



Report of creative training on Inclusive Education

Organized and Prabhat Education Foundation

18th - 22nd March, 2014

Registered Office: Prabhat Education Foundation A4 Sujal Apartments, Opp Satellite Bungalows, Beside Sarthak Tower, Ramdevnagar, Satellite Road, Ahmedabad 380015, India.

Tel: 079-26922662,

E-mail: prabhat@prabhatedu.org **Website:** www.prabhatedu.org

This report documents activities of the creative training conducted. Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation and Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan in partnership with Prabhat Education Foundation conducted a five-day intensive training workshop at Ahmedabad from 18th to 22nd March 2014.

The participants

The participants consisted of 55 teachers from Municipal schools, and care givers from Government run schools in Ahmedabad. The training was conducted at Riverside School, Airport road by Prabhat's team and other resource persons specializing in special education.

Objective and methodology

The objective of the training was to stress upon the importance of inclusive education, sensitization of children with special needs and their holistic development. The training was conducted based on participatory methodology, and by 'learning through activity' approach.

Day 1, 18th March

Emphasis in the training was given to informal interaction between participants and the resource person. The day started with an ice breaker for the participants to know each other better. The activity conducted by Mr. Keshav Chatterjee, Director Prabhat was to gauge the level of understanding and what the participants felt about disability. Participants were divided into 5 groups. Each group was given a word such as *ability*, *labeling*, *society cooperation*, etc. The groups were required to do role play on, or about it. The role play session was followed by discussions.



Activity in progress



Mr Keshav Chatterjee doing an activity



Activity in progress

The post lunch session focused on learning disabilities like Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD) and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). It was conducted by Mr. Dilip Singh Bihola, a special Educator who dealt on the various aspects of these problems, and stressing on the following aspects in particular:

- How to identify children with this disorder,
- how is it caused,
- what are the symptoms,
- How to handle such children
- How to train them
- What kind of rehabilitation one can provide



Session on learning disabilities, Mr. Dilip Singh Bihola

Mr. Bhola emphasized the importance of providing individual attention to these children, and how our own behavior pattern could influence their improvement.

In the concluding session of day one an activity/game was conducted driving home the point of change and how one needs to be ready and open for change whenever it necessitated and the need to look at the world with a broader and inclusive perspective



Activity

Day 2, 19th March

Day 2 started with a talk and discussion with representatives of a city based NGO aProCh (a protagonist in every child). aProCh believes in the philosophy of “I can” in the efforts to make our cities child friendly.

They discussed and shared their approach towards making an inclusive



Discussion with Aproch.org

society and education system, and focused on how it is imperative to let the child enjoy what they do, rather than forcing upon them, especially children coming from the marginalized section of the society. This is necessary in order to sustain the processes. Through their programmes like '30 ka dum, street smart and moving experiences' they strive to achieve and make learning fun for these children. They also discussed about their approach of sensitizing parents. Parents play an integral part and they need to encourage the children in this process, thereby making it a joint effort leading to a more inclusive society.

The post lunch session was conducted by Ms. Jhanavi from Riverside school, who stressed upon the Right to Education (RTE) Act implemented by the Government of India. She elucidated how imperative it is to follow and adhere to this right of every single child to have access to our education system. She explained about the objectives and the reason behind starting this Act by the Government. She urged everybody present to proactively promote and practice the RTE act and also join hands in taking this endeavour further.

The next session was an interesting and encouraging session. Sixth grade children from Riverside school shared their experience on being a part of the Buddy Interaction Programme, which was initiated by Prabhat six years ago. Buddy Interaction is a unique programme, where children from the mainstream school interact and do activities with children having special needs in Prabhat. Children are paired up and assigned activities which they needed to complete jointly. This is also a part of the peer learning that Prabhat endorses very strongly. Eight students from Riverside school shared their experience on how the programme has been a learning experience for them. They shared how they have grown through this entire process and learnt valuable lessons - the need to have patience, valuing oneself and the people around you and also the facilities that one gets so easily.



Learning through activity



Riverside students, sharing their experience of the buddy interaction programme



RTE session in progress

The Riverside children expressed their positive feelings about the programme, and how moved they were to see the special children travel in local buses and other modes of public transport so eagerly to attend their Buddy Interaction programme. They concluded by saying what the Buddy Interaction has taught and given them experience they will never forget! The training participants expressed their appreciation of the role Riverside children and sharing of their experiences.

An activity concluded the 2nd day of the training.

Day 3, 20th March

The third day started with Ms. Hasyalatha of the Spastic Society sharing about her organization – what they do, for whom, where, and related information. She shared details of the problems of children with cerebral palsy, the need for and importance of early intervention, the School Aid programme, as well as details of other related activities, under the following topics:

- Cerebral Palsy, its various forms, the reason why it happens, associated problems, training them at home and the form and manner in which they can be given education.
- Early Intervention (EI), the importance of the EI and how it is essential and fruitful to have EI so as to take corrective measures at the earliest
- School Aid programmes, how schools need to be prepared to have children with special needs be an integral part of it
- Individual programmes; how individual programmes need to be tailored-made for some children so to help them cope with the problem in a better manner



Demonstration in progress, with Ms. Hasyalatha



Learning through seeing



Dr. Lakhdirbhai Desai and Mr. Kirtisingh Chauhan, hearing a teacher share his experience

- Communication with children with special needs; how communication plays an important role in dealing with children with special needs, and the need to develop and use appropriate special communication techniques.

Mr Kirtisingh Chauhan, Coordinator, Integrated Education for Disabled children (IED) conducted activities to get the participants to open up and discuss actively. He conducted a singing session. He devised a word speech game, in which each participant was given a word about which they had to speak for a minute or two. This kept the participants engaged and they enjoyed the activities.

Day 4- 21st March

The first session focused on the value of team work and the need to develop leadership qualities, as a strong base for sustainable action. Ms. Nikita of Riverside School demonstrated this through a balloon activity. The crux of the activity was to make the participants understand the importance of team work, and leadership qualities as a foundation for having strong leaders for counseling, guidance and management responsibilities.

The session following the activity dealt with technical aspects of prosthesis and orthoses. Prosthesis is an artificial device that helps the affected person to live his/her life easily. Orthoses is a supportive device. The session was conducted by Mr. Baldev.R. Patel, an expert on these aspects. He also discussed about various other aids and appliances available and how they could help children and PWDs in their movement, as well as otherwise.



Balloon activity



Session on prosthesis and orthoses, with Mr. Baldev.R.Patel



Art activity

This session had important visitors - Mr. Lakshdirbhai Desai, District Primary Education Officer (DPEO), Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation and Mr Kirtisingh. They interacted with the participants about the training.

Participants shared their experiences and the uniqueness of the training sessions, and how they enjoyed learning through the various planned activities.

The post lunch session was conducted by Ms. Vinita Modi, of Riverside school who spoke about art education. She discussed how art plays an important role in the development of the mind of the child. But unfortunately art is generally not considered as a subject that can be taught. She explained how art can really help to shape a child's mind. She also dealt about the importance of diversity in education, and emphasized on the need to let the child's mind develop in its natural course, without imposing ways of learning upon the child, especially in the early years.

After a short tea break, Jagruti ben from Prabhat conducted an activity with the participants again using the balloons which were used earlier in the day. The activity showcased the importance of support system in the form of parents, community, society, neighbours, etc for children especially for children with special needs.

Day 5-22nd March

The concluding day session dealt with inclusive education. The session was addressed by the Mr. Ramesh Mistry, Ex-State IED Coordinator, upholding the cause of inclusive education and its importance.

The first session was conducted by Mr. Gagan Sethi, Janvikas a well known NGO in Ahmedabad. Gaganbhai is known for his work in training, mentoring and organizational setup and development. He discussed at length about what an educators roles and



Mr. Ramesh Mistry



Mr. Gagan Sethi, sharing on inclusive education



Session on moral responsibility, Mr. Amit Yadav

responsibilities are and what should and does inspire educators. He stated that research has proved that a 'child who dreams learns better'. In the context of special children he observed that children should be allowed to learn from whatever is around them, rather than focusing on disciplining them and making them learn in a rigid and prescribed way. Special children have difficulty in emoting and thus require patience and care in making them understand, as well as in teaching them. He pointed out that 'comparing' could have deep and lasting repercussions on the child, and how important it is to avoid doing so. His session was so intense and engaging that participants forgot they had crossed the lunch hour.

Post lunch, the concluding session was conducted by Mr Amit Yadav. He discussed about our moral responsibility and how as citizens of a country we have responsibility towards each other.

Conclusion:

Based on the discussions and observations during the training sessions, it was found that:

- Participants enjoyed the five-day intensive training and the learning methodology
- Participants appreciated the activities with learning methodology adopted by Prabhat, and the resource persons.
- Participants expressed that this has been one of a kind unique training that they have been part of, and that enabled them to learn many facets and aspects of education, especially for children with special needs.
- Participants opined that they would facilitate and extend help in making a more inclusive education system.

A Detailed pictorial representation of the various sessions and activities of the workshop are included in the following gallery.

Gallery:



Session in progress



Role play



Activity



Activity



Experience sharing



Lunch



Group work



Role playing activity



Group activity



Activity



Outdoor activity



Riverside students



Discussion



Activity in progress

We thank all the participants for being so proactive and exhibiting great need for learning. We would also like to thank all our resource people from the Government and our other friends, for taking time out and making this training a success.

