Dear Colleagues, Supporters, and Friends,

It is our great pleasure to summarize progress, challenges, and opportunities that our organization has addressed over the last year. The global pandemic has brought us both deep sorrow and struggle, as it has for everyone across India and across the world, and indeed that loss has been both very personal and very communal. At the same time, over this year we have seen our deep and committed partnerships and alliances across India take root, new ideas flourish, and our partnerships thrive. Our community of change agents across India has grown strong, and we have seen ideas across India translate into action. It has been a year of powerful idea growth, alliance building, and progress, and we invite you to celebrate the gains that have been made with us, while we mourn our losses.

Our vision of a society where everyone, including people with disability, have a valued place, where learning and growth is available to each person, and where all people's gifts and contributions are received and welcomes drives us to work together for change. We are grateful to work alongside each of you to make this vision a reality.

In Partnership

Elizabeth Neuville
Authorized Representative, Keystone Human Services Liaison Office
Director, Keystone Institute India

Our work is made possible through our partnership with the Rural India Supporting Trust, an organization committed to improving the well-being of communities across India.
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1. Who We Are

The Keystone Human Services International, Liaison Office (KHSI LO), India was established to help improve the lives of people with disability across India and to contribute toward a national movement for a more inclusive, just, Indian society where all people are valued and belong. KHSI LO seeks partners and collaborators to work alongside us and with people with developmental and psychosocial disabilities. Together we join a movement of change, and provide opportunities for people to experience home, friends, family, work, and full participation in the community.

KHSI LO provides extensive consultation and education around developing responsive, effective, and inclusive supports to help move toward belonging, acceptance, and a rich community life, especially for people with developmental and psychosocial disability and their families. We develop and prepare emerging leaders to work toward integrated community development instead of segregation. We offer intensive workshops and presentations on promising practices and ideas, consultation, and guidance in implementation strategies. We connect organizations and people throughout India and the world who are doing promising work to assist people with disability to take their place in society. Together, we are working to develop an inclusive society, where all people belong and are invited to participate in all the community has to offer. We believe that diverse and welcoming communities experience the gifts of all their members, and that such communities have much to teach us about how to live in harmony together.

Our community of practice stretches across India, and is comprised of activists, people with disabilities, advocates, family members, and those who are allies alongside vulnerable people. We are committed to learning about and using important and high-level idea sets, such as the principles of Social Role Valorization, as well as person-centered inclusive practice in education, community life, vocation, home, and relationships. We are also committed to putting those ideas into practice.

We work each in collaboration with each: all are both teachers and learners, and we share what seems to work
toward our vision freely. All of us are leaders in our commitment to better lives, whether through formal teaching, implementation, powerful role modeling, or sharing through media and writing. Our commitment to create a better world is one thing we share, along with a belief that our thinking frameworks, such as our core framework of SRV, are good guidance on the path toward such worthy work.

We invite you to share in the vision, the partnership, and the hard work of creating change that brings the good things of life to us all. The work sketched in this report brings to life incremental change actions which we think move the world a fraction closer toward the world we want to create.

World-Class Capacity to Lead Change

Our programs within India are an extension of Keystone Human Services International, an International NGO and 501(c)3 nonprofit organization based in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, USA, established to provide services, programs, technical assistance, and support to improve the lives of people with disability across the globe. KHSI brings with it the management strength of its parent company Keystone Human Services (KHS/Keystone), and a long history and broad array of disability services expertise held within its six Keystone subsidiaries operating throughout four states in the US, the Republic of Moldova, and India, with strong established local presence and knowledge in each region where the organization works.

Keystone has provided consultation and technical assistance to programs in Romania, Azerbaijan, Russia, Kazakhstan, and Belarus, similarly focused on deinstitutionalization, children in difficult situations, and the development of community-based services. These consultancies have provided support to local and national government on the reform of their social care services for people with disability, and to local NGOs implementing related projects. KHSI holds Special Consultative Status with the United Nation’s Economic and Social Council and engages particularly with the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and the High-Level Political Forum.

Keystone provides services to nearly 7000 people in community settings, with a staff contingent of well over 3,000 employees globally and has decades of experience in the design and provision of high-quality community-based services for children and adults with disability and their families.

Keystone began in 1972 with a strong commitment to find community alternatives to the inhumane conditions in segregated institutions for people with psychosocial and intellectual disability. Over the years, the organization has developed a comprehensive array of community-based services for children and adults who are at risk or who have lifelong support needs, including individuals with intellectual disability, autism, mental health challenges, physical disability, and economic vulnerabilities. KHSI furthers this important work by promoting strong community-based human service systems through its own Keystone subsidiary organizations as well as partnerships with aligned NGOs/DPOs and individual international and national consultants focused on the regions where Keystone works.
2. Our Legal Status

Keystone Human Services International Liaison Office is registered with Registrar of Companies, Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Govt of India. Our Foreign Company Registration Number is F06219. We are also registered with Reserve Bank of India with UIN: NDLO17008112. The Permanent Account Number (PAN) of the Company is AAGCK7030B and the Tax Deduction Account Number (TAN) of the Company is DELK17326B.

3. Funding

The work of KHSI LO’s flagship program, Keystone Institute India, is made possible by a grant from the Rural India Supporting Trust (RIST), under the leadership of Managing Director, Shweta Rawat, and Executive Director, Paul Glick. RIST has been a long-standing ally and supporter of Keystone’s work in India and remains deeply engaged in the direction and reach of this work. Keystone and RIST hold a common core set of values when it comes to assisting people with disability to lead dignified lives marked by belonging, freely given relationships, personal growth and richness, and the inclusive society that we are all working towards, together. We are grateful for their support and partnership.
4. Our Mission and Vision

Mission

The Mission of KHSI LO is to create opportunities for growth and meaningful life choices so that all people can be valued, contributing members of their community.

Our Vision

Our vision is that of creating an environment where all people, regardless of background and 'ability', can grow, make choices and be valued and contributing members of our community. In this vision, we see the welfare of all people being vested in the welfare of each individual. We believe that all human life is sacred, having equal and unconditional value. We believe that it is important to recognize and value individual differences and diversity as a means of validating our own uniqueness and affirming the great diversity of the human community. Our services will value, be responsive to and reflect the great diversity of the communities, individuals and families we serve. We will strive to assure that all levels of our organization reflect this diversity. Within our intent is a deep commitment to decrease the dependence of individuals and families on formal services. All that we do should contribute to the strength, independence, community presence and capacity of each individual. When an individual or family does need formal services, those services must be effective and, where appropriate, time limited. Our vision is that of supporting people within their communities, in natural settings such as home, work, neighborhood and school. We believe that we have a deep obligation to serve as a change agent, sharing our experience with others both individually.
and within the public policy and service delivery processes. We believe that it is important to live in an environment where all of us have the opportunity to consider the moral and spiritual aspects of our work. We desire that the many people associated with Keystone will experience their work as a calling and wish to encourage and nurture deep commitments, friendships, nonpaid relationships, and life sharing. In this time of rapid social change, much of what we do encompasses the creation of social forms and structures that have value for all people. We believe that our striving to accept, value, and understand great diversity in human qualities is linked to our role in creating a safer world.

5. Powerful Change through Keystone Institute India’s Education and Consultation Program

Keystone Institute India (KII) was formed as a flagship program of KHSI in 2015 and established our Liaison Office in Delhi. KII is a national training institute focused on creating opportunities for Indian citizens experiencing disability to lead full, rich lives, and be included and valued in the community. The KII program centers its activities on five pillars:

- Establish the Institute as a powerful source of ideas and action towards the full participation and engagement of Indian people with disabilities in everyday life.
- Work closely with partner organizations towards equality, inclusion, and citizenship for all individuals.
- Strengthen and support families and people with disabilities to be in leadership roles in the movement towards an inclusive society.
- Work across numerous disability sectors to become a trusted resource for the exchange of ideas and promising inclusive practices in the areas of home, personal growth, work, relationships, recreation, community and spiritual lives.
- Identify talented change agents and build a national leadership base capable of moving Indian citizens towards a future of promise; the “Good Things of Life” for all Indians, including those with disabilities.

6. Our Involvement, Engagements, and Activities 2020/2021

Growing the Landscape for Full and Rich Lives: The National Training Institute

Keystone Human Services International holds a compelling core set of values when it comes to assisting people with disability to lead dignified lives marked by belonging, freely given relationships, personal
growth and richness. This shared commitment led to the launch of Keystone Institute India in 2015, a values-based national training institute established to facilitate broad-based approaches to elevating the possibilities for people with developmental and psychosocial disability to lead full and rich lives. These first four years have led to real change in not only mindsets and attitudes, but also changes in practices and actions that have changed individual lives and transformed organizations.

Since our inception, the national training institute, Keystone Institute India, has conducted 199 learning events and workshops, touching the minds, hearts, and lives of close well over 7000 participants across nearly all states and approaching nearly 40,000 participant training hours. We teach with an emphasis on understanding the deep societal devaluation experienced by many vulnerable people and the impact of such experience, with the importance of assisting people with disability to hold valued roles in every aspect of life to combat such devaluation. From this framework, we focus on inclusive practice, participatory planning tools, consciousness raising, change agentry, program design, and service evaluation. We have a special interest in developing responsive residential services that are firmly embedded in community, and our faculty have great expertise and experience in such programs.

With the advent of the global pandemic, all events were conducted on-line using a distance format. Highlights of our program include:

- A focus on more advanced materials, building on the skills of our partners and collaborators to apply ideas in practice, utilize seminar formats for learning, and scaffold learning for emerging national content experts.

- An introduction of many new materials and content, including a focus on establishing a base of emerging leaders of inclusive practice in Odisha through our Deepening and Strengthening work alongside the National Trust.
✓ A host of new educators, building on the expertise of in-country allies. 28 new trainers and leaders took on leadership roles at our events this year.

Feedback from events indicates that not only do participants appreciate the world class training events they attend but also note that such events shift their perspectives towards disability in a positive way. We consider this just one way to measure the change happening in the mindsets and attitudes of the people whose lives we touch through our training courses, and the powerful learning around Social Role Valorization principles, person centered approaches, and tools for inclusion.

We have continued to attract many family members and professionals to events and are working towards greater engagement by persons who themselves experience disability.

### Event Participation by Role

![Event Participation by Role](image)

35%  
59%  
3%

- Professional  
- Family Member  
- Person with Disability

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**Establishment and Empowerment of the All-India Social Role Valorization Leadership Network**

The All-India Social Role Valorization Leadership Network was formed this year, with 61 SRV graduates joining the first visioning session. During this session, the vision of the emergence of this group as the vanguard of SRV experts across India was formed. This self-directed, committed group comprises graduates from 3 courses of advanced training, and represent 14 different states and two countries. Three working groups have been highly active, forming practice communities and strategies to move the work forward.
Teaching and Outreach Working Group: This group has created, presented, and recorded 6 refresher courses in SRV theory to the entire AISRV for their review and benefit, building their skills and confidence as trainers and contextualizing the content for Indian audiences, as well, they have created new introductory workshops together which are being translated and offered in the broader community – to families, community members, physicians, and people with disability.

Evaluation and Assessment Working Group: This group has completed a 7-month study and analysis of 42 different program ratings areas and has developed a manual with Indian examples and explanation for the ratings for emerging evaluators.

Writing and Research Working Group: This group has worked to study SRV papers and get SRV into the professional literature. They have conducted and led 4 highly successful study groups on SRV paper with international authors, their members have authored and submitted a chapter for a textbook, and a paper on the impact of Covid 19 on persons with disability was published in a professional journal. Work was started on writing a booklet on Social Role Valorization.

Jhalak झलक – From Theory to Action

Jhalak | झलक first premiered online in December 2019, to offer a glimpse into some of the inspired actions, large and small, taking place across India toward an inclusive Indian society where there is a valued place for everyone, and this year, we are proud to publish the compendium of the work. Over the past four years, thousands of us across India have been exposed to ideas and ways of thinking that are exciting, challenging, and a bit daunting. These idea-sets include the introduction of tools to advance
highly individualized inclusive practices, with the higher-order framework of Social Role Valorization laying the foundation.

Our purpose within Jhalak is to offer a glimpse of some of the ways that people and organizations across India have put the elegantly simple but also paradoxically complex roots of Social Role Valorization to work in transformative ways, even if they are seemingly small steps. Consider it a bit of a curated "clearinghouse" of vision converted to action, of small steps forming the fabric of our movement towards equity, justice, and full, rich, meaningful lives. We encourage all to share and celebrate the work of building this inclusive house.

Jhalak seeks to depict, in words and powerful images, to highlight, inspire, and challenge our community across India.

Jhalak is not just about highlighting the work of those who are learning from our workshops and consultations, but also of showing that the ideas we teach bring authentic transformative change in the lives of people as well as in communities, making the good things of life accessible to all, and facilitating full, rich and meaningful lives. This year, we completed the first published volume of Jhalak, detailing 18 powerful vignettes in print and on-line, in dual languages.

Towards Real Work: Our Initiatives in Supported Employment

It is an indubitable fact that employment can contribute significantly to getting people the good things of life. Employment or work benefits people in myriad ways. Besides giving people a sense of purpose and contribution, work also paves the way for opportunities to enhance confidence, self-worth, dignity, and competency. Work is also a powerful avenue for building relationships, social connections, and social integration. For people with intellectual and developmental disabilities who have historically been excluded from typical life opportunities, work can also be a powerful leveler in the quest for inclusion in the community.

With a vision to drive a national effort at building expertise in employment for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, the Certification Course in Applied Customized Employment was set to roll out in 2020 with Milton Tyree, leading international expert in supported/customized employment strategies, and an associate with Marc Gold & Associates (MG&A), as the Lead Trainer and we anticipated the creation of the first cadre of fully trained core leaders in customized employment by April 2021. Alas, the pandemic made short shrift of those plans. Yet not ones to be browbeaten into dwelling on what could have been, we recognized an opportunity to offer our resources in the form of consultation, guidance and expertise and pilot the application of customized employment strategies closer to home – in the lives of the Community Lives team.
Milton and Leela teamed up with two women with their respective circle of support teams to pursue job development. After an initial round of fortnightly Zoom based trainings in Discovery and Customized Employment led by Milton and supported by Leela, we had a series of individualized, person-centered planning meetings with each woman and her circle of support to explore her interests, conditions, and contributions, work opportunities in the community that fit with her specific interests, skills, and talents, which culminated in a customized employment planning meeting for one of the women that was soon followed by successful employment in a large grocery store in the community. The successful outcome from this process did not just bring warmth and cheer to many a heart, but also has enthused the team to persevere in making employment a reality for the other women in Community Lives. Along the way, we also identified key allies in our customized employment endeavor and developed better cultural understanding of the community.

"I've come to understand how much Bhavena strives to be, and be seen, like everyone else -- learning and doing things that are purposeful and important, having income from work, paying attention to her appearance and being fashionable, having an identity that goes beyond a woman that lives in the group home."

Employment Team Member

A National Curriculum for High-Quality Direct Support Practitioners

Emerging trends in services supporting people with disabilities in India portend a need for a niche, valued profession that people who want a meaningful career can aspire to. We envision Direct Support Practitioners as people who work alongside individuals with developmental disabilities in a wide array of community settings including but not limited to residences, day centers, workplaces, and schools. We believe that the specialized skills required by these people can be taught and learnt through a values-based, robust, high quality, accredited curriculum which can create a highly valued and sought-after workforce that has the caliber to help people with developmental disabilities lead full, rich, and valued lives. This year has marked great progress in this initiative, and we have created the bulk of the training modules, with a pilot launch scheduled for July 2022.

While the pandemic came in the way of our plans to pilot the training program earlier, the vigor and commitment to develop high quality content, identify resource experts to develop content for some modules and help review and whet developed content in others, showed no abatement. Resource experts were identified to develop content for modules on Teaching Competence, Sexuality, Advocacy and Activism, and Family collaboration and contracts drawn, and some module content was revised and improvised based on review from experts. An educationist was hired to assist with putting together resource
content and power points and other related training material into a professional training package that is visually appealing and impactful.

**International Change Agenyry**

We participated in an online side event at the UN Conferences of States Parties (COSP) to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), an event that was co-hosted by Inclusion International, Keystone Human Services, YAI and Validity, and co-sponsored by the World Health Organization and the International Disability Alliance. The theme this year was the impact of COVID-19 on people with intellectual disabilities and their families. The event was a panel discussion for a duration of 1.15 hours and included panelist presentations from panelists from across the globe including Africa, Asia (India), Europe, USA and South America (Colombia). Since the KII team had just written a paper entitled “What’s on the other side? The impact of Covid 19 on organizations serving people with disability across India”, this was timely and an opportunity to draw attention to the ground realities of the pandemic’s impact – both positive and negative – on people with disabilities and their families.

Another important event that we participated in was the Zero Project Conference which has a mission to support the implementation of the CRPD and to work for a world without barriers. The approach of the Zero project is to research and share Innovative Practice and Policies worldwide by engaging with a worldwide cross-sectoral network of innovators, decision-makers and opinion leaders. Each year the Zero Project focuses on one of four topics: Employment, Accessibility, Independent Living and Political Participation and Education. The topic of focus this year was Employment. Keystone Human Services was represented by panelists from Keystone Autism Services, Keystone Moldova and KII. This was a great opportunity to showcase our Customized Employment initiative with Project Community Livelihoods.

Finally, we are thrilled that a host of national leaders have joined the International SRV Association and have increased their voice and participation within this world-class group of SRV experts. Participation in many events over this year have brought together practitioners from across the globe to share best practices. This speaks to the rising expertise and passion around the foundational ideas of Social Role Valorization as a unifying theory of practice.
Community Lives Uttarakhand

Keystone’s commitment to create an inclusive community in which all are included, and all belong means that the practice of institutionalization of marginalized groups into large, congregated facilities must be addressed. We have focused our efforts on creating and supporting community-based alternatives to long-stay shelter homes, government institutions, and mental hospitals. Part of the commitment is providing consultation and training to the many family groups and organizations across India to develop and design high quality residential services, especially for those people who are currently living with aging family members. This is the need of the hour in India, often discussed, and rightfully so.

At the same time, we are compelled to develop alternatives for the untold and uncounted numbers of people with developmental disability already abandoned and relegated to a life of nearly complete segregation in custodial institutions across India.

In 2019, along with our partners at the Hans Foundation, Lehmann Hospital, and the Government of Uttarakhand, we set our sights on developing small community residences for up to eight women to start fresh, new lives after institutionalization at a large, locked shelter home.

Beginning in July of 2019, the planning and hard work led to the establishment of two simple community residences, and the transition of a small number of women into dignified lives in a small town in Uttarakhand. The results have been better than we could have imagined, as we have witnessed the women grow and thrive in untold ways. Rejection and isolation have been replaced with acceptance and belonging shown by welcoming neighbors, new relationships, and a supportive group of staff who assist them on a day-to-day basis.

A project that was started to create exit pathways from an institutional care home and to demonstrate how any person can access the good things of life, has been proceeding with great success this year. So many victories, some disappointments, some changes, all part of the human experience of living in the community. This past year has been pone of growth and maturation for both the Community Lives Program and the women we serve.

Each of the four partners - the Rural India Supporting Trust, the Hans Foundation, the Government of Uttarakhand, and Keystone – can clearly see the success of the program, and we must turn our attention to program replication across India. In fact, 2021 marked the completion of outcomes measurements demonstrating the growth of the women in irrefutable terms.
From independent living skills, to perceived quality of life, to choice and autonomy, to earnings, to integrative activities, and to individualization, steady and even dramatic improvement can be seen and proven. This is powerful data which will drive replication across India.

The women who had lived a life of deprivation, loneliness and difficulty, have now stepped into so many valued roles, that of a mother and an adult daughter, a friend, an employee, a volunteer, a salon user, a worshipper and many more. Taking steps towards these valued roles was not done in isolation, nor was it easy. Once the initial euphoria was over, the struggles of living a life in the community began. For nothing was scripted. The community too was initially wary, and as the women slowly started stepping into roles, that began with neighbor, gardener, person doing exercise, people were watching. The staff who were there to undergird- modelled, urged, guided while the first tentative steps were taken, the women took their fledgling steps. Starting with working for a local business with cleaning chickpeas, one of them now works for the business full time. There is now a small kiosk in the Herbertpur Christian Hospital where the women sell goods they have made to the guests at the hospital as well as hospital staff.

The whole of last year comprised of lockdowns, curfews and restricted movement. However, the women coped, some very well, some with some difficulty. Covid -19 related restrictions had made it difficult for the women to go out. The staff and the women all supported each other.

In the last two years of its running, the Community Lives project can now be called a success. Becoming an integral part of the community and being able to support themselves to a certain extent, the women are on their way to access the good things of life. They have taken their rightful place in society, of which they are a part of, and stepping slowly and surely into valued social roles.

This single small effort will be built upon as we share the learning, explore and pilot other types of living arrangements, and establish ways to divert funds from institutions to community living as a real, sustainable way to change the current realities. In fact, the success of the Community Lives program has led to negotiations to establish a Family Reunification Project for the men and men at two government institutional facilities in Uttarakhand.
Leveraging Change through Alliances

Last year, Keystone Human Services International signed a three-year Memorandum of Understanding with National Trust. The salient features of this MoU between KHSI and National Trust include working together for the welfare of people with autism, cerebral palsy, intellectual disability, and multiple disabilities in India; working together to implement disability-related projects under the guidance of National Trust; and providing assistance in organizing series of trainings, workshops, and technical support activities to NGOs who partner with the National Trust in implementing the schemes covered under the National Trust Act, 1995. Additionally, Keystone will be conducting National/State Level workshops in collaboration and consultation with National Trust on issues of concern related to disability. As support to the Government’s Sampark Scheme to for disaster relief, 4 sessions were offered to leaders from across Odisha, organized by partners CATCH Bhubaneswar and Open Learning Systems, attended by 80 professionals, family members and persons with disability.

This year, we entered into a new alliance with the University of Lucknow, to assist them to develop and launch a disabilities studies program, signing a 3-year MoU to advance inclusive practice through a post-graduate course on disability studies, launching in 2021. This work will roll out over the next 12 months, creating campus awareness raising on the inclusion of people with disability as well as contributing to course content and materials.
7. Our Staff and Associate Faculty

Ms. Elizabeth “Betsy” Neuville  
Director

Dr. Narendra Sharma  
In Memoriam  
Associate Director

Ms. Geeta Mondol  
Program Specialist  
Project Leader

Ms. Leela Raj  
Project Leader  
Supported Employment

Mr. Suhail Ansari  
Administrative Assistant  
Business Processes

Ms. Shalini Ekka  
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Program Processes

We are supported and assisted by a host of Associate Faculty and Expert Consultants from across India who contribute to our vision and mission.

Dr. Neelam Sodhi, Associate Faculty
Ms. Arpita Yadav, Associate Faculty
Mr. Raaj Mondol, Translation Support
Dr. Nidhi Singal, Associate Faculty and Outcomes Data
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8. Contact Information

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