

PROFILE OF DISHA

About Disha

Disha Charitable Trust was founded in the year 1999 by Mrs. Prabha Mehta along with a small group of committed professionals. Disha runs **Special School & Autism Centre, Community Based Rehabilitation Program and Vocational Training Centre** for children with Autism and Developmental Disabilities at 62, Sampatrao Colony, Alkapuri, Vadodara

Leader in the Adoption of Technology and the Latest International Curriculum

Disha has created a benchmark by following latest assessment and diagnostic tools, evidence-based practices and world class methodologies, therapies, using state of the art technologies and follow a highly individualized education and therapy program based on each child's developmental needs. Disha has adopted highly rewarded, recently introduced Curriculum in the USA for the children with Autism known as Unique Learning System and for this our entire teaching staff has been trained by an expert from the USA.

Keeping abreast with Technology based learning, Disha successfully introduced learning through educational software and Applications. Rangam Infotech- a US based Company, one of the pioneer organizations in developing Apps for Autism selected Disha as their partner in India since August, 2015. Professionals from Rangam Infotech are training our teachers on Ipads donated by them preloaded with autism apps designed to enhance learning. Progress of each child in learning skills through these apps is being regularly monitored by Rangam Infotech. The process of learning has become much faster and these apps have proved to be a boon for our children. Disha Special School is **one of the foremost Centres for Autism in the country** where almost all the needed skills are being taught using specially developed Apps.

Professionalization of Management

Disha is managed by a fully empowered, professional Board of Management comprising eminent / distinguished citizens of Baroda who enrich the organization with their vast experience and expertise to ensure highest quality of delivery of services, good governance, transparency and accountability. For compliance of these desirable norms, Disha has accreditation with the Credibility Alliance – an organization of high repute.

Happy Learning Place

Disha provide a safe and happy learning environment for its special children. The unconditional love and care by teachers and therapists makes Disha an organization with a difference.

A Centre of Excellence

Disha Special School has since emerged as a Centre of Excellence for Autism and other developmental disabilities. Disha School is the first and the foremost organization in Gujarat which started providing all the requisite therapies and services to the children with Autism and other developmental disabilities under one roof by a team of extremely committed, trained professionals, therapists and special educators in a highly structured, vibrant and most conducive learning environment.

Project for Children with Deafblindness

In partnership with Sense International India (SII), Disha is providing therapies and rehabilitative services to a fairly large number of children with Deaf-blindness, one of the most challenging disabilities.

Community Based Rehabilitation

In order to reach the unreached neglected children, Disha carries out door to door surveys and identifies children and adults with special needs. About 70 percent of Disha's children come from poorest of the poor families living in the slums and adjoining rural areas and receive all the therapies and services including transportation, nutritious meal, medical intervention etc. **free of charge**.

Pre-vocational and Vocational Skills Development

Vocational skill-oriented training is an integral part of the Rehabilitation Program. This is designed to impart need based skill training to disabled persons between 15-35 years of age. The purpose of training is to develop a sense of self esteem and to gain social acceptance by becoming meaningfully employed in a vocation of self aptitude and is aimed in particular.

- To generate employment opportunities for people with disabilities
- To encourage application of new technologies and techniques in training for promotion of employment opportunities
- To support training in skill development for individuals with disabilities to make them self-supporting
- To generate awareness for self-employment

Success Stories

Disha Special School has succeeded in mainstreaming 14 children with Autism to normal schools.

One of Disha's adult students, Siddharth is undergoing inhouse job training in a multinational IT company.

Disha Charitable Trust is registered under Bombay Public Trust Act, 1950. All donations are covered under 80 G of the Income Tax Act. Disha is also registered under Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) for the acceptance of foreign contributions.

President: Ms. Prabha Mehta (M) 91-98253 25250

Chairman, Board of Management: Mr. Naresh Chawla, (M) 91-9227108880

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Mission of Disha

Disha's mission is to empower children with Autism and other developmental disabilities, work in partnership with all stakeholders, develop children's maximum potential and make them grow and learn to be as independent as possible.

Vision of Disha

DISHA wishes to become a world-class, state of the Art Institution, which should be able to provide all the services under one roof for children with special needs in order that they realize their maximum potential and live a meaningful and productive life.

Core Values of Disha

- Commitment
- Teamwork
- Love & Care
- Integrity
- Compassion
- Respect

List of Members of the Board of Management (2017-18)

Sr. No.	Name	Occupation	Designation
1	Mr. Naresh Chawla	Ex-Chairman/Director of Cooperatives/PSUs	Chairman
2	Ms. Rashmi Shroff, IAS (Retd.)	Former Additional Chief Secretary to the Govt. of Gujarat	Vice Chairperson
3	Mr. M.K. Tandon, IPS (Retd.)	Former Additional Director General of Police, Govt. of Gujarat	Vice Chairperson
4	Ms. Prabha Mehta	Founder & Executive Director, Disha	Secretary General
5	Mr. S.K. Duggal, IAS (Retd.)	Former Additional Chief Secretary to the Govt. of Gujarat	Member
6	Mr. C.S. Ballal, IAS (Retd.)	Liquidator of M/s Petrofills Ltd.	Member
7	Mr. Sunil Vakil	Practicing Chartered Accountant	Member
8	Ms. Neelima Aga	Industrialist	Member
9	Mr. Navneet Patel	Industrialist	Member
10	Mr. Percy Bharucha	Former Corporate General Manager, Bank of Baroda	Member
11	Mr. Manish Shah	Managing Director, Prakash Chemicals International Pvt. Ltd.	Member
12	Mr. Nimesh Gosalia	Former President & Asst. Governor RCBC and Managing Director Arihant Rasayan	Member
13	Gp. Capt. A.G. Chitre (Retd.)	Executive Director, Heubach Colour Pvt. Ltd.	Member
14	Mr. Tushar Parikh	Architect	Member