

REC HOLISTIC EDUCATION & REHABILITATION FOR CHILDREN WITH BLINDNESS

National Association for the Blind

Progress Report - January - March 2020

Introduction

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND (NAB) Delhi, is a not for profit organization that came into existence in 1979. NAB's core philosophy revolves around making an integrated society in skill development and education of all visually impaired across India. NAB which today stands out among all working for the blind, is due to its pioneering work and new initiatives under its Digital Technology Department, Center for Multiple Disabilities, Integrated Department catering to nearly 300 students from all over the country.

The project provides for preparing the young children for integration into mainstream schools, providing the much needed support to the children already integrated into mainstream schools and also to the residential facilities for the outstation children receiving services by the organization.

Preparatory Unit

Preparatory Unit is the basic foundation section of education of NAB-Delhi, where the children in the age group of 4 to 7 years are prepared for integration into the mainstream schools.

There are about 50 children who are provided intervention by a team of 7 trained educators. Being the stepping stone of education the importance of this unit is immense, because it is here that the child is trained not only in academics, but also in minute aspects which promotes independence.

The children are trained in Daily Living Skills, Pre-Braille Skills leading to Reading and Writing Braille/Large Print, Mathematics with the help of Taylor Frame and Abacus and Orientation and Mobility within the school outside to encourage independent movement. The students are also given keyboard orientation to work on computer with the help of screen-reading software. The unit's focus is to facilitate integration into mainstream schools.

Apart from the regular academics, the children are also encouraged to participate in extra-curricular activities for overall personality development. The importance of hand function, finger isolation, body awareness is crucial for the younger visually impaired. To encourage this, special focus is given on activities such as clay modelling, art and craft and physical education.

Team

To achieve comprehensive development of children there is a team of special educators, music teacher, speech therapist, art and craft trainers and sports teacher.

Activities undertaken

- Screening and assessment of daily living skills to improve independence as well as motor skills
- Pre- Braille activities and introduction of academic concepts
- Focus on braille, computer training, and orientation and mobility of children who have been shortlisted for integration into mainstream schools in the new academic session
- Comprehensive academic evaluation conducted periodically
- Co-curricular activities such as clay modelling, art and craft activities, music, Yoga etc.
- Apart from the above children have been taken for outing to Lohagarh farms Gurugram and also involved in celebration of various festivals
- Sports day to encourage physical activity and spirit of participation was held in the month of February

Integrated Unit

NAB aims to send each and every visually impaired child into mainstream school. It highly advocates the concept of integrated education for social fulfillment. Since inception of the organization, education of visually impaired has been the core objective and the hard work of teachers and students make NAB Delhi education system one of the best. The Integrated Education (IED) is the core activity of NAB Education department. Students are admitted to many Public and Government schools like Tagore International, Kendriya Vidyalaya, DAV Public, Guru Harkrishan, DPPS, Green Field, St. Mary's etc. The crucial after school support is being provided by the Integrated Unit of NAB through a dedicated team. It acts as resource centre and also bridge for the mainstream school teachers and the students.

Team

The team to execute the project comprises of a Program Manager for the project, Special Educators for the resource classes, Councilor for the students for better understanding about various aspects, Computer Trainer, Orientation and Mobility expert as well as Support staff for assistance.

Objectives and responsibilities of the department

- Getting maximum students enrolled in schools of the city
- Ensuring availability of accessible learning material
- Keeping the students upgraded to match the expectations of the academic session
- Providing assistance in the examination process of various schools
- Spreading awareness to as many schools possible

Activities

Apart from the regular school curriculum the co-curricular activities the children participated in are as follows:-

- 4 NAB students participated in National Level Chess competitions held in Pune, where Adarsh Chaurasiya secured 5th position among a total of 150 participants from all over the country.
- Visit to Raheja Mall for a special movie screening
- Participation in Christmas day celebration at the organisation
- Children participated in the Pariksha Pe Charcha organized by the government where they got a chance to interact with the Prime Minister of India
- Creation of special science lab to cater to the visually impaired students

Centre for Multiple Disabilities

The Centre for Multiple Disabilities provides intervention services to the highly marginalised and challenging group of children and young adults through a team of educators and therapists. The target group comprises of children who are visually impaired with additional disabilities and the modality of intervention is centre as well as home based. The young adults with multiple disability require detailed assessment, clinical as well as functional. Based on the assessment, current level of the child in different domains are ascertained. Individualized plans for each child is specifically developed. The plans prepared annually and reviewed quarterly are implemented by a team of special educators and therapists trainers and since the challenges are multifold the student- child ratio cannot exceed 1:3, in some cases 1:4.

Team

The team comprises of special educators, speech therapist, rehabilitation therapist, music teacher, vocational trainers and support staff.

Objectives and responsibilities of the department

- To develop the Child's present level of functioning in cognitive, speech and language, psychological, motor and self-help skills.
- To provide stimulation in the necessary areas and to develop the various functional skills of the child and make him/her independent to whatever capacity he can be.
- Assessment and preparation of Individualized Educational Plan and its implementation

- Providing pre-vocational training
- Training for preparation of products in the vocational unit which have market value and organizing sale of the same through various fora.

Activities

- Working towards skills of some of the children so that they move a step closer to the process of inclusion into mainstream schools
- Organising of Regional workshop for special educators of different schools/NGOs in Delhi as well other states of northern India
- Working on vocational products and marketing of the products, thus giving the skills which provide economic empowerment to young adults with multiple disabilities.
- Arranging sale of products prepared by young adults through the opportunity provided by National Handicapped Finance Development Corporation from 2nd to 9th March 2020
- Apart from the regular activities an outing to Lohagarh farms was organised for



the children

- Sports Day was organised in the month of February



Hostel Set up

To maximize the reach, the organization provides hostel facility to children from outside Delhi. Presently there are about 160 students residing in the hostel.

Team

To make meals, maintain cleanliness, assist children in need, there is dedicated team staff which includes Cooking staff, support staff in the kitchen, maintenance staff.

Facilities provided

- Boarding facility to all in dormitories with single bed, weather appropriate bedding and cupboard
- 3 Healthy nutritional meals per day
- Packed lunch for school going children
- Mid-day meal to students of Center with Multiple Disabilities
- Refreshments to students on occasions like school picnics, special day



celebrations etc.

- Clean ironed clothes for school and casual wear
- Help staff for any other kind of assistance
- Personal hygiene related products

TRAINING ON DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY / ACCESSIBILITY



ANDROID MOBILE ACCESSIBILITY TRAINING



HELPLINE



MOBILITY TRAINING



GLIMPSES OF NAB STUDENTS ACHIEVEMENT

Seven visually impaired students from three Kendriya Vidyalayas participated in the event “Pariksha pe Charcha” in which our Prime Minister addressed the students appearing for examinations in March 2020. The event was held on 21st January 2020 and telecast on the television. All the schools watched the telecast.

Seen are the images of Komal and Deepika, shaking hands with the Hon’ble Prime Minister of India.



Shobhit Rastogi asked a question to the Prime Minister about the problem he faced appearing examinations. (He said that he felt he had understood the concepts and ready for appearing for examinations, but he tends to feel nervous as it seems in the exam hall that he had forgotten whatever he had studied, and what should be done in such condition).



The images of Farmhouse picnic organised for visually impaired persons above 18 years of age by Rotary Club of Delhi. 11 students participated in the picnic, and enjoyed. Seen is the image of Ayush Prakash Jaiswal, thanking the organizers.



Four students participated in the Braille reading and writing competition organized by AICB on the 211th birth anniversary celebration of Louis Braille held on 3rd January 2020. The results are as follows:

1. Tanishq Grover - Hindi Braille reading competition Junior level - First prize (Rs. 8000/-)
2. Deepika - Hindi Braille reading competition Senior level - Second prize (Rs. 5000/-)
3. Komal - Hindi Braille writing competition Senior level - Second prize (Rs. 5000/-)



National Museum of Natural History conducted an essay writing competition on the occasion of World Braille Day to commemorate the birthday of Sir Louis Braille on 28th January, 2020 for students studying from Class VIII to X. Forty students from all blind schools in NCR participated in the competition, out of which 8 students from NAB participated in the competition. The topic was "Save Water, save life."

The results are:

1. Ayushi, Class VIII – I prize
2. Khushi Bisht, Class IX – II prize
3. Ravishankar, Class IX – Encouragement prize.

They have decided to publish these essays in their magazine.



Provision of Refreshable Braille Display: Saksham provided Refreshable Braille Display to three students who are extremely good in Braille reading and writing for their use.

The students are:

1. Deepika
2. Komal Sharma
3. Khushboo

All the students are from Class XI.

New Delhi

27 May 2020