

BENGALURU DIGEST

Investiture ceremony at Kendriya Vidyalaya



Investiture ceremony was held for the primary school students at Kendriya Vidyalaya MEG and Center recently. K N Bhat, principal, KV MEG and Center, was the chief guest and Bhargalakshmi R, headmistress, coordinated the programme.

Mimam (India) launches its first experience centre in city



Puzzled with the unemployment rate of autistic children who graduate from her school, Sarbani Mallick started a skill development programme for them



Express Features

Despite completing their high school education, children with autism still remain unemployed, says Sarbani Mallick, founding director of Biswa Gouri Charitable Trust. The trust was built in 2009.

She has been teaching autistic children for 22 years now and observing this pattern among those who graduate from her school, Bubbles Centre for Autism.

To solve this problem, Sarbani started Prashanti, a skill development institute on July 2.

Located off Hennar Road, the new institution has a capacity of 15 students, but as of now five are enrolled. "Since this is our pilot project, we did not want to take in many students," explains Sarbani.

Her trust runs a day-care schooling unit, Bubbles Centre for Autism for autistic children between the age of 4 and 17 years. The school has a strength of 40 students, those between the age of 13 and 17 attend skill development

Teaching job skills to autistic kids

and screening), hospitality and IT skills. "Printing is best suited since it requires less social activity and the autistic children excel at doing repetitive things," says Sarbani. ICRA Ltd, Vivanna by Taj helped Sarbani put Pragati together.

On the inauguration day, a fashion show was organised where both students and parents participated. The collection displayed block prints the students had learnt at Prashanti.

While the children ramp walked to the tune of "I have a dream" by ABBA, the mothers danced on Chumariya.

Autistic brother

Sarbani hails from Jharkhand and says she got into social service by accident. She came to Bengaluru 22 years ago and it has been 21 years since she's been in the field.

"My friend's daughter is autistic. She told me I should consider helping such children. As I learnt more about autism, I realised that my brother too was autistic, but it was not diagnosed as many could not understand autism," shares Sarbani. "It happened by co-incidence," she adds.



(From right) Akhil performing with a ICRA employee at the launch of Pragati

classes in Prashanti, a pre-vocational unit. At this unit, children learn jewellery making, baking and printing.

Learning printing, IT, hospitality skills

Those who are above the age of 17 years, attend Pragati, where they learn printing (digital, block