



# #ACCENTURELIVE CELEBRATE BOUNDARYLESS ABILITIES WITH AJEESH

## VIDEO TRANSCRIPT

Riya - Hi! Welcome to Accenture Live. I am Riya Taneja and I work with Accenture. This is a very special week and it's very important for me as well because 2 very important people of my life are there and they are my parents, they both are deaf people, they were born deaf.

I am very happy to be working with an organization that is committed to accelerating equality and, you know, creating a place, which is accessible and inclusive for persons with disabilities.

I'm very happy to introduce you to a person called Ajeesh and he's very enthusiastic about sign language. He works with me and he's a deaf person. So, let's meet him.

Riya - Hello Ajeesh, it's very nice to meet you! How have you been?

Ajeesh – Great. I have been good. Hope you are good too.

Riya – I understand that you love traveling, right? You have been to many places. I want to know more. Just tell me something about your traveling and touring. What's it about

Ajeesh – Yes, I love traveling. I have been to many, many places in India. I have led several tourist groups, both national and international as

well. I have covered most of India. Only missed 5 places in the east. Hopefully, I will travel and visit those places soon.

Riya – That's amazing. Tell us about your story. Where were you born, where are you from, about your parents, your strengths and your inspiration. What is it? I want to know!

Ajeesh – I have been working with Accenture for the past 8 years now. Been in Delhi. I am a deaf person and a sign language user since my childhood. There are four people in my family including me, my parents and my elder brother.

My parents have always been strict about my education. They have always encouraged me to study hard. Our family always had major financial difficulties. My ultimate aim was to work very hard and get a job. And ultimately, I got into Accenture—my first job. Things automatically got better financially, years passed and I have completed 8 years in this job now. I'd really like to thank my family.

Riya – Beautiful story. I want to know what's your career aspiration. What's it like? What do you want in future?

Ajeesh – I want to be confident at work and be skilled at the different tasks I perform. I don't want to lack in anything, rather work hard and be on top of my work. I want to always feel equal to the hearing community. I want to aim at upskilling myself and grow more, and this is my aim—to feel equal.



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Riya - Tell us a little bit about your work and your journey with Accenture for about 8 years. Something you want to tell?

Ajeesh – Yes, when I first joined, I was learning step by step. There was a lot to learn. I was taught the different processes and everything that was required. Eventually, after a month or two, it started going very well and I took up various tasks and performed them

easily. Since it's been 8 years now, I can say I have picked up good skills.

Riya - What are the top 3 things that you feel, you know, which are very good about the company or anything that you want to share? Like three things.

Ajeesh – Umm...the three things would be:

1. Work
2. Culture
3. People

Why I choose work, it doesn't make me feel lousy. Rather confident and at par with everyone else when I perform well.

Second choice would be culture. It's great to have an opportunity to share the deaf culture and sign language with my team members and colleagues!

People – making new friends and getting to know about their stories. Also, sharing my story with them and creating a great bond feels good.

Riya – Thank you for sharing your story with us. I think it's important to understand from you, I want to know that...what about your perceived disability and the work environment? What's your opinion about the culture where you work? If your disability has an influence on your work or anything. I would like to hear from you.

Ajeesh – Good question. When I had just joined, nobody really understood my deafness and my language. I faced multiple communication barriers. It took a while to explain that I use my hands to communicate via sign language. Eventually, I started educating them about this and people gradually learnt and became more aware.

I taught them basics and told them insights about deaf culture and pushed them to be more aware. Nobody really knew earlier. However, slowly people became more sensitive and aware.

Now, they know about deaf people and sign language, which is great!

Riya – Also, have you used any assistive technology for your work or anything like that?



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Ajeesh: Ya, so in Accenture, I don't really have an interpreter or anything. However, I have a team member who supports me for meetings with client, my manager or HR. My team member has been helping me out with communication by interpreting for 8 years.

Riya – Ajeesh, what brings you to work? Like the best version of you. What is it?

Ajeesh – Umm, it will be my team lead and my manager.

Riya – Ok. Tell us more about your team and your work. Little bit about it.

Ajeesh - I joined Accenture in 2012 and at that time nobody understood my signing and there were a lot of communication barriers. However, I started teaching them. I went slow and used basic gestures to explain and in around 2 months, our communication was much better. I am grateful that everyone accepted this new way of communicating. Thanks to my manager, who really advised my team to adapt to my culture and my language. People took that advice and showed interest and in 2 months everyone was at least using basic gestures.

Riya – Do you have any message or do you want to say something for, you know, persons who are deaf?

Ajeesh – Yes. Stay focused in your work.

It's absolutely possible for deaf people! It's coming from my own experience and I would want to tell you this:

Don't be lazy and avoid work.

Stay motivated, and work hard.

You should feel confident too like I have felt because of my working experience. It's important to stay focused and punctual.

Always behave well and feel equal.

Ajeesh – What about your story? Tell a little bit about yourself.

Riya – Sure, I can share about myself also. So, I am a CODA and CODA means children of deaf adults. So, this means that my parents are deaf. Me and my sister have grown up signing. So, sign language is like my mother tongue. And I love signing and I love being a part of the deaf community and it's just beautiful to witness and see the deaf culture. And maybe just to finish this Ajeesh, can we share some basic sign language? You know, if you want to teach something to people who are watching and you think basic that you would like to say?

Ajeesh – Oh nice! That's a great story. Yes, we can start learning a few signs.

<Ajeesh gestures: Good morning>



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Riya – This is good morning.

<Ajeesh gestures: Good afternoon>

Riya – This is good afternoon.

<Ajeesh gestures: Good afternoon>

Riya – Good evening.

<Ajeesh gestures: Goodnight>

Riya – This is goodnight.

<Ajeesh gestures: How are you?>

Riya – How are you?

<Ajeesh gestures: I'm fine.>

Riya – I'm fine.

<Ajeesh gestures: I'm not fine. I have some fever>

Riya – Oh, I'm not fine. I have some fever.

<Ajeesh gestures: I work at Accenture. >

Riya – I work at Accenture.

<Ajeesh gestures: Bye! See you again. Take care and stay safe.>

Riya: Bye! See you again. Take care and stay safe.

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