

EXPANSION

2009

(You and the Disabled)
UDIS
Forum
Use their Skills • Light their Lives



Annual Report

With support from



Introduction



I am happy to meet our friends and well wishers once again through this annual report. We called our first annual report (2007) by name "Conviction" implying that the office bearers of the UDIS Forum were determined that a network of parents, persons with disabilities, professionals and voluntary organisations could be formed to provide quality services for persons

with disabilities. I made a statement during the formation of the UDIS Forum that the test for any organisation lies during the first 1000 days of its operation and reiterated that everyone needed to work with conviction towards the network concept and that was exemplified through our first annual report. With the strong conviction with the network concept, we used "synergy" as the tool to enrich our services and the statement of CBM that "together we can do more" became the mission in building team spirit among different stakeholders. We believed that Disabled Peoples' Organisations (DPOs) and Parents Organisations are key players in the network concept and started bringing them together to have synergy in services. As narrated in our annual report 2008, which we called by the title "Synergy", we could succeed in strengthening DPOs and Parents organisations and this helped us in expanding the concept in various regions. In the process, we reached out to more DPOs, Parents' Forums, Government agencies, International Non-Governmental Organisations, Universities and institutes of higher education, voluntary organisations, etc., and therefore, the current annual report is titled as "Expansion."

Having known the efficacy of the network concept, the Sightsavers International came forward to work with the UDIS Forum to expand the network in different locations in South India. To begin with the UDIS Network concept will be expanded in five regions in Tamil Nadu and Kerala in 2010 where the Sightsavers partner organisations are involved. The CBM, which is the main supporter of the UDIS Forum activities, is proposing to expand to five additional areas. With this expansion, we are sure the forum activities will reach out to more persons with disabilities in the years to come. As youth of higher education institutes are closely involved with the UDIS Forum through its Youth Wing, we reached out to the Universities to create awareness about the capabilities of persons with disabilities. During 2009, we worked with the Bharathiar University, Bharathidasan University and Periyar Maniammai University to involve youth force towards disability services and the results are rewarding. Thousands of youngsters are coming forward to work for the cause of disability and this ownership by the

youth community for disability services is a great step forward in empowering persons with disabilities.

The UDIS Forum worked with the Vazhnthu Kattuvom Project (VKP) of the Government of Tamil Nadu in orienting its project officers about the employment opportunities for persons with disabilities. The Forum was also asked to submit a plan for incorporating Vocational Training and Employability Skills in their programmes to increase the job potentials of persons with disabilities, and the Forum has already initiated discussions on the modus operandi to provide technical guidance to the VKP project sites.

Our representatives went to different places in the State of Tamil Nadu and interacted with various organisations to establish networks for creating employment opportunities for persons with disabilities and the results are rewarding. The UDIS Forum is just serving as a catalyst and the local organisations are owning the services for persons with disabilities, that ensure long-term sustainability. I need to make special reference to one such initiative of UDIS Forum with Grama Udhayam, an NGO serving in Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu. This organisation works with 6,000 Self-Help Groups and we generated interest in them to focus their attention in the disability field too. We started providing technical assistance in establishing such services and we are happy to inform our readers that this organisation has created its own cell for Disability Services within six months and currently providing guidance to more than 600 persons with disabilities in the region. It has already initiated employment generating programmes, community based rehabilitation, marriage counselling, etc., and the force behind this ownership is Sri Sundaresan, its Managing Trustee. We are wondering how an enlightened individual can make a difference in the lives of persons with disabilities and in this context, the UDIS Forum is happy that it is continuing to work as a catalyst.

Towards the end of 2009, we shifted to our new office premises with increased staff. Caliber, an organisation working for persons with locomotor disabilities in Coimbatore is also operating from the new premises and we are proposing to reach out to more DPOs, Parents' Organisations, Youth and Networks in the years to come.

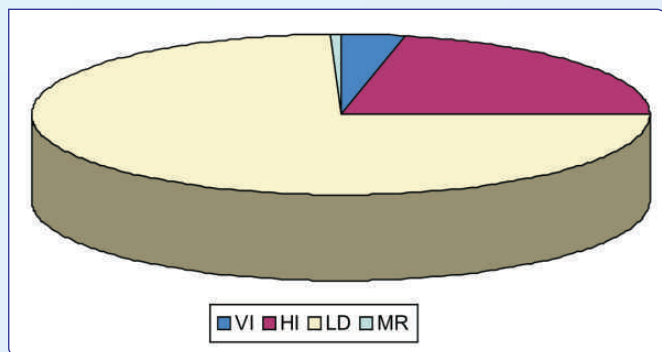
I thank all the sincere and dedicated staff of the UDIS Forum who are the backbone of our "Expansion." CBM continues to nurture this network concept and we are happy that disability movement is reaching out to the masses and we shall strive to motivate them to assume ownership for such services, thereby the concept of inclusion is demonstrated in every sense.

Dr. M.N.G. Mani

*Founder-President, UDIS Forum and
Secretary General, International Council for Education of
People with Visual Impairment*

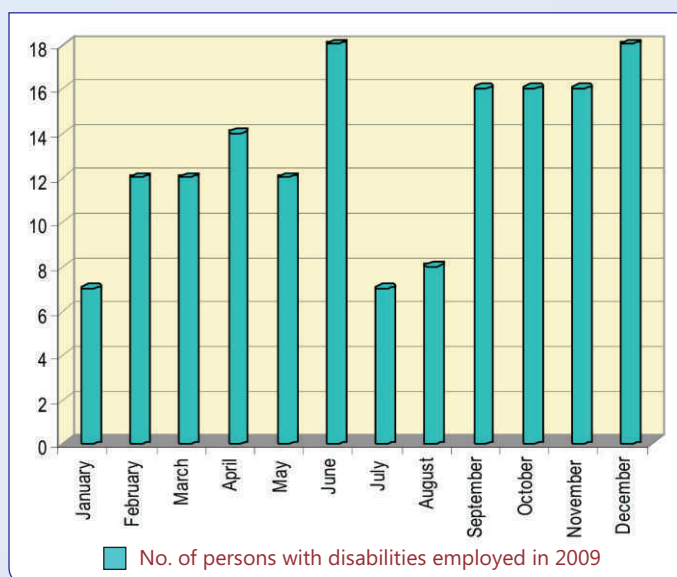
Employment Guidance Programme

The UDIS Forum assisted a total of 156 persons with disabilities in securing employment in different firms during January - December 2009.



| S.No. | Type of Disability | No. of PWDs |
|--------------|----------------------|-------------|
| 1. | Visual Impairment | 05 |
| 2. | Hearing Impairment | 34 |
| 3. | Locomotor Disability | 116 |
| 4. | Mentally Retarded | 01 |
| Total | | 156 |

| S. No. | Month | Number of PWDs Employed |
|--------------|-----------|-------------------------|
| 1. | January | 07 |
| 2. | February | 12 |
| 3. | March | 12 |
| 4. | April | 14 |
| 5. | May | 12 |
| 6. | June | 18 |
| 7. | July | 07 |
| 8. | August | 08 |
| 9. | September | 16 |
| 10. | October | 16 |
| 11. | November | 16 |
| 12. | December | 18 |
| TOTAL | | 156 |



UDIS PLACED EMPLOYEES' MEET - 2009

A meeting of persons with disabilities, who were provided placement in industries with the initiative of the UDIS Forum, was organised on March 29, 2009 at BMN Kalyana Mandapam, Coimbatore. The UDIS Forum had placed 289 persons with disabilities during 2007 and 2008. 160 employed persons with disabilities and 76 parents attended the meeting. The employed PWDs narrated their working experiences and how the jobs contributed to their economic independence. They also profusely thanked the UDIS Forum for getting them such an opportunity.

Dr. M.N.G. Mani appealed to the employed PWDs to improve their skills by utilizing the free training programmes available from various agencies, help the fellow PWDs in getting placement in their own company or in other places known to them, and enrich their knowledge in the field of education. He also appreciated the services of DPOs and stressed the role of parents' organisations in the welfare of persons with disabilities.

Mr. L. Sivasamy, Assistant Director, District Employment Office, Coimbatore felicitated the gathering. Mr. S.S. Siva, Vice President (Admin.), UDIS Forum and Mr. H. Samson, Secretary, UDIS Forum addressed the meeting urging upon the employed PWDs to adjust with the working environment and show their excellence in work in order to convince the employers that PWDs can also demonstrate better performance which will help other PWDs to get jobs easily.

Mr. Surya Nagappan, President, CALIBER, Mr. R. Srinivasan, President, ARVIC, and Mr. S. Samarasapandian, Vice President, SAARATHY - PAMMAC attended the meet representing Disabled Peoples' Organisations and Parents' Organisation.



Employed persons with disabilities speak...



Thangavel, N.

Kangeyampalayam, Coimbatore

I lost my hearing and speaking skills at a very early age. I could not complete 10th standard but managed to learn basic computer handling. I came to know about the services of UDIS Forum through one of my friends and got registered with it. Within a short span of time I got a computer based job with a salary of Rs. 3000/- per month. My working time is only from 3 p.m. to 10 p.m. which is very convenient for me. I am extremely grateful to the UDIS Forum for getting me this opportunity.



Santhamani, P.

Ramanathapuram, Coimbatore

I have completed 12th standard and my left leg is dysfunctional. I have also learnt Office Secretaryship with Accountancy and office management. When I came to renew my employment identity card I was told about UDIS Forum. Then I got registered with UDIS Forum and through the Forum's effort got a job as Computer Assistant in CADD Soft Technology. Now I am earning Rs.3500/- per month and I extend my heartfelt gratitude to them.



Muralidaran, M.

Velandipalayam, Coimbatore

I lost my hearing and speaking skills at a very young age. I have passed 10th standard and have some knowledge in computers. I got registered in UDIS Forum and now working in Annai Infotech. I am earning Rs.4000/- per month and it is of great help to my family. I extend my gratitude to UDIS Forum for making me self sufficient and self reliant.



Ajimunnishah, K.

Coimbatore

UDIS Forum is extending its help to disabled persons like me in giving scholarship, employment and other assistance. I got a job in National Adventure and Leadership School through this Forum. I enjoy my job and this was made possible for me only because of UDIS Forum. My job is a very good platform for me to improve my computer skills.

Working with Organisations of Parents and Persons with Disabilities

ENTREPRENEURS CLUB (E-CLUB)



To promote self employment scheme among persons with disabilities, an Entrepreneurs Club (E – Club) of persons with disabilities was launched at a meeting jointly organized by CALIBER and the Department of Medium, Small, and Micro Entrepreneurs (MSME), Government of India on February 17, 2009 at Coimbatore. Mr. S.S. Siva gave a talk on UDIS Forum and its networking concept.

TRAINING PROGRAMME ON BRAILLE



On the eve of the bicentennial year of Louis Braille, the UDIS Forum, in association with ARVIC (Association for Rights of the Visually Challenged) conducted a 20 hours training programme on Braille for general public from March 7 to April 9, 2009. 13 participants attended the training which was conducted during weekends. The prime aim of

the training was to create awareness on Braille and to stress the importance of education of children with visual impairment. Of the 13 participants, 10 were psychology students undergoing graduate level course, 2 were employees of a workshop and one was a housewife offering voluntary services to the needy.

The training programme comprised of both reading and writing Braille and the participants were offered hands-on training. By the end of the training all the participants were conversant with both Braille reading and writing and opined that they would be able to offer a much better service to the persons with visual impairment, henceforth.

The valediction of the training programme held on April 9, 2009 was presided over by Dr. M.N.G. Mani who reiterated the need for volunteerism especially among the college students, for a greater reach out and quality oriented services to persons with visual impairment. Mr. Balaji, Managing Director, AES Technologies Ltd., gave away the certificates. The function was also attended by Mr. S.S. Siva and Mr. R. Srinivasan.

SELF ADVOCACY TRAINING FOR CHILDREN WITH MENTAL RETARDATION

The UDIS Forum, in association with the SAARATHY PAMMAC, an association of parents of children with mental retardation, conducted one week training on Self Advocacy for Children with Mental Retardation at Star Special School, Singanallur from March 22 to 28, 2009. The main objective of the training programme was to create independence and to develop leadership skills among the children of fifteen years and above with mental retardation. More than 80 children with mental retardation were interviewed and 23 children who were good in self care were selected for the training programme. The week long residential training involved several



WORKSHOP ON DISABILITY RIGHTS AND LAW

UDIS Forum facilitated representatives of Disabled Peoples' Organizations in Coimbatore region and a few other places in Tamil Nadu to participate in the two days residential workshop on "Disability Rights and Law" held on April 3 and 4, 2009 at KKID, Coimbatore. It was conducted by Human Rights Law Network (HRLN) and sponsored by CBM SARO(S), Bangalore. Mr. S.S. Siva, Vice President and Mr. S. Sekaran represented the UDIS Forum at this workshop.

activities like yoga, group activities, visit to schools etc.

The inaugural function was held on March 22, 2009 at the Star Special School. Dr. M.N.G. Mani presided and inaugurated the programme when he stressed on the importance of creating leaders among the mentally retarded. Mrs. Usha Visveswaran, President, SAARATHY PAMMAC, Mr. Vijay Kant, Chief Operation Manager, PARIVAAR-NFPA, Sr. Arokiya Mary, Principal, Star Special School and Mr. S. Samarasapandian also addressed the gathering.

For the valediction held on March 28, 2009, Mr. L. Sivasamy was the chief guest. The function was fully conducted by the children with mental retardation without any assistance from the teachers. As an outcome of the training programme, a self advocacy forum of persons with mental retardation was started under the name Self Advocacy Society of India (SASI).



ONE DAY STATE LEVEL WORKSHOP ON VISUALLY CHALLENGED TEACHERS WORKING IN REGULAR SCHOOLS – PROBLEMS AND PERSPECTIVES

To promote advocacy and employment opportunities for the visually challenged, UDIS Forum and Association for the Rights of the Visually Challenged (ARVIC), organized a state level workshop on "Visually Challenged Working Teachers – Problems and Perspectives" on August 23, 2009 at Govt. College of Education, Coimbatore.

Inaugurating the programme, Dr. M.N.G. Mani encouraged the teachers to conduct effective communication skills programmes, especially for the visually challenged persons. A total of 22 working visually challenged teachers from various districts participated in this workshop. In the afternoon session, the participants were divided into four groups; each group had recommended suggestions to overcome the problems that are faced by them while teaching school students.



Training and Employment Network with Non-Governmental Organisations (TENNGO)

UDIS – GRAMA UDHAYAM PROJECT



UDIS - GRAMA UDHAYAM Extension Service project for training and placement services to persons with disabilities in rural areas of Tirunelveli district was launched on January 24, 2009 at Gopalamudram, Tirunelveli district. Dr. M.N.G. Mani launching the joint project, stressed on the importance of employment for person with disabilities. As a part of the project, a computer centre was also started on the same day for imparting training in computer skills to the educated persons with disabilities in the rural areas. A total of 9 persons enrolled themselves in the first batch and they were trained in basics of computer as well as DTP from February to August 2009. All of them were issued with certificates, after an external evaluation and were also placed in jobs. Another batch of 6 students commenced their training in September 2009.

PROJECT EMPOWERED

Project EMPOWERED is a joint venture of the UDIS Forum with Dr. P.G.V. Charitable Trust which is engaged in educational and health services for the PWDs in Coimbatore, especially the hearing impaired. Tailoring courses are conducted under the Project since 2008. The third batch of six months tailoring course under the PROJECT EMPOWERED was started in March 2009. Presently 12 persons



with disabilities are undergoing tailoring course under this project and 6 persons with hearing impairment are being given in-service training in garment designing under the guidance of experts from garment industry.

SIGHTSAVERS INTERNATIONAL - UDIS FORUM NETWORKING WORKSHOP



A UDIS – SSI network meeting was arranged for Non Governmental Organizations from Tamil Nadu and 3 existing SSI Partners, in Coimbatore on July 1, 2009. The meeting was attended by representatives of 28 NGOs already working in disability sector or willing to work for the disabled and there were representatives from Disabled Peoples' Organisations also, which are associated with the UDIS Forum. Welcoming the gathering, Dr. M.N.G. Mani narrated the network concept in the field of

Disability Services. He insisted on “coming out of Institution based services” to join the network for the common objective of providing effective services in education, skill training, awareness creation, advocacy, and employment opportunities to persons with disabilities. Mr. S.S. Siva explained the strategies successfully being pursued by the UDIS Forum in Coimbatore Region. The concept and strategy adopted by Sightsavers International, its system of project implementation and area coverage in India were described by Mr. Sabitra Kundu and Ms. Shweta, Programme Officers from SSI and also by the 3 existing SSI partners. The Programme Officers explained the requirements expected from future partners of SSI and the similarities in concept between the SSI and the UDIS Forum. Five regional networks were created among the attended participants and they were requested to convene further meetings in their respective

regions by inviting as many local NGOs as possible for expanding the network. However they were requested to include as network members only those NGOs who are interested to facilitate training-cum-employment opportunities and advocacy for the persons with disabilities and to mobilize the youth power for this purpose. They were asked to send project proposals for their region after further discussions with other interested NGOs.

Subsequent to the above meeting, Mr. S.S. Siva and Mr. S. Sekaran attended the regional level meetings organized by the respective Lead Partners at Trichy (July 15), Madurai (July 20), Bargur (July 21), Sathyamangalam (July 24) and Tirunelveli (July 25). The NGOs and other stakeholders in those areas were explained about the UDIS concept, requested to strengthen the network and develop basic data bank of persons with disabilities in their areas.

UDIS Forum Administrative Office Inauguration

The inauguration of the new Administrative Office of UDIS Forum was held on December 14, 2009 at No.18/17, Thadagm Road, Luna Nagar, Coimbatore – 641 025. Mrs. Gunawathy Fernandez, Regional Director, CBM SARO(S) inaugurated the new office premises and delivered inaugural address, in which she stressed upon the importance of networking and encouraged the UDIS Forum to replicate the concept in other regions too. Dr. M.N.G. Mani presiding over the function mentioned about the background for the



inception of UDIS Forum three years ago and the milestones crossed so far. He also thanked the Trustees and staff of UDIS Forum and the network members for their unstinted cooperation. Dr. Muthulakshmi Visvanathan, Managing Trustee, Dr. P.G.V. Charitable Trust, Mr. Arjunan, Head, Department of Social Work, CSI Bishop Appasamy College of Arts and Science Mr. L. Sivasamy and several others graced the occasion.

■ Marga-Schulze Scholarship Scheme for promoting Higher Education of girls with visual impairment

The certificate evaluation and interview to select girl students for Marga – Schulze Scholarship for the year 2009-10 was conducted in Avinashilingam University for Women, Coimbatore on November 10 and 11, 2009. Around 70 visually impaired girls from three states, Tamilnadu, Karnataka & Andhra Pradesh took part in the interview. Dr. M.N.G. Mani gave a special address to the students about the



scholarship scheme and motivated the students to acquire knowledge on computer handling which gives them a chance to get free laptop under the scheme. Also the Chancellor of Avinashilingam University, Mr. Shanmuganandham made his presence during the programme and gave his assurance to render help to the visually impaired girls. The interview mainly concentrated on four aspects, Braille Reading & Writing skills, Orientation & Mobility, Communication Skills and Certificate Evaluation. The Braille and Mobility tests were conducted by the Special Education staff of Avinashilingam University and Certificate Evaluation was done by Mr. S.S. Siva and other staff of UDIS Forum. A total of 115 girls with visual impairment (including the renewal cases) from the states of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu were awarded scholarships during the academic year under the scheme:-

List of Beneficiaries under Marga-Schulze Scholarship Scheme (2009-2010)

| S. No. | Name of the Student | Course | Institution | State |
|--------|---------------------|--------------|---|------------|
| 1 | Sailakshmi, P | I B.A. (Eng) | A.M Jain College, Chennai | Tamil Nadu |
| 2 | Sneha, N | I B.A. (Eng) | Avinashilingam University for Women, Coimbatore | Tamil Nadu |
| 3 | Vani, M | I B.A. (Eng) | Avinashilingam University for Women, Coimbatore | Tamil Nadu |
| 4 | Fathima Sajidha, R | I B.A. (Eng) | Avinashilingam University for Women, Coimbatore | Tamil Nadu |
| 5 | Nivethitha, T | I B.A. (Eng) | Avinashilingam University for Women, Coimbatore | Tamil Nadu |
| 6 | Jansi Rani, K | I B.A. (Eng) | Ethiraj College for Women, Chennai | Tamil Nadu |
| 7 | Mariammal, T | I B.A. (Eng) | Kunthavai Naachiyar Govt. Arts College for Women, Tanjore | Tamil Nadu |
| 8 | Vijayalakshmi, P | I B.A. (Eng) | NMS SVN College, Madurai | Tamil Nadu |
| 9 | Vithya, V | I B.A. (Eng) | NMS SVN College, Madurai | Tamil Nadu |
| 10 | Anitha, K | I B.A. (Eng) | Presidency College, Chennai | Tamil Nadu |
| 11 | Poongodi, R | I B.A. (Eng) | Quaid - E - Millat Govt. College for Women, Chennai | Tamil Nadu |
| 12 | Rebekka, M | I B.A. (Eng) | Quaid - E - Millat Govt. College for Women, Chennai | Tamil Nadu |
| 13 | Mala, A | I B.A. (Eng) | Quaid - E - Millat Govt. College for Women, Chennai | Tamil Nadu |
| 14 | Shyamala, K | I B.A. (Eng) | Quaid - E - Millat Govt. College for Women, Chennai | Tamil Nadu |
| 15 | Kannaki, R | I B.A. (Eng) | Quaid - E - Millat Govt. College for Women, Chennai | Tamil Nadu |
| 16 | Selvi, A | I B.A. (Eng) | Quaid - E - Millat Govt. College for Women, Chennai | Tamil Nadu |
| 17 | Suganya, P | I B.A. (Eng) | Quaid - E - Millat Govt. College for Women, Chennai | Tamil Nadu |
| 18 | Sakthi Nandini, P | I B.A. (Eng) | Stella Maris College, Chennai | Tamil Nadu |
| 19 | Nithya, S | I B.A. (Eng) | Voorhees College of Arts, Vellore | Tamil Nadu |

| S. No. | Name of the Student | Course | Institution | State |
|--------|---------------------|------------------|---|----------------|
| 20 | Athilakshmi, S | I B.A. (His) | C.B.M. College of Arts and Science, Coimbatore | Tamil Nadu |
| 21 | Bhavani, A | I B.A. (His) | Queen Mary's College, Chennai | Tamil Nadu |
| 22 | Sumathi, P | I B.A. (His) | Queen Mary's College, Chennai | Tamil Nadu |
| 23 | Stella Mary, S | I B.A. (Music) | Avinashilingam University for Women, Coimbatore | Tamil Nadu |
| 24 | Mahalakshmi, V | I B.A. (Tamil) | Avinashilingam University for Women, Coimbatore | Tamil Nadu |
| 25 | Hemavathi, S | I B.A. (Tamil) | Avinashilingam University for Women, Coimbatore | Tamil Nadu |
| 26 | Jeyalakshmi, S | I B.A. (Tamil) | Avinashilingam University for Women, Coimbatore | Tamil Nadu |
| 27 | Rani, G | I B.A. (Tamil) | Chellammal Women's College, Chennai | Tamil Nadu |
| 28 | Pounthai, P | I B.A. (Tamil) | Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai | Tamil Nadu |
| 29 | Nathiya, N | I B.A. (Tamil) | Presidency College, Chennai | Tamil Nadu |
| 30 | Kalaiarasi, S | I B.A. (Tamil) | Presidency College, Chennai | Tamil Nadu |
| 31 | Chitra, T | I B.A. (Tamil) | Quaid - E - Millat Govt. College for Women, Chennai | Tamil Nadu |
| 32 | Kalaiyarasi, R | I B.A. (Tamil) | Quaid - E - Millat Govt. College for Women, Chennai | Tamil Nadu |
| 33 | Kalpana, K | I B.A. (Tamil) | Queen Mary's College, Chennai | Tamil Nadu |
| 34 | Dharani, S | I B.A. (Tamil) | Queen Mary's College, Chennai | Tamil Nadu |
| 35 | Vasanthi, S | I B.A. (Tamil) | Sri Meenakshi Govt. College for Women, Madurai | Tamil Nadu |
| 36 | Peddina Kameswari | I B.A. (Tel) | O.U. College for Women, Hyderabad | Andhra Pradesh |
| 37 | Eleeza Souza | I B.A. (HENGSG) | Jyothi Nivas College, Bangalore | Karnataka |
| 38 | Subhashakthi, M | II B.A. (Eng) | Avinashilingam University for Women, Coimbatore | Tamil Nadu |
| 39 | Dhanalakshmi, R | II B.A. (Eng) | Avinashilingam University for Women, Coimbatore | Tamil Nadu |
| 40 | Akilandeswari, M | II B.A. (Eng) | Avinashilingam University for Women, Coimbatore | Tamil Nadu |
| 41 | Niveditha, A | II B.A. (Eng) | Presidency College, Chennai | Tamil Nadu |
| 42 | Divya, R | II B.A. (Eng) | Sri Saradha College for Women, Salem | Tamil Nadu |
| 43 | Beno Zephine, N.L | II B.A. (Eng) | Stella Maris College, Chennai | Tamil Nadu |
| 44 | Uma Maheswari, S | II B.A. (His) | Quaid - E - Millat Govt. College for Women, Chennai | Tamil Nadu |
| 45 | Parasakthi, P | II B.A. (His) | Queen Mary's College, Chennai | Tamil Nadu |
| 46 | Thenmozhi, E | II B.A. (Pol) | Presidency College, Chennai | Tamil Nadu |
| 47 | Suthamani, M | II B.A. (Tamil) | Avinashilingam University for Women, Coimbatore | Tamil Nadu |
| 48 | Bavani, P | II B.A. (Tamil) | Avinashilingam University for Women, Coimbatore | Tamil Nadu |
| 49 | Sivasankari, E | II B.A. (Tamil) | Govt. Arts College, Dharmapuri | Tamil Nadu |
| 50 | Narayana Vadivu, S | II B.A. (Tamil) | Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai | Tamil Nadu |
| 51 | Vidhya, P | II B.A. (Tamil) | Presidency College, Chennai | Tamil Nadu |
| 52 | Bhuvanewari, M | II B.A. (Tamil) | Queen Mary's College, Chennai | Tamil Nadu |
| 53 | Rani, B | II B.A. (Tamil) | Queen Mary's College, Chennai | Tamil Nadu |
| 54 | Niroja, J | II B.A. (Tamil) | Queen Mary's College, Chennai | Tamil Nadu |
| 55 | Rama, A | II B.A. (Tamil) | Sri Meenakshi Govt. College for Women, Madurai | Tamil Nadu |
| 56 | Nakkal Jayamma | II B.A. (HPP) | Vivekananda Govt. Degree College, Hyderabad | Andhra Pradesh |
| 57 | Bhagyalaxmi, P | II B.A. (HPP) | Vivekananda Govt. Degree College, Hyderabad | Andhra Pradesh |
| 58 | Saritha, M | II B.A. (HTP) | Nizam College, Hyderabad | Andhra Pradesh |
| 59 | Pallavi, S.J | II B.A. (HEE) | DVS College of Arts & Science, Shimoga | Karnataka |
| 60 | Sheeba Bai, A | II BBM | St. Philomena's College, Mysore | Karnataka |
| 61 | Jayanthi, P | III B.A. (Eng) | Avinashilingam University for Women, Coimbatore | Tamil Nadu |
| 62 | Baby, K | III B.A. (Eng) | Avinashilingam University for Women, Coimbatore | Tamil Nadu |
| 63 | Kemil Fernando, L | III B.A. (Eng) | Avinashilingam University for Women, Coimbatore | Tamil Nadu |
| 64 | Anthony Selvi, B | III B.A. (Eng) | Ethiraj College for Women, Chennai | Tamil Nadu |
| 65 | Poongothai, M | III B.A. (Tamil) | Avinashilingam University for Women, Coimbatore | Tamil Nadu |
| 66 | Nalayiram, R | III B.A. (Tamil) | Avinashilingam University for Women, Coimbatore | Tamil Nadu |
| 67 | Kavitha, S | III B.A. (Tamil) | Avinashilingam University for Women, Coimbatore | Tamil Nadu |
| 68 | Jeevamani, C | III B.A. (Tamil) | Government Arts College, Coimbatore | Tamil Nadu |

| S. No. | Name of the Student | Course | Institution | State |
|--------|---------------------|------------------|--|------------|
| 69 | Nithya, R | III B.A. (Tamil) | Sri Meenakshi Govt. College for Women, Madurai | Tamil Nadu |
| 70 | Deepa, S | III B.A. (Tamil) | Sri Meenakshi Govt. College for Women, Madurai | Tamil Nadu |
| 71 | Asha, S | III B.A. (HEE) | DVS College of Arts & Science, Shimoga | Karnataka |
| 72 | Maheswari, K | I M.A. (Eng) | Avinashilingam University for Women, Coimbatore | Tamil Nadu |
| 73 | Senthamil Selvi, A | I M.A. (His) | Kandaswamy Naidu Women's College, Cuddalore | Tamil Nadu |
| 74 | Anbarasi, G | I M.A. (His) | Queen Mary's College, Chennai | Tamil Nadu |
| 75 | Jothimani, J | I M.A. (Tamil) | Avinashilingam University for Women, Coimbatore | Tamil Nadu |
| 76 | Ponmari, A.K | I M.A. (Tamil) | Avinashilingam University for Women, Coimbatore | Tamil Nadu |
| 77 | Thamarai Selvi, B | I M.A. (Tamil) | Avinashilingam University for Women, Coimbatore | Tamil Nadu |
| 78 | Sutha, L | I M.A. (Tamil) | Avinashilingam University for Women, Coimbatore | Tamil Nadu |
| 79 | Dhanam, R | I M.A. (Tamil) | Queen Mary's College, Chennai | Tamil Nadu |
| 80 | Chitra, K | I M.A. (Tamil) | Queen Mary's College, Chennai | Tamil Nadu |
| 81 | Vasantha, V | I M.A. (Tamil) | Queen Mary's College, Chennai | Tamil Nadu |
| 82 | Leelavathi, L | I M.A. (Tamil) | Queen Mary's College, Chennai | Tamil Nadu |
| 83 | Sangeetha, S | I M.A. (Tamil) | Queen Mary's College, Chennai | Tamil Nadu |
| 84 | Veeralakshmi, R | I M.A. (Tamil) | Queen Mary's College, Chennai | Tamil Nadu |
| 85 | Mariammal, R | I M.A. (Tamil) | Queen Mary's College, Chennai | Tamil Nadu |
| 86 | Uma Maheswari, S | II M.A. (Eng) | Avinashilingam University for Women, Coimbatore | Tamil Nadu |
| 87 | Anusha, S.T | II M.A. (Eng) | Stella Maris College, Chennai | Tamil Nadu |
| 88 | Sangeetha, S | II M.A. (Music) | Queen Mary's College, Chennai | Tamil Nadu |
| 89 | Kavitha, M | II M.A. (Tamil) | Queen Mary's College, Chennai | Tamil Nadu |
| 90 | Little Flower, A | II M.A. (Tamil) | Queen Mary's College, Chennai | Tamil Nadu |
| 91 | Ponmalar, R | II M.A. (Tamil) | S.T Hindu College, Nagercoil | Tamil Nadu |
| 92 | Sakunthala Devi, S | B.Ed. | Assefa College of Education, Madurai | Tamil Nadu |
| 93 | Thangamari, A | B.Ed. | Dr. G.U Pope College of Education, Thoothukudi | Tamil Nadu |
| 94 | Tamilselvi, R | B.Ed. | Govt. College of Education for Women, Coimbatore | Tamil Nadu |
| 95 | Anitha, R | B.Ed. | Govt. College of Education for Women, Coimbatore | Tamil Nadu |
| 96 | Ramalakshmi, S | B.Ed. | Govt. College of Education for Women, Coimbatore | Tamil Nadu |
| 97 | Nagalakshmi, K | B.Ed. | Govt. College of Education for Women, Coimbatore | Tamil Nadu |
| 98 | Thahira Beevi, B | B.Ed. | Govt. College of Education for Women, Coimbatore | Tamil Nadu |
| 99 | Latha, D | B.Ed. | Grace College of Education, Kanyakumari | Tamil Nadu |
| 100 | Sudha, D | B.Ed. | Grace College of Education, Kanyakumari | Tamil Nadu |
| 101 | Manjula, R | B.Ed. | JJ College of Education, Trichy | Tamil Nadu |
| 102 | Uma Rani, N | B.Ed. | Kapi Women's College of Education, Madurai | Tamil Nadu |
| 103 | Krishnaveni, M | B.Ed. | Mariamman College of Education, Trichy | Tamil Nadu |
| 104 | Kaladevi, B | B.Ed. | NKT National College of Education for Women, Chennai | Tamil Nadu |
| 105 | Anandhi, K | B.Ed. | Raj College of Education, Madurai | Tamil Nadu |
| 106 | Karthigai Selvi, S | B.Ed. | NMS SVN College, Madurai | Tamil Nadu |
| 107 | Priya, R | B.Ed. | Sourashtra Teacher's College, Sivagangai | Tamil Nadu |
| 108 | Renuga, R | B.Ed. | St. Stephen's College of Education for Women, Madurai | Tamil Nadu |
| 109 | Jeyalakshmi, M | B.Ed. | St. Stephen's College of Education for Women, Madurai | Tamil Nadu |
| 110 | Kalaivani, C | B.Ed. | Vinayaga College of Education, Chennai | Tamil Nadu |
| 111 | Mahalakshmi, M | I PUC | Jyothi Composite PU College, Bangalore | Karnataka |
| 112 | Sunitha Dutto | I PUC | Jyothi Composite PU College, Bangalore | Karnataka |
| 113 | Mary Agnes | I PUC | Jyothi Composite PU College, Bangalore | Karnataka |
| 114 | Summaiya Khan | I PUC | Mount Caramel Pre University College, Bangalore | Karnataka |
| 115 | Latha, P.M | I PUC | St. Anne's Pre University College for Girls, Bangalore | Karnataka |

EVALUATION OF COMPUTER SKILLS FOR LAPTOP DISBURSEMENT

Evaluation of computer skills for girls with visual impairment who are in receipt of MASS scholarship was conducted on February 26, 2009 at the Department of Special Education, Avinashilingam University for Women, Coimbatore. 15 scholarship recipients from South India attended the skill test. Mrs. K. Usha from CBM SARO(S) evaluated the skills of the girls, mainly their ability to handle JAWS software. Another similar test was conducted on November 10 and 11, 2009 at the same venue. Mrs. Usha from CBM, Bangalore and Mr. Ram Prabhu from AES Technologies evaluated the skills

of 23 scholarship recipients from South India. In total, 7 students were selected from the two tests, to receive laptops. Since the students evinced a lot of interest in learning computer, the UDIS Forum has decided to conduct computer training for those students during their summer vacation in May-June. Also it has been decided that the Computer Evaluation test will be conducted twice or thrice in a year which can be a motivating factor for the students to learn computer and to get a free laptop. Following is the list of 7 girls with visual impairment who will receive laptops this year:-

| S. No. | Name of the Student | Course | Name of the Institution |
|--------|---------------------|-------------------|--|
| 1 | Latha. P.M. | I PUC | St. Anne's Pre University College for Girls, Bangalore |
| 2 | Sunitha Dutto | I PUC | Jyothi Composite PU College, Bangalore |
| 3 | Eleeza Souza | I B.A. (HENGs) | Jyothi Nivas College, Bangalore |
| 4 | Sneha. N. | I B.A. (English) | Avinashilingam University for Women, Coimbatore |
| 5 | Beno Zephine. N.L. | II B.A. (English) | Stella Maris College, Chennai |
| 6 | Pallavi. S.J. | II B.A. (HEE) | DVS College of Arts & Science, Shimoga |
| 7 | Sheeba Bai. A. | II BBM | St. Philomena's College, Mysore |

World Disability Day 2009

UDIS Forum observed the World Disability Day on December 3, 2009 at CSI Bishop Appasamy College of Arts and Science, Coimbatore. Dr. M.N.G. Mani presided over the function. As a part of the programme, three employers from various sectors who have provided maximum number of employment to persons with disabilities in Coimbatore between April 2008 and March 2009, were given recognition awards, as a token of appreciation and gratitude on behalf of UDIS Forum. They were PRICOL Packaging Ltd., Best Engineers Pumps Pvt. Ltd., and Perot Systems. Mr. M. Palanivel, Deputy Director, MSME Development Institute, Coimbatore spoke on the Government Schemes and assured help to persons with disabilities in securing employment.

On that occasion, Mrs. Susheila Williams Sargunar, Secretary, CSI Bishop Appasamy College of Arts and Science distributed the prizes to the winners of the oratorical competition held (November 27) for school students.



Honouring Employers

■ Youth Wing for Disability Services (YWDIS)

Inauguration of YWDIS activities for the year 2009-2010 and swearing in ceremony of new office bearers of YWDIS

The inauguration of YWDIS (the youth wing of the UDIS Forum) activities for the year 2009 – 2010 and the swearing in ceremony of new office bearers of YWDIS was held at CSI Bishop Appasamy College of Arts and Science, Coimbatore on August 26, 2009. Mrs. Susheila Williams Sargunar delivered the presidential address. Dr. Peter Vedamuthu, Administrative Officer of the College presented the mementos and certificates to the office bearers and volunteers of YWDIS for the year 2008-2009. Ms. D. Priyanka, Secretary, YWDIS (2008-2009), presented the annual report. Dr. M.N.G. Mani administered oath for the newly elected office bearers and delivered the inaugural address. The newly elected office bearers and the executive members of YWDIS are as follows:-

Office Bearers

| Position | Name | Institute |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|---|
| President | Anthuvan Gabriel | II MSW, CSI Bishop Appasamy College of Arts and Science |
| Vice Presidents | M. Rekha | II MSW, GRD College of Science |
| | N. Sadasivam | I MSW, Bharathiar University |
| | Binoy Varghese | II MSW, Sri Narayana Guru College of Arts and Science |
| Secretary | R. Nishanthi | II MSW, PSG College of Arts and Science |
| Joint Secretary | T. Ganesh | II MSW, RVS College of Arts and Science |
| Treasurer | G. Mohan Raj | II MSW, Sri Krishna Arts and Science College |
| Joint Treasurer | John Leeson | II MSW, Sree Saraswathi Thyagaraja College |
| Documentation Officers | Jestle Renita | I MSW, CSI Bishop Appasamy College of Arts and Science |
| | Jeremiah Samuel | I MSW, CSI Bishop Appasamy College of Arts and Science |

Executive Members

| | | |
|-----|---------------------------|--|
| 1. | Melbin Baby | I MSW, CSI Bishop Appasamy College of Arts and Science |
| 2. | V. Gayathri | I MSW, RVS College of Arts and Science |
| 3. | Rinu Rajan | I MSW, Sri Krishna Arts and Science College |
| 4. | R. Lavanya | I MSW, NGM College of Arts and Science |
| 5. | Muthu Mala Preethi | I MSW, GRD College of Science |
| 6. | Jim Francis | I MSW, Sri Narayana Guru College of Arts and Science |
| 7. | V. Gurumoorthy | I MSW, Bharathiar University |
| 8. | S. Sowmya | I MSW, PSG College of Arts and Science |
| 9. | S.P. Vijaya Kumar | I MSW, PSG College of Arts and Science |
| 10. | Sitaraman | I MSW, Sree Saraswathi Thyagaraja College |



ORIENTATION PROGRAMME ON DISABILITY MANAGEMENT



The YWDIS conducted two-days Orientation Programme on Disability Management for social work students at CSI Bishop Appasamy College of Arts and Science, Coimbatore on October 5 and 6, 2009. A total of 135 social work students from CSI Bishop Appasamy College of Arts and Science, Karpagam University, PSG College of Arts and Science, RVS College of Arts and Science, NGM College, SMS College of Arts and Science, Sree Narayana Guru College of Arts and Science, Bharathiar University, CMS College of Science and Commerce, GRD College of Science and Sri Krishna Arts and Science College attended the programme. Inaugurating the programme, Dr. M.N.G. Mani motivated the students to involve themselves in the welfare of persons with disabilities. Mr. Paul Sudan, Vice Principal, CSI Bishop Appasamy College of Arts and Science presided over the function. The two days long programme had lectures and demonstrations from professionals and persons with disabilities on how the youth population can work as change agents for the cause of disability. In the valediction held on October 6, 2009 evening, Mr. S. S. Siva delivered the valedictory address and Mr. Arjunan presided over.

ONE DAY SEMINAR ON DISABILITY MANAGEMENT AT PERIYAR MANIAMMAI UNIVERSITY



As part of the Youth Programme, the UDIS Forum, in association with the Centre for Rural Development (CRD) of Periyar Maniammai University, Tanjore conducted One Day Seminar on Disability Management for Social Work Students on October 28, 2009 at the University campus. Around 100 social work students and 10 faculty members from the University and 12 nearby colleges participated in the programme.

While Dr. R. Kandasamy, Dean (Academic), Periyar Maniammai University delivered the inaugural address, Mr. S. S. Siva delivered a special address. UDIS Forum resource persons Mr. S. Sekaran, Mr. R. Srinivasan, Mr. Surya Nagappan, Mr. Mohanraj and Mr. S.S. Siva explained the various types of disabilities and how to handle them. The prime aim of the one day seminar was to create awareness on disability among the social work students. The sessions included lectures and demonstrations from professionals and persons with disabilities on how the youth population can work as change agents for the cause of disability.

In the valediction held in the evening, Dr. M. Ayyavoo, Registrar, Periyar Maniammai University delivered the valedictory address and Dr. M. Sivanantham, Director-CRD delivered the presidential address. All the participants were provided with certificates and were encouraged to take part in the welfare activities of persons with disabilities. The University authorities assured to collaborate with UDIS Forum in its efforts to create awareness on disability among the college students and teachers in the area.

ONE DAY SEMINAR ON DISABILITY MANAGEMENT AT BHARATHIDASAN UNIVERSITY

The UDIS Forum, in association with the Department of Social Work of Bharathidasan University, Trichy



conducted another One Day Seminar on Disability Management for Social Work Students on October 29, 2009 at the University campus. A total of 113 social work students and 8 faculty members from the University and 7 affiliated colleges participated in the programme.

Dr. M. Ponnaivaikko, Vice Chancellor, Bharathidasan University delivered the inaugural address. The key note address was given by Mr. S. S. Siva and felicitation by Dr. P. Ilango, Professor and Head, Department of Social Work, Bharathidasan University. The five resource

persons from UDIS Forum gave orientation on disability, here also.

In the valediction held in the evening, Mrs. R. Shyamala, District Disabled Rehabilitation Officer, Trichy delivered the valedictory address and Dr. P. Ilango delivered the presidential address. Ms. P. Kalaiarasi, Managing Trustee, Poornodhaya Trust, Trichy felicitated and Mr. R. Pandi of ORBIT, Trichy explained the activities of his organization consisting of visually challenged and physically challenged persons.

DISTRICT LEVEL ORATORICAL COMPETITION ON DISABILITY MANAGEMENT FOR SCHOOL STUDENTS

On the eve of World Disability Day, the YWDIS conducted a District Level Oratorical Competition on Disability Management for school students with an objective to create awareness on disability. The oratorical competition was held on November 27, 2009 at Sri Krishna Arts and Science College, Coimbatore. The topic for the oratorical competition was "If I were a disabled what will I expect from the society?" The results of the competition are given below, with the names of prize winners in Tamil and English categories:



| Medium | Position | Name of the Student | Institute |
|-------------|-------------|--|--|
| Tamil | First | H. Aiswarya Lakshmi | Vasavi Vidyalaya Matric. Hr. Sec. School, Coimbatore |
| | Second | A. Sakthi Vinod | Amrita Vidyalaya Matric. Hr. Sec. School, Coimbatore |
| | | M. Subalakshmi | Bharathiya Vidya Bhavan Hr. Sec. School, Coimbatore |
| | | T. Solai Kumar | CSI Boys High School, Coimbatore |
| | Third | K. Sangeetha | Corporation High School, Kovilmedu, Coimbatore |
| | | V. Vinodhini | Gurukulam High School, Coimbatore |
| | Consolation | P.R. Samrudha | Mani Higher Secondary School, Coimbatore |
| G. Anushaya | | Kovai Child Labour Abolition Support Society, Coimbatore | |
| English | First | Shree Sruthi Badrinath | Amrita Vidyalaya Matric. Hr. Sec. School, Coimbatore |
| | Second | T. Sudhandhira | Vasavi Vidyalaya Matric. Hr. Sec. School, Coimbatore |
| | | B. Lydia Priscilla Louis John | Karunya Residential Matric. Hr. Sec. School, Coimbatore |
| | Third | Priya Varsha Ravichandran | Vidya Vikasini Matric. Hr. Sec. School, Coimbatore |
| | | R. Sowmiya | Rukmani Kannan Vidyalaya Matric. Hr. Sec. School, Coimbatore |
| | | S. Pranesh Kumar | CSI Boys Hr. Sec. School, Coimbatore |
| | Consolation | A. Bobby Wilson Thomas | Karunya Residential Matric. Hr. Sec. School, Coimbatore |
| M. Nivetha | | Bishop Francis Matric. Hr. Sec. School, Coimbatore | |

The winners were given mementos, certificates and cash prizes in the World Disability Day function held on 3 December 2009 at CSI Bishop Appasamy College of Arts and Science, Coimbatore.

DISABILITY AWARENESS PROGRAMME FOR SCHOOL STUDENTS

YWDIS volunteers conducted a series of awareness programmes on disability in various schools of Coimbatore during the year 2009. The school students were oriented on the basics of disability such as the causes, types, characteristics, educational methods, etc. The students were also provided with a handbook containing basic information on disability. The details of the programme are as follows:



Orientation for school students



| S.No. | Name of the School | No. of students |
|--------------|--|-----------------|
| 1 | T.V. Sekaran High School, Kovaipudur | 52 |
| 2 | Govt. Higher Sec. School, Kovaipudur | 59 |
| 3 | V.L.B. Janakiammal School, Kovaipudur | 432 |
| 4 | G.R.D. Matric. Hr. Sec. School, Peelamedu | 132 |
| 5 | R.V.S. School, Sulur | 192 |
| 6 | K.K. Naidu Hr. Sec. School, Civil Aerodrome Post | 445 |
| 7 | Sri Lathangi Vidhya Mandir Hr. Sec. School, Pollachi | 293 |
| 8 | Siwalik Matric. Hr. Sec. School, Pollachi | 85 |
| 9 | Nadar Hr. Sec. School, Nanjundapuram | 513 |
| 10 | C.S.I Girls Hr. Sec., School, Avinashi Road | 186 |
| 11 | C.S.I Matric Hr. Sec. School, Race Course | 174 |
| 12 | Govt. Higher Sec. School, Thondamuthur | 137 |
| 13 | Govt. Higher Sec. School, Kalveerampalayam | 275 |
| Total | | 2975 |

Other Activities

Vazhnthu Kattuvom Project

- A workshop on "LIVELIHOOD FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES" was conducted by the Vazhnthu Kattuvom Project of Tamil Nadu Government on April 20, 2009 at Chennai. Dr. M.N.G. Mani delivered a talk on the main topic. Mr. S.S. Siva explained about the programmes of UDIS and on the concept of networking. Mr. S. Sekaran narrated the functioning of Employment Guidance Programme in providing training-cum-placement services to the persons with disabilities in Coimbatore region.
- As a follow-up to the above programme, Mr. S.S. Siva and Mr. S. Sekaran visited Villupuram and Cuddalore districts on May 25 and 26, 2009 and held discussions with the District Managers, Assistant Managers, BDFA Representatives, SHG Facilitators and other staff of VKP in both the districts and provided technical guidance on how training and placement services for persons with disabilities could be conducted. Similar exercise was done in Coimbatore district on June 1, Tirunelveli district on June 8 and Theni district on June 9, by both the representatives.

Other Activities (Contd...)

- ☞ Bi-centenary year celebration of Louis Braille was organised by the Association of the Rights of the Visually Challenged (ARVIC) on January 6, 2009 at Nirmala College, Coimbatore. Mr. S.S. Siva represented on behalf of UDIS Forum and delivered a talk, explaining how the society can extend help to the visually challenged.
- ☞ SAARATHY PAMMAC organized a sports meet for the mentally challenged children, jointly with the District Rehabilitation Office at Sports Stadium, Coimbatore on March 6, 2009. The Vice President and Executive Director of UDIS Forum attended and supported the programme.
- ☞ UDIS representatives attended the meetings of CANWIN on March 12 and April 21, 2009 and discussed on the coordination of NGOs in promoting effective services to the persons with disabilities.
- ☞ Mr. S. Sekaran attended one day self employment orientation programme on 'Newspaper Bags & Products' jointly organized by Swarna Boomi Art Institute, Coimbatore and CALIBER on May 31, 2009.
- ☞ Mr. S.S. Siva delivered a special speech on the occasion of launching of Challengers' Club by the disabled students and other students interested in disability service and studying various courses in the PSG College of Arts & Science, Coimbatore, on September 30, 2009.
- ☞ UDIS Forum representatives attended the Job Mela for PWDs organized at Hosur on December 30, 2009 by New Life Service Centre (NLSC) and some other organizations. Utilising the occasion, Mr. S.S. Siva explained the UDIS network concept and its achievements in Coimbatore area. He requested the Krishnagiri District Collector present on the stage, to create a home for the disabled employees working in the industrial estates at Hosur. A study was also conducted on the job availability for PWDs in the region.
- ☞ Mr. S.S. Siva and Mr. Surya Nagappan visited Harur in Dharmapuri District on December 31, 2009 and attended a meeting of PWDs organized by Rural Education Awareness and Development Social Trust (READS), Harur. They motivated the visually challenged as well as the locomotor disabled persons in the area to strengthen their organizations and start income generation programmes, for which technical guidance and training can be given by the UDIS Forum.

In summary, the UDIS Forum nurtures network and promotes Youth, Parents and Disabled Peoples' Organisations to augment employment opportunities. Become a part of the network and realise the synergy.

Course in Braille language

Staff Reporter

COIMBATORE: The UDIS Forum, a network that facilitates employment and empowerment of persons with disabilities in Coimbatore, will celebrate the birthday of Louis Braille (which falls on January 4) by launching a training programme in Braille for the benefit of the general public.

M.N.G.Mani, president of the forum, told *The Hindu* said that a 20-hour theory-cum-practical course for teaching functional Braille would be conducted free of cost during the second and fourth weekends of January.

The training would be offered by representatives of the Association for the Rights of the Visually Challenged (ARVIC), volunteers of the Youth Wing on Disability Services (YWDIS), and trained special teachers.

Each batch would accommodate between 20 and 30 participants and only those who were willing to sensitise the general public to Braille literacy would be admitted for the course.

"We want to train as many participants as possible during the year," Mr.Mani added.

A competition in Braille reading and writing would be conducted for those who underwent the training and proficient learners would be given prizes.

Learning Braille would certainly bridge the communication gap between people with normal vision and those with visual impairment, said V.Srinivasan, president of ARVIC.

Contact

The training would start from the fourth week of January. For details contact the UDIS Forum Administrative Office at 0422-2433827.

Forum discusses issues of people with disabilities

It was aimed at creating awareness about schemes

Staff Reporter

COIMBATORE: Human Rights Law Network (HRLN), a nationwide association of lawyers and social activists dedicated to using the legal systems to advance human rights, in collaboration with CBM, an organisation that works for the disabled, recently organised a two-day training programme on 'disability rights and the law.'

The forum discussed current issues pertaining to disability rights and framing legal mechanisms to address various human rights violations.

More than 50 people with disabilities from all over Tamil Nadu attended the work-

shop. Rajive Rathori, Deputy Director, HRLN, New Delhi, inaugurated the programme.

Rights

The speakers from HRLN discussed the Constitution with reference to the status of rights of persons with disabilities, the Disability Act 1995, Right to Information Act, the National Trust Act for Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities Act 1999.

Media

Domestic violence, sexual harassment at the workplace, HIV/AIDS and disability were other issues that needed immediate attention by the

government and the media. The aim of the programme was to create awareness among people with disabilities about their rights and the welfare schemes implemented by the Government.

It was held at the Karl Kubel Institute for Development Education, Coimbatore. UDIS Forum co-ordinated the event.

ARVIC, an organisation working for people with visual impairment, Deaf Leaders, an organisation for people with hearing impairment, Caliber Trust, another organisation working for people with disabilities and CRCS, a non-Governmental organisation, participated in the programme.

Creating awareness about autism

Staff Reporter

COIMBATORE: Autism is treatable. Early diagnosis and training can help in the development of the child. A developmental disorder, which affects the functioning of the brain, autism impacts the child's abilities of social interaction and communication.

A programme for parents on creating awareness about autism was recently conducted by Saarathy Pammac, an association of parents of people with mental disability, multiple disabili-

ties, autism and cerebral palsy.

According to a release from Saarathy Pammac, parents should be able to identify developmental disorders in children till the age of three. Abnormal play pattern, failure to develop interpersonal relationships, abnormal responses to light, sound, touch and pain were some of the indicators of autism.

More than 50 per cent of autistic children did not develop the ability to use language. Though different types of therapy and treatment techniques

were adopted by parents of autistic children, the same kind of treatment could not be used for different children. A self-advocacy programme for people with mental disabilities was organised at Star Special School by UDIS Forum in collaboration with Saarathy Pammac. Persons with disabilities, above 16 years of age, attended a week-long residential programme. The facilities available for people with disabilities in the Government sector were explained to them by the experts who conducted

programme. The programme was inaugurated by M.N.G.Mani, President of UDIS Forum.

A society, "Self Advocacy Society International" was formed among the people with disabilities. The members of the society requested the Government to issue identity cards to all persons with disabilities and provide them with the maintenance grant. Concessions for escorts in buses and trains should be implemented. They should be given education and employment opportunities.

உடல் ஊனமுற்றோரை அரவணைப்பது சமுதாயகடமை

அதிகாரி பேச்சு

கோவை, டிசு.4: கோவை யூடிஎஃப் போரம் அமைப்பின் சார்பில் உடல் ஊனமுற்றோர் தின விழா ரேஸ்கோர்ஸ் சி.எஸ்.ஐ பிஷ்ப் அப்பாசாமி கல்லூரி அரங்கில் நேற்று நடந்தது. இதில் யூடிஎஃப் அமைப்பின் தலைவர் மணி தலைமை வகித்தார். யூடிஎஃப் போரம் இளைஞர் அமைப்பின் தலைவர் அன்துலன் கேபிரியேல் வரவேற்றார்.

மத்திய அரசின் குறுசிறுநடுத்தர தொழில் மேம்பாட்டு நிறுவனத்தின் கோவை கிளை துணை இயக்குனர் பழனிவேல் பேசுகையில், உடல் ஊனமுற்றோரை உடல்திறன் குறைந்தவர்கள் என்று அழைக்க வேண்டும். மன

ஊனம் சிலருக்கு உண்டு. உடல்திறன் குறைபாடு சிலருக்கு உண்டு. எந்தவகை குறைபாடாக இருந்தாலும் மற்றவர் இனப்பெருக்கரணை, அரசு அனுப்புகிற அனாதை வசைப்புகை அறங்களை அளவளவு செய்து கொடுக்க வேண்டும். உடல்திறன் குறைந்தோர் வாழ்வில் முன்னேற மத்திய மாநில அரசுகள் சிறப்பு கவனம் செலுத்தி பல்வேறு நலத் திட்டங்களை செயல்படுத்தி வருகிறது. உடல் ஊனமுற்றோரை அரசு

ணைப்பதை நமது சமுதாயகடமை என்றார். சி.எஸ்.ஐ பிஷ்ப் அப்பாசாமி கல்லூரி செயலர் கசிலா வில்லியம்ஸ் மற்றும் பலர் பேசினர்.

உடல் ஊனமுற்றோர் தினத்தையொட்டி பள்ளி அளவில் நடந்த தமிழ் மற்றும் ஆங்கில பேச்சு போட்டியில் வெற்றி பெற்ற மாணவ மாணவியருக்கு பரிசு வழங்கப்பட்டது.

உடல் ஊனமுற்றோருக்கு அதிக வேலை வாய்ப்பு வழங்கிய பிரிகாஸ் பேக்கேஜிங், பெஸ்ட் இன்ஜினியரிங், பெராக் சின்டம் ஆகிய நிறுவனங்களுக்கு சிறப்பு பரிசு வழங்கப்பட்டது.

Training programme for people with mental disability

Staff Reporter

COIMBATORE: The UDIS Forum, a network promoting employment opportunities for persons with disabilities, in collaboration with the Saarathy Pammac, an association of parents of people with mental disability, will organise self

advocacy training from March 22 to 28 at the Star Special School.

Skills

The training programme is aimed at building skills in people with mental disability.

Over 20 people drawn from various institutions in Coim-

batores will attend the programme.

"In the case of people with mental disability, parents are usually the spokespersons. This training will help them develop knowledge in basic human rights and skills in communication," said M.N.G.Mani, president, UDIS Forum.

Based on the outcome of the training, the Forum would promote self advocacy movements of people with mental disability in collaboration with Parivaar, the national body of parents of people with mental disability, Mr.Mani added.

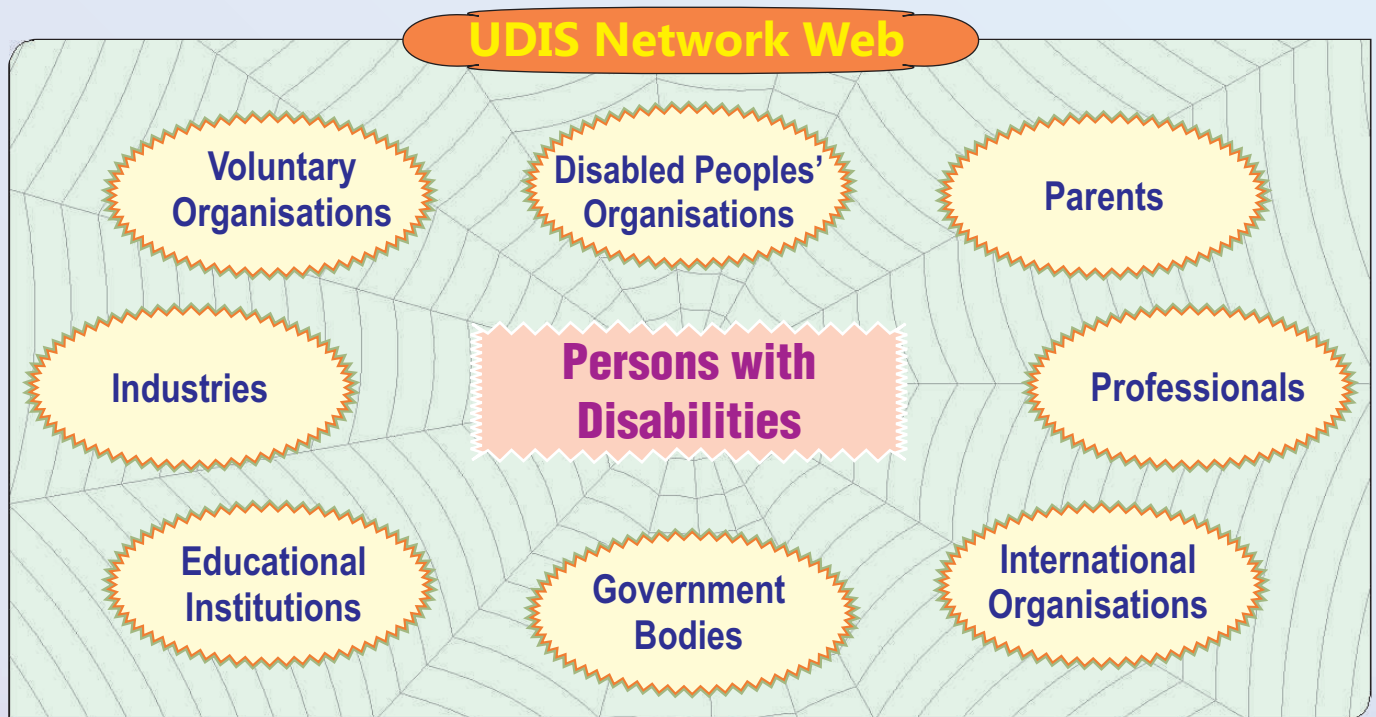
Our Gratuities

The UDIS Forum lauds the efforts of the following organisations / industries / institutions towards the empowerment of persons with disabilities.

- **CBM, South Asia Regional Office**, Bangalore
 - **The District Employment Office**, Coimbatore
 - **The District Rehabilitation Centre**, Coimbatore
-
- AES Technologies (I) Pvt. Ltd.
 - Associated Autotex Ancillaries (P) Ltd.
 - Best Engineers Pumps Pvt. Ltd.
 - Bhagavathy Garments
 - Bhuvaneshwari Engineering
 - BMN Kalyana Mandapam
 - Captain BPO Centre
 - Dhyan Acupuncture Clinic and Hospitals Research (P) Ltd.
 - Ganga Medical Centre & Hospitals Pvt. Ltd.
 - Golden Electronic Company
 - Gowri Metals
 - Holy Cross Matriculation Higher Secondary School
 - Infosys Non-technical services
 - Jass Polymers
 - Kalaikathir Arts
 - Kavitha Stores
 - KG Apparel Pvt. Ltd.
 - Kumpanar Pumpsets
 - Lubi Electronics
 - National Adventure and Leadership School (NALS)
 - New Tech Computer Centre
 - Perot Systems
 - Pricol Packaging Ltd.
 - S.G.K Cycle Works
 - Sangam Stores
 - Seven Hills Entrepreneurs
 - Shape India Exports Pvt. Ltd.
 - Solamalai Enterprises
 - Sri Annai InfoTech
 - Sri Renga Apperels (India) Pvt. Ltd.
 - Sri Sai Garments
 - Subha Plastics
 - USAM Technology Solutions (P) Ltd.
 - V Serve Solution
 - Varna Silks Industries
 - Venkateswara & Co.
 - Venkateswara Suppliers Ltd.
- (All from Coimbatore District)*
- A.M. Jain College, Chennai
 - Assefa College of Education, Madurai
 - Avinashilingam University for Women, Coimbatore
 - C.B.M. College of Arts and Science, Coimbatore
 - Chellammal Women's College, Chennai
 - Dr. G.U Pope College of Education, Tuticorin
 - DVS College of Arts and Science, Shimoga
 - Ethiraj College for Women, Chennai
 - Government Arts College, Coimbatore
 - Government Arts College, Dharmapuri
 - Government College of Education for Women, Coimbatore
 - Grace College of Education, Kanyakumari
 - JJ College of Education, Trichy
 - Jyothi Composite PU College, Bangalore
 - Jyothi Nivas College, Bangalore
 - Kandaswamy Naidu Women's College, Cuddalore
 - Kapi Women's College of Education, Madurai
 - Kunthavai Naachiyar Government Arts College for Women, Tanjore
 - Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai
 - Mariamman College of Education, Trichy
 - Mount Caramel Pre University College, Bangalore
 - Nizam College, Hyderabad
 - NKT National College of Education for Women, Chennai
 - O.U. College for Women, Hyderabad
 - Presidency College, Chennai
 - Quaid-E-Millat Government College for Women, Chennai
 - Queen Mary's College, Chennai
 - Raj College of Education, Madurai
 - S. Vellaichamy Nadar College, Madurai
 - S.T. Hindu College, Nagercoil
 - Sourashtra Teacher's College, Sivagangai
 - Sri Meenakshi Government College for Women, Madurai
 - St. Anne's Pre University College for Girls, Bangalore
 - St. Philomena's College, Mysore
 - St. Stephen's College of Education for Women, Madurai
 - Stella Mari's College, Chennai
 - Vinayaga College of Education (Vel's University), Chennai
 - Vivekananda Government Degree College, Hyderabad
 - Voorhees College of Arts, Vellore

Our Gratitudes (Contd...)

- Amrita University, Coimbatore
- Bharathiar University, Coimbatore
- Bharathidasan University, Trichy
- CMS College of Science and Commerce, Coimbatore
- CSI Bishop Appasamy College of Arts and Science, Coimbatore
- Dr. GRD College of Science, Coimbatore
- Hindustan College of Arts and Science, Coimbatore
- Karpagam University, Coimbatore
- Nehru Arts and Science College, Coimbatore
- NGM College, Pollachi
- Periyar Maniammai University, Tanjore
- PSG College of Arts and Science, Coimbatore
- RVS College of Arts and Science, Coimbatore
- SMS College of Arts and Science, Coimbatore
- Sree Saraswathi Thyagaraja College, Pollachi
- Sri Krishna Arts and Science College, Coimbatore
- Sri Narayana Guru College, Coimbatore
- Sri Ramakrishna Mission Vidyalaya College of Arts and Science, Coimbatore
- Association for the Rights of the Visually Challenged, Coimbatore
- CALIBER, Coimbatore
- Cheran Region Christian Society for the Disabled, Coimbatore
- Coimbatore Association of the Deaf, Coimbatore
- Dr. P.G.V. Charitable Trust, Coimbatore
- Goodwill Foundation of India, Chennai
- Grama Udhayam, Tirunelveli Dist.
- Indian Association for the Blind, Madurai
- Jyothi Seva Home for the Blind Children, Bangalore
- Keelottivakkam Grama Sangam, Kancheepuram Dist.
- Lotus Blind Welfare Trust of India, Chennai
- PARIVAAR
- Saarathy Pammac, Coimbatore
- Tamil Nadu Association for the Blind, Chennai
- Vazhndu Kattuvom Project



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