

**Disability interventions
in the Raichur, Koppal, Kalaburagi and Vijayanagara districts of Kalyana
Karnataka**

Samarthya or **Potential** defines our commitment to ensure that Persons With Disabilities (PWDs) achieve their full potential to lead independent and meaningful lives.

Samarthya was first promoted as a project of SAMUHA. It has its genesis in the first Disability Survey that was undertaken in 1988 by Leigh Sato, a physiotherapist and then SCI (Service Civil Service) volunteer, on behalf of the Karnataka State Integrated Education Committee. Indumati Rao, then the founder of Seva-in-Action and now of the CBR Network, was its Secretary, while T Pradeep, Founder, Secretary of SAMUHA, and also an Advisor to Prarambha and the Samarthya Trust, was a member.

This disability survey then led to a Community-based Rehabilitation (CBR) intervention that was supported by SAMUHA, then the first of the Large Project Initiatives of ActionAid India that was led by Yael Levy (an ActionHealth 2000 volunteer in 1992) and Narayanswamy or NS, the current Director of SAMUHA, then representing Roshni Welfare Association for the Blind.

It's been 38 years since our disability interventions were first initiated. Today, these are supported by a collaboration between

- **Prarambha** (Prarambha Samarthya), an NGO and currently the Secretariat for Janara Network, a platform for NGOs and CBOs (Community-based Organisations) promoted by SAMUHA in the Raichur and Koppal districts of Kalyana Karnataka,
- **Samarthya Trust**, an organisation of PWDs and Carers that has since 2013 continued to respond to the needs of PWDs and Carers in these two districts,
- **SAMUHA**, and
- **SODA** (SAMUHA Overseas development Association), a charitable trust incorporated in Canada. SODA raises funds through Prarambha for our disability intervention, and has been a major technical support for our disability field staff.

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SODA was initiated by Hilary Crowley, a physiotherapist, who first came to SAMUHA as an ActionHealth 2000 volunteer in 1993. She subsequently returned every year in her personal capacity, and was also instrumental in accompanying students from the Dept of Physical Therapy, University of British Columbia, Canada, do their summer placements here. While most Disability NGOs focus on community organisation, access to rights and formation of disabled persons organisations, Samarthyaa, largely because of Hilary, took a different path: it focused on therapeutic services for PWDs, especially children and those affected by spinal cord injuries and stroke.

Hilary also helped establish SODA in Prince George, BC, as a Canadian charity. It continues to raise funds for our disability interventions, primarily through an annual dinner. SODA's funds are received through Prarambha.

Funding for the disability interventions supported by SAMUHA , Samarthyaa Trust and Prarambha are maintained as separate sets of books and audited and reported independently.

SAMUHA and the Samarthyaa Trust report Indian monies received by them, while Prarambha reports on both domestic funds and foreign monies received through its FCRA registered account.

While SAMUHA (samuha.org) and Prarambha (prarambha.ngo) report on their disability interventions through their own websites, Samarthyaa Trust

reports on its activities through samarthyaa.org.



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The disability interventions in Raichur and Koppal districts, as well as two early Intervention Clinics in Kalaburagi and Hosapete, continue to support each other:

Prarambha - its interventions are run with domestic and overseas funding	Samarthya Trust - its interventions are run with Indian funds, as well as income from its social enterprises and local donations	SAMUHA - its sole intervention is run with funding from GOI.
A on-going livelihoods intervention is supported by the American Jewish World Services.	Early Intervention Centres for 0-10-year Children with Disabilities are currently operational in Koppal and Devadurga. In addition, 2 clinics (one weekly, one monthly) are held for CWDs in Hosapete and Kalburgi. Training 16 parents of children with special needs (intellectual spectrum) with DNA, Bengaluru, to provide care, support and home therapy to 5 children each.	The National Trust supports 20 0-10-year CWDs who are autistic, have cerebral palsy, intellectual disabilities and multiple disabilities in Koppal district through SAMUHA.
PWD Supplementation supported by SODA, covers a range of need-based interventions.	Therapeutic and Rehabilitation interventions for People with Spinal Cord Injuries & Stroke are supported through 1 residential centre which supports 4 batches of 20+20 PSCI&S and their Carers. This is partly supported by APD (Association of People with Disabilities, Bengaluru. In addition a CBR intervention services People with Spinal Cord Injuries and & Stroke in Raichur, Koppal and Vijayanagar districts. Strengthening the Carers Association. This is supported by Carers Worldwide India. Workshop for Assistive Devices at Koppal, with an offsite extension at Devadurga, supports the manufacture, assembly and reselling of over 50 Prosthetics, Orthotics, and Hearing aid devices. The two centres also undertake customised fitting and repairs and maintenance. A programme for inclusive development of parents is being supported by MAYA, Bengaluru.	SAMUHA is also the agency for promoting Niramaya Insurance amongst PWDs. This is a self-supported activity.