



## Rani



**Rani**, 23yrs, is extremely excited to have won a Bronze in 4x100m relay at the Regional Games Newcastle. She, however, wants to take this as a stepping stone towards winning Gold at another international event. An orphan, brought up under the warm care of Missionaries of Charity Asha Dan, Delhi, she was brought to this organization by Palna, a home for abandoned, homeless and destitute children, around twenty years back.

Owing to her low IQ, she was unable to continue with her studies and joined SO-Bharat, in 2005, through Balwant Ray Mehta School. Her whole-hearted participation in Athletics and Bocce in various sports trainings and competitions braced her to go for the World Games soon after she joined. She was, at that time, unable to go due to a delay in her passport. Her friend and co-resident of Asha Dan went for the Games, returning with a Gold Medal. Her disappointment, in not having to participate at the World Games got the better of her inasmuch as strengthening her focus and determination taking her to the victory stands at the Regional Games 2013, Newcastle.

Along with sports, she likes to dance and goes for regular practices that prepared her to participate at various state as well as International level dance competitions. She has participated in dance events in a few states in India and at international events in Sri Lanka and Bangladesh.

After completing 4 yrs at Balwant Rai Mehta School, Rani joined 'Very Special Arts India' Delhi, an NGO working with the disabled and underprivileged young population of India, through various forms of art. Along with dance she was very fond of singing but was unable to pursue it due to her speech problem. Asha dan took her through speech therapy that improved her speech but could not help her to sing.

Sister Rosabella, her Mentor, says, 'she is extremely independent and active. She likes to travel independently to all the trainings and competitions organized by SO-Bharat'.

Rani says confidently that she wants to excel in Dance and also wants to acquire higher training to be able to train Athletes at Special Olympics Bharat