



by

“The Rite Centre”

Research in Integrated Training & Education

OUR PHILOSOPHY AND GUIDING PRINCIPLE

ALL CHILDREN ARE SPECIAL

A child is first and foremost a child and the ability, disability or giftedness, secondary.

❖ 2 YEAR INNOVATIVE COURSE

❖ Highlights (Jan - June 2012)

- Both the First and Second year students completed their **preliminary exams**, which were held in the first week of March 2012. Feedback sessions were held after an analysis of the answers.
The outgoing batch of students were treated to a **farewell** party by the first year students.
- The **annual examinations** for the First and Second year students were held in mid-April 2012.

❖ Lectures/Workshops/Training Programmes

- An educational visit to the following institutions was organized for our students:
 - **SRCC** Centre for Child Development, Haji Ali
 - **Aseema**, primary section at Bandra municipal school
- A **nature trail** was organised for the students and faculty at the **Conservation Education Centre of the Bombay Natural History Society**. A guided tour of the flora and fauna was arranged alongwith screening of a documentary film related to environmental issues.

❖ RESEARCH / DOCUMENTATION

- **Ongoing:**
 - Evaluation of students on teacher attitude, values & opinion of the philosophy of integration, before & after completion of the D.Ed (Integrated) course.
 - Preparing questionnaires - school visits/classroom observations.
- **To undertake:**
 - Attribution of factors related to students’ participation in the D.Ed (Integrated) course.
 - Survey for awareness of integrated education among schools of Mumbai.
 - Correlation between Locus of Control (LOC), study habits and teacher effectiveness.

❖ RESOURCES WANTED

- **Researcher cum Lecturer:** Eligibility (Clinical Psychology/Sp.Ed) with B.Ed/M.Ed. Teaching experience preferred. Contact us : 2369 6596/6664 8768/ ritestep@gmail.com

❖ PROFESSIONAL INTERACTIONS

Participated in various seminars/workshops/conferences:

- Roda was invited to participate on the interview panel of the J. N. Tata Endowment for the higher education of Indians, to screen applicants for scholarships relating to the field of education.
- Vandita attended a seminar on **Inclusive Education for children with special needs** at the district level organized by SSA (BMC) in collaboration with BMC special schools.
- Rinkal, Vandita and Nisha attended **Kalandika**-an annual teaching-learning aid exhibition along with **Puttika** - value based puppet shows and theme based project presentations organized by SIES Institute of Comprehensive Education.

❖ WEBSITES OF INTEREST

- <http://www.unltdindia.org/investees/monisha-narke-sumegha-kumbhar-sejal-kshirsagar-r-u-reducing-reusing-recycling-rur> - Connected by a common passion for the environment - RUR aims at creating an environmentally aware society in which individuals adopt green consumption practices whereby they reduce, reuse and recycle.
- www.birmingham.ac.uk - One of the important challenges we face globally is that we need to learn to stop seeing autism as a disorder. People with autism have strengths and there is so much positivity to celebrate, even though life can, of course, be difficult, for the person and also for parents and the family.
- www.e-learningforkids.org - E-learning for kids is a global, non profit foundation dedicated to fun and free learning on the Internet for children ages 5 - 12.

❖ HEROES FOREVER

• **Bravery Award for Hearing-Impaired Karnataka Boy**

Sandesh, 17, is a hearing impaired student of **“Mother Teresa Dumb/Deaf technical School”** in Shimoga district Karnataka. His bravery saved the life of his relative Rashmi, 14, when she slipped and fell into river and was swept away. Sandesh jumped into the river when he saw her flailing arms. He pulled her out by grabbing her hair. She was unconscious, but Sandesh performed CPR on her, and after 15 minutes she gasped for breath.

• **Blind Girl joins Railway Service after 4 Years Struggle**

Purnima Jain, with 75% visual disability, cleared UPSC exams in 2008 with distinction, **but was not given any posting**. She went to high court, but court had no jurisdiction over this matter. She then moved the Central Administrative Tribunal which ordered she be given a posting. No action was taken on this, so she met the Union Minister Narayanswamy and then she met the Prime Minister. Finally, the government had to give her a class I railway job.

• **Visually impaired since five, 32 year old Haryanvi Fulfils IAS Dream**

Ajit Kumar lost his vision at five due to acute diarrhoea. But that did not deter him from studies at any level. He completed his BA, then B.Ed, and taught in a Delhi college. He was declared unfit by the medical board, but he taught with all odds. **He cracked the civil service exam** and was packed off to Mussorie for training. He was helped in fulfilling his dream by no less than the Honourable Prime Minister himself.

- **Check Mate: 9 and on Wheelchair, He Holds a Patent**

Hridayeshwar Singh Bhati, 9, from Jaipur, suffers from Duchene muscular dystrophy, which has made him wheelchair bound. Drawing inspiration from Stephen Hawking he has **invented a game of circular chess of six players**. He is the youngest wheelchair bound person in the world to get a patent.

- **Gutsy Teens take HSC Exams**

Nadeem Shaikh was **born without arms**. He studied despite his disabilities and gave his SSC and HSC exams without the help of a writer. He writes with his foot. He talks about his friends and teachers with fondness.

- **HSC Student to take Exam Sitting inside Ambulance**

Sudarshan Shetty, a student of junior college, hurt himself while saving two of his friends from a speeding truck. He was diagnosed with multiple fractures and was unable to appear for HSC exams. The HSC board allowed him to answer the papers from an ambulance at a centre nearest to the hospital

❖ TAKING STRIDES

- Indoor **“Hopscotch”** is an interactive learning system, designed to be efficient at combining learning, movement and fun as each square opens up to various learning experiences. Learning includes language, history and math. The learning game consists of a sensor mat divided into nine fields. Each field contains letters and a number arranged like the keypad. The activity or question appears on the monitor, which the child has to solve by stepping on the right key.

- **Girl Takes HSC Exam Despite Fall from Train**

Dhanashree, an HSC student was pushed out of a moving train near Dadar station in Mumbai. She suffered a fracture and some abrasions in her right hand. The examination board and her centre did their best by arranging a writer for the teen, just minutes after she made a request for one.

- **Kindling Students Interest in Issues about Environment**

An initiative of **Make Earth Smile Again, (MESA)**, a social enterprise working for the environment, seeks to give students varied experiences. These include models and participation in the process of source segregation and recycling waste. Local problems are also addressed. This endeavour evokes curiosity in students. Environmental education started over a decade ago, but at school and college level, it deals with broader aspects like global warming, climate change, etc.

- **Schools, Colleges Turn to Lending Libraries**

More and more educational institutes are **approaching libraries** to lend them the latest books for students from L.K.G to college level. These institutes approach various libraries to cater to children’s needs according to their special areas, different ages and levels. The books have to be returned after a month or so as per the arrangement between the school and library.

❖ CONCERNS

- **Falling Standards of Teacher Education**

India needs to invest enough to develop good teachers. Conducting tests and exams without adequate teaching is unacceptable. The present curriculum should be modified in order to attract committed teachers. Additionally, they should be paid well to prevent falling standards in education. **Shikshan Katta**, an informal forum of educationists and school principals, reviewed several teacher training programmes in the state and recommended remedial measures.

- **Female Literacy Rate in Rural Maharashtra**

It has been estimated that 32% of rural females are illiterate in Maharashtra. **“Low value is attached to girl’s education,”** explains Kreeanne Rabadi, regional director, CRY. They are trapped in household chores, early marriage, pregnancy and a whole lot of discrimination. While about 48.91 lakh girls are enrolled in Standards I to IV there are only about 25.91 lakh girls in Standards VI to VIII as per the provisional 2011 census.

- **Definition of Corporal Punishment**

A report by **‘National Commission for Protection of Child Rights’** has found that 99.86% of a school children experience some kind of punishment. NCPCR defines corporal punishment as physical punishment, mental harassment and discrimination of children causing both physical and mental harassment. A senior NCPCR official said they will be coming up with ‘Guidelines for Eliminating Corporal Punishment in Schools’ by 5th March, 2012.

- **Teaching in Fear**

Aspiring teachers are having second thoughts about taking up teaching as a profession as they increasingly face attacks from students and political parties. This is naturally a cause of grave concern. Parents and students today are unable to tolerate the slightest reprimand; even a light scolding by the teacher is considered **‘mental harassment.’** Indiscipline among students is on the rise and teachers feel pressured dealing with such students as one cannot anticipate what might trigger an outburst.

❖ **OVERHEARD**

- **No Amanuensis (Writer) for Learning Disabled Students**

There is a real shortage of writers for students with learning disabilities. This is because the **board rules** specify that the writer should be of a class lower than the student or at his level. This means that a class VI student can write the paper of class VII student. Parents and students complain that besides the unavailability of younger students, they are also unsure of their grasp of concepts.

- **Decline in Qualified Teachers**

The Union HRD minister Shri Kapil Sibal believes the RTE Act will address the problems plaguing school education, namely **quality teaching**. But the change won’t happen immediately as a lot more has to be done at the state level. Recruitment of teachers is the responsibility of the states, not the centre. States have had to bring down the level of teachers as there aren’t enough qualified teachers. The state government decides teacher’s salary, pension, service and super annuation; it is not possible for the centre to monitor the quality of education in a school or a village.

- **State Board Exams Find More Takers**

The number of students appearing for both SSC and HSC examination from the Mumbai division (includes Thane and Raigad) has risen by more than 4%. Similar runs the story across the state; one lakh more students will appear for the SSC examinations- a 7% leap from last year. More girls are also taking the exams and the dropout rate among girls has decreased. Most of the first class and distinction students are girls- **they are better performers** as compared to boys.

- **Mother Tongue Scores Over English**

Mumbai, our commercial capital, is becoming more global and cosmopolitan, but when it comes to education here the **local language still holds sway**. A board official said over 1.5 lakh students took Marathi as their first language; English comes second with 1.23 lakh students, as their preferred medium.

❖ **FUTURE PLANS**

- The plinth, piling and foundation of our proposed Institute of Integrated Education is nearing completion. We hope to start construction of the floors in the immediate future.



NEWSLETTER

The Rite Step

Sir Phapurji Billimoria Foundation

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