



**COVID-19 Impact on Persons with Deafblindness in India**  
**Sachin Rizal & Srinivasan. P (Secondary)**

**Summary:** Sense International India work and support specialised educational and rehabilitation services which enable children and adults with deafblindness to overcome their challenges caused by deafblindness and become an integral part of their society.

The purpose of the presentation is to share the strategies used during COVID-19 in a larger forum. Some of the strategies and need based support developed for persons with deafblindness in India during the pandemic could be similar to the situations in South Asian countries as well. The COVID-19 lockdown/ pandemic has been extremely difficult for people with deafblindness and their family members and it has affected everyone. Even the educators are finding it difficult to reaching out to students with deafblindness. Lots of parents are also facing issues while communicating with their child/ children. Some parents are not aware about the tactile sign language communication and find themselves helpless. Students with deafblindness too are facing exclusion as people feared touching them for communication.

Sense International India adapted various strategies/ mechanism of building the capacity of parents through online trainings mode and working from home. Various training module, tracking, monitoring and evaluation system was created which supported in enhancing the skills of persons with deafblindness, their parents, educators and the partner organisation. However, there are still lots of challenges which needs attention.