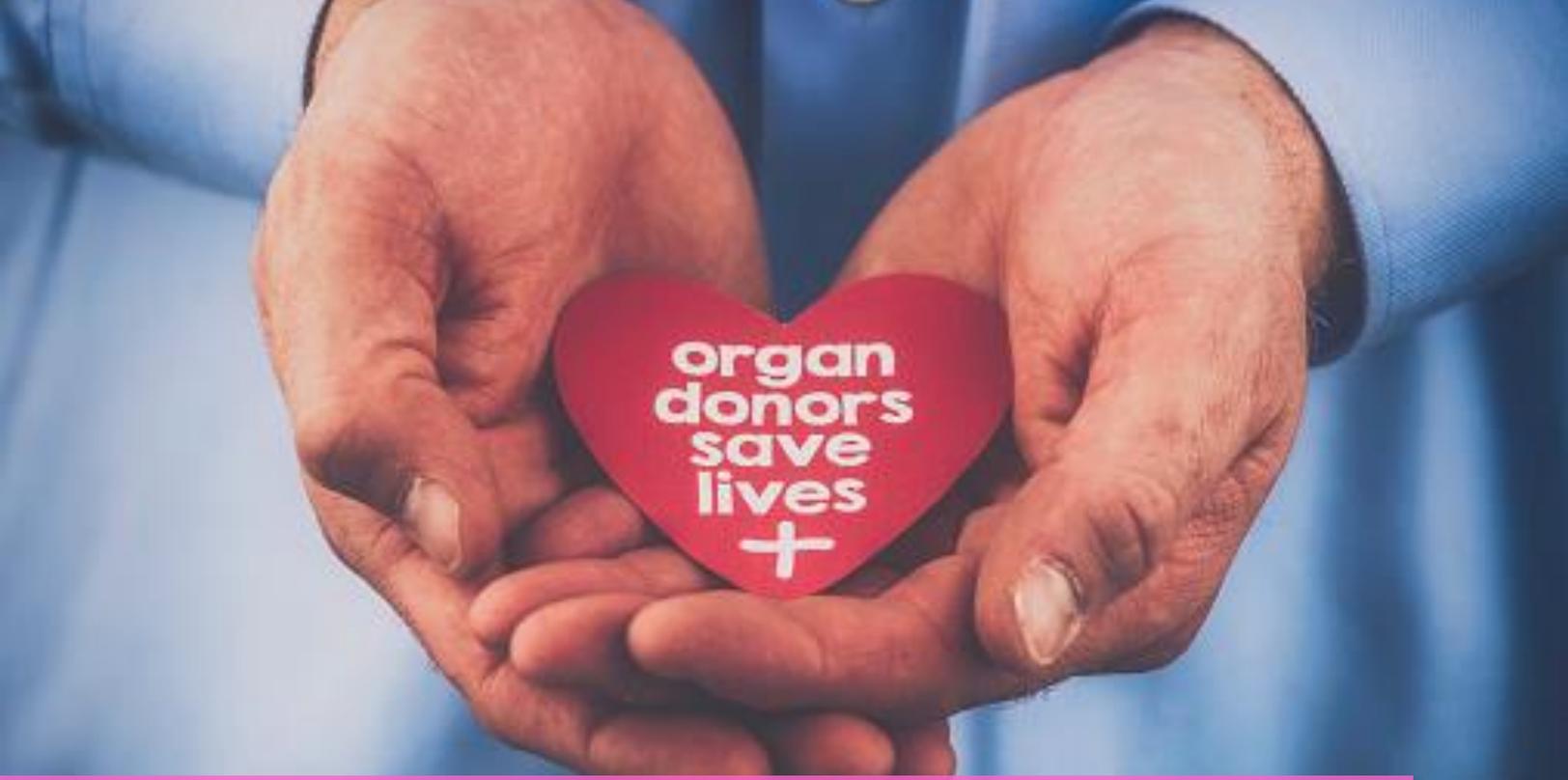
A Future to Cherish

The way forward is one that allows a vision to spread beyond the walls where it all started. And, that exactly is what AARAMBH decides to do. Apart from strengthening the current center, to include more students, the organisation envisages a small business setup that will help the adult student with Autism. The concept of the refreshment and café business in Aurangabad is aimed at providing both training and as well as employment to the students. As first of its kind in the city, the team is doing all the needed market analysis in order to make the project a huge success. The café will be run by adults with Autism, assisted by a professional cook and a help to ensure smooth functioning. With a decade of work and experience, a strong team requires a strong infrastructure to progress and reach out to more children. The organisation looks forward to opening a residential school to accommodate about 100 children with Autism with facilities like the gymnasium, swimming pool,



Conclusion

Every great work has a humble beginning. And that is exactly the story of AARAMBH. It has now become the organisation that best serves the children with disabilities in the district of Aurangabad. This has come to be, simply because of the hard work, dedication, perseverance of a visionary like Ms. Ambika Takalkar and her team. They say it takes a village to bring up a child, and AARAMBH has been raised by a whole community, that came to believe in its good work. From a center to now dreaming to having a residential setup, the vision has expanded beyond the walls and is all set to offer itself to communities beyond itself.



Donors List

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Donation Appeal

“Giving is not just about making a donation. It is about making a difference” - Kathy Calvin.

AARAMBH has had a brilliant journey over the past decade. It only gives us immense pleasure to share that we are growing, as well roll into the next decade ahead of us. With well-wishers like you, the step forward only gets stronger and confident. If you are willing to step along with us in our journey, here is the opportunity for us together make that difference.

Contribute towards the enhancement of AARAMBH’s work for the individuals with Autism and Slow Learners by making a donation, towards the organisation’s work. To make your generous contributions, use the bank details given below -

Aarambh Society for Autism and Slow Learner Children Aurangabad

Account No - 62244857159

IFSC Code - SBIN0021139

Bank Name - State Bank of India

Branch - Shahanoorwadi

AARAMBH Society for the Autistic and Slow Learner Children

Address: No 24 Mhada Colony, Aurangabad Maharashtra 847108

Gmail: aarambhautismcenter@gmail.com | ambikanidhu@gmail.com

Contact No: 8275284178

Website: www.aarambhtrust.in