

SATYA SPECIAL SCHOOL **SPECIAL EVENTS – BULLETIN** **January 2009**

PARENTS COUNSELLING PROGRAMME **28TH JANURAY 2009**

In association with Sarav Sikshya Abhiyan, Pondicherry, Parents counseling & awareness programmes were held on the 28th January 2009.

The programme on 28th January started with a welcome address by Dr Nallam, Patron Satya Special School. He briefed the gathering about various initiatives of Satya and the future plans of the school.

Ms Muthulakshmi, Coordinator, SSA Pondicherry briefed parents on the various schemes for Children with special Needs under the SSA and the initiatives take up by the Department of education, Govt of Pondicherry. She laid a lot of stress on the importance of inclusive education and the steps taken by her department in implementing this scheme. Her talk was followed by an interaction with the Parents where questions were raised about the role of normal schools & the steps taken to create awareness among school heads in implementing the Programme. Ms Muthulakshmi assure all possible assistance to both the parents & the NGOs working with Children with Special Needs.



Ms Ezhil Chirstoper, Special Educator in her talk “Importance of Early Intervention”, shared her experiences of the success some parents who have benefited from utilizing facilities in early intervention Centers. She stressed on the need for the Mother to be closely involved in imparting therapy and undertake necessary follow-up at their homes.



*CONTACT ADDRESS : No 66, Muthiah Mudaliar street,
Muthialpet, Pondicherry 605 003
Phone: 0413-2263592 email: admin@satyaspecialschool.org
Website: www.satyaspecialschool.org*

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Ms Bindu Modi, Clinical Psychologist in her group counseling session briefed members on the importance of Behaviors modifications. Many parents shared their personal difficulties in the upbringing of their children. The Parents also discussed about the role of society and the benefits in open sharing & interactions with other parents. Some parents also had a one to one counseling session with specific behaviour and adolescent problems



Mr Shiva kumar, Occupational Therapist spoke on the importance of sensory integration. In his interaction Parents discussed about the importance of accepting the condition of the child. Parents in the counseling session discussed about the difficulties faced by them in communicating their views to the children.

Dr Chidambaram, Child Specialist spoke on the Importance of a healthy diet. She stressed on the need to balance between the effects of the medicines that some of these children are dependent on and their dietary intake. A bowl of rice, 3 cups of vegetable, one cup of fruit, one cup of pulses and some curds would be an ideal diet she said. Parents also discussed about the amount of non-vegetarian food that



can be included in their diet. Dr Chidambaram in her sessions stressed on breaking the myth that non-vegetarian food would make the children healthier than vegetarian food. She added that in most cases hyper activity or inactivity may be due to dietary habits too.

PARENTS AWARENESS PROGRAMME **30TH JANURAY 2009**

The programme started with a two-minute silence as a mark of respect to the Father of the Nation.

Dr Nallam, Patron of the school welcomed the members while Dr Asha Oumachigui, President, brief the parents on the various steps taken by the school in helping the development of the children.



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Mr Madhivanan, Director, Department of Social Welfare, Govt of Pondicherry was the Chief Guest. He informed members on various schemes by the Government in providing assistance for the disabled. He assured parents that his department would provide all necessary support in implementing the schemes.

Mr Mohan, Dy Director - Rehabilitation, Vocational Rehabilitation Center, in his address stressed on the importance of

imparting some vocational training and making the adults independent. He also informed members that for girls training in Tailoring and embroidery and for boy's auto mechanic and washing was taught. Most of the parents wanted to know if the center had any transport facility so that many students could avail this facility. It was agreed that the school would take about 10 students who are eligible and get them evaluated for admission. Parents had an open house discussion with the Dy Director on job placements and employers acceptance of these children.



In order to boost the confidence of the parents, Mr A Charles, Headmaster, Govt High School shared his life story and how he overcame his disability at the age of 42 yrs. He informed the parents that due to a road accident, he had lost his right hand and had to be dependent on his wife for this daily activities. He took a vow to adapt himself by learning to use his left hand for writing, buttoning his shirt and self-grooming. His story was very inspiring as the Parents questioned him about how he handled the stress



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created by society. Parent's also felt that such interactions would be very useful especially in cases where the families don't understand the child's condition. The



Parent's present took a pledge of "Yes, we can", that they can create a confident, independent & socially acceptable child.

Mr I A Ceaser himself a parent of a Child with special needs stressed on the role of Parents in stream lining their child's life. He insisted that parents must not isolate their child and take them to all possible

social functions. He requested the parents to feel happy & proud of their child and not consider it a curse.

Dr Velumani, Consulting Neurologist also address the parent's on neurological problems faced by the children. He stressed on the need to have a constant interaction with the concerned Doctor. During the discussions with Parents it was obvious that some parents do a lot of self medication. In some cases they had even worsened the child's condition due to wrong medication especially in severe epileptic cases. Doctor stressed on the need to be aware of the kind of drugs given to the children. He felt that while over dosage can make the child inactive, under dosage can some times be fatal. He also agreed to do a review of 2 cases every week and do the necessary follow-up.



Around 70 parents who attended these sessions, on asked for their feedback felt that more such interactions and counseling sessions were necessary as it not only helped them clarify their doubts but also provided an opportunity to interact with other parents and mutually understand the difficulties in bring up such children.



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