

Monthly Newsletter

June Edition 2023

Our Vision

Children with MDVI participate and are recognized in their families and communities, and realize their unique abilities in life.

Our Mission

Muskan maximizes the potential of MDVI children, by providing customized, low-cost therapies and special education under one roof, and by empowering parents with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to support their child's unique needs and development.

NEWS & UPDATE

Teacher Training

We started our new academic year on June 1st, by welcoming the new joiners through an induction and orientation session. The first fifteen days of the new year is devoted to getting back together, reviewing the organisation policies and through the teacher training week which is an event by itself where outside specialists are invited to conduct training sessions with our team on different topics related to program as well as operations. The training week commenced on 3rd June with a lamp lighting ceremony by our founder Dr Dipti Gandhi, Deputy CEO - Mrs. Aanchal Tejuja, COO - Ms.Pinal Shah, CPO - Mrs Shibani Panda and our 6 center leaders.



Our first session shed light on learning difficulties and introduced us to effective techniques such as the sandwich method, Navnirmit, and phonic sounds to enhance reading, writing, and math skills. We also learned about practical teaching strategies for low-vision students, emphasizing the importance of a compassionate approach towards their development. The session was facilitated by Dr Gandhi.

Throughout the training, our knowledge was enriched with various topics discussed each day.



Niyati Ma'am presented on POCSO, enlightening us about safe and unsafe touch, while emphasizing the importance of teaching students the appropriate steps to ensure their safety.



Ms. Yukti's presentation on inclusion emphasized equal opportunities for education and learning. The concept of UDL (Universal Design for Learning) was introduced to us, highlighting the need and importance of multi-approach classroom teachings.

Kunti Ma'am's session on maintaining a positive mindset in adversities inspired us to stay calm and react thoughtfully.



Shailee Ma'am's presentation on vestibular function and dysfunction deepened our understanding of the body's balance system.



Ms. Rashna Sadri discussed communication and socialization in ASD, providing valuable insights on increasing a child's attention.

The Rotary Club of Deonar, our partners, showcased our work as part of their project, and we expressed our gratitude for their continued support. Kalyani Jadhav introduced us to various calendar systems and their accessibility, while also highlighting curriculum adaptation.



Mrunali's session on branding helped us differentiate Muskan's logo and provide guidelines for its proper placement in the documentation.

Shibani enlightened us on Taylor frames and Braille, focusing on the components of the Individualized Education Program (IEP) and the utilization of Taylor print.



Anmol's session on manifestation taught us affirmation and visualization techniques. Ms. Betty discussed the key components of handwriting, and Ms. Pinal Shah emphasized team-building skills such as cooperation, coordination, and communication. Additionally, we were

introduced to handling and positioning techniques in feeding and activities of daily living (ADL).

The training program also covered new aspects of the HR policy, ensuring that teachers were well-informed. Overall, the training sessions provided us with valuable insights, practical strategies, and a deeper understanding of our roles as educators at the Muskan Foundation.



Disha orientation:

Muskan Foundation for People with Multiple Disabilities participated in an online Disha orientation meeting on June 14, 2023, which was organized by Jai Vakeel Foundation. The meeting focused on providing a comprehensive overview of the Individualized Education Program (IEP) checklist, goal selection, and curriculum specifically designed for children between the ages of 3 and 18 with special needs. The primary objective of the meeting was to empower teachers with the necessary knowledge and tools to effectively support the educational journey of these exceptional children. The session also included the sharing of informative videos related to IEP, goal selection, and curriculum, enhancing participants' understanding and promoting a collaborative learning environment.



School Re-opening



On the 15th of June 2023, we joyfully inaugurated the new academic year, 2023-24, at Muskan Foundation for People with Multiple Disabilities. Filled with enthusiasm and renewed energy, the teachers warmly welcomed our beloved children. Engaging in conversations with the parents, we listened attentively to their stories about how they kept their children engaged in various activities during the vacation. As dedicated educators, we are once again prepared to embark on this journey, driven by our unwavering commitment to nurturing independence and empowering our exceptional children.

World Yoga Day On the 21st of June, the International Day of Yoga was joyously celebrated across all the centers. The children eagerly participated in performing a variety of asanas, immersing themselves in the practice. Teachers actively engaged with the students and even involved their parents in yoga activities. The parents, after experiencing the benefits of yoga, felt a sense of relaxation and shared a positive attitude towards school events, especially on World Yoga Day. The celebration fostered a holistic and rejuvenating environment, leaving a lasting impact on the well-being of the entire community.



Inauguration of Kalyan Center



We added one more celebration to our calendar in the month of June, by inaugurating our new center at Kalyan. The center was inaugurated by our founder and chairperson Dr. Dipti Gandhi and our trustee Mr. Sanjay Gandhi. Our deputy CEO Ms. Aanchal Tejuja & New C.O.O Ms. Pinal Shah along with our Muskan Team and all our center heads were present at the celebration of this new center.

This day gave us an opportunity to thank all our stakeholders and our supporting partners.

Helen Keller Day celebration

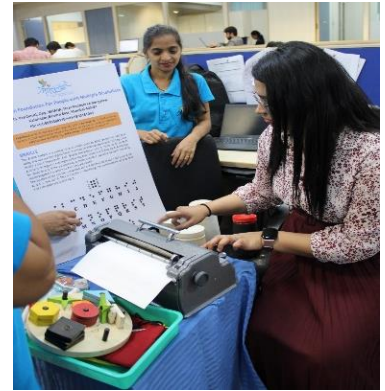
Muskan Foundation celebrated World Helen Keller Day by organizing a series of awareness and sensitization programs across various locations in Mumbai. The foundation made a concerted effort to reach out to different institutions and groups, including Hume School in Byculla, MGM Hospital in Panvel, B.J Bai Wadia Hospital, and HDFC Credilla Office in Bandra.



The sessions were meticulously planned and flawlessly executed by Muskan Foundation's dedicated team of special educators and social workers. The primary objective of these programs was to create widespread awareness about the significance of World Helen Keller Day. Participants were educated about the challenges faced by individuals with dual sensory loss, aiming to foster a deeper understanding and empathy toward their struggles.

The sensitization activities conducted during the programs were designed to engage the participants actively. Through interactive sessions, the attendees were encouraged to put themselves in the shoes of individuals with dual sensory loss, allowing them to gain firsthand insights into the daily obstacles they encounter.

Additionally, the Muskan Foundation team also shared valuable Orientation and Mobility techniques. These techniques play a crucial role in empowering individuals with dual sensory loss to navigate their surroundings independently and with confidence. By organizing these awareness and sensitization programs, the Muskan Foundation aimed to shed light on the importance of World Helen Keller Day while fostering a greater understanding and inclusivity for individuals with dual sensory loss within the community.



Case Study of the Month

Name of the Student: Mohit Dhiraj Vongole

Disability: Autism Spectrum Disorder

Age of the child: 6 years

Special Education: Early intervention

Area of development: Motor Skills (Fine Motor)

Goal of the Month: Beads & pegs holding independently with a tripod grip

Material: Pegboards, beads, pasta, stones, rice, sand

Beginning of the month: He was transferring objects with the use of a cylindrical grip & with the use of all fingers.

Sessions: The teacher did different activities to hold beads & stones with a tripod grip. The teacher did sort activities. Like: - Stone sorting or bead sorting from rice, pasta & sand, etc.

End of the month: Now he sorts stones, beads & pegs from rice, pasta & sand with the use of his tripod grip.

Therapies and Activities

Vision Therapy

Name of the child: - Raj Dev Bajaj

Disability: Cerebral Palsy & Visual Impairment

Area of Concern: Peripheral loss

Goal: Tracking and Scanning

When Raj came for assessment:	With regular Vision Therapy Raj can now:
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Not focus Light.2. He does not want to use his hands during the activity.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Able to focus light2. Able to see a moving object3. He likes to see a yellow color object.4. Attention span improved.5. He is sitting in a chair and doing therapy.

Parental Guidance: The mother has taught how to make tracking activity at home.

Physio Therapy

Name of the child: - Shiv jan Sahani

Disability: Delayed milestones – Encephalitis

Area of Concern: Language development

Goal: To develop phrases (3-4 words)

When Shiv came for assessment:	With regular Physio Therapy Shiv can now:
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. He could transition, stand and walk independently2. Poor anticipatory and reactive balance3. No single leg stance, hopping, jumping, kicking4. Couldn't climb stairs without support	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Does the staircase independently2. Kicks and plays football3. Stands on tilt board and trampoline independently and plays a game of catch and throw4. Balances on unstable surfaces

Parental Guidance: Home program techniques and frequency are explained and taught to the mother.

Speech Therapy

Name of the child: - Jaid Khan

Disability: Visual Impairment, delayed development

Area of Concern: Language development

Goal: To develop phrases (3-4 words)

When Jaid came for assessment:	With regular Speech Therapy Jaid can now:
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. He was speaking only 1-2 words2. vegetative functions (sipping, chewing) were not developed.3. phrases were not developed.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Vegetative functions (swallowing, chewing, sipping) has developed2. sipping) has developed3. Tongue and lip movements are developing for4. speech5. Started to speak in phrases. (3 words together)6. Following verbal instructions.7. vocabulary is developing.

Parental Guidance:

The mother has been taught different strategies to develop Language and vegetative functions, and the same is being done at home by mother. This end of the month speech therapist has not sent a case study.

Occupational Therapy

Name of the child: - Sahil Parkar

Disability: Autism spectrum disorder

Area of Concern:

1. Performance areas:

Activities of daily living (bathing, grooming, dressing, etc)

productive activities: - Engagement in study-related activities like writing, and reading.

play activities (parallel, cooperative, and associated play)

2. Performance components: -

Sensory-motor components:

- sensory processing: - hyperresponsiveness for vestibular and proprioceptive sensations.

Perceptual processing: -

- Right-left discrimination

Neuromusculoskeletal: -

- Generalize Hypotonia

- Muscle weakness (cores, Lower limb, and hand muscles.)

Cognitive Integration and Components: -

- Reduced attention span

- Termination of an activity

- Concept formation

- Problem-solving

3. Performance Context: - Difficulty with engaging in a social environment.

Goal: 1) Reduce restlessness and hyperactivity

2) Should be able to follow 2-step commands

3) Improve sitting tolerance

4) improve hand functions.

When Sahil came for assessment:	With regular Occupational Therapy Sahil can now:
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. He was very restless and hyper.2. He doesn't want to sit in one place for long periods of time.3. He was not able to sustain eye contact.4. He was inattentive, and not able to focus on his own task, also activity completion was fair.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. His hyperactivity got reduced.2. He does wait.3. His sitting tolerance has improved.4. He is able to follow 2 step commands.

Parental Guidance:

1. Encourage the child to engage in garden play to improve socialization.
2. Provide vestibular and proprioceptive inputs through cushion fight and ball pressure.
3. ADL modification explains.

HELP US CHANGE A STORY

When Mohan came to Muskan Foundation, he was a new he is a 1-year and 6-month-old child, who has been diagnosed with Global Developmental Delay (GDD) and Cortical Visual Impairment (CVI). Upon his initial assessment at Muskan Foundation, Mohan displayed hyperactive behavior and was unresponsive. However, over time, significant positive changes have been observed in his development. Mohan has started to exhibit a greater level of responsiveness, engaging in tracking and scanning activities. When presented with objects, he now extends his hand to grasp them, demonstrating improved motor skills. Furthermore, Mohan shows attentiveness to verbal cues and actively listens to instructions provided by his caregivers. At home, Mohan's mother diligently incorporates therapy techniques into their daily routine, ensuring his continuous progress. With ongoing support and therapeutic interventions, Mohan's potential for growth and development is promising.

Our dreams are big. But we cannot travel ahead to complete the mission without your generous support. Therefore, we request you to support the Special Education Program for children with multiple disabilities by sponsoring a Child's Monthly Education Program or Therapies on the following details.

CLICK ON: <https://rzp.io/l/Vr7KhNQ>

Help us to spread Muskan on our children's faces.

DONATE NOW

-----We are at-----

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