

## Press Note: World Autism Awareness Day

On 8<sup>th</sup> April 2011 students of Tamana with students of Chinmaya Vidyalaya, Tagore International School -Vasant Vihar, Spring Dales- Dhaula Kuan, Guru Harkishan Public school- Vasant Vihar, Lalit Mahajan School, Upas Vidyalaya & D.P.S.R.K.Puram will take part in an **inclusive** walk to celebrate **World Autism Awareness Day**. They will walk together from Tamana Autism centre School of Hope upto Priya Complex where Tamana Teachers will perform 'Nukkad Natak'to create awareness about Autism to sensitize the students and also the general public about autism. The walk will be flagged off at 9.45 a.m. by Mrs Bharkha Singh, the Local MLA of Delhi Vidhan Sabha. The walk for autism is supported by Coca Cola India.

Tamana, a non Profit Voluntary Organization established in 1984, is working with children & adults with autism spectrum disorder & multiple disabilities. It is pioneer institute to identify & work in the field of Autism. Dr. Shayama Chona ,President Tamana who is a great visionary and well known educationist and winner of many prestigious awards, has joined hands to strengthen this Worldwide movement. Due to her vision Tamana has embarked on a mission to create autism awareness in students in mainstream schools by giving them opportunity to be with them and understand them by working together on regular basis. Throughout the year, the students from different mainstream schools come & work with them in extra curricular activities. Tamana organizes yearly International Conferences & Workshops to be updated on current issues on autism which is widely attended by the participants from different states of India & neighbouring countries.

Autism is complex developmental disorder that typically appears during the first 3 years of life and is the result of a neurological disorder that affects the normal functioning ,impacting development in the areas of social interaction & communication skills. Some facts about autism are:

- Autism affects as many as 1 in 150 children and 1 in 94 boys.
- Autism is the fastest growing serious developmental disability in the world.
- More children will be diagnosed with autism this year than diabetes, cancer & AIDS combined.
- Boys are four times more likely than girls to have autism.
- There is no Medical detection or cure for autism. Early diagnosis& intervention improve outcomes & on going intervention improves the life of Autistics.
- Autism does not discriminate by geography, class or ethnicity.

On 19<sup>th</sup> Nov. 2007, The United Nations declared 2<sup>nd</sup> April as World Autism Awareness Day (WAAD). This is a historical marker for the community throughout the world, a large section of which till today remains invisible & outside the ambit of basic services suited to their needs.