



# *Dhanya Ravi*

*Disability Evangelist*

## CONTACT

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# Summary

Ms Dhanya Ravi, India's Locomotor Disability Ambassador at Purple Fest 2023, was born with Osteogenesis Imperfecta (OI). This rare genetic disease makes her known as the country's "glass woman." She has achieved remarkable feats, including receiving State and National awards and speaker at TEDx and JoshTalk events.

Currently, she works as an executive at EnAble India, where she conducts initial screenings for people with disabilities seeking employment. She assesses their skills and identifies areas for improvement using empirically proven methods, assisting them connect to suitable team that leads to opportunities that align with their skills and aspirations.

Dhanya has participated in numerous webinars for college students and corporations, where she has discussed topics such as inclusivity, mental health, importance of self-advocacy and social responsibility. She has spoken to over 11000 people worldwide and has been an active contributor to the disability sector for over a decade, inspiring many disability individuals to pursue their goals.

Dhanya is actively mobilizing and sensitizing people about OI, rare diseases, and the disability community in India and the USA, working in collaboration with various non-profit organizations (NGOs). She advocates for a more inclusive society and venture to raise awareness about rare genetic conditions. Dhanya manages Aasmaan Foundation, an in-house platform that assists people with disability to live a dignified life. She loves to volunteers her time in audio reading for individuals with visual impairments and mentor special parents.

Over the past three years, she and Aasmaan Foundation have independently distributed over 9 lakh powered wheelchairs, connected prospects for education, empowered girls with disabilities, and hosted two social awareness events. This year, she has addressed multiple college events, conferences, exclusive events for B-School students, business entrepreneurs, seniors, and corporate employees. Additionally, she has moderated sessions focused on social awareness and worked on inclusion projects in partnership with NGOs. She also delivered her 3rd TEDx talk titled "My Journey to Liberation with Disability". Her life stories and experiences, gathered from meeting people worldwide through the Disability Awareness and Advocacy Program, have earned her numerous testimonials. Dhanya's life message and mentorship have empowered women and youth in the community to embrace a life of independence.

# Recent Activities and Achievements of Dhanya Ravi

## In the realm of ongoing Initiatives:

"Humans on Wheelz," a beacon of inclusion and volunteerism, a flagship initiative to raise awareness about wheelchair accessibility. Guiding individuals with disabilities toward empowerment through mentorship programs focused on training and employment, alongside voluntarily managing mentoring circles.  
Raising fund for an educational scholarship.

## In the realm of Speaking Engagements:

Program Coordinator for Inclusive India (Bangalore event) "a travel campaign for social inclusion for People with Disabilities hosted by DAC.  
Speaker at second International Conference on Comprehensive Education -2024  
Speaker at International Research Conference for Children-2024  
Speaker for "Youth Boot Camp" by Chinmay Tapovan Himachal Pradesh  
Speaker of TEDxFISAT "My journey to liberation with disability" (2024).  
Speaker of #UnDElived, a week long diversity fest at Infosys (2023)  
Panel speaker at Inclusive Entrepreneurship summit 2023  
Panel moderator for 'Samarth' Hyundai Launch by NDTV (2023);  
Speaker at ICCE-2023.  
Diversity Speaker at Analytics India 2023.  
Purple Ambassador for Locomotor Disability at Purple Fest Goa 2023-2024.  
Speaker at "Faasle Aasman Tak Mita De | Celebrating Differences" on Dec 3rd, 2022.  
Featured on "The Invisible Majority: India's Able Disabled."  
Speaker at "We The Women Asia" in Mumbai, 2018.  
TEDx Speaker in 2017 and 2019.

## In the realm of Fundraising and Social Initiatives:

Kaleidoscopic Palette to raise awareness about adaptive clothing and stages of a woman's reproductive cycle (2024).  
Raising funds through the trust for powered wheelchairs (8 lakhs) for 14 individuals (2021-present).  
Raised 1.58 lakh for people with rare diseases (2019-2020).  
Hosted ZELDA on (International Women's Day) by #AFT  
Conducted India's largest fashion show for differently-abled individuals (Feb 29, 2020).  
Raised funds for essential needs during the lockdown (2020).

## In the realm of Volunteering and Community Service:

Marathon participation of Rare disease awareness by ORDI  
Through my #epilepsyjourney spread awareness about the importance of timely medical support hosted by Manipal  
Volunteered a week long awareness campaign by Mathrubhoomi Palakkad about accessibility awareness  
Panel moderator for #Samskaara, a spiritual conclave by Chinmya Mission (2024)  
Facilitator for "A Change of Perception" by Nasscom Foundation (2024)  
Participation on TCS marathon as champions with disability  
Volunteered for Covid-19 mental health awareness (#HealthyAtHome) for over 3000 individuals.  
Participated in the Athijeevanam project, planting 10,000 trees on World Environment Day (2020).  
Nartana Inclusive Dance for differently-abled women (Aug 15, 2020).  
"Olangal" inclusive musical cover by differently-abled artists (Dec 3, 2020).

## In the realm of Recognition and Awards:

Recipient of International Women's Day award by District Women and Child Development, Palakkad (2024)  
Interview with I'm with Dhanya Varma (youtube)  
Recipient of Rex Karmaveer Chakra "silver" medal  
Featured as role model at the Purple event by Kempegowda international airport (2023)  
Rex Karmaveer Awards, Silver Award (2023) by iCongo and the United Nations (2023).  
Purple ambassador for locomotor disability at Purple Fest, Goa (2023-2024)  
Bronze Award and Fellowship for Global Stories of Resilience (2020).  
Ahalia Women Icon Award (2023).  
Kerala State Award for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Best Private Sector Employee, 2019).  
Spoorthi Special Award by Karnataka Women Achievers (2019).  
National Award for Role Model by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment India (2018).  
Inspired Indian Foundation Award (2014) by the Governor of Karnataka.  
Brave Bangle Award for Extraordinary Women by FilmBrew (2012).

## In the realm of Media Coverage:

Featured in DailyMail (UK edition), The News Minute, Times of India, Deccan Herald, Indian Express, The Better India, YourStory, I'm EnAble India, Vanitha Magazine, Manorama News, World Through My Eyes (Singapore edition), Wonder Women Wednesday, Humans of Kerala, Asianet News, and Mathrubhoomi News.

**With a desire for Rare-disease free and inclusive India! She continues her journey by spreading social awareness and**

# Over the years

- Purple ambassador for locomotor disability at Purple Fest, Goa 2023-2024
- Faasle Aasman Tak Mita De | Celebrating Differences | Dec 3rd 2022
- India's "glass woman" and disability evangelist Dhanya Ravi seeks start up support to bridge health care gaps.
- Featured on The Invisible Majority: India's Able Disabled
- Participated in Flowers Oru Koodi 2021, a Malayalam quiz program to raise funds for medical support for a rare disease beneficiary.
- Honored remarkable single special mothers and transgender individuals on International Women's Day
- by #AFT
- Raising fund for powered wheelchair worth 8 lakhs for 14 individuals (2021-present).
- Olangal (Dec 3rd,2020) is an inclusive musical cover by differently-abled artists who remind us to focus on our gifts than our worries and create a more inclusive world. The song won appreciation award from #WOWFoundation.
- In-state and community level volunteered to raise awareness of Covid-19 #HealthyAtHome - Mental health for more than 3000 individuals.
- On 5 June 2020. on World Environment Day volunteered for Athijeevanam project, a global initiative to plant 10000 trees by Persons with a disability and able individuals.
- Have raised fund for essential needs by AFT during the lockdown,2020
- Nartana, inclusive dance by differently-abled women individuals by AFT on Aug 15,2020
- Raised 1,58,000 Lakh for people with rare diseases for their medical and assistive aids through crowd funding. (2019-2020).
- Conducted India's largest fashion show for differently-abled individuals by #AFT on Feb 29th 2020.



# Public Speaking and Activism

Dhanya, a self-taught individual from a conservative family, began her journey by breaking stereotypes and creating her own space, supported by mentors and friends.

In her early 20s, a newspaper report sparked a profound sense of purpose within her, motivating her to contribute actively to her community. This led her to play a key role in establishing the Amrthavarshini Charitable Society, where she dedicated herself from 2010 to 2017. Through Amrithavarshini, she embraced public speaking, news shows, and TV interviews to raise awareness about Osteogenesis Imperfecta (OI), sharing her story and championing the cause.

Over the years, Dhanya expanded her reach by participating in television programs such as Idea Star Singer - 6, Ningalkkum Akam Kodeeswaran, Ashwamedham, Happiness Project, TEDx (thrice), various theater performances, Flowers Oru Koodi, and Faasle Aasman Tak Mita De (an album song). Her efforts in these platforms focused on raising awareness and gathering support for individuals affected by rare conditions.

As her impact grew, Dhanya became increasingly active in rare disease advocacy, organizing campaigns through talks, social media, short films, and theater dramas, while also participating in walkathons and marathons. In the past two years, she has worked tirelessly, both through her platform and independently, to raise funds for mobility aids. Her commitment has resulted in the provision of over 14 powered wheelchairs and 30 manual wheelchairs through the Freedom Project, directly improving lives and fostering independence for many.



# Recognition and awards

until 2023

- Ahalia, women icon award 2023
- REX Karmaveer global stories of resilience fellowship and chakra award bronze (2020)
- Recognition certificate for volunteering in the department of minority welfare, Karnataka
- Walking Mind Docudrama | Bharath Chand | Sandeep Balan
- Celebrating inclusiveness on World Environment Day-2020
- Lack of awareness, stigma affects people diagnosed with Brittle Bone disease, Wishbone Day 2020
- Personality Development | Dhanya Ravi | Josh Talks Malayalam
- Recipient of Kerala State Award for the empowerment of persons with disabilities (Best Private Sector Employee – 2019).
- Winner of Spoorthi special award 2019 by Karnataka Women Achiever Award.
- Recipient of National Award 2018 in the Role Model category by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities under the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, India.
- TEDx Speaker 2019 decoding with disability.
- One of the facilitators for an Inclusive Dance called "The InVincibles".
- Speaker at KWAA - Karnataka Women Achievers' Awards.
- Speaker at snehadeepam 2018 fundraising event, Boston, Massachusetts.
- Speaker 2018: International Autism Conference hosted by Cadrre the Autism Center, Trivandrum
- Visibly Invisible – interact One Step at a Time
- Won annual Inspired Indian foundation award (IIF) 2014 for initiating activities for social causes (from the governor of Karnataka, His excellence H. R. Bhardwaj at Raj Bhavan, Bengaluru, Karnataka).
- Speaker at We The Women Asia at Mumbai in 2018.
- TEDx speaker 2017 Celebrating the joy of pain.
- Speaker at Bangalore Tech Summit 2017 (Biotechnology session for Rare Diseases).
- Won Certificate of appreciation from ICICI Bank (advantage women).
- Have addressed motivational talks at various platforms including schools, colleges, corporate companies and public events (Kerala, Karnataka, Mumbai and USA).
- Recipient of "Brave Bangle Award 2012" for the extra ordinary women by filmbrew (Kochi, Kerala).

Many articles about her life journey were published in journals like DailyMail (UK edition), The News Minute, Times of India, Deccan Herald, Indian Express, The Better India, [Yourstory](#), Vanitha Magazine, Manorama News, World Through My Eyes(Singapore edition), Wonder Women Wednesday, Humans of Kerala, Asianet news, 24 news and Mathrubhoomi news to name a few. With a desire for Rare-disease free and inclusive India! She continues her journey by spreading social awareness and supports the community within her limitation.

# Recent testimonial



During a recent trip to Kochi, at the Bangalore airport, I had the pleasure of meeting an individual named Soumya. To my surprise, she approached me and mentioned that she had recently watched my interview with 'I'm with Dhanya Varma' and followed my shows, including 'Sing n Win', which aired around 12 years ago. Her detailed recollection of these programs left me momentarily speechless. It made me reflect on the impact of my work and how it has resonated with people over time. Despite feeling like I haven't accomplished anything monumental, Soumya's kind words and gestures humbled me, reminding me of the significance of even the smallest connections and contributions in people's lives, and how they actually impact both ends.

*Thank you Soumya*