Sankalp Special School, Kanpur

2020 Mid Year Update
Background

- Caters to children with special needs (autism, behavioral problems, learning disabilities, speech/language issues, mentally challenged)

- Project’s goal is to nurture these kids with targeted attention and therapy so eventually they become self-sufficient
  - Individual progress plans for each child, 5-7 children per teacher, Physio/Speech/Behavioral therapy

- Supported by Asha-SV since Fall 2009
  - Asha Kanpur oversees the project (funds are sent to Asha Kanpur, they do the disbursals and monitor funds utilization); they also try to raise funds locally

- FB page - https://facebook.com/Sankalp-Special-School-1717996268428138/?ref=bookmarks
Statistics as per renewal update in January 2020

- Students - 59

- Staff
  - 10 teachers for class
  - 1 Speech teacher (Full time)
  - 1 Physiotherapist (part time) + 1 assistant therapist (full time)
  - 1 Coordinator
  - 2 Supporting staff
  - Psychologist
  - Principal

- 5 Hired vans (3 of them doing double rounds)
Current status during COVID-19 pandemic

• School is closed since 18th march 2020

• Current functioning on **THE DIGITAL CLASSROOM MODEL**
THE DIGITAL CLASSROOM MODEL

• To begin with, we wanted to train our staff to be ready and up for it
• So for this, once a week training for teachers was scheduled on Skype with written assignments. This lasted for 2 months
• The main theme was team work, enhancement of confidence and communication skills and adapting to a progressive mindset. Along with that, basic skills for online technicalities such as video calling, file sharing, data management etc. were also imparted
• When team was ready and prepared, the online classes were formally started in the first week of July though we were in touch with students and their parents throughout the period telephonically
STEP 1- Dividing staff and children into categories

- All children were divided into given categories for easy management
- Every group has roughly similar type of children hence the activity schedule is also on similar lines
- Staff was called in conference meetings according to categories for giving proper instructions regarding managing the activity schedules and for clearing any doubts
- Grouping was useful as it allowed effective and efficient communication
Group A

- Juniors Low Functioning
  (2 teachers)
- Juniors High Functioning
  (2 teachers)

Group B

- Seniors High functioning
  (3 Teachers)

Group C

- Seniors Low functioning
  (3 Teachers)

Group D

- Speech Therapy
- Physiotherapy
STEP 2 - Class scheduling

- Classes were scheduled by teaching staff by consenting about timings with parents.
- Classes were conducted in two manner-group and 1:1.
- Class schedule were posted in every classrooms and parents and teachers were advised to follow it strictly.
STEP 3-Teaching module

- Each group has similar students, hence similar activities and teaching method was put into use
- Activities for classes were designed by psychologist and worksheets for homework were designed by the teachers
- High functioning individual were given group Activities via group video calling
- Low functioning individuals were given individual time and once a week group activities
STEP 4-Therapy module

• All students involved with classes were provided therapy
• Therapy sessions were given via online directions to parents directly through video calls as well as through recorded videos made by our therapist at their homes (with subject being their family members)
• In response parents were asked to send us back their recordings of therapies implemented
STEP 5-Platform

• For making decisions regarding the classes, all conferencing was done on Skype with staff according to groups
• All classes were conducted online, using Skype and whatsapp, whatever method was preferred by teaching staff
• For submission of homework and therapy recordings, total 11 whatsapp groups were created (10 classrooms and 1 therapy room).
• Each classroom group was made by adding parents, classroom teacher, psychologist, coordinator and principal
STEP 6-Monitoring

• Within each classroom group and therapy room, principal, psychologist and school coordinator was added for smooth monitoring and direct communication

• Regular feedback were taken from parents as well as teachers

• Google feedback form has been designed accordingly for monthly feedback from parents

• Staff meeting is called in every fortnight
STEP 7-Motivation Boost

• The classes remain suspended on all festivals. Independence day was celebrated online this time where we sang our national anthem and some of us shared their views regarding independence while others shared their childhood memories of independence day celebrations.

• Teachers are being constantly appreciated for their efforts and problems are discussed together in safe environment.

• For motivational boost among parents and children, monthly competitions are held and winners are announced. Participating e- certificates are given to everyone.

• Regular tele-counseling sessions are given to parents who need them.
Current statistics in online classes

- 40 STUDENTS
- 11 WHATS APP GROUPS
- 10 TEACHING STAFF
- 1 PHYSIOTHERAPIST + 1 ASSISTANT
- 1 SPEECH TEACHER
- 1 COORDINATOR
- 1 PSYCHOLOGIST
- 1 PRINCIPAL
CHALLENGES

• Online classes are largely dependent on cooperation extended by the parents. However, not all parents are ready to cooperate due to various reasons like lack of time, lack of resources like smart phones and internet or even due to a lack of drive. Parents were individually counselled to enroll for the online classes but we could not convince 19 parents. Some the parents who were hesitating because they were not in a position to pay the fees were assured that it is not mandatory to pay anything for availing this facility

• The lower functioning children are not responding to this mode of teaching. In their case, we are targeting to keep the parents engaged and motivated
Future Plans

• As of now, the COVID-19 pandemic situation in India is far better than many other countries in terms of disease severity and mortality

• The schools are getting opened for class 10th and 12th students from September so we hope that even we can restart our regular activities from around November, of course with a revised protocol to ensure safety of our children. Many centres, which provide one to one therapies to special needs children, have already started functioning to some extent. It is upto the parents whether they want to send their children
Financials

- Amount received from Asha-SV for the first half of the current financial year -- Rs 6,50,000/-
- Rent plus remuneration paid to staff during last 4 months (April – July) -- Rs 3,81,600/-
  (Paid from Asha FC account)
- Fees received from parents (in July and August) – Rs 38,600/-
- Donation received in July and August – Rs 10,000/-
- Payment made from Asha Kanpur account - Rs 1,94,000/-
  (a round figure of Rs 10000/- was paid to each van owner as they were not actually running the vehicles + salary of 1 teacher also paid from this account)
• From this month onwards, we will not be paying any amount to the van owners. We have already given them one month notice to arrange for alternative source of income.

• We sadly mourn the demise of Mr. Raj Narain Srivastava who used to run one of the vans for us. He was with us since 2008 and was a sincere and dedicated worker. He succumbed to corona infection in early June.
FUN in the SUN

Hello SUMMER
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Arush, om, sumedh
8:30 PM

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Trace & Color the Shapes

Samanvishu