Saksham is a not-for-profit organization, established in 2003 by MR. DIPENDRA MANOCHA and MS. RUMMI K. SETH. Using their own resources, they had set up the Trust, working for the education, rehabilitation and welfare for persons with visually impairment and print disability. India has a large population of visually impaired persons with blindness and low vision who cannot read normal print. A range of technological and material support is required to be provided to them for their social, educational and economic mainstreaming. Therefore, Saksham is working rigorously to cater to the educational, mobility and day-to-day needs of the visually impaired through its various ongoing projects.
Saksham has a dedicated and capable team, who believe in rising above barriers, thus following its mentor Mr. Dipendra Manocha who has never let his visual impairment come in his way to achieve his targets in life in carrying forward all the activities of Saksham, by striking a balance between his own experiences and available technology, so that the visually impaired persons benefit the maximum from the existing facilities.
Making movies accessible for the visually impaired It is an interesting and important project undertaken by Saksham Trust for the first time in India. Audio description is an additional narration that translates images or other visual information or non-dialogue portions of films into spoken words so that people who are blind or visually impaired can access, enjoy and learn from works of popular cultural and educational importance. The original track is paused and audio description is inserted between dialogues of the movie.

Under this project, Saksham started with the film “Black” and since then has completed more than 25 films, which include commercial films, children’s films, documentaries and regional films.
Solving problems related to technology Saksham is working to make assistive technology solutions available to persons with sight loss or low vision at an affordable cost and in multiple local languages. Our mission is to provide such solutions at the doorsteps of the end-users without any delays.

We believe that technology should reach out to the end-users at a single point and at an affordable cost. With this aim, in 2003 Saksham opened a one-stop shop for Aids and Appliances for persons with low vision and vision impairment. We procure aids and appliances from all over the world and the end-users are able to choose and try out these technologies before purchasing them. Experts at Saksham assist the end-users in choosing the right kind of technological devices to suit the requirements of every individual. These appliances are made available to the beneficiaries at the cost at which Saksham acquires them.

In addition, some of the devices provided by Saksham are Braille watches, Talking watches, Talking thermometer, Talking weighing machine, Sonic Labeler, DAISY audio book players, besides technology solutions for computers and Talking software for mobile phones.
SMARTCANE™ DEVICE

An electronic travel aid with artificial intelligence for persons with sight loss.

Smartcane device is an electronic travel aid for persons with sight loss which is jointly developed by IIT Delhi, Saksham and Phoenix Medical Systems with the support from Welcome Trust, UK.

The device fits on a normal white cane and informs the user about the presence of obstacles from knee to head height within a distance of 3 meters. It was officially released in March 2014.

In addition, Saksham and IIT, Delhi started working on a 3 year joint-project funded by the Welcome Trust, UK. The idea was to create a network of partner organizations and trainers to ensure that the device is available even in the remotest part of the country along with quality training. We believe it will enable the beneficiaries to start their journey of safe and independent mobility without the fear of collisions with unknown obstacles.
A combination of a smartphone and a smartcane. Blindness leads to limitations in mobility as well as access to books and communications. Further, affordability is a big hindrance along with lack of easy well-configured solutions and inadequate information and support.

To overcome these challenges, Saksham has introduced Smart kits – which is a combination of a smartphone and a smartcane. These kits are provided to persons with blindness at subsidized rates. The beneficiaries are trained with the necessary technical support including installation of necessary applications and configuring the smartphones under this project.

Smartphone and Smartcane are two technologies that can completely change the lives of persons with visual impairment or low vision or sight loss. Smartcane offers independent and safe mobility with dignity and smart phone provides the users with the capability to be independent in reading and communications.
OUR PROJECTS
DIGITAL TALKING BOOKS PRODUCTION
(SAKSHAM LIBRARY)

Making printed materials accessible for the blind.
Reading is one of the major challenges faced by persons with print disability. Many Visually Impaired persons in India do not have access to reading materials.

To overcome this issue, Saksham played a pioneering role in making reading materials in accessible formats and started the Digital Library for persons with print disabilities so that they can access such materials in real time just like their sighted counterparts. In this regard, the talking books and magazines proved to be a very important means for bringing the printed world to the visually impaired.

The recording of print books is done in Digital Access Information System, known as DAISY. It is a unique navigational system through which a reader can easily access the material chapter-wise, section-wise, sub-section-wise and page-wise.

These books include: Textbooks, academic, fiction and non-fiction books in English, Hindi and other regional languages. All University and NCERT textbooks from 9th to 12th standard curriculum are converted into accessible digital formats. Digital talking books are produced on CDs that can be read on mp3 players, mobile phones and computers. The membership of the Saksham library is free.

One can get our membership by contacting us through phone or email. Saksham also helps users to get membership in Sugamya Pustakalaya. For more details contact library@saksham.org Saksham is one of the largest producers of Accessible digital content in India.

In order to end the book famine, Saksham seeks assistance from CSR initiatives for funds which helps the organisation in converting bulk printed materials into accessible format.

During this year, our organisation got support from the following orgnaizations:

- **ESSEL Foundation for converting 27,000 pages into accessible Epub format**;
- **Taurus Asset Management Company Limited for converting 9000 pages into accessible format**.

With the kind support of ESSEL Foundation and Taurus Management, we converted central university books and various competitive books into accessible format. It really helped our organisation to empower the visually impaired students to enroll for higher education with the help of accessible digital format books for their education.
OUR PROJECTS

SPONSORSHIP FOR EDUCATION AND INTEREST FREE LOAN

Financial support for achievers

Saksham provides sponsorship to blind students pursuing higher studies in universities and covers the cost of their education and hostel fees.

In addition, interest free loans are provided to persons with blindness and low vision for the purchase of laptops, net-books and mobile phones with software that enable them to do their studies and other related reading and writing activities.

INDO- NVDA SOFTWARE

A screen reading software

INDO-NVDA is a screen reading software which is a customized VERSION of NVDA for Indian languages. INDO-NVDA includes 14 Nuance vocalizer and Eloquence voices in 10 different languages (Indian English, British English, American English, Hindi, Bhojpuri, Bengali, Kannada, Tamil, Telugu, and Marathi).

The software is designed to make computers accessible for visually impaired persons from all over the country. The DVD of the software includes tools, a self-learning tutorial package from Enable India. It is yet another step towards empowering persons with blindness in collaboration with Enable India and reaffirms our vision of limiting limitations.
OUR PROJECTS
REHABILITATION & RESOURCE CENTRE
(SAKSHAM SCHOOL)

Customized programme for special children
Saksham established the Saksham Rehabilitation and Resource Centre/School in Noida in the year 2006 with 5 children. It is a resource centre, which works for the education, rehabilitation and empowerment of children with visual impairment, deaf-blindness and multiple disabilities.
The centre has experienced special educators, speech therapists, occupational therapists and functional assessment and sensory stimulations rooms. Children from 0 to 20 years of age are given admission and older children are provided with resource support. Children with multiple disabilities require special training, additional attention and specialized education. Most of them cannot be integrated into mainstream institutions. However, providing them with support services, such as accessible reading materials, regular counseling and parental guidance is a need of the hour. For us, it is a matter of pride that one of our student [NV1] of Saksham School has been integrated into a mainstream school in Noida.

Different programmes in centre:
- Infant to toddler Programme - Pre-Integration Programme;
- Integrated Education Programme Computer training;
- Pre-vocational programme for non-academic children - Multi-sensory impaired/Deafblind Training Programme;
- Training in Orientation/Mobility, Sensory Integration, Communication, Daily Living Skills, Capacity building, parent guidance and counselling Programme;
- Adult Rehabilitation Programme - Self-Employment opportunity.
SAKTEK FOUNDATION
A Not-For-Profit Company for dissemination of Assistive Technological devices

A Not-For-Profit Company for dissemination of Assistive Technological devices Saktek Foundation a section 8 not-for-profit company and a technology driven arm of SAKSHAM Trust believes that technology defines what persons with disabilities can or cannot do. The Foundation works towards ensuring that all, irrespective of their social background, are provided affordable solutions and thereby strengthens their education and empowerment. It aims at building partnerships that bring together resources, expertise and vision and, works with organizations across India to identify issues, find answers, and drive changes. In addition, the organisation also provides capacity building and training for end-users to effectively use assistive technology solutions for their education and empowerment.

ACHIEVEMENTS
- We have been able to provide (DAISY Player) which is a reading device to 4,000 visually impaired persons PAN India for their education through Government donations. Within 2 years of the inception of the company we have been able to reach out to more than 6,000 beneficiaries across the country.
- Students with sight loss and visual impairment all across the nation can make use of this device to their maximum advantage as the player can read books in 7 local Indian languages.
- We crossed a turnover of 3 crores in the second financial year.
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- Training in Orientation/Mobility, Sensory Integration, Communication, Daily Living Skills, Capacity building, parent guidance and counselling Programme;
- Adult Rehabilitation Programme - Self-Employment opportunity.
Resource centre activities.

HELP DESK
Team of Experts provide solutions through various ways

A dedicated team of professionals provides support services and training for accessing smart phones and other technologies to persons with visual impairment. Phone lines are dedicated to finding specific solutions for user queries related to blindness and its challenges. Queries on whatsapp are also accepted for providing solutions to the beneficiaries.
INFORMAL EDUCATION
Learning through Fun

Saksham believes that education and fun learning should be accessible for all. In this regard, it recognizes the important role that the sense of touch can play for children with visual impairment and deaf-blindness. It strengthens their learning by providing opportunities for them to explore objects using a variety of textures and other sensory materials. Under this project, 6 replicas of historical monuments have been created that allow students to learn better by using their sensory touch.

ANUBHAV GALLERY
A Tactile Gallery

Anubhav Gallery is a special tactile gallery that aims to expand access for all visitors, particularly visitors with disabilities. It has on display 22 tactile replicas of museum objects, carefully chosen from the vast collection of the National Museum by its curators representing 5000 years of Indian art. Under the UNESCO and National Museum Project, Saksham helped in making the gallery accessible for the Visually Impaired with Audio and Tactile Output.
Saksham's Visibility on Social Networking Sites

*Saksham* is actively posting its activities on social networking sites like Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. We make sure to keep our followers updated.

SmartCane Available on SnapDeal

*SmartCane* device has been made available for online purchase as well as on donation on one of India’s biggest online shopping portal, ‘Snap deal’ (http://www.snapdeal.com/offers/smartcane).
OUR SERVICES

SIMPLY READING APPLICATION
An application for reading EPUB books compatible with screen reading software. It is the only Android application in India for reading books, which connects to online accessible libraries, and allows books to be read on connected Braille display in all major Indian languages. Through this application, the end-user can be connected to SUGAMYA PUSTKALAYA directly.

ACCESSIBLE VISITING CARDS
Cards in Braille
Saksham offers this unique service of making visiting cards accessible for visually impaired persons. Braille is printed on plastic stickers and then pasted on the visiting cards. It is yet another step of Saksham towards an inclusive society.

EYEWAY HELPDESK
We also solve queries on Eyeway helpdesk at the premises of Saksham through telecommunication.

SETUP OF DIGITAL ACCESSIBLE LIBRARY
With INDO-NVDA software and by using OCR we make the library accessible for visually impaired persons.
ACHIEVEMENTS

- 3,45,254 audio-books have been made available for download in 8 languages. The Sugamya Pustakalaya provides books primarily in DAISY, EPUB and BRF formats.
- We have completed 5,200 daisy books for distribution in Hindi, English and various other regional languages, which include educational, fiction, non-fiction genres etc.
- Around 900 individual members have been registered under Saksham’s ‘Book share’ project.
- Our digital talking books reach out to more than 2,110 end-users.
- Saksham’s loan scheme has benefited 125 persons with visual impairment.
- More than 25,000 Smart Cane devices were distributed under the National and International dissemination programme.
- 500 smart kits with a combination of Daisy Players, Laptops with INDO-NVDA, SmartCane,
- smartphone have been delivered to the beneficiaries from different regions across India along with training.
- Presently, we have more than 120 assistive technological devices as compared to what is available in the international market.
Sasham’s Rehabilitation and Resource Centre in Noida has been shifted to a new address in November. All the units are now accommodated under one roof.

- 17 new students were admitted at the Centre during 2018-2019.
- 2 students were newly integrated during the year 2018-2019.
- Saraswati Bal Bharati School, at Noida was sensitised for inclusion of visually impaired students and gave admission to 2 students in their school.
- There were 36 students in the integration program. Out of 36 students, 24 students were directly supported and 12 students were associated through part time support by way of computer training, provision of Braille books, e-books, support for academic training especially for Mathematics etc.
- Rekha, an integrated student of class X passed her board exams with 83% marks. She chose to pursue humanities in class XI. She wishes to do law in her graduation.
- Reema, a student of class 7 studying in Dharma Public School, stood first in her class during the final exams.
- Arushi, a student of the vocational unit, was sent for vocational and independent living training at NAB India Hauz Khas. She completed her training and returned to Saksham.
- Saksham Education and Rehabilitation Resource Centre, Noida received a letter of appreciation from NIPMAN FOUNDATION for enabling inclusion.
- Sports Day was held with the usual enthusiasm. Children of Vidya and Child, an NGO working for under privileged children participated in the programme. They helped the children during the events.
ACHIEVEMENTS

- A mobile shop was handed over to Ankit and his family by the Cadence and Concern India Foundation team. This initiative has given Ankit an opportunity to earn for himself. As a result he is valued in his family. A teacher has been assigned to monitor the activities of the shop on a regular basis.

- One of our senior Special Educator, went to Saksham, Jalandhar to help them in planning pre-integration and post integration program. A meeting was conducted with identified VI children, their parents and teachers, and tactile materials were shown. After the interaction, the parents seemed convinced and ready to send their children to the centre for training.

- 45 children accompanied with 13 teachers, staff and some parents of the children had a wonderful time at an adventure camp, Muddy Boots, Greater Noida. The event was sponsored by Metlife where their volunteers also joined in to help the children. The children enjoyed all the adventure games, pottery, rope climbing, passing through tyres, spinning ball, zip climbing and the food.

- Saksham received a Maruti Eeco vehicle from Sohan Lal Commodities Management Pvt.Ltd. for the transportation of children.

- There were several volunteer engagements with the staff of our donors and partners during this year.

- Stalls were put up at corporate offices of Fiserv, Metlife, Mediatek where Fiserv invited the children during their Joy of Giving week celebrations.

- Palak, Pankaj and Pramod were invited by HCL and Mediatek to perform in their sports and annual event where they presented songs on the occasion.
AWARDS & HONORS

Founder Managing Trustee of SAKSHAM, Mr. Dipendra Manocha is the Recipient of following awards:

- Year 2005 - National Award by government of India for contribution towards Community development in the area of disability.
- Year 2005 - President’s Award by Former President Dr. Abdul Kalam.
- Year 2008 - IIM Lucknow, Lakshmipat Singhania National Leadership Award by the President of India, Mrs. Pratibha Patel on 12th February.
- Year 2010 - CNN IBN Network 18 Super Idol Award.
- Year 2012 - Sitaram Jindal Foundation Award (?).
- Year 2012 - The NCPEDP Universal Design Award was given for his contribution towards making information accessible to the print impaired.
- Selected as Ashoka Fellow and recognized as a Social Entrepreneur.
- Year 2015- Best Institution NATIONAL AWARD in the field of disabilities for the visually impaired by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
- Year 2017 – PEAK DADHICHI Award for outstanding work and exceptional services for pioneering technology based solutions for persons with blindness or low vision.
- Year 2018 – Louise Braille Award and DFI Award.
HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

• DFI – Excellence award was presented to our Founder Managing Trustee Mr. Dipendra Manocha in the year 2018, in London.

• 'As we Grow up: A Tactile Book on Menstrual Hygiene Management' is a manual accessible to visually impaired women with an approach to make sure that safe sanitation an hygiene are no longer a privilege. It is developed by Water Supply & Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC) and IIT Delhi in Braille along with tactile illustrations;

• Making voter ID cards accessible for visually impaired persons by printing in Braille.

• Inclusive movie show was featured for hearing and visually impaired persons of the Film SANJU in PVR Plaza, Delhi.

• Saksham has worked in collaboration with creators of XL Cinema app to introduce a special feature and a mode for enabling Visually Impaired persons to enjoy films in an inclusive environment.

• Saksham attended a seminar on National Disability Consultation on 'Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2016' on 19th July 2018 at India Habitat Centre.

• Tactile-Braille board games like Snakes and Ladders, Chess, Ludo, Sudoku are available with our organisation for the entertainment of visually impaired persons.
A marathon for digitization of books in an accessible format for visually impaired children was conducted at Tagore International School on 31st July 2018.

Saksham NCERT Workshop – Library team of Saksham actively participated in a 5 day NCERT workshop which was held from 6th to 10th of August 2018. This workshop was organized to create master files in Unicode-based font, so that all future books are born accessible for print disabled.

Saksham screened ‘Hichki’ as an audio described movie for the visually impaired audience with support from Sapient. The screening of this movie was held at Ram Hall, Devi Talab Mandir, Jalandhar on 30th August 2018.

Saksham took an initiative to host Airtel Delhi Half Marathon (ADHM) for 10K category in collaboration with Airtel on 21st October 2018 in Delhi.

Saksham screened ‘Sholay’ as an audio described movie with subtitles for the visually and hearing impaired audience, with support from Sapient at Siri Fort Auditorium, New Delhi on 29 September 2018.

A 2-day Mass Indo NVDA installation and training program was organised at Saksham from 27th to 28th of December under the aegis of Collin Aerospace and Enable India Banglore. The event was organised with the main aim to support the visually impaired persons for their education and empowerment.

For the first time, Saksham initiated an experience zone for assistive technology solutions in its own premises from 27th to 29th December 2018.
AWARENESS AND TRAINING

Computer and smartphone training for persons with visual impairment in Punjab- Computer and smartphone training were held in Punjab at Patiala School for blinds from 8th - 10th August 2018. This 3 days training was attended by more than 20 visually impaired students who felt that it was very beneficial for them.

Smartkit distribution and training at Rajasthan Netraheen Kalyan Sangh (RNKS), Jaipur from 20th to, 22nd July 2018- A Smartkit distribution was held in Jaipur along with 3-days training where participants were not only trained in how to use a smartphone and Smartcane but also have been registered in an online library, Sugamya Pustakalya. The library offers persons with visual impairment access to thousands of books in an accessible format. However, smartphone was a new concept for the participants, but at the end of the training, they were successfully able to perform all related tasks with independent living and reading.

Training on Menstrual Hygiene Management held at Saksham School- On 14th July 2018, training on Menstrual Hygiene Management was held at Saksham School. The training was attended by more than 15 visually impaired girls with their mothers. The main purpose of the training was to raise awareness and sensitization on menstruation and menstrual hygiene among the visually impaired young girls and to train them in effective usage of this material.
AWARENESS AND TRAINING

Training at Blind Peoples Association in Ahmedabad on Menstrual Hygiene Management- 4th regional training of trainers was held on 26th June at Blind Peoples Association in Ahmedabad, Gujarat. Nearly 60 participants from organizations across Gujarat, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh attended this training.

Training conducted at Mitra Jyothi in Bangalore, Karnataka on Menstrual Hygiene Management- On 6th June 2018, another regional training workshop was held at Mitra Jyothi in Bangalore, Karnataka. More than 25 participants from organizations across various states in Southern region, including Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Kerala attended the workshop.

Training of Trainers at NIEPVD on Menstrual Hygiene on 6th May 2018- On 6th May 2018, the training was held at National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Visual Disability (NIEPVD). The training was attended by teachers, special educators, councillors and other staff members of the organization, including the students pursuing bachelors, masters and diploma courses in special education. The participants felt that this workshop was an eye opener, and has empowered them to break the silence on this important issue.
AWARENESS AND TRAINING

Training workshop in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana- A training workshop on SmartCane was organized with over 500 students and young professionals in Secunderabad in the state of Telangana. The workshop was held on 2nd of October in collaboration with Devnar Foundation for the Blind. This event was a part of a series of training programmes, which was followed by a ‘Training of Trainers’ workshop that was held with 66 students pursuing Bachelors and Master degree courses in special education.

SmartCane Workshop at Jagriti School, Pune- Jagriti School for the Blind, Pune organized a summer camp for nearly 50 girls with visual impairment. Understanding that the independent travel is one of the most important requirement for seeking education and work, the project director Ms. Sakina Bedi took the initiative of organising a one-day workshop on Safe and Independent Mobility for all the camp participants. During the workshop, participants were taught about the fundamentals of cane mobility and were given detailed training on using SmartCane device for travelling safely by avoiding collisions with various types of obstacles.

MASS- Training workshops of smart devices PAN India by HCL- Training workshops for 4-5 days were held in Rajasthan, Haryana, Uttrakhand, Punjab, Gujarat, West Bengal, Sikkim and Uttar Pradesh with support from HCL for various assistive devices for example laptops, crome books, smartphones and smartcanes.
OUR SUPPORTERS/ TECHNOLOGY PARTNERS/ DONORS

- The Hans Foundation
- Tech Mahindra
- Phoenix Medical Systems
- Oxigen
- Wipo
- ONGC
- Wadha Foundation
- Quota International
- HCL Foundation
- Global Relief Initiative
- Indian Oil
- UNESCO
- Eastern International Hotels
- Avon Cycles
- Amway
- Fiserv
- Indian Institute of Technology Delhi
- Seth Ramji Dass Foundation
- MetLife
- Group of Friends
- Concern India Friends
- Media Tech
- LIC

And to all

OUR INDIVIDUAL DONORS
SAKSHAM

BALANCE SHEET AS ON 31ST MARCH, 2019

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NOTES ON ACCOUNTS

As per our Report u/s 12A(b)

For NIKHIL KHURANA & CO
Chartered Accountants

For SAKSHAM

Proprietor

(DIPENDRA MANOCHA)
Trustee
## INCOME & EXPENDITURE A/c FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2019

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