

Promotion of Inclusive and Protective environment for children with special needs (CWSNs) through community based rehabilitation - (CBR) Intervention in Puducherry Union Territory, India

Activity: Training of school children

Training of school going children was made to educate them on different forms of disability and the status of disabled children. The children were sensitized on the inclusive school for disabled children and role of children in supporting the children with special needs. This year 10 training programs were conducted in middle schools and high schools in and around Puducherry. Generally speaking, the children with disabilities face multiple forms of discrimination which leads to their exclusion from society and school. Attitudes toward children with disabilities, as well as a lack of resources to accommodate them, compound the challenges they face in accessing education. While lack of access to school is an issue, an equal concern is the inability of the education system to ensure quality education for children with disabilities.



Ms. Vijaya, master trainer briefed about the training program. She talked about the relevance of organizing such programmes and its importance in children's life. Ms. Vijaya and Ms. Elizabeth from Special School coordinated the entire workshops at **10 schools** in Pondicherry. The objectives of the training were to create inclusive society; to ensure survival and protection of the children with disabilities; to ensure special education of the special needs. Ms. Vijaya handled special session on Life skill education for the students. She briefed about the kind of problem today the school student's face and how to cope with the different situations by using the life skills at younger age, she explained. About 713 children participated and benefitted of it.

The school training program was designed and organized in 10 schools run by Government of Pondicherry. The programme on disability and inclusion cum sensitization was aimed at sensitizing school boys and girls on inclusive education and inclusive society perspectives. Because they are the future of a just society, if they have a clear understanding about the disability and inclusion perspective there won't be any discriminated family, or the society against the persons with disabilities. In deed the starting point of creating inclusive society certainly has to start with inclusive education in the existing school at the local level. So, it is



the present generation particularly the young generation who are immediately going to be the family creators who have to have better understanding about the disabled child. That's the reason why the program was designed to have sensitisation amongst school students so that the arrangement would really impact with good results. We have to start anything from the students

if we wanted good reach out particularly the scheme like inclusive education and the school teachers and the management.

The sessions focused on disability and inclusion sensitization for the target group of higher middle and high school boys and girls. About 600 students in various schools in Pondicherry participated and benefited. The main concept behind this training cum sensitization program was to help the students understand the inclusion perception reasons and consequences of the problem arising due to differentiating between normal and disability in the family as well as in the society.

The resource person provided different shifting perspectives on issues related to disability in the society. The speeches motivated the significance of disability rights. She said the discrimination against persons with disabilities still prevailing in many parts of the world. The girl child with disability is not given enough worth, for it is believed that it is the child in normal condition who will take full responsibility of the family and carry forward the legacy. However, times have changed, and persons with disabilities have proved their equality and value. Sadly there are some people who have not come to terms with this revolution.



PHOTO GALLERY

