

OAK & Enabling Network (EN)

Celebrate International Day of Persons with Disabilities

The 3rd of December, 2023 marked another celebration of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, an international observance promoted by the United Nations since 1992. For over a decade, since 2012, the Enabling Network (EN) has been celebrating this significant day. This year, the EN Disability report of 2023 is realizing the UN theme of sustainable and developmental goals, by, for, and with persons with disabilities within OAK.

About Enabling Network

Enabling Network (EN) is part of OAK and was formed in 2010, to focus on all aspects of disability within the community. Our vision is to raise awareness about disabilities, both physical and learning, and create inclusion and integration for those with disabilities within the Oshwal community.

To achieve our vision, our focus is on Awareness, Connection, Engagement, and Support. We aim to continue raising awareness about disability within the community, connecting with area representatives to further the EN vision, engaging with members to enable integration in all events, and providing support to individuals and their families through various initiatives.

About This Report

The report's objective is to offer an overview of EN's past events and future aspirations pertaining to the sustainable developmental goals proposed by the theme of 2023 International Day of Persons with Disabilities by the United Nations. These include six main aspects that OAK and EN are working on. The report highlights the significant efforts of the Oshwal Community in fostering a more equitable and just society for all and what we need to do better. The term 'Disability' is used as an encompassing word to mean both physical and learning disabilities in this report. To help us make this report, we got advice from people with disabilities within our community who are members of Enabling Network.

Our Accomplishments To Date

In line with the UN sustainable development goals, we've made significant strides in various areas. We have the EN club that provides a wide range of activities, including sports and social events such as excursions, yoga, dancing, and various sports activities, promoting Good Health and Well-being. To promote Quality Education, we've planned numerous

initiatives like Science week, a Benefits talk, utilizing Social media and Oshwal news to raise awareness of disabilities, and hosting a talent show among other activities.

Furthermore, we have developed a comprehensive venue audit aimed at promoting accessibility for all forthcoming events, improving our Infrastructure. To contribute to Climate Action, we've been raising awareness through activities such as celebrating Earth Day. We also formed the Enabling Network which is included as a portfolio within the OAUK Executive Committee, promoting Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions. Lastly, we have fostered several partnerships within and outside OAUK, collaborating with other institutions like the Rotary Club, Disability Sports Coach, Maxability, and others to participate in events, promote OAUK, and share our experience and knowledge.

What We Need to Work On

Despite our accomplishments, we acknowledge that there's more to be done. In the area of Good Health and Well-being and Quality Education, we need to offer diverse workshops including art, dance, inclusive sport & exercise, community involvement, explore provision of alternative therapies and specific support groups, provide training to volunteers to better support those with disabilities at events, host talks or workshops run by those with disabilities or carers on their experiences, and continue to raise awareness about disabilities through all mediums available.

For Infrastructure, we aim to enhance venue accessibility by adding yellow/contrast lines on stairs, reserving seats at events, using hearing loops, promoting event accessibility checklist. In terms of Climate Action, we aim to continue raising awareness through Earth Day and similar initiatives. We also plan to understand Jain principles and its application to disability and identify those who have special needs and are role models within the community for Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions. Finally, for Partnership for Goals, we plan to consistently work with areas and portfolios, introduce a disability champion in each area, encourage and support employment and volunteering opportunities within the community, and continue exploring working with other institutions.

Contact Enabling Network (EN)

For more information or inquiries, feel free to reach us at en@oshwal.org. Consider joining us as a volunteer, and let's work together to build a community we can all be proud of. The EN Team of 2023 includes Shilpa Shah, Sarita Shah, Urvina Shah, Anjali Gudhka, Sweta Shah, Priya Shah, Smita Shah, and Khilna Shah. We look forward to working more with you for a more inclusive and equitable society.