

Srividhyas Centre For The Special Children



We believe that every child has a right to learn, to play, to gain self – respect, and to develop and use her / his abilities to the fullest extent possible.

About us:

Srividhyas Centre for the Special Children is a nonprofit organization whose goal is to impart holistic education that increases competence and independence to Children with intellectual and related developmental disabilities

The Beginnings

In 1999, Shanthi Venkat an experienced Special Educator and a group of parents joined forces to form a special school for children with disorders who require specialized education programs. The primary focus of is to train and equip children with significant and chronic learning disabilities to become as independent as possible and enable them to integrate into the wider community.

Today, 11th year into its operation, Sri Vidhyas Centre has evolved into a centre that embodies her conviction that such children can be trained and taught the skills to manage their lives as independently as possible. Starting with just 8 students with cognitive disabilities of varying levels, the school now has a richly diverse student population of about 135 students from different socio- economic backgrounds, representing a wide range of ability and function. The Centre has a day school as well as a residential facility, which caters to 50 students.

Truly inclusive

What makes Sri Vidhyas different is it goes beyond its focus on the differently abled. It is a truly inclusive school where standards based education with high expectations is delivered to all children. It offers services at no cost to several students from the neighboring slums, who otherwise would never have access to such facilities or expertise.



The objectives

- To impart intensive training to students with mental retardation and other cognitive disabilities.
- To make students self-reliant, helping them develop various life skills, and wherever possible, providing vocational training.
- To integrate special students into the mainstream of life.
- To provide support and guidance to parents and family members of students with special needs.
- To create and enhance public awareness and understanding of cognitive disabilities, and to promote positive interactions between the general public and those with mental retardation.

How we work



It is truly a herculean task to inculcate self-independence among the mentally retarded children. The education and training of these children differs a lot from that of normal children. Their syllabus has to include self-dependence, etiquettes, conversation, everyday activities etc. While chalking out their syllabus their level of I.Q. and behavioral problems have to be considered. Their home environment is

also required to be weighed while chalking out the syllabus. Since there is no safe method to teach these children, each child is a class by himself requiring special attention.

Students at Sri Vidhyas are gently nudged into taking that big leap from total dependence to a certain level of independence. This involves a range of activities aimed at developing;

- Motors skills – Gross motor skills – like walking, running and climbing stairs.
- Fine Motor skills like threading, stitching buttons, putting buttons on own clothing, opening doors, turn off lights and folding clothes.
- Skills for daily living such as toileting, dressing, brushing, bathing and other activities contributing to personal hygiene and grooming.
- Academic skills like reading, writing, simple arithmetic, time and money concept
- Social skills such as shopping using public transport, greeting others, teaching manners and skills to aid group and interpersonal interaction.

- Pre-vocational skills such as counting currency stacking storing filling labeling and cutting vegetables.
- Vocational skills such as candle making, wheat flour production and making greeting cards.

Cooking, a lesson for life:



Once a week, students participate in planning the menu, buying vegetables and other provisions, cleaning, cutting and preparing the ingredients, and finally even in cooking the food. Apart from all the learning, they feel a distinct sense of achievement at the end of such a meal.

A holistic approach

In addition to applying established methods of special education, the staff at Sri Vidhyas



also makes use of innovative techniques like yoga, music therapy, meditation and computer – based approaches to enhance learning. A physiotherapist works with students who require neuro – muscular stimulation. Regular outings give the students a first – hand experience of dealing with the outside world, and provide opportunities for recreation and enjoyment

that are so often denied to the differently abled.

The future

According to the World Health Organization, up to three percent, or almost 200 million people of the world's population, have intellectual disabilities. This is the largest disability population in the world. Close to 6% of India's population have some form of disability, and centres such as Sri Vidhyas help meet the needs of this marginalized group. Given the right inputs, a significant number of people with disabilities can become productive participants in society. But to achieve this in an effective and inclusive manner, we need to do more, with a higher level of commitment, with more financial and other resources.

Our plans for the future include:

- Getting our own premises to accommodate the growing needs of the school's student population both day – care and residential.
- A fully equipped vocational training centre.
- State-of-the-art rehabilitation equipment.
- Teaching tools including computers and therapeutic aids.

Join our network support

Despite proof that people with intellectual disabilities can thrive, educational opportunities, community programmes and support are weak. Even after years of progress, we still have a long way to go.



Sri Vidhyas has grown thus far because of the generous support of individuals and institutions that have shared resources, time and expertise. But the need far outweighs the ability to meet it. To help end this shameful neglect, get involved or donate now and promote dignity and inclusion for all. People with special needs deserve a chance for a better life. With your support we can change things for the better and can make the difference. Contributions in cash and kind are welcome.

You could also help in more specific ways:

- Support in funding a trained teacher's one year salary
- Support in funding an assistant teacher's one year salary
- Provide an Ayah's one year cost
- Sponsor a non paying student's one year cost
- Assist in meeting administrative and operational costs
- Donate educational aids, books and materials
- Volunteer time for teaching administration or counseling parents

A little help from you can make a difference in the life of a mentally retarded child

Donations are tax exempt under section 80 G of the Indian Income Tax act

Contributions/ enquires

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