



ISHANYA
journey to inclusion

ISHANYA INDIA FOUNDATION

CENTER FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

ANNUAL REPORT

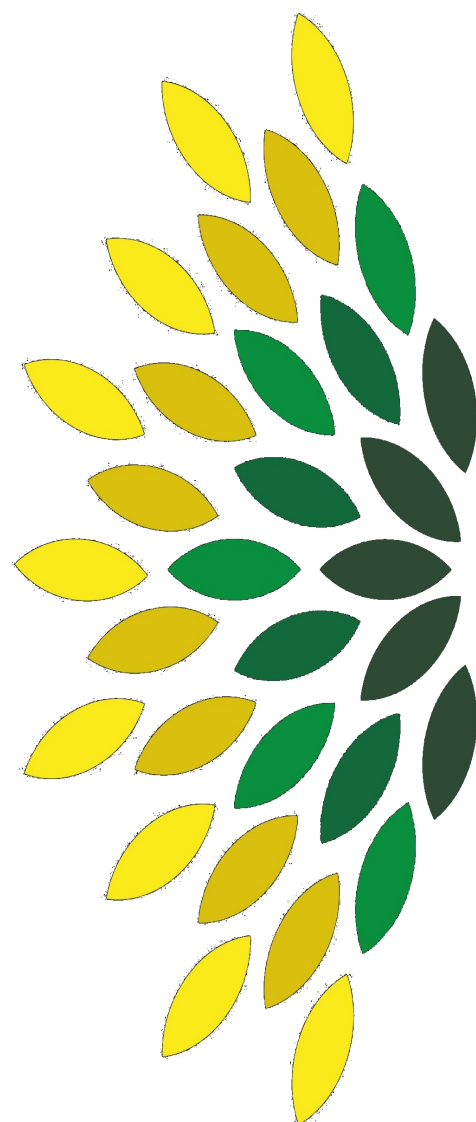
2018-2019



www.ishanya.xyz

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ISHANYA INDIA FOUNDATION

ISHANYA, which means “North-East”, the direction which symbolically represents Education, Knowledge and Prosperity is a Centre for Individuals with Special Needs.

Ishanya caters to the needs of individuals with difficulties such as: Autism Spectrum Disorder, Asperger’s Syndrome, Learning Disability, Down syndrome, and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder.



VISION

To assist and empower individuals with special needs to unlock their abilities and to spread the message of inclusion.

MISSION

Ishanya aims to provide quality services to individuals with special needs and their families by:

- Providing an environment which encourages each individual’s learning
- Focusing not just on academics but also on social and emotional development of each individual

To promote inclusion by:

- Creating new opportunities, providing freedom of choice & experiences to live a life of equality & independence
- Creating awareness, identifying the support system required for an inclusive society.

2018-19 HIGHLIGHTS



WHAT WE DO



SPRUHA- A SKILL DEVELOPMENT TRANSITION PROGRAM FLAGSHIP PROGRAM

Spruha which means 'Aspiration' is a comprehensive program covering various skill areas required to become an integral part of our society. This program provides the students an opportunity to engage himself/herself in a process of personal transition. The program is designed in such a way that each student can develop at their own pace in a facilitated environment.

This year our students learned how to make digital & hands on resources, design cards, brochures and postures, edit photos. They made more than 200 paper mache trays; attended Veda camp, movement therapy & yoga workshops; visited Cisco & Citrix companies to understand the work culture.



WHAT WE DO

SIDDHI— REMEDIAL INTERVENTION PROGRAM

Remedial Sessions include the provision of individualized attention for children with special needs.

We employ an eclectic approach during this one-on-one session, keeping in mind the various unique needs and abilities of each child.

An Individualized Education Plan (IEP) is developed to focus on the improvement and enhancement of various skill areas.

In 2018-19, we completed IEPs for children from age 3 to 25. Our special educators used various strategies from ABA, BT, CBT, ABT, TEACCH along with using assistive technologies like Avaaz. The students showed progress by achieving the goals listed in their IEP.



SHAAL— NIOS COACHING PROGRAM

This was our second new program in 2018.

It prepares students for Secondary and Senior secondary examinations by using assistive technology and alternative techniques for teaching.

An optimal student teacher ratio, comprehensive lesson plans and adaptations and frequent tests are carried out to ensure success.

This year, all the students were able to use various multimedia to gain knowledge and advanced to the next year.



WHAT WE DO

SUTANTRA- DIGITAL LITERACY PROGRAM

Sutantra means Information Technology

One of the leading programs we offer is the Sutantra - Digital Literacy Program. The curriculum is divided into Basic and Advanced level.

In the year 2018-19, students were introduced to Basic level where they learnt topics as simple as how to turn on a computer, connect a desktop, introduction of computers etc. The focus was also to make the class practical, accessible and inclusive for individuals with different needs.



SUNDAY SIP

We wanted to provide a space where parents, professionals and educators could discuss innovative ideas, brainstorm & learn new techniques & forms of therapies. This is how the Sunday sip began.

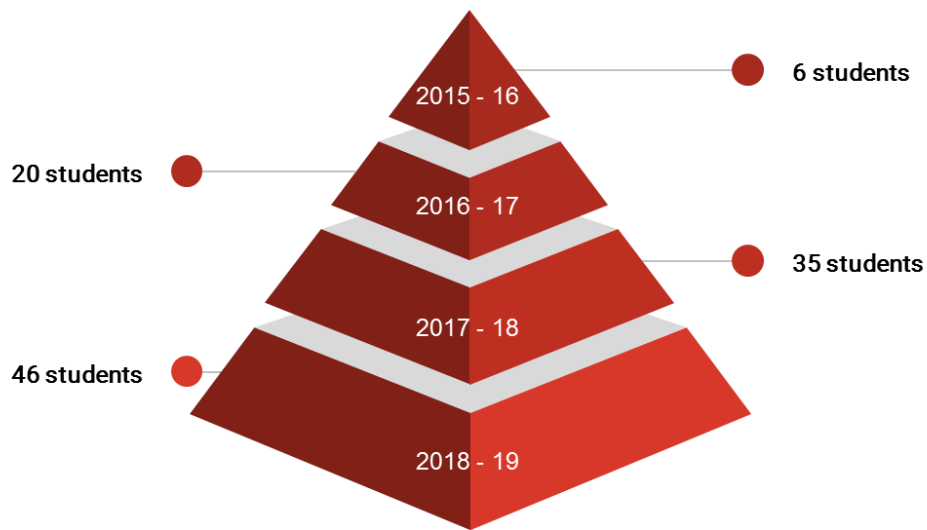
We had some really interesting workshops this year on personal safety & sexuality, animal assisted therapy, the bond special needs siblings share, and being a special parent facilitated by various professionals.

Sunday sips have become a much awaited program.

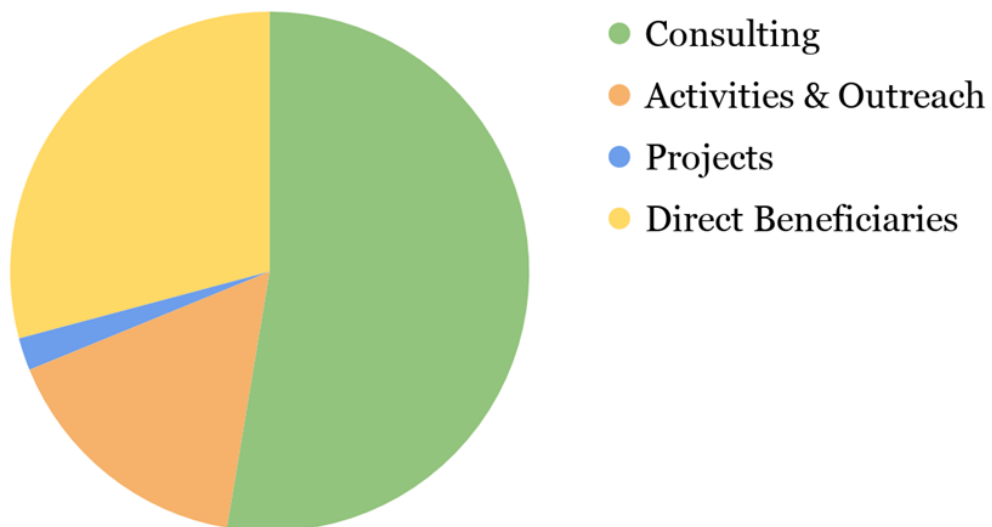


IMPACT

In the last 3 years, Ishanya has helped 60+ students achieve their potential.

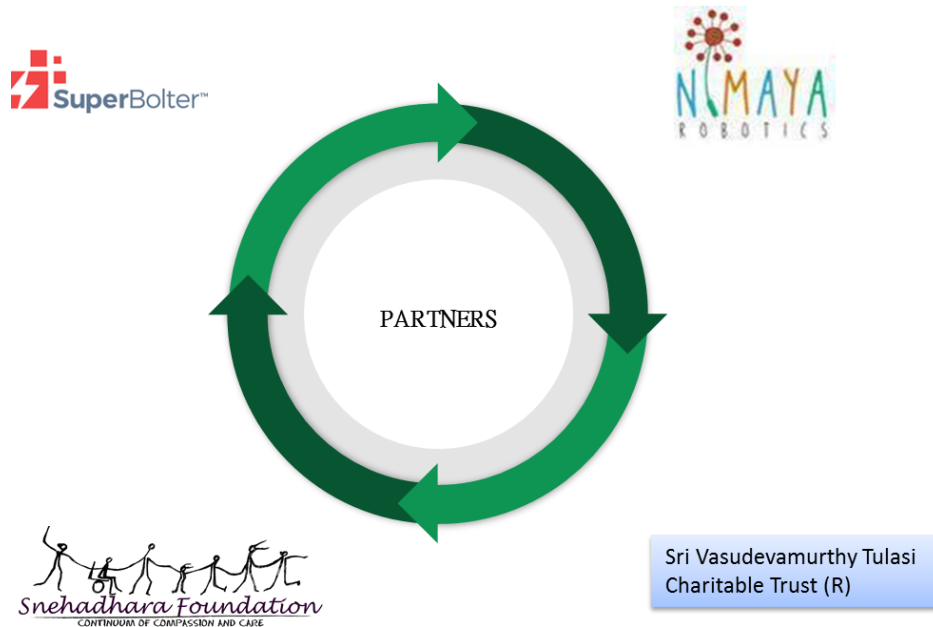


2015 - 2018



PARTNERSHIPS

We have partnered with various start ups and organizations to give our students varied experiences of projects and initiatives.



Our rationale of Inclusion has enabled us to join hands with Snehadhara Foundation whose one of the primary goal is Education for Inclusion. This has enabled us to collaborate and develop a course on Assistive Technology with the long term purpose of building vocational skills. The students are working on their communication skills using various technology related interventions.

“Data annotation is one of the key inputs to any kind of machine learning or artificial intelligence. The talented students at Ishanya have filled this gap at Superbolter. We will work with more such institutions to make such youth self-reliant.” – Arvind Prakash Singh, Founder & CEO, Superbolter

Nimaya Robotics partnered with Ishanya India Foundation to provide ground-breaking innovation in the field of training for individuals with autism through the use of Robotic devices. The devices have proven to accelerate the acquisition of cognitive skills and psychomotor skills.

Sri Vasudevamurthy Tulasi Charitable trust is a non profit organization working towards the empowerment of the poor and needy. Student scholarships are provided to Merit and Deserving students to pursue their higher education. Ishanya has partnered with SVTC trust to digitize their entire application process.



RECOGNITION

We were bestowed with the MTC Global JN Dutta Outstanding Social Service Award in 2018.



Mrs. Swathi Vellal Raghunandan, Founder Director receiving the award.



SUCCESS STORIES

Our 26 year old student who had never worked on a computer before and wasn't familiar with MS Office is now able to make presentations & excel notebooks on her own! In the past year, she has never missed a vocation class and constantly asks her educator for things to do. Using verbal prompts, picture cues, written instructions and regular practise she was able to master these skills. She has also become a pro at photo editing & can sometimes finish editing 40 photos in an hour using an industry standard software - Adobe Lightroom.

When a 10 year old boy who is non verbal came to Ishanya last year, he had difficulties in various domains. He was unable to make and maintain eye contact, choose which activity he would like to do, express likes & dislikes and communicate with the educator and parents. He was introduced to the assistive technology app -Avaaz which uses text to speech for communication. He now begins the sessions by greeting the educator, chooses the activities of his choice, expresses himself and is able to do so at home too.

A 12 year old prone to frequent anger outbursts & inattention, was facing challenges at home and in school. He could not calm himself for 10-15 minutes and even the slightest change would lead to a tantrum. After learning calming techniques & strategies to increase attention span with minimal prompts, he is now able to attend a 1 hour session with minimal outbursts. He continues to use the coping skills taught to him to control his anger.



TEAM

Clinical Psychologists

Special Educators

Artists

Computer Engineers

Speech & Language therapists

This year, we added 5 new team members and provided internship opportunities to 20+ students



TESTIMONIALS



"They are very open to feedback, and conduct regular follow up sessions with the parents. They have created a structured IEP for my daughter which makes it very easy to track the goals. All in all, Ishanya has been a great Support for my daughter."

-Mother of 12 year old girl

"They are transparent in interacting with parents. We appreciate the staff of Ishanya in handling adolescent boys."

- Mother of 17 year old boy



DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Ishanya India Foundation was founded in the year 2015 and registered as a Public Charitable Trust in 2018. Ishanya which means North-east symbolically represents education, knowledge and prosperity. As the name suggests, Ishanya constantly work towards improving the quality of life and prosperity of our beneficiaries and their families.

2018 was a year that allowed us to make mistakes, learn from it and enhance the quality of our services.

We were bestowed with the MTC Global JN Dutta Outstanding Social Service Award this year. This recognition helped us believe in our dreams a little more and motivated us to go beyond our abilities to work with the students who deserved nothing but the best.

This year, we learnt the value and power of partnerships and collaborations. It was a blessing to meet so many individuals and organizations who share our dream of making this society a better place for the individuals with special needs.

The partnerships have led to new flow of thoughts, new projects and developing solutions that are sustainable.

The team at Ishanya believe in reaching out to the students with all their heart. 2018 saw them coming up with new strategies, new initiatives, new ways of communicating with the students and their families. They helped each other succeed in their attempts of working with various challenges and truly connect to the students they worked with.

What drove the team was pure love and empathy which brought everyone together in this journey to create an inclusive society for our students.

All behaviours tell a story! We have been filled with surprises this year to know the actual meaning behind all the behaviours exhibited by the students and this has not only made us more understanding, empathetic but also more patient and look at life from a different perspective. They are our true hero's and they have truly empowered us more than we ever can.

We are very excited about the coming year. We have new programs in the pipeline and we want to march ahead with all the wisdom gained in this year.

We are truly thankful to everyone who has been part of our journey! Together we can make this society a much better place for individuals with special needs, join us in this movement!

- Mrs. Swathi Vellal Raghunandan



UPCOMING PROGRAMS



SATTVA - A foundational skills intervention program

TERRACE GARDENING - A collaboration with the organization – My Dream Garden



SAMVAD - An interactive session with people from various walks of life





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CENTER FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

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