



International Society For
Augmentative And Alternative Communication

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR AUGMENTATIVE AND ALTERNATIVE COMMUNICATION

ISAAC INDIA

Newsletter

2024- ISSUE 2
AUGUST 2024

VISION

AAC will be
recognized, valued and
used throughout the
world

MISSION

To promote the best
possible
Communication for
people with complex
communication need



International Society For
Augmentative And Alternative Communication

In this newsletter you will find:

- ❓ From the Desk of ISAAC India Chapter (Page 1 & 2)
- ❓ From the Desk of ISAAC (Page 3 to 5)
- ❓ Conferences & webinar details (Page 6)
- ❓ Puzzle Time (Page 7)
- ❓ Hear it from the AAC User (Page 8 to 10)
- ❓ Comic Time (Page 11)
- ❓ Note (Page 12)
- ❓ About ISAAC India Chapter & it's membership (Page 13)
- ❓ ISAAC India Chapter Office Bearers (Page 14)
- ❓ ISAAC India Subcommittees & In-charges (Page 15)



From the Desk of ISAAC India Chapter



I would like to wish the Isaac India chapter's newsletter all the very best. Having a newsletter of our own is a big achievement.

Isaac India chapter is a collective of diverse people from all over India. But they have one thing in common-a strong belief that everyone needs to communicate.

There are professionals, parents and AAC users out in the community who also believe that communication is the one most important facet of life-but may not have access to the tools and expertise that make AAC possible.

It is up to ISAAC India Chapter, not only to spread awareness, but also make it possible for people to access information about AAC. And what better way to do that than a newsletter from the Isaac India desk?

Congratulations to the editorial team to have made that possible.

Regards

Rajul Padmanabhan

Vice President - ISAAC India

From the Desk of ISAAC India Chapter



Dear Readers,

I am proud to be associated with ISAAC and ISAAC-India Chapter. Its a significant initiative by younger and dynamic members like Dr Vineetha Sara Philip, Dr. Amulya P Rao, Dr. Krupa Murugesan, under the able guidance of senior members like Dr Sudha Kaul, Ms. Kalpana Botta, Ms. Rajul Padmanabhan, and Dr. Ajish Abraham, among others, listed elsewhere. I appeal to all of you to support and encourage the multidisciplinary multi talented team.

I am delighted to congratulate Dr. Usha Dalvi of being elected as Vice President without portfolio (2024-2026) of ISAAC Executive Board.

AAC is a beautiful and successful pathway leading to the world of 'A ll are A ble to C ommunicate'. So, let us all join in this journey of the needy persons with difficulty in communication to reach this destination and make them able to communicate.

Best wishes
Prof. Rangasayee
Patron - ISAAC India Chapter

From the Desk of ISAAC



President of ISAAC International

Greetings to all members of ISAAC India! I am so pleased to be able to share this message with you all with congratulations on producing this newsletter which aims to reach out and enhance AAC awareness. ISAAC India has been a long-standing chapter of ISAAC and has contributed much to the field and the organization. I thank you for your continued dedication to the vision and mission of ISAAC!

I want to highlight an important event happening in 2024. Feel the “Vibes of AAC” – what does that mean? It’s the feeling we have when we are with our people: people who use AAC and people who support AAC in practice, research and life. ISAAC members are so passionate about AAC. It feels incredible to be together with like-minded people and our community of AAC supporters to feel the “vibes,” the energy and electricity we create together. We gather to celebrate this amazing and ever-growing field to keep up with the advances in technology and to learn how to best support folks who rely on AAC either full- or part-time.

I share this sentiment developed by the ISAAC LEAD committee because it is the theme of AAC Awareness Month in October 2024. Also in October, we are celebrating these “vibes” with our next virtual conference focusing on this same theme, “Vibes of AAC.”



From the Desk of ISAAC

We have learned from ISAAC Connect in 2021 and received much feedback about the benefits of connecting virtually. This venue will give folks who are not able to travel to conferences for various reasons a better opportunity to participate in the sessions and hearty conversations.

So don't miss out on the Vibes of AAC Virtual Event happening in October to highlight AAC Awareness Month. It will be the preeminent AAC Conference for 2024, not to be missed. Registration is open and there is an early bird rate in effect. Speakers will include people who use AAC, researchers, practitioners, educators, families, sponsors, and more. There will be panels, discussions, and plenty of ways to get involved and participate. I don't want to name drop, but here is the list for you to take a look at on the website when you visit to register.

Also of note is that we have representation on this conference committee from Canada, USA, Israel, Italy, Spain, Norway, and Singapore all working together to develop a strong, diverse, international and exciting program. I hope to see you there.

The last several years have been tricky around the world for so many reasons but in July of 2023 ISAAC gathered for the first time in 5 years, in Mexico. I share this with you this photo of the many ISAAC Presidents who attended and have tirelessly supported and lead ISAAC through some rough waters. It was lovely to be able to get this group of Presidents together pictured below in order of terms.



From the Desk of ISAAC



Gregor Renner (2015- 2018), Meredith Allan (2018 – 2020), Juan Bornman (2020 – 2022), Tracy Shepherd (2022- 2024), Yonit Hagoel-Karnieli (2024 – 2026)

I continue to be amazed by the work that the ISAAC community can accomplish as a primarily volunteer-driven organization. I want to thank all of you for your continued support; we are all so busy with our daily lives, yet we find time to share and contribute to this organization. Thank you for what you do individually to keep ISAAC moving toward our vision that AAC will be recognized, valued and used throughout the world.

Please know that your support and contributions do not go unnoticed. Each hour you dedicate, every smile you share, every ounce of effort you invest and your dedicated membership makes such a difference.

- Tracy Shepherd

CONFERENCE AND WEBINAR DETAILS

Some recommendations of the Conference include

- “Enhancing Rehabilitation through Augmentative and Alternative Communication” (RCI CRE Online mode) - Organised by AYJNISHD (D) Regional Centre, Secunderabad on 27th August 2024
- EMPOWER 2024 - 17th to 19th October 2024 at National Institute of Speech and Hearing, Trivandrum (<https://www.empower24.in>)
- Seminar on “Augmentative and Alternative Communication: Understanding and Implementation of Alternative Communication Methods” by JSS Institute of Speech and Hearing, Mysuru, in the Last week of October 2024
(For more details: jssishmys@rediffmail.com)

PUZZLE TIME



DECODE A FACT ON AAC

YYL XD CTJ YEA QOADTE

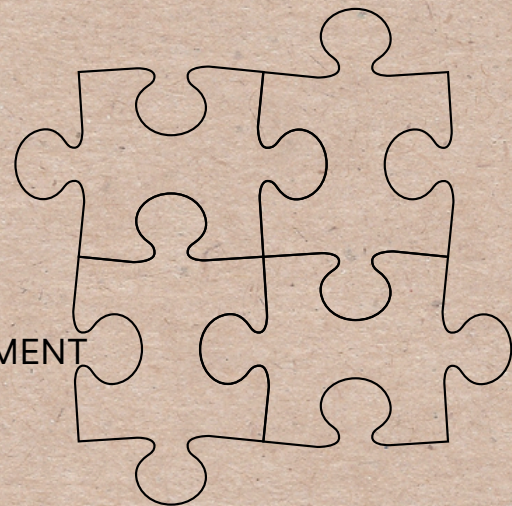
JOKYJRBODD TC YKO TJ KOEROJ

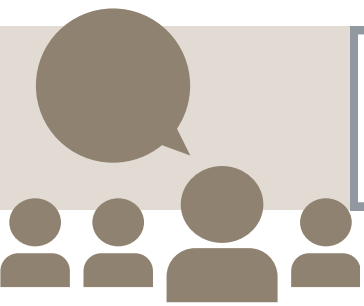
Clue: V is equal to E

Instructions:

Decode the message. Each letter in the phrase has been replaced with a random letter or number. Try to decode the message.

Answer for previous issue puzzle:
AAC ENHANCES COMMUNICATION AND LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT



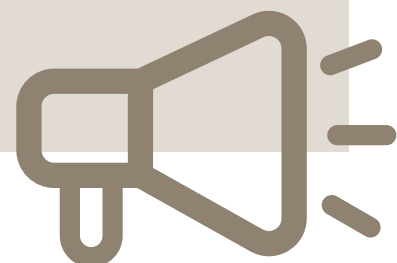


VOICES FROM USER

On August 8, 2024, a collaborative discussion took place with the Indian Institute of Cerebral Palsy (IICP) featuring **Ms. Sraddha Khattor**, aged 46, regarding the usage of Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC).

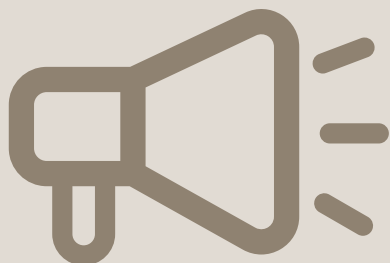
Ms. Sraddha Khattor, an AAC user, since the age of 8, shares her transformative journey and insights...

“I find my AAC both functional and beneficial. Over the years, I have utilized various types of AAC devices. Currently, I’m using a low-tech spell board, as well as high-tech devices such as an iPad and smartphone equipped with the Avaz application. My quality of life has significantly improved since using AAC. I am now able to express myself clearly, offer opinions and advice, and feel more confident. Throughout this journey, my family members, caregivers, friends, and teachers have been unwaveringly supportive. I have even been able to make friends through WhatsApp and Facebook. While I’ve experimented with different devices and aids, including the Kathamala and voice output devices, my go-to choice is the spell board due to its simplicity and dependability. Convincing my family to adopt AAC was challenging at first, but with professional support and motivation, they eventually embraced it.





VOICES FROM USER'S FAMILY



I express my gratitude to the Indian Institute of Cerebral Palsy for their continuous support and assistance. Even during the ISAAC conference abroad, I was able to socialise and faced no difficulties using AAC.

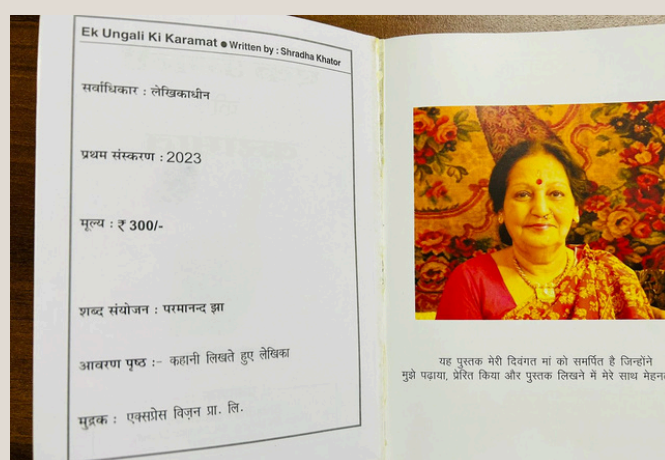
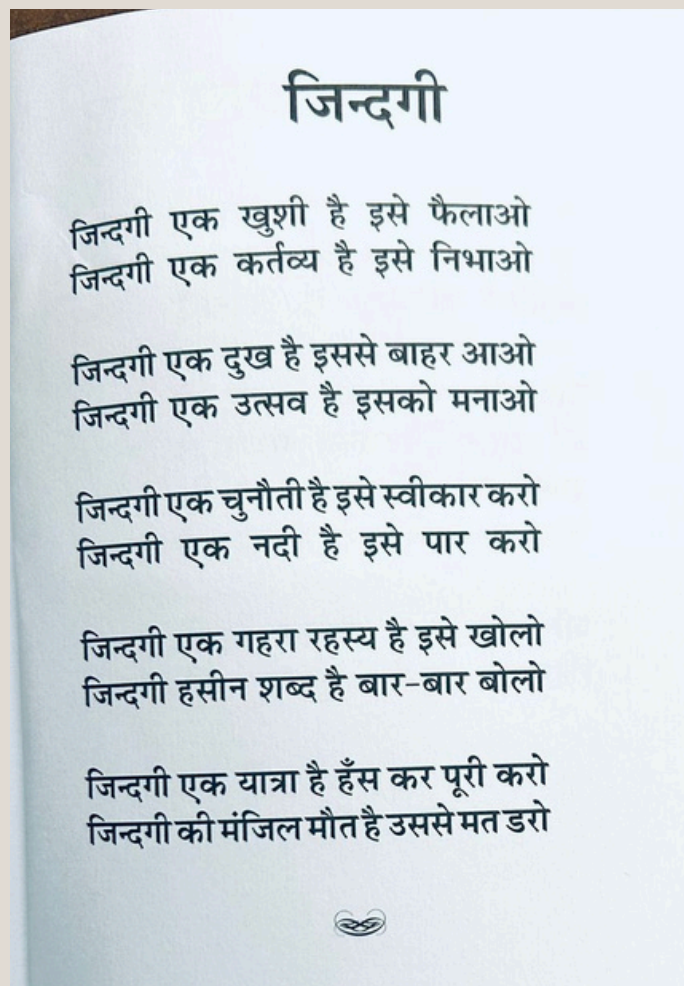
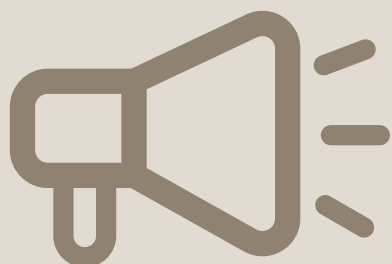
I'd like to share three important messages to non-AAC users:

- Repeat the letter or word pointed out by the AAC user to ensure they understand you are following their communication.
- If you know the person, try to logically guess the word they are pointing to and confirm with the AAC user.
- Be patient while teaching and, in case of confusion, interact directly with the AAC user rather than the facilitators.

Additionally, I advise new AAC users to have faith in AAC, trust the process, and to be patient while learning to use it. I'm happy to share my experience to inspire others. I have provided verbal consent to use my information and photo to motivate facilitators to promote the use of AAC"

Sraddha was happy to share one of her favourite poems from her book... as shown in the next page.

VOICES FROM USER'S FAMILY



ISAAC-India Chapter Newsletter's editorial team thanks ISAAC India team - Ms. Swati Chakraborty & Ms. Madhumita Dasgupta from IICP for permitting and facilitating this interaction; Mr. Kamal Sharma & Ms. Nowshika from SRFASLP, SRIHER (DU) for moderating the interaction. Ms. Shruthi Ranganathan for the design

COMIC TIME

AAC – YOUR FRIEND



Courtesy: www.pixton.com

To be continued.....



NOTE

Students, professionals & researchers are invited to share the reference of their research work in the field of AAC to

secretaryisaacindia@gmail.com

**to be included in the next issue of
ISAAC India Chapter Newsletter**

**LAST DATE TO SUBMIT
30TH SEPTEMBER 2024**

Readers Column

This place is for you!!!

Please send your
comments/suggestions for our
next issue

ABOUT ISAAC INDIA CHAPTER & IT'S MEMBERSHIP



The International Society for Augmentative and Alternative Communication (ISAAC) works to improve the lives of children and adults who use AAC. ISAAC's vision is that AAC will be recognized, valued and used throughout the world. ISAAC's mission is to promote the best possible communication for people with complex communication needs.

In April 2008, ISAAC India chapter was registered formally under societies registration Act (1860) of India. ISAAC India chapter helps to create awareness, training, research and development of indigenous aids and advocacy.

HOW TO BECOME ISAAC INDIA CHAPTER MEMBER

ITEM	PRICE
Professional	Rs. 2,500
People who use AAC and their families	Rs. 950
Student	Rs. 1,500
Institutional	Rs. 11,500
Corporate	Rs. 48,500
Retired	Rs. 1,500

For details, please contact

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- Prof. Ajish K. Abraham
(ajish68@aiishmysore.in)

ISAAC INDIA SUBCOMMITTEES & IN- CHARGES

Webinar and Training Committee

Headed by Dr. Usha Dalvi, supported by Ms Manavi Jalan.

Website and Social media committee

Headed by Ms Bhavana Botta

Newsletter

Headed by Prof. Rangasayee, Dr. Krupa M. and Dr. Amulya P. Rao

Conference Committee

Headed by Dr. Ajish Abraham



Newsletter Editorial team

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