

Press Note
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Assistive Technology Webinar ‘Mobility Matters’ with Innovative Startups Organised by Unmukt – The Senior Hub

How often have you heard of a standing wheelchair or a swivel seat for a car? In order to empower people with mobility issues, Unmukt – The Senior Hub organised a webinar on Tuesday, 21st July 2020, where six startups working on assistive technology presented their innovations. The startups that showcased their work at ‘Mobility Matters’ were R2D2 Lab, Flexmotiv, BeAble Health, TurnPlus Xensible Innovation Lab and myUDAAN.

Talking about the objective behind the webinar, Monimita Sarkar, Founder, Unmukt-The Senior Hub, said, “Ageing is a normal process that affects physical well being of everyone in different ways. As we age, we may find it difficult to climb stairs or get in and out of a car without assistance. These technological innovations can help people with mobility issues move around without much external help. Since, we work exclusively for the elder community, it was a small attempt to present solutions that help them lead independent lives with dignity”.

R2D2 Lab is the TTK Center for Rehabilitation Research and Device Development at IIT Madras. It has designed the country’s first standing wheelchair. Talking about their innovation, Vivek Sarma, Senior Project Officer, R2D2 Lab, said, “We work on developing biomechanically informed, functional and affordable devices for people with locomotor disability. Products developed include standing wheelchair, wheelchair plus motorised add-on for outdoor mobility, polycentric prosthetic knee and improved orthotic knees.”

Flexmotiv is an assistive technology product design and manufacturing company founded by three students from IIT, Delhi. It offers FlexMoCrutch, which is said to be world’s first self-standing crutch and is a self-resistant product. “It allows the person to walk on any type of terrain and provides forward propulsion thereby using less energy so as to walk longer,” says co-founder Srinivas Adepu.

For those who find it difficult to travel in car owing to a medical condition, TurnPlus offers an easy to install, swivel seat mechanism. “With TurnPlus, the original seat, along with its track and reclining motion, remains intact. The seat is removed, the mechanism is installed, and the seat is put back. There is no modification to the car’s structure or core functioning. It is maintenance free as it does not require power or batteries and is manually-operated,” said founder Anand Kutre.

World over there are millions of people living with one or multiple forms of disabilities. The World Bank data on the total number of persons with disabilities in India, puts it across between 40 and 80 million. A lot of these mobility issues can be improved with the use of new and innovative assistive technology devices.

BeAble Health is an IIT Hyderabad incubated startup with a focus on design and technology driven solutions for rehabilitation. Their product Armable is an interactive arm-training device specially designed towards neuro-rehabilitation of stroke victims and motor rehabilitation of victims with upper limb motor deficit. “BeAble Health constantly innovates through design and technology to help doctors and patients achieve higher efficiency of rehabilitation in a connected environment through immersive and engaging games and by objectively measuring the outcomes. We are building solutions that will make patients more connected to therapy and make the recovery process more relaxed and fun,” said co-founder Sreehari KG.

Other innovators at the ‘Mobility Matters’ webinar included Xensible Innovation Lab, founded by alumni of NID, Ahmedabad, and it co-creates accessible solutions with users, clinicians, technologists, and business experts. Xensible is currently working towards launching, Xheal, an end-to-end patient engagement solution crafted to facilitate physiotherapy sessions. Also present was myUDAAN, a technology driven social impact startup that allows people to book a cab, ask for an assistant or choose devices that aids in mobility through a mobile app.

About Unmukt- The Senior Hub

Established in 2018, Unmukt – The Senior Hub, is a comprehensive platform which brings together, both the B2B, as well as, the B2C audience in senior care. Unmukt aims to create awareness, in addition to, deliberating and discussing issues relating to seniors that encompass health, technology, caregiving, lifestyle & recreation, independent & assisted living and financial management. In the pre-COVID world we held events, exhibitions and seminars in an effort to create an ecosystem of support and empowerment to the senior segment. Currently through our four online formats -- Unmukt Bytes, Unmukt Cares, Unmukt Blogs and Unmukt Knowledge Series – we address a wide range of issues related to different aspects of senior life. We aim to know our seniors better through our interviews (Unmukt Bytes), webinars (Unmukt Cares), panel discussions (Unmukt Knowledge Series) and informative articles (UnmuktBlogs). Explore to know more, or follow us on Facebook to be automatically notified of new updates. Visit us at [Unmukt- The Senior Hub](https://www.unmukt.in).

Media Contact: **Shaheen Khokhar**
marcom@unmukt.in
+91 9560696161