

SANKALP SPECIAL SCHOOL, KANPUR

**2023-2024
RENEWAL**

BACKGROUND

Caters to children with special needs (autism, intellectual impairment, behavioral problems, speech/language issues, developmental delays)

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
- Vocational training for high functioning children above 16 yrs age

Supported by Asha-SV since Fall 2009

- Asha Stars project : Like any other Asha-SV project except the funds sent are only those that have been directly donated to the project.
- Project runs as part of Asha Kanpur and funds are sent to Asha Kanpur for meeting out the project expenses; some funds are also raised locally

FB page - <https://m.facebook.com/Sankalp-Special-School-1717996268428138/?ref=bookmarks>

CURRENT STATISTICS (AS ON 31-1-2023)

Students - 49 students

Staff

- Principal
- 1 Coordinator
- 1 Psychologist
- 1 Physiotherapist (part time) and 1 physio assistant (full time)
- 1 Speech teacher (part time)
- 1 Vocational instructor (part time)
- 10 teachers
- 3 Supporting staff

•2 Hired vans (1 doing double round)

OUR TEAM



REVIEW 2022

Jan – The school remained closed during January due to spread of COVID (Omicron). However, the teachers and therapists were in touch with the parents telephonically and guided them to conduct therapies at home.

Feb – The school reopened on 10th February and we resumed our activities.

- *Ms Alka Mishra joined us as vocational consultant to promote the development of our vocational section.

- *She also took up the responsibility of keeping our Fb and instagram page active through regular updates.

- *The children went for a visit to a nearby famous temple named JK temple.

- *We decided to hold target based group activities for children every Saturday for enhancing group interactions and breaking the monotony of schedule at school.

- *We were visited by 200+ B.Ed students during feb, march and april as govt. has added a visit to special school in the curriculum of B.Ed to sensitize the teachers towards the needs of special children.

Mar – We continued with the revised activity schedule during this month. We had our bakery unit set up in march and we also got help from a professional who volunteered to train our vocational teacher for basic cookie baking. We celebrated Holi with zeal as always.



Apr – The regular school activities were carried out. Apart from that, we participated in special olympics mega health check up camp on 7th April where about 750 special needs children were screened for basic health problems related to eyes, teeth and ears. We participated in the cultural fest for special needs children by rotary club along with 11 other special schools. We had put up our stall at a craft exhibition organized by Shubhanjali, an NGO which promotes Indian cultural heritage on 24th April.

May – Apart from the regular school activities, we celebrated Mothers day on 7th May with mothers of our students. The event was sponsored by Muskan Foundation, a NGO. We started getting new admissions. Many admission queries were from parents of young children (4-5 years age) so we started a new class for these children. Also, since we needed a computer teacher for our vocational unit, we employed a new coordinator cum computer teacher (whose daughter is a beneficiary of our early intervention class). The previous coordinator was assigned the responsibility of the early intervention class.

June – This time, we had 15 days summer vacations only since we had lost around one month during January and February due to omicron (previously we had 1 month summer holiday). Annual reports were distributed on 10th June and parents were largely happy with the progress of their children.

July – School activities were resumed and we got many new admissions. A new teacher was appointed for these new admissions. Assessments of all children and preparation of IEPs for them was done during this month amidst the chaos created by 11 new admissions.



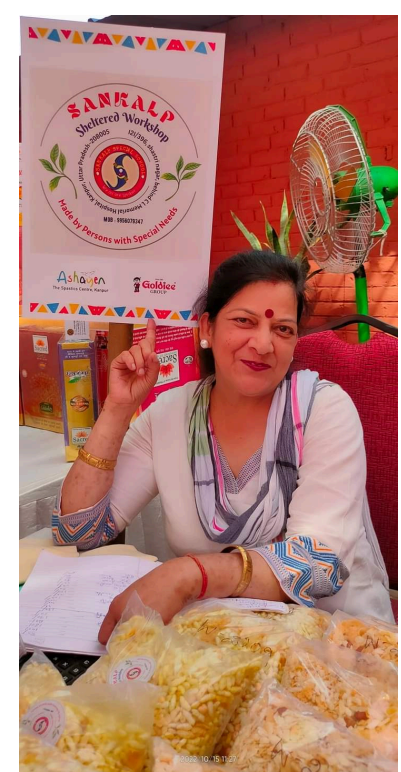
August – We conducted our normal activities along with celebrating Independence day, Rakshabandhan and Janmashtami. Interactive session with parents was re-started and we invited Dr. Sarita Mishra, HOD, psychology dept. of DAV college for a talk on stress reduction for parents. For rakshabandhan celebration, we had girls from Maharana Pratap Education Centre visiting us and tying rakhi to our boys. On independence day, we organized a fancy dress competition for our children.

September – Teacher's day was celebrated by organizing fun games and exclusive lunch party for our teachers along with giving them a token gift to appreciate their dedicated service for the children. Regular classroom activities were conducted. The vocational unit was busy in preparation of their products for the upcoming pre-diwali sale.

October – We had put up our stall at the Diwali mela organized by The Spastics Centre of Kanpur where many other firms and special schools had put up their stalls. Our products were highly appreciated by all and we managed to have a fairly good sale. For our parents, we organized a diwali dandiya program along with exhibition cum sale of the products made at our vocational unit.

November – We organized a health awareness and health check-up camp for the mothers of our children. This was carried out by Dr Sapna Singh, associate professor in Dept of Gynaecology at Kanpur Medical college, who is also a parent of one of our beneficiaries along with Dr Deepti. For children's day, we took our children for a picnic at 'Apna Ghar', another Asha Kanpur project. To promote independent living, we started cooking activity once a week for the vocational trainees in which, the children prepare lunch for themselves, serve it and later on, wash their plates as well.

December – On world disability day, we participated in a walk for inclusion organized by a NGO Khwaish Foundation. A discussion was also held with the mothers of our children to create healthy outlook towards the condition of their children and promote advocacy for the rights of our children. We also started putting up a mobile canopy stall of our products outside the school gate to promote awareness and sales of our products. Visits by fresh batch of B.Ed students started from this month. We ended the month and the year with Christmas celebration,



CHANGES MADE IN 2022

- Our vocational unit is running in an organized way now and we have 8 special needs high functioning adults with us at present who are being trained for independent living.
- Another 11 low functioning special needs adults are being trained in the pre-vocational activities so that they can be usefully involved in vocational activities later on.
- We now have a folding canopy to set up our stall wherever we get an opportunity. We keep this canopy outside the school gate (on road) during the school hours on a regular basis to sell the products on a regular basis.
- To create awareness and to search for more avenues for sale of the products made in the vocational unit, we are now regularly uploading video clips and reels related to vocational and other school activities on facebook and instagram.
- To break the monotony and expose the children to various playful activities in larger groups, Saturdays are now group outdoor activity days. Not all children understand the games (as they are rule based games) but they all enjoy the time away from the usual table and chair activities.

- Regular classes for teachers are being taken every Saturday to upgrade their knowledge and understanding and boosting up their morale. The classes are being taken by Dr Deepti and Ms. Alka Mishra, the vocational instructor, who is a special educator as well.
- We have stopped the early intervention services on out patient basis due to non-availability of a good occupational therapist. However, we now have 2 classes where we are teaching and training children of age group 4 yrs to 7yrs.
- After July, 2022, we have got many new admissions. Good thing is that mothers are willing to spare time for their children and they manage their child's transport themselves. This means we don't have to engage more vans for transportation, atleast for the time being.
- We have resumed regular interactive sessions with parents to increase their involvement. Some of the mothers (around 7-8, who regularly come and sit at school's waiting area while their child is in class) were encouraged to practice yoga and pranayam during this time to reduce their stress and improve the well-being.
- B.Ed students are regularly visiting our school because such a visit has been made compulsory in their curriculum. This will sensitize them towards the needs of differently abled children and may pave the path towards an inclusive society.

CHALLENGES

- Availability of good and responsible professionals is a problem in Kanpur. We can easily get dedicated untrained teaching staff and train them for handling classroom activities as per the instructions given but finding qualified and well trained therapists is a problem here.
- We have refused many admissions during last 6 months, mostly because of the transportation issues. Also, we don't have space left to accommodate more children after setting up the vocational units and a well equipped physiotherapy set-up. (I don't think we should focus much on this aspect at present because there is a limit to what can be managed by us)
- People's (both teachers' and parents') attitude and understanding is also a huge limitation. We are working towards this but we need to work more to create a desirable level of awareness and sensitivity.

FUTURE PLANS

- We do not have any big targets for this year. The main focus will be to attend to the needs of the new children who were admitted to the school from July, 22. (strength has increased from 27 to 49)
- Training the teachers will also be a target because we have employed 4 new teachers in last 6 months (3 for new classes and 1 as replacement of one of the older teachers who has discontinued due to some health issues). The psychologist is also new to the field (though she is with us since 1 year now).
- We are still in the process of creating a system for the vocational unit. This will remain a major area of focus this year too.
- Finding more avenues for sale of the products made in the vocational unit is another area which needs more attention.
- We may have to involve more people (as volunteers or as part time employees) for different vocational workshops.
- Two sections, having low functioning adults with moderate to severe intellectual impairment are now the “pre-vocational classes”. We have to plan suitable activities for these children as well.
- One of the two pre-primary sections has children who have the academic potential. We have to see that their needs are also taken care of suitably so that in future, they can be enrolled for the grade level exams conducted by NIOS (open school system).

Financials

MONTHLY EXPENSES AS ON DECEMBER 2022

Category	Details	Expense
Rent + Electricity bill	School building (35000 + 4000)	39,000/-
Van Payments	2 Vans (1 doing double round)	38,000/-
Staff salary	Principal (honorary)	113,500/-
	1 Coordinator cum computer teacher (10000)	
	1 Vocational instructor (8000)	
	1 Psychologist (7500)	
	1 Physiotherapist + assisstant (7500 + 3000)	
	1 Speech teacher (7500)	
	10 Teachers (52500)	
	3 Supporting staff (17500)	
Miscellaneous expense	Maintenance, cleaning, repair, stationary etc.	2,800/-
Fee received		75,300/-
Covered by Asha		123,500/-
Covered by Asha Kanpur		69,800/-

FUNDS EXHAUSTED TILL DECEMBER '21

Month	Payment from Asha FC account		
	Rent	Salary	Total
April	35000/-	87000/-	122,000/-
May	35000/-	89000/-	124,000/-
June	35000/-	89000/-	124,000/-
July	35000/-	88500/-	123,500/-
August	35000/-	88500/-	123,500/-
September	35000/-	88500/-	123,500/-
October	35000/-	88500/-	123,500/-
November	35000/-	88500/-	123,500/-
December	35000/-	88500/-	123,500/-
January	35000/-	83000/-	118,000/-
TOTAL			12,29,000/-

ESTIMATED MONTHLY BUDGET FOR JAN 2023-DEC 2023

Category	Details	Expense
Rent + Electricity bill	School building (35000+4000)	39,000
Van payments	2 vans	38,000
Staff salaries	Principal (honorary)	117,500
	Coordinator+computer teacher (10000)	
	Vocational instructor (8000)	
	Psychologist (7500)	
	1 physiotherapist + assistant (7500 + 3000)	
	1 speech teacher (7500)	
	10 Teachers (56500)	
	Supporting Staff (17500)	
Misc. expenses	Maintenance & cleaning, repair work, school stationary etc.	3,000
Fee received		-76,500
	Total monthly deficit	121,000

So, total funds needed for one year are-

$$121,000 \times 12 = 14,52,000/-$$

$$+ 2.5\% = 36,300/-$$

$$14,88,300/-$$

Total Budget for 2023-2024 - 13,12,994.25

SUCCESS STORIES

- **Jashnpreet** is a 4 years old boy with severe autism with moderate mental retardation & poor motor development. He came to us in April 2022 and at that time, he could barely walk 2-3 steps with support & he could not maintain any eye contact. He did not sit on chair at all and kept on crying all the time. For feeding also, he used to take liquids from bottle or sipper and semisolids using spoon. With extensive therapy at school and cooperation of parents, he is now able to walk independently and sits in class for full 4.5 hours. He follows simple commands and has developed basic eye hand coordination. He has started using glass for drinking water and eats solids like biscuits, cake etc.
- **Shivi Bajaj** is a 5 years old girl with cerebral palsy. She came to us in September 2021 and at that time, she kept lying down all the time. She did not respond to any verbal commands and the moment her mother used to put her on the physiotherapy mattress, she used to cry and became uncontrollable. The parents were very disheartened so they were counselled and motivated again and again. She gradually settled down and her therapy was started. The parents also kept trying. They are giving her some homeopathy medicine and follow the exercise routine at home too. With all these efforts, she is now able to stand with support using leg braces. She sits in class for about an hour and has developed eye-hand coordination and recognizes few basic fruits and animals. She eats solids herself and demands different food items every day. She greets everyone by a friendly smile and likes being around other children.

- **Prakhar Lalwani**, a 9 year old non-verbal child with moderate autism and severe hyperactivity joined us for therapy in July 22. At that time, the child did not sit at one place for more than 3-4 minutes and it was difficult to restrain him physically as his physical strength is very good. The parents were very anxious and disturbed due to his hyperactivity. We started his sensory relaxation and convinced the parents for psychiatric consultation. After taking medications and therapy, he is now much more settled and has started responding to the classroom teachings. His grasping power is fair so now, when his hyperactivity is reduced, he is showing satisfactory development within 6 months .
- **Vedant**, a 7 years old boy with a diagnosis of severe mental retardation was brought to us in September 22 by his mother who was very disheartened because the child was refused admission by normal schools and one special school because they said he has no potential of growth. Also, the family and the father were not supportive. The child was not toilet trained and was totally dependent on his mother for eating, drinking and all his daily needs. We started working with the child and counselled the mother suitably. Mother was also trained to do some exercises at home also. The child has shown remarkable improvement and he has started exhibiting the need to go to the toilet and can drink water and eat solids himself now. The mother is also happy and is determined to work harder with her child for making him more self –dependent.
- **Kapish Gupta** is a 18 year boy with mild mental retardation, deaf-mutism and behavioural problem (over-enthusiasm and inability to control his impulse). His parents do not want to put in much effort for his betterment as they belong to lower middle class and remain preoccupied with their life struggles. He is with us since last 5 years and we do not have much to teach him in class due to his extreme disinterest in academic activities and deaf-mutism. From this January, we have started involving him in our physiotherapy unit as a helper for 2 hours. He will sit in class for remaining 2 hours where he will be taught some other pre-occupational skills like packaging, weighing things etc.