EK KADAM AUR FOUNDATION
FOR EDUCATION AND HEALTH

3rd World Conference on Education for Children and Adults with Blindness (WCECAB 2027)

From Inclusion to Leadership: Empowering Persons with Blindness through Education, Employment and Social Participation



12 February 2027 | **Mumbai, India**

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

WCECAB 2027 brings together educators, policymakers, researchers, technology innovators, disability advocates, families, organisations, corporate partners and persons with lived experience to exchange knowledge, showcase innovations, strengthen partnerships and identify practical strategies for advancing education, independence, employment and leadership for persons with blindness.

> *An inclusive world is not just possible, it is within our reach.*

THE NEED IS URGENT

1.2 million
Blind children and young adults globally are estimated to require educational support.

288,000
Children with blindness in India require educational support.

Education
Creates opportunities for literacy, independence, employability and full participation in society.

Beyond Inclusion Towards Leadership
Ensuring persons with blindness are not only educated, but also empowered to lead.

ABOUT EK KADAM AUR FOUNDATION

Registered under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016

Ek Kadam Aur Foundation (EKAF) works to transform the lives of children with blindness through education, technology and healthcare programs. Our flagship Arunodaya (Sunrise) Program has demonstrated that educational barriers can be overcome through innovation, commitment, community engagement and appropriate support systems.

40 Children in 2022

1707 as of Oct 2026

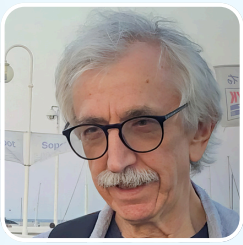
Supported through Arunodaya (Sunrise) Program

CONFERENCE SPEAKERS



Anne Reichmann

CEO, Nikolauspflege Foundation for blind and VI, Germany



Dr. Boguslaw Marek

Founder, For Blind Kids Foundation, Poland



Dr. Tiziana Battistin

National Representative for Italy, ICEVI - Europe



Dr. Vassilis Argyropoulos

Professor, Department of Special Education University of Thessaly, Greece



Dr. S Govindaraj

Commissioner for Persons with Disability, Delhi State



Dr. Sujata Bhan

Dean, School of Education, Lovely Professional University, Punjab



Akhil Paul

Director, Sense International, Ahmedabad



Dr. Homiyar Mobedji

CEO, Torchit Foundation & Director, Benetech Bookshare, USA



Rebecca Carvalho

Program Manager for Center of Excellence, Vision Empower, Mumbai

CONFERENCE SPEAKERS



Dr. Apoorva Panshikar

Assistant Professor & Head SNDT Department of Special Education, Mumbai



Dr. Madhura Nagchoudhuri

Assistant Professor, Centre for Disability Studies and Action, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai



Prof. S. R. Mittal

Retd Professor, Central Institute of Education, University of Delhi



Dr. Sini Regi Thomas

Group Head, Department of Special Educational Needs, Trivandrum International School, Keralam



Lokesh Gujjarappa

Research Manager, Public Affairs Foundation, Bengaluru



Neha Trivedi

Founder, Spandan: Inclusion and Accessibility Consultancy Service, Mumbai

PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Lokesh Gujjarappa

Research Manager, Public Affairs Foundation, Bengaluru

Dr. Sini Regi Thomas

Group Head, Department of Special Educational Needs, Trivandrum International School, Keralam

Prof. Sandhya Limaye

Former Chairperson, Centre for Disability Studies and Action, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai & Chairperson, Global Inclusive Education Network

Prof. S. R. Mittal

Retd Professor, Central Institute of Education, University of Delhi

Dr. Homiyar Mobedji

CEO, Torchit Foundation Director, Benetech Bookshare, USA

Kethan Kothari

Managing Consultant, Programs, Xavier's Resource Centre for the Visually Challenged, St. Xavier's College, Mumbai

CONFERENCE THEMES

01
SCALING QUALITY EDUCATION

- Models and best practices
- Evidence and research
- System strengthening for greater reach

02
POLICY, RIGHTS & INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

- Policy and advocacy
- Government and cross-sector collaboration
- Strengthening inclusive education systems

03
TECHNOLOGY, LITERACY & ACCESSIBLE LEARNING

- Assistive technology and AI
- Digital accessibility
- Braille and tactile learning tools
- Innovations for inclusive classrooms

04
FAMILIES, COMMUNITIES & EARLY INTERVENTION

- Role of parents and caregivers
- Early intervention and development
- Community engagement and support services

05
FROM EDUCATION TO LEADERSHIP

- Vocational skills and employment
- Independent living and social participation
- Entrepreneurship and innovation
- Leadership and representation

WHO WILL PARTICIPATE?


Government & Policymakers


Educators


Researchers


Disability Organisations


Teachers & School Leaders


Parents & Caregivers


Persons with Blindness


Technology Experts


Corporates & Employers


Development Agencies

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

Mumbai Declaration 2027

A collective declaration outlining priorities and recommendations.

Five Thematic Working Groups

Working groups aligned with each conference theme to continue collaboration beyond the conference.

Action Agenda 2027–2028

A practical roadmap with priority actions, collaborative initiatives and measurable commitments.

Strategic Partnerships

Strengthening collaboration across governments, and development partners.

Knowledge Exchange

Documentation and dissemination of promising practices, research findings, innovations and lessons learned.

Scan to register

ADMISSIONS ARE BY INVITATION ONLY | **Selected participants will be invited.**

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