

RUMA ROKA

Ruma Roka is the founder and prime driver of Noida Deaf Society (NDS). A not-for-profit society working for the upliftment and empowerment of Speech and Hearing Impaired (SHI) Children and Youth through quality education and job-aligned vocational trainings leading to sustainable employment opportunities in the formal industry.

Having done her schooling from Loreto Convent, Simla and Delhi Public School R.K. Puram along with Graduation from Delhi University, she has no family members who are Deaf and her motive to work for the upliftment of Deaf people has been purely altruistic with the aim of bringing change in the lives of Deaf children who are severely marginalized. She embarked upon this journey in 2004 by learning Indian Sign Language.

NDS started in 2005 with 5 students and Ruma as the only trainer, today, NDS has 70% Deaf Trainers and Managers who along with their non- deaf counterparts who are taking responsibility for the growth of NDS and are the harbingers of change in the community.

NDS has seven Training Centers in four states.; today NDS has impacted over 70,000 direct and indirect beneficiaries so far, which includes teachers, students, parents and corporate houses.

A well-respected figure in the disability sector, Ruma has been recognized both from Govt and private institutions over the years.

Some of her awards and recognitions are mentioned below:

RECOGNITION & AWARDS

- Rex Karmaveer Global Fellowship & Karmaveer Chakra Award (2023-2024)
- Lions Subhash Lakhotia Service Award 2024 – For best Skill Development for Employment
- National Exemplar Award by Tech Mahindra Foundation, 2023
- Rashtra Bhushan Award, 2023 – Samaj Kalyan Federation Of India
- The Soch India Award 2023
- Shell Helen Keller Award, 2022 – National Centre for Promotion of Employment of Disabled Person – LT Mindtree
- State Award for the Empowerment of Persons with Disability, 2019 - Government of Uttar Pradesh
- Grant Thornton's Social and Business Enterprise Responsible Award (SABERA)", 2019 – Grant Thornton India
- Amazing Indian Awards for Educator of India -Times now, from Hon'ble Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi Category- 2016
- 100 Women Achievers Award under the Disabled and Disadvantaged Category, 2016 - Ministry of Child & Women Development, Hon'ble Mr Pranab Mukherjee
- Stree Shakti Samman Award, 2015 - Stree Shakti Parallel Force
- National Women Excellence Award, 2013 - WIN, Womens International Network
- Super Idol Award, 2010 - IBN7, Bajaj Allianz
- Shell Helen Keller Award, 2008 - National Centre for Promotion of Disabled People