

SPECIAL OLYMPICS CLINICAL DIRECTOR TRAINING PROGRAM, NEW

DELHI, 16.11.2019-17.11.2019



Special Olympics is the world's largest sports organization for children and adults with intellectual disabilities and physical disabilities, providing year-round training and competitions to 5 million athletes and Unified Sports partners in 172 countries. **Special Olympics Bharat** is an officially recognised programme of Special Olympics International which operates in India. It was founded in 1987. **Special Olympics Unified Sports®** is an inclusive sports program that combines an approximately equal number of **Special Olympics** athletes (individuals with intellectual disabilities) and partners (individuals without intellectual disabilities) on teams for training and competition.

There are 8 domains which cater to the over-all health of an athlete enabling him/her to fare better in sports. The domains include:

- Fit Feet (podiatry)
- FUNfitness (physical therapy)
- Health Promotion (better health and well-being)
- Healthy Hearing (audiology)
- MedFest (sports physical exam)
- Special Olympics-Lions Clubs International Opening Eyes (vision)
- **Special Smiles (Dentistry)**
- Strong Minds (emotional well-being)

I had the privilege of being chosen as a Clinical Director from Karnataka State. A 2-day training workshop was conducted to equip us to lead screening and treatment camps further on. It was a power-packed, enriching experience to have undergone training under the leadership of Dr Reena Kumar, Secretary, International Association of Disability & Oral Health, India Chapter and Regional Clinical Advisor, Special Olympics Bharath. The workshop was in Delhi which had participants from other states like Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Jharkhand, Bihar, Gujarat, Jammu and Kashmir, West Bengal, Goa, etc. We were taught how to set up screening stations, recruit volunteers to run the screening camp, logistic management, fund raising through sponsors to run the program.

Our journey with special Olympics in FDS began last year where we conducted a screening camp in the Department of Pedodontics and Preventive Dentistry on 18.07.2018 and 19.07.2018 for athletes from 6 special schools as a part of Special Olympics, Bangalore Chapter.

Upcoming events: National cricket sport event in which over 1000 athletes will be participating. A screening camp is scheduled in Manipal in January for the same. I will be conducting the screening camp as a Clinical Director.



