

LIMITATIONS AND BEYOND



Meet Hemavathi V co-owner of "Inclusive Globe". She loves to cook, and try out and explore new recipes from YouTube, Loves to dance, has won first place in dancing, Choreographs dances for her nephews, draws and up-cycles things with discarded bangles and many more.

At the first sight there is nothing extraordinary, she is just a normal young lady going about her normal schedule. It's only when you get acquainted with her you realize the extraordinary potential she holds. She is visually impaired a condition she was born with. Born in a family of agriculturists in a village near the foot of NandiHills in Bangalore rural, she was never discouraged from pursuing her education.

She started her primary schooling with the Jyothi Seva School for Blind run by the Franciscan Sisters. This was where she developed her love for music and dance. After her primary schooling she went on to complete her High School education at Satyaseva School and then joined Seshadaripuram Pre-University. It was here, with one of the teacher's motivation, she took part in a hairstyling competition. Though, she didn't win it gave her immense satisfaction and the impetus to do something in life After completing her Pre-University, she joined Maharani Lakshmi Ammanni College for women where she completed her Degree. After completing her degree she wanted to take up law. But as destiny would have it she enrolled for her Masters in Economics in Kristu Jayanti College in the year 2017.

Her life took an entirely different turn after she joined Kristu Jayanti College. For the first time she was not treated as someone with a disability but was treated as every student was treated - EQUALLY. She has chastised, helped, motivated and given equal opportunities by her teachers and her peers. Her life wasn't the same - no insecurity but just confidence. The confidence the college gave her, motivated her to take part in dance competitions and other events held in the college. Here at Kristu Jayanti she won her first prize for dance.

"Joining Kristu Jayanti college was one of the best decisions of my life. It is an unforgettable experience. From the Principal Rev. Fr. Jose Kutty, then vice-principal Rev. Fr. Augustine George, Faculty members - especially Ms. Vinodha, Administrative staff - Ms. Jalaja and my classmates who were always ready to help me. They always boosted my confidence and encouraged me when I felt

inadequate. They made me Independent. Fr. Josekutty always gave me suggestions and advice and helped me grow as an individual. I miss all the good times that I had at Kristu Jayanti College", she said.

While doing her Masters programme in Kristu Jayanti College, she started her own online venture called "Inclusive Globe.in" - Tours and Travels along with her friend. The main objective of this venture is to provide easy accessibility and equality to the differently abled when they travel. "The differently abled should not be limited to the confines of their homes due their disabilities. They should have equal opportunities to travel and explore." she said.

She and her co partner look for cities, hotels and environment that are disabled friendly. Accordingly, they plan trips meticulously so that the travelers are not put to any inconvenience. They make bookings for the hotels and for the flights and also see that they are treated with respect and dignity. Till date they have organised 3 trips to Goa, Coorg and Wayanad before the lockdown was declared. They received very positive feedback from the travelers and are raring to go once the things return to normal. But in the meantime, they haven't been sitting idle, they started their own youtube tutorials to the visually challenged. Through these tutorials they help the visually challenged to discuss their problems, choose a software, work on the software or an app that they can use to record, edit, customize ringtones and upload. These tutorials are also a platform for sharing knowledge.

Hemavathi also got a chance with Accenture after completing her advanced computer skills training at TCS. She was given an option of working from home as an HR recruiter. She has worked on several projects with them. Due to the current situation the projects have been delayed.

Hemavathi along with her co partner - Mr. Syed Mansoor (who is also visually challenged) have gone beyond their limitations and are an inspiration to all who are able and disabled to step out of the comfort zones, look into their hidden potentials, and take a leap of faith into the unexplored world.

You can contact Ms. Hemavathi or Mr. Mansoor for more information on their respective phone numbers.

Hemavathi: 9686312039

Syed Mansoor: 9844235326

Sharu's Musings

2/08/2019

Memorable experience at the International Conference on Reflections and Refractions on (Dis)ability: Interdisciplinary Perspectives at Kristu Jayanti Autonomous College, Bangalore

I have presented about 11 papers at different national and international seminars and conferences. Among them, 5 were presented after I started doing Ph.D. The latest among them was at the International Conference on Reflections and Refractions on (Dis)ability: Interdisciplinary Perspectives organized by the Department of Humanities at Kristu Jayanti Autonomous College, Bangalore on February 1 and 2.

What prompted me to write specially about this particular conference is the fact that it was conducted at a venue which is wheelchair-friendly. That is one of the main reasons why I took the effort to go to Bangalore to participate in it. Also my dear teacher Krishna Prabha ma'am is the Head of the Department of English there and my friend Sucheta is working there as well. The support given by both of them was beyond words. Apart from these, Bangalore is an accessible place to some extent with accessibility in buildings, transportation and all.

The 2 days at the International Conference offered me a great sense of visibility which I have never experienced in any of the earlier seminars and conferences. I noticed with immense pleasure that apart from the venue, some other areas within the sprawling campus were also wheelchair-friendly. Please note that all these are in a college where there is no physically challenged student till now. Since the venue was wheelchair-friendly with ramp and lifts, I could attend all the sessions which I liked. Here in Kerala, this is not possible since most of the important sessions will be on upper floors where there are no lifts. I could only listen to the sessions in which my paper presentations get scheduled. Apart from seminars and conferences, lectures and important talks will also be on upper floors. I feel myself totally invisible to everyone because I could not make my presence there. The saddest part is that just because of this accessibility problem, I am missing a number of PhD open defences at the University of Kerala, a terrible loss for me as a Research Scholar. I am constantly thinking about how to solve this issue.

At the Kristu Jayanti College, I found myself warmly welcomed by the vibrant student volunteers. A bunch of them were escorting me to the venue. Unlike most of the events here, punctuality was there. At the scheduled time itself, the chief guests arrived there for inauguration. The guest speakers were asked to limit their speech within the scheduled time. All the sessions were very informative, especially the first Plenary Session on Disability in the media by Thomas Abraham, University of Hong Kong. I could ask a question in that session which was found a relevant one by everyone assembled there.

This conference guaranteed me a great sense of visibility. Everyone, including the Principal Rev. Fr. Josekutty PD, Vice Principal Rev. Fr. Augustine George, Rev. Fr. Lijo P. Thomas, Dr. Gopakumar, Dean of Humanities Faculty and the Head of the Department of Psychology Dr. Molly Joy, Head of the Department of Social Work Dr. Jonas Richard, Department of English (UG) Coordinator Dr. Thomas Palayoor, co-conveners Mr. Abraham, Dr. Alka Rajan, Dr. Lyola Thomas and Dr. Winnie Joyce, greeted me with a smile. I must greatly appreciate the way of organizing the conference. It is a challenging task to organize such a conference by 4 departments. But they have made the conference into a successful one. I have to greatly appreciate the student volunteers there. Everywhere there will be a bunch of them to guide you so that you will not feel like you are in an unfamiliar place. Their service truly reflects the kind of training given to them by the college authorities. No doubt, they will be moulded into responsible citizens of tomorrow.

Through this conference, I got the chance to meet many students and delegates from different parts of the world. Some of them already knew me. Through my paper presentation, I could convey many points to the audience. When Aradhana ma'am from Odisha, who works in the Psychology Department of the college, spoke about me, I felt to have gained more recognition. Unlike never before, the panel discussion turned out to be a great opportunity, where I could convey all my views regarding disability and social inclusion. It was a wonderful chance to meet and talk with the veteran journalist John Thomas Sir who moderated the panel discussion.

Many seminars and conferences on disability studies are being conducted in various parts of Kerala as well. For example, the recent Disability Day special seminar conducted by the Centre of Excellence for Disability Studies and Social Justice Department at Kanakakkunnu. But all of them turn into a gathering of able-bodied people merely talking many things about persons with disabilities, without doing anything practically for them. The venues will be totally inaccessible. The International Conference at Kristu Jayanti college is an exception. I know very well about the great efforts taken by the college authorities to enable me to attend the conference. They could have shifted the venue to a larger hall to ensure the accommodation of a larger audience but they never wanted to lose the

About Me

Sharu's Musings

Aspiring English lecturer. PhD Scholar in English. Disability Rights Advocate. Love singing & writing. Animal lover. Fashionista

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meaning of the conference. I am greatly thankful to them for their great initiative, enabling me to attend the conference. I felt even more pleasure when I heard from Krishna Prabha ma'am that the college management, in the meeting held immediately after the conference, has decided to make other areas inside the campus accessible. I feel blessed to find that my presence there has awakened many people and has led to this decision. In my view, Kristu Jayanti College is a model for all educational institutions in Kerala. All educational institutions should be equipped with necessary accessible facilities for all differently abled students. They should not wait for a differently abled student for creating accessibility. Inclusive education should not remain only in words.

To conclude, I would like to thank my friends Dhanya Ravi and Jeevan Manoj for providing me information regarding accessible cabs in Bangalore.



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▶ 2018 (7)






Posted by [Sharu's Musings](#) at [11:06](#)

18 comments:

 **Aravind** 09/02/2019, 11:21
Hi Sharada. Congrats for your achievement. It's nice that you shared your experience. Whether it's an institution or public place, accessibility is a major issue. I think it's high time for the concerned authorities to bring about a change. Even though there are so many projects for the specially abled, it seems all remain in the papers only!!

[Reply](#)


 **Sharu's Musings** 09/02/2019, 11:42
Thank you Aravind. Hope the situation will improve very soon.

[Reply](#)


 **archana** 10/02/2019, 22:30
An aptly chosen topic! Must reach every responsible citizen. Public and private infrastructure has to take into consideration the wheelchair users and make it accessible.

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 **Sharu's Musings** 11/02/2019, 07:58
Yes you're right. Hope the authorities will open their eyes to see the reality and take necessary steps soon. Thank you for your valuable comment.

[Reply](#)


 **Sruthy** 11/02/2019, 22:40
♥♥

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 **Sharu's Musings** 11/02/2019, 23:11
Sruthy ☰

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 **Unknown** 12/02/2019, 00:10
Congrats dear...

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 **Sharu's Musings** 12/02/2019, 16:16
Thank you

[Reply](#)

 **Unknown** 12/02/2019, 13:08
Congrats

[Reply](#)

Replies



Sharu's Musings 12/02/2019, 16:16

Thank you

Reply



KRISHNARENJINI 17/02/2019, 10:56

Hearty congratulations dear.... Proud of you 🙌

Reply

Replies



Sharu's Musings 17/02/2019, 11:16

Thank you dear :)

Reply



Latheesha Ansari 17/02/2019, 11:41

Congrats chechi well done and go to ahead

Reply

Replies



Sharu's Musings 17/02/2019, 11:47

Thank you mole.

Reply



Dr. Godwin S.K. 19/02/2019, 14:39

It is amazing to note that your internal firepower to meet and discuss, the most important knowledge sharing platform for academics. The issues you raised are critical which all the apex bodies of educational institutions approved in-principle. However, a lot more deserved to be done on the implementation aspects. Our College is no different and is slowing moving towards accessibility to all. Keep raising the generic issues and it will be answered, though at a different pace. Best regards

Reply



Sharu's Musings 19/02/2019, 16:04

Thank you Sir for finding time to read this.

Reply



Parvathy Roy 19/02/2019, 18:37

Congrats Ma'am.. Keep going with the fire inside U.. ♥

Reply


Replies



Sharu's Musings 19/02/2019, 22:55

Thank you dear

Reply

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