

Glimpses

Newsletter by Biswa Gouri Charitable Trust



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STUDENTS BACK AT THE CAMPUS



What are the days when the campus is not buzzing with the voices of our students. But now they are back!!

Well almost. Our students, those above 18 and vaccinated are at the campus, full day. Few others, we are calling them under parent supervision in small groups, to enable them to get acclimatized to working from physical setting. This has really enabled our students to get back to the rigor and routine of learning skills hands-on.

BEING FESTIVE- BEATING COVID BLUES:

Festivals are a big part of BGCT. All the festivals are planned, implemented in consultation and collaboration with our students. The celebration for Independence Day and Rakhi was no exception.

We ran an I-Day campaign- knowing from our staff and students- what freedom means for them. This was hugely successful where people shared thoughts in form of art, music and speech

Rakhi was special too. Sustainability is a practice at BGCT. We designed our Rakhis from fabric waste using block printing. We upheld the spirit of bonding through tying rakhi on each other's hand and through dance and movement.



FOSTERING SOCIAL INCLUSION

TRAINEES BECOMING TRAINERS



We recently saw the tables turned, when we saw our students Medha and Santhosh facilitating expressive arts session for Bubble's students.

This all started with their exposure and experience of facilitating a diverse group of people online through Ginny's planet.

Ginny's planet has a quarterly event called "A day on Ginny's Planet" where they invite several resource persons from all walks of life to facilitate sessions related to empathy, skilling and diversity.

Medha and Santhosh facilitated their respective session on expressive arts and that led them to further try their skills as trainers, conducting session with the younger students at Bubbles.

This indeed had several connected impacts:

Cascading Effect- Enabling a young adult with disability to find agency through skills will inspire many like him/her/them.



Representation Matters- Santhosh as a trainer/facilitator has a ripple effect on young adults and children and their families, who can resonate with him.

Inclusive space- Santhosh conducting an online event with diverse audience, creates an example of inclusion and diversity.

Note: Ginny's Planet is a social enterprise which aims to build a world where no one feels odd-one-out. They aim to nurture aware, empathic, and diversity respecting people and spaces through capacity building.

INTERN to EMPLOYEE

Our Pragati students within a period of 9 months traversed the distance from being an intern to that of an employee (under contract) at Thomson Reuters. This has been possible because of the hard-work, skill, prowess and dedication that could exhibit at work. Congratulations to Ajit and Arvind on this achievement.

BAKING FOR GOOD



How can we create inclusive societies without collaboration, connection, outreach?

At the core of every BGCT initiative is hence collaboration. From I-Day we curated an event called **Baking for Good**. We crowd funded resources to do baking for kids at 4 orphanages.

PARTNER ENBALER

We are grateful to Chaap, a boutique practicing sustainability for choosing BGCT students to work on their custom-made block-printed fabrics. Our students produced 37 metres of compound block print for Chhap.



CAPACITY BUILDING- A CONTINUOUS ENDEAVOUR

MANTHAN 2021



Capacity Building is the core ethos of BGCT. Manthan 2021, a culmination event after completing 2 years of Aadhar- the outreach program was symbolic of that.

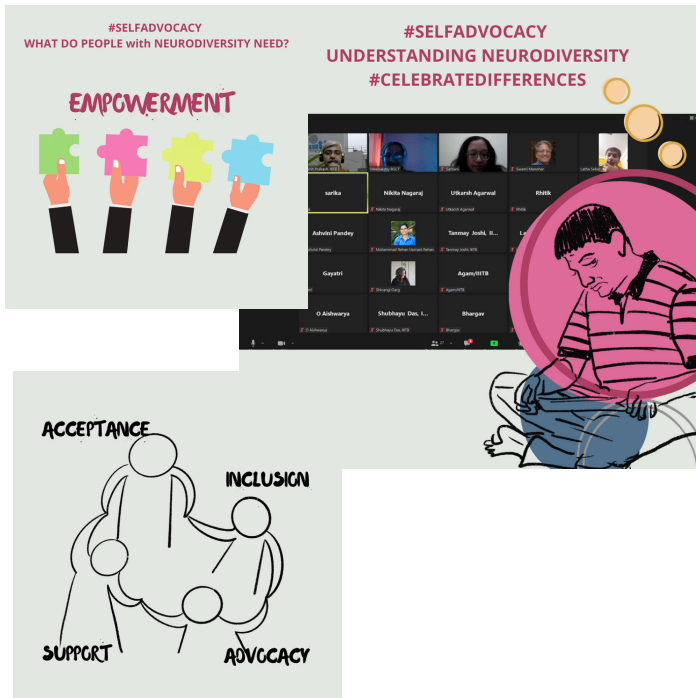
As a part of the 2-day event held on 28th and 29th August, we had workshops held with partner teams to discuss and come to a common goal for Aadhar. This was done through Organization capacity building, participatory consulting and sharing of ideas.

AADHAR in partnership with IDFC FIRST Bank is a rural outreach program, enabling rural access to early and primary intervention through capacity building of grassroots NGOs.

In the event, we also launched a handbook for ready reference and guidance of the grassroots NGOs.

MAKING OUR PRESENCE FELT

SELF-ADVOCACY- OUR STUDENTS SPEAK WITH AGENCY



On 24th of August, our alumni Arvind Shekhar participated in an online chat show speaking about self-advocacy by a neurodiverse adult.

Arvind is doing his internship at an organization and is part of the @mission1000collective which enables individuals with neurodiversity towards meaningful employment. The online event was initiated and organized by @iiitbangalore.

We are extremely proud of Arvind and the grit and determination he has shown.

LEADERSHIP PARTICIPATION in SEVERAL EVENTS

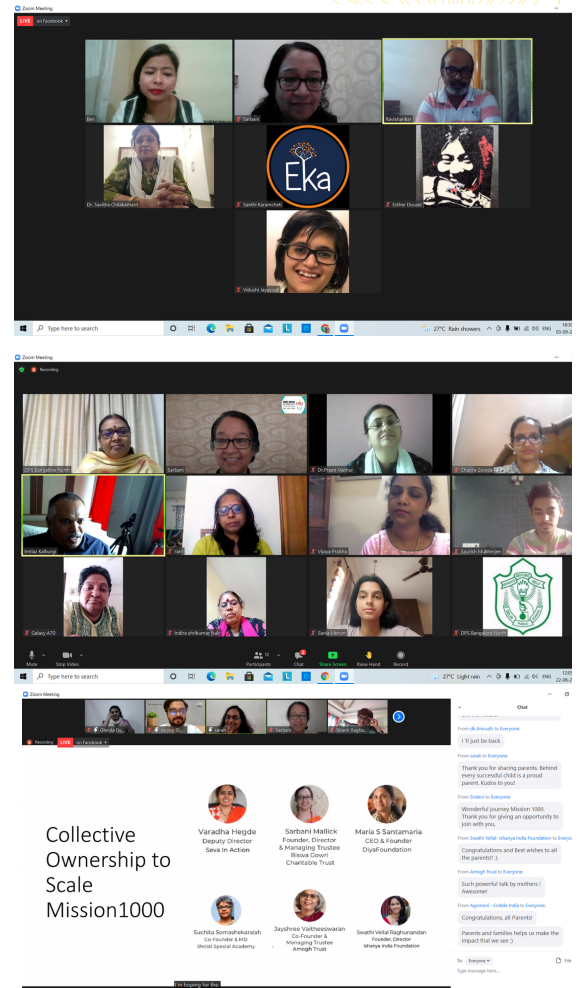
Ms Sarbani Mallick, our founder director, was invited to speak at several events.

Year 2020 till now has been a roller coaster on many fronts. However, it's the students who had the toughest time- with challenges wrt access to digital infra, growing anxiety and limited and no social interaction. All these get magnified for someone with disability. So proud that our founder Ms. Mukherjee has been invited to a talk by Eka to speak about Impact on Online classes on 3rd September 2021

Ms. Sarbani Mukherjee was part of the Child Protection Committee meeting at DPS North Bangalore, where she presented her perspective on children and vulnerability.

Mission 1000 collective is an endeavor to create more opportunities for PWD. Ms. Mukherjee as a part of the collective strengthens the endeavor to create more inclusive spaces for people with autism and intellectual disabilities.

Capacity building for Bala Shiksha Sahayata (part of TVS group of school) in Madurai. - Ms. Mukherjee was a resource person for "BSS special educators enrichment training" from NS-Vista



ACCREDITATION and NEW INITIATIVES

SOLS ARC RETAIL COURSE

BGCT has forged a new alliance with SOLS ARC (an NGO based out of Mumbai) to do a training in retail for the students. It is a 1-year training, which will end with a 15-day internship at amazon.

We have 8 students registered for the course. We wish to add many more and create livelihood opportunities for them.



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