



THE CHILD WELFARE TRUST
(DHANVANTARI SCHOOL)
ANNUAL REPORT
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Introduction

Dhanvantri School, run by The Child Welfare Trust, is an education and training centre for children with special needs in Bhuj, the district headquarters of a remote district, Kutch – Gujarat.

The school functions in four major areas – Hearing Impairment, Intellectual Disable, Cerebral Palsy and Autism, emphasis on early intervention.

The Trust was established in 1998, with clear objective of educating and mainstreaming the special children in Kutch. The organisation works with clear understanding of magnitude of problem of disabled children and need for providing education and training to them. CWT's general objective is to develop and implement structured programmers for challenged children from their birth till the age of 16 year

History

In the late 1970s, Dr Shantuben Patel left her flourishing career as a neonatologist in Birmingham, England and settled in Kutch, Gujarat. During her stay there, she noticed an unusually high occurrence of children with disability.

As she spent time among the people and children, she began becoming aware of how certain social and cultural beliefs and practices had created this atypical situation and were precipitating it further. She decided to start her own hospital—an inclusive space where any child could receive medical treatments.

A free educational and therapeutic camp for challenged children was organized in 1994 and again in 1995, initiated by Prof. Madhuri Kulkarni and her team from Sion hospital, Mumbai. In 1994, 110 challenged children attended this camp, and the number rose to 450 next year. At this point, it became clear that none of these children had ever received any schooling.

Responding to this urgent need, Dhanvantri School was established in September 1996, to provide education and training to children with hearing impairments, intellectual disability and Cerebral Palsy.

Dhanvantri School began with 2 hearing impaired children; one of the mothers volunteered to be a teacher. By 2009, the number of children had increased to around 200, looked after by a team of 9 trained teachers and 6 trainee teachers.

To support the school, the Child Welfare Trust was established in 1998, with a clear agenda of mainstreaming the special children in Kutch.





Vision

Our vision is to create an inclusive society where every impaired child has equal access to quality education, empowering them to reach their full potential and lead fulfilling lives. We strive to foster an environment that embraces diversity, ensuring that all children, regardless of their impairments, receive a high-quality education tailored to their unique needs.

Goal

Our goal is to equip them with the knowledge, values, and social skills necessary to thrive academically, emotionally, and socially, enabling them to become confident, independent individuals who can contribute to society. Through our comprehensive educational programs, we aspire to breakdown barriers, challenge stereotypes, and create a society that recognizes and embraces the potential of every impaired child.

Mission

Education is important for everyone, regardless of their background or circumstances. It is the key to success in life, and it can help us develop our talents and skills, make a difference in the world, and live happy and fulfilling lives.

- Learn about the world around us.
 - Develop talents and skills
 - Make a difference in the world
 - Live happy and fulfilling lives
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Methodology

Early Intervention

At-risk babies are brought to Dhanvantri School for assessment. If any disability is detected, intervention strategies are implemented straight away, depending on the diagnosis. If no abnormality is detected, the baby is still supervised till the age of 6 years, in order to detect any learning and behavioural disorders.

Early intervention is conducted by the following tests:

- Identifying delayed milestones and motor skills
- Neuro-developmental assessment
- Pediatrics audiometry tests
- Behaviour observation auditory tests
- Objective audiometry tests



Counselling Parents and Family members

Parents are often distraught with the initial diagnosis and go through a phase of denial, refusing to accept that their child has a disability. In addition to this, the deep-rooted stigma surrounding disability in India makes it exceedingly difficult for both parents and their children to understand and address their concerns positively.

Staff members of Dhanvantri School spend a considerable amount of time counselling parents and family members about what their child requires.

Through counselling sessions, both the child and parents learn to come to terms with the disability and jointly participate in the intervention process.

Individual educational plans are drawn up for each child, according to the severity of their disability, and shared with the parents. Parents are also given assignments to complete with their child on a daily basis. These activities serve to develop a support system for the child and in the process, also prepare the parent to fully embrace their child's disability.



Home Visits

Home visits are crucial for the NGO school for special children, especially to address parents' hesitations about sending their children to school. These visits build trust, address concerns, and tailor the educational approach to meet each child's needs.

By engaging in open conversations and observing the students in their home environment, the school establishes a strong partnership with families, creating a supportive environment for the children's academic and emotional growth.



Therapeutic and Intervention Sessions

Hearing Impaired

- Auditory impaired and conditional
- Fizzing customised hearing aids and ear moulds
- Facial orientation and Oro motor exercises
- Sensitization to tactile stimulation
- Hearing aid management training for mother and child
- Speech and language training

Intellectual Disability

- Speech and language training
- Classroom learning
- Behavioural modifications
- Social skills training
- Training in ADL skills

Cerebral Palsy

- Physiotherapy and oromotor exercises
- Hydrotherapy
- Occupational therapy
- Sensory Motor Integration
- Appliances training (calipers and splints)
- Sensory Motor Integration kits: footwear, walkers, wheelchairs, sitting aids, toilet training aids and feeding

Social integration and Mainstream School Inclusion

Dhanvantri School's primary objective is to integrate special students into mainstream society, and empower them to function independently on graduating from the school. Throughout the year, several excursion trips are taken to help the children become socially adaptive.

These include visits to mainstream schools, public utility services, recreational facilities, among other places. On these excursions, Dhanvantri student learn how to adapt mainstream society and function independently, without any external assistance.

Individual Educational Plans

At the onset of school year, and during admission every child is functionally assessed by trained staff members at Dhanvantri School. Individual Education Plans are developed on the basis of this assessment, and shared with each child and her family.

An ongoing assessment of each child's progress is conducted and weekly reports are generated. These reports are shared with both the child and her parents in away that even a child with grossly delayed development can understand them. Additionally, a progress report of each child is created on a monthly basis.



Activities

Medical Camp

The medical camp was organized in the school. On these days, the trustee of the school was also present the trustees were Neelam and Anita and they provided their service. On the first day 52 children were examined and on the second day 32 children were examined this camp was possible only because of the help of the staff.



Chintan Farm Visit



On 4th May the 30 students of the school visited the Chintan farm. Chintan focuses on farming technique with the help of cow and students were able to learn that with the help of the visit.

The students learnt how to make incense sticks, earthen lamp, clocks and many more things with the help of cow dung.

After that they learnt how to make fertilizer with the help of organic matters, they also learnt how to make other things from that.

Visit at Suralbhitt

The students reached there and climbed the mountain to visit the temple. They climbed the mountain with the help of the stairs and had a great view of the city. The teachers explained them the view which they were seeing from the mountain.

After visiting the mountain they went for the fair. The teachers provided some information regarding the fair to the students. The students were really excited to go to the fair and they had fun and joy there. The students clicked the photo with their friends and the teachers.



Celebration of Independence Day

The school was decorated with Orange, Green and white colours which represent the national flag of our country.

The students were dressed in the colours that represent our national flag. The celebration program began with prayer to goddess Saraswati after that the students learnt how to make national flag using different materials.

The program ended by singing the national song. The students and the teachers had enjoyed this event.



Janmashtami Celebration



The school celebrated Janmashtami which is the day of the birth of the Lord Krishna.

The student celebrated the 'matki fod' event. For this event a special pot had been tied with a rope which was later broke by the children dressed as Krishna.

Students were really excited for this event. They had real fun by celebrating this event. All the girls were dressed as Radha and were looking really beautiful and they played garba. The students and the teachers were delighted to celebrate this event.

International Yoga Day

On 21st of June the school had organized the Yoga Day for the children. The yoga day started at 10:30 in the morning all the teachers were also involved. The total of 50 children were present there.



Capacity Building for Teachers

On 18th of September the teachers were provided training by Shri Mathi Luma Bain, in a total of 11 teachers were present including the trustee Mathuri Bain and Arti Bain. In this teachers were provided training regarding IEP.

So that the teachers can do different activities which can help the child to get better. The training started by dividing the teachers into the group of two so that every group can learn better.

It provided all the knowledge regarding different activities which can be done for the children. This training was really helpful for the teacher



Sports day



The school had organized a sports day where different games were organized for the children on the occasion of sports day. The students were really excited to play different games such as frog race, three leg race, sack race, lemon spoon, 50 meters race and musical chair was organized.

Funfair

Funfair was organized by the school on the death anniversary of Dr Shantanu Bain Patel. The funfair started by lightening of the land by Ramesh Bhai. The funfair had total 20 stalls. All this had different food items like samosa, idli, sambar and many other.

The little children had won by playing the games at different stalls. The students and their parents were invited in this fair. All people were welcomed at funfair. The funfair came to an end at 7:30 in the evening.



Rakshabandhan

The school celebrated Rakshabandhan. the student made beautiful and colorful rakhi by themselves. In this celebration the student celebrated Rakshabandhan with colourful rakhi, kanku, diya and many other things.

The students had made special chocolate by themselves. In this the girls of the school tied the holy thread to the boys of the school. The sister did a tilak on the forehead of the brother and tied the rakhi. Neelam Ben provided the children drawing book and colour on the occasion of the celebration of Rakshabandhan.

Navratri

The school celebrated the auspicious event of Navratri on 30th of September. Old school was decorated with different beautiful colorful bandhani. And a photo of the Goddess and garba was placed there. The celebration of Navratri began at 12:30 of the morning. The event started with an Aarti.

All the children were dressed up in beautiful Chanya Cholis. After the Aarti all teachers and students started playing Garba.

The teachers took care of the children so that they don't get hurt while playing the garba. At 1:30 PM they had their lunch of Pav bhaji.

Diwali

The school celebrated the event of Diwali on 19th of October. For the celebration of Diwali the students prepared Toran with the help of leaves and paper. Little children's made Rangoli in their classroom.

Thus the class were decorated with beautiful Rangoli and Toran. The students had fun while eating the sweets. All the children were dressed up in new beautiful clothes they all wish each other the happy Diwali. The celebration came to an end by lightening up the crackers

Holi

On 3rd of March the school celebrated Holi. Holi is a festival of colours so all the children played with different colour. The children and the staff had prepared Holi in the playground of the school with the help of cow dung.

They all had the Prasad of coconut and decorated the holy with the help of flowers. After the lightning of Holi the children played with organic colours.



Vocational Training

This year we have finally achieved our long-awaited dream of opening a vocational centre for our students who have completed their studies at the school.

In this, the students received training and learnt how to make bags, frameworks and many other useful and creative works. The students who had completed the study from our school joined this training and they received the order of making bags from IIT Bombay.

The team completed the order in 25 days. Kinjal ben Soni provided their supervision to the children and the children were able to complete all the orders easily due to the supervision.

