

Jitendra Dkhar
BLT Director
phone: +91 8132002898
whatsapp: +91 8787575205



Theodore Moallem, PhD
BLT Secretary & Chief Advisor
phone: +91 9597431892
whatsapp: +1 4157350355

Blind Lead Trust

Ranee's Abode (ground floor), Temple Road, Lower Lachumiere
Shillong, Meghalaya, India

Executive summary

Blind Lead Trust is a non-profit organization that has been registered on 26th June 2018 as a Public Trust. BLT has the overarching mission to enable and empower young blind people through a range of educational, outreach, and assistive technology development initiatives. We strongly believe that young blind people can and should develop critical thinking and productivity skills that will enable them not only to live and work independently, but also to lead other young blind people toward the same.

After the organization had been registered, the two co-founder Jitendra Dkhar (Managing Trustee) and Dr.Theodore Moallem had prepared the small activities, on how to arrange and make them well organized for the organization. At the beginning Shri. Jitendra Dkhar had conducted self learning through the guidance of Dr.Theodore Moallem they tried to design the different material which is accessible for the Visually Impaired. The BLT had trained the fellows and trustees with the various activities like skill development, computer and Android phone by using Screen reader called NVDA(Non- Visual Desktop Access) in Computer and Talkback in android device and also to raise awareness to give equal opportunities to the Visually Impaired.

At the beginning BLT had tried to design the Waxpen and Braille Labeller for the visually impaired to make it more accessible. This will be very helpful for the blind people so that they can identify the printed letters if they draw or do any signature. In order to fix the wax pen syringe, Battery, crayon and switch are the materials which need to be used. Braille Labellers can help them to read and write with their own tactile for example to label any document or medicine strip. These two co-founders faced problems during searching the materials for designing the Wax-pen and Braille Labellers but through their hard work they are able to modify their design in a simple way. The organization really appreciates

and thanks to Dr. Theodore M. Moallem who was founded about this assistive device which was authorized by Blind Lead Trust.

The two administrators of the organization found that all the ATMs that had been tested are having the earphone jack but the ATMs are not having the talking Software So they had discussion with the administrator of ATMs to obtain the facilities which are accessible for the Visually Impaired.

Introduction

Name of the Organization:

Blind Lead Trust.

Background of the organization :

Blind Lead Trust is a non-profit organization that has been registered on 26 June 2018 as a Public Trust, Its aim is to bring up equal opportunities in education and learning for the visually impaired by providing them free training course, free hostel and to bring up the welfare of the society of blind community by planning the project which is required for the blind people in order to get them a job, to proceed and to bring a free training courses in an accessible way to the citizens of Visually Impaired in the state of Meghalaya and across the country. In the state of Meghalaya there are no institutions or organizations which provide free educational training courses for blind people, it is only the Blind Lead Trust who aims first to do that. Blind Lead Trust has a trustee, staff and fellowships who are being trained and to learn. It provides free education for the underprivileged visually impaired both in rural and urban areas. At present The organization has an office address in Nongthymmai Lawjynriew, website, facebook page in the name of Blind Lead Trust as well as trust deed. BLT, India is a non-profit organization, based in Shillong, Meghalaya with the mission to protect the rights of the blind and visually-impaired and to also make improvements for the future of the young blind people, to help them to fill their dreams, to participate in society and be more independent and self-sufficient.

Aims and Objectives of the Organization

1. To undertake programmes/projects for the personal development and for the benefit of blind and low-vision, including education, awareness, independence and productivity.
2. To undertake programmes/projects for the socioeconomic development and social integration among blind and low-vision people.
3. To promote and propagate awareness of blind persons rights and abilities among young blind people themselves and all the members of their communities.
4. To undertake any other objects of public utility.

Methodology:

1. Area of implementation: State of Meghalaya in particular and across the country in general.
2. Sampling plan: Simple random sampling as every visually impaired has the right to learn, practice and study.
3. Target group: Underprivileged visually impaired (Adult and other blind people)
4. Proposed plan : Group discussion and training.

Administration of the organization in the year 2018-2019

1. Director and co-founder: Organogram of the organization, monitoring and evaluation and teaching.
2. Secretary and co-founder: Organogram of the organization monitoring and evaluation and teaching.
3. Staff: Evaluation and multitasking.

Budget: The budget of the Blind Lead Trust organization in the year 2018-2019 the amount is 7,32,000.00.

Activities

Blind Lead Trust (BLT) is our Shillong-based NGO, working for the empowerment and protection of young blind people.

BLT was formally established on 26 June 2018 as a public Trust, a non-governmental organization (NGO) that is officially registered and certified in the state of Meghalaya via the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Office in Shillong, East Khasi Hills. We are also establishing partnerships with schools and NGOs across India with similar aims to support and empower Blind and differently-abled Indians.

BLT has the overarching mission to enable and empower young blind people through a range of educational, outreach, and assistive technology development initiatives. We strongly believe that young blind people can and should develop critical thinking and productivity skills that will enable them not only to live and work independently, but also to lead other young blind people toward the same.

After the organization had been registered, the two co-founder Jitendra Dkhar (Managing Trustee) and Dr.Theodore Moallem had prepared the small activities, on how to arrange and make them well organized for the organization. At the beginning Shri. Jitendra Dkhar had conducted self learning through the guidance of Dr.Theodore Moallem they tried to design the different material which is accessible for the Visually Impaired. This team work had started to proceed forward where Dr. Theodore Moallem had advised the Direction that there should be a Logo in any NGOs, these two had started to prepare in which way to design the logo for the organization, where Dr. Theodore Moallem had instructed Shri. Jitendra Dkhar designed the logo in the way he wanted it to be. Shri. Jitendra Dkhar

had started to design the logo by using the MS wires and the copper on how to shape the logo. After he had done with it he himself along with Dr. Theodore Moallem had reviewed the design of the logo, he also explained the meaning of Logo forward he had shaped to Dr. Theodore Moallem, Dr. Theodore Moallem was satisfied with the explanation of the design of the logo. After Shri. Jitendra Dkhar had done the design Dr.Theodore Moallem had started to modify the logo into software.

Our BLT “fellows” are blind young people from poor tribal communities around Meghalaya, and roughly half of them have had little or no education before connecting with BLT. We are training them in a variety of skills, including English language, verbal communication, and usage of computers with screen reader software. Perhaps most importantly, we train them in the proficient use of Android mobile phones with the assistance of the in-built Android accessibility software, “TalkBack”, which enables blind people like us to surf the Internet, and to use messaging apps, social media, and much more with the help of audio-tactile feedback. The TalkBack accessibility software works on all Android phones, even the older models. With proper training, it can dramatically improve the lives and future prospects of young blind people, giving them new opportunities for digital learning, networking, paying bills, finding doctors, and researching anything that interests them.

From the start of our BLT fellows program, we emphasize the notion that young blind people must believe in themselves and in each other. We must build our self confidence and we must support each other, because only the blind people can truly understand the blind experience. We must improve our critical thinking skills to make difficult life decisions. We must share our knowledge and understanding with each other, so that we can have some common understanding of the special challenges that we face every day in our lives.

BLT is also focused on enabling young blind people to get jobs and training that makes them employable. For example, our director helped a Jaintia blind man to get a clinic receptionist job in Shillong, where he was first trained to use their computer system with assistive software, and he now works all day on a computer, receiving full salary to support his family.

We are also working to spread throughout Meghalaya and the northeast of India (especially in the villages) a keen awareness of young blind people’s great potential for autonomy and achievement. This awareness must be instilled in sighted people as well as the blinds themselves.

We also take responsibility for increasing the awareness of those many people around us who have normal eyesight. The whole society, and especially those people who are having power or authority, must become more aware about blind people and their true capacities. They must understand that young blind people can learn and do so many things, and they must not be hindered by sighted people anymore.

Sighted people must not judge the blind people as useless or helpless only because of blindness --- such judgements are false. So many successful blind people are there in the cities in India and all around the world. At BLT, we take every opportunity to demonstrate high level functioning and competence by young blind people --- whether we are interacting with workers fixing our household utilities, or when we are invited to a Rotary Club event, and even when we are visiting the hospital, we demand to be addressed directly and treated respectfully, we demonstrate our facility with smartphones, and so on. We train all of our BLT fellows to do the same.

Android phones with TalkBack have real transformational power for our young Blind people (far more immediate benefits to users, relative to learning laptop/desktop computer usage with assistive software). Many mainstream (sighted) smartphone users update their devices every 2-3 years, and often they keep their older but functional smartphone in storage. Part of our activities is to request and receive second-hand Android phones donated by private individuals, small organizations (e.g., rotary club), and universities. We have started a waiting list of young Blind people around Meghalaya who also want to receive and learn to use these devices. We can arrange for any minor repairs needed to the donated second-hand phones, we test them and update the accessibility software. We also plan to start helping the Blind recipients in the villages to get data plans and to connect with our members and trainers via Whatsapp and social media. This is a critical step in helping us to educate, empower, connect, and protect young Blind people across Meghalaya and the northeast.

We have supported several of our members in filing an FIR against housing owners who have repeatedly discriminated against and abused them in order to make them move away quickly. We are currently pursuing these charges in Meghalaya lower court. However, we could not find adequate legal support for this cause in Shillong --- and so we have taken the support of advocates from the supreme court in Delhi. We are pursuing the case with full determination, despite the fact that the family of offending house owners includes a powerful local advocate and a lower court Magistrate. We are serious about gaining the protections and rights guaranteed us, not only in the Indian Constitution, but in the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPWD) Act of 2016.

Our director and secretary were instrumental in helping to return an abused child to her mother, who is the older sister of one of our blind members --- in that case, we have helped to connect with the local Child Line staff and Police (in Jowai), and then we accompanied the mother throughout the questioning and retrieval process, until her daughter was back safely in her arms.

BLT also works on ATM and Net Banking Accessibility for blind people, focusing first on State Bank of India (SBI) branches and offices of Shillong, Meghalaya. Almost all SBI ATMs have the

hardware to be blind-accessible, and yet almost none of them (that we have tested) is properly functioning, such that a blind person could use them independently. SBI employees tend to know nothing of these accessible facilities, which are in fact explicitly declared in SBI official policies, available online. We are presently collecting the data to characterize the technical and social factors, after which we will publish our findings and submit our recommendations to SBI local and central offices.

Our BLT “Assistive Technology Development Initiative” follows on the prior work of our co-founder/secretary. Therein, BLT is now actively pursuing development of two novel blind-assistive technologies, that we intend to produce and disseminate. The first device, “Braille-It Labeler”, is a six-button mechanical device that impresses raised braille dots onto Scotch® Magic™ Tape, enabling blind users to quickly and easily make durable adhesive braille labels and notes, for educational and personal productivity purposes. For example, when a blind person returns from hospital with several different medications, the Braille-It labeler will let them quickly make tactile labels to apply to each medicine to remind them of the proper dosages, scheduling, and any special instructions or contraindications. The second device, “Waxpen”, is a stout handheld stylus that heats and extrudes crayon wax from the tip, enabling blind users to draw fast-hardening thin raised lines on paper, providing the user with real-time tactile feedback via fingers of the free hand. The latter functionality will greatly enrich sensorimotor and cognitive development in blind children and support math, navigation, and design education and communication for blind youth.

BLT does not yet work with its own funds. Rather, financial aspects of our activities are handled by individual members with their own private funds, so as to ensure our compliance with financial regulations, until we complete 12A and 80G registration and retain a reliable, trustworthy CA to support us in these matters. Up until now, BLT has opened a Trust bank account and obtained a PAN card, but beyond these, BLT has served primarily as an organizing structure for our activities. We are eager to complete 12A and 80G registration, such that we may begin to accept financial support from around India and conduct financial matters (including donations and expenditures) formally through our organization.

Conclusion

To conclude that the Blind Lead Trust in the year 2018-2019 by having 7 trustees and 2 fellows through the guidance of Dr.Theodore Moallem along Shri Jitendra Dkhar had improved on their work related to design and explored the basic skills. The BLTs under it self learning had built up a carrier and strengthened the weakness of the Visually Impaired. Through the cooperation of each and every member it promotes their basic skills, designing and so on. The Organization would like to thank everyone who participates in every work, we look forward to promoting the organization.

 <p>Bandwina BLF our story</p> <p>https://youtu.be/iUvynghGIBI</p>	 <p>Kishna blf our story</p> <p>https://youtu.be/pSFsH0aUovA</p>	 <p>Seoria blf our story</p> <p>https://youtu.be/SpGc-Hx63kU</p>
---	--	---

From BLT Youtube channel

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ocE9FIr6N1c> mobility

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uMPE_ay4HCI mobility

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6siFKF7NCbY>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RVenHu9hm4M> apps reviews

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=25nMARnePXQ&t=128s> biotechnology IIT

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0XDsNEPrXfg&t=41s> reviews the text book from IIT

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vP1M-CJv-J8&t=157s> Braille labeler

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XIJm2asBG-s&t=4s> Blt wax pen

About BLT fellows

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mgwL37ykE30&t=49s>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iUvyngghGIBI&t=132s>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SpGc-Hx63kU&t=20s>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SPskFPHYuEs> practise pronounced

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P88nV_VaUsw&t=29s learning english

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zwabGbPKIJo&t=12s> jitendra riding bicycle

Blind Lead Trust, INDIA updated their cover photo.
Published by Ted Moallem
July 13 at 3:04 PM · 🌐

This is a photo of the Blind Lead Fellows group with some blind students from Jyoti Sroat Inclusive School (Shillong) and Design Engineer Gautam Nair (Chennai, TN)
This photo was taken in the old BLT office in Lower Lachumiere.

Blind Lead Trust, INDIA
Published by Ted Moallem
March 25 at 2:16 PM · 🌐

BLT Director **Jitendra Dkhar** has been testing SBI ATMs that are supposedly equipped to be accessible for Blind customers. Jitendra tells here about what he has found:

"Hi friends, here you can see that the ATM... [More](#)

Jitendra Dkhar March 24 at 7:56 PM · 🌐

Hi friends, hear you can see that the Machine is talking very well, but the problem is no one can focus about blinds customer in the SBI Bank. Even if the article was clear independently, for the blinds people to used it.

Blind Lead Trust, INDIA, NK Larisa Lyngz and 6 others
2 Shares

