



**“We have but two ears and one mouth so that we may listen twice as much as we speak”**

**- Thomas Alva Edison**

Man is by nature a social animal; the ability to hear bestows the connectivity that is vital to form a society for the social animal. Imagine a day without hearing ability, life would transits from sanguine listening to abysmal silence. I wonder, if it is a coincidence or an evidence that LISTEN and SILENT both made up of same letters.

Every year 03<sup>rd</sup> March is observed as “World Hearing Day” by the United Nations to raise awareness on how to prevent deafness and hearing loss and to promote hearing care. The day is also a stark reminder of how far we in India need to go in meeting the needs of the hearing-impaired.

The story of Archana: A kid who received a letter of appreciation from Ex-HRD Minister Smriti Irani, for her outstanding performance in CBSE exams. In a family of 3 children with hearing impairment her achievement is remarkable. Anita and Anil, siblings of Archana are also turning out to be exceptional drum players at their level without letting their disability to be a barrier in their growth. The 3 kids are an epitome, how schools with inclusive education could bring a ray of hope and miracles in the life of hearing-impaired.

Timely check-up of hearing ability by an Audiologist or an ENT doctor will safeguard from mishaps. The same is mandatory for new-born children as they are vulnerable and early identification of hearing loss can prevent further disabilities. Apps such as “HearWHO” by WHO can also help the adults to do a self-check-up of their hearing from time to time.

This year the theme of World Hearing Day is “Hearing care for all”. As the theme suggests, schemes such as ADIP, DDRS, Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana are doing its best for the needy to acquire hearing devices without socio-economic hardships.

The scope of theme “Hearing care for all” is wider than that of providing hearing aids. As Helen Keller rightly said, “Blindness separates people from things; deafness separates people from people”. The theme rounds off when it attains inclusion of hearing-impaired in the society. Nevertheless, the need of the hour, is to have more and more schools with inclusive education.



This World Hearing Day on 03<sup>rd</sup> March 2021, WHO is going to launch the “World Report on Hearing” for the prevention of deafness and hearing loss. Across race, religion, caste and borders the report presents a global call for action to address hearing loss and ear diseases. The report also covers the Sustainable Development Goals of UN in the lives of hearing-impaired such as

1. Ending poverty
2. Ensuring healthy lives
3. Improving chances for education
4. Promoting employment opportunities

Let us hope the report will kick-start global collaboration and provide guidance to States for making ear and hearing care accessible to all. Remember, “Taking care of ears is better than taking treatment for ears”. In day-to-day life, use earplugs around loud noises, keep your ears dry, get regular check-ups, and take medications only as directed. All these can preserve your ears & hearing ability. Happy World Hearing Day 2021.

- By,  
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