

OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2021



GLIMPSES

BISWA GOURI CHARITABLE TRUST'S OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT BGCT

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International Day of Persons with Disabilities

The theme of International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD) 2021 was 'Leadership and participation of persons with disabilities toward an inclusive, accessible, and sustainable post-COVID-19 world'. The day is observed to promote the rights and well-being of people with disabilities at every level of society and development. It is also used as a platform to raise awareness about the current situation of persons with disabilities and facilitate dialogue and discussions.



This year, BGCT was at Art Mantra at Bangalore International Centre in Domlur to celebrate IDPD. Mr. Jonathan Zadka, an official from the Consulate of Israel, visited our stall and made the famous hanging doll with our facilitator. We had a workshop on various activities like mosaic art, texture painting and hanging dolls. The mosaic products were very well appreciated by the dignitaries who visited our stall.

FESTIVAL CELEBRATIONS

Lighting it up

When it comes to the festival of Diwali, it is always a matter of great joy for us to rejoice over the spirit of good over evil. Diwali celebrations by the BGCT team were held online on zoom with many fun activities like colouring mandalas, parents forming groups and singing during a game of Antakshari and Movement Activity.



When it is children's day...

Activities and interventions are designed and implemented, decisions are taken keeping the child in focus. Therefore, children's day was not a casual affair at BGCT. We celebrated it this year with the children, and their parents.

Camp-based activities like story-telling sessions, games and art activities were organised.

Activities that got the most cheer were mandala colouring, Antakshari by parents in groups and movement activity.



Ringling in the bells

On 24th December, the BGCT team celebrated the festive season of Christmas with carol singing, enacting skits and decorating a Christmas tree as a fun-filled activity. The children who sang and acted had been preparing for the same for a week and were incredibly excited to present a show for their encouraging audience.



SHOWCASING OUR WORK

At RMZ

On the 3rd and 4th of November, 2021, products stall of mug printing and pop up art was put up at RMZ Galleria Mall, Yelahanka. Trainers and trainees from Pragati hosted the same to share information about BGCT and the work we do. Customers who visited the stall were very happy with the mug printing done within 30 minutes and were enchanted by the pop-up art.



At Soul Santhe

On 19th December, we set up a stall at Jayamahal Palace in which products like mosaic and texture painting were sold. Such events are essential not just to create awareness about BGCT, but to also showcase the talent and abilities of our students and trainees.



At Shobha City

With indoor and outdoor gardening being popular amongst city dwellers nowadays, a stall was set up at Shobha city, Thanisandra for the sale of eco-friendly products like plants and mosaic designed pots on December 25th.

Showcasing our work at such events, and getting our students and trainees to such gatherings is especially important and significant to the BGCT Team. We believe that such platforms can be used to create awareness, engage in dialogue, and especially put forth the skills and talents of our amazing artists!

SOCIAL INCLUSION

Jam from home!

Santosh conducted a workshop on how to jam from home in Ginny Planet on 3rd October 2021. He, along with Mubin from BGCT showed the children how to make musical instrument creatively with plastic bottle and grains.



A day with dolls

On the 27-28 November, we conducted a workshop for young children at Hundred Hands which was facilitated by our trainees with activities like making a hanging doll with block printed cloth and also how to make sensory dolls, paper dolls, wool dolls, mosaic art and recycled bottle plants. The children loved all the activities so much that they visited us to participate and engage in such kind of creativity for a few days after the workshop was over.

Just a glimpse!



Mixed media art with students of Bubbles Centre for Autism



Fancy dress competition!

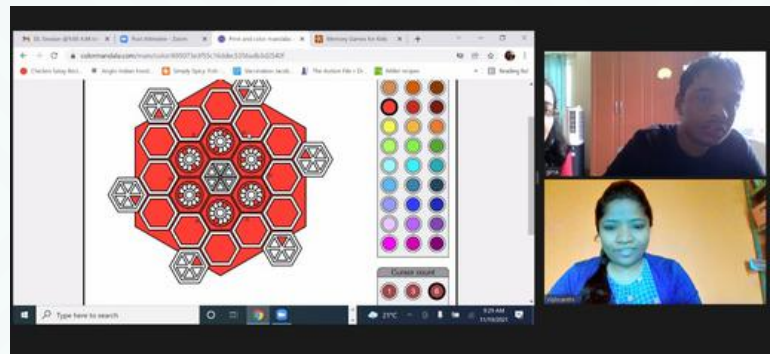
PROJECT UPDATES

ANZ Digital Udaan Program

On 22nd December, 2021 Mr. Akash from ANZ bank visited our centre for the regular audit of our Udaan program. He was very contented to see the overall progress of the same.

Ms. Mubin & Ms. Sujatha put forward a presentation on Resource Optimization in the Sol's Arc team-sharing the best practices developed from the program and it was very well appreciated by those in the audience.

Udaan is a project supported by ANZ. It aims at providing training and exposure to individuals with Autism and Intellectual Disabilities in the field of Digital Literacy. We have also included communication and academic goals in the project, which has enabled our students to have a holistic learning experience in the digital space. Overall, it is a platform for encouraging young children and fostering their development in a rapidly changing modern world.



With the introduction of Udaan, which is currently in its second year of support from ANZ, we have seen a tremendous improvement in the development of our students. One of our students who had no means of communication till around June of 2021 is now able to type and articulate his thoughts in class. Similarly, we have also seen specific learning styles and interests in students, which has helped us work better and connect with them on their bandwidth.

PROJECT UPDATES

Aadhar Project

Aadhar project has been going from strength to strength. Co-created by BGCT and IDFC FIRST Bank, the project aims bring in the much needed early intervention and primary education for children with developmental disabilities in rural areas. So far we have over 150 children and their families who are benefiting from Aadhar. Besides therapies, the partners also participate in awareness, advocacy and help access families with Govt benefits.

This quarter, we focused on training of teachers, infrastructure, children's assessment and home programs and also helped in fund raising due to Covid lockdown. From the next quarter, our aim is to bring children in the centres for longer hours and work on large numbers of goals achievements.

Co-created by BGCT and IDFC FIRST Bank, Aadhar project focuses on incubating promising early-state rural NGOs working to provide high-quality special needs services to children with intellectual disabilities. The program also provides capacity building to trainers and leadership, enabling them to work with children and their families in rural areas of Karnataka and West Bengal.

Venkatesh, a bubbly six year old never went to school. He used to live free life due to which he had a short span of attention and also had attention-seeking behaviour. The staff at Vatsalya Trust, an Aadhar incubatee in rural Karnataka, gave regular inputs in a structured process. In October, a baseline survey was done, and Shilpa, the teacher, prepared an IEP based on the baseline. The IEP was followed twice a week when Venkatesh attended the centre. Parents were also given inputs on how to reinforce behaviour management at home. The changes in Venkatesh were remarkable in a few sessions. Venkatesh is now doing activities at a stretch for more than 10 minutes. He has also reached the goals set for six months in just four months. The change in Venkatesh has motivated his parents to send him to the centre on a regular basis and also use the inputs at home.



BUILDING CAPACITIES

The team at BGCT has been engaging with organisations to build capacities.

- A lecture was given at Hosei University, Japan on Disability and Development in India with focus on the situation of COVID-19 in India, how BGCT worked on community-based practices, and the empowerment process of persons with disabilities.
- Ms. Sarbani Mallick was part of the panel discussion, **Building the bridges**, on how to provide support to adults living with developmental differences organised by Samya Trust.
- A lecture was also given at Nithya Sadhana's (NS-VISTA online training sessions) Job Coach training.
- Visited Transcend Knowledge Society, Kolkata, to understand realities and share the best practices.
- Visited Bandhu in Purulia District, West Bengal to work towards the organisation's development through Path Planning and share best practices of BGCT.

Ms. Sarbani Mallick as a panelist on Building the bridges organised by Samya Trust.



Visit to Bandhu in Purulia district, West Bengal.



Visit to Transcend Knowledge Society, Kolkata