Dr. Alok Kumar Bhuwan

Social Entrepreneur · Scientist · Disability Rights Leader

Founder & Managing Secretary, Manovikas Charitable Society, New Delhi

alok@manovikas.family | +91 99908 07772 (WhatsApp) | alokbhuwan.org

PROFILE

Social entrepreneur and scientist with three decades of work in inclusive education, skills and employment, and rights-based advocacy for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and neurodiversity in India. Founder of Manovikas Charitable Society (1997), which has reached more than 11.65 lakh stakeholders across 21 states. Architect of Think College, a higher-education pathway for students with IDD, and a leading voice for self-advocacy under the principle "Nothing About Us, Without Us". Holds a PhD in Special Education, with professional training in special education, vocational rehabilitation and mass communication.

IMPACT AT A GLANCE

1997	11.65 L+	21	50+	1.51 L+	2,050+
founded Manovikas	stakeholders reached	states	scientific works	reached in COVID-19	volunteers

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

1997 – present — **Founder & Managing Secretary, Manovikas Charitable Society, New Delhi**

- Built a grassroots rehabilitation centre into a national organisation running about 30 programmes and 7 schools, supported by 2,050+ volunteers and 150+ experts.
- Leads the three flagship initiatives: Think College (higher education for students with IDD), Aarambh (family-centred early intervention) and Self-Advocacy (leadership and rights literacy), with persons with IDD on the governing board.
- Founded Aarambh with the National Trust (2016), a family-centred early-intervention centre with a modern sensory-integration unit.
- Set up a community college with IGNOU for persons with IDD (2020), focused on skills and employment; Coordinator, IGNOU Special Study Centre 29009D.
- Launched the SACHETAN and MASHAVARA tele-rehabilitation platforms during the COVID-19 pandemic, reaching 1,51,270+ people.
- Signed an academic and research MoU with Jamia Millia Islamia (2025) covering joint research, PhD co-guidance, training and internships.

Present — **Director, Manovikas Institute for Higher Education**

Present — **Founder Director, Federation of Vocational Rehabilitation Professionals (FVRP)**

Sep 1997 – Jun 1998 — **Coordinator, Vocational Training, Amar Jyoti Rehabilitation & Research Centre, Delhi**

Under Dr. Uma Tuli. Ran workshops on vocational training and income generation; presented a paper on technology and employment for persons with intellectual disability at the XI National Seminar, Gwalior (1998).

Oct 1996 – Sep 1997 — **Coordinator & Head, Vocational Training and Placement, Deepalaya Institute for Mental Health & Rehabilitation, Purnea**

Earlier Secretary (voluntary), 1991–95, and district coordinator of the National Environment Awareness Campaign, 1993–95.

EDUCATION

PhD in Special Education

2018 — **Advanced Certificate Course in Inclusive Education (Cross Disability), NIEPMD, Chennai**

Examination of the National Board of Examination in Rehabilitation (RCI)

2013	**M.Ed. Special Education (Hearing Impairment), Osmania University, Hyderabad**
2010	**B.Ed. Special Education (Hearing Impairment), MP Bhoj (Open) University with RCI** *First Division*
1996	**Diploma in Vocational Training & Employment (Mental Retardation), NIMH (now NIEPID), Secunderabad** *Passed with Distinction. Trained under Dr. D.K. Menon and Dr. Reeta Peshawaria Menon*
1992 – 93	**Diploma in Mass Communication & Journalism, Indian University of Mass Communication & Journalism, Jabalpur** *First Division*

INTERNATIONAL EXPOSURE & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

2019	**Presented India's Vedic Music & Dance Therapy Programme at the International Dance Council (CID), UNESCO, Paris**
15 Oct – 30 Nov 2001	**Exchange Programme on Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment of Persons with Disabilities, Japan Association for Employment of Persons with Disabilities, Tokyo** *Represented India; felicitated by the President of India, Shri K.R. Narayanan (letter of 12 Sep 2001)*
2022	**UGC short-term programme, "NEP-2020: Serving Students with Disabilities in Distance, Online and Blended Learning", IGNOU STRIDE** *Grade A+*
2012	**Participatory Project Planning and Resource Management for NGOs, NIRD North Eastern Regional Centre, Guwahati**
2013 onward	**Partners in Employment (Partners in Policymaking, Minnesota Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities); Autism Society of America online course; Azim Premji University course on designing effective learning**

RESEARCH & PUBLICATIONS

- 50+ scientific works on intellectual disability, inclusive education, transition and self-advocacy. Selected recent works:
  - "Barriers and Enablers of Self-Advocacy among Indian Adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities: A Mixed-Methods Inquiry", International Journal of Modern Science and Research Technology (2025).
  - Ethics and Inclusion: A Practical Workbook for Integrating Values in Schools (Manovikas, 2025).
  - "Developing Self-Determination Skills among Students with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Attending the Inclusive Schools in Delhi" (2022).
  - Editor, Legacies of Impact (Manovikas, 2024), designed by self-advocate Shubham and unveiled by Dr. Kiran Bedi.
- Developed the SDS-IDD, a self-determination scale for persons with IDD (reliability $\alpha = 0.86$), and a Self-Advocacy Curriculum (doctoral research).
- Contributor, WHO ICD-11 field studies, as a member of the WHO Global Clinical Practice Network (GCPN), 2014.
- Research project for Dalmia Industries Ltd. on community health development of persons with intellectual disability (1999), formally appreciated by the company.

ADVISORY, ACADEMIC & EXPERT ROLES

2026	**Academic expert invitee, Board of Studies, Shri Khushal Das University**
2024	**Resource person, 5-day hands-on Cross Disability Training, SCERT Delhi (Samagra Shiksha, Inclusive Education)**
2019	**Session Chair, International Conference on Early Childhood Development for Children with Intellectual Disabilities, Amity University and Special Olympics Bharat**
2019	**Guest speaker, Seminar on CSR for Persons with Disability, National CSR Network and GMR Varalakshmi Foundation**
2017	**Resource person, National Conference on Vocational Rehabilitation and Economic Inclusion, NCDS IGNOU and NHFDC**

2015	**Member, committee on a Professional Skill Development cum Vocational Training Centre, Pt. Deendayal Upadhyaya National Institute for Persons with Physical Disabilities**
2014	**External examiner, B.Ed. (MR), Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University**
2013	**Empanelled consultant, Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights (DCPCR)**
2011	**Resource person, RCI NAVSHIKHAR (EDUSAT) teleconference; Chairperson/Speaker, RCI National Workshop on Quality Assurance in Distance Education**
2006	**Speaker, Symposium on ADHD, Centre for Child Health, Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, with IAP Delhi**
1999	**Resource person, RCI Bridge Course in Locomotor Disability, Akshay Pratishthan**

Also a resource person for teacher and student workshops, including Sri Guru Gobind Singh College of Commerce, DU (2016), Amity Institute of Rehabilitation Sciences (2015) and G.D. Goenka Public School (2024).

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

2026	**Professional Excellence Award, ARPP with CRC Lucknow (National Conference on Cross Disability Approach towards Inclusive Education)**
2025	**Sabal Saathi, 5th Sabal Awards, Tata Steel Foundation (Certificate of Acknowledgement)**
2024	**10th National Gaurav Award, Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi**
2023	**Bihar Gaurav Award, 23rd Bihar Award Ceremony, Patna (Samarpan and Bihar Disabled Sports Academy)**
2023	**9th Delhi Gaurav Award, Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi**
2021	**Rashtriya Prerna Doot Award, Best Social Worker**
2014	**SPANDAN Award, Best Individual (Professional), National Trust, Govt. of India (award year 2013–14)**
2014	**SKOCH Order of Merit**
2014	**Honour, Sri Ramanujam Trust, Chennai**
2009	**Certificate of Excellence, NCPCR and Udayan Care**
1993	**"Vishisht Yuva Karyakarta" honour, Nehru Yuva Kendra, Purnea**
1988	**Second prize (Energy), District Science Exhibition, Purnea**

Appreciations: President of India, Shri K.R. Narayanan (2001); Dr. Uma Tuli, Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities (2003); Prime Minister of India (2016); Office of the Union Minister of Road Transport & Highways (2015); goodwill message from Smt. Sheila Dikshit, Chief Minister of Delhi, on Manovikas's first decade (2006).

MEMBERSHIPS

- Member, WHO Global Clinical Practice Network (GCPN).
- Member, International Dance Council (CID), UNESCO, Paris (2019); Manovikas is an institutional member (Reg. 28089).

MEDIA

- Quoted by IANS on understanding children with intellectual disabilities (Nov 2020), carried by The Tribune, NewsGram and Telangana Today.
- Broadcast talks on All India Radio, Doordarshan, and other TV shows since 1995.

LEGACY INITIATIVES

- Deenbandhu Lectures, in honour of his father, Vaidya Pandit Kailash Mishra "Deenbandhu".
- Annual Vikram Dutt Memorial Lecture (every 5 March, since 2024) and Memorial Fund.
- Co-organiser, Reeta Peshawaria Oration Award (relaunched 2023).