

NEWS UPDATE

JULY 2023



“For the things we have to learn before we can do them, we learn by doing them.”

- ARISTOTLE



Table of Contents:

03

Introduction

History of M S International, Inc.
About Sarva Mangal Family Trust
Monthly Highlights

04

NGO Visit

American India Foundation
Dasra – Rebuild India Fund

06

NGO in Focus for July'23

Voice of Specially Abled People

14

Success Story

Voice of Specially Abled People

INTRODUCTION

HISTORY OF M S INTERNATIONAL, INC.

Manu and Rika Shah founded MSI in 1975, in the basement of their home in Ft. Wayne, Indiana. MSI is now the largest importer and distributor in the world of Premium Surfaces including granite, marble, porcelain and ceramic tiles, slate, travertine, limestone and other natural stone products from 37 countries. Most notably, MSI provided the granite for the Vietnam Memorial in DC.

Manu and Rika Shah established Sarva Mangal Family Trust (Sarva Mangal means 'let all be happy' in Sanskrit) over 20 years ago with compassion as their driving force for philanthropy. Manu's vision for SMFT is to act as a catalyst, challenge status quo, nurture passionate change-makers and support leapfrogging ideas that are scalable and sustainable. Today, all members from the Shah family are involved in social impact initiatives that are undertaken by SMFT. Manu supports VOSAP – Voice of Specially Abled People, which has created over 10,000 change makers and rated over 18,000 buildings rated for accessibility. He also supports Lend a hand India, which provides digital vocational training to over 300,000 students in 20,000 schools.

In 2007, Mr. Manu Shah was named Ernst & Young's national "Entrepreneur of the Year" in the distribution, manufacturing, and security category.

ABOUT SARVA MANGAL FAMILY TRUST

Established in 1994 by the Founders of M S International, Inc. The mission of the Sarva Mangal Family Trust is to improve and strengthen the health, education and wellness of communities and help them prepare for global jobs of the 21st century. Sarva Mangal is a Sanskrit word which means "Goodness to All."

To advance this mission, the Sarva Mangal Family Trust has donated to and is continuing to work with various organizations and programs in health promotion and prevention, assisting victims of domestic violence, empowering seniors, entrepreneurship, technological literacy, community activism, and children's education.

MONTHLY HIGHLIGHTS



SMFT FUNDED REBUILD INDIA FUND ORGANIZED WORKSHOP IN BENGALURU

Dasra's Rebuild India Fund organized a capacity building workshop in Bengaluru for community-led nonprofit partners. The four-day workshop brought together 18 grassroots NGOs from nine states and its aim was to develop the institutional capacity of people working with marginalized communities. Rebuild India Fund comprises of 74 organizations that are collectively impacting the lives of over six million people across India. Over the next 5 years, Rebuild is working on supporting 500 community-led NGOs in building their resilience.

(Continued on Page 5)

NGO VISIT – AMERICAN INDIA FOUNDATION

July 2023 – Sarva Mangal Family Trust Team recently visited American India Foundation’s Market Aligned Skills Training Center, in Mysore, an inspiring place that helps underprivileged youth. This center stands as a beacon of hope, dedicated to uplifting underprivileged youth by equipping them with vital skills and opening doors to formal employment opportunities. Its mission is intricately woven into India's pursuit of inclusive growth, offering a lifeline to those who often find themselves on the fringes of society.

At the core of the center's vision lies a holistic approach to training. It melds fundamental workforce readiness skills with industry-specific expertise, carving pathways towards diverse job opportunities across multiple sectors. In this way, the center serves as a transformative force, turning the tide for marginalized young individuals and enabling them to navigate the currents of a challenging job market.

Upon completion of their training, these determined candidates find themselves stepping into entry-level positions, carving out a trajectory towards financial independence. The courses offered at the center form a rich possibilities of, covering a spectrum of skills essential for personal and professional growth. From fashion designing to beautician courses, from domestic appliance repair to spoken English proficiency, and from basic computer skills to financial literacy and life skills, the center stands as a source of knowledge and empowerment.

As the Sarva Mangal Family Trust Team walked through the doors of the Market Aligned Skills Training Center, they witnessed not just a physical space, but a realm of potential, resilience, and transformation. It's a place where dreams are nurtured, skills are honed, and futures are rewritten. This center stands as a testament to the power of education and training in fostering inclusive growth and propelling India towards a brighter, more equitable future.



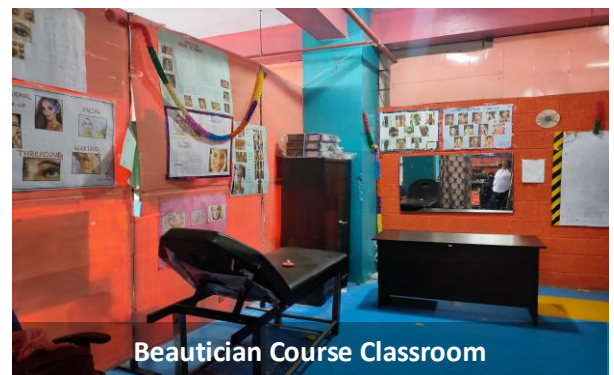
AIF MAST Center, Mysore



Computer Course Students



Fashion Designing Course Student



Beautician Course Classroom

NGO VISIT – DASRA – REBUILD INDIA FUND

July 2023 – SMFT team attended a workshop organized by Rebuild India Fund in Bengaluru for community-led nonprofit partners. The four-day workshop brought together 18 grassroots NGOs from nine states and its aim was to develop the institutional capacity of people working with marginalized communities.

Dasra's Rebuild India Fund funded by SMFT comprises of 74 organizations that are collectively impacting the lives of over six million people across India. Over the next 5 years, Rebuild is working on supporting 500 community-led NGOs in building their resilience. These organizations have been affected by the pandemic and have limited access to funds.

Grassroots organizations and leaders attending the workshop are enhancing the dignity of persons with disabilities, diverse ethnic groups from underserved regions across the country and Bahujan communities in Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh.

At the School of Ancient Wisdom in Bengaluru, sessions were held on managing compliance, fundraising, well-being and the creation of safe and inclusive workspaces. Discussions on inter-sector collaboration were held.

The Rebuild India Fund is an initiative by Dasra to catalyze India's strategic philanthropy movement and transform a billion lives with dignity and equity.

The leaders present shared their personal journeys and learnt that the contribution to India's GDP by the non-profit sector is comparable to that of the defense sector. Manohari Doss, director of the Institute of Self-Management, spoke on what inspired her to evolve her organization from working only with Low-Income Groups to marginalized groups such as Dalits. Commenting on the workshop she said, "The content is very good and it is the need of the hour. This workshop is a refreshment for me as I got insights from other NGO leaders and this is highly appreciated. As a group we got a chance to network. We should keep the network we have created."



NGO IN FOCUS FOR JULY'23 – VOICE OF SPECIALLY ABLED PEOPLE

Voice of SAP is a US based global advocacy nonprofit in 'Special Consultative Status' with UN ECOSOC and accreditation with UN COSP, dedicated to creating an inclusive, accessible and empowered world for Specially Abled People (SAP) by accelerating the implementation of goals of UN SDGs and the UN CRPD treaty.



VOSAP's vision is to catalyze global TRANSFORMATION by empowering SAP by providing Assistive Devices, Accessibility, Employment, and Education while aiming for changing the narrative of disability, by focusing on 'ABILITIES' of Persons with Disabilities.



NGO IN FOCUS FOR JULY'23 – VOICE OF SPECIALLY ABLED PEOPLE

The Project aims to enable specially abled people by providing innovative assistive devices, and Advocacy to improve awareness about accessibility and the abilities of specially abled people, striving for their inclusion in society.

Leveraging VOSAP Digital Tools, a network of AT and NGO partners are key strategies to increase the project's impact.

The expected outcomes include transforming lives of Specially Abled People by providing assistive devices to learn, earn and live independently, raising overall awareness for abilities of disabled people and need for accessibility.



Geography

- 13 States Of India : Gujarat (Ahmedabad, Morbi, Halvad, Botad, Palanpur, Dang, Surat, Vadodara, Godhra, Bhuj, Dahod), Uttar Pradesh (Basti, Lucknow, Gorakhpur, Sitapur, Hardoi, Varanasi), Karnataka (Belgaum, Bangalore), Maharashtra (Pune), Madhya Pradesh (Neemuch, Nagda), Odisha (Bhubaneshwar), Telangana, Hyderabad, Rajasthan (Jodhpur), Tamil Nadu (Chennai), Uttarakhand (Haridwar), Meghalaya, Kerala, West Bengal
- California



NGO IN FOCUS FOR JULY'23 – VOICE OF SPECIALLY ABLED PEOPLE

Project Updates

• ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY:

- 11 new AT innovators added to VOSAP portfolio for empowering SAP.
- Aether, Vembi Technologies, Astrek Innovations, Rise bionics, Flexmo, Signable Communication, Touchpad pro foundation, Beable health, Smarton, Brailedoodle, Sunbots

• ADVOCACY

- VOSAP presented an Oral Statement during a 4 day event – High-level Political Forum at UN on July 20, 2023.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t6sSDxwBosU>
- At G20 (C20), on Human Rights and Disability, VOSAP presented its strategies to improve Human Rights : <https://www.voiceofsap.org/vosap-c20/>
- 'ANOKHEE' screening at 6 different locations, 5 in the US
Ahmedabad, Milpitas, Los Angeles, Fairfax, New Jersey, Atlanta
Ahmedabad Show: <https://www.voiceofsap.org/anokhee-ahmedabad/>



NGO IN FOCUS FOR JULY'23 – VOICE OF SPECIALLY ABLED PEOPLE

- **ACCESSIBILITY RATING:**

- Abu Road, Mount Abu, Udaipur locations by intern Pranav Nath: **1,000+** public places rated for accessibility. More tourist cities like Varanasi, Jodhpur - work started

- **ENABLEMENT:**

- **1417** people enabled in April-June with innovative Assistive Devices, Eye Surgeries, Scholarship



Overall Impact

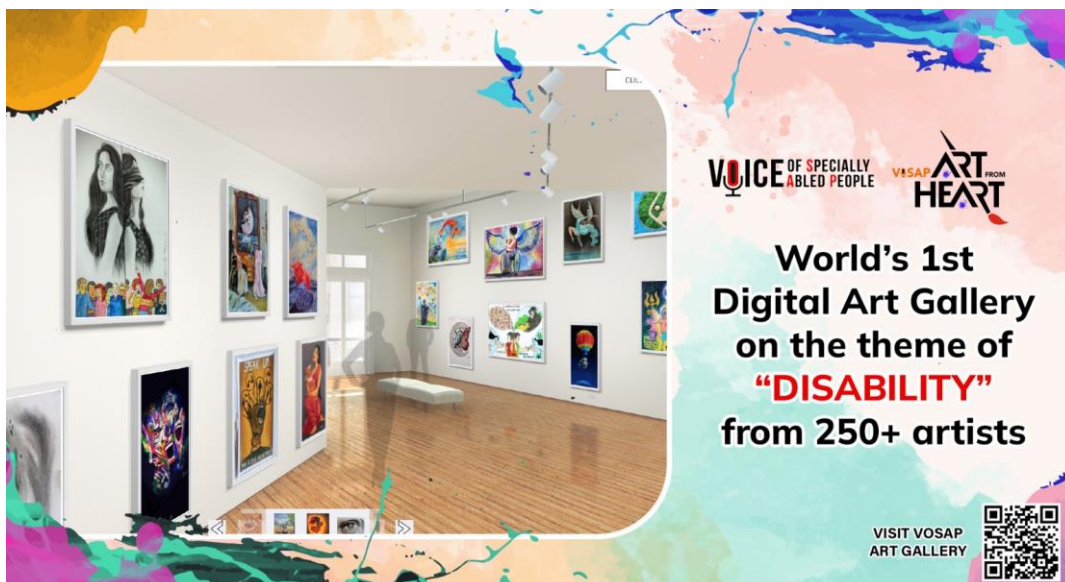
- **Assistive Technology:**

VOSAP Virtual AT Exhibition:

- Bridge gap between AT Suppliers and People with Disabilities
- 40+ Assistive technology product and service suppliers at VOSAP AT Exhibition at no cost to them or visitors to spread awareness
- Launched AT Acceleration Fund of \$1 Million to promote AT Sector
- VOSAP AT Hackathon: 500+ students engaged in innovation of AT products, came up with amazing innovative solutions to help SAP - 10 winners

- **Enablement:**

- Launched subsidy program to promote adoption of Innovative Assistive Devices
- 17,000+ Lives Changed with Assistive Device (India), Surgical Intervention (India) and scholarship for Education(USA)



NGO IN FOCUS FOR JULY'23 – VOICE OF SPECIALLY ABLED PEOPLE

- **Accessibility:** Promote awareness on accessibility of public places. 21,000+ public places rated for Accessibility information
- **Volunteer Community:** 12,000+ Registered volunteers have taken a pledge to support the mission
- **Advocacy**
United Nations
 - VOSAP has 'Special Consultative Status' with United Nation's ECOSOC
 - Presented 8 times at UN since 2018



Government

- US – Engagement with City of San Jose, LA for Accessibility. Met with US Congressman Brad Sherman, promoting ADA 2.0
- India – Worked with PM office for Accessible India Campaign, framework for RPWD Act 2016

Youth

- VOSAP Research Internship to engage students of college in Data Driven Policy research. Engaged 100+ youth in 25+ research projects on disability
- VOSAP Ignite Program for High school students in the USA. So far 2,500 hours of volunteering by 60 students under VOSAP Ignite program



NGO IN FOCUS FOR JULY'23 – VOICE OF SPECIALLY ABLED PEOPLE

Highlights of the Month:

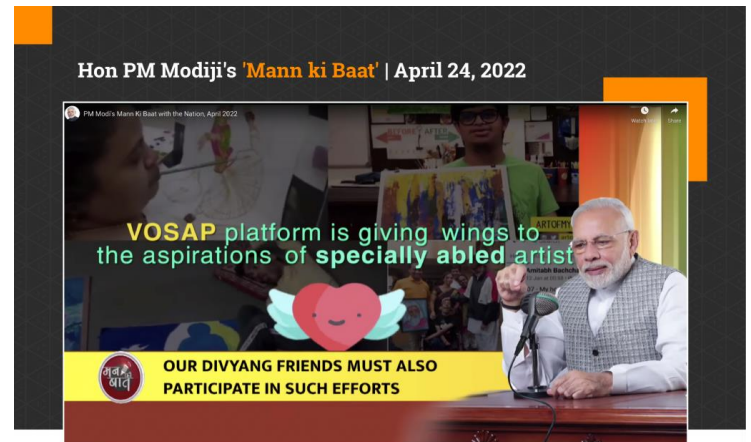
- VOSAP Ambassador to UN, Manushri Desai, presented Oral Statement during 4 day event – High-level Political Forum at UN on July 20, 2023 on “Accelerating the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels.”
- VOSAP Founder Shri Pranav Desai Interviewed on DD National and DD Bharati on July 27, 2023 (nationwide Govt of India 24x7 television channels), 'Thoughtful Thursday', morning show!
- VOSAP celebrated the message of inclusion portrayed in the movie 'Anokhee' through special screenings held in Los Angeles, California, and Fairfax, Virginia, on July 30. The event was joined by 300+ people
- VOSAP Volunteers in the USA celebrated July 4, Independence day of the USA at Sugarland and ignited the spirit of service and encouraged the community to join their mission.



NGO IN FOCUS FOR JULY'23 – VOICE OF SPECIALLY ABLED PEOPLE

Awards and Recognition:

- **2018:** VOSAP was approved by UN CRPD as an accredited NGO in disability sector
- **2019:** VOSAP was granted Special Consultative Status by UN ECOSOC
- **2021:** VOSAP granted as authorized NGO to recommend for PVSA (President's Volunteer Service Award)
- **2023:** VOSAP's remarkable thought leadership has been acknowledged by the United Nations for 8 times. *In an exceptional opportunity, VOSAP was selected to present the Oral Statement in person to world leaders at the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) on July 20, 2023, at the UN Headquarters in New York.*
- **2022:** VOSAP Digital Art Gallery and technology tools Received recognition from Hon. PM of India, Shri Narendra Modiji in 'Mann ki Baat' on April 24,2022



Thank you very much Honorable PM Modi ji for your support, sharing VOSAP technology initiatives, it's digital platforms for Assistive Technology Innovators and Artists with Disability. 🙏

On behalf of 11,000 VOSAPians
Pranav Desai, Founder of Voice of SAP



NGO IN FOCUS FOR JULY'23 – VOICE OF SPECIALLY ABLED PEOPLE

In the News:

- Pranav Desai's interview on DD National Morning show Thoughtful Thursday, 2023:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fAs_Pak7YoQ&t=7s
- Pranav Desai's Interview on DD National Aaj Savere:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aJTPpG7lupM>
- DD News: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Repy3By52Tw&t=8s>
- DD News: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tzLDvIaAmfE>
- Issuu.com
https://issuu.com/hollywood/docs/carmelita?fbclid=IwAR2_pWpOF0pAQAnQo2QS05A59IHLkGow1rJDn1ugPoi1POLE4Uce98D3DJ8
- Times of India:
<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/topic/vosap/news>



**VOSAP Founder Shri Pranav Desai
Interviewed on DD National and DD
Bharati (24x7 Government of India
News/TV Channel)**

Thursday, July 27, 2023

SUCCESS STORY – VOICE OF SPECIALLY ABLED PEOPLE

Nandita Ravindra Tripathi is lawyer from Nagpur, Maharashtra with 100% Visual Impairment. As part of the Subsidy scheme she received the Kibo XS device in February 2023 and has been using the device for more

than a month now. Being a lawyer herself she has to review documents, annexures, and prepare for case proceedings and the device is helping her do it effectively and is also able to translate in regional languages. She is currently using it for reviewing and preparing documents in Hindi, English and Marathi.

Beneficiary Name: Nandita Ravindra Tripathi

Project: Enablement With Assistive Devices

Location: Nagpur, Maharashtra

She was very grateful to VOSAP for launching a subsidy scheme so that she could get a device at low cost that was affordable for her. She further shared “Since the COVID hit, my income was low and if the subsidy scheme wasn’t available, it would have been very difficult for me to afford the device. I am thankful to Voice of SAP for providing subsidy and supporting us.



SUCCESS STORY – VOICE OF SPECIALLY ABLED PEOPLE

Asha Rathore is a partially Blind student of Grade 7 of Lion's Girls School Vadodara. She belongs to a very small village in Outskirts of Vadodara District. A daughter of a farmer, she aspires to become a teacher and help children with Visual Impairments to learn and use technology for Education.

Beneficiary Name: Asha Rathore
Project: Enablement With Assistive Devices
Location: Vadodra, Gujarat

Before COVID-19 Crisis, She received a smartphone as part of a VOSAP initiative in Jan 2019. With the assistive device, she was able to continue her education uninterrupted, away from school. She learnt using Zoom, Emailing and used the same to give exams. Post COVID-19 when she rejoined her school, she was enthusiastic to learn what more she can do with the device.

Asha is using the device to learn new skills like multi-language typing, Hindi, Gujarati, and English on notepads, using email correctly, watching videos on YouTube for studies, using talkback effectively, and identifying currency using the money app, and a lot more.

VOICE OF SPECIALLY
ABLED PEOPLE

VOSAP
BENEFICIARY

ASHA RATHORE
ENABLED WITH SMARTPHONE

**Highschooler and
Daughter of a farmer,
Learning Newer skills**



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Know more at

www.sarvamangalfamilytrust.org/

www.msisurfaces.com/corporate/charitable-trust.aspx

