



# The Beat

## Akshadhaa Newsletter

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**SPECIAL  
EDITION**



**THANKS TO ALL  
OUR WELL  
WISHERS, AND  
VOLUNTEERS FOR  
THEIR GENEROUS  
SUPPORT LAST 10  
YEARS**

### SIGN LANGUAGE AWARENESS SESSION

Akshadhaa Foundation organized a 2 hour Indian sign language session at Triveni Nagar Government School K R Puram for government and community school teachers, as well as Block Education Office team members, where a sign language expert shared how to identify speech and hearing-impaired children and how to communicate with them in the initial stage. The trainer has taken sessions on signs in Kannada and English and also some basic communication for their classrooms. The Trainer, Mr. Ravi R, took the session for 33 teachers on 19th Jan 2023 from 11 am to 1 pm. This session brought the awareness among the teachers who can benefit the students with whom they work in the schools.



### SENSITIZATION WITH UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

Akshadhaa Foundation organized sensitization and orientation session for Clinical and Counseling Psychology students from Kristu Jayanti College, CMR College and American College Madurai on 19th January 2023, where Akshadhaa Foundation founder Ms. Sumana Dutta addressed 16 students, giving understanding about the therapeutic services for children with neuro-developmental challenges and clarified their queries. From those, 13 students successfully completed their internship program at Akshadhaa and received certificates. During this internship period, the students have observed therapy sessions of occupational therapy, speech therapy and special education, gone through the observational assessment of behavioural challenges and modification techniques and supported the children in classroom environment.

# AKSHADHAA BLESSINGS TRAINING & PRODUCTION UNIT SUCCESS STORY

Akshadhaa Foundation's vocational training and production unit received bulk orders from BorgWarner company who has ordered 430 Gift boxes for their employees on the occasion of their new office inauguration in Bangalore. The neuro-diverse trainees worked hard to finish this order before the deadline. The team members at BorgWarner were very happy and appreciated the delivery of the goodies on time.

Second bulk order came in the form of wedding favor for a doctor couple who got connected through Blessing Instagram page and placed the order of 150 return gifts of their wedding with the products of Blessings candles and chocolates. We were extremely happy to be part of these two events and to be able to hand over the beautifully packed and crafted gift boxes to suit the taste and need of these two occasions.



## GIVING HELPING HANDS IN MAKING PAPER BAGS, HAND- PAINTED BOOKMARKS, GREETING CARDS, TRINKET BOXES

Akshadhaa Foundation organized a volunteering activity on 28th of January 2023, at the vocational center for the ANZ bank team where 17 volunteers participated and joined hands with neuro-diverse trainees to make the products like paper bags, handmade notebooks, trinket boxes, paper pens and pen stands. The volunteers got the opportunity to interact, understand the learning pattern, the workstation structure and assembly line model that actually help the neurodiverse trainees understand the expectation, predictability and follow the guidelines. This exposure helped the company employees to refresh the mindset and preconceived notion of challenges in inclusive recruitment. The founder of Akshadhaa Foundation, Ms. Sumana Dutta, had oriented them about the work Akshadhaa does with different stakeholders in the society and the impact the corporate houses are bringing in this segment with their collaboration.







## CREATING SOCIAL INCLUSION FOR SCHOOL BUDDIES - CHIMPLY FUN SCHOOL CHILDREN

On the 3rd of February, a team of 12 corporate volunteers joined the teachers of Akshadhaa Junior school to create a buddy program which had been organized for the children of neighboring play school 'ChimplyFun' along with children of Akshadhaa Foundation. The activities for the children included art, craft making, clay station, sensory play zone, games, dance and music. A total of 24 children participated in the program. The children were able to enhance their skills through games and interactions with each other.

## PHYSIOTHERAPY CAMP

A physiotherapy Camp was organized on 4th of February, 2023, where 16 parents got support for their children's physiotherapy need. These children were from different govt schools and local NGOs. In the physiotherapy camp, our 3 therapists focused on 'Child's Functional Assessment, Parents' Awareness building, Functional Management and Interactive Session with Parents. All the participants got nutritious lunch and transport support for attending the session. These children will get follow-up session in the coming month again which will help them to maintain the continuity of focused work with the children.

## VISIT BAL BHAVAN, AUTISM PARK

The children from Akshadhaa Foundation visited the Autism Park at Bal Bhavan on the 10th of February to have an exposure to disability friendly play equipment in the park. A total of 18 children were accompanied by 6 parents and 15 teachers. The children played and did art & craft activities inside the park and had a joyful day. We are thankful to the state government Of Karnataka for bringing inclusion play space in the public places. We are also thankful to the Mindtree Foundation for their support to the government, for bringing opportunities for specially-abled children.





# "INCLUSIVE EDUCATION PRACTICE & CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT TRAINING" FOR MAINSTREAM SCHOOL TEACHERS

Akshadhaa Foundation organized a teacher's training session on 11th and 25th of February, 2023, from 10 am to 4 pm on the topic "Inclusive Education Practice & Classroom Management" for mainstream school teachers. 19 teachers from Excellent English School, BTM layout, participated in this certificate course. Ms. Sumana Dutta, experienced autism consultant & special educator and M P Raj, Neuro physiotherapist had taken the sessions. On completing the training successfully, all 19 teachers received a certificate. During this training the teachers gained insight about the classroom management techniques and also how to create teaching materials keeping in mind the Universal Design of Learning.



## INTERSHIPS CERTIFICATE DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM

Akshadhaa Foundation organized an internship certificate distribution event where 11 students from CMR College and Kristu Jayanti College received their certificates on the completion of their internships, from our founder, Ms. Sumana Dutta, on 11th Feb 2023. During the internship program, these students got deep exposure to special education and rehabilitation therapy and learning.



## ANZ VOLUNTEERING IN FEBRUARY

Akshadhaa Foundation organized a volunteering event for ANZ employees, on 17th February, 2023, where 18 volunteers participated in jewelry making, candle making, and packaging products with 10 of our student trainees and 8 teachers. Mr. Shubhajit gave detailed orientation about Akshadhaa's work and there was a reflection session at the end.





## AKSHADHAA 5 TRAINEES JOIN AMAZON FOR ONE MONTH'S INTERNSHIP

5 vocational trainees received the month-long Amazon internship opportunity to work as System Support Associate. The trainees received year long simulated environment work training in Retail and ECommerce at the school. The trainees are going to receive their remuneration as paid interns and will be observed by the workforce in the due course. Two job coaches Ms. Manjula and Ms. Shirley supervised the entire internship process. The trainees successfully completed their internships with favorable results.

## PEERS SENSITIZATION AND STORYTELLING EVENT AT KALKERE PRIMARY SCHOOL ON 24TH FEB

A storytelling event was held at Kalkere Primary School where a total of 94 neurotypical children participated from the 1st and 2nd standards. The story talks about two friends - a blind man and an elephant, which gave an overall sensitization and awareness about disability. The session was conducted by the faculty, Ms. Rajyalaxmi. The children received a friendship cap from Akshadhaa for successfully winning the quiz competition. Another event on peer sensitization was conducted by Ms. Devikala, where a total of 132 children of 6th and 7th standards participated. Awareness was spread about 21 disability types. The children received caps here too at the end for being active listener and giving right answers to the quiz.





# INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN KERALA

An international Conference in Kerala was organized by St. John of God Centre “Special School & College of Special Education’ and the Rehabilitation Council of India, where Ms. Sumana Dutta was a keynote speaker on 24th of February, 2023. The conference was located at Velloor P O, Pampady, Kottayam. A total of 150 plus special educators participated during her session.



## 3RD PHYSIOTHERAPY CAMP

Akshadhaa Foundation conducted the 3rd Physiotherapy Camp conducted under Sarathy project which was supported by ANZ, on 4th March, 2023, from 10 am to 3 pm, where a total 11 children participated from Kalkere Government School and Ashraya Special School. During the camp Akshadhaa’s senior physiotherapists took care of – Child’s Functional Assessment, Group Physiotherapy Sessions, Parents' Awareness Session and Home Management Session.



## TEACHER TRAINING SESSION AT SAMPARK ORGANIZATION BANGALORE.

Akshadhaa Foundation received an invitation to have sensitization session with 34 community school teachers on 4th of March, 2023 at SAMPARK organization, Koramangala. The Founder and the Managing Trustee, Ms. Sumana Dutta had taken an orientation session at the beginning of the event. Rehabilitation professional, Ms. Sumaiya Naaz, had taken a basic classroom management session, under which she explained basic understanding about classroom management, child behavior management, child progress tracking and how to make the classroom more interesting so the child can focus more. Akshadhaa’s Counsellor and Program Manager, Mr. Shubhajit Bhattacharya, has conducted a session about ‘Team building’, in which he explained- rapport building with the team, trust building, tips for having effective communication among the team members.







## HOLI CELEBRATION

On 8th of March, 2023, Holi was celebrated with children and teachers at the school building. We received organic colors from Craftizen, an organisation working to create these colours out of flower petals. Our intent is to celebrate the festival keeping in mind the safety of the children and also save the nature and our mother earth.



## CMR AND KRISTU JAYANTI COLLEGE STUDENT WORKSHOP

Akshadhaa foundation conducted a sensitization workshop on 9th of March, 2023, for CMR college and Kristu Jayanti College on "Importance of Play based intervention for the children with autism and intellectual disabilities". A total of 16 university students participated. The students are pursuing their Master's in Clinical, Counseling, HR Development and Management with a background in Psychology. The students were given awareness on Autism and Intellectual Disabilities.



## MEETING WITH AMAZON VP

A Meeting was held on 10th of March, 2023, with Steve Walter, Vice President - Human Resource, Singapore, at Amazon Warehouse Bangalore, who understood the progress of our trainees placed in the Amazon warehouse in Bangalore. He also met our team and senior team members during his visit.





# PICNIC DAY FOR THE GOVERNMENT SCHOOL AND AKSHADHAA SCHOOL CHILDREN

A Picnic was organized on 16th March, 2023, where a total of 52 children from K R Puram Government School, Kalkere Government School and Akshadhaa Special school visited

XLR8 to celebrate the picnic day. An inclusive play space was created where the therapist-trainers designed play activities for them at the indoor sports arena. Snacks were arranged post their sports session.



## TEACHERS TRAINING AT AKSHADHAA

The eighth batch of mainstream teacher training started on the 18th of March, 2023. The neighboring pre-schools, Basil Woods, Chimpfun and PSTTI (Pre-School Teachers Training Institute) teachers have joined this batch of certification course of Inclusive Education Practice and Classroom Management. The sessions took them through a lot of awareness, right set of vocabulary, facts and myths of inclusion, hallmarks of inclusive school, checklist for ascertaining inclusive quotient of a school, understanding parents emotional journey, checklist for early identification

and making pedagogical plan. The session kept the teachers busy in group activities, self analysis, quiz and answering their inhibitions, challenges and confusions they face at different times with children with different learning difficulties and developmental delays. It was a pleasure to see the teachers contributing and engaging in such a productive way.



## UDID CAMP AT JAYANAGAR GENERAL HOSPITAL

UDID Camp was held on 20th March, 2023, at General Hospital Jayanagar. A total of 14 candidates along with their parents attended the camp. All 14 candidates successfully completed their assessments, got their documents approved

and submitted it to the hospital for the UDID. Akshadhaa volunteers were present at the hospital to guide the parents throughout the whole process. We express our gratitude to Ms. Sapna from PMID group for supporting Akshadhaa team to get this done successfully. The parents will receive a UDID Card copy in the next few days, which will help the children to get their rights and benefits from the government.



*Special School and Rehabilitation Service*  
# 4 BC - 803, located, 4th 'B' Cross HRBR Layout, 1st Block,  
Kalyan Nagar, Bangalore - 560 043.

*Vocational Training and NIOS Center*  
# 2C - 720, 2nd Cross, HRBR Layout, Block 1,  
Banaswadi, Bangalore - 560 043.

**Reach Us**  
+ 91 963222 0375 | +91 831097 6860  
[info@akshadhaafoundation.org](mailto:info@akshadhaafoundation.org)

