

# DIVERSIVE

Edition 6 - April 2023

## TEAM NOTE

By Ayushman Harlalka

One of my favourite quotes of all time is Hermann Hesse's "**The bird fights its way out of the egg. The egg is the world. Who would be born must first destroy a world.**"

In a few words, Hesse paints such powerful imagery of birth and rebirth, as the old status quo (the egg or the world) must perish for the new (the bird) to survive. I bring the quote up because there are perhaps few times better suited to talking about rebirth than April.

Academic calendars, financial years, a new harvest cycle, spring, there's much that starts in April. The name's origins are disputed, but the prominent etymological meaning is "to open", a possible reference to the flowering of plants.

In a month where a quarter of the new year is over (already!), April is uniquely positioned to let us look at how far we have come and how far it is to go. Dusty new year resolutions or glorious calendars full of successes, there's much to be gained in taking a good look at where we truly are.



We at RIEDU firmly believe in taking on new challenges and growing in places we wish to. Let us know what new things you would do in the remaining year. For us, it will be to continue providing you quality content.

And if it's a bit uneasy to look back, let this quote from The Jacket (2005) guide you in your journey - "**I promise you, Jean, no matter how bad things look, they look better awake than they do asleep.**"



RIEDU

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## PUBLICATIONS



*A movement to build a generation of thinkers & empaths.*

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# DISABILITY

An article by Dr. Shruti Shankar Gaur

In a world of political correctness and grammar nazis, it isn't rare to see people using correct terminology regarding most concepts. Yet, some concepts, unlike others, need to be better understood. I often hear people using the terms "Disability" or "Disabled" without a basic understanding of the implications. Such casual conversations bother me. Recently, due to increasing awareness, terms like ADHD or autism or Dyslexia have captured the attention of the masses. A few days back, I heard a dear friend label a child with ADHD. Now, this friend had no idea of the gravity that comes with such terms. It's a new fancy term that depicted him as well-read & in place with the time. It doesn't matter if it fits the child in perspective.

It is imperative that we delve into conceptual understanding. Disability can't be understood in isolation. It has two sisters - Impairment & Handicap. Let us learn about them together to develop sensitivity and awareness before we use the terms next time.

**Any aberration at the tissue level is called impairment.** If it's in the eye, it is called visual impairment. In the ear, hearing impairment, and so on. However, **disability is the functional aspect of impairment.** Simply put, it means impairment leads to disability. For example, a disability of visual impairment is the inability to see (the functional aspect of vision). The hearing impairment lies in the functional part of the ear (i.e. the inability to hear).

However, **a handicap is a social construct that labels and discriminates.** It includes the social stigma attached to disability. **Disability leads to handicap, but handicap isn't dependent on disability only.** For example, being unable to see obstructs us from pursuing many social activities, and it becomes a handicap. However, anyone can be handicapped at any time despite having/ or not having any disability.

Consider this - I am taking an exam, and suddenly, my pen stops working. Not being able to write my exam becomes a handicap. But the reason there isn't any physical or functional aberration, instead, it's my pen not working.

I hope the information helped. Read my blog, ['The Curious Case of Martha's Vineyard'](#) to delve deep into the social construct of handicap regarding disability. If you would like to read a poem on inclusion, you can read ['One For All, All For One'](#). Once inclusion is achieved, belongingness is the next stopover. Read my poem ['Where Do We Belong?'](#) to discover your belongingness niche.

## CRAYO DE VIVRE

by Ayushman Harlalka



# THINK ABOUT IT

By Ayushman Harlalka

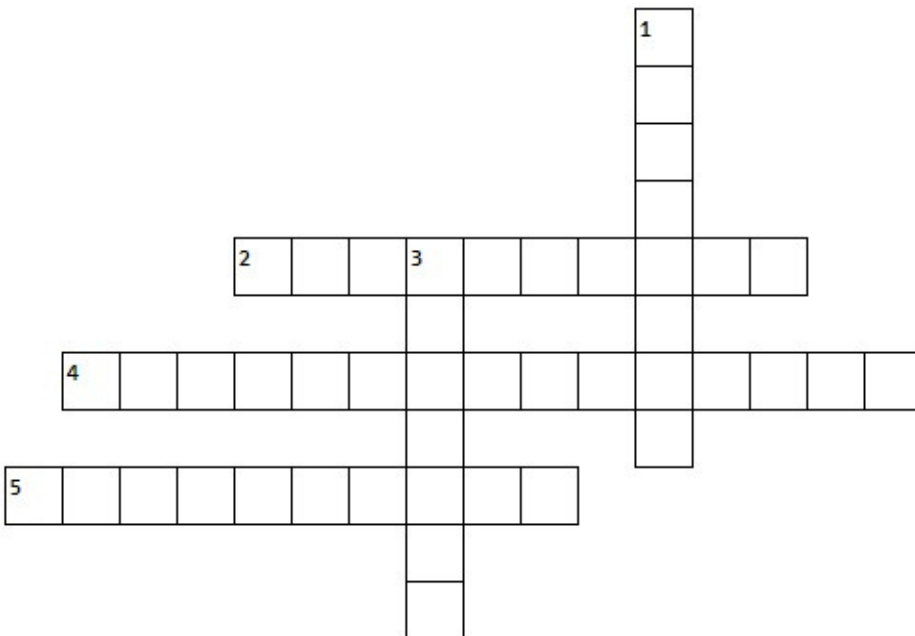
We rely on visuals much more than any other sensation, and we can usually function relatively fine without smell compared to our eyesight. Yet, some animals, such as bats or rhinos, have extremely poor vision.

Bats have learnt to use echolocation at levels sensitive enough to figure out objects' shape, size and even texture without even having to look at them. Rhinos rely on their keen sense of smell to compensate for their poor eyesight. Moles have almost no need for their eye as they burrow through the soil.

Many creatures can traverse and win in their respective domain even without the sense humans rely on most.

With nature's creativity and life's perseverance, can we truly predict the ability of others simply by looking at what they may or may not have? Why not celebrate unique capabilities instead of labelling them?

## CROSSWORD



### ACROSS

- 2. The functional aspect of impairment
- 4. Another phrase for disabled
- 5. Any aberration at the tissue level

### DOWN

- 1. A social construct that labels and discriminates
- 3. An illness, typically a minor one

Across -  
2 - Disability, 4 - Specially-abled, 5 - Impairment

Down -  
1 - Handicap, 3 - Ailment