



CELEBRATING DIVERSITY

THE
difference
IS IN
knowing

A Takshila initiative in
association with Trinayani



Persons with disabilities are not a homogenous group



When talking or thinking about persons with disabilities, it makes sense to **PRESUME COMPETENCE** in them.



Be careful about the language you use when you speak to or talk about persons with a disability

CELEBRATING DIVERSITY

THE difference
IS IN
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People-First Language	Language to Avoid
Student who uses a wheelchair	Wheel-chair bound student
Students with an intellectual disability	Mentally retarded student
Student with a learning disability	Dyslexic, LD student
Student with a disability	Crippled, physically challenged, handicapped
Persons with cerebral palsy	Person who suffers from cerebral palsy
Student who is deaf	Student is who is deaf and dumb
Student(s) who receive special education services	Special education student(s)
Disabled	Handicapped (barriers imposed by society)



DELHI PUBLIC SCHOOL

In partnership with

trinayani
Creating Awareness about Disability
www.trinayani.org

takshila

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Introduction

In India, we have a government policy in place for Inclusive Education through the Sarva Shikhsha Abhiyaan, 2001 and the Right to Education Act, 2009. With the advent of these bills, today, schools are feeling a growing need to develop skills to handle differences.

However, implementation of such laws do not necessarily change reality, a regulation of monitoring implementation is a key aspect we believe in fostering. Currently, the main barriers to equality for people with disabilities are attitudinal.

We, at Trinayani, have been taking small steps of inclusion to hit the highest stage of oneness among people with disabilities and people without disabilities. Trinayani is a not-for-profit trust,

working towards creating awareness about diversity, disability, and inclusion. Disability awareness to us, is helping oneself and others to change the attitude of ignorance and confusion into opportunities for acceptance and understanding.



Introduction

We deeply believe in working towards change rather than moving away from issues and challenges. Trinayani's 'towards approach' has been instilled in each and every activity of the organisation be it disability awareness/sensitization workshops and interactive seminars for various stakeholders co-hosted by presenters with disability, creating award-winning films on disability awareness, broadcasting radio shows on leading radio channels, publishing books and articles, running a spa employing blind massage therapist, our own Inclusive Music Band-Pehli Barish and partnering and collaborating with like-minded NGOs and organizations.

As a step towards demystifying issues pertaining to disabilities, we partnered with Takshila Education Society which manages

and runs four Delhi Public Schools based in Patna, Pune, Ludhiana and Coimbatore respectively to conceptualize, design their Annual Theme for the academic year March 2015 – March 2016, which we aptly titled “Celebrating Diversity, The Difference is in knowing”.



Introduction

This year long Disability Awareness Campaign focused on designing Communication strategies to enhance respect for diversities through the sensitization of students and the larger academic and school community to various issues of disability.

The challenge we had taken on was to enforce the idea that Ability and Disability is simply a difference in degree- disability is not a disease- it is a condition and that we are all able to do thing in our own ways.

We worked closely with the coordinators and teachers of the 4 Delhi Public Schools to infuse disability awareness lessons in the entire length and breadth of the school curriculum; be it geography, history, sport, arts, media, robotics, annual concert, etc.



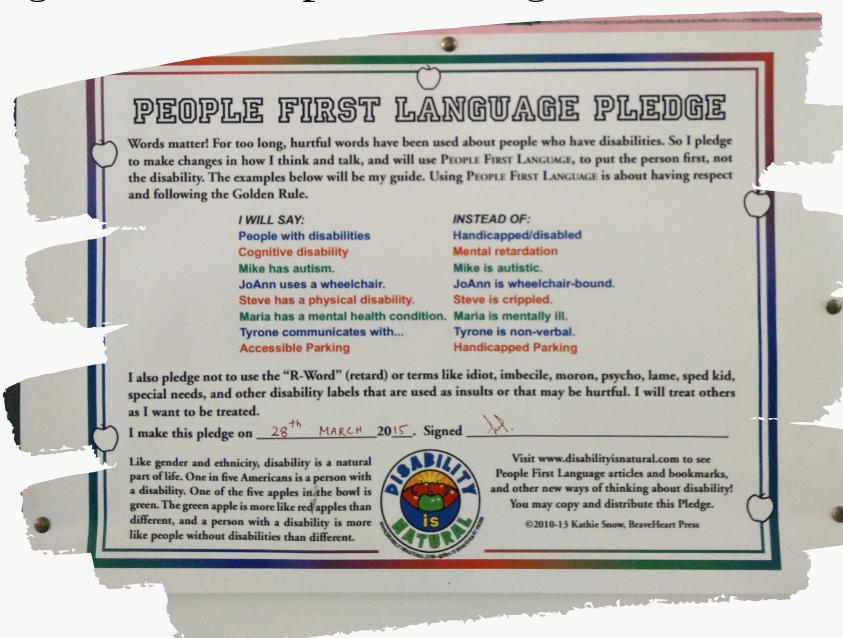
Programs

- Provided the note on the theme to be incorporated in the Almanac.
- Theme Logo was used in School Notebooks, Jute bags & Mail Signatures.
- Designed a dedicated space in the library of each school for materials pertaining to the theme. The librarian was taken into confidence and asked to encourage discussion of the same among students during library time. The materials were also displayed for presentations, at kiosks and exhibitions at school for the public. We recommended and helped sources
- Story books,
- Assistive devices pertaining to all disabilities, like white canes, Braille slates, hearing aids, sign language book, talking watch, low vision aids.



Programs

- Assistive devices pertaining to all disabilities, like white canes, Braille slates, hearing aids, sign language book, talking watch, low vision aids.
- Books written by self advocates
- Designed content for the First Assembly of every month dedicated to the theme and provided detailed lesson plans to further the themes during their weekly Thursday Activity joint classroom sessions.
- Researched and designed the Summer Assignments (2015) for all students of classes Nursery till standard 12 to include elements of disability studies in assignments for English, Mathematics, Science, Hindi, Social Science, Sanskrit and ICT.
- Display Boards, Classroom doors across schools were used by children to express their idea of Diversity through drawings, illustrated poems and graffiti.



Programs

- Conducted day long disability sensitization workshop for all teachers replete with power point presentations, film screening, case studies, interactions and question and answer sessions, to facilitate their understanding of diversity, explain the tenets of Inclusive Education and question their beliefs about teaching students of all abilities. Teachers were also familiarized with various concessions provided by the CBSE board for students with different disabilities.
- Organized the Learning Disability Simulation Lab, an activity based experiential workshop that simulates learning disabilities in teachers, conducted by Padma Shashtry, to give teachers knowledge about how invisible difficulties affect the learning process and further their understanding of the actual trouble experienced by students who struggle during the process of learning.
- Conducted sessions for parents of DPS students, focusing on their attitudes and emphasizing their role in facilitating learning by disabled children alongside their own children



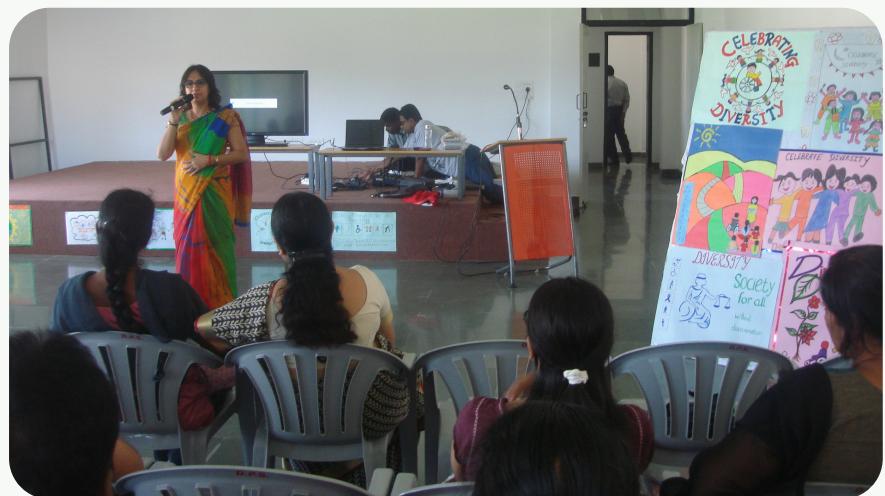
Programs

- The administrative, ancillary, housekeeping and transport staff attended sessions on the role Language plays in the way we think about disabled people, words that need to be avoided and positives empowering words/phrases that should be used. Also held sessions on disability etiquette, providing tips on how to interact with persons with disabilities.
- To facilitate social contact with persons with disabilities and erase preconceived notions about them, we arranged for talks by local self advocates, (persons with disabilities) where they shared their stories, talked about their rights and participated in a question and answer session with teachers on 5th September, Teachers Day.
- Film screening sessions were held for students to promote appropriate portrayal of the lives of PWDs. The aim was to Break misconceptions, Present factual information, and Project success stories.



Programs

- Coordinated with script writer and provided story ideas for the plays to be staged for their Annual Concert 2015, suggesting stories revolving and highlighting characters with disabilities to change the attitudinal architecture of students.
- Developed two illustrated workbooks, titled I AM SPECIAL SO ARE YOU for primary school students CREATING A BETTER WORLD for secondary school students as teaching tools, to be used as a starting point for teachers/parents to develop lessons on understanding diversities. The magazine consists of activities for student engagement with detailed guidelines for teachers.
- Provided topics for annual Elocution, Debate and Quiz competitions
- Created our version of the Snakes and Ladder game, 10 by 10 feet flex with a custom made dice, where the students become pawns themselves and play the game in teams, to enhance knowledge and respect for diversities and build a moral compass for themselves; differentiating right action from wrong.



Programs

- Designed World Sight Day Celebration by arranging the screening of Audio Described version of the film THE LITTLE TERRORIST for an inclusive audience of Dps students and Blind students invited from their local schools.
- Designed World Disability Day Celebration events in 4 schools
- For DPS Ludhiana we arranged for a Deaf instructor Harpriti from Deafway, Delhi to conduct a Sign language workshop for the school, supported by a local Sign Language Interpreter.



Programs

- For DPS Pune, we arranged for Bhushan Toshniwal who is blind and an accountant and singer to address the staff.
- For DPS Coimbatore we arranged for Akila Vaidyanathan from the Amaze Charitable Trust, to organize a workshop and exhibition on understanding Autism.
- For DPS Patna we had ‘Embracing Diversities” workshops for all students in the secondary section throughout the day.
- Providing THIS-ABILITY articles regularly for its inclusion in the ORBIT magazine of Takshila Educational Society distributed to all schools.
- Starting developing the Towards Inclusion Card Game kit and a STUDENTS SUPPORT PROGRAM with end to end training and steps of how to go about it.



Monthly Activities

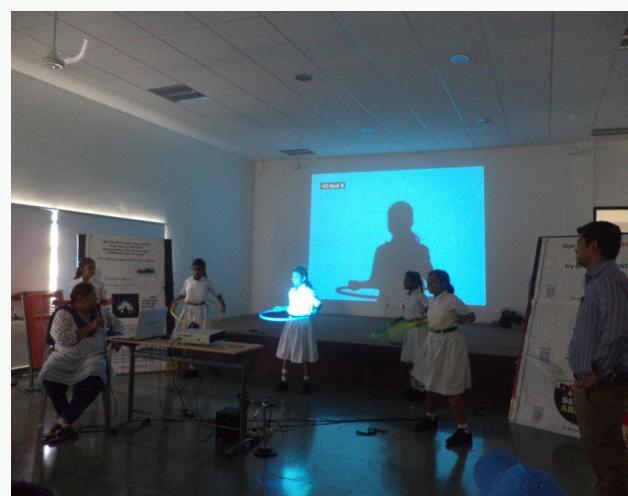
On each Thursday Assemble of each month, a certain activity was curated to highlight aspects and attributes of Disability.

Month	Assembly Topic	Thursday Activity
April	Door to Diversity	Introducing Theme
May-June	Everyday Heroes	Meet me, Ask me, Learn
July	Know One-Self	My Strength and Fears
August	Oh, the ways we communicate	Simulation activities followed by Sign language session
September	Finding Solutions	Barrier and Solution Game
October	Moving Differently	Outdoor Fun
November	Meet and Greet	Field Trip
December	Door to Harmony	Door Art

Monthly Activities

On each Thursday Assemble of each month, a certain activity was curated to highlight aspects and attributes of Disability.

Month	Assembly Topic	Thursday Activity
January	Celebrating Differences- The Magazine	Story Time and Puzzles
February	Disability Etiquette and Language	Learning by Doing
March	Technology Solutions	Research Project



Annexure 1

I AM SPECIAL, SO
ARE YOU

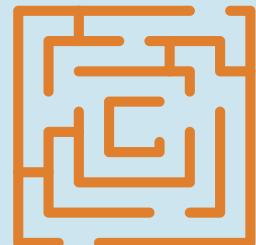
Topics included in the I AM SPECIAL, SO ARE YOU Workbook for middle school. Detailed lesson plans were provided to teachers for each topic.



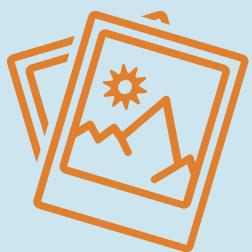
Poet's Corner



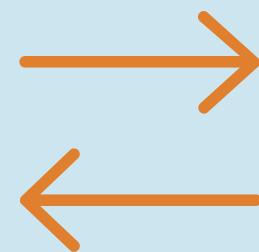
Crossword Puzzle



The Maze



Fun with Pictures



See the Difference



What's the Message
and Who's the
Messenger



Food for Thought

Annexure 2

TALKING
HANDS

An Example of what was used for Talking Hands

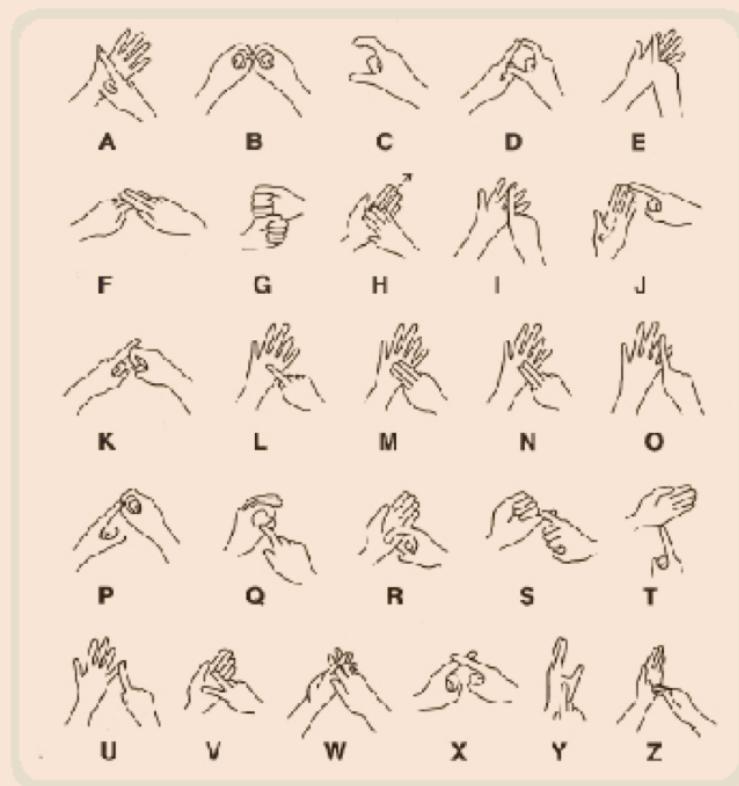
3 Talking Hands

Look at the images below. These are called finger spellings. Hands are used to show alphabets! Isn't that super cool!! These finger spellings are part of sign languages.

Have you seen people use sign language? Yes? Some people, who can't hear, use their hands and fingers, to communicate. These are not random hand movements as it may seem to you. They use sign language like for example, Indian Sign Language (ISL).

A sign language is a complete language with its own grammar and like verbal languages they vary country to country.

Each letter from A to Z has a specific finger sign. Use this chart to communicate with your friends. Try to finger spell the name of your favourite movie. See if your friend can guess what you spelt. Do you see how the first letter of every line spells out the word 'Diversity'? Clever, isn't it?



Did it feel difficult to do? Remember, any language seems hard in the beginning. Deaf people talk quite comfortably by signing. Practice will make it easier. Keep trying.

Annexure 3

WHAT'S THE MESSAGE WHO'S THE MESSENGER

An Example of what was used for What's the message and Who is the Messenger

What's your Message? &

Now that you know so much about diversity, why don't you help create awareness about people who do things differently (persons with disabilities)? Come up with a short slogan or message of your own that will help people remember and further this cause.

For example, we created these.

- Diversity makes life interesting.
- I am born like this, so what?
- Be an Ability Activist

Now it is your turn.

Can you now write your message in Braille?

Here is the Braille alphabet.

Use it to turn your slogan into Braille.

a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j
k	l	m	n	o	p	q	r	s	t
u	v	w	x	y	z				

Annexure 4

SUMMER ASSIGNMENT STUDENTS OF CLASS 7

An Example of the assignments submitted by the students of class seven which they did in the summers

What's your Message?

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u	v	w	x	y	z				

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