



SMILING DANDELION FOUNDATION

A registered section 8, non-profit earning disability from something India talks about into India includes to art, storytelling, theatre, education, and community

80G

12A

CSR- 1

NGO
DARPAN



CULTIVATING INCLUSION,
CELEBRATING ABILITY

Like a dandelion that takes root in the most unlikely ground, our work is built on the belief that every child carries strengths worth nurturing and that inclusion becomes lasting only when it is practiced in our everyday lives.

Our Story

Who We Are

- Section 8 non-profit founded in 2023.
- Advancing inclusion for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDDs) across India.

What We Do

- Creative Inclusion Ecosystem that brings together storytelling, theatre, literature, visual arts, spirituality, caregiver empowerment, education, livelihood development and community participation into one integrated model for disability inclusion.

How We Do It

- By partnering with schools, caregivers, professionals, and organisations.
- Through CSR fundings for our specific projects.
- By creating safe, inclusive spaces where every individual can thrive.



The Change We Seek

OUR VISION:

A future where every neurodiverse individual is recognised not by their diagnosis but by their potential; where families are met with support instead of stigma, and where inclusion is built into the everyday fabric of schools, workplaces, and communities rather than treated as a separate effort.

OUR MISSION:

Our mission is to raise awareness about neurodiversity by promoting understanding, challenging stereotypes, and reducing stigma. Through a strength-based approach, we empower neurodiverse individuals to recognise their unique abilities, build confidence, and access meaningful opportunities that enable them to participate fully and thrive in all aspects of life



Our Co-Founder

Shivani Dhillon



Shivani Dhillon is a former BBC journalist, therapeutic storyteller and the Founder of Smiling Dandelion Foundation. Her work in disability inclusion is rooted in personal experience as the mother of a daughter with Down syndrome; she founded SDF to build the kind of understanding and support she saw missing for families like her own.

She is also the founder of Down Syndrome Support Group India and mentor of *Extra*, a children's book based on her family. The book draws on lived experience to introduce empathy and inclusion to young readers. Her advocacy draws on years of storytelling work using narrative to shift perceptions and create space for disability inclusion in classrooms, communities, and public life.

Our Co-Founder

Rahul Jindal



Rahul Jindal is a Senior Director at Google, where he leads People Operations — shaping how one of the world's largest organizations builds human capability at scale. Over 20+ years of international experience in organizational design and AI-enabled talent systems, he has worked with thousands of leaders across industries on how to build organizations where people — all people — can do their best work.

Rahul co-founded Smiling Dandelion Foundation after his son Kairav was diagnosed with autism. That experience transformed how he thinks about organizational systems: not just who gets into the room, but whether the room was designed for them. He now applies his expertise in organizational culture and systems design to SDF's mission — building the infrastructure of inclusion, not just the aspiration of it.

He is a co-author of *The Scale Imperative* (Routledge, forthcoming) and speaks at executive and CHRO forums on AI transformation, organizational design, and the future of human capability.

Our founder's legacy

honoured at the highest levels.

2025 - Inclusion ke sitaare

Awarded by the Jai Vakeel Foundation & Research Centre, under a jury chaired by former Chief Justice of India Dr. D.Y. Chandrachud.

2024 - Maharani Ahilya Bai Holkar Award

For sustained contributions to disability inclusion and advocacy.

2023 - DLF Iron Lady Award

DLF Group

2021 - Social Impact Award

University of Westminster , London

At Smiling Dandelion Foundation, inclusion is more than a goal—it is the principle that guides every initiative, partnership, and interaction. Our 9 ABCs Inclusion Framework reflects our commitment to creating a society where people with disabilities are understood, valued, and empowered to participate fully in community life.

Core Values

Awareness

Promoting understanding and visibility of disability and neurodiversity.

Advocacy

Advancing the rights, dignity, and participation of persons with disabilities.

Belonging

Creating environments where everyone feels accepted, respected, and valued.

Commerce

Promoting disability-inclusive opportunities in education, employment, and entrepreneurship.

Census

Highlighting the importance of representation, data, and informed decision-making.

Allyship

Encouraging individuals and institutions to become active champions of inclusion.

Bias Busting

Challenging stereotypes and reshaping perceptions through meaningful dialogue.

Buy in

Engaging stakeholders and communities in driving sustainable change.

Community

Building networks of support, connection, and collective action.

Flagship Initiatives



Samvid – Stories & Beyond

Samvid uses storytelling as both connection and therapy, helping children with disabilities build vocabulary, communication, and confidence, while bridging neurotypical and neurodivergent children through shared experience. Sessions reach children, parents and caregivers, schools, NGOs, and corporates.



Schools of Inclusion

An experiential learning program designed to nurture empathy, kindness, and inclusion among children. Through storytelling, play, art, and reflective activities, the program helps young minds celebrate differences and build classrooms where every child feels valued and respected.



TAFI – The Art Festival for Inclusion

A vibrant celebration of creativity, self-expression, and belonging. TAFI brings together neurodiverse and neurotypical individuals through art, music, theatre, and cultural experiences, creating opportunities for connection, visibility, and shared learning.



Inclusive Theatre & Performance Arts

SDF has pioneered the use of theatre as a transformative medium for persons with intellectual disabilities. Our productions provide opportunities for neurodivergent and neurotypical performers to rehearse, create and perform together, building confidence, communication, teamwork, emotional expression and self-esteem.

Our Adopted School



Discover Ability Special School, Mohali

At Smiling Dandelion Foundation, we believe in supporting, encouraging smaller NGOs working in the field of disability that find it struggle with resources and funding and access to innovative interventions. At Discover Ability, there are 26 children of all age group.

Our Support

- Raised over ₹8 lakhs to strengthen school infrastructure and improve learning spaces.
- Raised over ₹1 lakh to establish an Occupational Therapy (OT) Room, enhancing access to therapeutic support for students.
- Facilitated teacher training and capacity building.
- Enriched student learning through expressive arts, play, and storytelling.
- Contributed to building a sustainable model of inclusive education.



PARTNERS IN INCLUSION

Government & policy

Rashtrapati Bhawan

Department of Education,
Haryana

Govt Museum & Art Gallery,
Chandigarh

Department of PwD

Disability & education

Discover Ability School

Down Syndrome Support Group India

Mainstream schools

CII IWN Chandigarh Chapter

Arts & culture

Serendipity Arts Foundation

Humdrum

Artylicious Studio

Novel Bunch

Corporate & public

Punjab Cricket Association

PVR Cinemas

Elante Mall

Local Businesses

Pizza Express

We already work alongside government, arts and community institutions.

Government & policy
DEPwD, Govt of India's
Rashtrapati Bhavan

PartnerWith Us

Every partnership has the power to create meaningful change. Whether supporting inclusive education, storytelling, community engagement, or creative expression, your CSR investment can help build a society where every individual belongs.

Bronze Partner

Storytelling & Awareness

- Sponsor *Samvid* – Stories & Beyond sessions
- Sponsor workshops and support group meetings for caregiver.
- Employee volunteering opportunities

Silver Partner

Inclusive Education

- Support the expansion of Schools of Inclusion
- Enable teacher training and student engagement activities
- Help us in capacity building of smaller NGOs in rural areas.

Gold Partner

Champion Inclusion at Scale

- Become a title partner for TAFI – The Art Festival for Inclusion.
- Support ongoing theatre workshops leading to our annual theatre performance.
- Encourage financial independence through corporate gifting.

Growing Inclusion Across India

From classrooms and community centres to conferences, festivals, and inclusion initiatives, our work has reached diverse communities across India.

Each city represents a partnership formed, a conversation started, and a step towards building a more inclusive society.



📍 **Jammu & Kashmir**
Srinagar • Anantnag

📍 **Maharashtra**
Mumbai • Pune

📍 **Punjab**
Mohali • Chandigarh

📍 **Madhya Pradesh**
Bhopal

📍 **Haryana**
Gurugram • Panchkula

📍 **Chhattisgarh**
Raipur

📍 **Delhi**
New Delhi

📍 **Karnataka**
Bengaluru

📍 **Rajasthan**
Jaipur

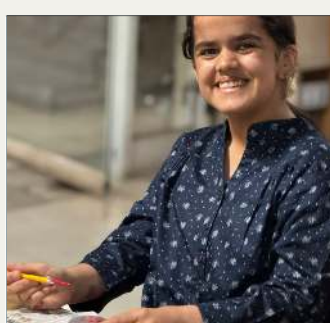
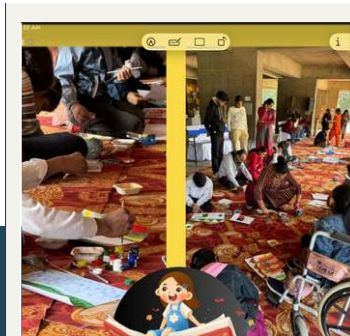
📍 **Uttar Pradesh**
Lucknow

📍 **Gujarat**
Vadodara

📍 **Kerala**
Thiruvananthapuram

📍 **West Bengal**
Kolkata

Impact in Numbers



2,500+ families in the Down Syndrome Support Group India network

8L raised to renovate our adopted Discover Ability School, Mohali

70+ children from 13 states performed in our Theatre for Inclusion production

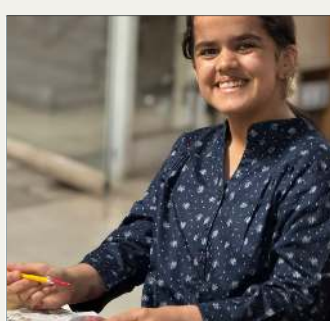
2000+ children impacted by our storytelling program

A recent giving snapshot: In a six-month period (2026), individual donors contributed a combined **₹7,00,000+**. This reflects a snapshot of one period—not our lifetime fundraising—and is shared to transparently represent our growing community of supporters.

Beyond Numbers

We don't believe our impact is best measured in numbers.

What's harder to measure is what happens after: a parent who finds community for the first time, a classroom that grows more patient, a child who is understood rather than managed. We track what we can, and we stay accountable to the rest by staying close to the families and communities we work with.



Our Credentials

Organisation Name: Smiling Dandelion Foundation

NGO Darpan ID: PB/2023/0363413

Legal Status

Registered Section 8 Company

Registered for undertaking CSR Activities under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs

Statutory Registrations

CSR Registration No.: CSR00064452

12A (12AB) Registration No.: ABLCS8038H25CD01

80G Registration No.: ABLCS8038HF20241

Registration Number: U88100PB2023NPL059698

Date of Registration: 03 October 2023

Registered Under: Companies Act, 2013

State of Registration: Punjab

Co-Founders: Shivani Dhillon, Rahul Jindal

**Be the
breeze
that helps every
dandelion seed take flight.**

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