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SUKRITAVAANI

August 2025



Dear Friends,

Greetings from Sukriti!

The month of August is a beautiful reminder of the bonds that enrich our lives—beginning with International Friendship Day and culminating in the heartwarming celebration of Raksha Bandhan, a festival that honours the unique relationship between siblings.

For individuals with disabilities, family forms the very foundation of strength and support. Right from the early stages of accepting the diagnosis to navigating adult life, families—especially parents and siblings—play a critical role in providing emotional, physical, and moral support. This support is not only essential for rehabilitation and societal inclusion, but also in helping the individual live with dignity and confidence.

Among these relationships, the sibling bond is incredibly powerful. Siblings often grow up as the first friends, confidants, and allies. In families where a child has a disability, it

At our centre, we celebrated Raksha Bandhan not just as a festival, but as a meaningful opportunity to strengthen sibling connections. We also aimed to encourage parents—especially mothers—to understand their role in nurturing this bond between their children from an early stage.

We were deeply touched when one of our kind-hearted neighbours came forward to celebrate the festival with our children. They arrived as a family, their hands filled not only with rakhis, sweets, savouries, and gifts, but with warmth and affection. The joy on the children's faces was immeasurable, and for the parents, it served as a gentle reminder of the importance of fostering sibling love and inclusion within the family.

The event was a celebration of love, protection, and the unspoken promises that siblings make to each other. It reminded us all that a nurturing family environment and strong sibling bonds can empower children with disabilities to thrive, dream, and lead meaningful lives.

With warmth and gratitude,

With best regards

Sowmya Simhan



Knowledge is Power: Understanding the Law for Persons with Disabilities

It is essential for every person—especially those with disabilities—to be aware of the legal protections and rights available to them. Knowledge of the law not only safeguards one's interests but also empowers individuals to advocate for themselves and others.

Progress Ability is a valuable handbook on the rights of persons with disabilities, published by Ability Foundation in partnership with Surana and Surana International Attorneys. This book simplifies the complex provisions of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPWD) Act, making it accessible and easy for the common man to understand.

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upheld. These real-world examples demonstrate how the law can be a powerful tool for justice and equality.

Every person with a disability, and indeed every family member or advocate, should have this handbook on their bookshelf. Knowing the law is not just informative—it is empowering. It transforms awareness into action and ensures that rights are not just written on paper, but enforced in reality.

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getintouch@sukriti.org

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