

Xavier's Resource Centre for the Visually Challenged (XRCVC)



Annual Report

June 2015 – May 2016

St Xavier's College,
5 Mahapalika Marg,
Mumbai 400001
Tel: +91 22 22623298 /22626329
www.xrcvc.org



The XRCVC's Annual Report for 2015-16 (June to May)

The Xavier's Resource Centre for the Visually Challenged (XRCVC) (www.xrcvc.org) is, arguably, one of India's best resource and advocacy centres for visually challenged persons.

A truly inclusive society is one which ensures that every member gets an opportunity to become all that they can be. Once we start seeing the real person within, ignoring perceived abilities and disabilities, ignoring all the biases and prejudices, we become better human beings and end up making the world better.

XRCVC's credo is, 'Breaking Barriers, Achieving Access'. Visual impairment, after all, is a physical condition which can be overcome, rather than go on to become a disability.

As an enabling unit on campus at St Xavier's College (Autonomous), Mumbai, we endeavour to transform lives both at the micro and macro levels. Along with providing direct and indirect support to visually impaired persons at the micro level, we also work closely with government agencies, corporates, researchers and educational institutions on advocacy and sensitisation initiatives at the macro level.

With the unstinted support of the staff and students of St Xavier's College and a small but committed team of 12 professionals, we work to empower visually impaired persons all over the country.

As we enter the academic year 2016-2017, we are excited about the challenges ahead.

But first, let's dwell on the period June 2015-May 2016, which was eventful and rewarding in many ways.

The year began on an auspicious note as XRCVC branched out into the suburbs of Mumbai. The XRCVC-Viviana Extension, located in Thane, was inaugurated on June 27 by Dr Fr Frazer Mascarenhas SJ, former principal of St Xavier's College. The widely-publicised event was attended by around 70 guests. The extension centre's activities got off to a rousing start with a workshop on social media for visually impaired persons, which specially focused on Twitter.



(Pic 1 and 2) Inauguration of XRCVC Viviana Extension at Thane by Dr Fr Frazer Mascarenhas; (Pic 3) Pranjal Patil being felicitated by Dr Agnelo Menezes

The year ended on a very promising note as well, with news filtering in that our member Pranjal Patil had cleared the prestigious UPSC exam at the first attempt and is set to join the Indian Civil Service.

During the year, we had the pleasure of welcoming on board Aurealia D’Mello, who joined as Consultant (Special Education) in July 2016.

Our membership base stood at 508 during the year. We were also able to touch—and hopefully transform—thousands of lives across the country through our advocacy work, particularly in the areas of education access, financial access, print access, and independent living (see section sub-titled ‘Advocacy’).

Having revamped our website (www.xrcvc.org) during the previous year and also established a robust presence on the social media with a Facebook page (XRCVC—Xavier’s Resource Centre for the Visually Challenged) and Twitter handle (@XRCVC) we were able to disseminate information about our activities to members and other stakeholders on an almost real-time basis. Shriram Parthasarathy, a social media professional, continues to helm this initiative in a voluntary capacity.

Like in the previous academic year, our activities through the year were channelised through our restructured triad of work:

- Direct Support Services
- Advocacy
- Awareness

Given below is a summary of our activities in 2015-16 under each head.



Direct Support Services

The XRCVC offers a range of direct support and training services to persons with vision impairment, caregivers, educators and institutions.

- 1. Volunteer Support:** Despite all the technology and advancements, human assistance cannot be eliminated completely. The XRCVC provides volunteer services for:
 - Reading
 - Making material into accessible formats – through typing, scanning, editing, recording
 - Examination taking – scribe facilities
 - Teaching – for any subject

Depending on a person's needs and requirements, XRCVC provides volunteers on an annual basis for regular support or on a one-off basis for short-term periods.

Around 80 volunteers worked with us through the year, a majority of whom were sourced from the Social Involvement Programme (SIP) of St Xavier's College (Autonomous).

Technologies

The XRCVC houses the latest and the most exhaustive list of assistive technologies (AT) to be explored by visually challenged persons as also employers, government bodies and any other group that would like to know more about AT. Anyone is welcome at XRCVC, preferably with prior appointment, to explore our full range of assistive technologies and their use.

Like every year, we procured a wide range of new technologies in 2015-16. Some of these include a handheld book reader and OCR device Blaze multiplayer, equipment for accessible science experiments such as drop counter, automatic stir station, motion detector, a special tactile graphics creation thermoforming machine imported from American Printing House for the Blind, low vision aids such as the Clearview and camera mouse. We also replaced a large number of older laptops and desktops with newer machines.

Training

The XRCVC imparts training in computers, the use of specific assistive devices, Braille, Orientation & Mobility, Maths & Science, English language and Life skills through various training programmes. These are available for diverse learner groups – visually challenged, special educators, teacher trainers and caregivers. The XRCVC offers volunteer support services



for reading, making material accessible (through typing, scanning, editing, and recording) and assisting as a writer/ scribe during college/ competitive examinations. With the right skills and know-how, independent living and working is an increasing reality for persons with vision impairment.



Various training sessions in progress at XRCVC and XRCVC Viviana Extension, Thane



Our comprehensive and revamped training schedule in 2015-16 ensured that our Special Educators and trainers had their hands full throughout the year. The training sessions during the year included customised workshops by various members of the XRCVC team including Calveena D’Sylva, Rebecca Carvalho, Mimansa Vahia, Aurealia D’Mello, Vikas Dabholkar, Sushil Pandit, and Keshavan Nadar. These training sessions were held at schools as well as at XRCVC and XRCVC-Viviana Extension.

Through the year, the XRCVC’s training services reached out to 503 persons (see Table 1).

Table 1: Training Services June 2015 – May 2016

Direct Training	No of beneficiaries	Indirect (Stakeholder) Training	No of beneficiaries
Computer & Assistive Technology (AT)	263	Computer & AT	8
English	16	Education	134
Orientation and Mobility (O&M)	9		
Education Including Mathematics & Science Support	73		
Total	361	Total	142

Personal and Career Guidance

Guidance services were provided to members and their families to identify needs, interests and aptitudes as also troubleshoot and cope with concerns.

Scholarships

Recognising the high costs for higher education and assistive technologies, the XRCVC provides scholarship and access technology lending schemes to deserving students. New higher education avenues have been pursued by the visually challenged over the last decade. Along with new opportunities come new costs of higher education courses. Similarly, whilst assistive technologies and computers have provided immense aid to the visually challenged, what is often considered a luxury for sighted students is a necessity for a student with visual impairment.

The Lions Club of East Bombay Scholarship for the year was awarded to our member Shiksha Gupta, for being the most deserving visually impaired student graduating from St Xavier’s College, Mumbai.

Distribution of devices

Laptops were distributed to visually challenged students under the XRCVC - Rotary Club of Bombay Hanging Garden Laptop Loan Scheme during the year. Like last year, the laptops were



sponsored by Rotary Club as part of their programme titled Project Xcessworld - District Grant No 1516291, A Project to Empower the Visually Challenged.

A number of Plectalk Vachaks (a Digital Talking Book Player and Recorder) were also distributed to various visually impaired persons during the year under the Govt of India's Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids/ Appliances (ADIP Scheme).

Sports and Recreation

Oftentimes, recreation and sports get left out in discussions on lives of persons with disabilities. However, these are as integral a part of life for persons with disabilities as for the non-disabled.

Recognising the value of sports and recreation, the XRCVC works on creating innovative opportunities and events. The XRCVC Recreation Club was launched during the year with continuous fitness and training sessions being held under the supervision of Dr Thomas Pires, Sports Director, St Xavier's College.

Besides, the XRCVC team organised and participated in many sports activities during the year.

These included:

- An Invitation Cricket tournament for the Visually Impaired in Mumbai
- An exhibition match of blind football in Mumbai organised by Youth United Foundation
- An All-India Invitational Blind Football Tournament in Kerala, organised by Society for Rehabilitation of the Visually Challenged.



Sporting activities for the visually challenged being conducted at St Xavier's College

XRCVC also collaborated with The Cubing Club of Xavier's Institute of Engineering (XIE) to conduct a Cubing workshop for its members in January.



Advocacy

Ensuring environmental access is a key factor in determining that vision loss does not result in a disability. XRCVC's advocacy initiatives work in four main areas of print access, financial access, education access and independent living to create accessible environments.

Print Access

The access to printed works for the visually challenged depends on its availability in accessible formats and the permissibility of the legal systems to convert material to accessible formats. XRCVC has been working relentlessly to overcome these challenges.

During this period, the XRCVC produced 39 DAISY books in full-text-full-audio format (comprising 8,200 pages with an audio run time of 271 hours, 50 minutes, 32 seconds. The XRCVC is preparing all its accessible DAISY titles to be ready for uploading onto a national accessible online library which it is working to roll out alongwith the Daisy Forum of India (DFI).

Some of the events that took place or were conducted under the Print Access initiative during the year are appended below.

- Dr Sam Taraporevala and Aniket Gupta participated in the Daisy Forum of India's (DFI) meeting in Patiala, Braille Council of India's meeting in Guwahati,.
- During the year, XRCVC worked closely with Benetech, a global non-profit social entrepreneurial venture harnessing the power of technology for social benefit on many print access-related initiatives.
- Worked with BSE Institute Ltd in making books accessible.
- Initiated discussions to set up the online portal for the CTM library.
- Assisted a retired professor at Swami Vivekanand College, Mumbai in planning a resource centre Daisy library
- Assisted a retired judge from the Constitutional bench of South Africa, regarding designing a course in India. Being visually challenged, the judge needed help with a Hindi-English dictionary in Braille.
- XRCVC's Daisy specialist, Sushil Pandit, conducted a special DAISY training workshop in Nairobi (Kenya) in November, under the aegis of UNESCO.
- Dr Sam Taraporevala participated as a resource person in a library conference at JNU to create awareness about DFI and the online library. The subject of the special session



was “Reaching the Unreached through ETDs: Research Support Services for persons with disabilities”.

- Conducted regular discussions with Assistech, IIT Delhi team to evaluate the work on the Refreshable Braille Display.

Reading Without Seeing

The XRCVC had launched an extremely effective national-level awareness programme in 2012 under the banner of ‘Reading Without Seeing’, which takes access technologies to blind and low-vision users across locations, and ignites in its audiences the curiosity and basic knowledge to begin their journey of accessing the printed word independently. The programme equips participants with the basic knowhow of a host of assistive technologies.

The programme gained added momentum this year with 15 workshops reaching out to 321 persons (see Table 2). These workshops were conducted by the XRCVC team comprising Sushil Pandit, Keshavan Nadar, Aniket Gupta, Vikas Dabholkar and Shizanne D’Mello, along with volunteers Rajesh Mehta, Hetal Shah, Rajni Pandit and Jatin Shah.

Table 2: Reading Without Seeing (RWS) Workshops (June 2015 – May 2016)

No.	Organisation Name	Venue	Date	Participants
1	Thane (TISS)	XRCVC-Viviana Extension	4th July 2015	9
2	Porbandar (Bharatiya Pragnachashu Gurukul)	Wagheshwari Plot, Vadia Road, Panch Hatdi, Porbandar	22nd August 2015	60
3	Thane (NAB India Teacher Trainees)	XRCVC-Viviana Extension	06th February 2016	21
4	Thane (Vision Insight Foundation)	XRCVC-Viviana Extension	06th March 2016	35
5	Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (ZIET)	K.V.S Complex, N.C.H Colony Kanjur Marg West	11th March 2016	15
6	Thane (NAB Rehabilitation DOR Physiotherapy,	XRCVC-Viviana Extension	18th March 2016	20
7	Thane (NAB Rehabilitation DOR)	XRCVC-Viviana Extension	19th March 2016	24
8	Thane (NAB IDBI Polytechnic Ambernath)	XRCVC-Viviana Extension	21st March 2016	17
9	Mumbai (TCS Corporate Maitree) ACTC	XRCVC Department, St. Xavier's College	2nd April 2016	10
10	Thane (BPA)	XRCVC-Viviana Extension	24th April 2016	26
11	Thane (XRCVC Members)	XRCVC-Viviana Extension	25th April 2016	19
12	Mumbai (Computer and English Batch)	XRCVC, St. Xavier's College	20th May 2016	10
13	Thane (Organised by NOB)	XRCVC-Viviana Extension	20th May 2016	5
14	Mumbai (NAB Functional Trainees)	XRCVC, St. Xavier's College	26th May 2016	32
15	Thane (BPA)	XRCVC-Viviana Extension	29th May 2016	18
Total				321



Financial Access

The ability to independently manage, operate and execute one's financial transactions is key to independent living. Lack of effective guidelines and lack of optimum use of technology in financial instruments had traditionally denied financial access to the blind and low vision. The XRCVC has been striving to change this reality. Some of the activities under the Financial Access initiative are appended below.

- XRCVC has been working closely with a global organization, G3ict, to help promote financial inclusion in India. As part of this, an interactive meeting was organized in April in St Xavier's College between Mr James Thurston, G3ict Vice President for Global Strategy and Development, Indian Bank Association (IBA) officials and other stakeholders. Earlier, G3ict had facilitated a one-day seminar in Paris on new developments in financial services accessibility compliance and technologies for executives of international banks.
- XRCVC regularly participated in meetings organised by IBA's Working Group on Banking Facilities for Persons with Special Needs.
- Discussions were conducted with State Bank of India officials to ascertain how the bank could enhance the skills of their visually impaired employees and bring them into the mainstream.
- As part of XRCVC's ongoing work with accessible ATMs, a team from XRCVC visited the NCR office in Mumbai and shared feedback about accessibility features to be incorporated in their new cloud-based ATM. The system works on the principle that there should be minimal burden at the terminal. Since most of the intelligence remains at the central server hosted at the data centre of the respective bank, NCR believes this will offer more secure transactions. In the next phase, NCR plans to replace the physical PINPAD with a next generation encrypted touchscreen.
- Provided feedback to Reserve Bank of India on accessible currency notes.

Education Access

While Right to Education has become a fundamental right in India, for persons with disabilities, this right is far from being actualised. During the year, XRCVC continued its work towards inclusive education practices and services at school, college and higher education levels. A series of activities were conducted during the year in this connection, which are appended below.

- Dr Sam Taraporevala and Aniket Gupta visited Tokyo from February 2 to 8 to participate in The 3rd International Workshop on "Digitization and E-Inclusion in Mathematics and



Science 2016" (DEIMS2016). During the workshop, Dr Taraporevala delivered a keynote lecture on "STEM Education for Blind and Low Vision Students - The Socio-Technical Challenge: The Indian Perspective". They also paid a visit to the Japan Braille library.



(Pic 1) Dr Sam Taraporevala at the 3rd International Workshop on 'Digitization and E-Inclusion in Mathematics and Science 2016' (DEIMS2016); (Pic 2) an intern from IIT Mumbai working on the newly acquired special tactile graphics creation thermoforming machine imported from American Printing House for the Blind

- XRCVC through this year accomplished pioneering work in the area of mathematics and science education. Students were provided direct support services. XRCVC created accessible electronic textbooks, teaching learning aids (TLA), and provided conceptual training to these students. In addition XRCVC has started creating a TLA resource library for mathematics and science education, starting Std 1 onwards.
- XRCVC's team on inclusive education comprising Neha Trivedi, Calveena D'Sylva, Rebecca Carvalho, Mimansa Vahia and Aurealia D'Mello continued work on the Concept Teaching Manuals (CTMs), which have been designed for use by teachers working with blind or low vision students. Special educators or parents working on a one-on-one basis, as well as classroom teachers and tuition teachers in an inclusive classroom can incorporate the information and ideas from these manuals. These CTMs cover interactive ways to teach concepts to blind or low vision students including the use of Teaching-Learning Aids (TLAs) in the form of activities, real objects, 3D educational toys and models, 2D tactile diagrams, etc.
- XRCVC's special educators paid bi-weekly visits to Prime Academy School as part of the Individualised Education Plan (IEP) process that has been taken up for two of its primary students. We also invited the principal of the school to our centre to show her our work on Education Access, and regularly conducted training and sensitization sessions at this



school, and others like Beacon High School, St John's Universal ICSE School, and Besant Montessori School.

- Worked closely with Gopi Birla School on the rules for conduct of CBSE computer – based examinations for a visually impaired student.
- Worked closely with the British Council during the year to create an accessible version of the IELTS examination.
- Worked with the NGO Masoom to help visually impaired students enrolled in night schools.
- Conducted a workshop at NAB, Worli on Accessible Technology for maths (writing and solving) beyond primary level classes.
- Offered assistance to physiotherapy student Kritika Purohit in completing her internship at KEM Hospital
- Worked closely with a team from TCS on the course content for a proposed Basic Computer training course at NAB.
- Conducted a detailed teacher's training programme 'I For Inclusion' for teachers from 6 institutes.



(Pic 1) The 'I for Inclusion' workshop for teachers; (Pic 2) a training session at Kendriya Vidyalaya

- Worked closely with Kendriya Vidyalaya officials on making the KV schools more inclusive and collaborated with Zonal Institute of Education and Training (ZIET), Kanjurmarg on creating a training workshop for Kendriya Vidyalaya teachers
- Dr Sam Taraporevala delivered a lecture at IDC, IIT Mumbai to design students on "Introduction to the world of blind". The subjects covered were how VIs visualize and what mental models are built when a concept has to be understood, how do they comprehend and how comprehension differs based on age and experience of the blind



person, which is the most effective medium to send messages for such an audience, and currently how do they build concepts and learn new things.

- Worked closely with the Examinations Dept of St Xavier's College to help a visually impaired SYBA student and MPP student answer his examination papers using a laptop.
- Our Coordinator, Special Education attended a workshop on "Design & Production of Perceivable & Affordable Tactile Diagrams" at IIT Delhi, and also conducted sessions on 'Simplistic Solutions for Tactile Graphics', 'Use of Alt Text for Accessible Images in MS Word', and 'Creation of Accessible MathType MS Word files'.
- Worked closely with international experts like Prof Volker Sorge from the University of Birmingham on thermoforming tactile graphics.
- XRCVC is also working closely with officials from Rashtriya Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) to take forward the mandate of RUSA in ensuring quality in higher education and achieving excellence. Equity through inclusion in higher education is one of the key components under RUSA.
- Dr Taraporevala participated in a meeting convened by the Government of Maharashtra in December to discuss how Technical Devices & Software could be disseminated to disabled persons.
- Worked with the Joint secretary, UGC to further push forward the HEPSN (Higher Education for Persons With Special Needs) scheme for various colleges and universities. This will help in capacity building so that resource centres can be widely available.

Independent Living

Each of us, as we pass through our day, interact with a range of products, environments and services from transport services, to kitchen appliances, and entertainment products. How accessible are these daily living services and products for the visually challenged? XRCVC's Independent Living initiative questions and works towards rectifying these areas. Some of the activities covered under this initiative during the year are appended below.

- Worked closely with the Government of India on its Accessible India Campaign (Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan). Regular meetings were held with senior officials in Delhi in this connection, including the Joint Secretary, Dept of Disability Affairs, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
- Worked with Mumbai Transformation Support Unit (MTSU) to give inputs in the Draft Development Control Rules (DCR) and Development Plan (DP) for Bombay prepared by MCGM.
- Worked with an entrepreneur from Bangalore to provide inputs for a mobility device



- Worked with an entrepreneur from Tech Mahindra, who aims to design an ultrasound-based Smart Goggle for VI Navigation
- Continuing discussions with Assistech, IIT Delhi about OnBoard, the accessible announcement system that will help Visually Impaired persons board buses.
- Worked closely with UMOJA, a hospitality company and travel portal, on making the hotel experience accessible for visually impaired persons. XRCVC also facilitated a focus group discussion on accessibility in hotels for UMOJA.
- Worked with Zomato, the Association of Hotels and Restaurants (AHAR), and Samsung India on making the offerings of these organisations accessible.
- Worked on pilot testing of location identification signages called Beacons. The plan is to have a Mobile Application in place for indoor navigation and identification for blind users. Also coordinating with a firm called NWBT on installing Beacons at Mumbai airport. Also worked with a few engineering students on the Beacon project.
- Worked with IBM Research India on a navigation project they are promoting called NavC7og.
- Helped prepare an Access audit tool for the Accessible India Campaign
- Worked with Jet Airways to help make their website accessible.
- Worked with Lemon Tree Hotels on offering accessible services
- Collaborated with an international project, Goodfood Talks (www.goodfoodtalks.com), which is an accessible menu library for blind and low-vision persons
- Worked on the prototype design of a unique Braille identity card at the request of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Delhi.
- Submitted suggestions to the Ministry of Urban Development (MoUD) on Harmonized Guidelines and Space Standards for Barrier Free built environment for persons with disability and elderly persons. For this purpose, XRCVC coordinated with Mr Mukesh Jain from the ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and Anjalee Agarwal of Samarthyam in order to integrate the VI Perspective
- Helped guide two filmmakers—one in Hindi and the other in Marathi—to incorporate visually impaired characters in their films, and provided training to the actors as well.
- Hosted a team from Shinano Kenshi Co Ltd, Japan at the centre and discussed potential areas of collaboration
- Worked with LEAF Design Pvt Ltd on accessibility initiatives with design students.
- Continued ongoing research and development work on visual / auditory / tactile teaching-learning aids and other independent living aids. We worked on integrating diverse technologies which could create a composite system to read through fingers, see through eyes, or hear through ears. This has led to the prototype of an audio / tactile / visual map of India and audio / tactile / visual menu, which found a mention in



the Limca Book of Records. The research also has immense potential for the teaching-learning process as it can promote paired reading and can assist a non-Braille literate person to also function effectively.

- Worked with officials from Reliance Energy to make the company's services and billing, etc. accessible

Awareness

Creating awareness about the lives and capabilities of visually impaired persons is one of the key areas that will open doors for them in a world where the rules are made for and by sighted people. XRCVC has been working on a number of such initiatives through its awareness and sensitization workshop Antarchakshu[®]—The Eye Within. The title 'Antarchakshu' has been successfully registered as a trademark on behalf of the Bombay St Xavier's College Society.

In May 2016, XRCVC launched a comic strip series titled 'You & Eye' as a sensitisation and awareness initiative. Probably India's first comic strip on the lives of visually impaired persons, 'You & Eye' is a collaborative effort between XRCVC, Jagran Group publication Mid-day, and Pune-based cartoonist, Nala Ponnappa. Starting May 1, the comic strip will be published every week in the Sunday edition of Mid-day for 52 weeks.

In addition, we conducted our mega sensitisation and awareness event Antarchakshu[®] twice this year, the first time in St Xavier's College, and subsequently in Gurgaon. The theme at both events was "Creating An accessible World" and the events saw a combined footfall of approximately 3500 participants.

These events focused on the following six principles of accessibility:

1. Universal Design: Usable By all
2. Accepting Differences & Sensory Substitution: Different ways of reaching the same goal
3. Multi-Sensory Approach: Enriches Experiences
4. No Clutter, Clutter confuses: Clean and non-cluttered layouts aid everyone
5. No half-baked cookie: Accessibility present from beginning to end and not only in parts
6. Nothing for us without us: User inputs and feedback taken during development



Images from Antarchakshu®—The Eye Within at Mumbai and Gurgaon

During the year sit-down versions of Antarchakshu® were conducted at many places and for a variety of target groups, including members of the Advertising Agencies Association of India, the Thane Ophthalmic Association, content writers in Pune, mid and senior-level managers in Deloitte, design students of IDC, IIT Mumbai, students of the IITB-Monash Research Academy, and a number of corporates in Gurgaon, including TCS , ISDI-Leaf, Pernod-Ricard, Oracle, UST Global, Capgemini, People Matters, and Agrasar (See Table 2).

A special sit-down version was also conducted in Hyderabad for the employees of Microsoft as part of Confluence, which is the company’s annual Disability & Inclusion event. The event had outlined three key objectives, a) to help employees uncover unconscious bias w.r.t. to working with People with Disability, b) to educate employees about creating an environment – both physical and inter-personal where People with Disability can attain their potential and perform, and c) to share the importance of creating and supporting an inclusive workplace where everyone thrives. After the workshop, Dr Taraporevala participated in a panel discussion organised by Microsoft on how to promote inclusion, with specific reference to disability. XRCVC also put up an exhibition of access technology devices at the venue.

Dr Sam Taraporevala also addressed members of the Rotary Club of Bombay at Taj hotel on Disability and Inclusion.



Table 3: General Awareness workshops and events

No	Date	Participant profile	Nature of workshop	Venue	Participants
1	05 June 2015	Advertising Agencies Association of India (AAAI)	Sensitisation	AAAI Office, Lower Parel	25
2	12 July 2015	Thane Ophthalmologists' Association	Sensitisation	Viviana Mall Office	12
3	13 August 2015	FYBMM students of St Xavier's College	Sensitisation	St Xavier's College	50
4	25 August 2015	Optometrists at Aditya Jyot Hospital, Wadala	Sensitisation	Aditya Jyot Hospital, Wadala	23
5	25 August 2015	Orientation for Antarchakshu 2015 volunteers	Orientation / Sensitisation	St Xavier's College	150
6	15-16 September 2015	Antarchakshu 2015: Creating An Accessible World	Sensitisation	St Xavier's College	1416
7	20 October 2015	Antarchakshu	Sensitisation	RIMS International School	42
8	01 December 2015	Poetry recitation by students combined with sensitisation	Sensitisation	LRN, Goregaon	70
9	12 December 2015	Content writers for manuals, etc	Sensitisation	Hyatt Regency, Pune	98
10	16 December 2015	Deloitte employees	Sensitisation	Deloitte office, Powai	32
11	20 January 2016	Oracle employees	Sensitisation	Oracle office, Gurgaon	25
12	21 January 2016	TCS employees (GG 7)	Sensitisation	TCS, GG 7, Gurgaon	26
13	21 January 2016	TCS employees (GG 6)	Sensitisation	TCS, GG 6, Gawal Pahari, Gurgaon	25
14	22 January 2016	Pernod Ricard employees	Sensitisation	Pernod Ricard, Cyber hub, Gurgaon	20
15	22 January 2016	UST Global employees	Sensitisation	UST Global, Cyber hub, Gurgaon	30
16	23 January 2016	Agrasar volunteers	Sensitisation	Agrasar office, Gurgaon	20
17	03 February 2016	People Matters, Gurgaon	Sensitisation	People Matters Office, Gurgaon	26
18	04 February 2016	SIP volunteers and Kartavya volunteers	Sensitisation	St Xavier's College	18
19	04 February 2016	Capgemini staff, Gurgaon	Sensitisation	Capgemini office, Gurgaon	24
20	04 February 2016	IBM staff	Sensitisation	IBM, Gurgaon	75
21	11 February 2016	IBM staff	Sensitisation	IBM staff, Gurgaon	30
22	11 February 2016	TCS staff	Sensitisation	TCS staff, Gurgaon	30
23	16 February 2016	Viviana mall	Sensitisation	Viviana mall Security staff	30
24	24 February 2016	Gurgaon Antarchakshu volunteer training	Sensitisation	Gurgaon Anatarachakshu volunteers	150
25	25, 26 February 2016	A wide cross-section of people in Gurgaon	Sensitisation	Gurgaon Antarchakshu	1260
26	01 March 2016	Designers (Faculty and students)	Sensitisation	ISDI-Leaf	30
27	01 March 2016	Rotarians	Awareness	Rotary Club of Bombay	111
28	22 April 2016	IT professionals	Sensitisation	Microsoft office, Hyderabad	52
29	30 April 2016	Students	Sensitisation	Rotaract Club, Ruia College	31
30	06 May 2016	Corporate professionals	Sensitisation	MAAC Office (Aptech), Andheri	30
31	26 May 2016	PhD students	Sensitisation	IITB-Monash Research Academy, Powai	37
32	29 May 2016	Professionals, Students	Sensitisation	At Andheri	29
				TOTAL	4027



(Pic 1) An awareness and sensitisation workshop; (Pic 2) distribution of assistive devices

Awards

The Rotary Club of Mumbai Sion presented an award to Dr Sam Taraporevala as part of its Vocational Excellence Awards. The award was presented by Dattajirao Desai, a former municipal official.

Dr Sam Taraporevala was awarded the Louis Braille Award 2015 by the Pragyachakshu Mahila Sewa Kunj, Surendranagar, Gujarat.

Conclusion

We would like to extend our gratitude to our funders, partners, and sponsors without whom we would not have been able to come this far. We would like to specially thank Great Eastern CSR Foundation, Tata Capital Housing Finance Limited, Sightsavers, Dhun Pestonji Parakh Discretionary Trust, Tech Mahindra Foundation, Samruddha Resources Ltd, a contribution by Armaity Keki Namver in memory of her brother late Hoshang Keki Namver, Johnson and Johnson Ltd, Godrej, State Bank of India, SBI Funds Management Pvt Ltd, Dept of Disability Affairs (Govt of India), Microsoft Corporation (India) Pvt Ltd, NCR Corporation India Pvt Ltd, Union Bank of India, and Lions Club of East Bombay for supporting our various projects.

A big thank you to our large pool of volunteers as well. Their commitment ensures that a small organisation like the XRCVC is able to touch the lives of countless people all over the country.

In conclusion, we would like to place on record our deep appreciation to St. Xavier's College—the management, staff members and students, for demonstrating to educational institutes all over the country how a centre of learning can be truly inclusive to persons with disabilities, particularly blind and low-vision persons. Special thanks to Dr Agnelo Menezes, the principal, whose continued support and guidance has helped the XRCVC continue as a centre of excellence of national repute.