

- 1 -

**Minutes of the 24th Annual General Meeting of National Trust held on 24th
September, 2024**

Venue: NISD, Building, Dwarka, New Delhi

The 24th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the National Trust was held on 24th September, 2024 in Hybrid mode. It was chaired by Shri Rajesh Aggarwal, Secretary, DEPwD & Chairperson, National Trust.

2. The meeting was attended by the Board Members and Registered Organizations in physical and virtual mode. Representatives of the Raksha TPA, Shri Ashok Narwat, Manager and Ms. Rama Mandal also attended on invitation.

3. Shri K. R. Vaidheeswaran, JS&CEO, National Trust welcomed the Chairperson, the Board Members, Registered Organizations (ROs) and the Stakeholders, who were present in person as well as in virtual mode. He mentioned that under the dynamic guidance of Chairperson, a number of initiatives are being undertaken by DEPwD and its organizations for welfare and empowerment of Divyangjans and to enhance the scope and quality of services provided to them.

4. In his address, the Chairperson put limelight on some areas of concern and having broader implications. He said that prevention aspect needs to be taken up and mentioned importance of tests and medication before birth of a child to prevent disability. He emphasized the need for individual philanthropic activities which help an organization in becoming self reliant to undertake services in the sector rather than only depending on Government support to run activities. Secondly, he stressed upon the exclusive features of the National Trust Act,



especially the legal guardianship, the implementation of which needs to be strengthened at the National level.

4. He discussed the rising trend in Autism, Intellectual Disabilities and even increase in behavioral issues and highlighted the need for early detection, intervention, nutrition, awareness, conducting of timely diagnostic tests, essential medicines during pregnancy, timely interventions during pre-natal, post-natal stages which can reduce the impact and gravity of disability enormously. Moving from this stage, assistive technologies, skill trainings, promoting sports and other creative activities like dance, music, etc. can play an enormously positive role in the development of Divyangjan.

5. JS & CEO gave a detailed presentation on the activities undertaken by the National Trust during the year 2023-24 as well as funds disbursement made under various schemes and projects.

6. The suggestions / views received from the participants and the response of NT are given below:

(i) Shri Pankaj Maru from SNEH, Nagda, Madhya Pradesh, informed that Ministry of Railways has declined to drop the nomenclature "Mental Retardation" though it has been replaced by the nomenclature "Intellectual Disability" under RPwD Act, 2016. Even wrong nomenclature is being used in Hindi. He requested for change in the nomenclature.

The Chairperson, National Trust & Secretary, DEPwD informed the participants that UDIDs issued with terminology 'Mental Retardation' have been modified with 'Intellectual Disability' and the concerned beneficiaries can download their UDIDs from the portal.

(ii) Shri Pankaj Maru suggested for inclusion of a watch which costs Rs.6000/- in ADIP scheme which would be useful to track ID children.

(iii) It was suggested that the field visit amount under LLC funding pattern should directly be released to the LLC NGO member. Chairperson acknowledged the suggestions given by Shri Maru and assured to consider them further.

(iv) Some of the representatives of ROs objected to the inspections conducted on the scheme centers. The Chairperson informed that funding by National Trust is out of government budget and DEPwD had full authority to conduct such surprise inspections, either physically or in video mode, will be a regular phenomenon as per the policy of the Dept. He also suggested that organizations should be self sustainable and not to be dependent only on funding from Government for running the centers. Ms. Sayera Rehman, Prerona, Assam requested for copy of inspection report so as to remove the drawbacks found by the inspecting team for betterment of organization and beneficiaries.

(v) Ms. Sumathi Morgan, Samadhan, Delhi shared her experience on the positive qualitative impact on the PwDs when they engage in creative activities. She further suggested that research in this area is required.

(vi) Some initiatives of Bihar Government were shared by Dr. Umakant Sinha of Aastha, Bihar.

(vii) The representatives expressed concern over non-registration of claims and settlement under Niramaya Health Insurance Scheme. Chairperson informed that the matter has been discussed in detail in the Board Meeting held on 23rd September, 2024 and TPA has been instructed to clear up the matters expeditiously. He directed that all passed claims be immediately settled and claim process be made seamless.

7. At the end of the AGM, Board Members shared their specific inputs for betterment of the activities in the areas of disability:

- (i) Dr. Sapam Jasowanta Singh emphasized the need for promoting sports and cultural activities for Divyangjans. This will empower and mainstream them.
- (ii) Shri. Pushp Pal Singh urged all participants to become self reliant and work towards getting donations and CSR funding for managing their organizations and providing services to the beneficiaries.
- (iii) One of the participants asked for brief pointers for self-sustainability of the organization. Ms. Ruby Singh reiterated the statement of Shri. P.P. Singh and then shared her experience in managing administration and finance with the available resources highlighting the pointers as transparency, strategic management plan, inspections, clear vision and mission, evaluation process in place (internal and external which means impact on the capacity development of beneficiaries – families – community - society).
- (iv) Ms. Sumathi Morgan also shared a way of collaborating with parents in mutual sharing of expenses if they are going beyond the limits of the organization so that beneficiaries are able to get continued services without any disruption.
- (v) Dr. Ashish Kumar, Board Member stated that the National Trust may create models which may be taken over by the State Governments for benefiting the group. Similarly, Mr. Guriqbal Singh Bedi and Mr. Avelino Nicolau de Sa, Board Members urged the participants to move towards self reliance. They said that there is no dearth of funds, we must create examples by providing qualitative services to the sector and people will come forward to contribute /donate. National Trust has limited resources and so we must work together in arranging CSR funds for sustaining the projects.

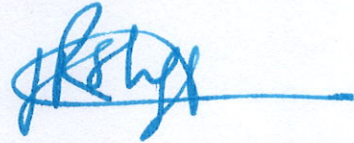


8. Shri Navnit Kumar, Programme Officer requested Registered Organizations to become NGO members of LLC in their districts and nominate one PwD member so that applications of legal guardianship are disposed in time.

9. The meeting ended with a Vote of Thanks to the Chair by him.



(K.R. Vaidheeswaran)
JS&CEO,
Member-Secretary
National Trust



(Rajesh Aggarwal)
Secretary, DEPwD
Chairperson
National Trust