

"PRAYAS"-A Computer/ iPad Training Center for Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders.

About "PRAYAS"

Autism Society of India in collaboration with the Spastics Society of Karnataka and with the support of SAP Labs, India Private Limited has launched the **Project "Prayas": Computer/ iPad Training Center for Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders on June 14, 2011** at the campus of Spastics Society of Karnataka, Bangalore.

Autism Spectrum Disorders are little understood in terms of its etiology, these are highly heterogeneous in nature. This situation leads us to look at it only therapeutically.

In the recent past, technology has brought in lots of hope for individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders.

Computers, i-pads, i-phones, i-pods and some other assistive technology based devices like Alpha Smart, go-talk etc. along with some software, have made life easier for individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders and their families.

These solutions seem to be the non-threatening tools for individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders; where we need to look at issues related to "SENSORY- DEFENSIVENESS", exhibited by them.

These tools, if used meaningfully, through the earlier stages of intervention, help enhance cognition, communication and thus social skills.

Through these technology based solutions, we can look at various avenues of employment too, these can be related to the Internet based activities, Data- entry, Validation of Software, Development of Teaching -aids like PECS, Social stories and development of symbols/ clip art through appropriate animation software.

Through the project PRAYAS, 90 individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders will be trained in a period of three years, the age group selected for training is 5- 18 years, the training aims at enhancing their learning, communication and meaningful occupation by using indigenous technology-based solutions. It is an intense, and consistent every day programme.

This project also aims to empower the parents of enrolled individuals along with monthly workshops on awareness related to the existing useful technology based solutions.

Broadly, PRAYAS will address the following issues:

Avenues are endless; Awareness is the key to success.

Affordability is a question; Development is the answer.

Accessibility is yet another question; Open- source is the answer.

About the Collaborating Organizations

Autism Society of India is a national body, initiated the project "PRAYAS", composed mainly of parents and supported by professionals, which seeks to bring about positive changes in the lives of individuals with Autism Spectrum disorders through training, awareness building, and advocacy.

Spastics Society of Karnataka, a knowledge driven NGO, working in the field of rehabilitation for over 28 years, has offered their collaboration for PRAYAS; they are already working in the field of Assistive Technology.

SAP Labs India Private Limited has been a partner in Prayas as a Funding and technical organisation along with their dedicated volunteerism. Through this project, we aim to be partners with SAP Labs in developing software too.

Foundation for the Prevention of Disability has been kind in giving space to run the project "PRAYAS".

We hope that this collaboration will bring bright outcomes which have been projected in "PRAYAS" along with a positive change in the attitudes of people towards Autism Spectrum Disorders.



Come, lets try and succeed

This logo of Prayas is a combination of the drawings by three individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders. SAP lab's volunteers had arranged for a competition for the same. The winners were awarded certificates and gifts during the inaugural ceremony.

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