

## **ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2020-21**

We would like to introduce Parivaar Sahyadri, the Apex Council of Parents of Persons with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (PwIDDs). This is a State Federation of Parents' Associations and non-profit organizations working in the sector of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. Parivaar Sahyadri has 47 member organizations spread across the state of Maharashtra. The federation does advocacy to empower, secure rights and improve the quality of life of Persons with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and their families.

As far as activities relating to National Trust Schemes are concerned we implement Niramaya Health Insurance Scheme only. The federation does not manage or run any special school, children's home or workshop, etc.

As on today we have 639 Persons with Autism, CP, Intellectual Disability and MD enrolled for Niramaya Health Insurance Scheme through Parivaar Sahyadri.

Due to lockdown we could not conduct any activity physically, however we could conduct following programs for self advocates virtually.

### **VIDEO CONFERENCES FOR SELF ADVOCATES**

Video conference was held on Sunday, 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2020 exclusively for self advocates to share their experiences during lockdown. Fifteen SAs spoke during the VC. They spoke so well, confidently and in very simple way. Every SA was happy and involved. This was like a dream coming true for many SAs, SAFI and also of Parivaar. There were 100 complete attendees and few were waiting outside the room, but 100 was the limit. This VC continued for over two hours.

Second VC was held on 26<sup>th</sup> Sept 2020. This was the second edition of the series of VC for SAs. This time the topic was, "My Rights and My Responsibilities". During this VC 90 SAs participated and 33 SAs spoke. . Every SA spoke clearly. This conference was lasted for almost three hours.

### **CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAM BY COGNIZANT FOR SELF ADVOCATES**

On request by SAFI and Parivaar, IT giant Cognizant Tech Solutions arranged Capacity Building Program for self advocates. Volunteers from Cognizant commenced the program virtually from 31<sup>st</sup> Oct 2020. As part of this project the Google form was shared on various groups. Orientation of volunteer trainers from Cognizant was held on 20<sup>th</sup> Oct 2020.

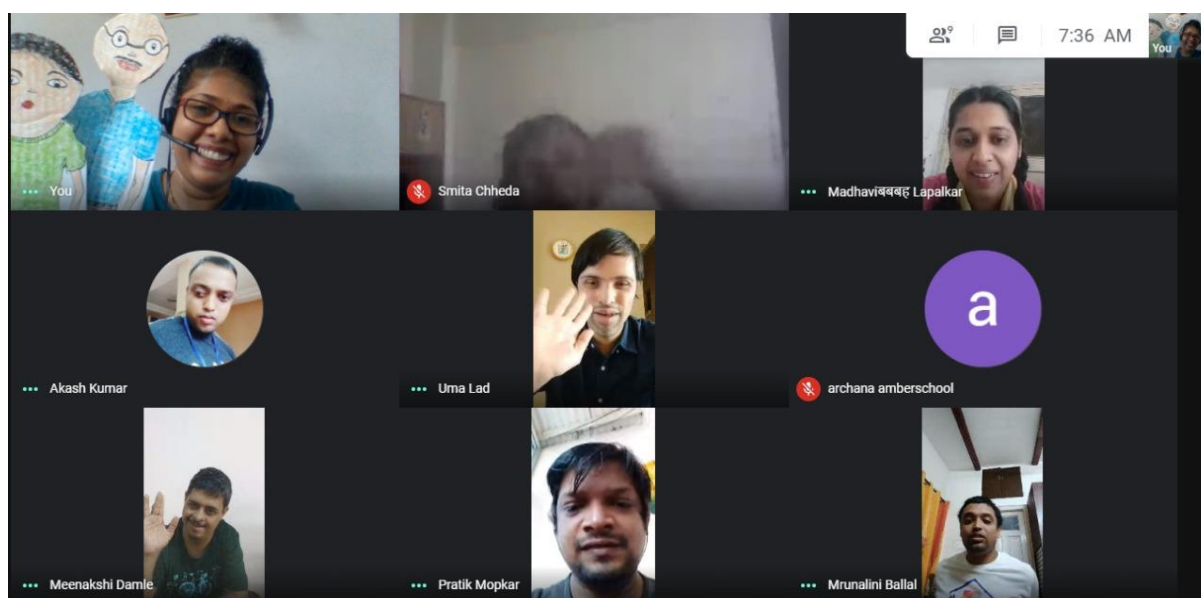
Six groups of self advocates were formed and each group is attended by one volunteer from the Cognizant Tech Solutions. There are 5/6 self advocates in each group. The volunteers from Cognizant interact with self advocates as a group as well as individually. The program is conducted for one hour every Saturday. Volunteers play games, celebrate festivals and birthdays of self advocates, tell them stories and ask self advocates questions based on

stories, show self advocates pictures and ask them to create their own story, now teaching of English Grammar is in progress.

Initially Self advocates were quite but slowly they opened up and now interacting with trainers freely. They have been enjoying sessions very much with full enthusiasm. Miss Shilpa and Mr Darwn from Cognizant have been putting in tireless efforts and coordinating with participants and volunteer trainers. Because of their efforts passionate trainers are able to conduct the sessions successfully. The volunteer trainers are amazing. They come to the level of self advocates to get connected with them. The program is a great success.

Self advocates learned a lot and some parents are amazed by their happiness and progress. The Cognizant volunteers who took the virtual classes were so much moved and each one said that “they learned much more from self-advocates than they taught them”

This entire program has been an eye opener both for Parivaar and Cognizant.



## **PARTICIPATION OF SELF ADVOCATES IN INTERNATIONAL EVENTS**

### **International Self-Advocacy Summit**

Mr Pranay Burde along with his father participated in online Global Summit of self advocates on 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec 2020. The summit was organized by Inclusion International. 250 Self-advocates from around the world participated and some shared their self-advocacy successes. The Summit was planned and hosted by self-advocates. All of the speakers were self-advocate leaders from the Inclusion International network. They had small group discussions and spoke about themselves and their work.

### **Webinar on Create International Guidelines on Inclusion, Support and Participation of People with ID in the Work of Organizations.**

Mr Pranay Burde and Mr PS Burde attended this webinar that was jointly organized by Inclusion International and Down Syndrome International on 4<sup>th</sup> Dec 2020.

At the global level there are international standards for accessibility and accommodation for other forms of disabilities but there are no internationally recognised standards or guidelines for people with intellectual disabilities. The objective of this event was to provide a platform to share the challenges faced by people with intellectual disabilities to be included in the work of organisations, to introduce the work to develop the guidelines ***Listen, Include, Respect***. Discussions were focused on why were these guidelines important, what types of support and adjustments help people with intellectual disabilities to be included and how can UN Agencies adapt their work to make it inclusive of people with intellectual disabilities

### **Webinar on Families Taking Action on Inclusion by Inclusion International**

Pranay along with his parents and Prof. Koyatti from Kerala attended online summit on “Families Taking Action on Inclusion” on 8<sup>th</sup> Dec 2020. The summit was organised by Inclusion International as a part of celebrating strengthening vibrant family movement for inclusion of persons with intellectual disabilities. The summit program was arranged in three sessions.

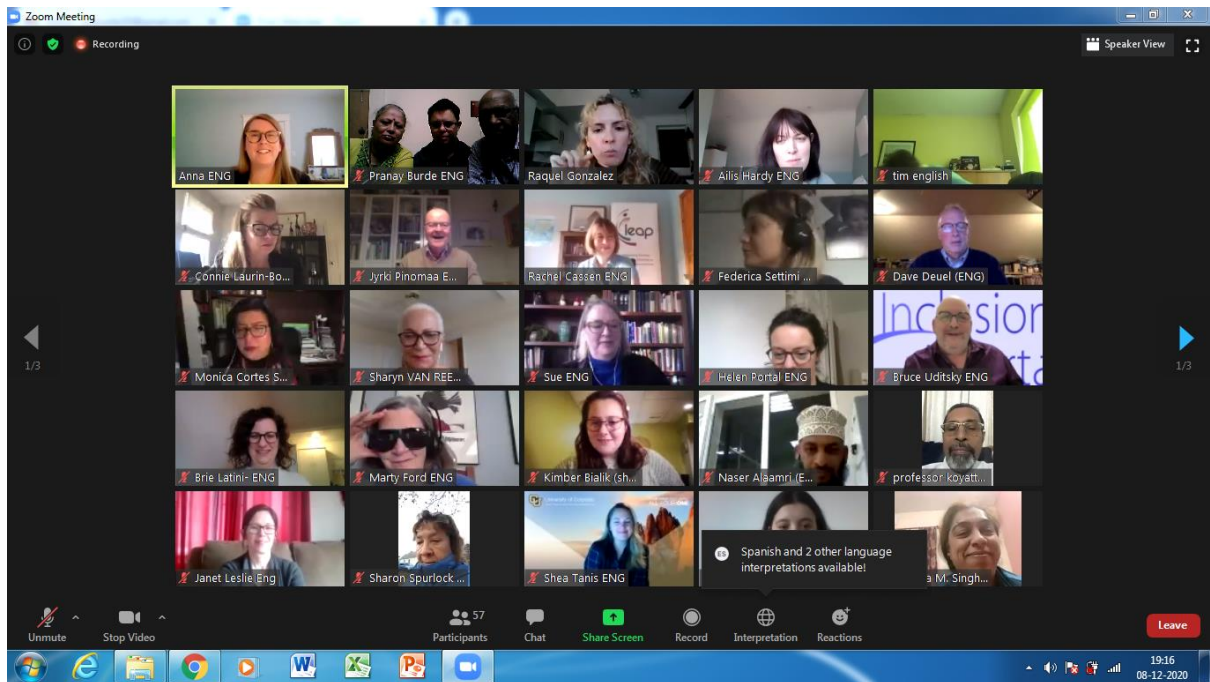
First session was a plenary session where 68 family members like parents and siblings across the globe participated. Mr. Gerard Quinn, UN Special Rapporteur, Mrs Sue Swenson President of Inclusion International spoke on the occasion.

During second session participants were divided in small groups with 5 to 10 participants in each group with a facilitator in each group. Participants spoke about present situation in their countries on actions by families for inclusion, what opportunities are available in their countries, measures to be a happy family, access to information, what families do to bring social change, etc.

Last session was a plenary session where all groups came together. The facilitators explained the issues discussed in their groups.

The Summit highlighted the importance of voice of families. Inclusion International is celebrating Inclusion International’s 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The Summit explored how families can remain connected around the world and how that connection can lead families to take action.

Three families from India also participated. Burde family was the only family joined the summit with three members of the family. Mrs. Sue Swenson, President of Inclusion International made a special mention of this in her concluding remarks. The summit lasted for over two hours.



*Prakash Bhalgat*

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President