

# NIAZ - GIFTING WHEELS TO FLY

We had a chat with Niaz founder, **Hussain Odhwani**



**You are the founder of Niaz, a social enterprise providing customised wheelchairs for persons with disabilities, can you tell us why did you named it Niaz and how it started?**

The name Niaz has been very close to my heart which means gift. My Ami (mother) is the inspiration behind this initiative.

I founded Niaz in 2022 as my dream project with an idea to address disability needs and to improve the quality of life of persons with disabilities. Moreover, to create a global platform enabling the world to gift with a purpose. No occasion gift can be more precious than gifting a lifeline to a person with disability.

**Can you tell us about Customised Wheelchairs?**

Persons with disabilities have their own special needs & require customised wheelchair to fulfil their daily functional goals. Tailoring a wheelchair to individual needs & body measurement provides them independence in the areas of self-care, mobility and posture management.

**Has your experience as a marketing specialist assisted the work that you do now**

**to bring change for persons with disabilities?**

Yes, I learned a lot working with my previous employer Serena Hotels that is part of the Aga Khan Development Network. I was managing their diplomacy and CSR initiatives under the leadership of Mr. Aziz Boolani – CEO Serena Hotels, that provided me an opportunity to connect with various associations and NGOs. It helped me to understand the concept of sustainability, hence I was inclined towards launching a social enterprise than an NGO. We just don't manufacture a product; we manufacture customised wheelchairs that provides mobility not only to the individual but the entire community, with full-time caregivers freed to join the workforce & contribute to household income.

**“Where there is a wheel, there is a way.”**

**We also love your commitment to sustainability, how are you making sure that your products are just not increasing mobility, but also helping livelihood of the disabled community?**

We envision a world with complete inclusion of persons with disabilities in every walk of life. Our workforce to design and manufacture customised wheelchairs include persons with disabilities, hence providing employment opportunities. Moreover, we conduct a quarterly impact assessment after handing over the customised wheelchairs to evaluate how these gifts are transforming lives.

**Give us the sneak peek into the future, what are your plans for Niaz 2023 onwards?**

We've begun this journey with customised wheelchairs but will endeavour to continue our research and development of other products serving disability needs.

**Where can we find you?**

You can find more about Niaz at our website [www.niazsupport.org](http://www.niazsupport.org) or follow us on Facebook and Instagram @niazsupport.