



The APD Horticulture Department

Cultivating Abilities, Sustaining Inclusive Growth... through Horticulture

Nature and plant life in particular are therapeutic. Plants have always been a source of nourishment for us. If we feel deeper, they nourish our soul too. Horticulture offers a sensory experience to people with disabilities (PwDs) that soothes & builds them at the same time. The touch of soil, the rhythm of planting and the joy of growth nurtures their psyche, trains their motor skills and solidifies their sense of self-worth. Besides these benefits, it provides them a source of livelihood offering them more confidence.

In the late 1980s, APD recognised the need for meaningful employment for PwDs particularly for those from disadvantaged backgrounds with limited education. Incidentally, our founder N.S. Hema had come across the idea of horticulture as therapy for PwDs in a 1981 article by Chris Underhill in an Oxfam publication. The article was convincing enough for her to try out the idea and plant the first seeds in a plot in Lingarajapuram. Local support grew while our gardener Sidhlingappa cared for the new plants.

WHO WE WORK WITH



Within the next two years key members of APD, Peter Macfadyen, Antony Sada and D.M. Naidu designed a structured six-month training programme for PwDs to learn about Horticulture and take it up as a profession. Soon local and international volunteers enriched the programme with their expertise and resources. It has now become a transformative programme that makes us feel fulfilled and proud.



Offerings of the Program

- Three-month training programme for youth with disabilities across Karnataka and neighbouring states.
 - It offers both hands-on and theoretical learning.
 - Includes gardening workshops on topics such as orchid culture held for the public.
- Sale of plants at our campuses.
- Annual garden maintenance by our gardeners for offices, apartments, and homes. This year's largest landscaping project was a design consultancy at the St. John's Geriatric Centre at the St John's Medical College and Hospital, Bengaluru.
- Landscaping services for homes, corporates, and hotels, including theme gardens, balcony gardens, and lawn culture.
- Plant décor, plant rentals and plant maintenance services to companies. We have served brands like HDFC Bank and SAP Labs.
- We make available a range of garden products, equipment, and supply plants through vendor tie-ups.
- Engagement on weekends with
 - corporate communities through stalls and events
 - plant stalls at apartments
- Garden fairs to promote environmental awareness and inclusion.
- Special workshops as a part of the various campus events on Orchid, Kitchen and terrace Gardening
- CSR volunteering opportunities for corporates, youth, and school children.
- Plants for Corporate Gifting to employees and clients as a part of corporate events and celebrations

Our Clientele

Our clients are our clients since they believe in our cause of providing livelihoods, empowering persons with disabilities and enabling them to lead independent lives while nurturing the environment.

Our clients range from housewives, corporates, NGOs, architects, builders, and the larger community. Besides solidifying with our cause, they enjoy our offer of a wide variety of exotic flowering, ornamental and medicinal plants.



Our Verdant Campuses

Khyallasanahalli: Spanning over five acres, the campus serves as a centre for plant cultivation and gardening. It offers 400 varieties of plants for sale. The campus's pleasant ambience serves as an excellent venue for group outings and CSR volunteering activities.

Jeevan Bima Nagar: A dedicated plant nursery and product sales centre.

Lingarajapuram Campus: Another centre for plant nursery and product sales. State-run Home for women by DWCD at Hombegowda Nagar.



Horticulture Training and Therapy at State-Run Homes for Women

Since 2023, we have been empowering residents of state-run homes established by the Department of Women and Child Development [DWCD] through our Inclusive Sustainable Horticulture Centre. It provides horticultural training and ecotherapy to people with intellectual disabilities, vulnerable women, and rescued children. Across six homes, beneficiaries learn vegetable cultivation, composting and garden maintenance – growing easy-to-cultivate common vegetables and fruits such as dragon fruit and papaya. Our ecotherapy activities designed to enhance well-being include exercises, memory games, painting, and music. For example, vermicomposting and environmental education foster a sense of self-sufficiency and sustainability in the participants.

World Environment Day
in June at Jeevan Bima Nagar

Monsoon Mela
in September at Kyallasanahalli

Annual Garden Fair
in December at both Kyallasanahalli and Jeevan Bima Nagar

Christmas Fair
in December at Lingarajapuram

How You Can Contribute

- Become an APD ambassador to spread the word about our cause; bring our plants into your home and office.
- Refer institutions, apartments, and corporates to us.
- Volunteer your time, knowledge, resources, and skills in training our students and staff.
- Assist us with outdoor events, promotion, and marketing activities.
- Support us through donations to help strengthen and expand our initiatives.
- Contact us on contact@apd-india.org

Testimonials

C.B. Suresh (a trainer at our Horticulture Training Centre): From Trainee to Mentor
Once a trainee in our free Horticulture Training Programme, C.B. Suresh is now a skilled trainer having empowered over 1,000 individuals with disabilities. His journey, from mastering grafting to mentoring others, truly embodies our mission to equip, enable and empower, proving horticulture's life-changing impact.



Vanaja (resident at the Inclusive Sustainable Horticulture Centre): Finding Purpose Through Horticulture
Arriving at the state home ill and in despair, Vanaja found solace in horticulture. As her garden flourished, so did her confidence. Now a mentor, she inspires others and reiterates that even in life's darkest moments, finding meaning is possible through the healing power of nature.



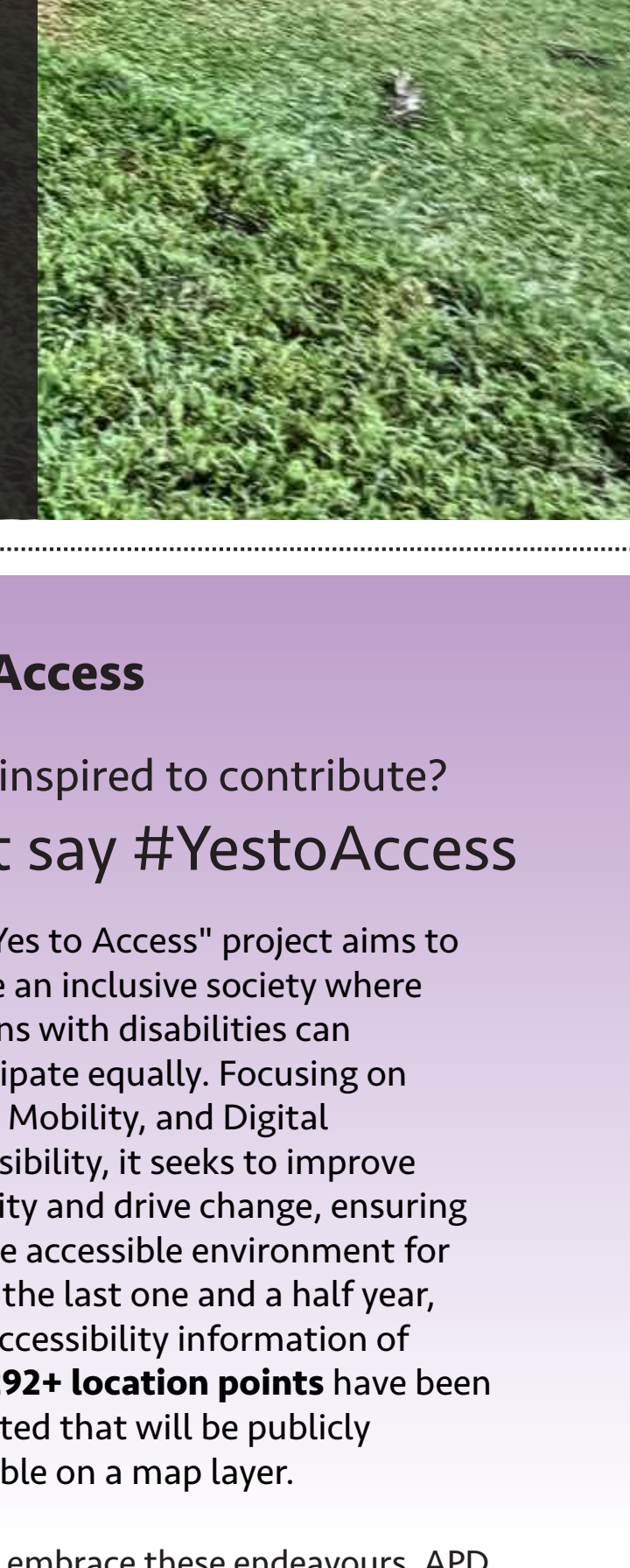
Mr. Raja Peter's (a client of our landscaping and garden maintenance services) appreciation of APD's Horticulture Department
"I am extremely happy with the outstanding work done by the APD Gardening team lead by Mr. Raju including Gurusamy and Sunil. They tirelessly worked for 2 full days and completely transformed our garden. The old plants were removed, lawn grass was changed, and the end result is so beautiful and gratifying! The attention to every detail and the focused efforts made all the difference!
A big thank you from my wife and me!



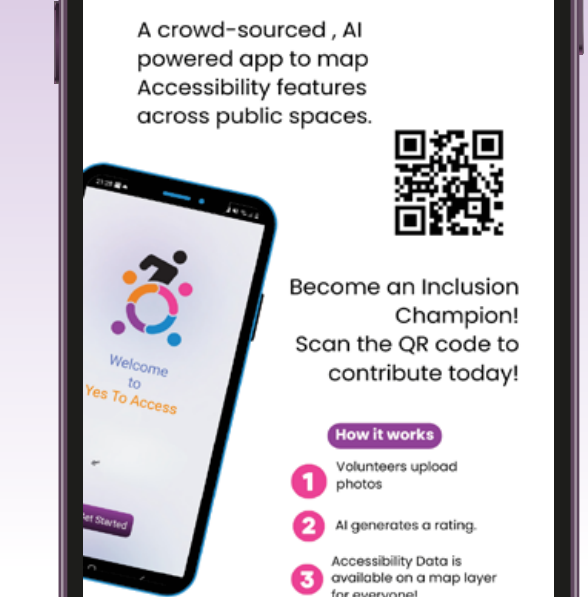
The Glory of the Garden by Rudyard Kipling

Our England is a garden, and such gardens are not made
By singing:—"Oh, how beautiful!" and sitting in the shade,
While better men than we go out and start their working lives
At grubbing weeds from gravel-paths with broken dinner-knives.
There's not a pair of legs so thin, there's not a head so thick,
There's not a hand so weak and white, nor yet a heart so sick
But it can find some needful job that's crying to be done,
For the Glory of the Garden glorifieth everyone.
Then seek your job with thankfulness and work till further orders,
If it's only netting strawberries or killing slugs on borders;
And when your back stops aching and your hands begin to harden,
You will find yourself a partner in the Glory of the Garden.
Oh, Adam was a gardener, and God who made him sees
That half a proper gardener's work is done upon his knees,
So when your work is finished, you can wash your hands and pray
For the Glory of the Garden, that it may not pass away!

"The Glory of the Garden glorifieth everyone" – Kipling's words echo across our campuses, where the soil is more than ground; it's a source of dignity, skill, and healing for persons with disabilities.



Say Yes To Access



Feel inspired to contribute?

Just say **#YestoAccess**

The "Yes to Access" project aims to create an inclusive society where persons with disabilities can participate equally. Focusing on Built, Mobility, and Digital Accessibility, it seeks to improve visibility and drive change, ensuring a more accessible environment for all. In the last one and a half year, The Accessibility information of **1,78,292+ location points** have been collected that will be publicly available on a map layer.

As we embrace these endeavours, APD remains committed to creating an inclusive and accessible society for all.