

DARE TO DREAM

The official newsletter of WinVinaya Foundation



CELEBRATING DIVERSITY, INCLUSION, AND EMPOWERMENT AT WINVINAYA!

Celebrating Neurodiverse Talents: A Remarkable Valedictory Event

On December 12, 2024, WinVinaya Foundation hosted an extraordinary valedictory ceremony for individuals from the neurodiverse spectrum. This was no ordinary event—it was a celebration of talent, resilience, and inspiration.



Participants representing Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), Intellectual Disabilities, Neurological Conditions (like Epilepsy), and Mental Health challenges took center stage, demonstrating their diverse skills and leadership. They anchored the event, delivered heartfelt speeches, and showcased their talents through music, drama, and dance, bringing everyone together in celebration. **Highlights:**

Musical Talents: A participant captivated the audience with his keyboard mastery and singing, inspiring others to showcase their skills with instruments like the tabla and mridangam. **Technical Expertise:** Skills in Zoho Books, advanced Excel functions, and Power BI demonstrated their technical acumen. **Inspiring Spirits:** Their enthusiasm and zest for life left a lasting impact on everyone present.

The event was more than a showcase of accomplishments; it was a testament to the immense potential of these individuals to lead, inspire, and contribute meaningfully to society.

Parent Testimonials: Grateful parents praised WinVinaya's transparent and supportive approach. One parent shared,

"WinVinaya provided unwavering support, helping us embrace our children's unique journeys and unlocking real opportunities for growth." **Join Us in Championing Inclusion:** If your organization values resilience and unique perspectives, we invite you to partner with us. Contact placement@WinVinayaFoundation.org to build a more inclusive and empowered world!

A Joyful Christmas at WinVinaya Foundation!



This holiday season, WinVinaya Foundation came alive with laughter, music, and the spirit of inclusion! Our Christmas celebration was a perfect

blend of joy and togetherness, with exciting activities for all. **Tambola Thrills:** Cheers echoed as players celebrated lucky wins during a fun-filled tambola session. **Dance Delight:** The dance floor buzzed with energy as people of all abilities grooved to the beats. **Secret Santa Fun:** Gifts came with a twist — everyone danced their way to a surprise, spreading festive cheer! **Cake-Cutting Joy:** A sweet celebration brought everyone together for delicious treats and smiles. **Feast of Togetherness:** A hearty dinner and ice cream wrapped up the day on a sweet note.

This celebration wasn't just about festivities; it was a beautiful reminder of inclusion and community. Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year filled with love and happiness!

E-Mail: info@WinVinayaFoundation.org

Celebrating Inclusion: TE Connectivity Partners with WinVinaya Foundation



This December, in honor of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities,

WinVinaya Foundation joined hands with TE Connectivity for a heartwarming celebration of inclusion and empowerment. The event brought together over 18 volunteers, including three senior leaders, all united by a shared commitment to fostering diversity and accessibility.

The day was filled with impactful activities: **Mock Interviews:** Hearing and speech-impaired candidates practiced interviews, boosting their confidence and readiness for real-world opportunities. **Soft Skills Training:** Individuals with intellectual disabilities honed their workplace skills in an engaging and supportive environment. **"Together We Shine" Drawing Session:** Volunteers and candidates collaborated on a creative art activity, symbolizing unity and the power of teamwork.

Adding a special touch, volunteers participated in a **basic sign language workshop**, gaining meaningful insights into the abilities and challenges faced by Persons with Disabilities (PWDs). For many, it was their first opportunity to interact with PWDs, fostering a deeper sense of empathy and understanding. The active involvement of senior leaders further reinforced a culture of inclusion and inspired a renewed commitment to diversity. **Let's Build an Inclusive Future Together!** Are you inspired by this story of connection and empowerment? Join us in creating a world where everyone shines. Reach out to pmo@winvinayafoundation.org be a part of this incredible journey. Together We Shine for More Inclusive Tomorrow!

Doddaballapuram Visit: Empowering Neurodiverse Families at the Grassroots

On December 13, 2024, WinVinaya Foundation collaborated with Basavaraju Sir (Ex-Disability Commissioner), founder of Maya Foundation, for an impactful event at Scotts and Guides School, Doddaballapuram. This gathering united parents and caregivers of neurodiverse children, offering support, guidance, and hope for their unique journeys. Basavaraju Sir emphasized empowering caregivers—especially mothers—of children with intellectual disabilities.

He shared strategies to support children as early as age five, focusing on skill development and employability pathways. Additionally, he encouraged mothers to reclaim their "me-time" through activities like dancing, painting, and performing arts, fostering both rejuvenation and creativity.

The event was a reflective moment for the WinVinaya team. While our efforts typically focus on empowering graduates through technology, this interaction highlighted the challenges faced by non-graduates in rural areas. Listening to caregivers' voices, we explored ways to adapt and expand our initiatives to better serve these communities.

This inspiring session underscored the importance of building a holistic ecosystem that supports neurodiverse individuals and their families. By offering tailored resources and volunteer support, we aim to make a meaningful grassroots impact.

Breaking Barriers: Placement Drive at Tata Elxsi

What happens when untapped talent meets a truly inclusive opportunity? On December 6, 2024, Tata Elxsi hosted a groundbreaking placement drive for nine exceptional candidates with visual impairments (VI), hearing impairments (HI), and hard of hearing (HoH).

This initiative offered opportunities in four dynamic roles: Accessibility Testing, Software Testing, Software Development, and Business Operations. Armed with industry-relevant training, the candidates confidently navigated technical and HR rounds. Despite challenges like travel constraints and preferences for remote work, their ambition and preparation shone through, with **seven out of nine candidates securing internships!**

The team at Tata Elxsi exemplified inclusivity throughout the process, providing interpreters for deaf candidates and using simple written communication to ensure clarity for all. This impactful journey began at the Job Mela in Trivandrum on June 22, 2024, where Tata Elxsi first participated as spectators. Inspired by the event, they visited WinVinaya's premises to explore collaboration and held in-depth discussions to address accommodation needs, culminating in this inspiring drive.

But this effort was about more than just placements—it was about breaking stereotypes and fostering a culture of inclusion. Tata Elxsi employees gained invaluable insights into building workplaces that celebrate diversity and harness the potential of individuals with disabilities.

Are you ready to embrace inclusion? Join us in creating transformative opportunities. 📧 Contact us at placement@winvinayafoundation.org and be part of this journey toward empowerment and success. Together, we can show the world that inclusivity has no limits. **Will your organization be next?**

Mitra Run 2024: A Journey of Inclusion, Unity, and Empowerment

On December 8, 2024, WinVinaya Foundation proudly joined the annual Mitra Run at the IIM campus. Organized by Eka Educational and Charitable Trust, this inspiring 5km run celebrates the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, fostering awareness and inclusion.



A vibrant team of 28 members from WinVinaya, including individuals with and without disabilities, participated wholeheartedly. The group included two wheelchair users and one person with oxygen support, exemplifying the essence of true inclusivity. Walking alongside our buddies—visually impaired, neurodiverse, or using wheelchairs—offered an inspiring glimpse into their resilience, strength, and determination.

At WinVinaya, we actively participate in inclusive events organized by fellow travelers, extending our solidarity and support. These moments not only deepen our community bonds but also encourage us to unite for the causes we believe in.

The day showcased teamwork and compassion as team members supported one another by taking turns to push wheelchairs, coordinating efforts to ensure everyone was included, and involving family members to join in. It was a powerful display of unity, as we stepped out of our comfort zones to stand as one.

Beyond the run, we explored stalls featuring handmade crafts by neurodiverse students and drew inspiration from the enthusiasm of participants with Autism and ADHD. These interactions were a heartfelt reminder of the incredible talents within the disability community. **Let's celebrate inclusion together!**

Empowering with AI: A Hands-On Microsoft Tools Session

Dedicated volunteers from Microsoft hosted an inspiring and interactive AI workshop for our neurodiverse participants. This initiative began in May, with two touchdown meetings in November and December, culminating in a dynamic hands-on session led by Vikram, a passionate Microsoft volunteer.

Building on the impactful volunteering activities launched on November 5th, the workshop aimed to empower participants with practical AI skills. The session explored real-world applications of Microsoft AI tools, offering a blend of live demos and engaging learning opportunities.

Workshop Highlights:

- **Creative AI:** Participants learned to generate images from imagination using cutting-edge tools.
- **AI in Excel:** Insights into leveraging paid plugins for smarter data analysis.
- **Personal Productivity:** Unlocking AI-driven features in Microsoft 365 to boost efficiency.
- **Banking Transformation:** Exploring AI-powered tools and their impact on the financial sector.

Vikram ensured that the session was both comprehensive and accessible, revisiting topics from previous sessions to reinforce learning while introducing new and exciting AI capabilities.

Key Takeaways:

- Practical applications of AI in everyday life.
- Mastering AI tools across Microsoft products.
- Utilizing paid and built-in AI features to enhance productivity.

This workshop exemplified how technology and inclusion can work hand in hand to create transformative learning experiences.

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