

## **INTRODUCTION**

The Congregation of the SISTERS OF CHARITY OF JESUS & MARY (SCJM), a religious organization founded by Rev. Fr. Peter Joseph Triest in Belgium in the year 1803 and established in Dalhousie (H.P.) in 1901 is commissioned to reveal that God is love. The sisters value the ministry of education, of helping individuals to discover their dignity as human persons and children of God and of bringing about a society based on love, justice and peace, to be an important expression of their mission.

Special Education for the Mentally Challenged children occupies a unique place in the larger vision and mission of the congregation. Following the footsteps of their founder, Fr. Triest, who had a special concern for the mentally challenged children of his time, the SCJMs continue to respond to the needs of the mentally challenged and multiple handicapped children with a total commitment and devotion.

Prem Ashram is a model school for children with mental retardation and multiple disabilities with residential facilities, situated in the district town of Una, Himachal Pradesh. It was started in the year 1971on a 2.5 acre leased land given by Baba Sahib Singh Bedi, a renowned religious leader of the time, the 11<sup>th</sup> descendent of Guru Nanak.

The sisters began the work with a lone child, who was the grandson of the donor of the land. In the year 1973 another building was erected with the help of MEMISA of Holland to cater for more children. Later on, with the help of many donors and financial assistance from the Generalate, we were able to put up the present building. With this setup, we are able to respond to more children.

## Aims and Objectives:

- To enable and empower mentally challenged children to live as independently and fully as possible.
- Empowerment of parents of children with disability. Work in the community for awareness, screening, identification and prevention of disabilities.
- To facilitate rehabilitation of such children through education, training and counseling.
- To develop the intellectual, motor and sensory facilities of the special child, as for as possible, and thus enabling them to interact with other children and adults.
- Outreach programmes through Home Based Training.
- Human resources development.
- To provide early intervention services for children with developmental delay.
- To provide vocational training.

## Human Resource Development: -

A 2-years Diploma in Special Education (Mental Retardation) is being run since August 2005. It is affiliated to NIEPMD and is recognized by Rehabilitation Council of India. The exams are conducted by NIEPMD. Good number of students have passed out from this institute belonging to H.P., Punjab, Haryana, U.P. 95 % of the them are well placed and earning good salary.

## <u> Staff: -</u>

The most valuable resource that any school can have been its staff. The school collectively has an enthusiastic and dedicated team of 18 Teachers in the Pre-Primary, Primary, Secondary, Pre-Vocational, Vocational sections. Therapists and in addition, we have Non-Teaching and Support staff. Their coordination with each other is what enables the school to function smoothly and grow with new perspectives.

## Academic Activities

Academic activities and classes have started after the Pandemic. Different activities are conducted at classroom level, school level. School was reopened on 1<sup>st</sup> feb.2020. To begin again it took lot of time because children had forgotten everything even though they were having online classes.

On 12<sup>th</sup> December 2021 Prem ashram conducted the exam for the children and everyone was made to sit the hall. Children followed the rules and the regulations of the exam and did well according to their ability.

#### Achievements

Naman Prit Singh our student is good at in studies. After long years of teaching and training in Prem Ashram we have taken the admission in Mount Shivalik Public School. It is an English medium school. And he is doing well in his academic activities. He stood first in the 3<sup>rd</sup> std. At present he is in 4<sup>th</sup> Std. Proud moment for the parents of Naman Prit Singh and Prem Ashram staff.

#### Parents' and Teachers' Association:

After the lockdown we have started our normal schedule. The General Body Meeting of parents is held on a regular basis and new members of the PTA were nominated for the year 2021. Since then, PTA meetings have been arranged periodically, the PTA members of our school are closely involved in most academic activities. Achievements

#### <u>Webinar</u>

We conducted many webinars for our children's parents and educated them to take care of their children during Covid -19:

Date	Topics	Resource person
9.06.2020	Teaching strategies	Sr. Rosamma
8.06.2020	Yoga and meditation	Mr. Ravi
17.06.2020	Functional academics	Mr. Vindhyachal
23.06.2020	Menstrual hygiene is care in young girls	Mrs. Shylja
25.06.2020	Play way therapy	Mr. Puran
01.07.2020	Play therapy	Mrs. Kanchan
04.07.2021	Music therapy	Ms. Ankita
8.07.2021	Occupational Therapy	Mr. Vindhyachal
20.07.2021	Speech Therapy	Mr. Pramod
3.08.2021	Sensory integration therapy	Mrs. Sonia
27.09.2021	Teaching techniques	Sr. Sanjana

#### CRE programmes

Staff attended Webinars and kept themselves updated.

#### Meetings and conference

Regular LLC meetings are conducted under the leadership of the Deputy Commissioner, Una. During these meetings legal guardianship is granted to the applicants after proper scrutiny of the cases.

#### **Functions/Festival**

Himachal Day celebration-Our children were invited to perform a dance for Himachal day. It was a district level programme. For their wonderful performance they were given cash award also certificates.

Independence Day celebration-one of child's parent was the chief guest of the programme. She hoisted the flag and continued the programme with short cultural programme.

## **Courses, Training, Seminars, Orientation and Counseling**

Each academic year, trainings, seminars and orientation programmes are conducted for teachers and students with a dual focus to improve and effectively implement innovative ideas in teaching-learning practices as well as to take the students beyond their current level of learning.

Teachers attended webinars on different topics conducted by Mano Vikas & Navjyoti institute for ID

Some of the topics are as follows:

1. Homeopathy approach to the Covid-19 outbreak on 24<sup>th</sup> June, 2020

2. School at home: Physical Fitness and Health during Covid-19

3. Evolvement of Human Resource in Disability Rehabilitation: Then & Now on July  $8^{\rm th},$  2020

4. Glass is always half full: Educating excluded learners in inclusive classrooms on July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020 organized by National Trust for the Handicapped (NGO), Delhi

## **Celebrations:**

Due to the lockdown and COVID -19 we had our common school celebrations virtually .some of the celebrations are follows:

National Festivals: Independence Day& Republic Day celebrated with due reverence for our motherland with patriotic songs and dances.

Religious Festivals: All religious festivals like Diwali, Lori, Christmas, Dhasara etc. are celebrated

Other Celebrations: The school gives due recognition to significant global events and celebrate these days. Some of these events are International Women's Day, International World Disability Day, Yoga Day, Girl Child Day, Autism Day, World down syndrome day

5<sup>th</sup> September we had teacher's day celebration conducted virtually

Children's day celebration-on 14<sup>th</sup> November children's day was celebrated virtually

On **3<sup>rd</sup> December 2021 World Disability Day** Celebrations-Disability Day was celebrated in Prem Ashram by the District Welfare. Deputy Commissioner Una, H.P was the chief guest of the programme. Adult differently abled from local came for the programme.

#### Co-curricular and Extracurricular activities:

Because of the COVID-19 we had virtual activities. Some of these events are Fancy Dress Competition, painting completion, storytelling and poetry recitation as well as dance competitions. Participation by the students and teachers in these events was very commendable.

#### **Games and Sports Competitions:**

Games and sports develop a sense of friendliness among the children and also build their team spirit.

School level sports and games were conducted on 14<sup>th</sup> Nov.2021.Children participated in many activities and bagged many prizes.

#### Visit of dignitaries

Inspection by the welfare officer on  $15^{th}$  July 2021

Inspection by Sh. Ragav Sharma D.C, Una-H. P on 17<sup>th</sup> July 2021

Visit by District & Session Judge

Visit by S.DM Una on 14<sup>th</sup> June 2021

Visit by District Welfare officer on 15<sup>th</sup> July 2021

DCWC came to Prem Ashram for a visit from Hamirpur on 09<sup>th</sup> March

Hon'ble Justice Smt. Sabina, Judge Hon'ble High Court of HP come to Prem ashram for a visited-on  $13^{th}$  March 2022

#### **Conclusion:**

We believe that every Year brings changes with God Almighty's protection. As we are passing through an unprecedented crisis situation in the year 2020.We believe that God has a plan for everything and through ICT we have learned many things how to communicate and be connected.

I render thanks to our Management, our teaching and non-teaching staff and my students and parents who have been with us in all our activities with maximum support and cooperation. With this I conclude the report.

Total No. of students as on 31/03/2021 = **101** 

MR	-78
MD	-04
Hearing Impaired	-06
СР	-04
AUTISTIC	-09

Thank You.

Prem Ashram Special School Upa P.O. (H.P.):174303

# Photo Gallery



## Special Education





Vocational Education



Sports and Games



Disability Day celebration

Celebration







Awareness Programme



CRE Programme