



# THE VILLAGE INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION CENTRE

## M.B.E (MEMBER OF THE ORDER OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE) CONFERRED ON HARSHI SEHMAR

We take great pride in announcing that our principal Mr Harshi Sehmar has been honored with the prestigious Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) by King Charles III on 14 June 2024. This significant recognition underscores Harshi's exceptional contributions to special needs education in Thailand over the span of 29 years.



MBE



### Order of the British Empire

Civil Division Overseas and International List

#### Central Chancery of the Orders of Knighthood

St. James's Palace, London SW1

15 June 2024

THE KING has been graciously pleased, on the occasion of the Celebration of His Majesty's Birthday, to give orders for the following promotions in, and appointments to, the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire:

M.B.E.

*To be Ordinary Members of the Civil Division of the said Most Excellent Order:*

#### **Harcharan Lal SEHMAR**

Co-founder and Director, The Village International Education Centre, Bangkok, Thailand

For services to Special Needs Education in Thailand.

MEDAL ORDER OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE

Harshi's dedication to special needs education is deeply personal. As a child overcoming dyslexia, he experienced the challenges first hand, inspiring his commitment to supporting and empowering students facing learning difficulties. His academic accomplishments include a B.Ed. (Hons) in Education and an MA in Special Needs Education, laying the foundation for his impactful career.

A career today that sees him as Principal of the Village International Education Centre, a visiting professor at Chulalongkorn University, ABAC & Asia-Pacific International University and advisor to Chulalongkorn University on their degree programs and special needs policy and practice.



Establishing the Village in 1999 as a school exclusively for children with special needs, Harshi's vision has transformed countless lives. The Village, today is seen as possibly one of its kind in SE Asia and over the years his school has supported hundreds of children from 2 years to 22 years with varying special needs.



Through innovative initiatives such as founding the Special Needs Research Centre at Chulalongkorn University and pioneering inclusive educational programs, he has shaped the landscape of special education in Thailand. His work in pioneering an innovative approach to assessing and diagnosing Dyslexia among children in Thai schools is especially noteworthy.

Harshi's collaborations with academic institutions like Chulalongkorn University, Thailand and the University of Northampton, UK have led to the development of courses and training programs tailored to special needs education including the MA degree in Special Needs Education and iQTS. His efforts extend beyond conventional boundaries, encompassing mentorship programs for economically disadvantaged students and refugee communities, ensuring equitable access to quality education.

Recognized as the International Changemaker of the Year 2023 by the University of Northampton and the recipient of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion award from the British Chamber of Commerce Thailand (BCCT) in 2023, Harshi's unwavering dedication to diversity and inclusion sets a benchmark for educational leadership.

*"This is a testament to a lifetime dedication to furthering and enhancing special educational needs and inclusion. For the past 13 years Harshi has been a partner of the University and from the Education team at UON and myself, we extend our deepest congratulations to Harshi at this auspicious time."* Dr Jacob Saranga, Dean of Faculty of Health, Education and Society, University of Northampton, UK

The conferment of the MBE upon Harshi Sehmar not only celebrates his individual accomplishments but also symbolizes a collective commitment to fostering an inclusive and supportive learning environment for all children with special needs in Thailand and beyond.

