

Deccan Herald » National » Detailed Story

Disability never stops them from dreaming big

DH News Service, New Delhi:

"Lack of eyesight can prevent me from seeing the world as it is, but it cannot stop me from dreaming. I dream a lot and that is why I am here."

Ask Dr G N Sangeetha from Bangalore about her source of strength and this recipient of National Award for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, 2008, would say her dreams to achieve something big have taught her how to scale great heights inspite of her visual impairment.

This 36-year-old Documentation Officer in NMKRV College for Women, Bangalore University, who became totally visually impaired at the age of seven due to a brain tumour on the optic nerve, is the first blind woman from Karnataka to attain a doctorate degree.

Sangeetha was one of the five national awardees from Karnataka, who received their honours from Vice President Hamid Ansari on the occasion of the World Disability Day here on Wednesday. Bangalore-based IBM India Pvt Ltd and Mphasisan EDS Company were also selected for the award for their disable-friendly employment policy.

"Helping poor and rural women to overcome their disabilities is my aim in life and my organisation has helped more than 6,000 persons with disabilities through education, training and employment," said Madhu Singhal, another awardee from Bangalore.

With a Masters Degree in Hindustani Classical vocal music, Madhu, who suffers from blindness, has been assisting and counselling differently-abled women and is also a member of the World Blind Association.

Hanamanth H Devnoor, a cured leprosy patient from Gulbarga, was also honoured as he could overcome the social stigma and start a DTP Centre which also provide training for leprosy-cured persons.

Inspite of 100 per cent hearing impairment, Vijay Krishnamani from Bangalore could successfully complete his masters degree in computer application along with a diploma in network centred computing. He is employed in the Infosys BPO in Bangalore as a business analyst and effectively uses technological tools to communicate with others.

Dr Deepak Sharan, an orthopaedic surgeon from Bangalore, was honoured as he had surgically operated more than 10,000 persons with various locomotor disabilities and had invented a new surgical procedure for significant functional improvement in persons with cerebral palsy. He has performed free surgeries on over 300 children with cerebral palsy, who are economically backward, thereby enabling them to lead a near-normal life.



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