

May 2023



**Edition 86**

## ***Editor's Desk***

Dear friends,

*“Inclusion is not bringing people into what already exists, it is making a new space, a better space for everyone.”*

*-----Rachel Olivero*

Happy Reading,

Regards

Bhavna Botta

<http://www.connectspecial.in/>

## Innovative Ideas

### **AngelSense**

There are a number of smartwatches out there that can help the lives of people with disabilities, but this watch, in particular, is designed for everyone, including kids, teens, adults, and seniors, and it mitigates the effects of multiple impairments. This has a Personal GPS Tracker for Kids, Teen, Autism, Special Needs, Elderly, Dementia - 2-Way Auto-Answer Speakerphone & SOS Button .

The AngelSense watch ensures that you can talk to your loved ones and make sure they're doing well at any time. There's an SOS call button on the device that they can press just in case they need you. You can customize the watch and receive intelligent alerts when unexpected situations arise. For example, if someone usually takes a certain route, AngelSense auto-learns that route and alerts you if they depart early. There's also an assistive speakerphone button that lets you reach your loved one even if they can't press buttons.

This device is a phone, so you'll have to pay a \$50 monthly subscription for it. You get free service for your first month as you try it out, and you can return it within that time frame if you don't like it. The service includes a SIM card, unlimited live tracking, an assistive speakerphone with 60 voice minutes per month, and more

<https://www.angelsense.com/>

## Whispp

Whispp promises to allow individuals with voice impairments to maintain “their identity and sense of self,” even if they do not have the ability to speak clearly.

Joris Castermans, CEO and founder of Whispp says: “Losing one’s voice due to illness, trauma, or old age presents a challenging and isolating experience. Individuals who have lost their voice may feel frustrated, anxious, or depressed, and it’s crucial to provide them with support, encouragement, and tools that empower them.

“As someone who stutters, I understand first-hand the impact of being unable to say what you want. People can fully express themselves with Whispp and once again be understood. Whispp’s proprietary AI-powered speech technology will help create a more inclusive society for people who deal with speech issues and give millions worldwide their voices back. It’s something every human being deserves.”

Whispp converts whispered and vocal cord-impaired speech into a ‘natural voice’, with the notation and emotion that the speaker desires. Users with speech impairment can download the app and select a male or female voice of their choosing.

By tapping the record button and speaking into their smartphone approximately two to four inches (five to ten centimeters) from their mouth. Whispp will instantly play the recorded message back in the user’s selected voice.

<https://apps.apple.com/in/app/whispp/id1630925550>

## **Voice Dream Reader**

Voice Dream Reader lets you listen to PDF documents, Web articles, and eBooks using text-to-speech. Although it is designed for people with visual impairment, dyslexia, ADHD, and other reading challenges, everyone can benefit. Your documents become audiobooks, so you can read while you walk, exercise or do chores.

Voice Dream Reader is a text-to-speech app that can read content in a variety of voices from a variety of sources. It's highly customizable, from reading speed to voice to font and text size.

<https://www.voicedream.com/>

## **HelpTalk**

This is a great app for those with aphasia, autism, or other disabilities which impact on speaking. The app assists people who can't communicate orally or through writing to express their basic needs. It does this by creating sets of actions that represent common communication scenarios. If the user can't find what they need, the application also has a "Talk" screen which can be used to write sentences and save common phrases. This means that your personal common phrases can be kept on hand. This app is available on Android and is free to download and use.

<https://www.helptalk.mobi/>

## Otsimo AAC

Otsimo AAC, an innovative alternative and augmentative communication app that's designed for anyone who struggles with verbal communication, including non-speaking individuals of all ages. Otsimo AAC is fully customizable, from personalized views to preferred language and voice settings. It's the ideal tool for those who require augmentative and alternative communication devices, especially individuals with speech-language disorders, autism, cerebral palsy, Down syndrome, and other developmental disabilities or speech disorders.

Otsimo AAC has an edit mode that allows you to customize every screen to your preferences. You can add or remove any card, symbol, or word you'd like and even assign photos or symbols to the words you've added so that you can have quick and easy access to your custom boards. With our app, you have complete control over your communication.

With over 1700 unique words preinstalled, Otsimo AAC offers a comprehensive selection of words that covers most everyday communication needs. Otsimo AAC offers conjugations of verbs, which makes communicating in the past, present, and future tense easier than ever before.

<https://apps.apple.com/us/app/otsimo-aac-tap-and-talk/id6443643989>

To share ,to read archive editions,log on to

<http://www.connectspecial.in/>

To subscribe ,give feedback,write to

[botta.bhavna@gmail.com](mailto:botta.bhavna@gmail.com)