



AutiTales, launched by Together Foundation in 2022, is a free Android-based app with interactive stories for people with autism.

Conceptualised by Sangeetha Chakrapani, Founder Trustee at Together Foundation, AutiTales is a labour of love for people with autism of all age groups.

For several years, Sangeetha struggled to make story telling meaningful for her daughters with autism. She continued her efforts to create story telling ideas while working with the adults at Together Foundation. People with autism, she learnt, need a chance to experience a story in tangible ways, in order to make it come alive.

AutiTales helps the user to experience stories at multiple levels: listening, reading, matching pictures in the stories, typing key words, drawing key figures, recording his own voice or video, sharing on social media and also uploading pictures.

Together Foundation has conducted workshops among parent groups and professionals about AutiTales. Between August 2022 and April 2023, we presented to The Spectrum Autism, Ummeed Child Development Center, Sunshine School, Muktangan Education Trust, Sethu Child Development Centre and Sharada Mandir Higher Secondary School. Together Foundation organised a two day workshop on AutiTales, coinciding with World Autism Awareness Month and presented to Priyanj Special School, Citi Academy, Child Reach, Academy of Learning and Development, Arushi - The Learning Centre, The Anchorage sheltered workshop, Kshitij sheltered workshop and Reach Centre for Remedial Education.

Together Foundation is immensely grateful to Tata Investment Corporation Limited and Mergermarket (India) Private Limited for supporting this project.

Together Foundation
Annual Report 2022-23



Together Foundation thanks Kiran Khalap, brand consultant and founder, chlorophyll brand & communications consultancy private limited, for his involvement with the work we do.

Our Work Skills

Together Foundation is a public charitable trust and runs a sheltered workshop for adolescents and adults with autism and other special needs.

Our adults earn a monthly stipend for their contribution. Some work in data entry and on an average, clock 50 entries an hour, per person. Some manufacture paper bags and complete 500 bags a month, per individual. Others do job work and together, complete around 5000 units a month. Our adults sold approximately 2000 embroidered cloth bags this year. We manufactured and sold thousands of cookies and chocolates to customers, largely from Mumbai and a few from other parts of India. We learnt to make eco friendly products, that were displayed and sold in sales and exhibitions across Mumbai. The efforts and perseverance of our adults was recognised with work skill certificates, presented to them by Mr.Amit Dalal, Executive Director, Tata Investment Corporation Limited, on 10th April 2023.



The Together Community

Together Foundation was established in 2015. One of its founding objectives was to create a residential project for people with autism to live independently and happily, after the lifetime of their parents. In August 2022, the Foundation launched The Together Community, a residential project, in partnership with Vedaanta Senior Living. Vedaanta Senior Living is a specialist senior care company that manages several communities across South India. Vedaanta will be providing services at The Together Community towards care giving, F&B, housekeeping, security, primary medical facility and overall maintenance, for both special adults and the parents.

Located at Hosur, on the border of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, The Together Community is an integrated space where adults with autism will learn to live independently and continue to live in the community beyond the lifetime of their parents. The Together Community will accommodate thirty-eight families, with independent living for adults with autism and their parents in the same campus. The special adults will live in studio apartments, with the support of caregivers, professionals and house parents. The parents of the special adults will live in the same campus, in individual villas. The campus will consist of infrastructure and amenities to help live a full life: skill development centre, cafeteria serving nutritious meals, community hall, primary health centre, gymnasium, swimming pool, parks, temple etc. This is part of a larger, 45-acre inclusive community known as Sri Shankara Colony at Hosur.

The Together Community will be managed by a team of professionals with the long term involvement and commitment of parents. The parents will be part of the management of the community and take up specific responsibilities for its smooth functioning. A support group has been created to help parents plan the transition of their children to The Together Community in 2025.



"It is a happy talent to know how to play."

Ralph Waldo Emerson

The year was interspersed with celebrations of festivals, an outdoor picnic, movie shows, a visit to the park, lots of friends coming over, nice food to eat, birthday celebrations and taking pictures and videos to help us revisit the nice times we had. We engaged a lot over 'Talktime', a specially created program at Together that helps us to both plan for a new event as well as revisit it after completion. We concluded the year with another specially customised program, 'Phone a friend with autism', that helps our team members to connect with family members over video phone calls.

Board of Trustees:

Prof. Emeritus Dr. Y.K.Amdekar, Dr. Anjali Tendulkar, Ms. Sheela Sinha, Ms. Jayagowri Rangarajan, Sangeetha Chakrapani

Staff:

Vocational Training Coordinator - 1, Special Educators - 2, Consultant Chef – 1, Bakery Operations Assistant - 1, Vocational Assistant – 1, Digital literacy trainer - 1, Data entry operators - 3, Support Staff - 1

Team members:

27 (Students at centre - 24, Students Online - 3)

Our parents:

The parents at Together are always open to exploring new areas of learning for their children. Their support has helped us come this far.

Our donors:

Together Foundation is deeply grateful to all our donors. We are able to reach out to many families, consistently increase the scope of our services, offer internships and pay monthly stipends because of their generosity and support.

Corporates:

Rajni and Ramesh Tendulkar Charitable Trust, TATA Investment Corporation Limited, Give Foundation, Perowshaw Dhujishaw Bolton Charities, Milaap Foundation

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Together Foundation

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Donations to Together Foundation are exempt under section 80G of the Income Tax Act, 1961.