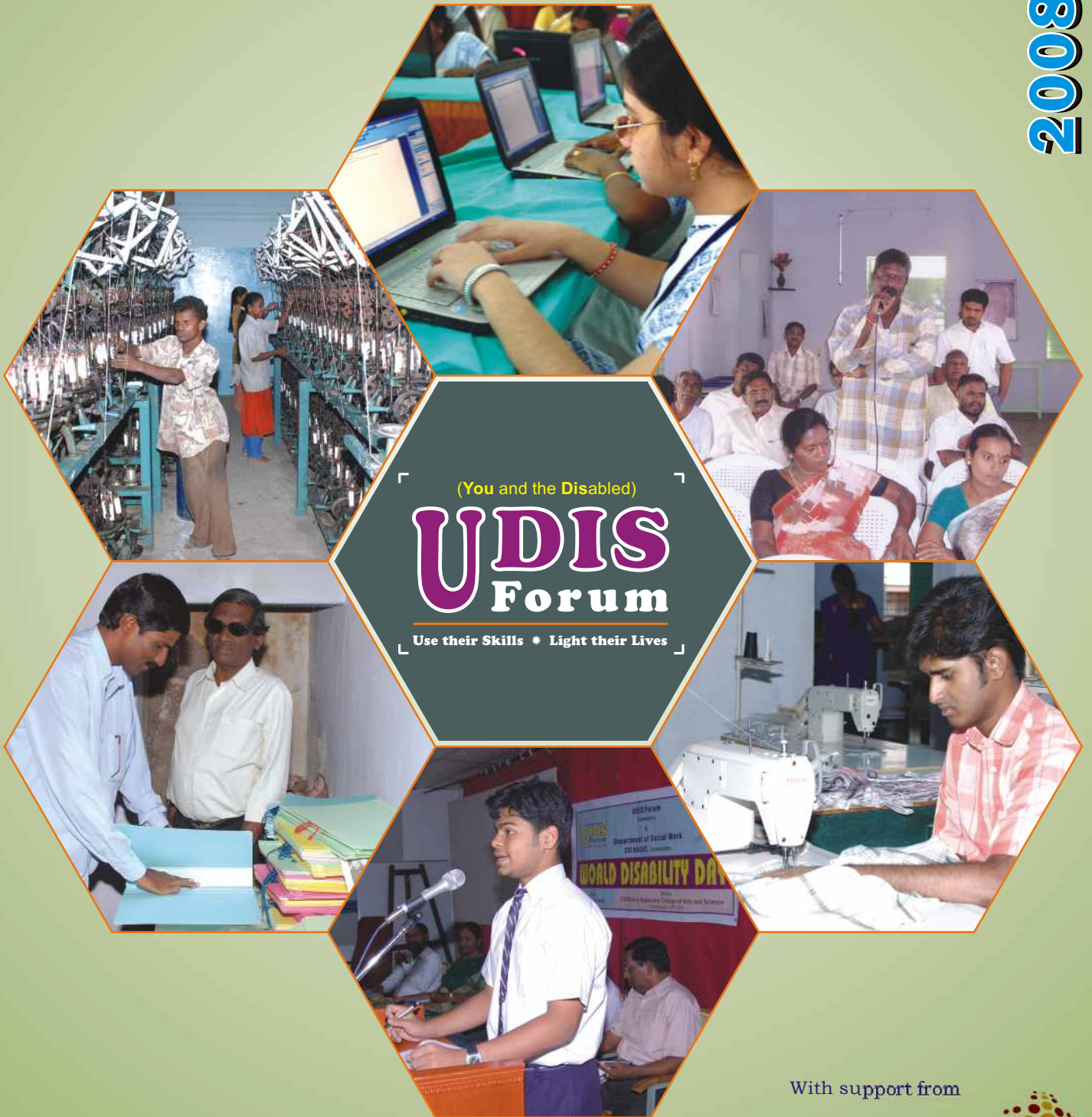


# SYNERGY

Annual Report

2008



(You and the Disabled)

# UDIS Forum

Use their Skills \* Light their Lives

With support from



## *From the President*



The momentum created in 2007 with the formation of the UDIS (You and the Disabled) Forum rolled onto 2008 too with steady consolidation of activities and expansion of new ventures. The private sector has opened up and it is more positive to appoint persons with disabilities than ever before. The experience of

the past two years clearly reveals that job mapping is more important in finding placement and as a result, the UDIS Forum has taken up a systematic study to identify potential job opportunities in various types of industries and listing skills that should be developed in persons with disabilities. This study, which will be completed in early 2009, will help us approach employment issues with specific focus.

The growth of higher education of girls with visual impairment is another satisfying experience. In 2007, 61 girls with visual impairment enrolled in higher education in the southern states were assisted by the UDIS Forum to get scholarship from the Marga Schulze Foundation through CBM. The students of the first year really made an impact, which is evident from the fact that in 2008, more than 140 girls applied for the scholarship. The Forum and CBM are happy that education of girls, which is neglected to some extent, is receiving due attention through the positive impact created by visually impaired girls themselves. In 2008, 115 girls received scholarship. We are sure these girls will become role models for other girls with visual impairment. We encouraged them to learn technology and 12 of them received laptops to enhance their learning experiences.

The Youth Wing on Disability Services (YWDIS) has performed beyond our expectations. The YWDIS stands out as a testimony for how the youth force could be channelised for constructive activities. They have elected their own office bearers and went to different colleges to conduct sensitisation programmes on disability services. Besides they have gone to schools to orient young children to understand the capabilities of persons with disabilities. We are happy to note that many young children have already identified persons with

disabilities in their communities and referred them to schools and rehabilitation programmes. The YWDIS also conducted essay writing and oratorical contests for school and college students. The UDIS Forum facilitated the YWDIS activities but it is the enthusiasm of the YWDIS members that made all the difference. We are proposing to start similar youth wings in different parts of the State. Working with Parents and Disabled Peoples' Organisations is another rewarding experience.

We were glad when many organisations wanted to emulate the UDIS Network concept in various regions of the country. Our concept of **"Expanding Services without Creating Institutions"** caught the imagination of various organisations and we are asked to provide necessary technical expertise to make this a reality. Besides CBM, the Sightsavers International has come forward to nurture the network concept through its partners in the south and also in promoting new partners. The Forum has started identifying potential organisations in the States of Tamil Nadu and Kerala who could work as effective partners of network to promote employment opportunities for persons with disabilities.

CBM invited the UDIS Forum to make presentation on the network concept in its meetings organised for its Partners in New Delhi, Pune, Visakhapatnam, Thiruvananthapuram, and Coimbatore and we are thrilled that the concept is applauded.

The office bearers of the Forum provided tremendous support for the implementation of the vision of the UDIS Forum and I thank profoundly the Executive Director and staff of the Forum for carrying out the activities with great devotion.

Another year of constructive activities has come to a close, but the experiences have given us a lot of wisdom to make the services in the future effective. CBM motivated us at every stage and at every new venture and the work of the Forum is a living example for the principle of CBM **"Together We Can Do More."**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M.N.G. Mani'.

**Dr. M.N.G. Mani**  
President

## CONGRATULATIONS CBM FOR 100 YEARS OF GLORIOUS SERVICE



*Pastor Ernst Jakob Christoffel*

CBM (Christoffel-Blindenmission / Christian Blind Mission) was founded by the German Pastor Ernst Jakob Christoffel in 1908, purporting to improve the quality of life of the world's poorest persons with disabilities and those at risk of disability. CBM works with partner organisations in low income countries to both develop and ensure that persons with disabilities and their families have ready access to affordable and comprehensive health care and rehabilitation programmes, quality education programmes and livelihood opportunities. Working with persons with disabilities, CBM advocates for their inclusion in all aspects of society. CBM uses comprehensive, sustainable and community-focussed approaches which contribute to poverty alleviation and self-reliance. CBM partners develop high quality preventive, curative, educational, rehabilitative, livelihood and advocacy programmes which are designed to maximize the quality of life of persons with disabilities. CBM is supporting 1,016 projects in 113 countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America and Eastern Europe and currently reaches 18 million people worldwide.

CBM cooperates with UN agencies, global organisations and disabled peoples' organisations to promote and develop international alliances and programmes with and for persons with disabilities. CBM is recognised as a Collaborating Organisation by the World Health Organization and has consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). In cooperation with the World Health Organization (WHO) and as a member of the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB), CBM founded and launched "Vision 2020: The Right to Sight". The goal of Vision 2020 is to eliminate avoidable blindness by the year 2020. CBM is also working with WHO and other stakeholders to create an international initiative "WWHearing" (World-Wide Hearing Care for Developing Countries) for the provision of affordable hearing aids for hearing impaired people in low income countries.

The UDIS Forum is a project of the CBM India Trust and we owe the success of our work to the tremendous support extended by CBM. The Forum thanks Mrs. Gunawathy Fernandez, Regional Director, CBM-South Asia Regional Office (South) and Mrs. Silvana Mehra, Regional Director, CBM-South Asia Regional Office (North) for providing opportunities to present the UDIS network concept at the meetings of its Partners organised in various parts of India to celebrate the 100 years of CBM.





# Report of UDIS Forum Activities

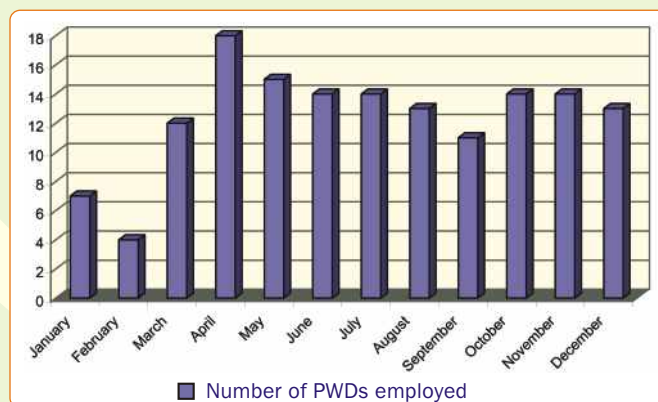
The UDIS Forum organises its activities under various objective based schemes. The detailed progress under each scheme is enumerated below:

## Employment Guidance Programme (EGP)

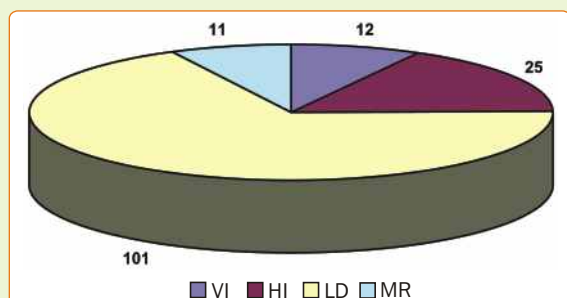


During the year 2008, a total of 149 persons with disabilities were facilitated to secure jobs in different firms. The following table gives a detailed account on the number of persons with disabilities who have secured jobs.

S.No.	Month	Number of PWDs
1.	January	7
2.	February	4
3.	March	12
4.	April	18
5.	May	15
6.	June	14
7.	July	14
8.	August	13
9.	September	11
10.	October	14
11.	November	14
12.	December	13



The job placements according to various categories of disability are as follows:



S.No.	Type of Disability	No. of PWDs
1.	Visual Impairment	12
2.	Hearing Impairment	25
3.	Locomotor Disability	101
4.	Mentally Retarded	11

## Clients speak...

**S.K. Ravimanickam**, Ganapathy, Coimbatore



I lost my left lower limb due to polio during my early childhood. After my 10<sup>th</sup> Standard in the local school, I did my Diploma in Electronics and Communication Engineering. To develop the employability skills, I also passed typewriting examinations in both Tamil and English. Further, I did a Diploma in Computer Applications and a short term course in MS Office, too. In spite of these qualifications, I remained jobless for more than 6 months. Later knowing about the UDIS Forum I registered with them, who facilitated a job with the PEROT SYSTEMS, a BPO company. I am thankful to the officials of the Forum who showed a direction in my life.

**J. Rameshkumar**, Vellakinaru, Coimbatore



I was infected by polio when I was young and both my lower limbs and left upper limb were affected. I have passed my Higher Secondary examinations with 82% of marks. Later, I did my B.Com (C.A) in the Annamalai University. Right now, apart from working in the Cheran Region Christian Society as a Computer Operator, which was facilitated by the UDIS Forum, I am also pursuing my MBA through distance education in the Bharathiar University. My thanks are due to the staff of the Forum for securing me this job, without which I might be groping in the dark, still.

**R. Mohan**, Coimbatore



I am a low vision person and I did all my schooling in a regular school. With constant support and encouragement from my parents and teachers, I completed my Bachelor's degree in Social Work. Hailing from a poor family it was a compulsion to look for a source of income. But to add woes to my disability, I was denied job opportunities by a couple of firms citing low vision as the reason. Dejected by the poor response, I later registered with the UDIS Forum. To my surprise, the Forum had facilitated a job at the Pricol Packaging Private Limited with a decent salary. Now I am self reliant and happy with my job. Thanks to the Forum officials for facilitating this job and instilling confidence in me.

**R. Maheshkumar**, Vadamadurai, Coimbatore



My son is mild mentally retarded compounded with speech problems. Due to his disability condition, employment was beyond the reach for him. Dejected by the nature of his disability, we had no cue to offer guidance to him. Later knowing about the existence of UDIS Forum, we registered his name and for our surprise the officials of the Forum were successful in securing a job at Solamalai Enterprises Marketing Company. I am grateful for the Forum for this timely help. (As narrated by his father)

**N. Muthusamy**, Coimbatore



I lost my vision at my tender age. I studied at the Government School for the Blind, Uliampalayam upto my 10<sup>th</sup> grade. Due to the poor economic status of my family I was not able to continue my studies further, registered my name with the District Employment Office, and was on the lookout for a job with a steady income. Later knowing about the existence of UDIS forum I also registered with them. Thanks to the efforts of the UDIS Forum, facilitating an interview with the KG Apparels, Karamadai, where I was selected for the packing section.

**T. Akila**, Singanallur, Coimbatore



I am a hearing impaired and with great difficulty I did my 10<sup>th</sup> standard. With due support from my parents I did a Diploma Course in DTP also. However I was not able to secure a job for a longer time. Registering my name with the UDIS Forum bore me immediate result in the form of a job at V Serve Solutions. My parents are very much happy that I have secured a job and I am sure I can go still a long way. Thanks to the UDIS Forum for facilitating a meaningful job, within a short span of time.

Further to securing of jobs, the following activities were also carried out under the Employment Guidance Programme.

- ❖ The representatives of UDIS Forum participated in the Private Employers Campaigns being conducted by the District Employment Exchange, Coimbatore during the second Friday of every month to collect details of companies and the occasions were utilized to persuade some of the employers and HR personnel to provide employment for persons with disabilities.
- ❖ UDIS Forum and Sree Saraswathi Thyagaraja College, Pollachi have entered into a collaboration to initiate placement services for persons with disabilities in the Pollachi and Udumalpet regions.

### **Sensitisation Programme on “Right to Work and Employment of Persons with Disabilities”**

The UDIS Forum organised a Sensitisation Programme on “Right to Work and Employment of Persons with Disabilities” sponsored by the National Institute for the Visually Handicapped - Regional Centre, Chennai on 26 September 2008 at CSI Bishop Appasamy College of Arts and Science. The programme was inaugurated by Mrs. Susheila Williams Sargunar, Secretary, CSI Bishop Appasamy College of Arts and Science. Dr. M.N.G. Mani, President, UDIS Forum in his keynote address stressed the importance of employment for persons with disabilities. Dr. I. Arivanandham, Director (i/c), NIVH Regional Centre, Chennai in his special address emphasized the need to sensitize the employers, NGOs and the community on the employment issue. The programme was attended by more than 80

representatives from industries, business management institutions, non-government organisations, departments of social work and advocacy groups. The day long programme had lectures from professionals and persons with disabilities on rights and employment related issues of persons with disabilities. Mr. M. Manickam, Managing Director, Sakthi Sugars Ltd., who graced the occasion observed that parents need to be involved in providing comprehensive education and rehabilitation services to persons with disabilities. Dr. Beula Jeyaseeli, Principal, CSI Bishop Appasamy College of Education also attended the function. Mr. L. Sivasamy, Assistant Director, District Employment Office, Coimbatore delivered the valedictory address.



*Mr. M. Manickam, Managing Director, Sakthi Sugars Limited, addressing the Employers*



### **UDIS placed employees' meet**

A meeting of persons with disabilities, who were provided placement in industries with the initiative of the UDIS Forum, was organised on 29 March 2008, in Coimbatore. More than 100 employees attended the meeting and offered suggestions on how to increase placement opportunities for persons with disabilities and pre-employment skills to be developed in them.



*UDIS representatives with the proud employees*

### **Recognition of employers who employed more persons with disabilities**

Employers in Coimbatore who employed maximum persons with disabilities were thanked in the presence of students, parents and persons with disabilities on the occasion of the World Disability Day celebration organised by the UDIS Forum at CSI Bishop Appasamy College on 3 December 2008. M/s. K.G. Apparels Pvt. Ltd., M/s. V Serve Solution and M/s. Sri Renga Apparels (India) Pvt. Ltd., were given mementos at the function for employing maximum number of persons with disabilities in their workforce. The employers stated that the private sector was opening more employment opportunities for persons with disabilities and asked networks like the UDIS Forum to organise skill training before employing them.



*HR Managers from M/s. K.G. Apparels Pvt. Ltd., M/s. V Serve Solutions and M/s. Sri Renga Apparels (India) Pvt. Ltd., receiving mementos*

# Youth Wing for Disability Services (YWDIS)

The Youth Volunteer Programme of the UDIS Forum is turning out to be an apt platform for the college level students to venture into services for persons with disabilities. A Youth Wing for Disability Services (YWDIS) consisting of student volunteers of Social Work departments of colleges in Coimbatore was inaugurated at the GRD College of Science at the initiative of the UDIS Forum on 27 February 2008. The GRD School of Social Work serves as the nodal agency of the youth wing. The youth wing organises awareness rallies, student seminars, essay writing contests, oratorical contests and school awareness programmes on disability management and also identifies jobs for persons with disabilities under the supervision of the UDIS Forum and the nodal agency.



*Prof. A.N. Lakshmanan, Advisor, GRD College of Science, lighting the lamp*

## Office Bearers of the YWDIS for the year 2008-2009

### President



**Subrajeet Choudhury**  
Dr. GRD College of Science

### Secretary



**D. Priyanka**  
PSG College of Arts and Science

### Treasurer



**G. Navaneethkrishnan**  
Sri Krishna Arts and Science College

### Vice Presidents



**Shone K. Jose**  
Amrita University



**J.B. Fredy Marbin Roy**  
CSI Bishop Appasamy  
College of Arts and Science

### Joint Secretaries



**G. Panchalingam**  
SRKV College of  
Arts & Science



**V. Kalpana**  
Hindustan College of  
Arts & Science



**M.P. Anila**  
CMS College of  
Science and Commerce



The following activities, the youth volunteers have carried out, signify the commitment of the students in serving persons with disabilities.

### **State-level Essay Writing Competition on Disability Management for Social Work students for the year 2007**

The Social Work Departments of Sri Krishna Arts and Science College and Sree Narayanaguru College in partnership with the UDIS Forum conducted a State level essay writing competition in both Tamil and English on “Disability Management.” The competitions were aimed at motivating the post graduate students of the Social Work Departments to think of strategies to help persons with disabilities in their successful rehabilitation. 63 essays in Tamil and 26 essays in English were received as the final entries for the competitions. The prize winners are as follows:



*Prize winners of the Essay Writing Competition*

Medium	Position	Name of the Student	Institute
<b>Tamil</b>	First	M. Veeramani	SRKV College of Arts and Science, Coimbatore
	Second	K.V. Arulselvan	PSG College of Arts and Science, Coimbatore
	Third	K. Meenakshi	Rajahs College, Thiruvaiyaru
	Consolation	M. Mudiappan	Jamal Mohamed College, Trichy
		T. Sathiya	Bon Secours College for Women, Thanjavur
		M. Rajeshkumar	Government Arts College, Coimbatore
		S. Prabha	Avinashilingam University for Women, Coimbatore
M. Saranraj	Syed Hameedha Arts & Science College, Kilakarai		
<b>English</b>	First	U. Gandhimathi	Bharathidasan University, Trichy
	Second	Rahul Babu	Nehru College of Arts and Science, Coimbatore
	Third	L. Padma Malini	SDNB Vaishnav College for Women, Chennai
	Consolation	B. Ramya	Sri Krishna Arts and Science College, Coimbatore

The I, II, and III prize winners were given a cash award of Rs. 5,000/-, Rs. 3,000/- and Rs. 2,000/- respectively at the National Youth Day celebrations held at Sri Krishna Arts and Science College on January 12, 2008. Dr. D. Muthuraj, Secretary of the College delivered special address and gave away prizes to the winners of the competition while Dr. M.N.G. Mani, President, UDIS Forum delivered the Youth Day address.



*A section of the audience of the National Youth Day function*

## Course on Disability Management



*A session in progress*

YWDIS volunteers attended a course on Disability Management conducted by the UDIS Forum from 01 to 09 June 2008 at Divyodaya Hall, Coimbatore. The sessions included lectures on Introduction to Disabilities, Government Provisions and Legislations, and Methods of Working with Persons with Disabilities. The course also had hands on experience in Sign Language, Braille Writing and Orientation and Mobility. Professionals associated with the field of disability addressed the students and encouraged their involvement in the welfare of persons with disabilities.

## Orientation Programmes on Disability Management



*Mr. S. Ramakrishnan addressing the YWDIS volunteers*

YWDIS conducted a two-day Orientation Programme on Disability Management for social work students at Dr. GRD College of Science on 11 & 12 July 2008. 40 social work students from Hindustan College of Arts and Science and Dr. GRD College of Science attended the programme. Sri S. Ramakrishnan, President, Amar Seva Sangam, Thenkasi inaugurated the programme which had lectures and demonstrations by

professionals and persons with disabilities on how the youth population can work as change agents for the cause of disability. Mr. S. Subramania Siva, Vice-President, UDIS Forum presided over the valedictory programme on 12 July 2008 and motivated the college students to involve in disability related work. Dr. A. Ponnusamy, Principal of the College felicitated the student volunteers.

Another two-days Orientation Programme on Disability Management for social work students was conducted at CSI Bishop Appasamy College of Arts and Science on 19 & 20 September 2008. 70 social work students from Hindustan College of Arts and Science, Dr. GRD College of Science, Bharathiar University and CSI Bishop Appasamy College of Arts and Science attended the programme. Mr. R. Arjun, Head, Department of Social Work, CSI Bishop Appasamy College of Arts and Science inaugurated the programme. On 20 September 2008, Dr. M.N.G. Mani, President, UDIS Forum delivered the valedictory address.

Yet another Orientation Programme was conducted at Sri Krishna Arts and Science College on 26 & 27 September 2008. Dr. K. Sundararaman, Principal of the college inaugurated the programme, wherein Mr. S. Samarasapandian, Joint Secretary, UDIS Forum highlighted the activities of YWDIS. The programme was attended by more than 100 students from Sri Krishna Arts and Science College, Amrita University, PSG College of Arts and Science and Dr. GRD College of Science. The valediction was held on 27 September 2008 and Dr. S. Ganesan, Cardiac Specialist, Coimbatore delivered the valedictory address and Dr. M.N.G. Mani, President, UDIS Forum presided over the function.



*Dr. K. Sundararaman delivering the inaugural address*



## State Level Essay Competition on Disability for College students for the year 2008

YWDIS conducted a State Level Essay Competition on Disability for college students with an objective to create awareness on disability. The topic for the essay competition was “How will I involve myself in services for persons with disabilities?” A total of 68 essays were received. The result of the competition is given below:



S. Sri Krishnavi receiving the award

Position	Name of the Student	Institute
First	S. Sri Krishnavi	Karunya University, Coimbatore
Second	R. Selvaraj	National College, Trichy
	M. Aruna	PSG College of Arts and Science, Coimbatore
Third	S. Shanthi	Avinashilingam University, Coimbatore
	R. Samyuktha	GRG School of Management Studies, Coimbatore
Consolation	Akanksha Gulia	Jaypee Institute of Information Technology University
	Srimathi	Vidyaa Vikas College of Engineering and Technology, Tiruchengode

The Forum is also proposing to bring out a publication consisting of the prize winning essays of students.

## District Level Oratorical Competition on Disability for School Students

YWDIS conducted a District Level Oratorical Competition on Disability for school students with an objective to create awareness on disability. The oratorical competition was held on 15 November 2008 at CSI Bishop Appasamy College of Arts and Science, Coimbatore. The topic for the oratorical competition was “How will I involve myself in services for persons with disabilities?” The result of the competition is given below:



G. Pradeep receiving the award

Medium	Position	Name of the Student	Institute
Tamil	First	Kabila Arulgnanam	PSG Sarvajana Higher Secondary School, Coimbatore
	Second	G. Nirmla	Sri Ramakrishna Matric Higher Secondary School, Coimbatore
	Third	P.J. Sriram Prabu	SJN Matriculation Higher Secondary School, Mettupalayam
	Consolation	K.R. Dharani	Government High School, Kannarpalayam, Karamadai
		D. Shruthi	SJN Matriculation Higher Secondary School, Mettupalayam
English	First	I. Mudassir Khan	Lisieux Matriculation Higher Secondary School, Coimbatore
	Second	G. Pradeep	SBOA Matriculation Higher Secondary School, Coimbatore
	Third	R. Abarnaa	Shrimathi Ranganayaki Ammal Educational Trust, Coimbatore
	Consolation	Shraddha Patil	SJN Matriculation Higher Secondary School, Mettupalayam
		R. Priyavarsha	Amrita Vidyalayam, Nallampalayam

## Disability Awareness Programme for school students

YWDIS volunteers conducted a series of awareness programmes on disability in various schools of Coimbatore during the year 2008. 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.



A YWDIS volunteer addressing school students

Following table shows the details of the awareness programmes conducted by the YWDIS in Coimbatore district.

S.No.	Name of the School	No. of students
1	Geethanjali Matriculation School, Peelamedu	115
2	Panchayat Union Middle School, Veerampalayam	96
3	PSG Sarvajana Higher Secondary School, Peelamedu	405
4	PSG Krishnammal Higher Secondary School, Peelamedu	184
5	PSG Kanya Gurukulam Girls Higher Secondary School, Peelamedu	206
6	Corporation Higher Secondary School, Peelamedu	96
7	Panchayat Union Middle School, Kembanaickenpalayam	200
8	Bethel Levesey Memorial Middle School, Kuniyamuthur	77
9	Government High School, Kulathupalayam	152
10	Kasturi Matriculation Higher Secondary School, Sugunapuram	61
11	VLB Janaki Ammal Girls High School, Kovaipudur	138
12	Government Middle School, Sugunapuram	96
13	GKD Matriculation Higher Secondary School, Perianaickenpalayam	350
14	Thambu Higher Secondary School, Jothipuram	400
15	Rangasamy Naidu Higher Secondary School, Perianaickenpalayam	400
16	V S Sengottiah Matriculation High School, Podanur	190
17	St. Mary Matha High School, Podanur	180
18	Panchayat Union Middle School, Kumuttipathi	60
<b>Total who attended the programmes</b>		<b>3406</b>

Apart from the above mentioned awareness programmes conducted within the Coimbatore district, one programme was conducted in the north eastern state of Tripura, by a YWDIS volunteer who is a student of a city based college and hailing from Tripura. On 20 September 2008 an awareness programme on disability management was conducted at St. Paul's School, Agartala which was attended by 265 students. The programme is a testimony that the YWDIS activities are taking wings and reaching out the distant corners of the nation.

## Other Events

1. YWDIS volunteers assisted the District Employment Exchange, Coimbatore in conducting employment registration camps for persons with disabilities.
2. YWDIS volunteers acted as scribes for several visually impaired students in writing examinations.
3. YWDIS volunteers assisted in conducting the District Level Sports Meet for children with disabilities.



# Advocacy in Disability (ADIS)

## **State-level Seminar on Disability Management: Social Work Implications and Interventions**

A state-level seminar on Disability Management: Social Work Implications and Interventions was conducted jointly by the UDIS Forum and the Department of Social Work, PSG College of Arts and Science, Coimbatore at the PSG College of Arts and Science on 30-31 January 2008 to orient the faculties of social work of colleges in Tamil Nadu to disability related work. Mrs. Gunawathy Fernandez

Fernandez, Regional Director, CBM SARO(S) inaugurated the seminar and spoke on the role of social workers in the welfare of persons with disabilities. Dr. M.N.G. Mani, President, UDIS Forum presided.

Dr. K. Muralidharan, Reader, Department of Social Work, PSG College of Arts and Science shared his experiences in serving persons with disabilities. More than 40 social work faculties from all over Tamil Nadu attended the seminar. The seminar had several brainstorming sessions on disability issues and social work implications and interventions. Several resolutions were made at the seminar which included writing to the Universities to include a component on disability in the Master of Social Work course curriculum (MSW); to involve the social work students in serving persons with disabilities in the vicinity of



*Mrs. Gunawathy Fernandez releasing the Enabling Voice*

their respective colleges, to conduct small research projects in the area of disability, to mention a few. **Enabling Voice**, an electronic newsline dealing with disability issues, published by the UDIS Forum, was released during the seminar. During 2008, the Enabling Voice dealt with the following themes:

- January : Education for All : Theory to Practice
- February : Tackling Learning Disability: More than an educational issue
- March : Plight of special educators
- April : Is education, a welfare activity?
- May : Definitions on Disabilities - Dilemma on what and what not to use
- June : Using youth power for disability services
- July : Social Workers - Be proud of your profession
- August : Classroom activities to facilitate inclusion of children with disabilities
- Sept-Dec : Growing trends in the services for persons with visual impairment

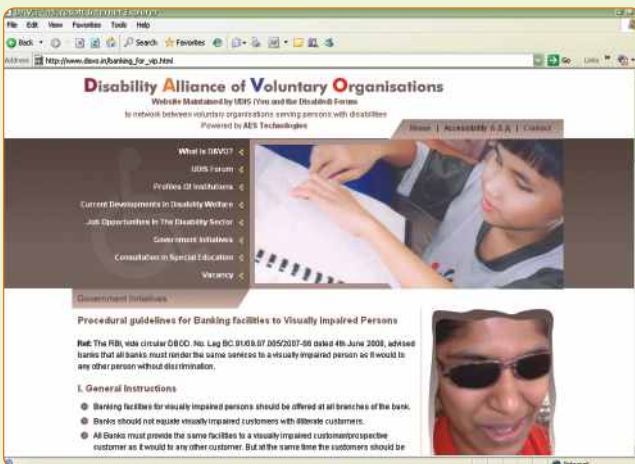


*Social Work students observing the proceedings of the Seminar*

Dr. M.N.G. Mani, President, UDIS Forum, who also serves as the Secretary General of the International Council for Education of People with Visual Impairment serves as the Editor of the Enabling Voice.



The website [www.davo.in](http://www.davo.in) launched by the UDIS Forum continues to serve as a referral point for organisations for persons with disabilities to post their institution profiles and also to access information related to disability. As of December 2008, 49 Organisations and Institutions from different parts of the country posted their profiles on the website for information exchange. This is the kind of networking UDIS Forum is looking for and our special thanks are due to M/s. AES Technologies India Pvt. Ltd., and its Managing Director Mr. M. Balaji for powering this website free of cost for the benefit of organisations for persons with disabilities.



[www.davo.in](http://www.davo.in)

Advocacy programmes pertinent to issues concerning disability have the potential to create a positive impact towards the quantum and quality of services for the persons with disabilities. During 2008 the UDIS Forum conducted the following activities towards advocacy.

The representatives of UDIS Forum attended 6 panchayat level camps for persons with disabilities organised by the District Disability Rehabilitation Office, Coimbatore during the month of August 2008 to enroll adult persons with disabilities looking for employment and to create awareness on government concessions and facilities available for persons with disabilities.

The UDIS Forum office bearers participated and addressed in the awareness programme on disability services and rehabilitation for community workers conducted by the Department of Social Work, Sree Saraswathi Thyagaraja College, Pollachi on 5 July 2008.

Dr. M.N.G. Mani, President, UDIS Forum inaugurated and delivered a talk at the ADD-INDIA sponsored programme, "Right Based Approaches" on 27 September 2008, which was organised by the Coimbatore Association of NGOs and Welfare Institutions for persons with disabilities (CANWIN). Mrs. C. Jasmine, DDRO, Coimbatore briefed on the rights of the persons with disabilities. Mr. R. Ramachandran, Executive Director, ADD-INDIA was the key resource person of the programme.



Mrs. C. Jasmine briefing on the rights of PWDs



# Marga-Schulze Scholarship Scheme for Promoting higher education of girls with visual impairment (MASS)

Dr. Hans-Eugen Schulze is a retired judge of the federal courts of Germany and a man of repute. He is himself blind and his sheer determination helped him receive top laurels in the society. Realising the difficulties blind women encounter to come up in life, he created a foundation by name, “ **M a r g a - S c h u l z e**



*UDIS representatives with some beneficiaries of scholarship*

**Foundation”** (Marga - his wife) and started supporting adult blind girls in Africa and Asia to pursue higher education. This scholarship scheme is administered through the CBM and the UDIS Forum took responsibility for implementing the scheme in South India. During the year 2008 a total of 114 girls with visual impairment from the states of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu were awarded scholarships. Following is a list of beneficiaries of the scheme.

S.No.	Name	Degree	College	State
1	Beno Zephine, N.L	I B.A. (Eng)	Stella Maris College, Chennai	Tamil Nadu
2	Ammu, P	I B.A. (Eng)	Queen Mary's College, Chennai	Tamil Nadu
3	Subitha, R	I B.A. (Eng)	Presidency College, Chennai	Tamil Nadu
4	Subashakthi, M	I B.A. (Eng)	Avinashilingam University for Women, Coimbatore	Tamil Nadu
5	Suthamani, M	I B.A. (Tam)	Avinashilingam University for Women, Coimbatore	Tamil Nadu
6	Dhanalakshmi, R	I B.A. (Eng)	Avinashilingam University for Women, Coimbatore	Tamil Nadu
7	Sivasankari, E	I B.A. (Tam)	Govt. Arts College, Dharmapuri	Tamil Nadu
8	Panjayi, R	I B.A. (Eng)	Quaid-E-Millath Govt. College for Women, Chennai	Tamil Nadu
9	Niveditha, A	I B.A. (Eng)	Presidency College, Chennai	Tamil Nadu
10	Sasikala, K	I B.A. (Tam)	Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai	Tamil Nadu
11	Subharani, T	I B.A. (Eng)	Quaid-E-Millath Govt. College for Women, Chennai	Tamil Nadu
12	Angaleswari, S	I B.A. (Eng)	Queen Mary's College, Chennai	Tamil Nadu
13	Thenmozhi, E	I B.A. (Pol)	Presidency College, Chennai	Tamil Nadu
14	Akilandeswari, M	I B.A. (Eng)	Avinashilingam University for Women, Coimbatore	Tamil Nadu
15	Kavitha, P	I B.A. (Tam)	Sri Meenakshi Govt. College for Women, Madurai	Tamil Nadu
16	Nakkala Jayamma	I B.A. (HPP)	Vivekananda Govt. Degree College, Hyderabad	Andhra Pradesh
17	Mandari Padma	I B.A. (HPP)	Vivekananda Govt. Degree College, Hyderabad	Andhra Pradesh
18	Narayana Vadivu, S	I B.A. (Tam)	Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai	Tamil Nadu
19	Guru Eswari, M	I B.A. (Tam)	Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai	Tamil Nadu
20	Bhuvanawari, M	I B.A. (Tam)	Queen Mary's College, Chennai	Tamil Nadu
21	Antony Arokia Kanmani, A	I B.A. (Tam)	Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai	Tamil Nadu
22	Maheswari, R	I B.A. (Eng)	Queen Mary's College, Chennai	Tamil Nadu

23	Uma Maheswari, S	I B.A. (His)	Quaid-E-Millath Govt. College for Women, Chennai	Tamil Nadu
24	Saritha, G	I B.A. (HTP)	Nizam College, Hyderabad	Andhra Pradesh
25	Arockia Vijayakumari, S	I B.A. (Tam)	Quaid-E-Millath Govt. College for Women, Chennai	Tamil Nadu
26	Mariyal, P	I B.A. (Eng)	Queen Mary's College, Chennai	Tamil Nadu
27	Nirmala, V	I B.A. (His)	Govt. Arts College, Coimbatore	Tamil Nadu
28	Priya Mahalakshmi, V	I B.A. (Eng)	Thiyagarajar College, Madurai	Tamil Nadu
29	Bavani, P	I B.A. (Tam)	Avinashilingam University for Women, Coimbatore	Tamil Nadu
30	Bhagalaxmi, P	I B.A. (HPP)	Vivekananda Govt. Degree College, Hyderabad	Andhra Pradesh
31	Saritha, M	I B.A. (HTP)	Nizam College, Hyderabad	Andhra Pradesh
32	Parasakthi, P	I B.A. (His)	Queen Mary's College, Chennai	Tamil Nadu
33	Muthumari, S	I B.A. (His)	Queen Mary's College, Chennai	Tamil Nadu
34	Rama, A	I B.A. (Tam)	Sri Meenakshi Govt. College for Women, Madurai	Tamil Nadu
35	Divya, R	I B.A. (Eng)	Sri Saradha College for Women, Salem	Tamil Nadu
36	Pallavi, S.J	I B.A. (HEE)	DVS College of Arts & Science, Shimoga	Karnataka
37	Triveni, V	I B.A. (Tel)	University College for Women, Hyderabad	Andhra Pradesh
38	Manimegalai, N	I B.A. (Tam)	Periyar Arts College, Cuddalore	Tamil Nadu
39	Rani, B	I B.A. (Tam)	Queen Mary's College, Chennai	Tamil Nadu
40	Rajathi, A	I B.A. (Tam)	Queen Mary's College, Chennai	Tamil Nadu
41	Niroja, J	I B.A. (Tam)	Queen Mary's College, Chennai	Tamil Nadu
42	Sangeetha, S	I B.A. (His)	Queen Mary's College, Chennai	Tamil Nadu
43	Vidhya, P	I B.A. (Tam)	Presidency College, Chennai	Tamil Nadu
44	Sheeba Bai, A	I BBM	MMK & SDM Mahila Mahavidyalaya, Mysore	Karnataka
45	Sharmila, A	B.L.	Government Law College, Coimbatore	Tamil Nadu
46	Kavitha, S	II B.A. (Tam)	Avinashilingam University for Women, Coimbatore	Tamil Nadu
47	Jayanthi, P	II B.A. (Eng)	Avinashilingam University for Women, Coimbatore	Tamil Nadu
48	Baby, K	II B.A (Eng)	Avinashilingam University for Women, Coimbatore	Tamil Nadu
49	Poongothai, M	II B.A (Tam)	Avinashilingam University for Women, Coimbatore	Tamil Nadu
50	Nalayiram, R	II B.A. (Tam)	Avinashilingam University for Women, Coimbatore	Tamil Nadu
51	Kemil Fernando, L	II B.A. (Eng)	Avinashilingam University for Women, Coimbatore	Tamil Nadu
52	Anthony Selvi, B	II B.A. (Eng)	Ethiraj College for Women, Chennai	Tamil Nadu
53	Vigneswari, K.V	II B.A. (Eng)	Presidency College, Chennai	Tamil Nadu
54	Mariyaselvam, M	II B.A. (Tam)	Queen Mary's College, Chennai	Tamil Nadu
55	Asha, S	II B.A. (HEE)	DVS College of Arts and science, Shimoga	Karnataka
56	Farhana Banu	II B.A. (HENG S)	Jyoti Nivas College, Bangalore	Karnataka
57	Nithya, R	II B.A. (Tam)	Sri Meenakshi Govt. College for Women, Madurai	Tamil Nadu
58	Deepa, S	II B.A. (Tam)	Sri Meenakshi Govt. College for Women, Madurai	Tamil Nadu
59	Ponmari, A.K	III B.A. (Tam)	Avinashilingam University for Women, Coimbatore	Tamil Nadu
60	Maheswari, K	III B.A. (Eng)	Avinashilingam University for Women, Coimbatore	Tamil Nadu
61	Thamaraiselvi, B	III B.A. (Tam)	Avinashilingam University for Women, Coimbatore	Tamil Nadu
62	Sutha, L	III B.A. (Tam)	Avinashilingam University for Women, Coimbatore	Tamil Nadu
63	Jothimani, J	III B.A. (Tam)	Avinashilingam University for Women, Coimbatore	Tamil Nadu
64	Tamilselvi, R	III B.A. (Tam)	Avinashilingam University for Women, Coimbatore	Tamil Nadu
65	Shanmugasundari, K	III B.A. (Eng)	Holy Cross College, Trichy	Tamil Nadu
66	Sentamil Selvi, A	III B.A. (His)	CKN College, Cuddalore	Tamil Nadu
67	Misha Vincent, V	III B.A. (Eng)	St. Xavier's College for Women, Aluva	Kerala
68	Kalaivani, C	III B.A. (Tam)	Madras Christian College, Chennai	Tamil Nadu
69	Anusha, S.T	I M.A. (Eng)	Stella Maris College, Chennai	Tamil Nadu
70	Kavitha, M	I M.A. (Tam)	Queen Mary's College, Chennai	Tamil Nadu
71	Ponmalar, R	I M.A. (Tam)	S.T. Hindu College, Nagercoil	Tamil Nadu

72	Uma Maheswari, S	I M.A. (Eng)	Avinashilingam University for Women, Coimbatore	Tamil Nadu
73	Little Flower, A	I M.A. (Tam)	Queen Mary's College, Chennai	Tamil Nadu
74	Shylaja, S	I M.A. (His)	Queen Mary's College, Chennai	Tamil Nadu
75	Kavitha, V	I M.A. (Tam)	Queen Mary's College, Chennai	Tamil Nadu
76	Sangeetha, S	I M.A. (Music)	Queen Mary's College, Chennai	Tamil Nadu
77	Anjum Khan, M	II M.A. (Eng)	Avinashilingam University for Women, Coimbatore	Tamil Nadu
78	Arulmari, M	II M.A. (Tam)	Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai	Tamil Nadu
79	Sopana, S	II M.A. (Tam)	Queen Mary's College, Chennai	Tamil Nadu
80	Antony Sesumary, S	II M.A. (Tam)	Queen Mary's College, Chennai	Tamil Nadu
81	Devi, G	II M.A. (Eng)	Queen Mary's College, Chennai	Tamil Nadu
82	Jilu, A	II M.A. (Pol)	University College, Thiruvananthapuram	Kerala
83	Geetha, M	II M.A. (Tam)	University of Madras, Chennai	Tamil Nadu
84	Nirmaladevi, R	II M.A. (Tam)	Queen Mary's College, Chennai	Tamil Nadu
85	Thilagavathi, B	II M.A. (Tam)	Queen Mary's College, Chennai	Tamil Nadu
86	Sushama, E	II M.A. (Philo)	University of Calicut, Calicut	Kerala
87	Krishnaveni, V	II M.A. (Tam)	Queen Mary's College, Chennai	Tamil Nadu
88	Vanitha, T	II M.A. (Tam)	Chellammal Women's College of the Pachaiappa's Trust, Chennai	Tamil Nadu
89	Pushpa, R	II M.A. (Tam)	Chellammal Women's College of the Pachaiappa's Trust, Chennai	Tamil Nadu
90	Vijayalaxmi, M	B.Ed.	St. Stephen's College of Education, Madurai	Tamil Nadu
91	Paul Arasakumari, R	B.Ed.	Govt. College of Education, Coimbatore.	Tamil Nadu
92	Suvarna, G	B.Ed.	Panineeya Maha Vidyalaya College of Education, Hyderabad	Andhra Pradesh
93	Amy Mary Sudhana, C	B.Ed.	Stella Matutina College of Education, Chennai	Tamil Nadu
94	Backialakshmi, U	B.Ed.	St. Stephen's College of Education, Madurai	Tamil Nadu
95	Vijaya, K	B.Ed.	Annai Saraswathi College of Education, Chennai	Tamil Nadu
96	Sindhu, K	B.Ed.	S.T. Hindu College of Education, Nagercoil	Tamil Nadu
97	Velankanni, A	B.Ed.	Avinashilingam University for Women, Coimbatore	Tamil Nadu
98	Rasulbee Shaik	B.Ed.	IASE, Osmania University, Hyderabad	Andhra Pradesh
99	Dhanam, R	B.Ed.	Lady Wellington Institute of Advanced Study in Education, Chennai	Tamil Nadu
100	Alagu Rani, R	B.Ed.	Nazareth College of Education for Women, Chennai	Tamil Nadu
101	Mariammal, L	B.Ed.	Raj College of Education, Madurai	Tamil Nadu
102	Valli, N	B.Ed.	St. Stephen's College of Education, Madurai	Tamil Nadu
103	Pavun, V	B.Ed.	Alagappa University College of Education, Karaikudi	Tamil Nadu
104	Mahalakshmi, A	B.Ed.	Raj College of Education, Madurai	Tamil Nadu
105	Jeraldine Margaret, J	B.Ed.	Mariamman College of Education, Trichy	Tamil Nadu
106	Mallika, S	B.Ed.	St. Stephen's College of Education, Madurai	Tamil Nadu
107	Punitha, C	B.Ed.	Raj College of Education, Madurai	Tamil Nadu
108	Amutha, M	B.Ed.	St. Stephen's College of Education, Madurai	Tamil Nadu
109	Vimaladevi, S	B.Ed.	Raj College of Education, Madurai	Tamil Nadu
110	Rani, P	B.Ed.	St. Gonsalo College of Education, Chennai	Tamil Nadu
111	Vennila, R	B.Ed.	Annai Saraswathi College of Education, Chennai	Tamil Nadu
112	Vedavalli, B	B.Ed.	NKT National College of Education for Women, Chennai	Tamil Nadu
113	Maragadam, S	B.Ed.	St. Gonsalo College of Education, Chennai	Tamil Nadu
114	Eleeza Souza	II PUC	St. Charles Composite PU College, Bangalore	Karnataka
115	Anurin Lawrence Souza	II DTT	Sri Ramana Maharishi Academy for the Blind, Bangalore	Karnataka

*I can see in what you call the dark, but which to me is golden. I can see a God-made world, not a man-made world.*

*- Helen Keller*



## Awarding Laptops to visually impaired girls

The MASS scheme, besides assisting students to undergo higher education, also aims at developing the skills of the learners in Information and Communication Technology, Orientation and Mobility and skills in using assistive devices. For 2007-2008, the beneficiaries of the scheme attended a two weeks IT training at the Avinashilingam University (for the western region) during 1-21 October 2007 and at the IT Centre for visually impaired at Keelottivakkam (for the eastern region) during 19-28 November 2007. In all, 32 students underwent this training and later an assessment team headed by a technology expert Mrs. Usha from the CBM South Asia Regional Office, Bangalore conducted a skill test on 18-19 February 2008 at the Avinashilingam University and selected 12 students. On May 5, 2008, during the occasion of the birthday celebrations of Rev.T.S. Avinashilingam, Founder-Chancellor of the Avinashilingam University, laptops were presented to the students by Mr. T.K. Shanmuganandam, Chancellor of the University. Mr. V.K. Lakshmanan, Ex-MLA delivered a special lecture on the contributions of the Founder-Chancellor for the cause of education and national development. Dr. Saroja Prabhakaran, Vice-Chancellor offered felicitations. Dr. M.N.G. Mani, President, UDIS Forum addressed on the work of CBM and described the future plans of the Marga-Schulze Scholarship Scheme for empowering more girls with visual impairment.



*Mr. T.K. Shanmuganandam presenting laptop*



*A section of the audience*



*Recipients of laptops*

## Empowered Girls Speak...

**Misha Vincent**, III B.A. Eng. Lit.  
St. Xavier's College for Women, Aluva



I am a recipient of the scholarship for the last two years. I could meet all my study needs, especially the expenses for my books and traveling through the scholarship. The laptop which I received was very helpful. I take the laptop to the college and record the lectures and then study. I am certain that I got good marks in the last examination only because of the laptop. My ambition is to study a professional course after my degree. For meeting expenses of that course I am presently saving a little amount of money from the scholarship. Thanks again for offering me the scholarship and the laptop.

**M. Anjum Khan**, II M.A. Eng. Lit.  
Avinashilingam University for Women, Coimbatore



I am blind by birth and I am pursuing all my schooling and higher education in Avinashilingam University. Integrated education has taught me all the basic skills. The MASS scholarship has certainly given a new direction to my life. The skills training, especially in the area of computers have a tremendous impact in the lives of the visually impaired girls like me. The laptop received is of great help to me since I prepare all my presentations by power point, and I take all my examinations through my laptop. On behalf of all the beneficiaries, my gratitudes are due to Dr. Schulze for his vision, to support the visually impaired girls to pursue higher education in Asia and Africa.

**Sheeba Bhai**, I BBM  
SDM College, Mysore



My life that was once considered ill fated now became complete and meaningful; I am enjoying my education, thanks to the Marga-Schulze scholarship. Now I have gained confidence to lead a self supportive and dignified life more than an average citizen. I am confident that the scholarship is a boon to the disadvantaged persons like me. This will give an opportunity for people like us to help the fellow visually impaired girls in their pursuit of higher education.

**K. Paul Arasakumari**, B.Ed.  
Govt. College of Education for Women, Coimbatore



I am studying B.Ed. in Government College of Education, Coimbatore. I have received the scholarship offered by the Marga-Schulze scheme during the year 2008-2009. This amount was very useful for my studies; I used this scholarship for buying cassettes, braille textbooks and teaching models. Thanks to the skills training in computers and orientation and mobility, my confidence has grown markedly. I am thankful to the UDIS Forum for arranging the scholarship to me.

**S.T. Anusha**, I M.A. Eng. Lit.  
Stella Maris College, Chennai



I am one of the beneficiaries of the Schulze scholarship for the past two years and the unique feature is that it enables the visually impaired girls to venture into higher studies and also motivates to perform well in our studies. The scholarship has given me a lot of courage and confidence to face this competitive world and it has transformed me as a challenging competitor. It has lessened my worries about my financial burden needed for the study. It is purely a merit based scholarship and hence only the deserving are eligible. I am grateful to Dr. Schulze for offering this scholarship and the laptop.

**P. Bhagyalakshmi**, I B.A. HPP  
Vivekananda Govt. Degree College, Hyderabad



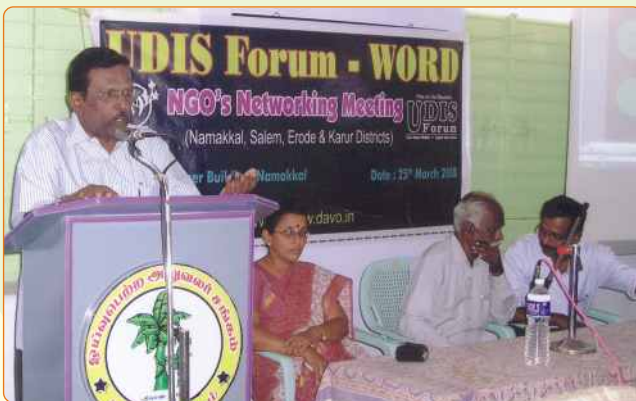
I lost my vision during my childhood itself. My father, who was a petty shop owner, is the sole bread winner of the family, died in 2002. My source of inspiration is one of my sisters who is blind, working as a Junior Assistant in the Government sector. I am pursuing graduation at present. I also learn computer and music in private institutions nearby. For all these academic activities and also for purchasing cassettes and Braille books, the scholarship is very useful for me.



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

To strengthen the services for persons with disabilities the UDIS Forum works in liaison with other NGOs working in the field of disability. Following is a list of activities carried out during the year 2008.

- ☛ A meeting of the Non-Governmental Organisations was organised in Tirunelveli on 21 January 2008, which was attended by representatives of 58 NGOs.
- ☛ A meeting of voluntary organisations was conducted at Namakkal on 25 March 2008 to provide guidance to organisations willing to commence disability related services. Representatives of 55 voluntary organisations from Namakkal, Erode, Karur and Salem districts attended the programme.



*Mr. S. Subramania Siva addressing NGO representatives*

- ☛ Mr. S. Subramania Siva, Vice President and Mr. S. Sekaran, Executive Director, UDIS Forum conducted an awareness programme in Tirunelveli on 11 April 2008 to orient



*Mr. S. Sekaran addressing the representatives of SHGs*

representatives of self-help groups to assist persons with disabilities through creation of self-employment opportunities. They also addressed persons with disabilities and their families at a function organised by the Rotary Club of Ambasamudram to orient them on various welfare schemes.

- ☛ The officials of the UDIS Forum had discussions with the officials of Grama Udhayam, Tirunelveli on organizing training, providing assistance and creating employment opportunities to persons with disabilities at Tirunelveli under the Training and Employment Network with Non-Governmental Organisations (TENNGO) scheme.
- ☛ Mr. S. Subramania Siva, Vice President, UDIS Forum was elected as the Treasurer of Coimbatore Association of NGOs and Welfare Institutions for persons with disabilities (CANWIN) in the meeting held at Kovai Rehabilitation and Information Services for the Handicapped (KRISH) on 30 August 2008.
- ☛ A Meeting of the Coimbatore Association of NGOs and Welfare Institutions for Persons with Disabilities was conducted at the UDIS Forum Administrative Office on 19 November 2008. Mrs. C. Jasmine, DDRO, Coimbatore, Dr. K. Narendran, President, CANWIN and others attended the meeting. Dr. M.N.G. Mani, President, UDIS Forum outlined the need to include pre-vocational skills in the curriculum of special schools, which would contribute to employment skills when they grow as adults.



# Working with Organisations of Parents and Persons with Disabilities

The UDIS Forum works closely with Disabled Peoples' Organisations to raise advocacy issues and also to offer training to persons with disabilities. Following is a list of the activities carried out in this direction during 2008.

## With CALIBER (Disabled Peoples' Organisation in the area of Locomotor Disability)

- Embroidery training commenced on 13 April 2008 for 10 persons with locomotor disabilities.
- Basic computer training for 43 persons with various disabilities was offered, of which 5 of them were facilitated employment. 18 persons with disabilities were also offered a basic typewriting course.



*Computer training in progress*

- 27 persons with disabilities were offered training in DTP of which 3 of them secured employment.
- A spoken English course was conducted for 22 persons with disabilities.

## With ARVIC (Disabled Peoples' Organisation in the area of Visual Impairment)

- The UDIS Forum and Association for Rights of the Visually Challenged (ARVIC), an organisation of persons with visually challenged in Coimbatore, entered into a Memorandum of Understanding on 4 January 2008, on the occasion of Louis Braille's Birthday to facilitate services for persons with visual impairment.
- A basic training course on Braille reading and writing for 6 adults with visual impairment is being conducted by ARVIC at UDIS Administrative Office.



*Braille literacy training*

- For the benefit of visually impaired persons to venture into self employment and also to secure jobs, a Tag file manufacturing-cum-training unit functioning at ARVIC is being partly supported by the UDIS Forum.

## OTHER EVENTS

- A meeting with different Associations of the Deaf was conducted on 1 February 2008 to formulate strategies to increase job opportunities for persons with hearing impairment.
- A Memorandum of Understanding with the Coimbatore Association for the Deaf (CAD) was signed on 16 April 2008. As per the MOU, the Forum and the CAD agreed to jointly organise leadership training activities, pre-employment training, sports, cultural activities, etc., involving hearing impaired persons. Concrete activities in this direction are yet to begin.
- Mr. S. Subramania Siva, Vice President, UDIS Forum delivered a talk on "Promotion of Parents Organisation and Disabled Peoples Organisation" at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Regional Parents Meet on 20 September 2008 at Tirunelveli. The parents meet was organised by the Tamil Nadu State Coordination Committee of PARIVAAR (TNSCCP) and the National Institute for the Mentally Handicapped (NIMH). The Forum takes part in various advocacy activities of SAARATHY PAMMAC, an organisation of parents of mentally retarded children in Coimbatore.

## Sports Meet

UDIS Forum co-sponsored a Sports Meet for children with disabilities from schools in Coimbatore district on 12 November 2008. The District Collector, Coimbatore, inaugurated the Sports Meet. 25 children with visual impairment, 119 with hearing impairment, 145 with mental retardation and 45 with locomotor disability participated in the sports meet. The prizes were distributed on the World Disability Day function at Star Special School. The UDIS Forum believes that sports activities develop great team spirit among children with disabilities and such events will be conducted in the future too with an aim of preparing young disabled students for the Special Olympics.



## Meeting with the officials of SSI

The UDIS Forum facilitated a meeting of select NGOs and Disabled Peoples Organisations with Ms. Shweta Chooramani and Mr. Ketan Kothari, officials from Sightsavers International, Mumbai to explore the possibilities of developing network in various parts of the state to strengthen employment activities for persons with disabilities and also to strengthen advocacy activities to ensure their rights. The officials expressed that the UDIS Network concept has potential to optimize services with least infrastructure and capital expenditure. A concept paper is being developed in this regard and the Forum is already in the process of identifying potential partners in the states of Tamil Nadu and Kerala who could become part of the network to promote employment opportunities. More on this will be posted on the Website [www.davo.in](http://www.davo.in) soon.

## Consultation in Special Education, Rehabilitation and Vocational Education (CONSERVE)

The UDIS Forum initiated development of a professional database namely CONSERVE (Consultation in Special Education, Rehabilitation and Vocational Education) and we are glad that professionals from all over the country are sending their resumes expressing availability for providing short-term and long-term consultancy for institutions in building disability related services in education, rehabilitation, vocational education, technology support, etc. Have you sent in your resume? Log onto [www.davo.in](http://www.davo.in)

## We are proud

The Office bearers and staff of the UDIS Forum are glad that **Dr. M.N.G. Mani**, President of the Forum is playing a key role in many national and international decision making bodies. In 2008, the Ministry of Social Justice (MSJE), Government of India, National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE), the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), the University Grants Commission (UGC), the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), and the Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI) appointed him into their expert committees dealing with disability. The CBM, Germany appointed him as the Coordinator of its Advisory Working Group dealing with Education of Visually Impaired Children. He continues to serve as the Secretary General of ICEVI and the Executive Director of the Global Campaign on Education For All Children with Visual Impairment (EFA-VI). He was also interviewed by BBC on 4 January 2009 on the occasion of the bicentennial celebration of Louis Braille.



**Sri S. Subramania Siva**, who retired as the Joint Deputy Director of the Intelligence Bureau of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India has joined the UDIS Forum as its Vice-President (Administration). He was

the recipient of the President's Medal for Meritorious Service twice. During his career, he had dealt with a number of NGOs and he has lot of interest in social service. His 40 years of experience in different parts of India will add strength to the activities of the UDIS Forum.



# உணமுற்றோர் கட்டுரை போட்டி

## குழந்தைகளுக்கு அதிக மன பாதிப்பு

கோவை, ஜூன் 14: உணமுற்றோர் கட்டுரை போட்டி வெற்றிகரமாக நடைபெற்றது. குழந்தைகளுக்கு அதிக மன பாதிப்பு ஏற்படும் சூழலை உணமுற்றோர் கட்டுரை போட்டி மூலமாக அறிவிக்கப்பட்டுள்ளது. குழந்தைகளுக்கு அதிக மன பாதிப்பு ஏற்படும் சூழலை உணமுற்றோர் கட்டுரை போட்டி மூலமாக அறிவிக்கப்பட்டுள்ளது. குழந்தைகளுக்கு அதிக மன பாதிப்பு ஏற்படும் சூழலை உணமுற்றோர் கட்டுரை போட்டி மூலமாக அறிவிக்கப்பட்டுள்ளது.

## தேசிய அளவிலான கட்டுரை போட்டி விண்ணப்பிக்க செப்டம்பர் 30 கடைசியான

கோவை, ஆக. 14: உணமுற்றோர் கட்டுரை போட்டி விண்ணப்பிக்க செப்டம்பர் 30 கடைசியானதாக அறிவிக்கப்பட்டுள்ளது. தேசிய அளவிலான கட்டுரை போட்டி விண்ணப்பிக்க செப்டம்பர் 30 கடைசியானதாக அறிவிக்கப்பட்டுள்ளது. தேசிய அளவிலான கட்டுரை போட்டி விண்ணப்பிக்க செப்டம்பர் 30 கடைசியானதாக அறிவிக்கப்பட்டுள்ளது.

## வயற்ற மாணவிகளுக்கு உதவித்தொகை வழங்கு

கோவை, ஜூன் 14: வயற்ற மாணவிகளுக்கு உதவித்தொகை வழங்கும் திட்டம் நடைபெற்று வருகிறது. வயற்ற மாணவிகளுக்கு உதவித்தொகை வழங்கும் திட்டம் நடைபெற்று வருகிறது. வயற்ற மாணவிகளுக்கு உதவித்தொகை வழங்கும் திட்டம் நடைபெற்று வருகிறது.

## Braille language

Each batch would accommodate between 30 and 50 participants and only those who are willing to devote the general public to Braille for the course. We want to train as many participants as possible. A competition in Braille will be held on January 4 by launching a training programme in Braille for the benefit of the general public. The Hindis M.N.G. said that a 20-hour course in Braille would be conducted free of cost during the second week of January. The training would be conducted by the Hindis M.N.G. staff. The course would be held in the Hindis M.N.G. building. The course would be held in the Hindis M.N.G. building. The course would be held in the Hindis M.N.G. building.

## Consultation made easy

The UDIS Forum, a network facilitating the disabled, has introduced a body called 'Conserve', to offer consultation in special education, vocational education, and vocational training. The body will have a pool of resource persons that will provide assistance to organizations requiring help. This forum will collect information from professionals from all parts of the country and make them available on the database. Organizations willing to set up education institutions, vocational centres, self-employment programmes, etc., can contact the forum for more information. Contact: UDIS Forum, Hindis M.N.G. Building, Hindis M.N.G. Building, Hindis M.N.G. Building.

## Youth wing for services formed

The UDIS Forum recently formed a youth wing to involve the youth in disability affairs. The youth wing consists of student volunteers of colleges in Coimbatore. The youth wing will serve as the nodal agency for all disability related work. The youth wing will serve as the nodal agency for all disability related work. The youth wing will serve as the nodal agency for all disability related work.

## Training for students with mental retardation

Thirty senior students with mental retardation from various schools in Coimbatore will be admitted for training and provided free accommodation. The main aim of the programme is to improve the mental retardation from May 5 to 10 on the school premises. The programme is to improve the mental retardation from May 5 to 10 on the school premises. The programme is to improve the mental retardation from May 5 to 10 on the school premises.

## Creating awareness among people on disability need of the hour

A seminar on 'Disability management' held on the 14th of June at the Hindis M.N.G. Building, Coimbatore. The seminar was attended by a large number of people. The seminar was attended by a large number of people. The seminar was attended by a large number of people.

## Women, children with disabilities most vulnerable

They are among the most neglected and need the support of society. Women and children with disabilities are among the most vulnerable. They are among the most neglected and need the support of society. Women and children with disabilities are among the most vulnerable. They are among the most neglected and need the support of society.

## NGOs propose job-mapping studies in the disability sector

Job-mapping jobs available in industries with disabilities. NGOs propose job-mapping studies in the disability sector. Job-mapping jobs available in industries with disabilities. NGOs propose job-mapping studies in the disability sector. Job-mapping jobs available in industries with disabilities.

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## பார்வையற்ற பல்கலை மாணவியருக்கு 'லேப்டாப்'

அறிவார்ணிக்கும் பல்கலை மாணவியர் பார்வையற்ற 12 மாணவியருக்கு 'லேப்டாப்' கம்ப்யூட்டர் வழங்கும் திட்டம் நடைபெற்று வருகிறது. அறிவார்ணிக்கும் பல்கலை மாணவியர் பார்வையற்ற 12 மாணவியருக்கு 'லேப்டாப்' கம்ப்யூட்டர் வழங்கும் திட்டம் நடைபெற்று வருகிறது.

## பார்வையற்ற பல்கலை மாணவியருக்கு 'லேப்டாப்'

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## பார்வையற்ற பல்கலை மாணவியருக்கு 'லேப்டாப்'

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## Our Gratitudes

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

- ◆ **The District Employment Office**, Coimbatore
- ◆ **CBM, South Asia Regional Office**, Bangalore
- ◆ **The District Rehabilitation Centre**, Coimbatore
- ◆ **National Institute for the Visually Handicapped (NIVH) - Regional Centre**, Chennai

- A-one Chips
- Best Engineers Pumps Pvt. Ltd.
- Bhagavathy Garments
- Bhuvaneshwari Engineering
- Captain BPO Centre
- Ceecom Systems
- Cute Creation
- Dr. P.G.V. Charitable Trust
- E2E Marketing
- Ganga Hospitals
- Googlee Browsing Centre
- Holy Cross Matric. Hr. Sec. School
- Infosys Non-technical services
- KG Apparel Pvt. Ltd.
- KG Denim Ltd.
- KPM Plasto Rubber Co.
- Kumpnar Pumpsets
- Optimum Training Services
- Perot Systems
- Pricol Packaging Ltd.
- S.D. Apparels
- Sakthi Coco Products
- Seven Hills Entrepreneurs
- Shape India Exports Pvt. Ltd.
- Solamalai Enterprises
- Sri Renga Apparels (India) Pvt. Ltd.
- Subha Plastics
- Sunglow Biotech
- V Serve Solution
- Vazhndu Kattuvom Project
- Venkateswara & Co.
- Venkateswara Suppliers Ltd.

- AES Technologies (I) Pvt. Ltd.
- Amrita University
- ARVIC
- Avinashilingam University for Women
- Bharathiar University
- CALIBER
- CANWIN
- Cheran Region Christian Society for the Disabled
- Coimbatore Association of the Deaf
- CMS College of Science and Commerce
- CSI Bishop Appasamy College of Arts and Science
- Dr. GRD College of Science
- Dr. PG Viswanathan Charitable Trust
- Govt. Polytechnic for Women, Coimbatore
- Grama Udhayam
- Higher Educational Institutions
- Hindustan College of Arts and Science
- Indian Association for the Blind
- Keelottivakkam Grama Sangam
- Sree Narayanaguru College
- Sri Krishna Arts and Science College
- SRKV College of Arts and Science
- PARIVAAR
- PSG College of Arts and Science
- Saarathy Pammac
- Siloam Hospital
- Sree Saraswathi Thyagaraja College

**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.**

For further details:



**UDIS Administrative Office:**

111, Sree Lakshmi Towers  
 Saibaba Koil  
 Mettupalayam Road  
 Coimbatore - 641 043  
 Tamil Nadu  
 Phone : 0422-2433827

**Employment Counselling Centre:**

30/38, Mettupalayam Road  
 Opp. Govt. ITI,  
 G.N. Mills Post  
 Coimbatore - 641 029  
 Tamil Nadu  
 Phone : 0422-2648006

or

E-mail : [udisforum@vsnl.net](mailto:udisforum@vsnl.net) ✧ Website : [www.davo.in](http://www.davo.in)