Nina Foundation Founder’s Day

9th March 2012 – Darshan Visit


Dr. Nina Doshi’s birthday is our Foundation Day. It was celebrated as a spiritual outing for all friends with spinal injury in Mumbai from 8:30 am. Over 75 friends, escort, family members, associates & volunteers formed the contingent. We visited and prayed at three of the famous temples in Manzaga, Sri Kanyakumari Parmerwadi Temple, the South Indian Bhajan Samaj & Shiv Mandir. A special aarti, offerings & puja was organized at all the three places and the head priest narrated the significance of each of the deities at the temples. Members from all faiths prayed with equal fervor & devotion. Our friends from Sharan and Cheshire Home also joined us.

We also took our members to Maharshi Karve Udyam. This is a disable friendly garden on Station Road maintained by Rotary Club of Mumbai Uptown. Hot piping lunch was served in the central circular hall which was greatly relished by everyone. Members sang, danced, bonded, enjoyed and dispersed at 2:00 pm.

Special thanks to MGM College physiotherapy students for their dedicated approach and wholehearted support—courtesy Dr. Divy Mehta.

Dinkie Shah wrote:

“Thanks for arranging such a great meeting on Foundation Day. I actually enjoyed a lot, especially in that garden. It was great being on those swings after so long. : )”

NINA FOUNDATION - ONE WORLD
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An NGO for rehabilitation of people with Spinal Injury

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Profile

His Story “Ajay Kumar Parmar”

Ajay Kumar Singh Parmar, born in a remote village of Balat is the son of Smt. Sudha Parmar, a head teacher in a Government Primary School in U.P., and father, Dr. Jitendra Singh Parmar, a retired lecturer who taught Chemistry. Qualified from Gwalior as a mechanical engineer, member of a small family, he has one sister Neelam Singh, living in Gwalior. He is married to Pranita Singh who also happens to be a head teacher in a Government Primary School. He has two sons, Ajit Pratap Singh studying commerce in Nagpur, and Anuj Pratap Singh, the younger one, who has recently appeared for the 12th standard and is currently preparing for the entrance exams to pursue engineering studies.

Soon after his graduation in 1990, Ajay started his professional career as trainee engineer with Vegetro Foods and Feeds Ltd. at Orai (U.P.). Having gained experience, in 1992, he moved to Kirt Industries Ltd., at Dewas (M.P.) as shift engineer and worked up there up to 1994. Thereafter, he took a step further as a production officer in Alps Industries Ltd., at Indore (M.P.) till 1996. Moving on, he took up an assignment as a production manager in Prima Industries Ltd., Palghat in Kerala up to 1999. A foreign assignment in Nigeria till 2000 saw him as Project Manager to oversee installations of a solvent extraction plant. It is here that he was offered a lucrative job in Zambia, which he started on August 16, 2000. This saw the completion of the installation of 200 TPD oil mill. To celebrate this achievement, in the month of December 2000, he invited his family to Zambia. However, destiny had other plans. He met with a road accident on the midnight of January 19, 2001, on the way to Senegal, which resulted in a spinal cord injury. His employers had him air lifted to Switzerland where doctors performed surgery on him. After 32 days, without family or friends, when the time came to leave the hospital, he made a choice to return to India for rehabilitation at the Indian Spinal Injury Centre, New Delhi. Thanks to his dear counselor, Mr. Shrivastav Singh, and the entire staff of ISIC, New Delhi, in February 2001, his rehabilitation was close to making him almost independent. After seven months of severe discipline and tender loving care, he returned to his native place, Orai in India.

Being idle was not Ajay Kumar’s cup of tea. He wanted to go out and live an active life. Everything has its perfect timing, they say! Wisdom dawned on him, and he called his ex-colleague, Mr. Sunil Manakala of Kumar Metal Industries, Mumbai, who had initially sent him overseas to Nigeria. He kept him in the loop of his very recent accident and also of his enriching experience gathered all over the years. Amazed as he was, Mr. Manakala, after patiently listening to him had only one thing to ask of him, “what can you DO?” Pat came the reply, “all except run on my feet”. His fierce confidence and candour impressed him, he bore sweet fruit.

One day after five months of these continuous discussions, Mr. Manakala, his boss-to-be had seen his potential. So this call was an offer of opportunity to start work at his office in Mumbai. Happy at this providential blessing, Ajay landed in Mumbai on September 14, 2002 within 15 days. Destiny cannot be denied and with one assistant, Ajay Kumar started work from September 16, 2002 as project coordinator and continued to work there for almost 5 years.

An old friend who had interest to set-up a solvent extraction plant visited Ajay Kumar at his house. After sharing this new opportunity given by his friend with his employers he left Mumbai on June 3, 2008 for Nagpur to start Srinivasa Soya Pvt. Ltd. The work at the new plant, in Yawatmal district is a two-storied structure, spread over 28 acres of land, is conducted solely by him on a wheel-chair. The installation, completion and commissioning of this plant saw the light of the day in September 2009. A dream come true for Ajay Kumar! Speaks volumes for what determination can do & the vast potential of a motivated individual.

Presently, as a Director of the Company, with an army of 65 employees directly working under him, his job profile includes overseeing day-to-day activities of the plant, oil extracts from soya bean and producing solvent extracted oil and soya meal oil. Their major buyers are Adani Wilmar amongst other refiners who do refining process and sell in markets for human consumption. Soyameal is mainly used for the poultry industry. They project a turnover of ₹ 70 crores compared to ₹ 50 crores last year. His sons are an asset to him at work too. His social and family life includes holidays by train and air. Life has instilled a lot of confidence and independence in him and now he can actually travel alone without an assistant! Also, since the last five years he has particiated enthusiastically in the Mumbai Marathon under the banner of Nina Foundation. He gives free counselling to those in dire need and is happy that his knowledge and wide experience can open new doors to many.

Win, at Nina Foundation, are proud of you Ajay Kumar Singh Parmar! May you touch the stars! God Bless you!

His Moto:
“To become a successful industrialist with ethics, and a role model for others.”

CONTACT

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Ajay with 512 Namban and ourDear Counsellor Mr. Shrivastav Singh at Indian Spinal Injury Center’s Rehabilitation Day.  

Ajay with nursing staff at Geneva Hospital in Switzerland immediately after the injury, 21st Feb 2001

With physiotherapists at Geneva Hospital in Switzerland
The beautiful route along Marine Drive in 7 years, 4.3 km, the longest route so far for the wheelchair race.

For the 1st time medals were given immediately after the race. For the 7th time over 50 Members, Volunteers, Friends with spinal injury, Associates, Trustees participated in the Marathon on 15th Jan 2012.

Our blue brigade was highly visible as we all wheeled in a procession moving together with our Nina Foundation placards and enjoying the outdoors.

The flag off platform comprising of Ranbir Kapoor, Singer Shaan, Shaashik Padamsee, Shabana Azmi, Pernaz Karia, Aditi Seth, Rituparno Roy and several others chanted us at the start point.

Profuse thanks to krate family, Aditi Mourthy, Arupama Ganeshe & Pooja Khedkar, it was a memorable beginning to the year.

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Announcements

About NINA Foundation

NINA FOUNDATION is a ten year old NGO established in the memory of Dr. Nina Doshi for rehabilitation of people with spinal cord injury.

VISION

To spread optimism and hope of good health to people with spinal cord injury by offering innovative rehabilitation services.

MISSION

To offer world-class spinal cord injury services encompassing physical, psychological, vocational, social, recreational & spiritual rehabilitation for overall well-being.

There are over 1.5 million people with spinal cord injury in India, making it the captive with this disability in the world. Spinal cord injury is a permanent disability which transforms the person's life and rehabilitation is the key to facing life with dignity.

Our Foundation has been encouraging the members enabling them to excel in their respective fields.

ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:

One World – Valor of Paraplegics. A bi-monthly newsletter. The first of its kind in India.

Work therapy enables people with spinal cord injury to express their abilities, give their financial independence and thus self-confidence a sense of respect in their family and community.

Support Group facilitates sharing of experiences and have a cumulative effect.

Donate wheelchairs, walkers, crutches, calipers, other aids and appliances as well as medicines and expenses for regular physiotherapy, orthopedics, x-rays and pathology tests.

Education scholarships:

Making India and Mumbai barrier free & accessible for people with disability.

The first Holpeline for spinal injury in India.

Sponsorship for paraplegics for yrs. 81, 87, 93, 99, 105, 111, 12 – for Mumbai Marathon over 30 members with spinal cord injury wheeled for NINA Foundation.

Participation in disability seminars and workshops.

Author and present research papers / articles on the scope of the disability sector in India.

Organize pexices, get-togethers and outbound programmes for the community with family members.

Create powerful advertisements, calendars, presentations and films about abilities of the differently abled and inclusion.

Dance Therapy.

Active Rehabilitation & Sports.

Wellness Seminars.

Educational Seminars.

Spine Injury Awareness Day - 25th June.

Rockstar & Will Star Awards.

Obstacles Faced by People with Spinal Injury in India

NINA FOUNDATION’S PERSPECTIVE

SCIs in lower income group face the existential problems of health, access and employment.

They face problems in:

- Getting access to good quality healthcare services and expert knowledge necessary to survive the severe health problems of Spinal Cord Injury.
- Accessible public transport so they can travel for employment, access to hospitals and existing.
- Schools and colleges which accept people with disabilities.
- Avenues of employment so they can earn, afford healthcare, support their families and live with dignity.
- The process of getting disability certificates is also cumbersome and difficult.
- Finance & funds.

SCIs in higher income group face problems of quality of living:

- Many problems in getting driving license and also to renew it.
- Car manufacturers don’t provide driving help adjustments.
- Lack of people don’t have access to good quality healthcare services, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, etc. because they simply can’t afford it.
- Good quality wheelchairs are also not easy to get at reasonable cost.
- A simple brand of standard sturdy wheelchairs for less than Rs.25000.
- Avenues of sports – tennis, swimming, etc. lacking.

FAQs about Spinal Injury now in Marathi, through the efforts of our member Maninee Gode.

Mrs. Maninee Gode, with only a few fingers of left hand (shoulder, hand surgery along with paraplegia) completed the translation of the book “Joy of living with Spinal Injury” by Major HPS Ahluwalia, Founder, ISIC in Marathi. This is a wonderful step by step book on Spinal Cord Injury in English & Hindi.

It is now accessible in one more language.

To read & download please visit:www.ninafoundation.org

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