Sankalp Special School, Kanpur

2022 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, 4 - 6 children per teacher, Physio/Speech/Behavioral therapy, vocational training for 16+ children with mild intellectual deficits

• 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.
  – Before April 2015, funds were sent to Asha Kanpur for the disbursals and funds utilization was monitored by Asha Kanpur. But now, the project runs as a part of Asha Kanpur and the financials are completely managed by Asha Kanpur.
  – Funds are generated locally as well.

• FB page – facebook@sankalpspecialschool

• Insta id: _humarasankalp_. Website: www.sankalpspecialschool.org
Current statistics

• Students - **41** (33 for schooling and 8 for vocational training); more admissions expected in this month...

• Staff
  - Principal
  - 1 Coordinator cum computer instructor
  - 1 Psychologist (part time)
  - 1 Physiotherapist (part time)
  - 1 Speech teacher (part time)
  - 5 teachers for class + 2 teachers for vocational section (on look out for 1 more teacher)
  - 2 Supporting staff + 1 helper for vocational unit

• 2 Hired vans
Jan – The school remained closed in January due to winter vacations and later, due to Omicron wave. However, we celebrated the Republic day online via zoom and a volunteer conducted quiz for the teachers and sponsored the quiz prizes also.

Feb – The school reopened on 11th February. The activities of the school resumed as before. For better functioning of our vocational unit, we hired a vocational consultant, Mrs. Alka Mishra. She is a qualified special educator and clinical psychologist (M.Phil) with more than 20 years experience in field of special education. Under her guidance, we have incorporated some new activities. We have decided to hold target based group activities on every Saturday. These activities help in development of social skills among the children. They also help in breaking the monotony of the activities thus making school time more enjoyable for children as well as the teachers. Our Saturday teachers training activity was also resumed after the school reopened. It was decided that Alka ji will take these classes so that teachers get to learn from a new perspective. We decided to maintain digital records of task analysis, staff meetings, production and sales of vocational unit so that things become more methodical. We also decided to increase our online visibility by posting regular videos of various activities which are being carried out at the centre on facebook and instagram. We had around 200+ B.Ed students from different colleges visiting our centre during February and March. This is a compulsory part of their revised curriculum from this year which promotes inclusive education. As part of yearly excursion, our children visited Kanpur’s famous J.K.Temple this year.

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.
April – 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. Our psychologist, and one of the most active members of our team, Ms Swati left the job from 1st May for pursuing higher studies. We were aware of this so we had engaged another psychologist under her training since December ‘21. Also, since we had taken admission of 5 children of 3-7 years age group, and we needed an experienced teacher for them, we shifted our previous coordinator in class and employed another staff who will act as coordinator and will also teach computer to 2 children of the vocational unit who have been enrolled specifically for computer training. He will also be responsible for maintaining accounts and for maintaining digital records for the school.

June – This time, we had our summer vacations from 11th June to 25th June only (previously we had 1 month summer holiday but this time, since we already had to close the school in January and early February because of Omicron, we decided to have 15 days holiday only). Annual reports were distributed on 10th June and parents were largely happy with the progress of their children.

July – The children are settling down in their classes after the vacation. We have got 9 more admissions (some of the older children who had discontinued schooling during COVID have started coming to school again) and we are on a look out for a new teacher now.
Psychology assessment report

Sankalp Special School
Service since 2007

Psychological Assessment Report

Physiological Milestones

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Milestone</th>
<th>Age</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sitting</td>
<td>8 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crawl</td>
<td>Normal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Standing</td>
<td>Normal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walking</td>
<td>16 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rubbing</td>
<td>6 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One word speech</td>
<td>12 - 14 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two word speech</td>
<td>2 - 2.5 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presently</td>
<td>Can speak small sentences when necessary or when in mood. Proper use of sentences and proper conversation absent.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Mental Status Examination:
- General behavior: Generally preoccupied and distracted
- Psycho-motor activity: Active and observant, indulged in physical play during the testing
- Eye contact: Conventional
- Mood: Happy and self-absorbed
- Attention: Distracted
- Speech & Language: Did not converse during the testing but was uttering things on his own
- Attitude toward examiner: Rapport could not be established as the child was distracted throughout

Overall Impression:
Panch is an active child who enjoys physical play. He was well-kempt and tidy. He did not want to converse or interact during the testing but responded when he was offered a sweet. He was keenly interested in his surroundings and wanted to explore things. Social inhibition was not observed and he roamed here and there freely. He was comfortable among other children but did not show any inclination for interaction and was comfortable playing alone in presence of everyone else. His physical appearance and movements appeared to be normal. He did not sit at his place even for a short while during the testing and got interested only when he was offered a sweet and building blocks.

His physical development appears to be normal and he showed interest in new things. Appetite is normal and he is independent for his activities of daily living.

Parental interview and source of referral also suggest some behavior and speech issues.

Presently, he was reported to find difficulty in social behavior especially since last 6 - 7 months.
Highlights/Future Plans

• We do not have occupational therapist now but our physiotherapist and one more teacher who used to assist him during his tenure are continuously carrying out those exercises with the children. We did take up some children in our early intervention section and parents are largely happy with the progress. We are facing problem with only those parents who have autistic children and specifically demand for OT. We are not in any urgent need for an occupational therapist but we will definitely need one in future. Otherwise we will not be able to bring about desired progress in young autistic children.

• We are continuously trying to refine the quality of the things prepared, their packaging and the process of production in our vocational centre so that we can launch these products commercially. We are already getting regular orders for “mungodi” and “ginger candy” from a shop. Once we can find out sufficient avenues for the sales, our vocational workshops will be fully operational. We aim to largely streamline this process within next one year. We currently have 5 vocational workshops which are – computer lab (for customized mugs and T-shirt printing), tailoring workshop, bakery unit, paper plate manufacturing unit and kitchen unit (where we make namkeen, jam, achar, mugodi and amla & ginger candy).