



# DSE SYMPHONY

DEPARTMENT OF SPECIAL EDUCATION NEWSLETTER

[www.dsesndtwu.in](http://www.dsesndtwu.in)

## From The Editor's Desk...

A warm hello to all our readers of DSE Symphony. Here comes our seventh issue with the details of DSE events in the past six months. Our distinguished writers Dr Raj Kumari Gupta, Dr Susie Gronseth, and our own faculty Dr Apoorva Panshikar have contributed interesting articles on the theme of 'Global Challenges of Education: Resilience and Reinvention'.

The last six months were assiduous, but the end result was worth all the hard work we put in. The entire team of DSE toiled very hard for the inspection by Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI), a statutory body of Government of India. It gives me immense joy to announce that, it's the first time that all six courses offered by our department have been given recognition by RCI for the next five years.

From December 1st to December 4th 2021, DSE organized an online international conference in collaboration with the National Institute for the Empowerment of Persons with Visual Disabilities (NIEPVD) which was awarded CRE status by RCI. It was truly a confluence of great minds across the world. We had one day of pre-conference workshops conducted by Dr Eleonara Palmieri, Prof. Piero Crispiani, and Ms. Tamar Apel, resource persons from Italy and Israel. The plenary sessions were taken by distinguished professionals from the University of Melbourne, University of Houston, Rhode Island University, Bishop Grosseteste University, University of Finland, National Institute of Advanced Studies of India, Royal University of Bhutan, McGill University of Canada and many others.

The chief guests were Hon'ble VC Prof. Alok Kumar Chakrawal, Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya, Bilaspur, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor Prof. Ami Upadhyay, Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University (BAOU) and Padmashree Dr Uma Tuli. Our Hon'ble VC, Prof. Ujjwala Chakradeo, SNDT Women's University along with the Director of NIEPVD, Dr Himangshu Das were the patrons of the

conference. DSE strongly believes in the quote by Helen Keller, "Alone we can do little, together we can achieve a lot" and this event reflected the same.

DSE believes in collaborations. We collaborated with Lighthouse Learning and organized a national webinar on Inclusive Education - Empowering and Enabling the School Stakeholders. The DSE academic calendar consists of need-based and tailor-made value-added courses. Our short-term course Remediation Strategies for Learning Difficulties (RSLD) was completed in the month of February 2022 and we have initiated the fifth batch of Certificate Programme in Shadow Teaching.

Arushi - the Learning Center is getting ready to welcome all our stars to the beautiful sensory garden and this dream was realized by the faith instilled in us by our donor, Akhil Autism Foundation, a US-based NGO.

It gives me great pride to share that one more international NGO, Christoffel Blinden Mission (CBM) has taken the DSE team on board for research project on Inclusive Education in Tripura.

DSE has signed an MOU with TISS and together we are undertaking teacher training along with research activities. We look forward to taking this collaboration to the next level.

We have shown resilience and perseverance throughout these two years of the pandemic and the change it brought about. It's heartening to see our students back in offline mode and the department once again bustling with activity.

We strive to fulfill our commitment to providing the best human resource and expertise in the field of Special Education.

## Dr Sujata Bhan

Professor and Head  
Department of Special  
Education, SNDT WU.



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## DSE Folk

### Global Challenges in Education: Resilience and Reinvention

Global challenges in the field of education viz. unpredictable yet continuous migration and displacement, complex challenges of advancements in technology, redundancy of 'one size fits all' curriculum, continuous lack of trained teachers are constantly changing the face of education. The most recent and impactful challenge has been Covid 19, this has affected education tremendously, both at the receivers' end and as a system imparting education. Amidst the physical ailments, loss of life, mental health issues, social isolation, depression and economic upheaval; education has been directly and indirectly affected. Most leaders of academic institutions were not trained in crisis leadership, nor had they dealt with a

dealt with a crisis of this magnitude and duration. Since 2020, a major reorientation in imparting education has been necessary to further the learning process. This reorientation has varied with region, age groups, and infrastructure set-ups. Most stakeholders have attempted to rise to the cause, but certain problems continue to persist; while fee intake was reduced, staff needed to be paid salaries, researching and introducing online learning systems, campus maintenance, online assessments, devising for ever-changing regulations for entry-exit etc.

Educators evolved creative methods to deliver academic lessons over digital platforms. Shorter lecture periods for focused attention span, virtual picnics to address issues of isolation and lack of interaction, to the extent of providing gadgets and infrastructure to disadvantaged children. Solutions may include provision of asynchronous and synchronous online education for better access, discarding obsolete pedagogy and resource management methods, shifting towards appropriate technology systems and a wider skill set of human resources for the future.

Priorities for redesigning schools around equity, authentic learning and stronger relationships (Darling-Hammond et al 2020) are: closure of the digital divide, strong distance and blended learning, students' needs assessment, supports for social and emotional learning, ensuring authentic and culturally responsive learning, expanded learning time, community schools and wraparound supports and more adequate and equitable school funding.

The last two years reflect the potential for flexible methods of imparting education including the possibility for better remote education.

**Dr Raj Kumari Gupta**  
Former Head,  
Department of Education,  
Panjab University, India.





## Building Faculty Capacity Through Community-Driven Professional Development

When COVID-19 prompted the University of Houston (UH) to shift in-person instruction for the 47,000+ UH students to virtual instruction in 2020, an interdisciplinary working group convened to develop and implement a professional development program that would equip UH faculty to enhance their skills in teaching in virtual and blended formats. The group's actions in developing the program aligned with the Kotter Change Model (e.g., 1. Create a sense of urgency, 2. Build a guiding coalition, 3. Develop a change vision, 4. Communicate the vision for buy-in, 5. Enable action by removing barriers, 6. Generate short-term wins, 7. Sustain acceleration and 8. Institute change), which illustrates how the resulting program served as an impetus for positive change that would provide more long-lasting impacts to teaching and learning. At the core of the program were considerations for the diverse learning needs of UH students, who represent more than 130 countries and of who many are first-generation college (50%) and low-income (44%) students. The program design also aimed to meet the varied needs of the approximately 2,600 UH faculty.

Thus, in June 2020, the working group co-wrote "A Guide to Best Practices for HyFlex and Online Teaching at UH" (available at <https://uh.edu/power-on/teaching/>) and a training program framework and timetable consisting of 10 different one-hour training sessions taught multiple times synchronously, as well as recorded and archived in a Microsoft Team community for later access and discussion. The program curriculum covered online teaching aspects of determining learning objectives and teaching style, developing

and organizing course materials, delivering lectures, engaging students and assessing learning. The synchronous training sessions were attended by over 200 individuals, and more than 1400 UH faculty and staff have joined the Microsoft Team community to view and discuss the recordings. Considering the diverse professional learning needs of the campus, Power-On incorporated strategic flexibility to provide long-range support within a community-based structure.

### Dr Susie Gronseth

Clinical Associate  
Professor, College of  
Education, University  
of Houston, USA.



### Dr Leslie Coward

Assistant Director,  
Faculty Engagement  
and Development,  
University of Houston,  
USA.



## Reinventing Education Using Authentic Learning

The factory model of education is a huge challenge to the 21st century skill driven education system that we aspire. Life is complex and multidimensional. Thus, an interdisciplinary teaching and learning focus is imperative which can be attained by hands-on learning experiences, learning from credible sources, and engaging in critical thinking. A student-led, self-directed inquiry and problem-solving approach needs to guide all learners today. Consequently, a need to refocus the goal of education from 'knowing in theory' to 'doing in practice' is deeply experienced.

Authentic learning framework promotes this shift from a teacher centric methodology to a student centric methodology. Authentic learning entails using a variety of educational and instructional techniques that aid students to connect what they learn in school to the real-world problems, issues and concerns. In effect, authentic learning equips the students with practical skills that can be employed to address their life problems.

The framework of authentic learning, in addition to having its roots in constructivism and social learning theory, also has a strong neurobiological basis. Exposure to active learning opportunities appears to have a positive impact on brain growth. This, in turn, has implications for education of children with special needs. Teachers can provide for rich, challenging and engaging learning opportunities to the students rather than striving to accommodate areas of weaknesses. Taking the same idea forward, we can focus on the idea of neuro-diversity in classrooms and consider the application of the tenets of authentic learning to promote inclusive education.

Of special interest is the field of teacher preparation and the application of the authentic learning framework. Specifically, thinking about the teacher preparation programmes in Special Needs Education, the value of authentic learning experiences is unmatched. One of the many practices is setting up model lab schools for placement of teacher trainees there. The model lab schools provide opportunities to the trainees to observe the children with special needs, observe the instructional practices and techniques adopted by the special educators in the model lab school, teach the students with special needs and engage in community of practice by participating in discussions, seeking clarifications and indulging in reflective practices.

Authentic learning framework appears to be beneficial right from school education through professional education, and it is time we start implementing it in its true spirit.

**Dr Apoorva Panshikar**  
Assistant Professor,  
Department of Special  
Education, SNTD WU.



*DSE commenced its  
5th batch of Certificate  
Program in Shadow  
Teaching in March  
2022.*



## DSE BEATS

### **Faculty Publications**

#### **Prof. Sujata Bhan**

❖ Bhan S. (2021) "Disability inclusive response and recovery planning for COVID-19", A UNESCO commissioned Research Project. Available at <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000378354>

#### **Hemali Gada**

❖ Gada H. (2022) anthology entitled 'Discovering You'. E-Book ISBN: 978-93-93503-50-3

### **Faculty Participations**

#### **Prof. Sujata Bhan**

❖ Delivered a lecture on 'Inclusive Education: The Status in India' in All In!? International School Systems and their Way to Inclusion, a lecture series organized by University of Greifswald, Germany (November 30, 2021)



## **Invited Speaker**

❖Invited speaker on 'Synergy between special education and general teacher education' in the South Asia Inclusive Education Research Hub organized by Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) (February 25, 2022)

❖Invited to conduct an online workshop on 'E-content for students with blindness and low vision' for master trainers in inclusive education pan India by the International Relations Division, NCERT (December 15, 22, 2021 and January 5, 15, 19, 2022)

❖Invited plenary speaker on the theme 'Role of Teachers for 21st Century Learning' at the National Symposium on Transforming Human Resource Development in the context of NEP 2020 organized by RCI at Guwahati on (December 28-29, 2021)

❖Invited speaker on the topic 'Inclusion and Equity' in the Online International Conference on the theme 'Contemporary Challenges in the Education of Children with Disabilities: A Pandemic Analysis', organized by Sh. Shah K.L Institute for the deaf- TTC on (November 26, 2021)

❖Invited speaker to present virtually on 'Parent Teacher Partnership' in the 34th CIF International Conference of Council of International Fellowship (CIF) Cyprus in collaboration with CIF Switzerland, CIF Israel & CIF Turkey based on the theme 'Best Practices in Times of Crisis- New Challenges and Opportunities in the Pandemic Era on Families and Children' (November 6, 2021)

❖Invited resource person to present on 'Women with Disability: A victim of double discrimination' at an international conference on the theme, 75 Years of Journey towards Empowering Person with Disabilities: An Introspection,' organized by Composite Regional Centre for PwDs, Ahmedabad, Sardar Patel University, Vallabh Vidyanagar & IITE, Gandhinagar (September 14, 2021)

## **Dr Apoorva Panshikar**

❖Presented paper titled "Standardisation of Psycho-educational Test for Assessment of

Children with Specific Learning Disability" in Two - Day International Webinar on 'Understanding Learning Disability – Prospects and Concerns,' organised by Ramakrishna Mission Vivekanand Educational and Research Institute (February 22-23, 2022)

❖Resource person for a 3-day workshop on "Universal Design for Learning" organised by Consortium of Inclusive Education, Gujarat and Department of Special Education, SNDT Women's University (December 16 and 22, 2021 and January 6, 2022)

❖Attended two-day national symposium on 'Transforming Human Resource Development in the Context of NEP-2020' organised by Rehabilitation Council of India, Govt of India at Guwahati (December 28-29, 2021)

❖Resource person for Online CRE Program "Role of Play in Early Childhood in Developmental Disabilities" on 'Play Essential Strategies for Learning in Developmental Disabilities' sponsored by Rehabilitation Council of India and organised by Composite Regional Center for Skill Development, Rehabilitation & Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (CRC), Sikkim (December 25, 2021)

❖Resource person for Diploma in Learning Disability programme organised by Suvidya College of Special Education, Azim Premji University. Topic "Learning Disability Associated Conditions – Executive Functioning Disorders" (December 17, 2021)

❖Resource person for the CRE webinar 'Assistive technology for teaching the children with Sensory Disabilities and the Neuro developmental Disabilities' on "Assistive Technology to teach the children with Learning Disabilities" organised by School of Special Education and Rehabilitation, Tamil Nadu Open University (October 28, 2021)

❖Resource Person for National webinar 'Specific Learning Disability' on "Importance of remedial education upon early identification" organised by National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Multiple Disabilities (October 25, 2021)

❖Resource person for 'Short Term Professional



Development Certificate Course in Learning Disability' organised by Nirmala Institute of Education, University of Goa affiliated and Adira : Center for Disability Management, Inclusion and Empowerment on 'Specific Learning Disability with Impairment in Reading (Dyslexia) – Assessment and Intervention' (September 23 and 24, 2021)

❖ Presented paper titled "A Study of Relationship Between Stress and Mindfulness Among Teacher Trainees" with Ms Yukti Gupta in 3- day International Conference (Webinar) '75 years of Journey towards Empowering Person with Disabilities: An Introspection' organised by Composite Regional Centre for Skill Development, Rehabilitation & Empowerment of Persons with Disability, Ahmedabad in Association with M.B. Patel College of Education, S.P. University, Anand and Centre of Special Education, Indian Institute of Teacher Education, Gandhinagar (September 14-16, 2021)

### **Yukti Gupta**

❖ Presented a research paper on Assistive Technology and Learning Disability: A Reality in International Webinar on Understanding Learning Disability organized Faculty of Disability Management and Special Education, Ramakrishna Mission Vivekananda Educational and Research Institute, Coimbatore (February 21-22, 2022)

❖ Invited as a Resource Person and conducted a session on Learner characteristics, identification, and interventions in mainstream classrooms for students with Visual Impairment by Nirmala Niketan of Education and Adira: Centre for Disability Management, Inclusion and Empowerment (February 19, 2022)

❖ Presented a research paper on Dance without Sight: Access to Visual Impairment in International Conference in Education 2 theme Global Challenges in Education: Resilience and Reinvention organized by Department of Special Education, SNDT Women's University in collaboration with National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Visual Disabilities (NIEPVD) on (December 1-4, 2021)

### **Betty Abraham**

❖ Presented paper titled "Mindfulness for Teacher Resilience and Classroom Management in an Inclusive Classroom" in International Conference in Education (ICE2) 'Global Challenges in Education: Resilience and Reinvention', organised by Department of Special Education, SNDT Women's University in collaboration with National Institute for the Empowerment of Persons with Visual Disabilities (NIEPVD) (December 1-4, 2021)

❖ Resource person for Blended Mode Training Program on 'Importance of Inclusion' organized by PNR Society, Gujarat (October 2, 2021)

❖ Resource person for 'Online Training Program on Various Disabilities & Inclusion Issues' on "Parent & Peer Support" organized by National Institute for the Empowerment of Persons with Visual Disabilities (Divyangjan) (NIEPVD) in collaboration with Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (September 3, 2021)

### **Hemali Gada**

❖ Resource person for Short Term Professional Development Course in Inclusive Education organized by Nirmala Institute of Education In collaboration with ADIRA: Centre for Disability Management, Inclusion & Empowerment (February 5, 2022)

❖ Presented paper titled 'Educational Transformation in Formal and Non Formal Learning' in the International Conference in Education (ICE2) 'Global Challenges in Education: Resilience and Reinvention' organized by Department of Special Education, SNDT Women's University in collaboration with National Institute for the Empowerment of Persons with Visual Disabilities (NIEPVD) (December 1-4, 2021)

❖ Resource person for online CRE on Understanding SLD- Assessment, Diagnosis & Intervention organized by NIEPVD, Navi Mumbai in collaboration with Divyanvardhini Divyang Training College under Sanjay Centre of Special Education, Goa (September 28, 2021)

*The 1st batch of the Training Program in Remedial Strategies for Learning Difficulties passed out in February 2022.*



## *Alumnae Allegro*

“DSE SNTD has taught me to avail opportunities where they are and create opportunities where they aren't. SNTD also made me believe that every second in the day can be utilised and following a scientifically chalked out path goes a long way. After coming here, I realised the dreams I otherwise thought were impossible. Special education was one of the components that my professors taught along with teaching me life. I will be forever indebted and grateful to SNTD”.

- Dr Gargi Sinha Roy  
M.Ed Special Education  
Intellectual Disability (2006 - 2007)

“My experience at the Department of Special Education, SNTD Women's University, Mumbai was professionally as well as personally enriching. The Faculty's knowledge and subject expertise in various domains of special education provided me with the required insight and skills in the field. Two years of extensive training equipped me to take up more challenging roles especially in higher education. DSE provided me with practical exposure and hands on training in taking lectures and guiding them, writing research articles and developing abilities of critical analysis and also promoted co-curriculum activities. The library has a plethora of books on latest special education topics, international research journals and provides a highly conducive environment for self studying. DSE places great emphasis on quality learning experiences balanced with the right amount of exposure avenues. I was fortunate enough to learn under the brightest minds in the field of special education. I will

always be a proud DSE alumnus!”

- Kanika Manral  
M.Ed Special Education  
Intellectual Disability (2016 - 2018)

“Forever GRATEFUL for that One Academic Year

One Academic Year  
At the Department of Special Needs, SNTD  
That changed my identity.

One Academic Year  
Of all the learned professors of SNTD  
Guiding, teaching, sharing their expertise.

One Academic Year  
Of arranging Specialists in the innumerable areas of Special Needs,  
To come and share their brilliance with us.

One Academic Year  
Of us students toiling to grasp and waiting to enter the New World  
As Interns, to touch countless lives of children and adults.

After that One academic year  
With joy in my heart, readiness in my mind,  
spring in my feet and confidence in my work  
I ventured into the world of Special Needs!

The passion and learning continue...  
DSE and Family support continue...  
That One academic year still continues!

Forever INDEBTED to that One Academic Year  
And SNTD, my Alma Mater  
For making me a better Human!”

- Geeta Dalal  
B.Ed Special Education  
Multi Category (2003 - 2004)



*“My two years at the Department of Special Education were life changing. The faculty members enriched our understanding of various theories, pedagogies and inclusive practices by effectively integrating them with practical teaching. They thoroughly prepared me for the real world of teaching-learning. But most importantly, the practicum of this course was designed extremely well, and the training that I received in this part of the course was outstanding. It prepared me for all the varied responsibilities that I would eventually have as a teacher. The cross-curricular aspect of the course ensured holistic learning. Although my specialization was in Intellectual Disability, I feel well equipped to teach varied group of students. Lastly, the faculty at DSE were approachable, supportive and great academic mentors. All in all, even though those two years were extremely challenging, they were worth every bit of hard work”.*

- Apurva Kothare  
B.Ed Special Education  
Intellectual Disability (2018 - 2020)

*All the six Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI) recognized courses conducted by the Department of Special Education (DSE), SNDT Women's University were given a 5-year recognition status for the first time under the able guidance of Prof. Sujata Bhan, Head of Department and her able team of faculty members.*

## DSE Events

### ICE 2 Conference

The International Conference in Education (ICE2) was convened by the Department of Special Education (DSE), SNDT Women's University in collaboration with the National Institute for the Empowerment of Persons with Visual Disabilities (NIEPVD) with the theme 'Global Challenges in Education: Resilience and Reinvention'.

The conference under the patronage of Hon'ble Vice Chancellor Prof. Ujwala Chakradeo along with the convenors Prof. Sujata Bhan, HOD, DSE & Dr Himangshu Das, Director, NIEPVD, boasted of a truly international panel of 15 speakers and resource persons from across the world. The 4-day event had 185 participants across Zoom and YouTube.

We were honored to have Dr Subodh Kumar, Member Secretary, Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI), as our Guest of Honour for the valedictory ceremony. Prof. Richard Rose, our Keynote Speaker spoke eloquently about the steps for transforming challenges into opportunities by promoting sustainable leadership and transforming educational process in light of new learnings.

The proceedings of the conference highlighted the global perspective of the common challenges across the world in education. The key conclusion that could be effectively drawn from all the presentations made was the primary need for attitudinal change for Inclusive Education to take root and blossom.



*Our faculty member, Ms Yukti Gupta conducted a workshop on the basics of Braille and American Sign Language. It was held for 2nd Year students of the B.Ed Special Education program. It provided an enriching learning experience for all the teacher trainees present.*





## Dyslexia Awareness Week

Dyslexia Awareness Week was celebrated by the students and professors of DSE, SNTD WU and Arushi from 4th to 10th October, 2021. We went red for Dyslexia awareness by carrying out a variety of activities like creating collages under #LightitRed and #WearitRed, curating a video for #DanceforDyslexia, and donning our baker's hats for #BakeitRed.



## Innovative Teaching Practices

The symposium was organized by IQAC (Internal Quality Assurance Cell) and DSE, SNTD WU. It was the first physical event conducted since the lockdown with participation from approximately 16 departments across the various SNTD campuses. It was graced by the presence of Hon'ble Vice Chancellor Prof. Ujjwala Chakradeo and the IQAC coordinator Dr Ashish Panat. Convenor Prof. Sujata Bhan ably led the symposium to a grand success and saw presentations on the Innovative Teaching Practices implemented in each department.



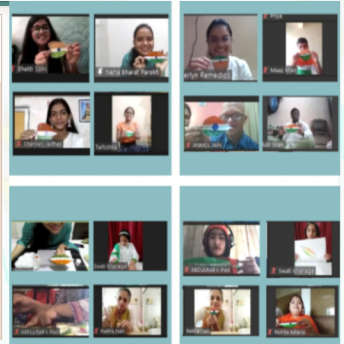
## Lighthouse Learning

India's leading education company, Lighthouse Learning, organized a two-day National Conference on Inclusive Education in collaboration with the Department of Special Education, SNTD Women's University. There were 5000+ registered delegates including parents and members of the teaching community from across the country. It was a successful step in creating an inclusive culture within the education ecosystem. The aim of this conference was to raise awareness of global practices on access, engagement and empowerment of Children with Educational Needs.



## Republic Day

The 73rd Republic day was celebrated with much aplomb by DSE, SNTD WU. The event showcased the best of Indian culture by beginning with a yoga session, this was followed by an insightful presentation and quiz on the essence of Republic Day. Next was a display of the singing and instrumental prowess by our invited guests. The last activity of the day was a blend of patriotism and sustainability where the teacher trainees of DSE, encouraged the students to paint our national flag on a leaf. The celebrations of the day left everyone with a renewed sense of appreciation for our country.








## Towards Inclusion

of Skill Development Workshop  
for Students of DSE, SNDT WU  
organised by

**Department of Special Education**  
**SNDT Women's University**

Date : March 29, 2022    Time : 3:00 pm - 4:30 pm  
Venue : Main Foyer, SNDT Women's University, Juhu Campus

**Resource Person**  
**Ms Ritika Sahni**  
Trainer,  
Disability Campaigner,  
Founder-Trustee, Trinayani



## Towards Inclusion

DSE, SNDT WU along with Trinayani organised a disability awareness workshop on March 29, 2022 for the teacher trainees of DSE with the objective of promoting acceptance, empathy and open mindedness towards persons with disabilities. Our resource person was a Disability Campaigner and the Founder - Trustee of Trinayani, Ms Ritika Sahni. She introduced the DSE trainees to unique board games developed by a team. The board games educates and empowers everyone through sharing of information about various types of disability while also busting myths and leads the players toward the idea of inclusion.

## DSE Pulse

*In the current times that are predominantly bound with a sense of limitation, the teachers of Arushi - The Learning Center transcended all boundaries of creativity and imagination. They brought together parents and students to celebrate festivals right from Teacher's Day, Ganesh Chaturthi, Diwali and Childrens Day to Christmas, Makar Sankranti, Pongal, and Republic Day. The students had a gala time painting our national flag on a leaf, dressing up as reindeers for Christmas, painting diyas for Diwali, making cards for their teachers, and making Ganpati with paper.*



07/09/2021



**Teachers day  
Celebration**

**Celebrating  
Nari Shakti**



**WOMEN  
EMPOWERMENT**



08/10/2021







Christmas  
Celebration

23/12/2021



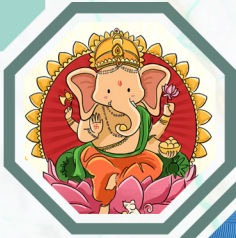
18/01/2022



Pongal  
Celebration



*Every choice  
we make can be  
a celebration of  
the world we  
want!  
Frances Lappe*



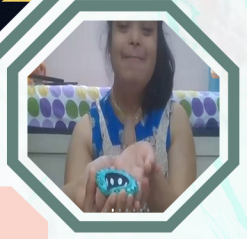
15/09/2021



Diwali  
Celebration



08/09/2021



Ganesh Chaturthi  
Celebration

## Reinvention @ Arushi - The Learning Centre

Nobody can argue that the world has changed dramatically due to Covid-19. It has especially been a catalyst for significant transformations in the education sector, thus causing a shift in teaching learning methodology from in-person mode to online mode. As the shift was novel and sudden, the transition created certain barriers for everyone involved. These barriers, we took on our chin and tackled them with fortitude. Limited or no access to internet connectivity was tackled by conducting sessions via WhatsApp. To parents who lacked familiarity in using the technological aids, we offered training workshops on the use of technology to better equip them to support their child's learning. As teachers we are singularly entrusted with the responsibility of providing teaching-learning experiences based on the needs of the students and their environment. Being true to this responsibility, at Arushi - The Learning Centre, we teachers reinvented our teaching strategies to make sure our students did not miss out on any learning. Social stories were narrated to aid our students in developing coping skills to manage the all enveloping stress, and for grief management. Students who required alternate modes of representation and expression were taught through mediums of art and technology-based apps like Canva, Jam board, Story jumper, and read - along software. Festivals were celebrated and various hands - on activities were organised online to ensure that experiential learning continued. Focus was maintained on therapy sessions and developing academic skills. Simultaneously, children's needs to play and have fun were also supported by including indoor games, cricket, obstacle races and one-minute games. Through this process of reinvention, Arushi has been able to empower the lives of the students, parents and families connected to it. This transformation will ensure the long-term effectiveness of the curricular program implemented by Arushi - The Learning Centre.

### Launchpad

*The students of B.Ed. and M.Ed. Special Education (2020-21) presented research papers for the first time at the International Conference in Education (ICE 2) and are now set to publish in the peer reviewed journal "International Journal of Multidisciplinary Educational Research".*

## IN THE WORKS @ DSE

### ***Voicescapes***

A workshop on Voice skills. The most powerful tool used by a teacher is her voice. The effective use of this tool can make a significant difference in the learning process along with enhancing classroom management. The workshop will tentatively be held on April 30, 2022. Ms Savita Vishwanathan, an experienced professional voice artist will be our resource person. The workshop is open only to the students of DSE, SNTDWU.

### ***Art Based Therapy***

Art is the symbolic expression of human emotions and permeates the very depths of our being. We want to equip participants to effectively use this therapeutic form to support and empower students with special needs. The workshop has been planned to be held on May 13, 2022. Ms Vanashree Ghatge, Founder, Annantaraa Art Based Therapy and Ms Betty Abraham, Certified ABT Practitioner will be the resource persons. Details of the workshop to follow.

### ***Handwriting Without Tears***

Handwriting Without Tears is an interventional program to support students in the development of the skill of handwriting and written expression. We are offering the students of Department of Special Education, SNTDWU an opportunity to add to their set of resources which can be effectively used. The workshop is tentatively planned to be held on May 28, 2022.

### ***Alumnae Allegro Going Live***

Drawing from the pages of the DSE Symphony, we plan to bring to life the Alumni Allegro section. From June 2022, a series of workshops will be conducted by the alumnae of DSE SNTDWU on a monthly basis. The workshops will be based on various topics and skills. Details of the workshop to follow.

**Credits: Betty Abraham, Creative Director & the Student Creative team**