

## Orientation & Mobility

Orientation is the ability to locate oneself in one's environment. It is, 'knowing where you are and being able to plan how to go to where you want to. A person with Deafblindness has to utilise other senses along with residual capacity of hearing and vision to move independently.

The innovative strategies should be used to teach concepts, skills and techniques necessary for a person with Deafblindness to travel safely, efficiently and gracefully through any environment and under all conditions.

## Access to Information Vs Technology

The child with dual sensory impairment is given early intervention utilizing multi sensory approach. Along with cognitive development through special methods, other therapies like Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy and Speech stimulation will leads to overall development. Providing academics / functional academics, transition planning, skill development training for vocational placement are priorities. Innovative technologies like fuser machine, CCTV (Prisma), Text reader (SARA), JAWS, Special Magnifiers (SEE TV, Eye Q), voice recorder, Braille and Braille Printers do play a role in enhancing literacy in this population.



## HRD

To train persons with Deafblindness specially skilled professional are required. To fulfill this NIEPMD is conducting both long term and short term courses. The trained teachers on completion of the course may be placed in any corner of our country, thus reaching to the unreached. The student trainees are inculcated with qualities and skills required such as Braille, Sign Language, Orientation & Mobility to deal with unique requirements of persons with dual sensory impairment in future.

Our duty is to encourage everyone in this struggle to live up to his own highest idea.

- Swami Vivekananda



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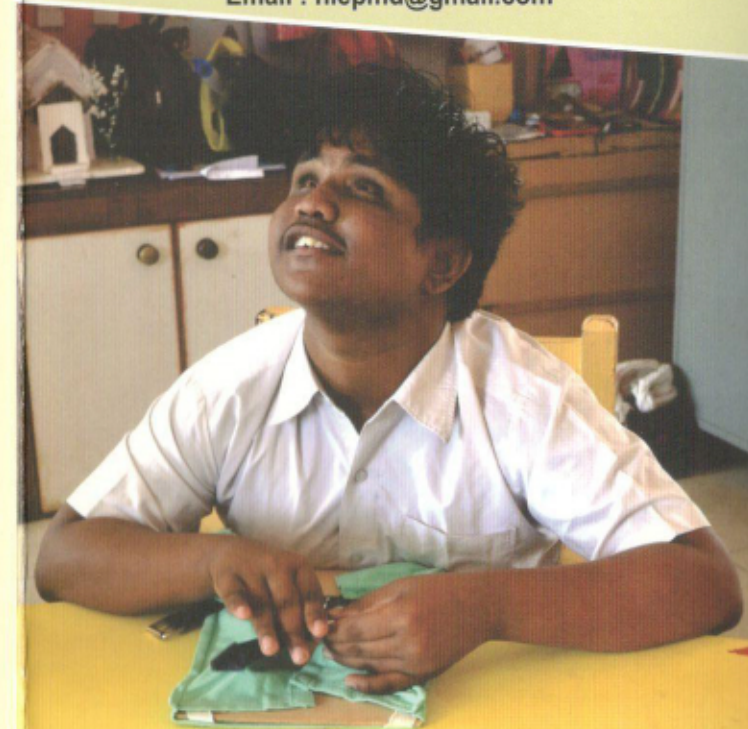
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# Deafblind



*"Keep your face to the sunshine and  
you cannot see a shadow".*

**Dr. Helen Keller**

## Deafblindness

"Means a person having both vision and hearing difficulty which leads to unique challenges in the areas of **communication, mobility and gathering information.**"

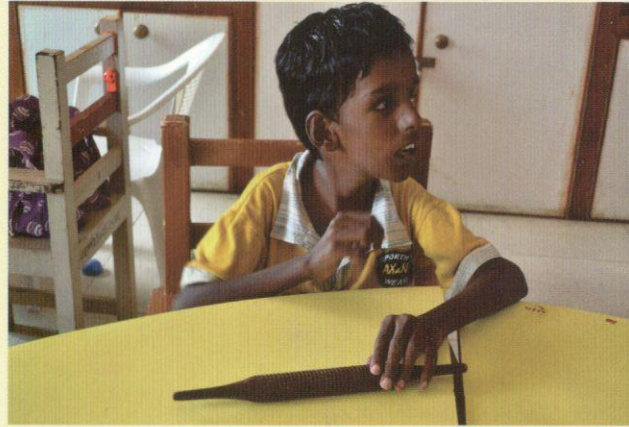
Whether Deafblindness occurs from birth or later in life or with any additional disabilities (MR /CP / Autism) the effects would be **OF VARIOUS NATURE AND COMPLICATED.** Essential support and training is required to prepare them for leading an independent living.

## Characteristics

- ❖ Appears to be withdrawn or isolated
- ❖ Do Not maintain eye contact
- ❖ Never exhibits any response to sounds
- ❖ Lack of ability to communicate in a meaningful manner
- ❖ Lack of curiosity in the external world
- ❖ Defensive when touched
- ❖ Possess extreme difficulty in establishing or maintaining interpersonal relationship
- ❖ Need unique learning styles

*"Blindness separate from Things  
Deafness separate from persons  
Deafblindness Isolates"*

**Dr. Helen Keller**



## Teaching Children

The effects of combined vision and hearing losses isolate children from people and the environment. Deafblindness affects the way a child learns, not what a child learns. One of the most important things to remember about a child with Deafblindness is that he or she can learn almost anything like anyone else, but the impact of Deafblindness is mainly on the learning process.

Children who are deafblind, like all other children have strengths and needs that are very specific. Each will require an individually tailored educational experience, that will address the problems in the development and implementation of the training, The training should focus on development of Communication, Mobility and Access to information.



## Communication

Communication provided access to the environment, it develops through social process. We communicate with one another in many different ways, Our senses are the principal channels for this process, that includes Vision, Hearing, Taste, Smell and Touch. These channels give us the information about the environment around us and we act according to the inputs from the senses. The sound of slamming door, banging of pans in kitchen, humming, giggling or frowning can tell us many things about people and things around us. In short, communication does not mean spoken language only. It includes variety of ways by which a person gets connected with another person, Through the following modes, a person with Deafblindness can communicate:

- ❖ Tangible Symbols
- ❖ Tactile Sign Language
- ❖ Braille
- ❖ Finger spelling
- ❖ Tadoma (Tactile Speech reading)
- ❖ Print on palm

