



Helen Keller Institute for Deaf & Deafblind
(A Pioneering Institute for Deafblind - Founded in July 1977)

SOCIALLY USEFUL PRODUCTIVE WORK AND COMMUNITY SERVICE REPORT



As part of the community service project conducted by the ICSE board, Arijeet Patil chose our school the Helen Keller Institute for the Deaf and Deafblind, Byculla Outreach Programme. It was a very special choice for both Arijeet and us since he is an ex-student of our institute and an inspiration to many of the parents and teachers.





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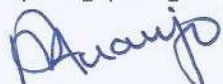
For the project we had decided upon technology for the visually impaired as the focus. Arijeet willingly agreed and came thoroughly prepared for it. He visited our institute for a few days and took classes with us teachers for around 2 hours per afternoon where he helped us set up the NVDA and JAWS programme in our classroom and taught us the various shortcuts to help teach our kids. Along with this he demonstrated the various available electronics used for the visually impaired and made it a point to tell us which was useful for which age group and in which situation would it be most helpful. It was a complete role reversal for us wherein the student became the teacher and the teachers the students. With regard to this task, Arijeet had prepared well, explained in simple language, used his own experiences to bring the idea to life and through it all it was very evident that Arijeet was passionate about technology and empowering the visually impaired.



Along with this we conducted a parent's workshop as part of the Helen Keller Day celebration wherein both Arijeet and his mother Ruchi shared their journey with all of us. Arijeet once again was prepared and won over all of the parents with his wit, his acceptance of his abilities and his honesty and most importantly his love for all those who stood by him and helped him get to this point. He has given all our parents so much hope and reason to once again dream big for their children and themselves.

We would like to thank the Patil family, Beacon High and the ICSE board for this

opportunity. It was definitely a blessing for us at the most appropriate time by an inspiring young boy.


Priya-Ann Aranjó
Co-ordinator
HKIDB
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