

## 500,000 people in India are unable to both see and hear.

Deafblindness is a unique disability that combines both hearing and visual impairment, making mobility, learning, communication and understanding extremely difficult.

Sense International India, also known as Sense India, supports and advocates for better care, education and livelihood opportunities for children and adults with deafblindness across India.

We now has special consultative status with United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

Discovering Sense is a phone call away!

**Deafblind Toll Free Helpline No. 1800 233 7913**



### Little Anupriya has the care she needs.

Born with total vision loss and severe hearing loss, Anupriya lives at an orphanage in Birubari, Guwahati. She was six months old when we first met her. On assessment, we found that she also suffered from hydrocephalus (an abnormal build-up of cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) in the ventricles of the brain) and congenital cyanotic heart disease. Anupriya's caregivers at the orphanage said she cried all the time.

After we enrolled her into our early intervention care, our team started working with Anupriya twice a week at the orphanage. While her special educator worked to help her become familiar with her environment through tactile stimulation, her speech therapist worked on helping her with movement of her lips and her mouth. Her physiotherapist is helping her with her head movements.

Anupriya turned two in May 2017. While her medical complications make her prone to ailments like cold and fever, she cries less now – mostly when she is hungry or when she is tired. She has started recognising her caregiver and her educators by touch and is comforted by them. Her educators, Linda and Chitrlekha say, "Our patience is the key to her learning – Anupriya needs patience from us."

**We work with 77,500 deafblind people like Anupriya through 59 partner NGOs across 22 States in India.**

Visit [www.senseindia.org.in](http://www.senseindia.org.in) to read more about what we do.

### Between April and October 2017

2,301 deafblind children received support through our partner NGOs.

2,175 babies were screened for hearing impairment at hospitals.

296 children have been identified, thanks to trainings and early intervention programmes in hospitals.

## 593 professionals trained in deafblindness

We trained SSA teachers, special educators, government officials, community workers, medical and para-medical professionals from Odisha, Bihar, Karnataka, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Telangana, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Madhya Pradesh on causes and impact of deafblindness. The trainings focused on screening, identification, functional assessment, modes of communication, Individual Education Plan (IEP), sex education and teaching methodology and strategies. Our aim is to equip professionals with the knowledge to identify and work with children with deafblindness according to the child's individual needs and strengths.

## Deafblindness recognised under the Rights of Person with Disabilities Act 2016

We have been working with the government towards the recognition of deafblindness and finally after 20 years of advocating for their rights, deafblindness is recognised and included in the Rights of Person with Disabilities Act, 2016. Our Director Akhil Paul, was also a member of the drafting committee of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Bill, 2011.

## 665 new supporters for deafblindness

On 25th June 2017, over 100 cyclists, 10 tricycle riders and 2 deafblind adults with their educators pedalled 12kms to "celebrate the inclusion of deafblindness under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Bill 2016". While in Bengaluru 565 employees from Tata Consultancy Services came together to know about this little known disability called deafblindness and be champions of Sense India.

## New initiatives and developments:

- We have partnered with Rajasthan Mahila Kalyan Mandal Sanstha and Victory India Charitable Tent of Rescue Yacht to provide services for children with deafblindness in Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh.
- Through our national networks, we have developed two local networks at Srirampur and Sholapur in Maharashtra.
- Our partner NGO, Madhya Pradesh Viklang Sahayta Samiti (Ujjain) now has a new Sensory room designed to develop a child's sense through special lighting and objects.
- We've initiated two more Teacher Training Courses 'Diploma in Special Education Deafblindness [DSE (Db)]' in Ujjain and Kakinada.



I have been part of this community that supports Sense India for the last 20 years. It's been a fantastic journey and I wish Akhil and the team at Sense India a very happy anniversary and best wishes for their work with children and adults with deafblindness."

--- Anupam Gupta

Scan the QR code on the picture to hear Anupam Gupta

Change the life of a deafblind person.  
**Pledge** your support.

Become a Change Maker for the Tata Mumbai Marathon 2018 to be held in Mumbai on January 21, 2018.

Email Nikhil Miranda at [nikhil@senseintindia.org](mailto:nikhil@senseintindia.org) for details on how you can sign up.

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