

5thJanuary 2019

Teachers Training at Navrachana SchoolSama

Training workshop report

Consortium for Inclusive Education conducted a two hours training session for the teachers of Navrachana School Sama, Vadodara. A total of **63 trainees** attended the workshop that was conducted by DrShrutiBhargava who has a PhD from Department of Human Development and Family Studies, also specializes in early childhood education. She also runs a centre for children with special needs, Sehar-Eknayiudaan.

- 1.) Inclusion of children with special needs in regular schools
- 2.) Challenges to inclusion
- 3.) Different models of inclusion process

The purpose of the training was to educate the special educators and teachers on inclusion of children with special needs in regular schools and to sensitise the teachers on the characteristics of various disabilities and the steps to be taken to ensure good learning outcomes and social inclusion of all.

1.) Benefits of inclusion of children with special needs

Navrachana SchoolSama, practices inclusion of children with special needs led by a dedicated team of special educators and counselors. The school has identified few students suffering from autism or cognitive delays, and wish to open doors to children with varied disabilities. They share the vision of the 'Consortium for Inclusive Education' and have committed to provide continued in depth training for the teachers and school management.

Many teachers and parents wonder whether students with disabilities would fare better academically in a classroom that was geared specifically towards them. Research has shown that placing children with special needsamongst their peers with regular development not only benefits the special children but also the latter. Isolating them in specialized organisations and schools makes it very difficult for the children to be integrated in the society in their adulthood.



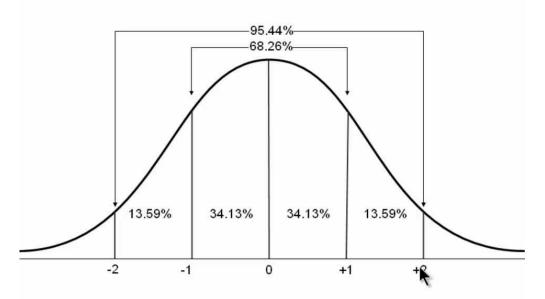




2.) Challenges to inclusion

The training stressed that any new beginning brings great challenges along with it and before we find the solution to the problem, a comprehensive understanding of the challenges is essential. The trainees were educated on how to recognize the daily challenges in the curriculum, infrastructure, equipment, and resources and how they can overcome the basic day to day problems by adopting new strategies. For example, by planning curriculum and tests at three levels of difficulties: below average, average, and outstanding, the teacher cancater to all the types of students and not just plan for the average set of students that only make a small fraction of the classroom. An indicative distribution of a normal classroom is shown below:

Normal Distribution



(How2stats, October'11)

Some of the factors that influence the implementation plan can be divided into 4 categories:

- 1.) Teacher related challenges
 - Teacher's attitude and sensitivity,
 - Readiness to take moreresponsibility in addition to curriculum pressures and targets set by the school,
 - Lack of basic and essential training and expertise.







2.) Parents related challenges

- Acceptance that their child has a disability,
- Social stigmaand beliefs
- Lack of informationand guidance. Even medical professionals very often fail to give the correct diagnosis which results indelay in the treatment.
- Apprehension about inclusive settings- is a special school better than a regular school, teacher's competency, etc.

3.) Child related challenges

- Readiness and willingness to interact with peers and take the pressures of a regular school
- 4.) School set up related challenges
 - Physical layout/ arrangement of the infrastructure
 - Content and pace of curriculum
 - Expertise for assessment

3.) Models of inclusion

There are three different models:

- 1. <u>Mainstreaming:</u>That is the placement of children with disabilities in separate classrooms but integrating them in nonacademic activities as lunch, play time, art etc.
- 2. <u>Regular education initiative (REI)</u>:That is the placement of the children with mild disabilities in regular class rooms, responsibility of their instruction on the regular teacher, but this model may not be applicable to the severely disabled.
- 3. <u>No distinction model:</u>Regardless of the severity of the disability all children are placed in regular classrooms in neighborhood schools. There should be no discrimination amongst the children and the children with disability will be a part of all the curricular and extra-curricular activities.

Example of questions raised by the school teachers:

1. "Parents of the children, many a times are not ready to accept that their child is having some kind of problem. How to deal with such parents?"

This is the most common problem with the parents. In such cases, the parents tend to become hyper and begin to assume and start trying different therapies without seeking consultation of an expert. School teachers need to be patient and act as gatekeepers to refer the child to the right expert.

Teachers should develop an Individualised Education plan for the child, in consultation







with the parents. Involving them in defining the objectives and communicating it to the parents early on reduces the likelihood of disagreements later.

2. "Identification is also a problem, as teachers are not trained in identifying the children with CWSN's andwhen we identifyit's too late."

Identification at the right time can help build a better future for the child. Team Consortium for Inclusive Education is working on a handbook for identification of disabilities in a classroom and the next step of action. This handbook is only directional and not meant to be used as a diagnostic tool.

Towards the end of the training, feedback was collected. The trainees rated the training with a score of **9.0/10.0** for the topic of training and **8.0/10.0** for the quality of training (based on an average of ratings from 63 trainees). The trainees were extremely impressed and excited by the topics of trainings and the initiative. A lot of teachers requested more detailed and in depth training for the same.

We look forward to working with the school and conduct many such trainings in the future to strengthenand empower the teachers.







Annexure:

- 1) Agenda
- 2) Photos
- 3) Registration list
- 4) Feedback form







1.) Agenda

Venue Navrachna School, Sama, Vadodara

Date 5th January, 2019

Resource persons DrShruti Bhargava

Attendance for the workshop: 63 teachers of preschool and primary sections from different branches of Navrachna Group of Schools

Time	Description
11:00 to 12:00	Registration and meet and greet
12:00 to 12:10	Introduction of Consortium for Inclusive Education
12:10 to 12:20	Introduction of the Consortium for Inclusive Education by Ms.
	PromilaZalpuri and Ms. Rhea Acharya
12:20 to 1:40	Inclusive education by Ms. Shruti Bhargava
1:40 onwards	Questions and Answers







2.) Photos

































3.) Registration list:

CONTRACTOR (0.00)	RACHNA SAMA SPEAKER - DR SHRUTT BHARCEAUA Tel. No. Comments
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