

## Achievement Reporting



Bodhi Tree Special School



Nurturing inner qualities

## Gratitude

We take privilege to thank Rotary Club of Albert Park for such a huge gesture of kindness and generosity for the children with special needs trapped in dire destitution and structural poverty. The smile of each child is a rare hope for humanity. Children from secluded communities are getting healed from the traumatic existence. The communities in destitute considered these children liabilities but now when you see mothers of these children walking hand in hand to the transport point, one can realize the essence of the project. We are grateful for Antoinette for such a huge support for ensuring right to smile of these children.



These children have phenomenal sense of humor no matter they are able to speak or not. We found this boy in Ganghar village three Km towards south from our special school. He is just four year old with delayed speech issues with autistic features. He is from one of the most secluded Manjhi Community. This community largely believes in black magic and other superstitious designs. In the beginning, he did not like to stay even a minute from the parents but now he feels like heaven in school. These children were angels in the dust living a life of brutal discrimination and denial almost for no reason. They were subjected to live a life of destitution. The smiles of these children are the dividends of the multiple efforts we are making on a daily basis. The greatest rewards one can have to share love and kindness with these children who live the most original version of life full of heart into it. The best experience one can ever have is to celebrate their cuteness. These children are the masters to teach the world to love unconditionally and to peel the layers around to love fully.





There is apparently a community of children within a community. The children without names being called by even own parents by the kind of disability they have. Now when they visit school they proudly say “I am mother of Aryan”. The children in Auto rickshaw giggling and grinning whispering gently “All IZ WELL”





We have therapies and medicines for them but we are exploring more the indigenous creativity that helps them get deeper into their own communities.



Children with special needs enjoying in a mud pool exploring humor

Our focus has also been to develop multidisciplinary interventions, disability specific case studies exploring relevant therapies apart from culturally appropriate atmosphere.



Multidisciplinary team at case study session at Bodhi Tree Special School



We are also exploring the communication patterns and we also focus on visual session with recommended packages. The dividends of any such interventions are fairly impressive.



India sadly is not a country that has worked a lot on inclusion policy of people with disabilities in job domain hence we are currently meditating on enhancing life skills in rural ambience. We at the moment are geared up to map inclusion policies and skills.





Apart from the perspectives and insights modern medical sciences offer, we are heading on our experiments in love and gross generosity. The backgrounds of children, rural psyche, confined resources in the community are among multiple others in the matrix of interventions. We are experimenting with total awareness of the communities.



The effort is also to develop awareness among these children through resources available within the communities. we are potentially grounded with experiential sorts of education of these children.



The challenges are enormous because of the communities of children come from.in training and educating these children we imperatively need to involve the parents. Majority of these parents are agricultural daily wages workers. They work on a daily basis. If they do not work they cannot have even the basic needs. In Bodhgaya region of India meager wages are also issues. Husband and wife both work in the field to run the family. Hence it is a challenge to involve them as per the therapies and other sorts of interventions. The parents are also largely illiterate hence they do not understand how they may enhance the impact. Though they seem now more into understanding because of the efforts, counseling and mobilization yet we need to scale another height.

### Routine

Now the children are following a routine so that they may understand more patterns. We are also focusing more on health and hygiene of children. The development is phenomenal and miraculous.



Every such activity is closely guided, evaluated and monitored.



## Staffing

We are looking the school with absolutely different perspectives. Of Course children come from the families that have very poor access to quality foods, quality clothing and wholesome housing patterns. The sad parts of most of the Social sectors are that they mostly focus on these things .But we involving ideal practices and professionals into mainstream. One of the biggest challenges is to have high ends professionals into mainstream interventions. Majority of them like to have jobs in the cities. Our special school is remotely located because these services were needed. These professionals are mostly loaded with heap of fantasies apart from materialistic comforts. Yes it is a challenge to find them and even if we find they have high end salary expectations. But we succeeded largely in finding these professionals. We lately appointed Dr Sweta Rai, a clinical Psychologist on a full time basis. We have constituted a panel of multidisciplinary consultants comprising Psychiatrist Dr Abhay ,Psychologist Dr Anand, Neuron Surgeon Dr Jainendra,ENT Dr Arshad, occupational Therapist Dr Pawan , Dentist Dr Kashif, Pediatrician Dr Shahbaz,Speech Therapist Dr Abhishek and General physician Dr Zia.

## Clinical Psychologist Dr Sweta



## Speech Therapist





Speech Therapist Dr Pawan



Pediatrician Dr Shahbaz





Psychiatrist Dr Abhay



ENT Specialist Dr Arshad





Social Psycho Educator Dr Ashok



Dentist Dr Kashif





Neuron Surgeon Dr Jainendra



General Physician Dr Zia





## Current Staff Members



Clinical Psychologist: 01

Consultant : 08

Special Educator : 02

General Educator : 01

Cook : 02

Drivers : 04

Care Takers : 03

Sweepers : 02

Nutritional Packages on a Daily basis



Fruits



Rice and vegetables





## A Complete Package



Since children are from impoverished communities hence one of the most critical undertakings is to ensure nutritional security of these children. The highlights of the challenges are illiteracy and lack of awareness. The principal foods are locally grown rice that is rich in carbohydrates, chickpeas rich in proteins and vegetables that are rich in vitamins. Particularly the communities around have almost no idea of what they are eating and what they need to eat. The accessible vegetables of these communities are potatoes that are rich in carbohydrates. If you look at the most likely nutritional matrix they eat rice that has carbohydrates and potatoes that has again carbohydrates. They do not eat lentils daily. It reflects they have over intake of carbohydrates while they potentially lack vitamins, minerals and other micro nutrients. Diabetes is in epidemics form because of over intake of carbohydrates as per existing food options. We at special school are offering the matrix of micronutrients, antioxidants, vitamins, proteins and carbohydrates.

## Assessment and Evaluation

The Bodhi Tree Special School has kept its options open for assessment and evaluation of all children from the district to avail of the facilities of assessment and evaluation. We are hiring the services of multidisciplinary team members for ascertaining the degree, intensity and kinds of disabilities children are experiencing. We are also currently listing the children with mental health issues for our future course of action. The effort is to develop a fact file of disabilities in the areas and also to promote the possibilities of more research on the causes of disabilities. It intends to be a resource model to anchor social advocacies for resurrecting well beings of children with mental health issues.

Dr Anand at Assessment Session



Helpline





Bodhi Tree special school has dedicated Helpline for the parents of the children with mental health issues for counseling services and asking for appointment with experts of the field. A great numbers of parents are reaching out for appointment and counseling services. Hundreds of parents have registered for multiple sessions. We are not capable of granting admissions of each child with view to earmarked budget but we are at least providing much needed parents' session to enhance their understandings about the kinds of disabilities a child is experiencing.

### Social media



In the age of Social Media, Bodhi Tree special school is striving to develop a common social media platform and directory of the parents of special needs children. It might be an existing phenomenon in a city or metropolitan cities or developed countries but in these rural skirts there is no such effort. We are also trying to connect all the parents of Down syndrome so that they may understand that they are not the only parents having such challenges. We will do the same with all parents of Autism and other specific disabilities. This is how we can begin with micro communication and a kind of networking.

### Disability Specific parents counseling





Psychologist Dr Anand at Disability Specific Training Session

We have lately tailored a program to conduct disability specific parents meetings for the parents who have children with special needs no matter whether their children are at Bodhi Tree special school or not. For say we have found so far twelve children with Down syndrome but out of them only four children with Down syndrome are currently studying at Bodhi Tree Special School. We have resolved to invite out of school children with special needs parents as well when we have some visual counseling session or relevant programs. At least we can keep on touching base with these parents who are experiencing extreme difficulties in raising such children. The idea is to demonstrate capacity building notion in such parents.

#### Term Boarding





We have recently given a good thought over introducing term boarding to the children currently studying at Bodhi Tree Special School. In Term Boarding a child with special needs will be staying for a week at school campus under mentorship of special educators while another week with parents. The concept is to show parents about behavior modifications a child needs.

### Mega Awareness Drive

We are very concerned about community psyche to see a child with mental health issues. We right from the inception of Bodhi Tree special School working tirelessly to bring radical attitudinal and behavioral changes in the cross communities. We have milestones in this effort but just to impact bigger masses we decided to send awareness team with school bus fully decorated with colored photographs of children to almost all villages. We also put sound amplifiers to reach bigger population. The awareness team was also distributing flyers and information brochures among the villagers.





Editor of National Hindi Daily flagging off the Awareness Drive together with volunteers



Clinical Psychologist leading the walk of Children to nearby slum like villages



Awareness Drive reaching villages





Children with special needs passing messages



Children with special needs leading the procession





Bodhgaya region of northern India is experiencing rains for the last two months. Parents remain over protective for the children with mental health issues. There is always possibility of risk during these months because they believe these children cannot handle with the rains. Bodhi Tree special school organized a number of rain activities during the past a few months.

#### Mud Pool at campus



Aryan ,a special kid learning to hold rain drop





Special Children learning to balance



Learning to balance with handless UMBRELLA





Special Children learning to hold water flow during the rain



Learning collaboration





Interaction and inclusion



Volunteers



We placed during the year several volunteers with children with special needs .They were extensively involved in a variety of out of class activities. We are looking forward to involving more volunteers to hone the humor of the project.



### Awards

Like normal children we also give awards to the children with special needs marking their excellence to accelerate their integration and inclusion.

The Editor of National Daily giving away award to Neha a child with Down syndrome for her outstanding dance





## Oral Dental Training

Jovana, a dentist from Serbia conducted almost week long training for the children with special needs, special educators and caretakers.



## Delegation

A delegation of four people with speech and hearing impairment visited Bodhi Tree School to explore the possibility of children with hearing and speech impairment. The delegates were representatives of premier institutions of Spain. The talk was extraordinary and ended with bright possibility of volunteer placement from their end.





### Sign Language workshop for educators of Bodhi Tree Special School and Bodhi Tree School

A workshop was organized for broad understanding of general educators and special educators about children with hearing and speech impairment. The session was guided by three special educators with hearing and speech impairment from Spain.



### Inclusive Bodhi Tree Family



We sincerely thank you all for your time, concern and attention. We are grateful for your constant inspiration and guidance.



