



ISHANYA
journey to inclusion
ISHANYA INDIA FOUNDATION

ANNUAL REPORT
2020-2021



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'ISHANYA' - WHICH MEANS "NORTH-EAST", IS THE DIRECTION WHICH SYMBOLICALLY REPRESENTS EDUCATION, KNOWLEDGE



Ishanya India Foundation (IIF) is a not-for-profit organization established in the year 2015 with an intention to train and empower individuals with special needs.

In the past 5 years, IIF has established itself as a renowned name in the disability sector by providing a wide range of services catering to individuals with different diagnoses and varied age groups.



Our team of therapists and educators are dedicated towards leveraging the potential of each individual who come to us & are constantly working towards finding new & innovative ways to engage them & help them become the best versions of themselves.





TO ASSIST & EMPOWER INDIVIDUALS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS TO UNLOCK THEIR ABILITIES & TO SPREAD THE MESSAGE OF INCLUSION



PROVIDE QUALITY SERVICES TO INDIVIDUALS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS AND THEIR FAMILIES BY:

- Creating an environment which encourages each individual's learning.
- Focusing not just on academics but also on social & emotional development.



- 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.

2020-21

HIGHLIGHTS



Launched **SAMETI** - A PRE-ACADEMIC SKILLS PROGRAM



Launched **Home Program** - To help parents work with their children in a home based setting



Launched **AAC Support Group** - We started a Support group to help parents of children using AAC (Augmentative and alternative communication) in honour of AAC awareness month

5th year celebration :

An Interactive session on the implementation of the RPWD Act 2016 by State Commissioner of Disability, Karnataka - Sri V. S. Basavaraju



An interactive session with Sri. Tejasvi Surya MoP, Lok Sabha

2020-21

HIGHLIGHTS

'Maitri' - a unique collaboration with Snehadhara Foundation



We became a part of Mission 1000 - Internship at Thomson Reuters



Staff contributed a part of their salary to Covid relief fund



Our student won the Kissanvala logo design contest





SPRUHA

A SKILL DEVELOPMENT TRANSITION PROGRAM

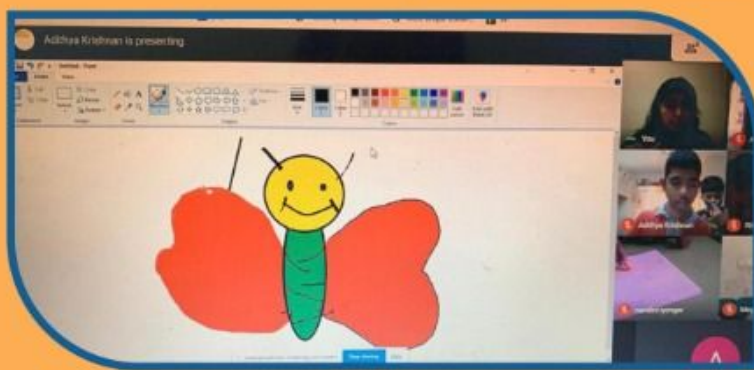
Our third year started with a transition to online classes. The students quickly adapted to this and performed well.

While some of our placement training candidates bagged a 9 month internship with Thomson Reuters, others worked on in-house projects like making logos, invitation cards and building their portfolios. A few also worked on designing websites, understanding the intricacies of editing a photo and completed data entry projects.



SATTVA

FOUNDATIONAL & PRE VOCATIONAL SKILL INTERVENTION PROGRAM



The students of Sattva program surprised us by adapting themselves to online learning very well. They were very receptive to the activities and needed very little assistance from their parents and facilitators.

Activities on learning social skills such as turn taking, introducing oneself and having a short conversation, visiting an animal farm virtually were done during group classes.

The core skills classes focused on skill areas such as cognition, academics, socio behavioural , computers and general awareness.

Pre vocational skills introduced this year focused on building skills in cooking, art and craft, household and administrative abilities. Students thoroughly enjoyed these sessions and participated with great enthusiasm.



SIDDHI

REMEDIAL PROGRAM

We completed more than 65 IEPs for 30+ students. To ensure uninterrupted learning, our educators used various strategies to make online learning more fun and meaningful. We used unique approaches to work with every child and also helped with capacity building of the parent/caregiver. This further improved the child's progress.





SUTANTRA

DIGITAL LITERACY PROGRAM

Apart from the regular digital literacy modules, we took advantage of the situation by focusing on online platforms such as zoom and google meet. The students were taught to use these platforms, access worksheets through drive, google classroom. A lot of emphasis was given to bringing in independence and the whole year was a seamless experience.





SHAALE

NIOS TUTORING PROGRAM

This year, we added more students to the shaale program many of whom cleared their secondary and senior secondary exams. We introduced two new subjects - Mass communication and Tourism for senior secondary.

This year was focused on using various strategies like screen sharing, PPT with simplifying chapters, audio, and many videos were shown in class for a better learning experience. Practical demonstrations were done to understand the concept better. Students were given weekly tests, quiz, group discussion, open-book tests, practicals, regular assignments, and chapter - based worksheets to prepare them for the exams.



SAMETI

A PRE-ACADEMIC SKILLS PROGRAM



Our fifth year began with the launch of the SAMETI Program, A Pre - academic skills program for children aged 6 - 8 years who learn various skills such as reading, writing, math, cognition, and many more for an easier transition to the academic world.

Children were also exposed to skills such as social behaviours, communication, functional and other important life skills which will help them in their daily life. Activities such as story narration, puppet making, and fireless cooking were also introduced to bring in an element of fun while also helping the children learn essential skills at the same time.





SAMVAD

A Magic Show was hosted by **magician** and **hypnotist**, **Nikhil Raj** which left the students & staff mesmerised.

Ms. Savitha Sathyanarayana, a teacher with an experience of more than 30 years, joined us for an online story telling session. Her narration of the caterpillar story still lingers in our mind.



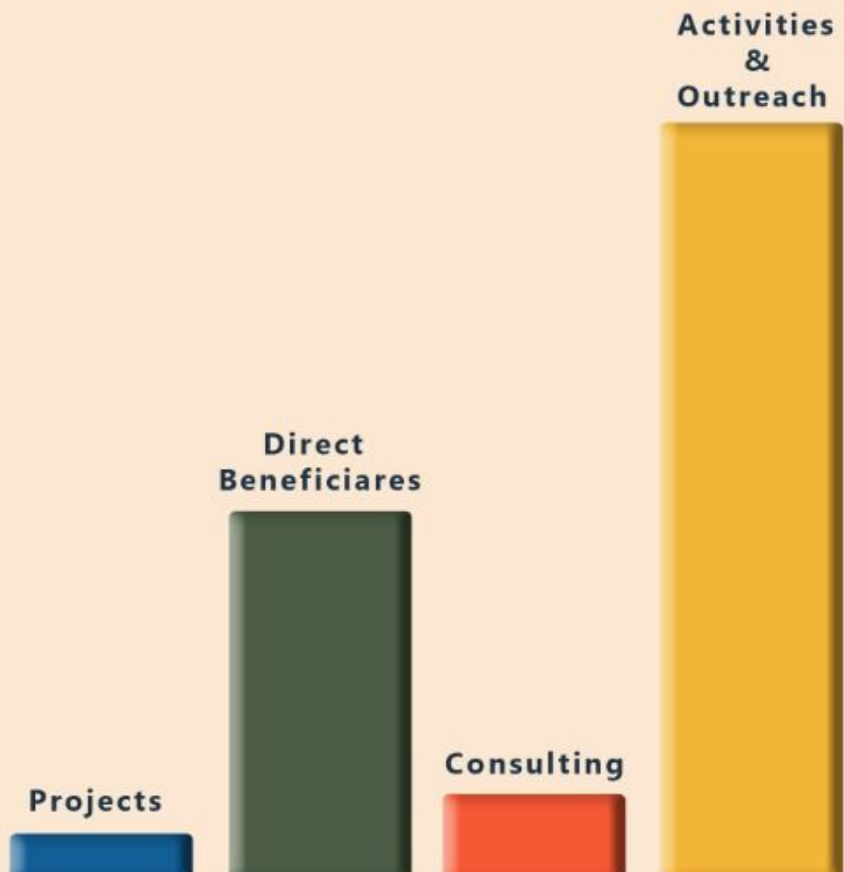
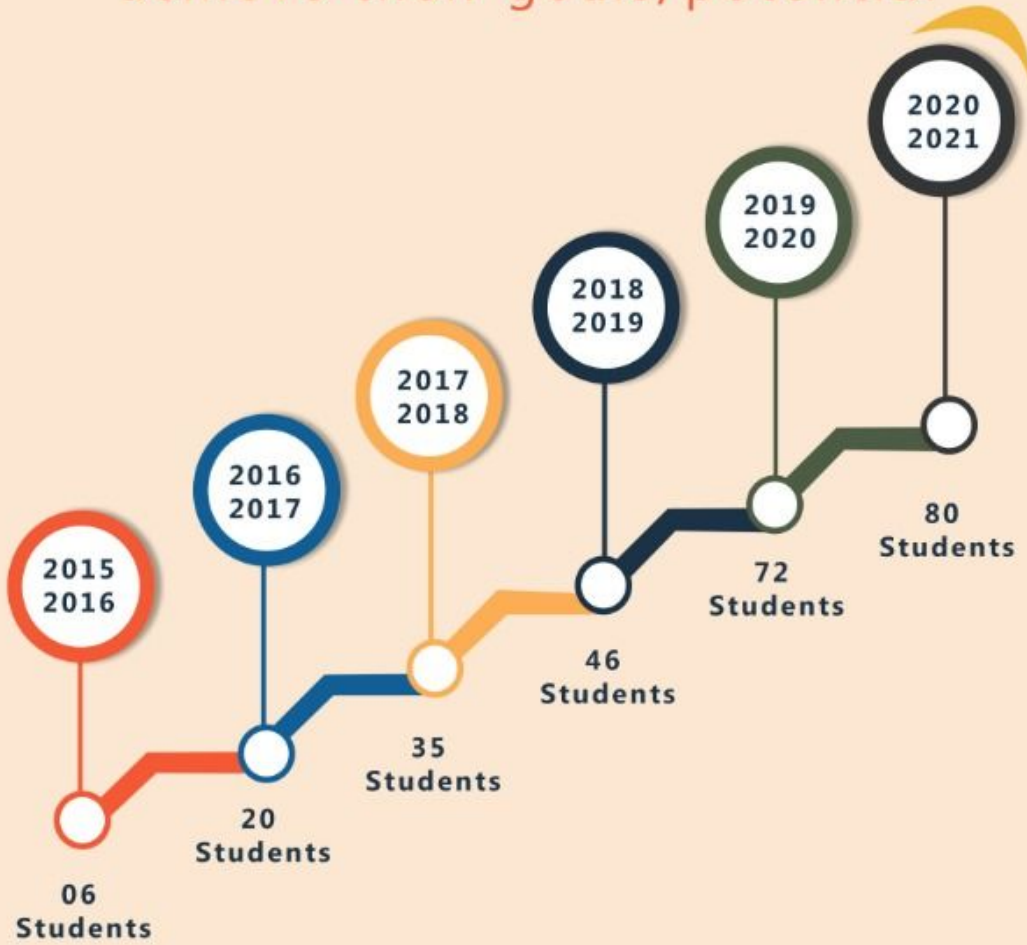


HOME PROGRAMS

We launched the home program so that no individual would be left behind. Some children find it difficult to work on a computer or pay attention for longer durations which disrupts the learning process. Therefore, a home program was introduced which the parent can follow whenever they are free. This makes it more convenient and gives them more time to work with the child. This program includes tailor made worksheets, resources and other materials for the parents to refer to. Bi weekly updates on the child's progress also helped to maintain consistency and ensured overall progress

IMPACT

Last year, Ishanya helped 80+ students achieve their goals/potential



WE GOT A FEW GREAT OPPORTUNITIES TO BE PART OF SOME INTERESTING DISCUSSIONS....



LET US DREAM
Empowering Communities

PANEL DISCUSSION

DAY 1 | Nov 20, 2020
7:40 PM IST

EDUCATION PANEL 1
SPECIAL EDUCATION AND ONLINE CURRICULUM ACCESS

Moderator
MS. MANJU
BALASUBRAMANYAM
Principal, Delhi Public School
Bangalore North, India

MS. CHARA BARCLAY
Inclusion Consultant,
Limitless Inclusion, USA

DR. EDWARD BELL
Director, Professional
Development and Research
Institute on Blindness, Louisiana
Tech University, USA

MS. SWATHI VELLAL
Founder Director, Ishanya India
Foundation, Center for
Individuals with Special Needs,
India

Ms. Swathi Vellal, our Founder Director was interviewed by Vidya Raj Sharma, An International Bharatanatyam Dancer, Actor & a Yoga enthusiast in her show Let's Talk - On Caring for special needs individuals during the lockdown.

Our team conducted an Autism Awareness Session for Employees of Intuit, India, to increase awareness and sensitization.

Panel discussion on The New Education Policy 2020 organized by ACTS group of institutions.

An International panel discussion on Special Education and Online Curriculum Access - for Let Us Dream Conference 2020 attended by professionals from varied fields such as special education, school founders/principals, assistive technology specialists etc from all over the world.

Empowering young minds through Education, Knowledge and Inclusion - a talk for Mitra For Life by Ms. Swathi Vellal.

Mr. Anoop, Program director - Skill development and Vocation unit addressed the students, staff and other professionals at NMIMS Vihaan 2.0 a CSR networking event for corporates with NGOs



PROGRAMS

TRAINING SESSIONS

Mr. Arjun Vellal, an award winning coach, trainer, and leadership expert conducted a session on 'Increasing Productivity' with the Ishanya Team.

Ms. Shivani Khanwalkar, our Program Manager and Special Educator conducted a workshop on how to do an informal assessment with the Ishanya team.

Ms. Swathi Vellal, our Founder Director, conducted a workshop on how to make an Individualized Education Plan for individuals with disabilities.

ARTICLES AND BLOGS

Two of our articles got published in Lockdown Voices, an initiative to share diverse and untold experiences.

Article by Aditi - Student

Article by Shivani - Educator



EVENTS

Students participated in a Poster Making competition conducted by MotivateIndia - our students created art for promoting environment protection, women empowerment, child education, humanity, communal harmony, equality etc. to make this society a better place for everyone

Our students were part of a volunteer engagement program online, with Intuit India where they got a chance to interact with professionals and learn basic conversation etiquettes

Presented findings from the visit to 4 schools in Udupi district to a member organizations of DNA as the first step towards capacity building of trainers in rural karnataka



COLLABORATIONS



We started the Maitri Initiative
with Snehadhara Foundation



NMIMS internship



Program management for
Mission 1000

RECOGNITION



SHIVANI K

Program Manager Skill development & Vocational unit & Remedials



VAISHNAAVI NAGARAJAN

Special Educator, Speech & Language therapist

Nation Builder Award by the Rotary literacy mission of Rotary Bangalore brigades was awarded to Ms. Shivani Khanwalkar for exceptional work by special educators during the COVID 19 pandemic to ensure uninterrupted education.

Extraordinary Teacher Award by -IRC-13th Annual Kalangana to Ms. Vaishnaavi Nagarajan.

SUCCESS STORIES

TR internship - We are part of the Mission 1000 initiative of Enable India. We provided employability skills training to 22 adults with neurodevelopmental disabilities, pan India for the Thomson Reuters internship program. We are now Project management partners along with Enable India for phase 2 of Thomson Reuters Internship program.

Our students created designs for a logo contest held by Kiss-anvala - one of our students - Eshaan won the logo design competition.



Manav from the placement training program, helped create a logo for a kindergarten school.



DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

CELEBRATING 5 YEARS!!



Way back in 2015 when we had this idea of starting an organization for individuals with special needs, we honestly didn't have everything planned out, it was just the sheer love for teaching these students that drove us to do something that will truly benefit them. We started with just 3 students in a shared space; the only thought we had was that we should be true to our students, their families and do our best to help them in every way possible.

In the past 5 years, we have worked with 100s of students, parents, and professionals through various programs. We have also collaborated with multiple organizations to spread the message of inclusion. A lot has changed over the last 5 years; however what hasn't changed is still that idea of being true to our students & their families. This is what drives us every day.

Covid-19 brought with it a lot of challenges; no one was completely prepared to reorganize the entire education system. It took a while for everyone to get used to the new normal but this whole exercise not only challenged us but brought out the best in us.

We miss the close interactions with the students, those hi-five's & hugs, but I believe that digitization of education has helped us eliminate various barriers and has helped in creating new equations between teachers and students. Today, we are able to reach out to students from different parts of the state and even the country. Although this year has been very challenging, it definitely is filled with lots of love and courage.

Cheers to the entire team at Ishanya and to all our supporters! I am so proud of what we have achieved so far and I am truly excited to see what the future holds for us!

Mrs. Swathi Vellal Raghunandan
Founder Director





STUDENT TESTIMONIAL

Thank you for providing your support to me in this grand opportunity to learn and get a basic idea in a working environment through this training program. I particularly loved the way all of you made it interactive so we could communicate and understand each other.

It was also a well-structured program with each session taking place related to a particular topic like "Working with Quality", "Improvement with Performance Feedback", "Understanding the value of trust", "Analytical Skills", "Writing and composing an email" which gave me, in particular, a new perspective on how to carry out day to day activities especially while working in a company as well an open discussion afterward to show our understanding of the following topics.

I do feel very sad that this session will come to an end but as we all say "All Good Things must come to an end". I will never forget the lessons that were taught to us and I will take it forward as I move towards the future.

Thank you all for everything. I am grateful.

Rajarshi Roy, trainee, employability training program for Thomson Reuters Internship program



UPCOMING PROGRAMS



Certificate course in Computer programming



ISHANYA INDIA FOUNDATION



EDUCATE - COLLABORATE - EMPOWER

LEGAL:

Ishanya India Foundation is a Trust, registered under the **Karnataka Trust Registration Act**

IT EXEMPTION:

All donations made to Ishanya India Foundation are **exempted under section 80G** of Income Tax Act of 1961



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