

# Team AO

## Sheetal Suryavanshi Mahendra - President



Non committal about her age, Sheetal says she will be 18 till she dies. But this IT Professional from Bangalore shows her commitment when she talks about AO. “This is special”, she says, “someday AO will run its own sports complex where underprivileged and differently abled kids can come and train”. Having represented her state in Handball, Baseball and Cricket; Sheetal thinks what she can offer to the kids is a good mentor and a great opportunity.

To those who know her, Sheetal is the typical “happy-go-lucky” girl, stretching life to its maximum, ready to live it and to give back.

“I am a sportsperson at heart”, she claims, “and I miss Schumi”.

## Ashwin. D. Scindhe



“I see a champion, in my dreams, among the kids we help through Aata Odanaata” declares 27 year old Ashwin Scindhe. This IT professional from Bangalore has played Under-16 cricket for his state, Third Division cricket matches for Bangalore clubs and inter-collegiate Football and Volleyball.

Ashwin believes that while playing sports, an entire life can be compressed into a few hours and emotions of a lifetime can be felt on an acre or two of ground. A travel enthusiast, Ashwin is a regular volunteer for several NGOs and one of the most active “on-the-ground” workers for AO.

## Lakshmi S.S.

Now, at thirty, Lakshmi looks back and remembers all the encouragement she got as she trained to play for Karnataka in Cricket and Throw ball. “Why not these kids?” she asks.

An IT professional living in Mumbai, she believes all children need a chance to play and excel. “I would think, talk, live sports”, she says, “and I think we can give them the right exposure and



guidance to achieve what they want”. Lakshmi is a highly motivated person with a “Can-Do” attitude that she hopes will infuse the right spirit into AO.

### Shobha A.L

Shobha, 28, now works in Sydney as a Programmer Analyst. But back then she was quite the successful sportsperson. Cricket and Football at the State and National level, Handball and Kho-Kho for the State, Inter-Collegiate Best Bowler, NCC Junior Officer, College Sports secretary- a natural promoter of AO.

“There’s something terribly exciting about cultivating a sporting spirit amongst the young kids”, she says. “Maybe we can someday, take this show around the world”.

### Lakshmi Hariharan

When asked where she lives, Lakshmi Hariharan, 32 year old Pharma Professional claims “Singapore, but I hate to say this”. She wants to be back home, sharing her sports experience with underprivileged kids.

Lakshmi, National level Cricketer, says that “with correct guidance at the right time, these kids can be helped to achieve higher levels”

Passionate about Cricket and other sports like TT, Tennis, Hockey and Badminton; Lakshmi dabbles in photography and art and just wants to do her share to help people in whatever way she can.

### Shobhasri Raghavan

Shobhasri, 32, is a Technical Writer working in Singapore. AO is special to her because she thinks it is an opportunity to bring fun, welfare and the playground into the lives of under privileged children. She hopes she can offer them some of the same opportunities she had.

“While sports may not be a part of my life now, my happiest moments as a child were spent in the playground”, she says. “I want every child, talented or not, to be able to feel the same joy.”



### Rajani Radhakrishnan



Rajani has had a chequered IT career and dabbles in travel writing and poetry. Her role in AO as a mentor and scribe come from a need to establish an even playing field. “When I heard about Sheetal’s idea of AO, I wanted to be part of it”, she says; “it is really up to us as individuals to go do whatever we can at the grassroots level- in education, sports or Healthcare-there’s no point sitting around and complaining that the system does not work. We are the system and we have to do the work.”

### Naveen Bhargav

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