

Art of Living steps up efforts to Empower the Specially-Abled People

Sri Sri to make an appeal on 3rd Dec 2014, International Day for Persons with Disabilities

Bangalore. December 3 2014: Team of Voice of Specially Abled People, Overseas Volunteers for Better India, recently met with Sri Sri in Chicago, wherein it was discussed that although many activities are happening, there is a felt need to step up efforts to create an inclusive society that protects rights of Specially Abled People and enables them to live an independent life with dignity. Subsequent to the UN convention for Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD, 2007) there has been significant focus and efforts by the global community to Empower Specially Abled People. As per planning commission of India, population of Persons with Disabilities is 6% i.e. 7 crore people needs to be empowered and with strong family bondage in our culture, essentially 7 crore families can be happier by stepping up focused efforts, initiating volunteer programs of Empowerment of Specially Abled People.

The Art of living Founder, Sri Sri Ravi Shankar firmly believes that everyone should perform their “Dharma” and contribute towards creating the inclusive society. India, our motherland has bestowed us, her children with blessings and a compassionate understanding of universal brotherhood. Our understanding that all Indians are brothers and sisters no matter where we hail from or how we look, has the underlying bonding principle that our happiness and sorrow, success and failures, pride and shame are all shared and we are there for each other in the time of need. Today as India is taking great strides in the fields of technological advances, economic development and social transformation, Sri Sri would like that we all make a conscious effort to include the Specially Abled People of India and their integration in our everyday life, make it a priority.

On Dec 3, International Day for Persons with Disabilities, Sri Sri will like to announce 3 initiatives that the AOL family will like to undertake

1. Provide counselling services to help Specially Abled People. Primarily to provide them information about their rights, several welfare and empowerment schemes, connect with appropriate people, government department and NGOs for specific service or solution that can be delivered to empower them
2. Capacity Building across the country upto village level wherein “Sarpanch”, elected head of village is made aware about the issues and solutions of Specially Abled People and how they can ensure that village becomes inclusive, respectful of their needs and individual aspirations beyond food so that they become independent
3. Launch donation program to provide aids and equipment (hearing aid, tricycle, artificial limbs, calipers, smart cane etc.) through global donations so that basic empowerment, mobility can be achieved

Rashmi Paliwal, Senior faculty and trustee with one of the Art of Living trusts has done remarkable work in the garment sector for people with special needs & has received the first Helen Keller award.

On Dec 3, Sri Sri will like to appeal to all the leaders (elected, corporate, social, religious, media) in India to take steps (provide employment, education, healthcare, create accessible buildings, websites, conduct research etc.) that will Empower the Specially Abled people. Together all these decision makers and leaders can use their positive influence on their people and followers to guide them in the direction of a barrier-free, equal opportunity and inclusive society for the Specially Abled People.