



ANNUAL REPORT

2018- 2019



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PROJECT SUPPORTED BY: VOLKART FOUNDATION INDIAN TRUST



VIDYA VARDHINI FOUNDATION TRUST

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FOREWORD:

The year 2018 – 2019 at Vidya Vardhini Foundation Trust further strengthened its community services in the field of disability management and Mental Health. Support to persons with disability continued by way of supporting them with their education, health and rehabilitation needs. Students with Learning Disability appeared for the A, B Level examination and successfully cleared their examination and out of nine students who had enrolled for Standard X - NIOS curriculum, three of them were able to clear all subjects. Rest of the six students had anywhere between two to four subjects for reappearing as they had scored below passing marks. These six students would appear in October 2019 or March 2020.

The services of our Vision Centre in the Cheeta Camp and Trombay in collaboration with K.B.H.B. Hospital, Mumbai continued and we reached out to nearly 460 persons with eye ailments and supported them with spectacles, cataract surgeries and other severe eye ailments. Community Eye camps were conducted thrice during the year and as many as 265 persons were reached out through these three camps.

The project on Mental Health gained strength and visibility with the initiation of our Community Clinic in collaboration with L.T.M.G. Hospital, Sion. **The clinic was started from August 2018 and it was decided to hold it twice a month on 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month.** A Psychiatrist from Sion Hospital would visit the Centre in the community on alternate Tuesdays to examine the patients and prescribe medication. Simultaneously, a Pharmacist to disburse the medicines has also been arranged for. This has helped patients and their families to avoid long distance travel and avail the facility of the doctor and medicines within the community itself. Psychiatric building community volunteers and training them on various aspects of mental health – mild mental illness, severe mental illness, prevention of mental illness, treatment, family and community support for persons with mental illness. With our awareness campaigns we were able to raise awareness in schools, communities and within families.

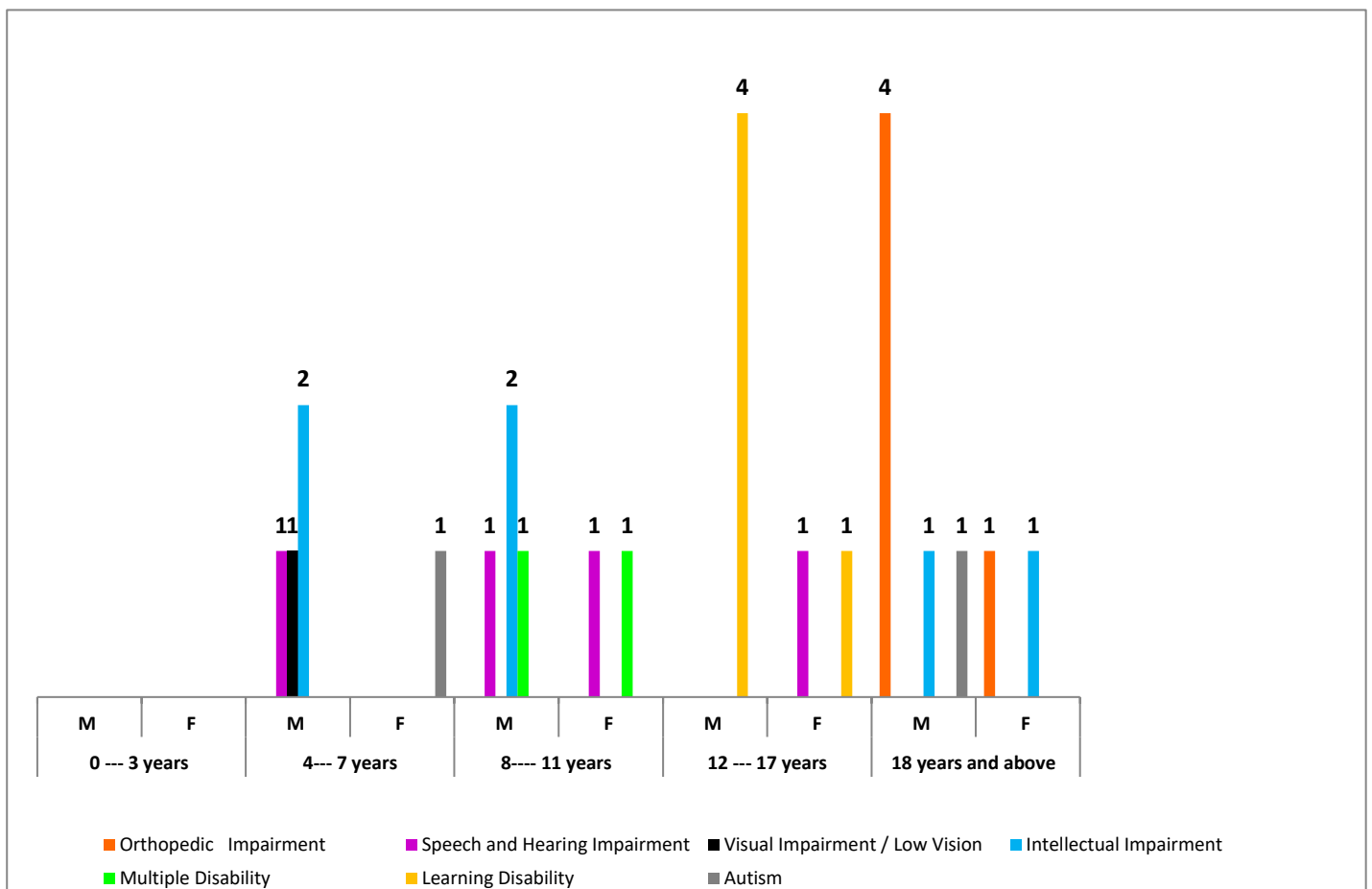
The Program for adolescent girls titled “ **SCIENCE FOR GIRLS**” in collaboration with University of Michigan was held once again during the year with more girls from the community and the number of students from the University of Michigan were also increased. We had a two day Science Workshop with 17 girls participating from Trombay schools and 9 students from University of Michigan. The objective of the workshop was to enable the girls to develop a liking for Science and be able to view various job options available in the field of Science as they advance in their studies.

ACTIVITIES OF THE YEAR: (2018 – 2019)

1. WORKING WITH CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS: -

Strengthening the program on mainstream disability and remedial education :

Working in the field of **mainstream disability** continued and we were able to identify **25** new cases with disability including students with learning disability. During the year we were able to provide intervention in the area of health, education, vocational training and employment assistance. The newer cases identified were supported with relevant documents like disability certificate, identity cards, birth certificate and name on the ration card to help them avail the concessions . Children and young adults with disability were supported with medical intervention which included surgeries, mobility aids and spectacles, phsiotherapy, speech therapy, support for regular medicines and pre and post operative requirements. Education support included support for fees, travel, school stationery etc. Our effort continues with the involvement of the whole family by way of volunteering in the community for our other activities, become support for other parents and improve their financial status by taking up skill training and suitable jobs Our effort is that young adults with disability complete their higher education if possible else they are encouraged to take up skill training.







2.National Institute of Opens Schooling (NIOS) Program: With our program on Remedial Education, three students completed NIOS (National Institute of Open Schooling) A Level examination in April 2018 and enrolled for B Level curriculum. Three students cleared their B Level examination and enrolled for Standard X . Nine students who had enrolled for Standard X , three of them cleared all papers and two of them had only one more paper to clear. Remaining four students had more than three papers to write which they had planned to write in October 2019 or March 2020. Our partners for the NIOS program are NGO PRATHAM for Level A and B and Fr. Agnel School Vashi, Navi Mumbai for Standard X examination.



3. COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH: During the year , we initiated the Community Mental Health Clinic in collaboration with LTMG Hospital, Sion to examine patients with Mental Illness and also provide medicinal support. This was initiated in August 2018 and from August 2018 to March 2019, 165 patients were examined by the Psychiatrist and given medicines. Counselling and home visits was also done by the counsellor to interact with families and engage them in the rehabilitation process.

The number of new patients have started increasing as the community volunteers are making visits to the community and informing residents about the initiation of such a service. Moreover, leaflets were also distributed and posters were put up at prominent

places like the market area, masjid, temples, doctors' clinics, shops, outside schools etc. to spread information on the newly opened Mental Health clinic services.



SUCCESS STORIES



ASSISIYA AUGUSTINE: Assisiya is 10 years old and was born with multiple disability and a nutrition disorder. She has been under treatment at Hinduja Hospital and undergoing physiotherapy at Children's Therapy Centre in chembur. Her improvement with medication and physiotherapy has improved so much that she is able to walk with minimum support and her health has improved considerably.



DANIEL PAUL FONSECA is a self employed person with disability. He runs his own shop outside Mankurd station selling items of everyday use , some confectionery and stationery items. Since Daniel was finding it difficult to use a manually driven tricycle a motorized tricycle has been given to him to ease his travel from Trombay to Mankurd especially during the monsoon season when he was finding the commute very difficult.



Suhana S. Khan : Suhana is ten years old and has Low vision. A bubbly, full of life Suhana has made a smooth transition to a normal , inclusive BMC School in Trombay from a special school. This transition has been ably assisted by teachers of National Association for the Blind (NAB) School for the Blind and she has been encouraged to participate in several extracurricular activities like dance, music etc. Suhana is very happy and the atmosphere in the school is very encouraging and inclusive.

OTHER COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES:

1. Dental checkup for children and young adults with Disability:

As part of the World Disability Day 2018 which falls on December 3rd each year , we organized an orientation cum dental check up for our children and young adults with disability on December 1st 2018. Many children do not know how to brush their teeth and maintain good oral hygiene. Due to their disability they do not understand the importance of maintaining healthy eating habits and have dental caries and decay. The check up helped in identifying children who needed further treatment and surgery too.



2. **CHEMBUR DIVYAKALA TARANG:** At the Chembur Festival 2018, our Trust supported a Group of Entrepreneurs of disabled young adults to participate in a Block printing demonstration event under the Divyakala Tarang program showcasing talents of children and young adults with special needs. This event was very well received and nearly 60 people from Chembur participated in the event of 8th and 9th of February 2019.
3. **Volunteer Training : Building Wellbeing Volunteers in the Community :** As part of our community Mental Health Program we conducted volunteer training in the field of Mental Health. This was an inclusive comprising of parents of children with disability, people with mental illness, their family members, special educators , counsellors and mental health professionals.

