# SAKSHAM



ANNUAL REPORT 2020-2021 Limiting Limitations



## INTRODUCTION

Saksham Trust is a National award-winning NGO that works towards the empowerment of persons with visual impairment (PVIs) through a combination of advocacy and by acting as a service provider in the field of rehabilitation, education, training and assistive technology.



Nearly 19 years ago our Founders, Mr. Dipendra Manocha and Ms. Rummi K. Seth were driven to set up Saksham Trust with a belief that PVIs can do everything with only one change – the way things are done.

Today, their hard work and determination have led Saksham Trust to establish centres in Delhi, Punjab and Himachal Pradesh. We also run school in Noida for children with visual impairment and multiple disabilities.

In 2017, our technology-providing arm — Saktek Foundation —was launched to further our belief that technology can redefine what persons with disabilities (PwDs) can or cannot do. A section 8 Non-for-profit company, the Foundation works towards ensuring that all, irrespective of their social background, are provided affordable solutions and thereby strengthens their education and empowerment.







# INTRODUCTION



Saksham aims at building partnerships that bring together resources, expertise and vision and works with organizations across India to identify issues, find answers, and drive change. Through the organisation, we also provide capacity building and training for users to effectively use assistive technology.

At Saksham, we continue to believe and work towards our vision that every PVI is given the best chance for a bright future and to make sure they have the opportunities to thrive throughout their life. The current report gives our partners, beneficiaries and the larger public a glimpse into the work that has gone towards making this vision into a reality.

It introduces our key verticals of inclusive education, assistive technology, accessible books and Cultural inclusion and presents the activities and highlights of the year, 2019-20. In addition, the report touches upon the impact we have made and introduces our partners in this journey who have enabled us to make our efforts a success.

# **OUR VERTICALS**

## INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

Saksham Education, Rehabilitation and Resource Centre is an integral part of our vertical on inclusive education. The Centre has working for education. rehabilitation and empowerment of the visually impaired, deafblind visual impairment with and persons additional disabilities since 2006. The children who range from 0 to 17 years of age are enrolled. Children with multiple disabilities who cannot be integrated into the academic programs are provided vocational skill development training and employment opportunities.

There are multiple projects running at the Centre, which includes Infant to Toddler and Early Intervention: Pre Integration Program; Integrated Education Program; Computer training; for non-academic Pre-vocational programme children: Multiimpaired/Deafblind sensory Training Programme; and Self-Employment opportunity, among others.



#### THE PROCESS

Admissions to the Centre are conducted usually through the reference of other institutions, parents, doctors, and interventionists. Some parents also connect with the school through the internet.

Once the parents connect with the Centre, the senior interventionist interviews the parents and acquire the detailed medical history of the child along with the history of the past interventions that the child might have received. The interventionist then interacts with the child and lets him/her mingle with children to assess the child.

After an initial assessment, the child is placed in an appropriate group under the care of a special educator. A plan is drawn up for the child in consultation with the parents. This plan is reviewed from time to time and amended according to the need and progress of the child.

## SAKSHAM DIGITAL LIBRARY

Saksham Digital Library is another key vertical at Saksham Trust and is closely linked to our first vertical of inclusive education. We strongly believe that accessible books and magazines are important means for bringing the printed world to persons with visual impairment and remain crucial for ensuring the right to education for PwDs and PVIs.



Access to digital books greatly impacts PVI education, employment and lifelong learning opportunities. Given India's diversity, it becomes even more important to provide accessible content not just in English, but also in 16 regional languages. Saksham helps to ensure this and converts print books into accessible formats such as EPUB, DAISY and Audio. These accessible books ensure that students and parents are able to use unique navigational features allowing them to access the same printed books not only chapter wise but also section, sub-section, and page wise!

Under the vertical, we work with diverse stakeholders – school and colleges, publishers, and PVIs – to make this happen. Once completed, the accessible books are uploaded onto Sugamya Pustakalaya, a dedicated national online library for persons with print disabilities created by TCS Access Infinity in partnership with DAISY Forum of India (DFI), and National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Visual Disabilities, Government of India.

## SAKSHAM DIGITAL LIBRARY

Saksham played an instrumental role in the creation of this library and is the Secretariat of DFI. Further, our Founder-Managing Trustee Mr. Dipendra Manocha is the President of DFI since its inception.

The vertical promotes inclusive education and undertakes various activities to ensure accessible books and education content reaches PVIs throughout the country. For this we undertake production and distribution of digital books; conduct awareness and training through our 'Reading Without Seeing' seminars at special schools, colleges, universities and educational institutions; and offer guidance and support to other partners to set-up or upgrade to an Accessible Digital Library.









We also collaborate on other projects with our CSR and school partners and have conducted several Digitization Marathons, which brings together students/employees to proof-read books and support book conversion while having fun and generating awareness about the needs of their visually impaired peers.

#### AUDIO-DESCRIPTION OF MOVIES AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

According to the latest Census of India, the country is home to 26.8 million PwDs. 38% of this population have a disability in seeing and hearing. We believe that every PwD must have a right to recreational activities on an equal basis with others. To pursue this aim, Saksham works in the field of audio-description of movies and facilitating access to culture for PwDs.





Our work aligns with Article 29 and 30 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Goal 3 of the Incheon Strategy, SDG 11 and in the national context, the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act (2016), especially Article 29 that emphasizes the rights of PwDs to access and participate in cultural life.

#### ABOUT AUDIO-DESCRIPTION

It is an additional narration that translates images or other visual information or nondialogue portions of film into spoken words and subtitles so that people who are blind or visually impaired and/or hearing impaired can access and enjoy movies together with their families, without waiting for them to explain what is happening on the screen. Starting with the film Black, we have audio-described more than 50 movies which includes commercial films, children's films, documentaries and some regional films.

SAKSHAM HAS ALSO BEEN HONOURED WITH THE PRESTIGIOUS LIMCA BOOK OF RECORD AWARD FOR AUDIO DESCRIBING THE MAXIMUM NUMBER OF FILMS IN INDIA.

We have also established a disability-friendly Anubhav Gallery at the National Museum in New Delhi in collaboration with National Museum. In addition, we designed performing arts curricula and learning sessions for children with disabilities and published an Op-ed on the accessibility of cultural heritage sites in The Wire in partnership with UNESCO South Asia Office this year.



The Assistive Technology and Training vertical at Saksham is rooted in our belief that technology can redefine what PwDs can and cannot do and promote their inclusion and integration in the political, social and the economic life of the community at large.

In this regard, our one-stop centre for aids & appliances provides appropriate and affordable technology solutions to PwDs right at their doorsteps without any delays. We also understand the value of keeping up-to-date with the latest technology and undertake various R&D projects to come up with effective solutions such as the Smartcane, Dotbook (with IIT Delhi and Phoenix Medical Systems).



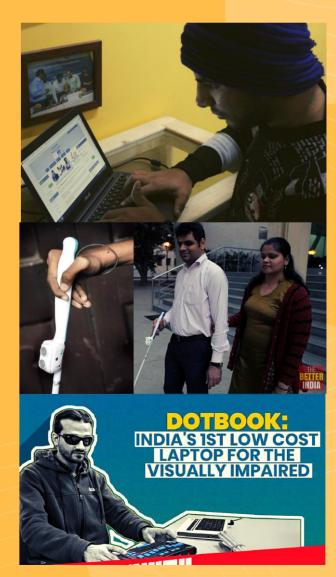


Over the years we have introduced several assistive technology solutions at affordable cost and compatible with other regional languages in India. We have also made significant efforts in bridging the gap of the distribution network.

In 2017, Saksham also established Saktek Foundation and launched our online store (<a href="www.saktek.in">www.saktek.in</a>) in December 2019 to further facilitate access to these devices across Indian states. Our mission through Saktek Foundation is to empower PwDs to lead a life of dignity, independence and fulfilment, by providing affordable Assistive Technologies, Solutions and Services as well as Education and Skills development also, helping to eliminate environmental and attitudinal barriers to inclusion.

To summarise, the vertical undertakes the following roles which are closely associated with the work of our sister organisation, Saktek Foundation:

- Acquire existing technology solutions from the global market and make them available locally at low prices e.g. talking thermometer.
- Customize existing global solutions to meet Indian needs e.g. EVO E-10 DAISY player.
- Develop new technology solutions in partnership with reputed technology institutions such as IIT, Delhi, and private industry, in cases where there are no existing solutions e.g. smart cane.
- Making assistive technology solutions available across India through our website www.saktek.in
- Assist PwDs with low income to access funding for assistive technology - in cases where even the low-cost solution is unaffordable.
- Provide training and ongoing support to PwDs to use assistive technology including through our technology helpline centre.



# **KEY ACTIVITIES**

The year 2020 was difficult for all of us. As an organization working in the disability field, it was extremely challenging for us to stay connected with our beneficiaries/school students. But besides all the constraints, Saksham stafftook the challenge very positively and worked harder than before, and came up with way-outs to stay connected with our beneficiaries/students. Let's have a look at our journey during the pandemic.

#### INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

- On 31st July, in an online webinar, Saksham's teachers spoke about difficulties and innovative steps to make schools an inclusive space. The webinar was conducted by **Gurushala**, an initiative of Vodafone India Foundation, and is implemented by Pratham Education Foundation.
- Saksham students celebrated teachers' day in an online live session.
- A day before Diwali, Saksham students performed an adorable Ramayana performance from their homes, in an online live session.
- On 25th December 2020, Saksham supporting staff with the teachers performed a play to cheer up the children during the pandemic.







Saksham is providing Delhi University books in an accessible format to students with visual impairment for their open book exams

BANNER CREATED FOR THE PROJECT

Students enrolled with DU can contact us at library@saksham.org. Phone number: 9650410351

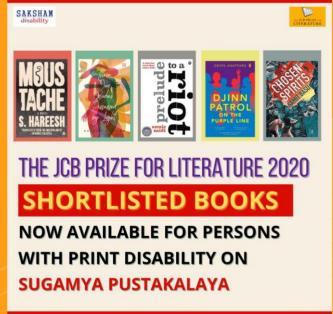
BOOKS THAT ARE AVAILABLE WITH US WILL BE DELIVERED WITHIN TWO TO THREE WORKING DAYS.



## SAKSHAM DIGITAL LIBRARY

- In 2020, Saksham provided Delhi University books in an accessible format to students with visual impairment for their open book exams.
- On 5<sup>th</sup> September 2020, Saksham organized a webinar on 'Disability,
  Digitization of Books and State of Higher-Education' in collaboration with
  Sambhavna. The experts demonstrated the process of creating
  book/document in readable form for the Print Disabled.
- Saksham in partnership with The JCB Prize provided an accessible version of the JCB Prize winner and the shortlisted books on Sugamya Pustakalaya for persons with print disabilities.





Due to COVID – 19 pandemic, we were unable to conduct our regular training and workshops with the beneficiaries. Since everything was online, computer, mobile phone, RBD, Daisy Player training became more important for persons with visual impairment to pursue their studies and occupation like others. Saksham trainers and the facilitator made sure to provide the training online and started conducting the onlinewebinars.

- Saksham organized its first webinar on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2020 on various accessibility features of android phones and iPhones with the support of the HCL Foundation. The webinar was streamed live on Saksham's YouTube Channel and had more than 1000 views within a month.
- A new windows reading app (Dolphin easy reader) for people with dyslexia, low vision, or blindness was launched by Saksham on www.saktek.on the 5th of June 2020.
- Saksham held its 2nd webinar on tactile books and products on 15<sup>th</sup> of June 2020, that live-streamed on the YouTube Channel. Many school students participated in the session and it received a very positive response from both students and parents.
- On 9<sup>th</sup> of July 2020, Saksham streamed a live session through YouTube on the significance of news reading applications. The webinar focused on the best news reading apps for persons with visual impairment, interesting accessibility features on the apps, and much more. The webinar was led by Saksham's Founder Managing Trustee and President, Daisy Forum of India, Mr. Dipendra Manocha.









- Saksham launched coloring books on www.saktek.in, for children with visual impairment developed by Raised Lines foundation. The coloring set book helps children to improve fine motor skills and tactile perception, explore their creativity and broaden their horizon of imagination.
- On 19<sup>th</sup> of August 2020 and 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2020, Saksham organized 2 sessions respectively, on YouTube about the latest innovative and affordable technologies available in the Indian market for persons with visual impairment. The sessions were supported by HCL Foundation.
- Saksham organized a webinar on assistive technologies for the teachers of Salwan Public School. The session focused on the latest assistive solutions useful for children with visual impairment and other print disabilities. The session focused on how to provide better guidance and teaching experience to students with visual impairment. The session was supported by HCL Foundation.
- Saksham started a subsidy scheme for persons with visual impairment offering subsidies on wifi-enabled daisy player EVO E-10.











- In September 2020, Saksham started a subsidy Scheme on laptops. Subsidy of Rs. 15000 on a 28,500 laptop was provided under the scheme.
- National Webinar on 'E-Learning and Digital Technology Platforms for Persons with Disability in light of New Education Policy' was conducted on 10th of September 2020. Saksham's Founder Managing Trustee, Mr. Dipendra Manocha, as a keynote speaker, talked about converting content into an accessible format, digital accessibility, Sugamaya Pustaklalya and DFI.
- Saksham in collaboration with Durgabai Deshmukh College of Special Education, University of Delhi, and The Blind Relief Association, Delhi organized a webinar on "The Latest IT Solutions for Learners with Visual Impairment" on 1st October 2020.
- A workshop was organized for the special educators focusing on tools and applications for effective teaching and facilitating online learning of students with visual impairment.



We've come up with another scheme. Get a ₹ 28,500 laptop at only ₹ 13,500.

FILL OUT THE ONLINE FORM TO REGISTER YOURSELF FOR SUBSIDY ON A LAPTOP WHICH WILL BE ACCOMPANIED WITH THE LICENSE OF INDO NVDA SCREEN READING SOFTWARE.

Hurry up! the last date to submit the form is 25 of September 2020

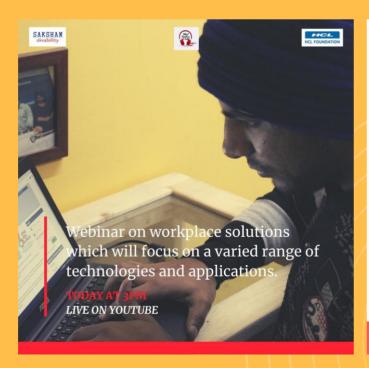


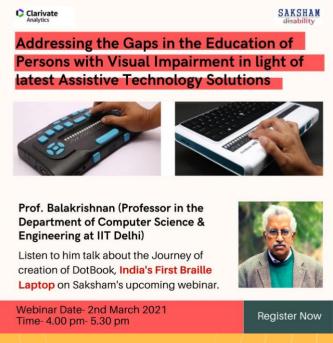
SAKSHAM



TO KNOW MORE CONTACT US AT +91- 9266626368

- A webinar was organized on 8th November 2020, to resolve challenges faced by people with visual impairment in various spheres of life. It was organized in collaboration with Blind Bankers of India and was supported by the HCL Foundation. The webinar focused on workplace solutions, a varied range of technologies, and applications to enable persons with visual disabilities to work in the bank sector.
- Smartphone learning session conducted by Saksham on the YouTube Channel. The session focused on the effective use of a smartphone in communication for persons with print disabilities. The session was supported by Korea Disabled People's Development Institute (KODDI).
- In mid-January 2021, Saksham introduced another subsidy scheme subsidy of Rs 15000 on a 34000 Orbit Reader 20 (Refreshable Braille Display).
- On 2nd March Saksham conducted an interesting session on Assistive technology helpful in the education of persons with visual impairment and print disabilities. The session focused on Dotbook- India's first braille laptop (Refreshable Braille Display) developed by IIT Delhi and the latest WiFienabled Daisy Player- Evo- E10.





## HIGHLIGHTS

- The beginning of the pandemic was difficult for everyone. The lockdown deprived everyone of the outdoor sources of entertainment, limiting people within the confines of their homes. To cheer everyone up Saksham organized an online concert (on Facebook) on 3rd May 2020, featuring an internationally acclaimed singer Ankur Gupta. The concert was also a fundraising event that received a lot of love and support from the viewers.
- Saksham supported more than 70 families by providing them dry rations and necessary supplies during the pandemic.
- On 21st May 2020, Saksham participated on an international UN platform, WSIS
   TalkX, and shared the stories of the digitally empowered students and faculty.
- Saksham celebrated Independence day, showcasing the views and ideas of persons with disabilities on independence.
- Wildstone, India's popular fragrance and grooming brand in partnership with Saksham, launched 'Sense perfume'.



# HIGHLIGHTS

 A virtual National Conference on World Disability day was organized by Saksham. The conference focused on assistive technology solutions for persons with visual disabilities. The event had renowned speakers from various sectors: WHO, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, ICEVI, and IIT (Delhi). Saksham also had its application for android and IOS launched on the same day. The event was supported by Amway India.

 On 10th December 2020, Saksham announced an interesting contest 'Share Your Story of Change', and received some very interesting stories of people

with disabilities from around the country.

 Saksham celebrated its 18th anniversary on 14th February 2020 and acknowledged everyone's support for being part of the journey and believing in our vision.

 Saksham celebrated International Women's Day on Social Media by posting pictures of empowered women with disabilities.









### AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

- National Award by the government of India for a contribution towards Community development in the area of disability in 2005
- Twice the recipient of the President's Award by Former President Mrs Pratibha
- Patel and Dr Abdul Kalam.
- IIM Lucknow, Lakshmipat Singhania National Leadership Award 2008 given by the. President of India in 2007
- CNN IBN Network 18 Super Idol Award in 2010.
- Sitaram Jindal Foundation Award in 2012.
- Saksham received the Best Institution Award—NATIONAL AWARD 2015 in the field of disabilities for the visually impaired by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.







- NCPEDP Universal Design Award was given to Mr. Dipendra Manocha for his contribution
- towards making information accessible for the print-impaired in the year 2012.
- Selected as Ashoka Fellow and recognized
- as a Social Entrepreneur.

accessible.

- ABC International Excellence Award presented to Mr. Dipendra Manocha for his commendable work in making print material
- Received Louis International Braille Award in the year 2019.

# 2020-21 FUNDING PARTNERS

- Alchem International Pvt. Ltd
- Concern India Foundation
- Fisery India Pvt Ltd
- Metlife Global Operation Support Centre
- Huber+Suhner Electronics Pvt Ltd
- Ford Foundation
- HCL Foundation
- Open Solutions Pvt. Ltd
- Tech Mahindra Foundation
- Icreon Communications Pvt. Ltd
- Amway Opportunity
- Australian High Commission
- Access Braille
- Global Relief Initiative
- Eastern International Hotels Ltd
- Essel Social Welfare Foundation
- Clarivate Analytics (India)
- UNOPS
- Hans Foundation
- WIPO
- The General Electric Company



# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2020-21

#### **SAKSHAM**

#### BALANCE SHEET AS ON 31ST MARCH,2021

<u>PARTICULARS</u>	SC	<u>H</u>	31-3-2021	31-3-2020
<u>LIABILITIES</u>				
CORPUS FUND		1	651100.00	651100.00
Income & Expenditure A/c			24538187.54	26531814.95
CURRENT LIABILITIES	2	2	3971586.41	2793044.00
	TOTAL		29160873.95	29975958.95
<u>ASSETS</u>				
FIXED ASSETS	3	3	2059666.00	2313332.00
CURRENT ASSETS: Cash & Bank balances Loans and Advances Other Current Assets	:	4 5 6	20584115.24 6490765.71 26327.00	
	TOTAL		29160873.95	29975958.95

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NOTES ON ACCOUNTS

As per our Report u/s 12A(1)(b) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961.

For NIKHIL KHURANA & CO. Chartered Accountants

(NIKHIL KHURANA) Proprietor For SAKSHAM

(DIPENDRA MANOCHA) Trustee

# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2020-21

#### **SAKSHAM**

#### INCOME & EXPENDITURE A/c FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 2021

PARTICULARS INCOME	<u>2020-21</u>	2019-20
Voluntary Contributions Received	40139043.65	37594059.15
Receipts from Charitable Activities	312703.50	236162.22
Interest on bank accounts	386536.00	630143.00
Interest on bank accounts  Interest on fixed deposits with bank	99846.00	112762.00
Miscellaneous Income	6959.07	46562.81
Miscenaneous income	0939.07	40302.81
	40945088.22	38619689.18
EXPENDITURE		
Blind Aids & Appliances Obtained	4178335.15	4260880.00
Accessible Book Preparation expenses	2979823.94	3010978.76
Subsidy on Assistive Devices	1129925.00	114099.00
Blind School Activity expenses	0.00	43689.00
Family Support expenses	121404.00	0.00
Equipment Acquired	844968.00	488671.00
Donations Given	1196850.00	1311948.00
Sponsorship Fee (Education Support)	5000.00	13000.00
Rent	2212400.00	2290864.00
Student Welfare expenses	131831.00	310199.00
Integrated Student expenses	1277952.05	1835078.00
Workshop & Training expenses	12498.00	31839.00
Function, Fair & Workshop expenses	42283.09	1470829.00
Laptop Distribution with Subsidy	1940000.00	406400.00
Salaries, Allowances & Ex-Gratia	20637541.15	17936775.00
Contribution to Provident & Other Funds	1026477.00	765073.00
Staff Welfare expenses	4172.78	46570.00
Communication expenses	120731.78	121656.12
Electricity & Water expenses	198578.00	524285.00
Conveyance expenses	23295.00	270978.00
Vocational Unit expenses	61741.00	313303.00
Security expenses	318696.00	320376.00
Festival expenses	0.00	8532.00
Professional expenses	2134515.00	1634534.00
Insurance Charges	62006.00	59116.00
Computer Accessories & Software	544055.81	1982568.40
Courier & Postage	88179.00	21800.00
Printing & Stationery	172659.00	164355.00
Repairs & Maintenance (Equipment)	199419.00	353657.00
Repairs & Maintenance (Office)	20361.00	33670.00
Vehicle Operation & Maintenance expenses	358400.00	568448.52
Travelling expenses	108017.00	891349.46





# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2020-21

#### **SAKSHAM**

#### INCOME & EXPENDITURE A/c FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 2021 (continued)

PARTICULARS Website Maintenance expenses Membership & Subscription	2020-21 162051.47 21595.49	2019-20 72084.29 350.00
Miscellaneous expenses Depreciation	323538.92 279415.00	1297228.12 320273.00
	42938715.63	43295456.67
EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE	(1993627.41)	(4675767.49)
Balance brought forward from previous year	26531814.95	31207582.44
Balance carried to Balance Sheet	24538187.54	26531814.95

As per our Report u/s 12A(1)(b) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961.

For NIKHIL KHURANA & CO. Chartered Accountants

(NIKHIL KHURANA)
Proprietor

(DIPENDRA MANOCHA)

For SAKSHAM

Trustee