

SEVA-IN-ACTION

Newsletter

APRIL- JULY 2020



Foreword

We are happy to share about our activities through this first Newsletter in 2020

COVID -19 Pandemic has impacted the lives of mankind around the world but the major impact has been on the socioeconomically disadvantaged groups and also families and persons with disabilities. Families of children & adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities had a major challenge managing their wards at home. Though Seva-in-Action (SiA) had to close down the Centre from March end and discontinue its activities but the support to families continued through digital and online training and telephonic support. SiA also provided the families' children and other NGOs counselling and skill training. Groceries were given to all the families of persons with disabilities and staff of SiA besides medicines as per the need. We were also involved as resource persons in webinars for Inclusive education. There were online workshops with our partner organizations to discuss regarding organizing Quizabled during pandemic times. Quizabled is an annual event of SiA and children eagerly look forward to this event every year.

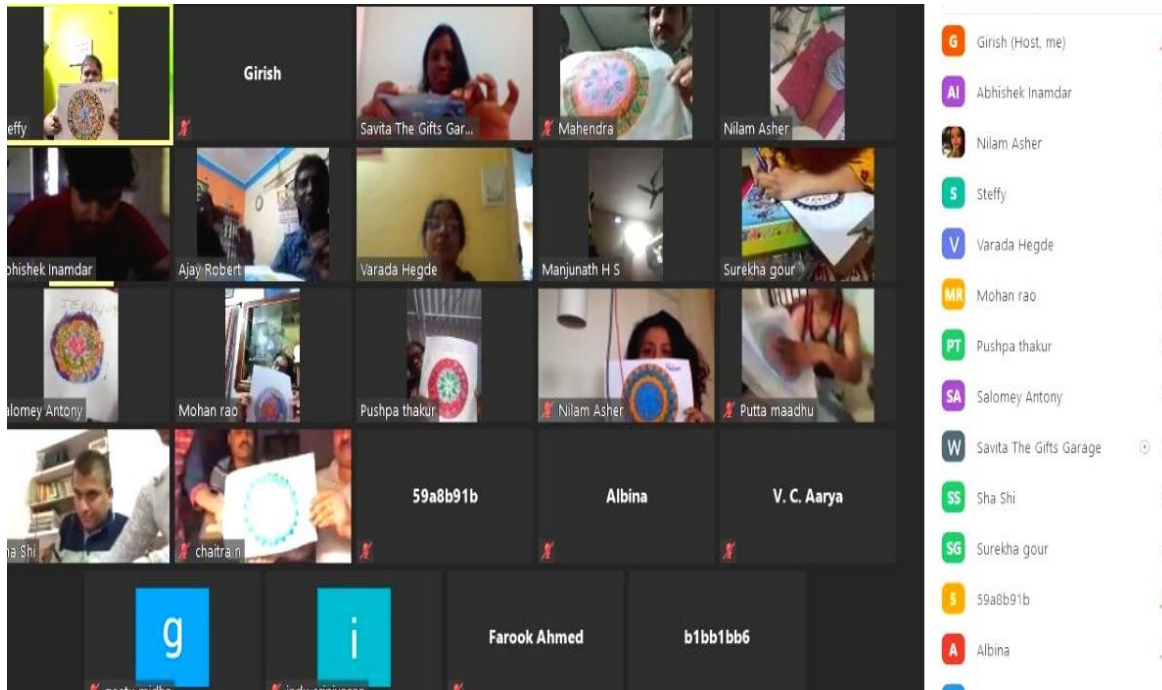


Being inside the classroom need not be boring! It can be fun for different people if they choose it to be.

Ruma Banerjee, Chairperson

Workshop on Mandala Art

Mandala Art is literally derived from the Sanskrit word which means Circle and depicts the wholeness of Universe. Drawing a Mandala is a meditative and therapeutic process as it needs patience with precision. It involves drawing symmetrical/ geometrical patterns in/around a Circle.



Online Workshop was organized on Mandala Art by Ms. Savita Jinna and Ms. Nilambari Ashar Dang of Infinitus Wisdom and Gifts Garage on 25th July 2020 for adult with disabilities. There were 47 participants comprising of adult with disabilities supported by parents from Seva-in-Action Bengaluru Urban, Hosakote and Ramanagara. Teachers from other special schools in Karnataka and Chennai also participated.

Impact of the workshop

- Adult with Disabilities practised Mandala Art at home.
- To improve their concentration skills.
- To promote and develop one more gift item for corporates with the other products.

INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

Webinar IE Series

Ms. Manjula Nanjundaiah from Seva-in-Action and Ms. Brinda Rao conducted 1st IE Webinar Session in Kannada (local language) on Saturday, 2nd May 2020 for 257 Lecturers from the District Institute of Education & Training (DIET), Karnataka on the invitation from Dr. Mythili Ramchand from TISS, Mumbai. It was a part of the Webinar series for Karnataka DIET Faculty organized by TATA INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES, Mumbai with DSERT.

Ruma Banerjee was invited as a resource person for the webinar conducted by Army public schools in India on the theme of Inclusive education: Schools for all.

Several other programs were conducted such as:-

- Awareness through radio talk on COVID issues.
- Awareness & advocacy on protection of PwDs during nationwide lockdown.
- Ms. Manjula with other NGO members in developed formats for effective inclusive education on request from the State Commissioner Disabilities of Karnataka.
- Survey on the impact of covid-19 pandemic and coping of families.



We're fully engaged in learning and developing our skills in different areas

Activities of Pre-vocational and Skill Development Training

Seva-in-Action is giving all possible support to the persons with disabilities and their families through online mode. The increased focus on digital learning for adult with disabilities is the biggest priority for both teachers and families to keep person with disabilities safe. In this situation, every house turned into a school and every parent/sibling has taken the role of a teacher. Hence training was conducted through different modes to train teachers, persons with disabilities and parents/siblings of persons with disabilities from Bengaluru Urban, Hosakote and Ramanagara on different topics.



Distribution of Food Rations and Medicines.

Seva-in-Action distributed food rations and medicines worth 1000/- for epilepsy and needy persons with disabilities with the support of RSS volunteers and other NGOs in different areas of Bengaluru and other Districts of Karnataka. Craftizen supported 30 families of persons with disabilities from SiA with food rations worth Rs. 1000/- each.

Digitization

SiA started Digitization process with 8 students with Intellectual Disabilities, Cerebral Palsy & Mental illness of with 5 students are doing online projects, 3 are under training and few more persons with disabilities are waiting to join our projects. Our main aim is to motivate them to be economically independent

In this project PwDs are supporting other PwDs like visually impaired people by using assistive technology. This gets help in being more positive with an increase in social participation, and a greater chance to reduce her household expenses. We've trained our students and their parents online to use assistive technology. They've started working with PDF files and Audio Books & have submitted the first file and working on the second.

DIGITIZATION

Learning and working with our parents.



We are very keen to learn new technologies to assist differentlyabled and are thrilled to use this lockdown period to try and learn new computer skills

-- Team Digitization

Continuing support in Rural Centers

Training for Teachers: SiA conducts training sessions twice a week to enhance the capacity of the teachers. Teachers then prepare engaging sessions and provide interesting materials accordingly.

Training for parents: Supervising children's lessons at home while working is proving a learning experience for many parents. We are conducting online classes via WhatsApp and AV sessions with the parents in rural areas to develop Fine & Gross motor skill, Speech therapy & preparing them to mainstream schooling and pre-vocational training.

Rural Committee members in the loop SiA formed local committees in rural centers to run day to day functions smoothly. We conduct committee meetings via conference calls and make sure they are aware of the activities.



Training and counselling

Seva-in-Action conducted online meetings and conference calls with parents and Adult with Disabilities to support them to reduce stress because parents are burdened with managing their adults with their work pressure. SiA could relate to their problems and planned to engage them with their family at home with more activities.

Key impact:

- The Nationwide COVID-19 lockdown has given an opportunity to all the parents of persons with disabilities to become a great mentor to their children and assist them in learning through multiple mediums.
- It would not only build the confidence of the children but also help in seeking the true potential of persons with disabilities with the help of self-discipline.

QUIZABLED WORKSHOP 2020

Knowledge for All

Seva-in-Action organized Quiz-abled workshop on 17th & 24th July 2020 for Bengaluru Urban and special schools of Blind and Deaf in five Districts (Davanagere, Kalaburagi, Dharwad, Gadag and Mysuru) of Karnataka. Totally 48 participants were participated from Nodal centers, special schools, SPASTN, Chennai, Sujaya Foundation, Mumbai and LTI, Bengaluru. Every year we setup meeting to take feedbacks of the activities conducted previous year. Even during COVID-19, we kept the momentum going and conducted online meetings to discuss different ways and options that we need to take if the situation continues. LTI has very strong commitment towards children with disabilities as they have partnered in developing Quizabled since last five years. The new idea and the concept started five years. This year it is going to be a big challenge to conduct quiz but at the same time we need really put our heads and efforts to make it a success.

With the help of LTI and Quizmasters, all of us are preparing our self to conduct online Quizzes for children with disabilities. Most of the schools told us that they are conducting classes online via conference call, video call, zoom meetings, google meet etc., but teacher's shared that Seva-in Action should conduct training for them and to train children with disabilities to participate in the Quiz online.



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