In 150 words or fewer, describe the training / employment / entrepreneurship / livelihood project funded by this grant

One of the biggest issues for Persons with Disabilities is getting campus placements in the right jobs. WinVinaya has strategized EduConnect program based on our experience in training and placing PWDs in Niche and Industry ready skills. Through this program WinVinaya partners with Inclusive Colleges to roll out WinVinaya Academy, a Digital Learning Platform **designed for PWDs** along with Train the Teachers to improve the Employability, Technical Skills of PWDs and enable better placement.

Through Edu-Connect Program, we plan to –

* Connect with 3 inclusive colleges who teach PWDs and roll out WinVinaya Academy which is a cost effective, scalable digital learning platform
* Students can learn Industry Relevant, Foundational, Technical Skills (English, MS Office, Full Stack Software Development, Core Banking, Power BI etc.) over One Year.
* Empower teachers with training, resources, and best practices to impart industry ready skills to students
* Help students identify their interests and develop careers much earlier

In 100 words or fewer, describe how the organization intends to use the grant to change or improve capabilities for the segments. What capabilities, processes, and deliverables are to be produced through this grant? Are these new capabilities for the organization or expansion of current capabilities? What skills will be trained and how? Who will employ the beneficiaries once they have been trained? If entrepreneurship outcomes, how will beneficiaries be supported to starting a business/ grew existing business? If there is an environmental component, please also include the environmental impact

WinVinaya’s Edu Connect is a unique program which improves the employability quotient of PWDs and help them get a campus placement, through industry aligned skilling. In addition, WinVinaya will train the teachers to create a long term and sustainable solution.

Unlike the short term training provided by most NGOs for PWD graduates (with sub-optimal success), through the EduConnect program, WinVinaya Foundation will partner with inclusive colleges to train their final year students in Communication Skills, MS Office, Full Stack Software development, Core Banking and Soft Skills. Once the students complete the training, various IT and banking companies can recruit them.

Please outline volunteering opportunity (if any) in 100 words or fewer, For example: Number of Accenture volunteers, number of hours, the type of opportunity that can be offered etc

Accenture can support this program by providing domain experts to train the students, assign college projects which are aligned to the industry requirements. They can mentor the students, conduct soft skills workshops, give speeches in motivational, functional, technical topics to better prepare the candidates to become job ready. For specific requirements that are in demand for which WinVinaya does not have courses readily available, WinVinaya can co-create the training materials with Accenture volunteers. The number of volunteers can be in the ratio of 1:5 (one volunteer for 5 students). The volunteer can spend about two hours a week.

In 100 words or fewer, do you use any technology in this training program?

WinVinaya Foundation has an Innovative Assistive Technology initiative - WinVinaya Academy (WVA). WVA is India’s First Digital Learning Academy designed for Persons with Disabilities where courses are available in **Indian Sign Language** and in **Simple English** for the benefit of deaf candidates and candidates with other disabilities. WinVinaya Academy is based on E-box, a comprehensive technology enabled learning and assessment platform which is data driven, AI driven with powerful objective driven and auto-evaluation features. The Academy is available on Cloud which enables students to learn from anywhere at any time. In WVA, 95% of the course content is experiential learning.

In 100 words or fewer, describe the needs being addressed through this grant. Provide supporting evidence and metrics. How do you know these needs exist? What measures, if any, indicate that it is a need/gap?

According to 2011 Census, India has a population of about 20 million who are persons with disabilities. Less than 10% of PWD population are graduates and most of them don’t get the **Right Jobs aligned to their Graduation**.

Some of the Key Reasons for this are –

* Majority of PWD students hail from marginalized backgrounds and struggle with English Communication, soft skills like Self Confidence, Basic Interviewing Skills which are very important for getting placed.
* Students from colleges for disabled get limited learning opportunities and exposure to niche skills and training thus find it difficult to sustain themselves in the employability arena.
* Currently the colleges for disabled are not equipped with affordable and high-quality digital learning courses which are designed for PWDs and aligned to industry needs

There is inadequate focus on training the teachers on industry ready skills and how to impart those skills.