

Background on the Sites



ADAPT has been providing services for children with disabilities for over 38 years. Dr. Alur was invited by Begum Bilkees Latif to set up services for children

with disability in the slums and our first preschool service was born in 1985 in one room at the Urban Health Centre with the setting up of Sultan Noorani Memorial Karuna Sadan in Dharavi.

Dr Alur's doctoral thesis "**Invisible children – A Study Of Policy Exclusion**" (1999) brought to light the fact that children with disabilities were being left out of the government's largest preschool project the Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS). In view of providing services to these deprived children as well as to expand its services to include more underprivileged children pre-school title Ugam were setup ADAPT (formerly The Spastics society of India). These were modeled on the ICDS paradigm.

In 2000 an action research project titled "**Inclusive Education Practice in Early Childhood in Mumbai, India**" was initiated as a collaborative effort of The Spastics Society of India/ Mumbai, and UNICEF.

The action research study was based in the socially disadvantaged and deprived areas of Mumbai. The aim was **to study the intervention strategies needed to put children with disabilities into existing programs being run by the Government so as to demonstrate to the government that Inclusive Education is possible even with minimal resources** and therefore should and can be

included within the Government's framework of services.

Currently ADAPT has **nine anganwadis** spread throughout the slums of Mumbai. Our anganwadis provide care and support to **900 families** through direct contact and over **9000 households** are impacted through indirect services.

Our target Beneficiaries



- **All children** in the age group of three and a half to five and a half years.
- **Older Disabled children** can use the Anganwadi service as an entry point to our other services.
- **The girl child** is given special focus.
- Children from the most **socio - economically backward classes** are encouraged to attend our anganwadis



- Each Anganwadi provides daily services to approximately **100 children in two batches.**

The staff

- Each Anganwadi has one teacher and one helper
- All attempts are made to employ staff from within the same community where the anganwadi is located.
- Ongoing and regular capacity building programs provide in-service training to the staff.
- The children are taught through the play way method.
- Use of cost effective teaching aids is the key to making this project sustainable .

Our Services

- Inclusive preschool education
- Therapy provisions for all children with disability
- Nutrition for all target beneficiaries
- Womens empowerment groups
- Parent partnerships and networking with the community.

Support you can provide

- Sponsor the nutrition of one or more anganwadi.
- Sponsor the educational cost of the children in one or more anganwadi.
- Sponsor therapy costs for the children in our anganwadi.
- Sponsor inclusive education training programs for our community teachers.
- Sponsor awareness or sensitization programs for parents or members of the community.

Highlights

- First preschool research based project including disabled children.
- Demonstration of a cost-effective model for inclusion in the community
- Improvement in personal cleanliness and hygiene among the children.
- Parent and community partnerships established during the project.
- Narika Shakti or Womens empowerment groups set up in the community.
- Networking at the National Policy Level for the rights of children

Our Sites



Karuna Sadan



Ugam - Sawali



Ugam Asha



Ugam - Disha



Ugam - Maitri



Ugam - Jal Kiran



Ganesh Murti Nagar



Ugam - Jagriti



Ugam - Prerma



Inclusive Preschool Education in the Slums of Mumbai



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