

NOT A DREAM, ANYMORE

Young Suraj (Name changed), belongs to Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh and has turned 15 this March 2019. Born with deafblindness due to Rubella Virus, Suraj was confined within four walls of his home and showed reluctance to move out. He lacked the exposure that the other kids of his age had. Suraj's father, himself is a teacher in a government institution. Despite having taught thousands of students in his tenure, he felt helpless in front of his son. He could do nothing but rue the fact that he wasn't able to teach Suraj, all that he wanted to.

But come, 26th of September, 2015, Suraj's life was set for a massive overhaul, the day when he was enrolled under 'Sparsh' programme implemented by Sense India's partner organisation with support from Sense India. Post Suraj's enrollment in the programme, a vast difference was seen in how he carries himself and his attitude towards life. He has made friends and can now be seen playing with his friends, which is a great leap for someone who didn't step out of his home, at all. He likes dancing and playing with a ball and spends a significant part of his day playing. The training in the programme has allowed him to make use of his other senses, which his educator feels is the key to his development. He communicates with people using both sign language as well as verbal communication.



Suraj's educator has laid constant emphasis on training him to use basic sign language as well as identifying body parts. She is also training Suraj to use a cane, hence supporting his outdoor mobility.

The rehabilitation team at the centre is trying to improve Suraj's pre-vocational skills and make him independent in 'Activities of Daily Living' (ADL) so that he can lead his life of ease. Suraj's family has also been supported by the team to attain 'Disability Certificate', 'Disability Pension' as well as Unique Disability Identification Card, to avail the benefit of various government schemes and services.

Suraj's mother is quite proud of his development and in an emotional voice adds, "My son now eats his own food and communicates his needs to us. I'm quite happy to see that he is independent and can take care of himself".