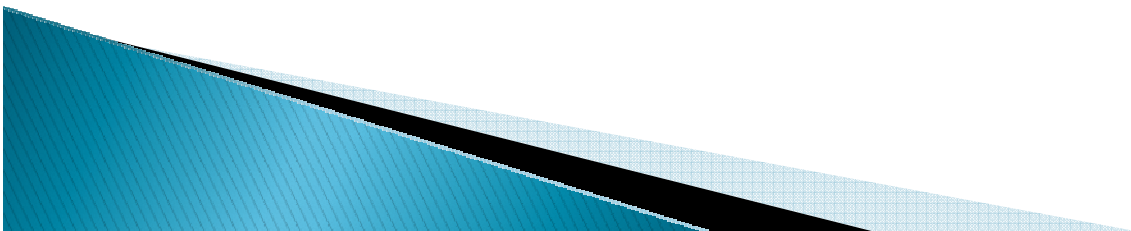


# ICT APPLICATIONS IN DEAF EDUCATION

PRESENTED BY  
ARUN C RAO  
At the International Workshop on  
“Enabling Education for All through ICT”

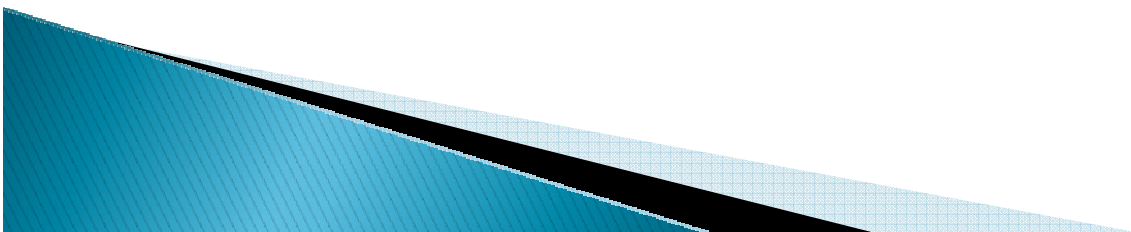
# THE BEGINNING : AT WORK

- ▶ DATA ENTRY OPERATIONS
  - REPETITIVE
  - UNCOMPLICATED
  - NO NEED FOR MUCH COMMUNICATION
  - A SIMPLE DEMO OFTEN SUFFICES
  - LOW CEILING
  - NO GROWTH POTENTIAL
  - HIGH ATTRITION
  - EDUCATORS DID NOT PRIORITISE ICT.



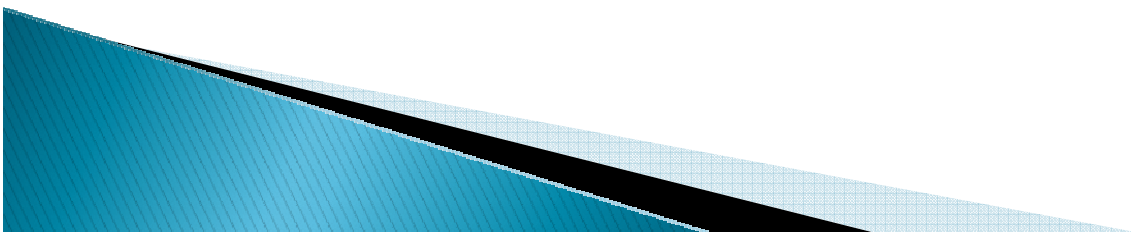
# THE SOFTWARE/BPO EXPLOSION

- ▶ EDUCATION DOES NOT PREPARE DEAF PEOPLE TO PERFORM
- ▶ GLARING LACK WAS DEMONSTRABLE
- ▶ ADDED INTEREST WAS GENERATED
- ▶ GRAPHICS PROGRAMS WERE SEEN AS A WAY FORWARD
- ▶ DEAF ARTISTS TOOK UP COMMERCIAL ART
- ▶ GRAPHIC ART AND DTP COURSES CAME ABOUT.



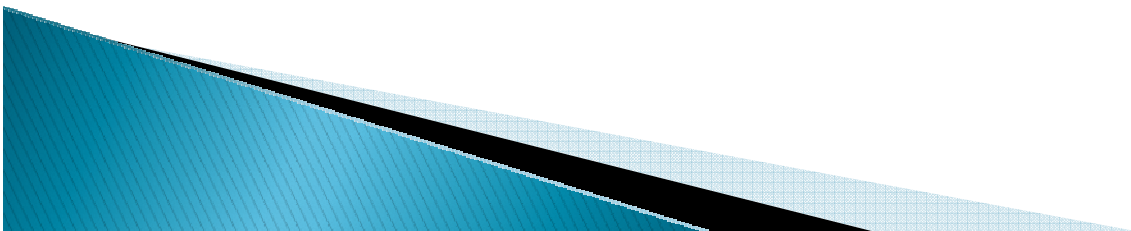
# INSTITUTIONS/NGO's

- ▶ MANY NGO's TOOK UP ICT EDUCATION TO SUPPORT THE DEAF
- ▶ BASIC COMPUTER EDUCATION BECAME THE NORM
- ▶ SIMPLIFIED COURSES ARE OFFERED ACROSS THE COUNTRY IN AN ATTEMPT TO PROVIDE GAINFUL EMPLOYMENT TO THE DEAF.



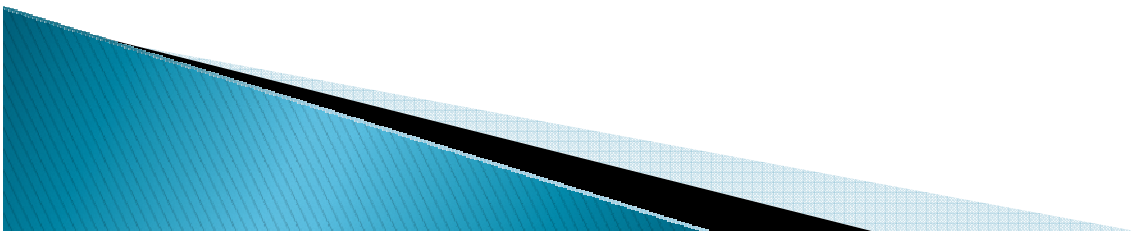
# COURSES AND CHALLENGES

- ▶ THE ONLY ISSUE WITH ALL THE NGO'S TEACHING COURSES IS THAT NO ONE IS TEACHING A **CERTIFIED COURSE**.
- ▶ THE BOARD OF TECHNICAL EDUCATION HAS NORMS THAT THESE ORGS DO NOT FULFILL
- ▶ DEAF PERSONS CANNOT JOIN A CERTIFIED COURSE DUE TO LACK OF BASIC EDUCATION AND **LACK OF ACCESSIBILITY**, WHETHER INTERPRETING SERVICES OR OTHER COMMUNICATION SUPPORT.



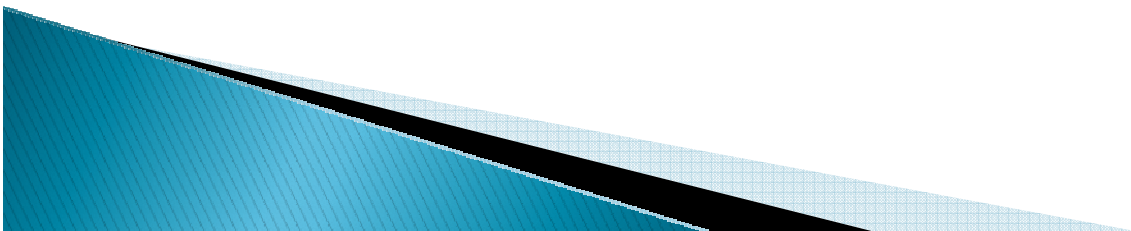
# INNOVATIVE TRAINING

- ▶ MOST MAJOR EMPLOYERS HAVE THEIR OWN SOFTWARE
- ▶ NO NGO HAS ACCESS TO THESE TYPE OF SOFTWARE
- ▶ TRAINING OF THE DEAF STUDENTS TO LEARN BY THE BUDDY METHOD WAS STARTED.
- ▶ EMPLOYERS CAUGHT ON TO THIS SIMPLE MODE OF TEACHING AND OPENED UP.
- ▶ DEAF NOW WORK ON SAP AS WELL AS PROPRIETARY SOFTWARE.



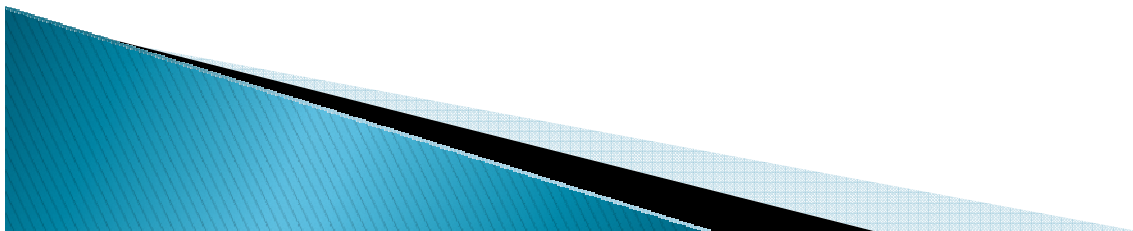
# WHERE WE ARE TODAY

- ▶ BASIC COMPUTING IS TAUGHT TO THE DEAF ACROSS THE BOARD IN SCHOOLS AS WELL
- ▶ LOW CEILING PREVAILS FOR MOST DATA BASED JOBS.
- ▶ INTERPRETED COURSES ARE NOT YET AVAILABLE
- ▶ MANY DEAF PEOPLE IN CITIES/TOWNS USE THE INTERNET AND SOCIAL NETWORKING AND AWARENESS IS HIGH.



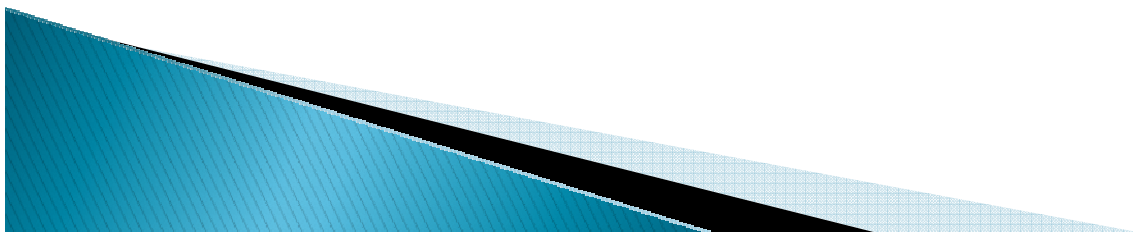
# WHERE WE ARE TODAY

- ▶ INNOVATIVE USE OF ICT TO PROVIDE LIVE ACCESS TO INTERPRETING HAS BEEN LAUNCHED BY ‘**BARRIER BREAK AND THE DEAF WAY**’
- ▶ A DEAF PERSON ON A WEBCAM ACCESSES AN INTERPRETER WITH A PHONE-LINE. THE VIDEO CHAT IS INTERPRETED OVER THE PHONE AND VICE VERSA.
- ▶ [WWW.SIGNNTALK.ORG](http://WWW.SIGNNTALK.ORG) [BETA LAUNCHED]



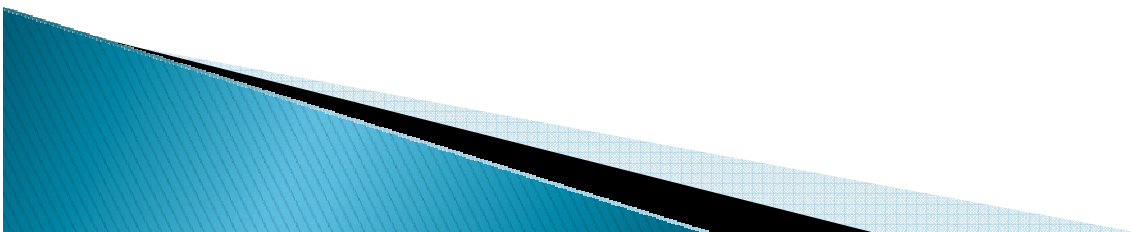
# THE WAY FORWARD

- ▶ PIONEER **INTERPRETED COURSES** WITH MAJOR TRAINING PROVIDERS
- ▶ NGO's TO PROVIDE **CERTIFIED AND STRUCTURED** COURSES
- ▶ A SIGN LANGUAGE **LINGUISTIC CORPUS FOR COMPUTER EDUCATION NEEDS** TO BE CREATED/DEVELOPED
- ▶ COMMUNICATION SUPPORT FOR DEAF AND THEIR EMPLOYERS THRU **SIGNNTALK.ORG**



# THE WAY FORWARD

- ▶ MAJOR TRAINING PROVIDERS NEED TO ADAPT COURSES SPECIFICALLY TO **PROVIDE DEAF STUDENTS WITH PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS TRAINING** AS AGAINST HIGH THEORY LOADS.
- ▶ AS DEAF GET ACCESS TO **BETTER EDUCATION** IT OPENS UP POSSIBILITIES



THANKS

