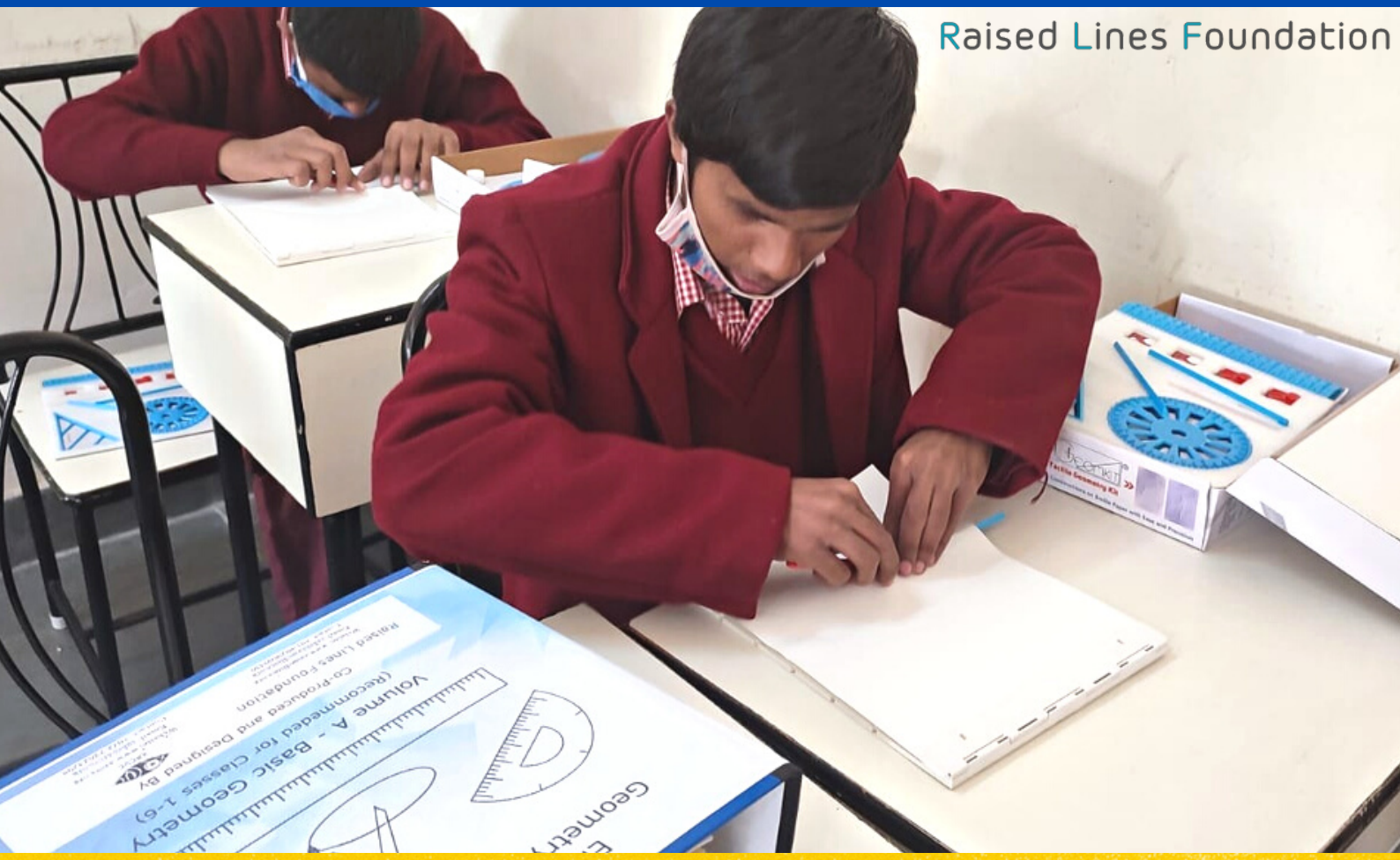


NEW HORIZONS

Raised Lines Foundation (RLF)

RLF is a not for profit startup from IIT Delhi with the sole mission of empowering persons with visual impairment (VI) and enable them to pursue subjects and careers of their choice.

What We Do

- Make handwritten, printed and digital **documents accessible**
- Make images accessible through **image descriptions and tactile diagrams**
- Manufacture **teaching learning aids** and **educational accessible games.**
- Special focus on content related to **STEM education**

Our Impact

- Tactile diagrams produced **2,00,000+**
- Unique diagrams designed **3000+**
- Titles developed **35+**
- Tactile books produced & delivered **10,000+**
- Beneficiaries using our books **5000+**
- Across **30** cities in India

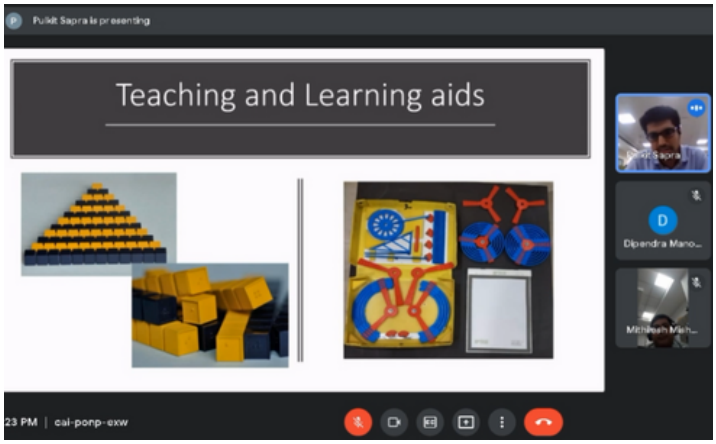
What's in this Newsletter:

- RLF 's 3rd anniversary celebration glimpses
- First of its kind Tactile Science Primer
- Unique Mathematics Kit for understanding and doing Geometry from classes 1 to 10
- Reading and writing on Smartphone simplified
- Pathways created for supporting marginalized students with visual impairment
- RLF now makes STEM content accessible

18th August 2021: RLF Celebrates its 3rd Anniversary!

RLF was born on 1 th Aug 201 as a non-profit section company in the IIT Delhi incubation facility at I-TEC campus in Sonepat. In the first 30 months of its existence it was supported by MEITY. Govt of India for scaling up of the know-how developed in the Centre of Excellence in Tactile Graphics, again a MEITY supported project. From March 2021, RLF is a self-sustaining entity and is supported through CSR funding as well as individual donations.

RLF celebrated its 3rd anniversary on 1 th August 2021 with a webinar that brought all its stakeholders together. All the members of the staff along with its donors, many user organizations as well as users participated. Highlights of the event included presentation on RLF activities, team introductions, feedback from stakeholders, address by chairman and directors.



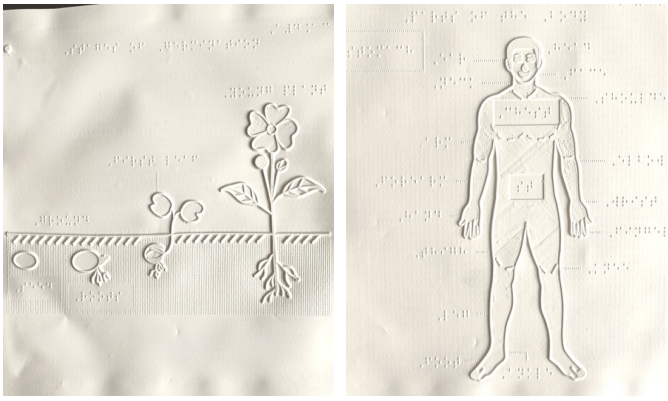
Team presenting the activities at RLF

Student sharing his experience of using Tactile books

Imagining Human Anatomy and General Science is a thing of past, now students with VI can touch, feel and understand related concepts just like sighted students.

RLF has developed and launched Tactile Science Primer in collaboration with Saksham and Amway on December 2021. It is a comprehensive collection of 100+ tactile diagrams required for explaining concepts related to General Science. It is meant for students with visual impairment studying in classes 1 to 5. This tactile resource can be used by students from across the country irrespective of the school and the education board. The book was innaugrated by Shri. T. D Dhariyal, Ex. Dy. Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities.

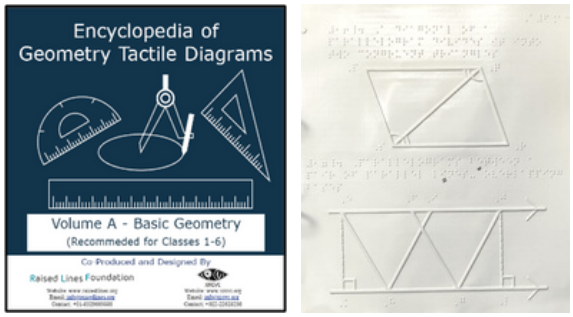
Online Launch of Tactile Science Primer



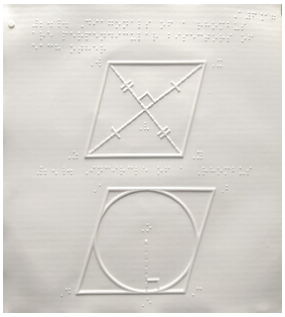
Few tactile diagrams from Science Primer

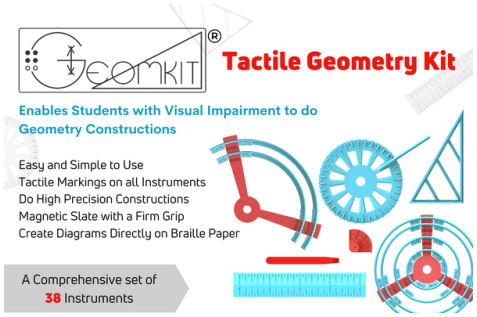
Now students with VI can learn and do geometry constructions themselves with Tactile Mathematics Kit!

Mathematics kit is aimed at enabling students to understand as well as do Geometry constructions with their own hands. It includes a Tactile Mathematics Encyclopedia, a comprehensive collection of tactile diagrams covering Geometry concepts from Class 1 to 10 and a kit. GEOMKIT is a set of accessible instruments that enable students with visual impairment to do geometry constructions on their own. First set of 100 kits have been given to students at NIEPVD, Dhradun along with training.



Mathematics Encyclopedia of Geometry Tactile Diagrams





GEOMKIT- A set of accessible instruments for Geometry constrsuctions

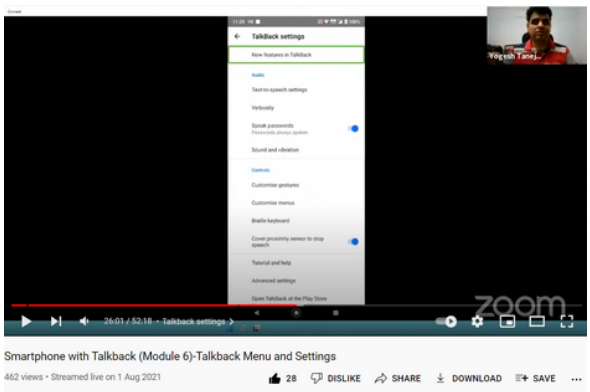
Persons with VI can now easily communicate, read and write using Smartphones

In collaboration with Saksham, RLF has developed a learning module to enable self-learning of Smartphone with TalkBack screen reader. During COVID times, it has become extremely important to develop this module so that persons with VI can connect digitally and continue their education and jobs.

The learning module includes step-by-step audio-video tutorials that have been uploaded on YouTube and a self-learning tactile manual.

It is created with a user-centric approach and comprehensively covers how a person with visual impairment or blindness can use a Smartphone as an assistive device for communication, reading and writing. It is written in the form of simple tasks with step by step instructions for using different gestures and related apps, making the overall learning experience simple and interactive. The project was supported by KODDI (Korea Disabled people's Development Institute).

Videos are available here:
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCFTNnpF0GRb0p1H gSvESXQ



Online training session on using Smartphone for reading and writing

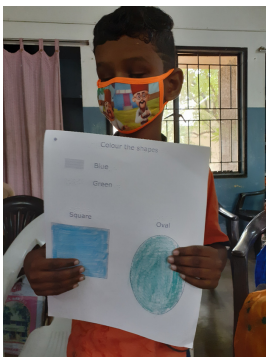
Self-learning tactile manual on using Smartphone with TalkBack

Partnering with Vision-Aid, USA for enabling access of tactile books for marginalized students.

Enabling access of our solutions in the hands of marginalized students has been our top priority. To make it happen, RLF collaborated with Vision-Aid USA, a US based organization which also works in the same domain of empowering people with vision impairment. It is a well-established charity headquartered in Boston, USA and primarily raises funds in US while carrying out specific projects in blind schools as well as organizations in India through its Indian counterpart.

Now RLF and Vision-aid has signed a 3-year agreement for carrying out joint projects. The proposed activities include not only production and distribution of tactile books but also supporting visually impaired students through accessible digital content. With this collaboration agreement, now it is very easy for our well-wishers in US to donate and support our activities for the visually impaired through these joint projects. Vision-Aid is a 501(c)(3) registered charity and is recognized by major corporates in US for employer matching donations.

In phase 1, we have provided our solutions to 600+ students from 10 special schools from across the country. We aim to support 5000+ students in 3 years.



Students exploring tactile books

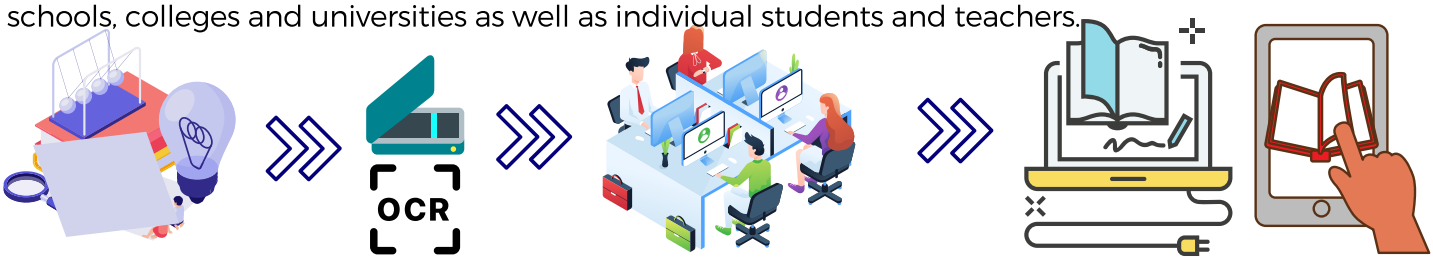
Vision Aid and RLF team at the distribution event at NAB Chennai

Students pursuing higher education especially in STEM subjects will not struggle anymore for textbooks in accessible formats!

One of the key factors because of which students with VI are not able to pursue education in STEM area has been unavailability of textbooks in accessible formats. Even those who are presently pursuing education in the STEM areas have been struggling for getting accessible material.

To address this challenge, RLF has launched a new service to convert content into accessible formats that students would be able to read on assistive devices like laptop and smartphones with screen readers and Electronic Braille Displays as per their preference. We focus on making equations, diagrams, tables and images accessible following the international accessibility standards and services.

The service is available for accessibility divisions, equal opportunities cells, resource centres in schools, colleges and universities as well as individual students and teachers.



Handwritten or printed or Inaccessible pdf

Digital file

Formatting & editing
Conversion to accessible formats

Students with VI can read on Laptop, Smartphone, Braille Display

A big Thank You to all our donors for believing in us and supporting us in realizing the collective vision of empowering persons with visual impairment!

Connect with Us

If you know any person with visual impairment or an organization or school who may benefit from our solutions

or

If you want to support persons with visual impairment, please connect with us:

rlf@raisedlines.org, +91-8929669336

To know more about our work, please visit our website:

www. raisedlines.org

Our Collaborators

Our Supporters