

Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu participated as Chief Guest on the occasion of 10th year celebration of Deaf Enabled Foundation

Thiru. Banwarilal Purohit, Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu participated as Chief Guest on the occasion of 10th year celebration of of Deaf Enabled Foundation organized by Deaf Enabled Foundation at Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium, Periamet, Chennai today (15.12.2019) and addressed the gathering.

Hon'ble Governor said, "It gives me great pleasure to be here at award presentation ceremony of DEF – Decennial Games being organised by Deaf Enabled Foundation on the occasion of 10th Anniversary of Deaf Enabled Foundation.

In 2009, the Deaf Enabled Foundation, under the stewardship of Shri T K M Sandeep, was born to fulfill the aspirations of hearing-impaired individuals.

The fundamental problems faced by the hearing-impaired people are training, education, job opportunities and communication.

This Foundation has set out to create solutions to empower these individuals and provide them means to allow them to live happy and productive lives and thus be absorbed into the mainstream of society. I am told that in cooperation with a number of corporates, training is followed by job placements.

I am told that this foundation has a 'Talking Hands Restaurant' in Hyderabad, run and managed by a team of hearing-impaired individuals. This is yet another example of unique employment opportunities being created.

In order for rehabilitation to be successful, early detection with proper diagnosis and the cooperation of the family is vital. There should be no stigma which prevents parents from beginning immediate care for their children. Constant advances in technology enables even the poorer sections of society to have options in treating or improving the lives of the Deaf.

Here it may be interesting to know, India has always been known for its techniques of medical treatment and surgery enunciated in the systems of medicine such as Ayurveda, Siddha etc. In Sushruta's description of nerves, he demonstrated how meticulously, he studied the neuro-anatomy. In Sushruta Samhita, he says "Two

nerves lower down at the back of ear (vidhura) which, if cut, produce deafness". Such was the depth of knowledge about nerve surgery even in ancient India.

But the single most important need of the hour is to develop a strong universal Indian Sign Language. Given the number of different languages in this country, it is a challenge that needs to be overcome.

There have also been many initiatives by the Government of India, such as the Rehabilitation Council of India Act, The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2016 etc. Tamil Nadu has an energetic and active policy in helping the persons with disabilities to lead happy and productive lives.

In declaring these Tenth Anniversary Games closed, I dedicate this successful event to the Deaf community of this great country with the assurance that the support and good wishes of the Government and the People of India will always be with them.

I am glad the DEF is prioritizing this initiative. I wish to congratulate the DEF for launching the DEF ISL app that contains a 50,000-word dictionary with relevant translations. This is an amazing achievement and will bridge the communication gap between the Deaf community and the hearing community. Forty one countries have recognized sign language as an official language. I am happy to note that the DEF is working tirelessly to make the Indian Sign Language recognized officially and thus integrate the affected Indians who are hearing-impaired, into the broader society.

Inclusive schooling is equally important. The Deaf need to be absorbed into mainstream education and culture so that they do not feel marginalised or inferior in any way. This is something that Society and the entire education infrastructure needs to be aware of and work towards a solution.

I have a suggestion to make here: What the larger society needs to do in connection with the hearing-impaired persons is first to listen to the sounds of their emotions and understand that they are eager to communicate like normal persons. If we open our inner ears, we will be in a better position to help the hearing-impaired persons to hear better. For, in that case, what will operate is the strong human compassion.

I congratulate all the award winners on their fantastic achievement. I am sure that they will serve as role models who will inspire others to follow in their footsteps in the coming years. I extend my best wishes to one and all present here.

I appreciate the efforts of Deaf Enabled Foundation for having taken painstaking efforts to organise this function. I extend my best wishes and greetings to them. May they be greeted with success in all their endeavours.”

On this occasion, Dr. Ishari K. Ganesh, Chairman, Vels Group of Institutions, Thiru. T.K.M. Sandeep, Founder & President, Deaf Enabled Foundation, Dr. Xavier Britto, Chairman, Kerry Indev Logistics, Thiru. M. Sivalingam, Patron Member, Deaf Enabled Foundation and other dignitaries participated.

Raj Bhavan, Chennai – 22

Sd/-

Date : 15.12.2019

Addl. Director (PR)