

# DARE TO DREAM

The official newsletter of WinVinaya Foundation



## HIGHLIGHTS AT WINVINAYA

### CELEBRATING 7 YEARS OF IMPACT AND UNVEILING BIG BOLD GOALS FOR 2024!

In the past 7 years, WinVinaya Foundation has left a lasting impact. We have trained over 1,100 candidates, placing 400+ individuals, spanning across diverse disabilities and empowering women.

From a small team of a few trainers, we evolved to specialized teams in sourcing, training, and placement which helped us achieve these tangible results. We dream big. Whatever we achieved in 7 years time, we want to achieve it just in one year.

#### Our Big Bold Goals for 2024:

- Place 500 more candidates (even in this tough market), fostering careers and livelihoods.
- Train 1,000 beneficiaries from rural areas in digital skills, including prompt engineering, to bridge the digital divide.
- Expand diversity by training Transgender individuals in IT, BFSI, and ITFS-focused livelihood skills.

WinVinaya kick-started this year with an extraordinary workshop, "Embracing WinVinaya Culture: I-We-Us". It provided a golden opportunity for 40+ associates to deeply connect with the organization's goals. The dynamic session united team members from various departments—sourcing, training, placement, and

project management to align to the ambitious target for the year.

A heartfelt appreciation to our guide, Mr. Anand Vissa, for spearheading this workshop, refining our ideas, and providing a clear roadmap to achieve our collective goals. This marks the starting point for all associates to align tasks in a realistic manner throughout the year.

As we embark on this new year, we are hopeful and confident that we will make a significant and lasting difference.



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**REDEFINING PERCEPTIONS: AN INCLUSIVE BLOOD DONATION**

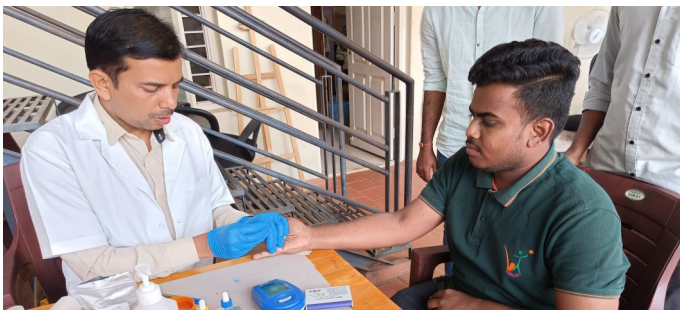
In society, a common misconception lingers, viewing persons with disabilities as perpetual recipients rather than contributors to the society. At WinVinaya Foundation, we challenge this notion and champion the belief that everyone deserves to lead a life filled with dignity.

Our recent blood donation camp is a testament to this ethos—a celebration of dignity, inclusivity, and community service. Associates with disabilities, alongside their allies without disabilities, joined hands in this impactful initiative.

A total of 43 individuals from our community registered for the blood donation camp, showcasing remarkable enthusiasm and commitment. Among them, 27 participants generously donated blood, embodying the spirit of giving and making a direct impact on those in need.

The success of the Blood Donation Camp is attributed to the collaborative efforts of our dedicated organizers, including The Red Cross and the Rotary Abilities team. We extend gratitude to our incredible employees and candidates, both with and without disabilities, for their active participation.

Reflecting on this success, WinVinaya Foundation remains committed to fostering inclusivity in all our initiatives. We look forward to organizing more community-centric events that create a positive impact, ensuring everyone's unique strengths are recognized and celebrated.



**AN IMMERSIVE IMPACT @ INSPIREX**

We had an amazing time at InspireX, a day-long event hosted by SVP India at Christ University, Bengaluru. We attended a session on fundraising strategies, and it provided us with diverse perspectives on effective approaches for NGOs.

At our WinVinaya stall, we offered experiential disability sensitization not only to students and professors but also to NGO partners and donors. Visitors immersed themselves in interactive activities, participating in a "Sensory Safari" where they played tactile chess blindfolded and embarked on a multi-sensory scavenger hunt using smell, taste, and hearing to identify hidden objects. As a highlight, participants dashed through an "ISL Sprint," learning basic Indian Sign Language phrases in just 15 minutes!

We extend our sincere gratitude to SVP for organizing this event—a fantastic opportunity for NGOs to connect, interact, and collaborate, making a more significant impact together.



**COLLABORATING WITH IIIT B ON A RESEARCH STUDY**

WinVinaya Foundation, in partnership with International Institute of Information Technology (IIIT) Bengaluru, has initiated a groundbreaking research study focusing on the utilization of Android phones as Assistive Technology for individuals with disabilities. This month, WinVinaya team conducted comprehensive training for 35 beneficiaries with visual impairments, introducing them to assistive technologies such as TalkBack on smartphones. So far, we have completed training for 134 participants who are persons with hearing and speech impairment and visual impairment. By fostering collaboration, we aim to create a more inclusive and beneficial technological landscape for all. Together, we can make strides toward a more accessible future.

**EMPOWERING INCLUSIVITY:  
WINVINAYA'S INSIGHTS AT  
I-STEM CONFLUENCE**

We're thrilled to share our impactful participation in the i-STEM Inclusive STEM Confluence! Shiva Jayagopal, Co-founder of WinVinaya Foundation, joined forces with Sharvari Prasad from Google and Vivek Misra from Microsoft for an insightful panel discussion on "Creating an inclusive and supportive environment and culture for employees with disabilities." This session was moderated expertly by Shashaank Awasthi from V-Shesh.

During the discussion, both Vivek Misra and Sharvari Prasad emphasized the importance of not only making products accessible but ensuring that these features are easily discoverable, maximizing the benefits for Persons with Disabilities (PWDs). The key points from the discussion included pathways for employees with disabilities, the importance of having the right products and environments, the need for encompassing innovation, collaboration, and advocacy, recognizing digital inaccessibility as a challenge in upskilling and career development, and addressing misplaced concerns about investment in tech tools for hiring Persons with Disabilities.

Mr. Shiva shed light on how WinVinaya is playing a pivotal role in bridging the gap between companies and individuals with disabilities, leveraging technology as a great equalizer. The experience reaffirms our commitment to inclusivity, paving the way for a more equitable and supportive future.

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video of this newsletter**



**CELEBRATING PONGAL WITH  
JOY AND LEARNING AT TIRUPPUR**

WinVinaya Foundation and The Manoharan Charitable Trust, recently came together for a festive Pongal celebration that was both joyful and enriching.

The highlight of the event was a spirited Rangoli competition, where all the students showcased their creative talents. Our esteemed chief guest, Mr. Siva Sakthivel from AXN Info Tech, shared insights on the abundant placement opportunities in Tirupur and the rewards of entrepreneurship. The event reached its pinnacle as Mr. Sakthivel distributed prizes to the deserving candidates.

To add a traditional touch, we prepared delicious Pongal on the premises, creating a warm and communal atmosphere. All candidates reveled in the celebration, making it a memorable and enjoyable occasion for everyone involved.



**UPCOMING EVENTS @ WINVINAYA**

At WinVinaya, our commitment extends beyond training and placement assistance. We strive to broaden our horizons, exploring diverse avenues to empower persons with disabilities in their pursuit of a life filled with dignity.

With this ethos in mind, our dedicated employees with visual impairment are joining hands with Kannada Tantramsha, a voluntary group for persons with visual impairment, to conduct an upskilling workshop. This session aims to guide persons with visual impairment on how to use Gmail in standard view with Screen readers, enhancing their digital experience.

We plan to conduct more interesting events in the future. Be a part of our initiatives or share with those who can benefit. Your valuable contribution can make a significant difference!

As we embark on this new year, let's forge diverse collaborations to broaden our horizons and empower people to lead lives filled with dignity.