

CHAPTER- 19

Divyang : Not a Curse

Naresh had to go to another town. He had to collect things from his house and reach the railway station. He went to a crossing near his house to get an autorickshaw. There was an autorickshaw standing by the road. He was looking for the driver of the autorickshaw.



A young man, with the support of his crutches came near him and asked - where do you want to go?

Naresh said - I have to go to the station. The divyang man was ready to take him. Naresh could not believe that this young divyang man could drive an autorickshaw.

Naresh asked him with suspicion - How will you drive an autorickshaw?

He moved ahead with his crutches and asked Naresh to have faith in him.

Even though I am lame by one leg, I can drive an autorickshaw.

Naresh said - Never mind. I just have to reach the station on time.

The divyang man kept the crutches in his autorickshaw and drove towards the station with Naresh.

Naresh came to know from the autorickshaw driver that he had polio in his childhood. Because of polio one of his legs could not function. But he did not lose hope. He has completed education up to class Twelve. So he decided to work. He took loan from a bank and purchased an autorickshaw. Now he looks after his family and leads a respectable life.

Naresh wondered how a divyang man could take him safely to the station.

Is there a divyang person in your neighbourhood?

If yes, then what kind of physically challenged does he have?

Does he do any work?

~~~~~

You must have heard of pulse polio. Children from 0-6 years are given polio drops all over India by the Government. Polio is a kind of disease that occurs in childhood. In it either the legs get deformed or fail to function. Find out more about pulse polio from your teacher or health department.

~~~~~

~~~~~

Rajaram was visually challenged since childhood. Rajaram's parents got him admitted in a school for the divyang. He studied there. He even obtained higher education. Today he is working in a bank.

Even though he could not see, how did he manage to study?

There is a special script for the visually challenged. It is commonly known as 'Braille script'. As we look into the printed material and read, similarly, the visually challenged with the help of Braille script, read by feeling the words. Those who are visually challenged are made to practice reading and writing with the help of Braille script.

The person who invented Braille script was himself visually challenged. His name was Louis Braille. He lost his eyes in childhood while playing. But Louis parent did not lose hope. They did not want Louis to beg like other visually challenged people.



Though Louis could not see, still he would help his mother. Every day in the morning he would fetch water from the well. At times he would stumble on a stone and fall. But gradually he learned the way. His father made a thin stick for him. While walking Louis would feel the road with his stick. If his stick hit a thing he would change his way.

Louis would recognize some of the things with his smell. He would recognize most of the things with their sound. He would recognize his people with their voice.

**Is there a visually challenged man in your neighbourhood who can tell things by smelling, touching or hearing?**

~~~~~

How does he do his work? What are the things he can do by himself? For what all things does he take help from others?

~~~~~

~~~~~

Louis was a man of great self-respect. If ever someone took pity on him he would get angry.

Louis did not know how to read. He would talk to people and listen to stories. This helped him learn many things.

Books for the visually challenged

150 years back there were no books for the visually challenged children. At that time, each letter was embossed so that it could be felt and recognized. It was easy to recognize a few letters while the others were difficult to recognize.

Louis Braille had a solution to this problem. He invented an easy script for the visually challenged children to read. He made different signs for different letters in English.

He embossed the signs for English letters on a thick sheet with a thick needle. The other side of the sheet had embossed impressions. He adopted this technique.

Braille script in Hindi

The signs for Hindi letters is shown. This is Braille script in Hindi. It has embossed dots on a sheet of paper. A visually challenged person reads it by touching it.

While reading Braille script

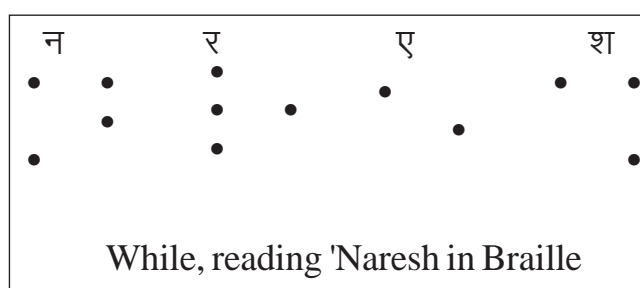
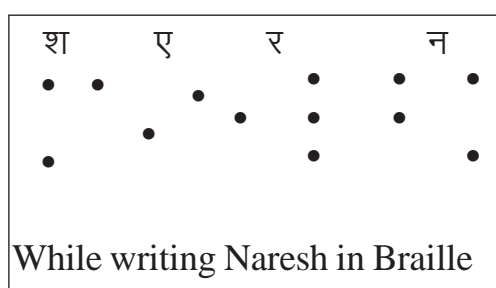
अ	आ	इ	ई	उ	ऊ	ए	ऐ	ओ	औ
क	ख	ग	घ	ङ	च	छ	ज	झ	ञ
ट	ठ	ड	ढ	ण	त	थ	द	ध	न
प	फ	ब	भ	म	य	र	ल	व	ळ
श	ष	स	ह	क्ष	ज्ञ	ऋ	ॠ	ॡ	
अं	अः	अँ	अ्	ऑ	ऐँ	ऽ	।		

How to read and write in Braille script?

Make holes on a thick sheet of paper with a thick needle. The embossed portion should resemble the picture shown below. Care should be taken that these signs are made from right to left. So that it can be read from left to right.

Out of the 6 dots, one, two or more are arranged in different order to make a letter. While embossing, each dot is given a number 1 • • 4, 2 • • 5, 3 • • 6. But on reading the order changes. the order will be 4 • • 1, 5 • • 2, 6 • • 3 for e.g. for 'त' 1 •, 2 •, • 5 sign is made. On reading it will appear to be 5 •, • 2, 6 •. It will appear so because while reading the page is turned.

In our devnagari script we have 'मात्रा' 's' e.g. नरेश has र after न and an 'ए' मात्रा on it. But Braille script has no vowels. You will have the signs in this order - first न, followed by र, ए and श।



One more thing to remember. While writing if you write from right to left, only then can you read from left to right.

On the previous page is given a reading chart. Can you tell how these signs are made while writing.

~~~~~

Write your name in Braille script with the help of a nail or a thick needle.

These days many books are available on book of Braille script. Every district has a school for the visually challenged .

If ever you happen to come across a book of Braille script you must try to read it.

You must have seen divyang person begging for food and money.

Think, is this right?

## What should be do make them able?

Find out which institution are working for them?

What schemes are the government running for them.

**Many times people make fun of viyang person. Is this right?**

[illegible]

## Oral

1. How could Louis recognise the things?
2. What was the reason for Ramesh being divyang?

## Written

1. What is the difference while writing and reading Braille script and why?

2. The visually challenged, with the help of Braille script, can express their thoughts and can also know about others, opinions. Similarly, how do the dumb convey their thoughts to one another.
3. How can you motivate to make divyang able.

### Find Around You

1. Observe a visually challenged man in your neighbourhood. Find out how he does his work?
2. Collect information of divyang persons from news papers and magazines.
3. What are the divyangatas other than being visually challenged. How do they live an easy life?

