



Special Olympics Young Athletes

Supported By

IKEA Foundation



Special Olympics Bharat Young Athletes Annual Brochure 2017 *January-December 2017*



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Message from the Chairman

Dr Cdr Kartikay Saini



Firsts are always the fondest. They are also the most exciting and challenging. So was IKEA Foundation's Young Athlete Program, when it became integral to the Special Olympics Bharat family!! This three year grant by IKEA Foundation gave a new lease of life to our Young Athletes between the ages of 2 – 7 years.

"Let's play for Change", indeed is working in the literal sense of the slogan. Our Young Athletes, at a tender age, are being touched by this initiative of IKEA Foundation and

spiralling energy into the Young Athlete Program of Special Olympics Bharat. In a single year we have managed to reach out to more than 1,00,000 children with and without Intellectual disabilities in 154 districts and 29 States.

The terrain was tough and not really a smooth sailing. Reaching out to parents of Young Athletes, especially in rural areas with little literacy and pre-defined mind sets, was a challenge we took on. Assessment of IQ of children less than 6 years of age is not easy in Bharat. But the IKEA Foundation grant gave us the impetus and empowered us to reach out to people, educate them about the need to identify young athletes and work on them with full gusto. IKEA Foundation has helped us to reach out to families through Schools, Communities, Clubs, Anganwadis and Sarv Shiksha Abhiyan. These young Athletes, whom we have tapped at such an early age, will have a lifetime of benefit and respectable living as Athletes of Special Olympics Bharat.

The road is long. And less travelled by. So we have to work harder, longer and tirelessly. While we thank IKEA Foundation for giving us this thrust for our Young Athletes, we look yonder to see so much more to do. Bharat awaits!!



The National Office Management Team- Role Allocation

Mukta Narain Thind

National Director, SO Bharat

Overall implementation of the program and its development at various levels – Government, National and State

Mona Shipley

IKEA Project Consultant, SO Bharat

Overall Program Monitoring for National Reporting. Supporting Program Implementation and augmenting advocacy to raise the profile of the overall program

Victor R Vaz

National Sports Director, SO Bharat

Transition mapping of Young Athletes to Traditional or Unified Sports Program



Sulekha Rana
Senior Manager- Organizational Development, SO Bharat



Overall coordination with the states for program implementation and training of Special Educators and Coaches

Gaurav Mehan
Senior Manager- Finance, SO Bharat



Financial tracking of the project as per the implementation budget provided

Raman Rekhi
Senior Manager- Marketing & Communications, SO Bharat



Management of Communications and Branding of the project in conjunction with the SOI guidelines. Mapping Success Stories, publishing required information on the website and on Social Media



Program Expectations at the National & State Levels

| National Office | States Offices |
|--|---|
| Program Planning | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coaches and Program Manager Trainings Record of Districts identified by the States Share Briefings/ Budgets/Timelines/Resources(Branding & Curriculum)/Photo release forms/Travel plans & Permission forms with Area Directors Regular State Visits | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> State Area Directors/ State Reps to attend Briefings and Capacity Building Workshops organized by the National Office Identify Districts/ Blocks for program Implementation Extend training further in the districts Reach out to State Govt Departments/ Ministries/ Corporates/Institutions & Communities Plan YA activities with timelines |
| Monitoring & Evaluation | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submit Quarterly Reports Feedback from Parents/Guardians/Athletes Track Athlete Skill Development Progress Media Monitoring Photos & Videos | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain documentation of registrations, activities conducted and numbers reached |
| Training and Development | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extended to State Area Directors, Program Managers & Coaches Ensure Consistent & Quality delivery of YA activities Develop understanding and skills for evaluation documenting and reporting | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Area Directors, Program Managers and Coaches to attend trainings |
| Monitoring Visits | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meet Program delivery Team in the States/Districts Assist International teams on their visits to activity sites in India | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report progress on a monthly basis |
| Mid-Year Review Meetings | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initial Roll out Programs Revise & Update plans , if required Discuss Challenges & Opportunities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attend Meetings to present implementation facts and challenges, success stories, networking opportunities and sustainability plan |



Lets Play for Change by IKEA Foundation

Say Yes to Play



The UN Convention on the Rights of the Children states that *every* child should have the right to play. Sadly not every child enjoys this right. Millions of children are on the move, making them vulnerable to discrimination, violence, abuse and exploitation according to a play insights document released by IKEA Foundation. The insights also revealed that children with disabilities are often the most likely to be excluded from play and learning activities. Let's Play for Change builds on the success of previous IKEA good cause campaigns, which have raised \$142.6 million (€118.8 million)**, since 2003.

This is the biggest IKEA good cause campaign yet – with more products and more partners than ever before. *Children suffer the most in a crisis situation, and we are committed to upholding and raising awareness of their rights,*” commented Per Hegggenes, CEO of IKEA Foundation.

For the vast majority of children with intellectual disabilities and their families around the world, access to comprehensive and effective early childhood development programs is limited or non-existent. In the developing world, where resources are scarce for all children, the issues and obstacles that children with intellectual disabilities face make access that much more difficult, thereby making programs such as Young Athletes, all the more urgent and necessary



Mary Davis, Chief Executive Officer, Special Olympics said. *“It is shocking and disheartening to note that the majority of children with intellectual disabilities have little to no access to valuable services and educational opportunities, which often entrenches them and their families in a cycle of poverty and social isolation, which ultimately, hinders their human development. The Special Olympics Young Athletes program, a sports-play program designed to promote motor, social and cognitive development and inclusion for children with intellectual disabilities, offers children the*

opportunity to learn inclusive play in a safe environment. Thanks to our partners at the IKEA Foundation, we are able to grow our Young Athletes program and reach more children, impact more families and further break down the perceptions that exist for children with intellectual disabilities.”


Support from the IKEA Foundation



Funding from the IKEA Foundation will support the growth of Young Athletes in Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Thailand from 2017 through 2019



Global Targets

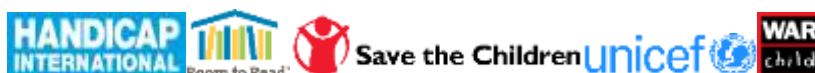
| | | |
|---|----------------|---|
| IKEA Foundation  | 350,000 | children in Young Athletes activities |
| | 875,000 | total beneficiaries impacted by project |
| | 5,000 | socially inclusive communities |

About IKEA Foundation

The IKEA Foundation (Stichting IKEA Foundation) is the philanthropic arm of INGKA Foundation, the owner of the IKEA Group of companies. We aim to improve opportunities for children and youth in some of the world's poorest communities by funding holistic, long-term programmes that can create substantial, lasting change. The IKEA Foundation works with strong strategic partners applying innovative approaches to achieve large-scale results in four fundamental areas of a child's life: a place to call home; a healthy start in life; a quality education; and a sustainable family income, while helping these communities fight and cope with climate change.

Learn more at www.ikeafoundation.org and www.facebook.com/IKEAFoundation

Other Partners:

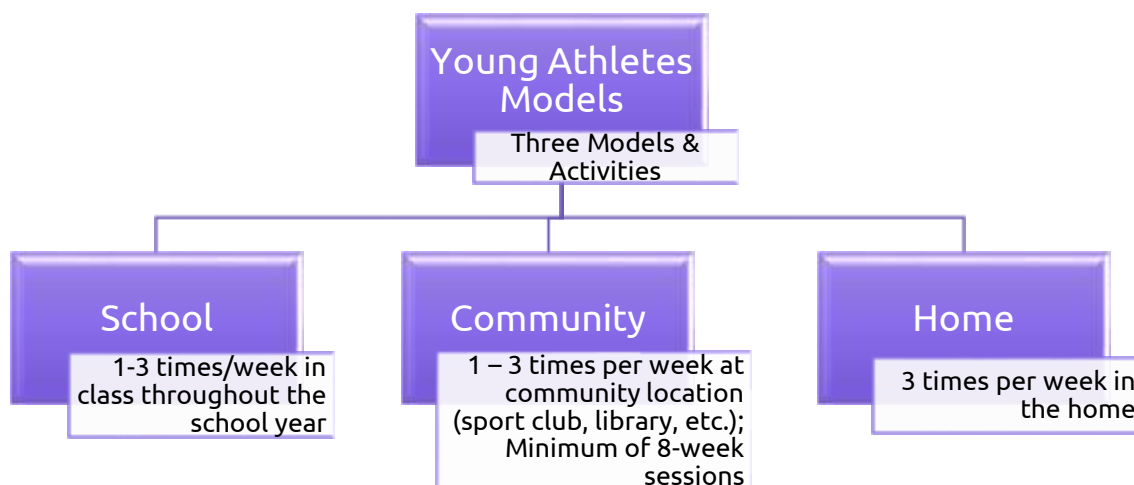


Why Special Olympics Young Athletes

Through its Young Athletes programs in Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Thailand, Special Olympics will help develop the motor, social and cognitive development and inclusion for children with intellectual disabilities. **Young Athletes is a sports and play program for Children with and without Intellectual Disabilities ages 2-7 years old.** Young Athletes offers an opportunity to learn about every child's abilities and to readjust expectations through inclusive play. It includes a series of structured physical activities, songs and games to teach basic motor skills. Through these play activities children grow and develop valuable motor skills, like walking and running, while also enhancing social and cognitive skills through interaction with their peers, with and without intellectual disabilities.

https://www.specialolympics.org/Sponsors/IKEA_Foundation.aspx





Tools Created Indigenously- Curriculum and Branding/Communications

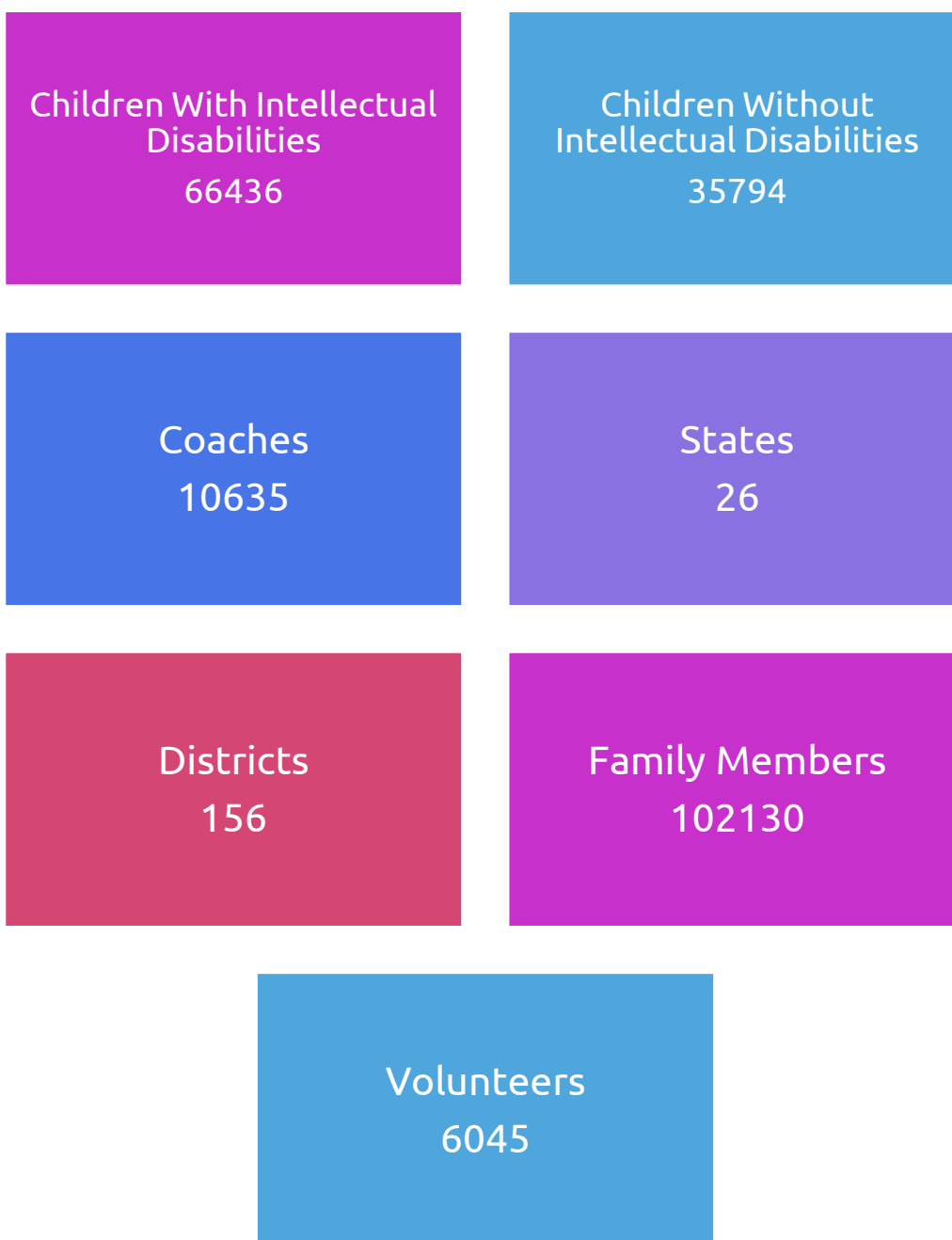
| Category | Inventory |
|--------------------|--|
| Communications | Website Exclusive Page: IKEA Foundation + Home Slider image http://specialolympicsbharat.org/what-we-do/networking/ikea-foundation/ |
| | Newsletter : Header + Exclusive segment in every Monthly e-Newsletter |
| | Social media: Exclusive page on Facebook |
| Branding Creatives | Banners Backdrop Stands Certificates |
| | Folders Flyer Curriculum Cover Annual Brochure |
| | T shirts Bibs |
| Curriculum | Athlete Assessment Tool |



YOUNG ATHLETE RECORD AND ASSESSMENT SHEET

| DOMAINS | | Week / Session 1 | Week / Session 2 | Week / Session 3 | Week / Session 4 | Week / Session 5 | Week / Session 6 | Week / Session 7 | Week / Session 8 |
|--|------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|------------------|
| FOUNDATION SKILLS | | WALKING & RUNNING | BALANCE & JUMPING | TRAPPING & CATCHING | THROWING | STRIKING | KICKING | ADVANCED SPORTS SKILLS | |
| PARAMETERS FITNESS STRENGTH BODY AWARENESS SPATIAL CONCEPTS FOLLOWING DIRECTIONS IMITATING MOTOR MOVEMENTS VISUAL TRACKING SKILLS WALKING RUNNING ADAPTIVE SKILLS BALANCE JUMPING HAND EYE COORDINATION MOTOR CONTROL/CO-ORDINATION THROWING SKILL FLEXIBILITY STRIKING SKILL KICKING | OPENING & CLOSING SONG | OPENING & CLOSING SONG | BALANCE BEAM / ROPE | ROLLING & TRAPPING | ROLLING | BALL TAPPING / HANDBALL | KICKING | RUNNING STYLE | |
| | 1 SPY | FOLLOW THE LEADER | FOOT TRAP | GOALIE DRILL | UNDER HAND TOSS | SIDE STRIKING | PENALTY KICK PREP / DISTANCE / ACCURACY | RUN & CARRY | |
| | SCARF GAME | FOLLOW THE PATH | ROLLING & TRAPPING | BIG BALL CATCHING SKILL | OVER HAND THROW | OBSTACLE COURSE | KICKBALL/KICK & GO | JUMPING HIGH / WITH HURDLES | |
| | INCHWORM WIGGLE | SIDE STEP | FOOT TRAP | HIGH BALL CATCHING | THROWING FOR DISTANCE | BEGINNING HOCKEY / TENNIS / SOFTBALL | | THROWING FOR DISTANCE / ACCURACY | |
| | BRIDGE & TUNNEL | RUNNING | FROG HOPPING | BOUNCE CATCH | BALL TAPPING | BRIDGE & TUNNEL KICKING | | BALANCE BEAM | |
| | OBSTACLE COURSE | BRIDGE & TUNNEL | LEAPING LIZARDS | CATCHING & THROW | | | | HIGH BALL CATCH | |
| | | SCARF GAME | | ROLLING | | OBSTACLE COURSE | | THROWING | |
| | | RUN & CARRY | | TWO HAND UNDERHAND | | | | HANDBALL / TRAPPING | |
| | | OBSTACLE COURSE | | | | | | BEGINNING HOCKEY / TENNIS / SOFTBALL | |
| | | STEP & JUMP | | | | | | PENALTY KICK PREP/DISTANCE / ACCURACY | |
| Scoring Key Ⓢ Totally Dependent Ⓣ Physically Prompt Ⓤ Verbal Prompt Ⓡ Independent | Score Out of 4 | Score Out of 4 | Score Out of 4 | Score Out of 4 | Score Out of 4 | Score Out of 4 | Score Out of 4 | Score Out of 4 | |
| | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | |
| | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | |
| | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | |
| | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| | 28 | 28 | 32 | 28 | 24 | 24 | 28 | 28 | |
| | 75% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 54% | |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| TOTAL (220) | | 36 | | 16% | | | | | |

Reach 2017



"Fun is really living directly from your soul," Oprah Winfrey



Progress 2017

| | Achieved | Target | | | Achieved | | |
|-------------------|-------------------------|--------------|---------------------|------------------------|----------|----------------------------|------------------------|
| States | Districts Target-156 | Participants | | | | | |
| | | Total | Children With ID | Children Without ID | Total | Childr en With ID | Children Without ID |
| Andhra Pradesh | 4 | 3000 | 2250 | 750 | 1860 | 1266 | 594 |
| Arunachal Pradesh | 1 | 200 | 150 | 50 | 225 | 225 | 0 |
| Assam | 5 | 3750 | 2813 | 938 | 3303 | 1871 | 1432 |
| Bihar | 10 | 7500 | 5625 | 1875 | 2216 | 1565 | 651 |
| Chattisgarh | 5 | 3750 | 2813 | 938 | 3612 | 2367 | 1245 |
| Delhi | 5 | 3750 | 2813 | 938 | 4059 | 2498 | 1561 |
| Goa | 1 | 200 | 150 | 50 | 250 | 200 | 50 |
| Gujarat | 8 | 6000 | 4500 | 1500 | 344 | 270 | 74 |
| Haryana | 9 | 6750 | 5063 | 1688 | 13936 | 10680 | 3256 |
| Himachal Pradesh | 2 | 1500 | 1125 | 375 | 850 | 745 | 105 |
| Jharkhand | 8 | 6000 | 4500 | 1500 | 3865 | 3285 | 580 |
| Karnataka | 4 | 3000 | 2250 | 750 | 2796 | 2280 | 516 |
| Kerala | 5 | 3750 | 2813 | 938 | 3679 | 3284 | 395 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 6 | 4500 | 3375 | 1125 | 860 | 585 | 275 |
| Maharshatra | 8 | 6000 | 4500 | 1500 | 6365 | 4956 | 1409 |
| Manipur | 1 | 200 | 150 | 50 | 55 | 55 | 0 |
| Meghalaya | 1 | 200 | 150 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 0 |
| Mizoram | 1 | 200 | 150 | 50 | 114 | 114 | 0 |
| Odisha | 9 | 6750 | 5063 | 1688 | 5195 | 3489 | 1706 |
| Punjab | 9 | 6750 | 5063 | 1688 | 3267 | 2023 | 1244 |
| Rajasthan | 8 | 6000 | 4500 | 1500 | 6515 | 5207 | 1308 |
| Tamil Nadu | 8 | 6000 | 4500 | 1500 | 7674 | 5568 | 2106 |
| Telengana | 5 | 3750 | 2813 | 938 | 1763 | 1529 | 234 |
| UP | 20 | 15000 | 11250 | 3750 | 17190 | 6128 | 11062 |
| Uttrakhand | 5 | 3750 | 2813 | 938 | 5987 | 1979 | 4008 |
| West Bengal | 8 | 6000 | 4500 | 1500 | 6200 | 4217 | 1983 |
| Total | 156 | 114250 | 85688 | 28563 | 102230 | 66436 | 35794 |

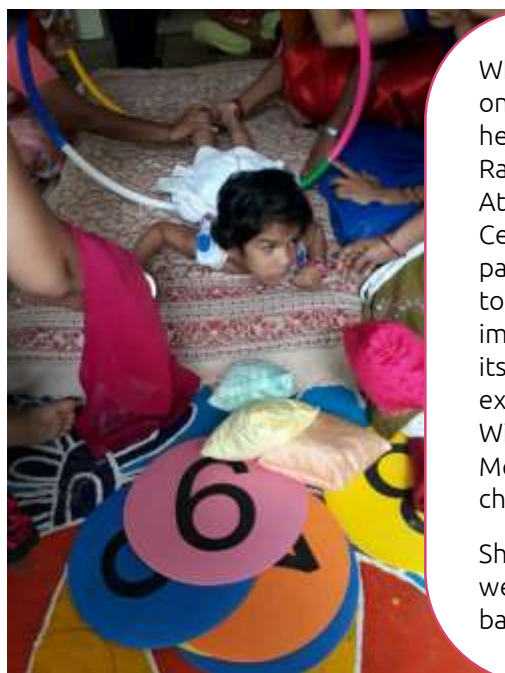


State Highlights

Andhra Pradesh & Telangana



Number/Names of Districts: 9
Number of Young Athletes: 3623



When she joined the sessions, 5 year old Meenakshi could only lie down, unable to stand, crawl or even sit. This is what her condition has been since birth. On 23rd June at Rangareddy , Andhra Pradesh when there was a Young Athlete program being conducted at the Child Guidance Centre (CGC) , her parents were requested to have her participate. They did not agree as they felt it was dangerous to push her into any activity that would challenge her immobility. They were requested to observe the program in its entirety. Her parents were too uncomfortable and extremely nervous to push her into any physical activity. With frequent stimulation massage and regular sessions Meenakshi has come a long way now, also her parents have changed their perspective of the drills conducted.

She comes regularly for the sessions which are held thrice a week and her laborious attempt to hold her neck and balance her body can be observed



Assam



Number/Names of Districts: 5

Number of Young Athletes: 3528



Number/Names of Districts: 5

Number of Young Athletes: 3612



Chattisgarh

His parents can see an improvement in his social behaviour and Communication skills. *"If his participation is regular there will certainly be a marked change in Pratik . We do see the change overcoming our son, we want him to participate in the Young Athletes Program regularly to further develop his abilities to optimal levels"* **Pratik's Mother**

The Young Athletes Program is conducted every day at the Ankur Special School, Korba, Chattisgarh , Monday through Friday, following the assembly. Pratik was often seen sitting along, in a corner, not talking with anyone during group activities, or even otherwise. Seeing a ball he would get scared, he feared going near it and did not know what to do with it. Even during a group activity he remained nervous. Dinesh was prepared to give him exclusive time to pull him out of his isolation. Even his parents did not know how the special school which highlights sports as a platform for change would help. Pratik's father works in a bank but his mother, Mariam, gave up higher education for spending exclusive time with her son.

Pratik is six years old , with Mild Downs Syndrome. Dinesh Chouhan took him under his care and mentored him.



"I am observing him closely, he is pushing himself too, to play with the ball and also reaches out to other young Athletes. I can also see a streak of hope in his parents who came with a closed mind initially. Pratik is participating in friendly races and also tries to play with the ball, showing interest in football ". I am getting closer to my aim. Ms Mariam too provides regular practise in one or the other form of play at home, seeing a change in him. He kicks the ball, in fact I can see a leader in him as I see him pass instructions to other Athletes now!" **Dinesh, His Mentor**

Delhi

Number/Names of Districts: 5

Number of Young Athletes: 4059



Sport is quite a simple thing. It is play, and in play, people of all ages find the chance to engage their most profound emotions- love, fear, excitement, disappointment, anger and joy.

Timothy Shriver



Goa

Number/Names of Districts: 1

Number of Young Athletes: 250



"Play is the highest form of Research." – Albert Einstein



Haryana



Number/Names of Districts: 9

Number of Young Athletes:
13936



*"Children need the freedom and time to play.
Play is not a luxury. Play is a necessity."* -Kay
Redfield Jamison



Himachal Pradesh

Number/Names of Districts: 2

Number of Young Athletes: 850



Jharkhand



Number/Names of Districts: 8
Number of Young Athletes: 3865



Kerala



Number/Names of
Districts: 5
Number of Young
Athletes: 3679



Odisha

Aanganwadi
/Community
Model

Number/Names of Districts: 9

Number of Young Athletes: 5195



Rekha assists Arpita Mohapatra (Trainer- SO Bharat Odisha) in the YA Sessions held in her district. Rekha who is 12 years tried the drills in her first session and thereafter assists to conduct the sessions involving young athletes. While she works with diligence in her new role and recognition the changes overcoming Rekha manifest aloud.

She was neglected by the family and ignored and trivialized by the community because of her disability. She had dropped out of school because of the insensitivity of the society and the incompetence and regressive mentality of the school teachers and authorities. She comes from a very poor family, father is a victim of drug and alcohol abuse, leaving her mother to struggle to earn a living. The fear of having to hear people call her names prevented her from going out. Her capability surfaced during conduct of the first session of the Young Athletes program in her district awarding her a role never assumed to have befitting her.

Rajasthan

Number of Districts: 8

Number of Young Athletes: 6515





Dr Meena is Principal and Associate Professor at the Mahatma Gandhi Occupational Therapy College, Jaipur. His association with SO Bharat goes back to 2011 with a blazing desire to work with persons with Special needs. Drawn by the impact of the program on the motor skills and on more faculties in growing children, he participated in the YAP training program held in Haryana in May 2017. Running a Centre for Autism, he explicitly expressed how this program would significantly improve joint movements, cognitive levels, colour perception and enhance sensor abilities. During the Camp he was seen practising the drills himself and then helping the Athletes do the same. After having attended the workshop he launched the Young Athletes Program in the district of Chirawa in Rajasthan training 11 Coaches. As the lead he replicated the training in the district taking the trainees through indoor and outdoor engagement with the Young Athletes



"Obstacle jumping would improve eye-hand coordination while the 'blowing the scarf' would enhance joint movements". Dr Meena

Tamil Nadu

Number/Names of Districts: 8

Number of Young Athletes: 7674



Uttar Pradesh

Number/Names of Districts: 20

Number of Young Athletes: 6128

*Divya Jyoti College
Of Dental Sciences
& Research-Youth
Leader
Involvement*



West Bengal

Number/Names of Districts: 8

Number of Young Athletes: 6200



National Highlights

IKEA Foundation Grant Training – 7-13 November 2016



To create a team for its planning and implementation, representatives from IKEA Foundation and SOI/SOAP visited India in November 2016. The Team visited Faridabad Haryana, Hyderabad Telangana and conducted a three day workshop at the National Office, Delhi. The training aimed to introduce the IKEA proposal, procedures and expectations. The training was attended by the National Office members as well as representatives from the State Chapters of Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh/Telangana and Jharkhand



Along with the training held in the National Office, an outdoor visit was made to Faridabad and Hyderabad where the team was joined by Ms Shanti Kalicharan and Mr Patrick Obonyo from IKEA Foundation





11-12 Jan 2017 – Meeting held at India Habitat Centre and the National Office New Delhi

A meeting was held with the State Program Representatives to create processes which would enable and ensure deliverance of the benefits of the program to the remotest areas of the country. Tapping new network opportunities while leveraging on existing partnerships, were voiced as significant contributors to strengthening the foundation of the program. Dr Deepti Khanna, Senior Consultant, Ministry of Health, Govt of India, briefed the participants about the RBS (Rashtriya Bal Suraksha Scheme) and DEIC (District Early Intervention Centre) programs along with outlining potential areas where they could be merged with the Special Olympics





27-29 May 2017- Training Program conducted at the Little Angels School, Sonipat, Haryana

A training program for Special Olympics Bharat Program Managers, Coaches and the Area Directors was held from 27-29 May 2017 at the Little Angels School, Sonipat, and Haryana. The program was planned to develop capacity of the States to roll out the IKEA Young Athlete Programme (YAP) in a standardized manner across India. Focus was on the deliverables of each State, implementation methods, timelines, providing guidelines for monitoring and reporting outcomes along with the curriculum and communication procedures to be followed to ensure quality outreach and measure impact. The program was attended by 74 trainees from 22 states





21 & 22 August 2017 - Mary Davis engages with Young Athletes on her visit to India

Mary Davis, CEO Special Olympics International, during her trip to India in August 2017 slated two days for engaging with Young Athletes in schools across urban and rural settings. In Mathura, UP as well as the Aanchal school Chanakyapuri Delhi she witnessed implementation of the Young Athletes Program through the YA indigenously created kit



Iwitness – Hyderabad



<https://blog.ikeafoundation.org/special-olympics-india-new-world-children-intellectual-disabilities/> **Rebecca Ralston**

Changing the Game- IKEA India plays with Young Athletes

"I have read about Special Olympics but coming here and engaging with the Athletes has made me relate with the program- how sports can truly be a catalyst; Even as a parent I will tell my child to play- it is important"- IKEA India team member



An IWitness program was conducted in September 2017 in Hyderabad, Telangana bringing on board 13 members from the IKEA India office to the new experience of engaging with the SO Bharat Young Athletes. They were joined by the Special Olympics representatives from USA, Singapore, Delhi and Telangana.



IWitness

IKEA Foundation Global Citizens Programme

IKEA Foundation



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You just need a beating heart

SEPTEMBER 20, 2017



Written by [Satya Priya Sharma](#).

There were grey skies and Hyderabad was a bit nippy with the drizzling on a Friday morning. I was thinking to myself, on my way to Special Olympics, that I will relive a few moments of my childhood. I grew up with my Aunt (paternal) who was intellectually disabled and had a mind of a two-year-old; she was my best friend.

She died in January this year and my heart was sinking with thoughts of her. At the same time thought I would feel out of this world if I got to relive the laughter and giggles, and see that sparkle in the eye, by meeting the kids at Special Olympics today.

<https://blog.ikeafoundation.org/just-need-beating-heart/>



22 September 2017-Natalia Vodianova engages with Young Athletes Mumbai

Ms Natalia Vodianova, Special Olympics International Board Member visited the SPJ Sadhana Special School Sofia College Campus, Mumbai on 22 September 2017. The morning saw an unusual frenzy of activities and arrangements prior to her visit, which suddenly calmed as she blended perfectly with the Young Athletes, students, School representatives and the Special Olympics Maharashtra team



Tim Shriver Visits India

17 October 2017- Kulachi Hansraj Model School, Ashok Vihar, New Delhi

Dr Tim Shriver engaged with the Young Athletes, family members and the school representatives during his visit





4-10 November 2017 -Young Athletes Workshop- Global and IKEA Foundation Bangkok Thailand



Special Olympics Thailand hosted the Special Olympics International "Young Athletes Global Workshop" held between 4 and 10 November 2017 in Bangkok. The Global Young Athletes Workshop presented the current scenario of implementation of the program in 143 countries along with a plan to expand it to 53 more as well. Implementation sites of the program in Bangkok were visited. Success stories were shared while creation of kits out of waste material was held.

Under the IKEA Foundation project the Young Athletes researchers were given an opportunity to present their strategies and measurement outcomes. Representatives from the Amity University, which is collaborating with SO Bharat to carry out the YA Research, showcased the Indian scenario. Striking partnerships with Universities and government bodies for reaching out to the grassroots was emphasized



Media Coverage June – December 2017

| National Office/State | Number | Month/s |
|---|-----------|-----------------------|
| Karnataka | 14 | July August October |
| Jharkhand | 6 | June November |
| Telangana | 4 | September |
| Haryana | 2 | September |
| Chattisgarh | 1 | July |
| Himachal Pradesh | 1 | August |
| Uttar Pradesh | 1 | November |
| National Office | 2 | August October |
| Sports illustrated October 2017- Article Mary Davis | | |
| http://www.hindustantimes.com/other-sports/india-on-the-cusp-of-a-unique-revolution-in-a-very-special-olympics-event/story-UM6p5s0Ff69lqS0D2YYlrO.html | | |
| Total: | 31 | |



India on cusp of a unique revolution in a very Special Olympics event: Shriver

India is leading a unique revolution of inclusion in the Special Olympics event, a world-class sporting event that has the potential to transform the lives of people suffering from intellectual disabilities.

Special Olympics India is leading a unique revolution of inclusion in the Special Olympics event, a world-class sporting event that has the potential to transform the lives of people suffering from intellectual disabilities.



The Shriver (left), Chairman of the Special Olympics, says India's inclusive education model (shown) is a model of an inclusive education. (The Star)

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/other-sports/india-on-the-cusp-of-a-unique-revolution-in-a-very-special-olympics-event/story-UM6p5s0Ff69lqS0D2YYlrO.html>





Partnerships



Research- Impact evaluation of Development Skills and Community Inclusion

The Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) are facilitating Impact evaluation of Development Skills and Community Inclusion for 4 C's (Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Thailand). The team made its first trip to India in September 2017 to gain an overview of the SO Bharat program along with a comprehensive implementation of the Project. The visit took them to Asha AWWA and Kulachi Hansraj Schools in Delhi and the Chetanalaya Center and Aanganwadi at Rohtak to witness the program along with interacting with stakeholders in the community. This visit to India also connected them with their local partners – The Amity University NOIDA



Amity University is the local partner of the project conducting research to establish the impact of the program Pan India with the required support from SO Bharat. The complete research will be carried out on 3000 young athletes with ID & 160 in control group from February 2018- April 2019





PR Agency- Enhance Visibility to spread Awareness and Change Attitudes



Overall awareness and advocacy of the Young Athletes Program highlighting specific events , designing a press kit ensuring universal key messaging along with interviews and features at the National and Regional levels to maintain regular visibility of the program

West Bengal- West Bengal Sarva Siksha Mission



In a meeting held on 12 September 2017 in Birbhum West Bengal with Special Educators and presided by the District Project Officer, Paschim Banga sarv Siksha Mission, it was established that A Play Clinic will be started according to the SO Bharat guidelines in conjunction with the Unified/Inclusive format

- Play Clinic will be Started at Md.Bazar,Dubarajpur South,Bolpur West and Dighalgram Primary School immediately according to guidelines of Special Olympics Bharat,West Bengal Chapter in inclusive/Unified mode.
- According to proposal of the house the Therapeutic Service (Physio, Speech & Psycho) may be Stared at the CLRC level Resource Centers according to previous rules from over all IED fund if higher authority approved.

The meeting was ended with thanks to the chair.

Shasan
20/09/2017
District Project Officer
Paschim Banga Sarva Siksha Mission, Birbhum.



Himachal Pradesh- Aanganwadi, Bilaspur and Kangra districts



In a directive issued by the Additional Director, Women & Child Development, Himachal Pradesh in November 2017 to the District Program officers- They would inform all Aanganwadi Centers about the Young Athletes Program and that it would be incorporated in the regular curriculum. This would include training of the Aanganwadi workers and roll out of the YA activities initially under the lead of the SO Bharat representatives, in both the districts.



Haryana



The State Chapter has successfully struck ties with the State Government for conduct of the Young Athletes Program (and the Special Olympics Sports program) across all the 450 Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) Centres functioning in 119 blocks spread across the State

Mr Virender Kumar, Area Director SO Bharat- Haryana has observed, *"Family members of Children with ID are overwhelmed to see them play with children without ID; they are not bothered about performance but happy to see them participate in activities with the mainstream children"*

Odisha



In the Nimapada block in Puri district of Odisha, a partnership between the SO Bharat- Odisha Chapter and the Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) for Children with Disabilities program has emerged creating a strong potential for the implementation of all the three models of the Young Athletes program. Under this program a parent association has been formed and recognized as a legal entity under the Societies Registration Act, 1860. The members have been provided training on Child Rights, their entitlements, issues related to

disabilities and challenges faced by them and further how they can approach the local authorities and get a break through thus creating a parent outreach program. The Community Partners include Self Help Groups (SHGs), Youth Members, District Coaches, SSA coaches, community members, youth of the village, peoples' elected representatives, Anganwadi workers, Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs) etc.



Opportunities of Growth



A National flagship program **Khelo India** has been recently launched by the **Ministry Of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India**. SOB is the inclusion partner. Discussions are underway at the National level to integrate YA training into the Khelo India campaign.

Perspective



Dr Amitav Mishra ,Treasurer & Secretary SO Bharat:

Our Coaches have observed that post YA intervention in Schools, demand for YA in Schools has increased. Principals and teachers are now more interested, as YA has improved attendance levels.

UP is mostly working with the Government, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) and using their Master Trainers to scale up training at no extra cost thus ensuring systemic intervention and sustainability. Discussions with an insurance company are underway as improvement in the overall health of the Athletes emerges as an area of mutual gain



Mr C Rajasekhar, Area Director SO Bharat AP/Telangana:

The program has been inserted in the regular curriculum of 7 schools across three districts (Vishakhapatnam, Ananthapur and Vijaywada) in Andhra Pradesh and in 5 districts (Warrangal, Medak, Rangareddy & Hyderabad) in Telangana. So far the schools focussed on specific therapies like Speech, Behaviour etc. The Young Athletes acceptance is spreading because of a combination of development through play and lots of fun. The colourful layout of the equipment makes it attractive too. But, since its been a while now, we need to keep evolving with newer drills and modifications, gradually blending it with sports like cricket etc. to prevent monotony



Mr. Prakash K Rath, Area Director SO Bharat- Odisha:

The community participation gets bigger as they see the abilities of Young Athletes through programs such as this. It helps break misconceptions. Although mind-sets may take a while to change. Forming an association of the parent community is a great benefit.

The YA Kit is very attractive and vibrant as much for the Athletes as it is for the community. The visual appeal does play its role and stokes people's curiosity.

Regular interaction between different states allows exchange of ideas, like it has helped me.





Ms Lina Bardhan Rehabilitation Psychologist & Area Director SO Bharat West Bengal

On developing the Assessment Tool: During the launch of the IKEA Young Athlete Program, a member of the team, Lina Bardhan, Psychologist and Special Education consultant saw the necessity of a tool to map the progress and performance of Young Athletes. She developed the tool, which is formatted in MS Office Excel documents demographic data while also measuring the Pre, Intermediate and Post intervention development of the Young Athlete during the training period.

To administer the coaches needed to be trained in scoring the assessment tool while also being aware of the contents of existing resource materials i.e. Young Athlete Motor Checklist, Young Athlete Activity Manual and the Young Athlete Curriculum. A Revision of the TOOL (Rev.1) was introduced in July.

While the tool can be administered by all Coaches, Trainers with Special Education background are at an advantage as they are conversant with similar tools in their teaching strategies

I do look forward to its implementation this year and am certain of its importance and deliverance. I am also keen on understanding challenges it may face and am sure of being able to simplify with relevance

It is expected the TOOL will get more refined with inputs from the AIT (Research Partner Thailand) and Amity Research Team (Research in India)

Barriers to be broken



- For a wider and consistent reach resources shared with parents, community volunteers is of significance. Due to the language barrier, illiteracy the resources (curriculum, guidebook, tips for the family to engage in activities) should be in an easy to follow format and should be easily accessible. For eg. The 8 week curriculum if it can be captured on a poster in a pictorial form

or in a calendar format. This would improve participation

- Provision of Resources or Conception of Indigenous Material on a large scale for mass implementation
- Remoteness of districts and Hilly terrain sometimes slows down implementation
- Mostly work through NGO's who have at times declined to partner because of high accountability in terms of documentation and low remuneration
- External Networking and Public Advocacy for Program Sustainability

Plan - 2018

- ❖ Public Advocacy
- ❖ Equal Focus on all three Models- School | Family| Community
- ❖ Coach Innovations
- ❖ Implementation of the Assessment Tool



Message from the Founder & CEO SO Bharat



The Young Athletes Program gives the Athletes opportunity to play sports earlier, preparing them better when we register them at 8 yrs. It brings us the dual gain of preparing the Athletes earlier and better and also broadens the Special Olympics reach. Logically it is an excellent idea. Although we had this in our program earlier, we had not taken it hands-on as we have now. It promises a smooth transition of our Athletes from Young Athletes to 'Athletes' participating in the main Sports program.

As we complete the first year of the program, it's acceptance by the states gives me immense pleasure and spells success for me. People in every state have accepted it because it is a much softer task given to them than so much else.

This incredible outreach is certainly attributed to the IKEA Foundation support. Initially, it took a little time but it has involved people directly in the theoretical and physical aspects of development of this program.

I want to congratulate the leadership of SOI and the IKEA Foundation for having taken this initiative and choosing to bring it to India. As we move into the second year the morale is high..



Air Marshal Denzil Keelor *PVSM, KC, AVSM, VrC*



What does every child want?
The chance to kick a ball, to throw it well,
to share that success with family members

What does every child with intellectual disabilities
want?

The exact same thing

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