



WICCI COUNCIL (SPECIAL NEEDS)

**WOMEN'S INDIAN CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY**
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Vision & Mission

TAARE ZAMEEN PAR

1. Education - including Life-skills & Soft-skills

1. Sanitation - Personal & Environmental

1. Skill Development - for Personal growth & National development

4. Amenities & Facilities for comfort & convenience for seniors with special needs

Vision & Mission

TAARE ZAMEEN PAR

5. Job Opportunities & Placement

6. Courses with Internship

7. Health & Hygiene - Personal & Social

**8. Provision of wheel chairs & facilities for seniors
and individuals with special needs in public places**

*Welcomin
Council Members
to*

WICCI

*President, Vice President
and 20+ Nominated
Council Members*

Bina Pillai

State President, Special Needs Council, Maharashtra

Bina Pillai, an alumni of Lady Shri Ram college, New-Delhi, had worked in a senior position in corporates. She is an award-winning poet, author, and a crusader for social causes.

She published her poetry book “Lyrical Rhythms of My Heart” in 2017 which won awards, amongst which was the National Rising Star Award. It had the highest rating in Goodreads in 2019.

Her novel, “Under The Mango Tree,” was published by Bigfoot Publications in November 2019, for which she has received critical acclaim and was amongst the best-selling books on Kindle. The audio book of “Under The Mango Tree,” has also been published. She has two other books in the pipeline. A collection of short stories, “Nuggets of Wisdom,” and a collection of poems “Mystical Dewdrops”. She won an award for her book Under the Mango Tree at The Lucknow Lit Fest- Aaveg- 2021.

She also won the first prize for her book at the Chandigarh A3foundation Literary fest.

Passionate about social causes, travelling, writing, photography, cooking, painting, event management, interior -decor and gardening.

She has been pushing the causes of dyslexic children. She was featured as a Citizen journalist of CNNIBN in this regard for a Special school for children with Learning Disability in Central Mumbai. Two years later, the special school opened in her locality fulfilling her dream.



Dr. Geetha Mohan

Vice-President, Special Needs Council, Maharashtra

Passionate, fun-loving, sincere and caring, a peoples' person. A teacher and trainer by profession, a learner and an author by interest. Dr. Geetha Mohan, ex-Principal of UPG College of Management, and Professor of Philosophy, University of Mumbai, with her formidable academic background and her vast and varied experience, aims to educate the young generation & help translate life philosophy into reality. She works with the older generation and the corporate, to inculcate a happy, successful, and peaceful life mission, vision, values and goals in executives, managers, and staff in organizations.

She is the recipient of the “Bharat Vidya Shiromani Award” and a “Certificate of Excellence” for outstanding achievements and remarkable role in the field of Education given by Indian Solidarity Council, New Delhi on 9th June 2011. She has been felicitated by the Department of Philosophy, University of Mumbai, for her contribution in the field of philosophical research and teaching, as she has been part of the teaching community since 1984 to date. She is the recipient of the 'Social Action Award' for Excellence in Health Awareness, Resource Mobilisation and Humanitarian services by Indian Development Foundation on 3rd September 2013. She is a co-author of the book ‘Human Rights Education,’ whereby she attempts to create awareness about the rights and duties of individuals in society. She has also been, and is, a member of various committees and panels, in both academic and administrative positions. In addition to all these achievements and accolades, she has presented research papers at International and National Conferences, both in India & abroad.



Meena Mishra

Council Member, Special Needs Council, Maharashtra

Meena Mishra is an award-winning author, poet, short-story writer, social worker, novelist, editor, an educator and a publisher. The Impish Lass Publishing House is her brainchild. Her poems, stories and book-reviews have been published in many international journals and magazines. She is the recipient of several prestigious awards.

She is an active member of Mumbai English Educators' Team and was invited by the Education Department of Maharashtra to be a part of The Review Committee for the new English text book. She has been working as the International Coordinator for British Council activities for more than 10 years.. She has been a contributing author and poet for more than 100 books. Her books include- The Impish Lass, Emociones Infinitas , Within The Cocoon of Love and The Impish Lass Book 2. . Her poems have been translated and published in Spanish magazine. Her latest book – The Impish Lass- Book 2 (TIL Stories and More) has received raving reviews from the readers including the greatest Indian Nuclear Scientist Dr. R. Chidambaram. It has received 5 stars rating on Amazon .

Her articles are published in Times of India's NIE and a suburban newspaper and leading educational magazine of the country- Brainfeed Higher Education Plus. She was invited to share her views by Sony TV for their first episode of, Zindagi Ke Crossroads, based on needs of special children. .

As a publisher she believes that *EACH SOUL THAT WRITES HAS THE RIGHT TO GET PUBLISHED.*



Vaishali Chandorkar Chitale

Council Member, Special Needs Council, Maharashtra

An optimist to the core, Vaishali Chandorkar Chitale always sees the glass half full. She firmly believes in the saying, that 'if you want the rainbow, you have to put up with the rain'. She is a graduate in Eng.(Hons) from Delhi University and has taught English in various schools pan India for 14 years, before retiring to pursue her passion for writing.

An alumna of the Indian Institute of Mass Communication (Journalism), New Delhi, she is freelance journalist, a poet and a writer. She has 15 paperback anthologies to her credit.

She is passionate about women empowerment . Her writing reflects her concern about issues faced by women and the underprivileged in the society. She has co-edited a book on the same, 'Women vs We Men' for ILPH (The Impish Lass Publishing House), Mumbai. She has also co-edited 'Martial Games' for Inkfeathers Publishing, Noida and is presently editing two more for both the publications.

An award-winning writer, her story, 'Bittersweet Chocolate', came third in a contest conducted only for women writers, by WriteFluence and has been published in their paperback, "Out of my Box" (2020).

She has won a many contests and her poems and sonnets have been featured in books, 'Ticked Pink' and 'Standstill' , both published by Notion press, for WriteFluence.

A coffee table book, "Of Poets and Poems...Echoes of the Heart and Soul", featuring five of her poems with illustrations has just been released.

You can follow her on her blog-www.anenviablejourney.wordpress.com



Madhuri Godbole

Council Member, Special Needs Council, Maharashtra

Mrs Madhuri Godbole, has been in the field of education for 30 years, having worked as High School Teacher, Lecturer and as Head Mistress. She was bestowed with the 'Best Teacher Award' from Rotary Club of Ulhasnagar twice, and was also one of the Awardees of Utkrushtha Mahila organized by Ambarnath Municipal Corporation. She has been a member of several Committees during her tenure in College.

She is known to be creative and enthusiastic. Having a penchant for writing she is a published writer for the Impish Lass Publishing House, wherein she has contributed 9 stories and one poem.

Social service is second nature to her. It is 25 years since she is a member of Inner Wheel Club an International NGO which fosters Friendship and Service. In her journey she has served the underprivileged like the mentally challenged, the hearing and visually impaired, orphans, senior citizens and several other needy

She has taken up posts of President twice, secretary twice, Club Correspondent twice and Editor thrice, and other posts. She was a part of conducting major projects like providing drinking water in rural area, conducting Eye Camps, Programs for the Blind School, maintenance of schools for special children, Fund Raising etc. She was President of an Orphanage of SOS Villages, Neela Bal Sadan at Ambarnath for 3 years.



Aparna Patwardhan Bhat

Council Member Special Needs, Maharashtra,

Aparna Patwardhan Bhat is a competent and sincere professional. Her career as a teacher has spanned over two and half decades in various reputed schools and coaching classes. Currently, she is working as a secondary school teacher with a renowned ICSE school in Mumbai and as an Editor with a popular publishing house. She strongly believes that, “Learning is a beautiful and continuous process and the only treasure which, remains with you forever.” A double post graduate with Masters’ in Education and English, she also holds a Master’s in Business Administration. She has completed a certificate course of CIDTT (The Cambridge International Diploma for Teachers and Trainers). Over the years she has developed a passion for penning down her thoughts, memoirs and experiences. She loves to write short stories, anecdotes, poems and small articles. She owes it to her parents, family and all other acquaintances who helped her in various spoken and unspoken ways to develop this skill. She blogs on: www.aparivarthith.wordpress.com Her stories and poems have been published in various paperback anthologies, e-books and has also been featured in several Facebook blogging portals such as Asian Literary Society, United by Ink, Passion for Poetry and Penmancy to name a few.



Rashmi Naik

Council Member, Special Needs Council, Maharashtra

Rashmi Naik is a Chartered Accountant by profession having 16 years of work experience in the field of Financial and Management Consultancy.

She specialises in Corporate Finance, Mergers and Acquisitions, Business Planning and Debt Restructuring. She has worked as a Project Leader in many World Bank funded projects in India and Kenya.

Rashmi has been associated with Corporate Social Responsibility for the last 10 years. She started, CSR Links, in 2012 with a vision to create a platform for NGOs and Companies to connect with each other for the CSR initiatives. She has a lot of experience in training in capacity building, Office management, accounts, computers (teaching MS Office). Communication and Presentation skills.

Rashmi is keenly involved with Financial Literacy. She takes one day workshops on Financial Literacy for Women and Children for the underserved, school and College students.

Currently, she is the member of the South Asia Working Group of IEEE Smart Village. Rashmi is also on the Board of Global Telehealth Network(GTN), USA looking after Finance.



Sushma Kalvade

Council Member, Special Needs Council, Maharashtra

Sushma Kalvade is a Human Resources professional with over two decades of experience in Dubai, UAE. As HR Head she has provided HR leadership and coaching to employees and managers regarding employee relation issues and resolution of employee and organizational issues. In her capacity as HR Head she has contributed in building and fostering rapport within organization staff and managers at all levels through a thorough understanding of the business, company culture, organizational structure and talent.

She has managed many different roles along with standard HR role such as monthly Newsletter writing, staff events management and coordinating conferences. She found all facets of HR role challenging and invigorating. Each day would bring a new challenge and would need different kind of fire-fighting skills. She feels building rapport and caring for each staff has been her hall mark and helped her build a successful team for the companies she worked for.

She has now retired and lives in Pune, India.

She is a proud alumni of prestigious Lady Shri Ram College, New Delhi.



Deveika Menon

Council Member, Special Needs Council , Maharashtra

Deveika Menon hails from the city of dreams, Mumbai.

Having pursued her studies in the field of psychology she took to counseling as the subject of human behavior fascinated her. This further propelled her to contribute as a relationship counselor. She has been a support to those with behavioral issues and maneuvered them out of it.

She has been a versatile blogger before authoring a few books.

She is also a short film maker with a few socially relevant short films that has been showcased in film festivals as well. She wishes to continue making films with socially relevant subjects to create awareness. She has been felicitated for her literary quality in 'Mrigtrishna', which has been very well received worldwide. Her poetic creations have been widely recognized and applauded. Her romantic poetry collection 'Pendulum of Nomadic love' is a testimony of her belief in the power of words. Her love for Urdu has brought about a small collection of Hindi Urdu ghazals and shayari. She is currently penning her next book, 'Laugh Kookaburra laugh'. She finds her mojo in photography.

From cloudscape, landscape to portraits she has a voracious collection.

She has been actively involved in rescuing animals and providing them alternate shelter.

She is also involved with a couple of NGOs that focus on children and old age homes.



Dr. Uma Dembla Khurana

Council Member, Special Needs Council, Maharashtra

An Ayurvedic doctor by profession, Dr Uma Dembla Khurana, has always been a people's person. Post her graduation, during her early days of practice she realised that all illnesses cannot be treated by medicines alone. There is something beyond medicines to treat patients. That's when she decided to satisfy her hunger to understand people by pursuing her Masters in Psychotherapy and Counselling. She practiced at a reputed hospital at Dadar, followed by a stint in diagnostic medicine before setting up a private practice at Andheri, Goregaon and now Deonar. With a satisfying practice for a little more than 20 years as an Ayurvedic doctor and a therapist, Dr Khurana now attends medical camps conducted by various NGOs to offer services to the needy. During these trying times of the pandemic, she counselled and treated many patients online, internationally as well as from all over India. An approachable person with a pleasing personality Dr Khurana is a go to person for various medical issues



Rajni Nair

Council Member, Special Needs Council, Maharashtra

Rajni is an entrepreneur and alumni of St Xavier's College, Mumbai. She holds a double graduation in BA from Mumbai University and LLB from Jitendra Chauhan College.

She had been a practicing Lawyer and gone on to pursue and excel in Marketing, Advertising and Administration in prestigious institutions like Times Life, Bombay Hospital and The Leela Group. She was the Managing Director of Buena Vista Travels for more than a decade, after which she held an Executive position at Apollo Hospital.

She has supported various social causes right through her life - whether it was teaching students at a Blind School, organizing book and clothes donation drives or supporting various causes throughout the pandemic.

She also played a central role in a drive within Hiranandani Gardens, Powai for streamlining and ensuring correction and availability of Voter ID cards for citizens in the area so they could cast their electoral votes.

She is a voracious reader who is passionate about dancing, traveling and enjoys socializing.



Mini Chandran

Council Member, Special Needs Council, Maharashtra

Mini Chandran, has been with CGH Earth Group of Hotels & Resorts since the year 2009. Before joining CGH Earth, she had a stint in the travel industry for 16 years.

With more than 28 years of experience in the Travel and Tourism industry, she deems that, as responsible individuals, we ought to be that type of energy that, no matter where we go, we always add value to the spaces and lives around us, thus ensuring that our presence adds to an experience in a positive manner. This perfectly resonates with the core values of CGH Earth being Environmental Sensitivity, benefitting the community and being Local in content.

Mini Chandran presently works as the General Manager at SwaSwara – CGH Earth's Wellness Retreat by the sea and has been in this role since 11 years. To elaborate a bit on SwaSwara, situated on Om beach, there is little, apart from the rhythm of the rolling waves and the meditative hum of birdsong, to disturb ones inner explorations. Crafted in colours of the Earth, and in harmony with the land that nurtures her, SwaSwara is designed for holistic and transformational experiences; a space where the ancient wisdom of Ayurveda and Yoga come together to rejuvenate body and spirit.



Namrita Alang

Council Member, Special Needs Council, Maharashtra

Having completed 49 years on earth, Namrita Alang is a 'Jack of all....' By virtue of being born and subsequently married into the Armed Forces, she has had the opportunity to travel all over India. After having completed her basic education, she has done her diploma in Hotel management and worked for the hospitality industry for a while.

She also holds a Bachelors degree in Education and has pursued teaching for 12 years. Being an educationist she firmly believes that, 'You Educate a man you educate a person, You educate a woman you educate a family.'

She is passionate about physical fitness and is a certified yoga Instructor.

On a personal level she enjoys travelling, spending time with friends and listening to Music. Originally from Chandigarh she currently resides in Mumbai with her family.



Uma Divgi

Council Member, Special Needs Council, Maharashtra

Uma Divgi, is a passionate traveller and firmly believes, in the saying, “Do not follow where a path may lead. Go instead where there is no path and leave a trail”- Ralph Waldo Emerson.

An alumna of Lady Shriram College, New Delhi, she is a graduate of Psychology (Hons) and is a keen observer of human nature and behaviour.

She started her career in the travel industry and gradually moved to being with children and working with them, as she loves children and feels we can learn a lot from their innocent and trustworthy souls. She has worked with pre-schoolers for 23 years and retired in 2018 as a facilitator in “Sapling” Nursery Aundh, Pune. She loves children and has a lot of empathy for them and instantly strikes a rapport with them.



Divya Venkateswaran

Council Member, Special Needs Council, Maharashtra

A poet, writer by passion, it took her more than a couple of decades to put her thoughts out on the paper. A Bachelor of Arts in English from Delhi University, Divya Venkateswaran is a bibliophile and the world of literature fascinates her.

She first began writing soulful stories for Times Of India (Internet) under its “Soul Curry” section. She is a co author in many anthologies with different publishing houses. Her love for reading has got the better of her and she reviews upcoming authors and any new title she reads. Spends far too much time reading and listening to music and is a trained classical singer. She has been actively engaged with an organization “Guide Runners India” and works closely with visually challenged people.

She lives in Mumbai and works with a renowned education services company.



Dr. Rajeshwari Rapata

Council Member, Special Needs Council, Maharashtra

Dr. Rajeshwari Rapata has 23 years experience in Medical Academics as a Homoeopathic Consultant, an approved Principal, Hospital Administrator, Professor (HOD) Anatomy, by MUHS, Nashik. She has taught more than 5000 medical students and adopted some innovative teaching techniques to bring good results in the successive consecutive years. Her expertise includes Homoeopathic consultation, Academics management, Counselling, Hospital Administration, Teaching, Training and Internal Auditing of hospitals.

She is involved in many projects. To name a few- Ghar Ghar Homoeopathy: A course in Awareness in Emergency medical conditions, First Aid, CPR and Role of Homoeopathy. (Brand Ambassador World PHD Chakra Awards) (Life saving Skills), de-addiction through Homoeopathy, special needs children (Behavioural disorders, Autism, Dyslexia and ADHD), values in Healthcare A Spiritual Approach (VIHASA) Janki Foundation (London) Team project, Divine Mother Baby Project, Garbh Sanskar. Team Project.

She is a Nature and Animal lover and also love adventure sports, has done

She has started feeding my flair for writing recently and is emerging as an excellent writer and poetess.



Monika Patel

Council Member, Special Needs Council, Maharashtra

A firm believer in the idea that positive thoughts bring about positive changes, Monika practices the same thought and has experienced the same.

An alumna of SNTD Women's University, Mumbai, Monika has a Bachelor's Degree in Education with specialization in Learning Disabilities. She is a Learning Specialist working with children facing learning concerns in areas of reading and writing. Counselling Parents and Schools is also her area of work and expertise.

She has worked with reputed National and International Schools in Mumbai. Working to spread awareness about learning concerns is her long-term commitment.

She loves to cook, write and enjoys long drives while listening to music.



Lakshmi Raju

Council Member Special Needs, Maharashtra,

Lakshmi Raju has been a Teacher and Trainer for the major part of her working career and continues to be a Training Consultant and Freelance Trainer . As a teacher, she taught English and French in colleges in Mumbai. She taught MBA students in colleges in Pune.

She worked for the Income Tax Department for nearly 35 years. Major part of her service was as a Trainer for the Department as well as a National Resource Person for the Government of India.

Besides Income Tax related subjects, training in soft skills, personal development and spirituality, were the highlights of her sessions. As a National Resource Person, she was deputed to various State and Central Government Departments to conduct training programs on Management of Training, Training Methodology and for developing Mentoring Skills in Executive Officers. As a Master Trainer for the Government, she has groomed and certified senior trainers to be inducted into the Government's Pool of National Resource Persons.

On the subject of Mentoring, she has addressed college and University teachers, Senior Officers of PSUs, Executives of NGOs, etc.

She has also helped an NGO to conceive and execute a Yoga project for Orphanages in Pune and Mumbai and for the youth in the juvenile prison in Pune.



Dr. Sulata Ajit Sankardas

Council Member, Special Needs Council, Maharashtra

Dr Sulata Ajit, an alumni of the University of Northampton, UK and SNDT University, Mumbai has over 30 years of experience in the field of Special Education, with an expertise in inclusive education for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder. She founded Sankalp – The Learning centre & Special needs school for children with Autism & Intellectual disabilities in 1999. Since then, she's served as Director and Special Educator, receiving recognition for services in the field from several Rotary Clubs & private organizations in India.

As part of the Sankalp Trust, she has organized the International Seminars for LEARN 2010, 2012, 2013 & 2016 on Inclusive Education. In 2012, she was also selected as 'Expert faculty' for the State Resource Group under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (Tamil Nadu) to conduct teacher training in the area of Autism Spectrum Disorder.

She has had many scientific papers published, including "Skill training for Young Adults with Special Educational needs for Transition into Employment" (2015) and "iPad: efficacy of electronic devices to help children with Autism Spectrum Disorder to communicate in the classroom" (2017) in the Journal "Support for Learning", UK. She has also presented papers on Autism & Inclusive education at various Seminars and Conferences throughout India

Dr. Sulata has been instrumental in designing a state-of-the-art school for children with Autism in Chennai and continues to pioneer a path in Special Education in India.



Nandini Radhakrishnan

Council Member, Special Needs Council, Maharashtra

Special Educator for Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and Specific Learning Disability (SLD)

Nandini Radhakrishnan, is a Post Graduate and a Qualified Special educator, teaching at the Sankalp Learning Centre and Special Needs School, Chennai since 1999. She has had special training in Autism Spectrum Disorder, as well as Special Learning Disability.

She is also trained in the Instrumental Enrichment Programme founded by Ruven Feuerstein which helps dyslexic students to unlock potential in all learners and have better perceptual, cognitive and organizational skills.

Nandini taught Mathematics, Mass Communication and English, for the NIOS curriculum. This enabled several students to get back to the mainstream schools, and also get employed.

She started her career as a teacher in PSBB, Chennai, teaching Maths and Science after completing the teachers training course.



Lakshmi Krishnakumar

Council Member, Special Needs Council, Maharashtra

Founder & Director, Sankalp -The Open School (Special Education), Tamil Nadu

Lakshmi Krishnakumar, with over three decades of experience in the field of Learning Disabilities, believes in making an impact through a collegial approach, that transcend beyond academics by discussing conflicting ideas and issues with candor, sensitivity and respect with all stakeholders.

Lakshmi Krishnakumar, has a Master's degree in Psychology and has specialized in Guidance & Counseling. She has been engaged in Training and Workshops for Learning Disabilities in India and abroad, for over 30 years.

A highlight of her expertise includes getting trained and working on the assessment tool-LPAD (Learning Potential Assessment Device, The International Center for the Enhancement of Learning Potential, Israel) to understand the learning propensity of children and adults facing learning challenges.

Her work as the Director/Psychologist in Sankalp since 1999 resulted in her receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award from Anaikar Group of Education Institutions, Ambur. Being part of Sankalp Trust she has received many recognition and awards from other private institutions too.



Srilatha Juvva

Council Member, Special Needs Council, Maharashtra

Srilatha Juvva is a social work educator with a Ph.D. in Psychiatric Social Work. She is currently Professor with the School of Social Work, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai, India. She has over 28 years of teaching and clinical practice experience. She cares deeply about manifesting full potential and fairness in self and others. She served on the Board of NGOs and on the academic board of studies in universities. Her areas of expertise include mental health, disability, disaster mental health, and therapeutic interventions. She has directed many research projects and has published in peer reviewed national and international journals and in books. She has also co-edited books on spirituality, social work practice and families. She was awarded the Fulbright Senior Research Fellow in 2006-2007. She has been an enthusiastic volunteer in disaster situations, with expertise in rendering services and building capacity in psychosocial care. She is trained practitioner coach in Radical Transformational Leadership and uses these transformative templates and tools in her everyday practice, both in her personal and professional life. She uses the transformative design templates in her teaching and field work practice with students and NGOs, that she assists.



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