



Making the Siblings and Families proactive in Inclusion of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities

Friday 18 October 2019 Guwahati: Special Olympics Bharat- Assam Sibling Forum held a morning

Of fun and sports from 11AM to 1PM on 18 October 2019. Unified recreational games , Unified softball followed by a Unified drawing competition on the theme of 'Say No To Plastic' lined up the morning that came alive with 40 Athletes, Siblings and youth leaders with 10-15 Coaches, family members and officials.

About 15 Athletes present have represented India at the global mega event- Special Olympics World Games.

The Sibling Forum of around 40 with a core team of 10 has formed in the past one year to specifically encourage the siblings' proactive role and position to drive Inclusion for Athletes with Intellectual Disabilities.

This program witnessed involvement of siblings from Mumbai and Jammu as well, followed by exchange of experiences and ideas between them

In the words of Dr Anjana Goswami, Area Director- SO Bharat Assam and Board Member SO Bharat:

Although we have always involved the families and siblings in various Special Olympics initiatives, formation of a Sibling Forum will strengthen a commitment and proactive participation of the siblings to drive Inclusion aloud. Coming from different academic backgrounds and careers, they will certainly enrich our endeavors in the Inclusion Revolution.

About Special Olympics Sibling Engagement

Special Olympics Sibling engagement occurs when the sibling of a person with ID is actively involved in their brother or sister's life in Special Olympics. Siblings can be particularly effective youth leaders in the Special Olympics movement because they have a personal experience with disability and marginalization that provides them with powerful motivation for advocacy. Sibling leaders have been and will be critical to every phase and layer of the Special Olympics movement. For example, Special Olympics founder Eunice Kennedy Shriver was a sibling. Strongly motivated and deeply passionate about the subject siblings have driven advocacy initiatives like 'Spread the Word – Inclusion' and are also involved as Board Members, coaches, volunteers, staff and Unified partners.

About Special Olympics Bharat

Special Olympics Bharat is a National Sports Federation recognized by the Ministry of Youth and Sports, Govt of India and the accredited program of the Special Olympics International, USA. It is spread across all the States and Union Territories of India having registered over 1.4 Million Athletes with Intellectual Disabilities.

Special Olympics is a global inclusion movement using sport, health, education and leadership programs every day around the world to end discrimination against and empower people with intellectual disabilities. Founded in 1968, and celebrating its 50th Anniversary last year, the Special Olympics movement has grown to more than 5 million athletes and Unified partners. With the support of more than 1 million coaches and volunteers, Special Olympics delivers 32 Olympic-type sports and



over 108,000 games and competitions throughout the year. In the Asia Pacific region, Special Olympics has touched the lives of more than 1.7 million athletes across 34 countries.

About Special Olympics Bharat- Assam

The Assam Chapter of Special Olympics was initiated in the year 2006 and has been running successfully since, having registered over 12000 Athletes across 27 districts of Assam

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