

साधना

प्रेम, प्रसन्नता और समर्पण

स्मारिका - अप्रैल 2017

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प्रत्येक धर्म
प्रत्येक जाति के
लिए मूल्यपरक
शिक्षा



स्वामी रामतीर्थ नेशनल एजुकेशन सोसायटी (रजि०)

1ई/16, स्वामी रामतीर्थ नगर, नई दिल्ली - 55, फोन : 23528302, 23559350

स्वामी रामतीर्थ पब्लिक स्कूल

सी-9, विजय विहार, रिठाला, दिल्ली-85, फोन : 27043017

(दिल्ली एजुकेशन डायरेक्ट्रेट द्वारा मान्यता प्राप्त)



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Disability

Only a Mental Perception

It was yesterday evening; I got the opportunity to enjoy the performance of one of the most ravishing Bharatanatyam dancers of India – ‘The Great Sudha Chandran’. It was bliss to see her performing and it took me hours to get rid of the hangover of that mesmerising and flawless performance. Though after hours of performance, apart from sizzling dance performance, there was yet another thing which was popping in my mind and making me restless. I was engulfed with a question mark that what if this fifty years old internationally acclaimed dancer and timeless beauty had been in a gloomy doom after she met an accident at the age of sixteen? What could have kept her motivated? No doubt, it is her strong will power and determination which kept her going. But no doubt, it could have been support of her family and teachers as well which helped her to win over all the odds.

After that, there was a list of genius, who suffered from one or other type of disabilities, started blinking in my mind. And down the memory lane, I could recall

the name of famous Irish author, painter and poet – ‘The Christy Brown’ who had severe cerebral palsy, incapable for several years of deliberate movement or speech. Even doctors claimed him to be intellectually unfit or disable. However, his mother did not give up and continued to speak to him, work with him and try to teach him. It was her efforts and firm determination which earned Brown a special place for him in the lobby of laureates.

Another name, which kept striking me the whole night, was Hellen Keller – an established American author, political artist and social leader. Keller was deaf and blind since birth, but in this case it was her teacher, Annie Sullivas, who broke the isolation of lack of language and let the girl blossom as she made her learn to communicate.

History across the world gives number of such examples where people have overcome all the difficulties and inabilities to achieve their goals. We have many such names with us, where disability is not been successful in jolting the firm determination of these achievers. Be it administration, literature, art and craft, athletics, journalism or

scientific inventions, the contributions of this specially-abled group is remarkable. There is a never-ending list of such achievers across the various sectors of the society, who have contributed significantly in their respective fields and have made their presence felt.

According to Census (2011) - in Indian sub-continent only, there are approximately 26,810,557 persons (around 2% of total population) with special needs and to include them in the mainstream of society is a challenging task for the government. I propose this task to be challenging not because there is lack of needed resources or I doubt the vision of either of Indian government. But Yes, I feel nostalgic with the attitude of masses which they share for this section of society. After seventy years of independence too, they are deprived of a normal livelihood. Either they are over-sympathized or totally disregarded, leading to an imbalanced persona.

It is the time to come out of narrow dooms of our thought process and embrace the whole humankind within the developmental process. And the same can be incepted from

the threshold of a home itself. The motivating support of the parents could prove to be a boon for such children. As in the case of Christy Brown, it was his mother's endless efforts and belief which changed the destiny of Brown. Similarly, in case of Hellen Keller, the input of her teacher in altering her destiny cannot be overlooked.

No doubt, premier it is the individual's will power and strong determination only which have led these achievers to acclaim such positions, but the support of family and teachers too cannot be neglected. Both parents and teachers have to graduate in 'BA' to help out their specially-abled children, where 'B' stands for 'Believe' and 'A' highlights the 'Action'. In the case of these specially-abled learners, both parents and teachers must have unshaken belief that each individual is unique and possesses specific abilities. And a positive and significant change can be made in the lives of these specially-abled children through appropriate, enriched and nourishing environment. And next is the 'Action', where both parents and teachers have to work integrally towards the development of these students. Even National Policy of Education, 1986 states that

'A human being is a positive asset and a precious natural resource, which needs to be cherished, nurtured, and developed with tenderness, and care, coupled with dynamism. Each individual's growth presents a different range of problems and requirements at every stage from womb to tomb'.

