



**A Message from the
IASE President
Zandile P. Nkabinde**

The 17th Biennial Conference is in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam July 10 – 14, 2022.



Happy Holidays to all IASE members and supporters of IASE. The planning for the 17th Biennial Conference in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam will soon be underway. You are all encouraged to visit our website for any new updates about the conference at:

(<https://www.iase.org>). In addition, members are advised to sign up on the “Membership Only” page in order to be able to access it. In the meantime, IASE conversations are planned to take place once a month via Zoom with Board Members, different Committee Chairs, and invited participants to discuss varied ways to keep IASE members informed of any developments and planned activities. We encourage everyone interested in being actively involved in the organization to send her/his name to either our secretary and/ or Membership Chair.

There are numerous benefits to becoming an IASE member since it provides a good platform for sharing one’s talents and expertise with national and international scholars, special education teachers, administrators, and families. Moreover, serving in any organization opens up more opportunities for future professional work. A Malawian/American Special Education Professor who teaches at Bennett College in Greensboro, North Carolina and is an IASE member recently requested IASE twitter page to tag. She is involved in International Collaboration and it was in

one of their webinars where I recruited her for IASE membership.

An IASE Virtual/Dialogue was successfully held in October 10, 2020 and the theme was: Global Responses to COVID-19 Pandemic: Responses from IASE National Chairs and Volunteer Service Project Sites. The purpose of the meeting was to gather information about ongoing work done by National Chairs and participating Volunteer Service Project Sites in their respective countries during COVID-19 crisis. Presenters included Dr. Anupria Chadha, a National Chair from India, and a paper and video by Sandra Trevethan from Mwayi Trust site in Malawi presented by the past president Dr. Beatrice Adera, a YouTube video prepared by students in Mumbai, India titled: “VSP – A Special Tribute During COVID-19,” was posted on our website. In the audience presenters included Sherwin Fraser from Guyana, Dean Nga from Vietnam, Arman from Kazakhstan, Roslynn Williams, Kalynn Pistorio, Rachel Gonzales, Sara Rosenbloom and other members of the IASE Board. Both participants and attendees shared their work/experiences and all presentations were remarkable.

National Chairs continue to play a critical role in the promotion of IASE vision of inclusion and equity for all individuals with disabilities. They are required to represent IASE’s mission and goals in their nations. These responsibilities as described in the IASE website include:

- The ability to increase IASE membership in their nations by inviting people who are likely to join the organization such as teachers, paraprofessionals, individuals with disabilities, scholars & researchers, caregivers, service providers and families of children with disabilities.
- Highlighting IASE activities that may be of interests to potential members in their nations such as conferences, workshops, volunteerism projects, research projects, publications, and publicizing opportunities in their nations to the IASE benefits through the IASE newsletter,

journal, website, conference presentations, and other platforms.

- Giving updates through reports to the IASE board to be shared at every Board Meeting. The updates can include how the mission and goals of the IASE are promoted in their nations through activities aligned with the organization's mission and objectives.
- The position of a National Chair is voluntary with no monetary compensation and the duration of the appointment is ten years.

Looking ahead in 2021 our priorities continue to be the following:

- Finding innovative ways for our IASE Membership Drive
- Beginning preparations for the 17th Biennial Conference in Vietnam
- Holding Regular Zoom Conversations via Zoom and
- Using social media to reach potential members across the globe

The situation we find ourselves in during this pandemic gives us a chance to try to do our duties differently than we have done them in the past. Therefore, let's keep moving because the world will not stop just because the pandemic keeps wrecking our lives. I am glad to report that the IASE annual Journal will be ready for dissemination in December 2020. According to the IASE editor this upcoming volume covers diverse topics in special education and includes a wide range of articles about special education in Nigeria, Greece and the Netherlands. IASE continues to leave its mark in the field of special education. In closing, I wish to thank each one of you for your continued support by making a difference in the lives of persons with disabilities through your dedication and service. Wishing you a holiday season filled with joy and peace as we all hope for a glimmer of sunshine in the near future.

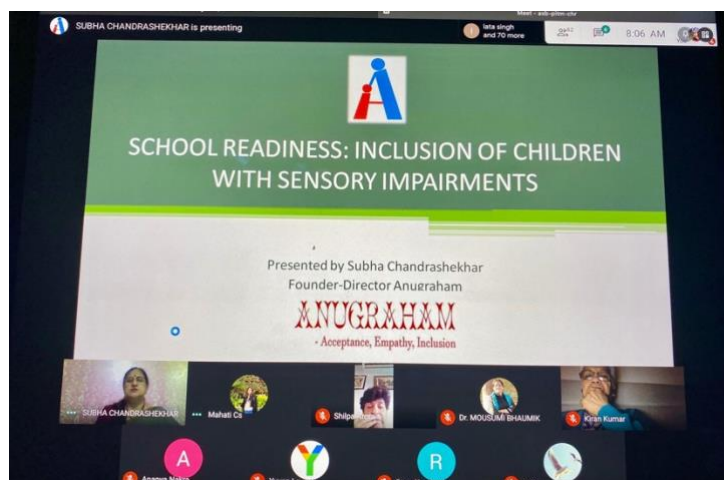
Dr. Zandile Nkabinde
New Jersey City University, USA
IASE President (2020-2021).

Webinar on School Readiness: Inclusion of Children with Sensory Abilities, India

**Subha Chandrashekhar,
Director-Anugraham, India**

Anugraham is an initiative of Subha Chandrashekhar, a Special Educator from India who has been working in the field of inclusive education for more than two decades. She is heading the Department of Mental Health in Delhi Public School, Rohini an inclusive mainstream school. In 2017, Ms. Chandrashekhar was one of the seven recipients from India for ADA, Americans with Disability Fellowship in Inclusive Education from University of Minnesota. During this fellowship she collaborated closely with Dr. Renata Ticha & Dr. Brian Abery from the Institute of Community Integration as well as fellows from Ukraine, Kazakhstan & Armenia. In 2019, she was a Fulbright Scholar at Arizona State University and completed an Inquiry project on 'Flexible Curriculum to support and sustain Inclusive Education'. Through Anugraham, which means 'Blessing' in Sanskrit, Ms. Chandrashekhar has conducted training programs for in service and pre-service teachers and special educators on inclusive practices.

On 29 August 2020, Team Anugraham organized a webinar on **SCHOOL READINESS: INCLUSION OF CHILDREN WITH SENSORY IMPAIRMENTS**.



The webinar had 3 main sessions. The first session was conducted by Dr. Himangshu Das, Director of National Institute for the Empowerment of Individuals with Visual Impairment (NIEPVD), Govt. of India. He highlighted the conditions which fall under the visual impairment category as per the RPWD Act (Rights of

person with Disabilities Act), 2016, India and spoke of the pre- requisites for inclusion of children with visual impairment in early childhood education.

Ms. Ritu Nakra, a certified LSLIS AVT certified speaker conducted the second session on inclusion of children with Hearing Impairment. She emphasized on the needs of bilingual children in India, keeping in mind the challenges and demands of use of multiple languages in the Indian society especially in the home and school environments. Ms. Chandrashekhar spoke on the 3 dimensions of School Readiness when it comes to inclusion of children with sensory impairments: *Ready Students, Ready Schools* and *Ready Families*. She elaborated on the importance of cohesion of the 3 dimensions which can lead to positive transition and successful inclusion. She also highlighted the role of Special Educators in being leaders and advocates for inclusion and not merely providing remediation for students with special needs.



The webinar was well attended and had participation not only from different parts of India but also from Minnesota, Senegal, Brazil and Philippines. Anugraham seeks to reach out to schools, teachers, parents and rehabilitation professionals from the semi urban and rural regions of the Indian subcontinent to increase acceptance and empathy towards individuals with diverse abilities and potential.

**S.P.J. Sadhana School Updates
October 2020**

**Admin Office for Principal
SPJ Sadhana School**

Sophia College Campus, Mumbai, India

The month of October has come to an end and with it the first term of virtual education in SPJ Sadhana School. The experience has been a resounding

success for all stakeholders – students, parents and faculty and a tremendous learning stratagem, where empirical analysis has borne out the „new normal“ as a profile contender on the future scenario. Another event for celebration – SPJ Sadhana School is ranked India's 4th, Maharashtra 2nd & Mumbai's 2nd Special Needs School in the Education World India School Rankings 2020-21.

“Open Days” conducted online through the last week, heralded the trend of things to come. The parents, entertaining for the first time, the faculty in full strength were awed and elated by the change of scene and the opportunity to address all teachers simultaneously. Their daily communication with the staff progressed to a general bonhomie, where both exchanged ideas on the school program and the parents expressed their deep appreciation of the faculty’s untiring efforts. A much-appreciated feature was the Term Report with its detailed assessment of the student, which left most parents “stunned”. “Open Days” had certainly moved into a new and emphatic direction. In spite of the complexities of assessment online, the school after graphic evaluation gave admission to three students, who, the staff felt, could be schooled on this platform.



The Intermediate school coordinator, Ms. Tejal Kothari represented SPJ Sadhana School as a VSP site volunteer for IASE and shared information about school activities during the pandemic, and about the website, which had regular updates. The members of the IASE appreciated the work undertaken at school and the endeavor to meaningfully engage SEN students through a schedule inclusive of academics, play and therapy. Ms. Kothari also shared the school

video, made during the pandemic, which had a definite impact on the IASE members.

At the Intermediate Level, the Prevocational and Skills Enhancement classes used their Art and Craft Skills to celebrate Gandhi Jayanti, construct a Ravana puppet and make varied gift wrappings as a tribute to the season of Navratri.



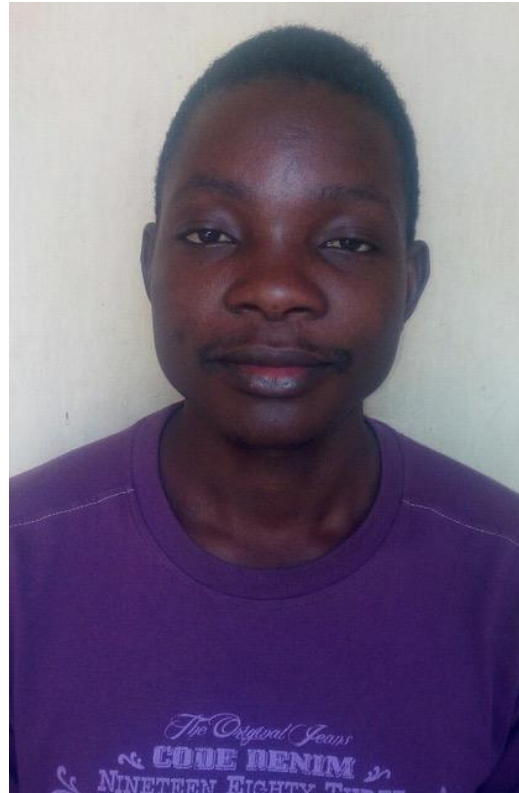
They also enhanced their culinary skills with Fruit Salad, Aloo Chat and Cold Coffee while learning the advantages of a healthy diet. They also studied the history and culture of our country through the Dussehra festival.



The activities were aimed at providing academic, social and motor skills to progress into the vocational courses. The students also followed the individual departmental curriculum increasing their skills-based activities in handling culinary inputs, art or handicrafts.

IASE Highlights a New Member

This month we are highlighting a new member to IASE.



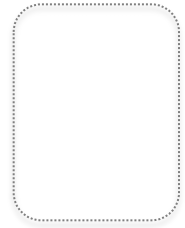
Meet Ramso Albert Holela born in Tanzania in Kigoma region to the small village of Kalela. Mr. Holela shared that he decided to become a member of IASE because of IASE's strong position on inclusion and their work in advocating

for children with disabilities and their families. Mr. Holela brings to IASE a wide range of teaching experiences in elementary and secondary special education. His skills as a sign language interpreter, audiological experiences, grant writer, and presenter of seminars to the community on topics of advocacy, visualization strategies, and the culture of the deaf community are all traits that add to the strength and diversity of the IASE membership. Mr. Holela has also been an active supporter of the Red Cross in his community. He is sharing his email address so that you may reach out to him if you wish regarding his skills and experiences. ramsoholela@gmail.com
We welcome Mr. Holela to IASE.

Treasurer's Report As of November 14, 2020 Iris Drower

Account	Amount
Checking	\$4,330.74
VSP/Giving	\$11,116.88
Marg Csapo Scholarship	\$6,002.18
Operational Fund	\$128,125.61
Total	\$149,575.41

Renew and Join IASE Today!



To join IASE, contact Rachael Gonzales, email: rgonzales@csus.edu

Please print information clearly:

Surname: _____ First Name : _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State / Province: _____ Postal Code: _____

Country: _____

E-mail: _____

Membership Dues: Regular \$US 50 _____ Regular/Sponsor \$US 70 _____

Student Membership \$US 20 _____ Developing Country \$US 20 _____ Institution \$US 70 _____

Name of person sponsored: _____ E-mail of person sponsored: _____

Address of person sponsored: _____

Donation to Marg Csapo Scholarship \$US _____ **Total Enclosed \$US** _____

Payment Information: _____ VISA _____ Master Card _____ Discover _____

Authorized.net (*Please follow link on the website @www.iase.org*)

Credit Card Number: _____

Exp. Date: _____

Name of Cardholder (print): _____ Date: _____

Billing Address: _____

Cheque (Payable to IASE, US funds)

Please send your membership form to:

Mail: IASE Treasurer, PO Box 2159, Mesa, AZ 85214, USA **E-mail :** irisdoug@cox.net

IASE operates on a rolling membership year; you will be invited to renew your membership one year after joining. All other membership inquiries contact: iasemembership@gmail.com