

# Learn 2024

Listen. Enrich. Awaken. Realize. Nurture

## ***“Neurodiversity Matters”***

A Conference on Inclusion and Empowerment

21st & 22nd of September,  
at Raintree Hotel, Anna Salai, Chennai.

Organised by



**SANKALP**  
The Special Needs School



**IIRN**  
India Inclusion Research  
Network

## ***About SANKALP***

Sankalp is a not-for-profit organisation set up in 1999, dedicated to educate and empower children and young adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), Specific Learning Disability (SLD) & Intellectual and Developmental Disability (IDD).

Sankalp Trust runs two units in Chennai which together provide for approximately 250 children, supported by a staff of 105.

**The Learning Centre (Poonamallee) for children with ASD, IDD**

**The Open School (Shenoy Nagar) for children with SLD**

Both centres house fully equipped Vocational Training Units for young adults above 14 years and upto 27 years.

## ***About IIRN***

India Inclusion Research Network (IIRN) is a forum initiated by Prof. Richard Rose, Dr. Jayanthi Narayan and Dr. Himangshu Das to promote and mentor researchers in the field of disability rehabilitation with specific focus on inclusion.



## ***Objectives of the Conference***

LEARN 2024 will address various aspects of neurodiversity and aims at training and empowering all stakeholders.

The conference will address critical areas such as livelihood opportunities, workplace inclusion, coping strategies, role of technology and inclusive education.

### ***WHO CAN ATTEND?***

Special educators, mainstream teachers, therapists, students pursuing studies in special and inclusive education (PhD scholars, students pursuing masters in psychology or education), parents and care-givers.

# **Call For Posters & Research Papers**

Interested participants can present posters & research papers.

***Last date for submission of abstract : 15th August, 2024***

For more details email us : [conferencelearn@gmail.com](mailto:conferencelearn@gmail.com)

## **Themes**

- ***Livelihood opportunities among young adults with developmental disabilities***
  - ***Learning opportunities through allied arts***
  - ***Workplace inclusion for the neurodivergent***
- ***Neurodiversity and mental health: Coping strategies***
  - ***Innovation and technology: Enhancing the lives of neurodiverse individuals***
- ***Inclusive education: Strategies for supporting neurodiverse students***

## **Requirements for Submissions**

POSTERS are invited on ongoing research projects related to the conference theme. This should include details of research questions, methods deployed for data collection and for any interim findings. Posters should be produced in A1 size and may be illustrated with photographs or other graphics. Where photographs are used, the presenter must ensure permissions have been obtained. The posters will be displayed throughout the duration of the conference.

RESEARCH PAPERS : An abstract word doc. (max. 250 words, font size - 11, font style - Verdana, spacing 1.5) for consideration must include a title which clearly indicates relevance to the conference theme. The abstract should decide the research questions considered, a brief description of the methods used for data collection, and a summary of findings. The submission should be accompanied by a statement confirming that the research to be reported conforms all ethical requirements for investigations conducted in this area.

# Speakers



**Prof. Richard Rose**

Prof. Emeritus, University of Northampton, UK



**Dr. Orla Slattery**

Inclusion Co-ordinator for Adults with ID  
Department of Educational Psychology,  
Mary Immaculate College, Limerick Republic of Ireland



**Chitra Paul**

Co-founder & Director of All Inclusive Foundation,  
Co-ordinator Faculty at KPAMRC/ KPACIDD, Bangalore



**Dr. Gitanjali G Govindrajan**

Founder and Executive Director, Snehadhara Foundation  
Programme Director and Practitioner, Arts Practices for  
Inclusion - India and Overseas



**Beverly Louis**

Co-Founder, Mann - Center for Individuals with Special  
Needs, Mumbai

# Speakers



**Aarti C Rajaratnam**

Psychologist & Author



**Dr. Shiva Prakash Srinivasan**

HOD Clinical Services and Training, Department of  
Youth Mental Health Schizophrenia  
Research Foundation (I)



**Dr. Roopesh B N**

Additional Professor, NIMHANS, Bangalore



**Dr. Susan Elias**

Founder & Chief Innovation Officer,  
Daira EdTech & MEDxAI Innovations



**Robin Tommy**

Founder & Chief Digital Advisor, Inclusys Org Foundation



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## Day 1 - Schedule, 21st September, 2024



### Time Speaker & Topic

9 - 10 am	Inauguration
10 - 10:15 am	Tea Break
10:15 - 11 am	Prof. Richard Rose - Key Note Address : <b>Holistic approaches to Ensuring equity &amp; Access for learners with Diverse needs</b>
11 am - 12 pm	Prof. Himangshu Das - <b>Inclusion of people with Neurodiversity : A myth or reality in India</b> Chitra Paul <b>Navigating Inclusive Education for Person's with Diverse Needs : From Theory to Practice - A Parent's Experience</b>
12 - 1 pm	Dr. Gitanjali Govindrajan - <b>Harmony in Diversity : Embracing Neurodiversity through Artistic Expression</b>
1 - 2 pm	Lunch
2 - 3 pm	Aarti C Rajaratnam - <b>Needs, Abandonment and Co-regulation in Neurodiversity</b>
3 - 4 pm	Robin Tommy - <b>Harnessing Technology to Create a More Inclusive World : A Journey of Innovation &amp; Empowerment</b>
4 - 4:15 pm	Tea Break
4:15 - 5 pm	Dr. Roopesh B N - <b>Workplace inclusion for Neurodiverse individuals</b>



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## Day 2 - Schedule, 22nd September, 2024

<b>Time</b>	<b>Speaker &amp; Topic</b>
9 - 10:45 am	Dr. Orla Slattery - <b><i>Including Adult learners with Intellectual disability in Post-secondary Education</i></b>
10:45 - 11 am	Tea Break
11 am - 12 pm	Dr. Sulata Ajit & Lakshmi Krishnakumar - <b><i>Identifying Best Practices in addressing Vocational Skills for Students with Diverse needs - Adolescence to Adulthood</i></b>
12 - 1 pm	Dr. Shiva Prakash Srinivasan - <b><i>Coping with Challenging behaviours : A Beginners Guide</i></b>
1 - 2 pm	Lunch
2 - 3 pm	Beverly Louis - <b><i>Navigating Workplace Integration : A Deep Dive into the Mann Model</i></b>
3 - 4 pm	Dr. Susan Elias - <b><i>Digital Screening and Diagnosis of Language difficulties in Neurodivergent Children (Ages 5 years to 14 years)</i></b>
4 - 4:15 pm	Tea Break
4:15-4:30pm	Dr. Nitika - <b><i>Community Inclusion of persons with Developmental Disabilities</i></b>
4:30-5:30pm	Prof. Jayanthi Narayan & Dr. Ratika Malkhani - Panel Discussion : <b><i>Way Forward for Neurodivergent Adults</i></b>





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## **CONVENORS**

**Dr. Sulata Ajit - Director - Special Education, Sankalp - The Learning Centre & Special Needs School**

**Dr. Himangshu Das - Member Secretary, IIRN**

**Lakshmi Krishnakumar - Director - Learning Disabilities, Sankalp - The Open School**

## **PATRONS**

**Prof. Richard Rose - Prof. Emeritus, University of Northampton, UK**

**Dr. Jayanthi Narayan - Dy. Director (retd). NIMH/NIEPID, Under DEPWD, MSJ&E, Secunderabad**

## **Organising Committee**

Dr. Anamika Sinha

Dr. K D Mallikarjuna

Ms. Sumathi Rajakrishnan

Ms. Evelyn John

Ms. Ramalakshmi Chandrasekaran

Dr. Ratika Malkhani

## **Registration Committee**

Ms. Shalini Pillay

Ms. Meenakshi Grama

## **Technical Committee**

Dr. Rajesh Ramachandran

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21st & 22nd of September  
at Raintree Hotel, Anna Salai, Chennai.

Registration fee for two days

**₹ 2000**

For any queries e-mail us at [meenakshi.gk@sankalpnet.org](mailto:meenakshi.gk@sankalpnet.org)

[Click here to register](#)



**SANKALP**  
The Special Needs School



**IIRN**  
India Inclusion Research  
Network

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[www.sankalpnet.org](http://www.sankalpnet.org)