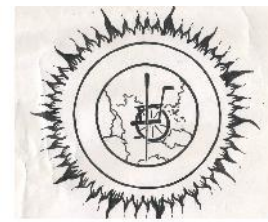




Handicapped Development  
(HD) Foundation, Manipur,



SAKSHAM,  
Manipur Prant,



Parents & Guardian Council for  
the People with Disabilities,

## Celebration of the 138<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary of Helen Keller

IMPHAL/ THE 27<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2018:

Reported by: Thiyam Gobin Meitei –  
Programme Manager, HD Foundation,  
Manipur.

The Handicapped Development (HD) Foundation, Manipur, in association with SAKSHAM Manipur Prant and Parents & guardian Council of Persons with Disability have celebrated the 138<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary of Helen Keller on the 27<sup>th</sup> June 2018 at Manipur Press Club, Imphal. Dr. K. Sobita Devi – Chairperson, Manipur State Commission for Women, Dr. Ch. Rupachandra Singh – Chairman, HD Foundation, Manipur, Prof. Dr. Chinglem Meisnam – Department of Economic, Manipur University and Th. Saratkumar Singh, - President, Parents & Guardian Council for People with Disability (also Vice – President of SAKSHAM Manipur Prant) were present as Chief Guest, President, Special Guest and Guest of Honour respectively. The celebration was attended by around 120 participants which includes persons / students / children with disabilities, parents, Officials of Social welfare departments, members from other NGOs etc.

The celebration starts with floral tributes to photo of Helen Keller, followed by opening song by children with disabilities (mostly with Cerebral Palsy) of our Integrated day Care Unit. Eight students with visually impaired who score 1<sup>st</sup> division in HSLC Exam 2018 conducted by BOSEM and one student with hearing impairment who score 2<sup>nd</sup> division in HSSLC Exam 2018 conducted by COHSEM were felicitated during the celebration. The Post Metric Merit Scholarship was also presented to eleven students with disabilities. Dance and rhythms



Candle Lighting by the dignitaries.



Opening Song



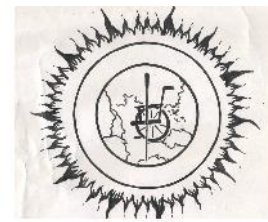
Distribution of Scholarship by Chief Guest



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were also presented our children with disabilities.

Dr. K. Sobita Devi – The chief Guest had express her gratitude for organizing such events as remembering her will motivate many persons with disabilities to follow her way of thought and achievements despite of the disabilities and hurdles that came across. Helen Keller never stop fighting for the weaker sections of society, one should learned her will to fight so that problems become very smaller compare to the will.

Prof. Dr. Chinglem Meisnam – the Special Guest, gave the memorial lecture on Helen Keller depicting her life history and her achievements despite of being deafblind. He also stretch that annual budget for State Commissioner for persons with disability is Rs. 15 Lakhs (which is the same as previous year) and if budget continues to be same for 200 years and keep unspent, it will not even meet the amount of drug recently seized in Manipur on the 21<sup>st</sup> June 2018.

Dr. Sapam Jasowanta Singh – Secretary General of HD Foundation had mentioned in his key note address that the purpose of celebrating such event is to awaken the persons with disabilities, their parents and all the people of weaker sections by the life story of Helen Keller and her achievements. Also to shear to them that Struggle is the only way to change and if we keep silence by assuming that we cannot do things because of disability then it will be the biggest failure of life.

We had also submitted a memorandum to Hon'ble Chief Minister of Manipur demanding the following points:

1. To frame State Disability Policy. You are more aware that Central Government have already passed the Rights of Persons with Disability Act 2016 on the 16<sup>th</sup> December 2016 and came to effect from the 15<sup>th</sup> June 2017. Under the act (Sec 71) it is mentioned to develop a State Disability Policy for its own as per the Provision in the Act for the welfare of the Persons with Disability. And many states including Maharastra, Bihar, have already developed the policy. Unfortunately for our state we have not yet seen any initiative taken up so far. Therefore, we, on behalf of the persons with disability of the State pray to you to take necessary recommendation and action. We hope this State Policy is must needed to lay out State Government Schemes and Programmes related to disability. And the implementation of the policy would benefit thousands of the marginalized persons with disability.



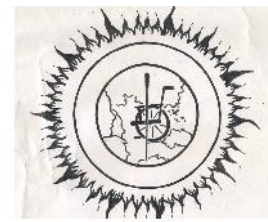
Special Guest giving memorial lecture and  
R.K. Leni interpreting in sign language.



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2. To timely sanction budgets for Schemes and programmes related to disability which shall be one kind of blessing to the marginalized persons with disabilities..
3. To upgrade Govt. Ideal Blind School, Takyel , and Govt. Deaf and Mute School, Takyel, to higher Secondary level and to run a State Government School for Intellectual and Development Disabilities.
4. To set up a Separate State Directorate for Persons with Disability. A separate directorate would certainly help to quicken addressing issues related to disability including preparation and implementation of schemes, programmes etc. Also, we do hope the State Policy as mention in point no. 1 above could only be implemented fully with the existence of such a separate directorate. As for the central government, Under the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, separate department for the persons with disability was formed on the 12<sup>th</sup> May 2012 as Department of Disability Affairs (Now renamed as Department of Empowerment of Persons With Disability w.e.f. 9<sup>th</sup> December 2014).
5. To appreciate and grant of awards for the medal winners in National and International Level Sports Events like Special Olympic, Paralympics, Deaflympics (All India Sports Council for Deaf) etc as done for the medal winners of National and International level sports events for nondisabled persons.

The welcome address was presented by Hidangmayum Jadumani – Secretary SAKSHAM Manipur Prant. The Celebration came to end with the vote of thanks by Ksh. Subharnajit Singh, Advisor, HD Foundation, Manipur.



A Group photo of the Organisers.