

Integrated Vikalangula Ashrama Patasala

(Mandala Vikalangula Samkshema Sangham)

The School “***Integrated Vikalangula Ashrama Patasala***” was started with an aim of providing free and quality education to the disabled students living in rural areas. It is run by a NGO named ***Mandala Vikalangula Samkshema Sangham***, which is working in rural mandals of Visakhapatnam district for the welfare of the people with disability. The school is the idea of ***Mr.P.S.T.Patnaik***, secretary of the organization. During the survey of the rural areas regarding the people with disability by the staff of the organization it was found that many disabled children in the age group of 6-15 years were not able to go to schools, because the schools were far from their houses. Mainly in



Mr.P.S.T.Patnaik



Shri S.Narsinga Rao, IAS

Opening the School

villages there are only elementary schools and for higher studies the students have to go to other villages. It is very difficult for them to travel to mandal headquarters or other villages for higher education. The parents of the students are illiterate, so they do not give any emphasis over education for their disabled children. Keeping in view the difficulties faced by the economically backward disabled students living in the rural areas regarding education. The organization decided to start a school with residential facility for the disabled students. The institution ***Integrated Vikalangula Ashrama Patasala*** was started on ***1st September 1998*** inaugurated by the then District Collector of Visakhapatnam ***Shri. S.Narasinga Rao, IAS***, with the aim of providing free and quality education to the disabled students of the economically backward class on par to the normal students.



***Mr.P.S.T.Patnaik with
Former Governor of AP***



Shri Sunil Sharma, IAS

The school was started with 10 disabled and 20 normal students from 1st to 5th classes, with free hostel facility to the disabled students and free education to the normal students with the help of some donors. The organization is of the view that to motivate the disabled students and to take out the inferiority feeling from their hearts they should be treated equally with the normal students, so normal students were admitted into the schools. Because of this integration of normal and disabled students in school the overall view of the normal

students regarding the disabled students as changed. **Presenting Merit Certificate** They now look to the disabled students like any other students and help them in their day to day activities. These have helped the organization in changing the mind frame of the disabled students, they now do not feel isolated and the feeling that they are disabled is gone because of this novel idea. With the help of donors the school developed day by day and in 2000 the Government decided to fund the school. The school in 2002 was recognized by the Govt. of Andhra Pradesh from 1st to 7th classes. In the next academic year the school is going to get recognition for its 8th to 10th classes. At present there are 100 physically challenged, speech & hearing impaired, mentally retarded students and visually impaired students and 314 normal students studying in the school. There are 15 qualified teachers and 10 hostel staff.



School Students During Morning Assembly

The Integrated Vikalangula Ashrama Patasala at present is able to provide hostel facility to only 100 students. Delay from the government in providing funds the school has to look for support from donors in running the school and hostel. There are many disabled

students living in the rural villages who want to join the school. But the financial position of the Organization is not so strong, so it is not able to provide hostel facility to all the students. The organization has no separate hostel building for accommodation of the students. The organization has land to construct the hostel building but needs financial support for construction of the building. The organization is only able to cater to the minimum needs of the students.



***Hostel Students taking
their Lunch***

To make the disabled students self reliant and to motivate them the organization is providing vocational training's in the school premises which would help them in their future to earn their livelihood i.e., tailoring, knitting, candle making, phenol making, chalk piece making etc.



Mr.P.S.T.Patnaik Receiving State Award – 2001-2002



***Mr.P.S.T.Patnaik Receiving National Award International Disabled Day 3 rd
December – 2006***