

Early Intervention in Inclusive Education in Mumbai

The '*Why*' and the '*How*'

Manual 5

How to Sensitize the Community

(street plays (scripts), awareness rallies, yatras)



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Supported by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)



Foreword

The '*How to Series of Inclusive Education*' is a set of manuals that have emerged from a study undertaken by The Spastics Society Of India, Mumbai in collaboration with UNICEF and supported by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

The title of the project is *Inclusive Education Practice in Early Childhood*. It is an action research project involving both intervention and research on a large scale covering 6000 families based in the impoverished areas of the Mumbai slums. Six hundred children, both disabled and non disabled, were placed in Demonstration Learning Centres within the community where an enrichment programme and a need based intervention was given over a two year period. The intervention strategies were carefully documented and the progress of the children tracked by external researchers not connected with the intervention team. The aim was to study the mechanism or *intervention* strategies needed to put *children with disabilities* into existing programmes being run by Government and non-Governmental agencies and the barriers that came in the way to accessibility and participation.

From this evidence based research emerged a series of instructional resource material: the '*How to Series of Inclusive Education*.' These manuals are relevant for any organisation, or agency, working to address the crucial need of bringing *children with any disability* into inclusive settings. They recommend *a whole community approach to inclusive education*, and although the research was carried out in India it can be used anywhere in the world.

What are the various strategies that can be used to sensitize the community ?

- Awareness rallies
- Street plays

Why are these strategies used ?

- To provide information on certain social issues such as education for all children, the girl child, dowry, alcoholism etc.
- To make the community aware of developments that could be beneficial to the community as a whole.



Awareness rallies

What is required to start an awareness rally ?



Awareness rallies

- A group of 10-12 committed community workers, working towards a cause. They require to be creative, confident and have loud voices to draw attention.
- A few slogans and short songs that assist in disseminating information effectively to spread awareness on certain social issues. These slogans should be short, rhyming with a common message in all.

- Certain props such as banners with slogans, a drum or a steel thali and spoons to attract crowds.
- A common colour code or dress code that all the group members are to wear in order to draw attention effectively.

सर्वांसाठी शिक्षण म्हणजे
अपंगासाठीही

- The group members should decide on the area they require to sensitize, and each 'gully' or street should be covered within the area.
- An appropriate time should be chosen when most of the community people are relatively free.
- A common language used and understood by most of the community people should be used to make the rally more effective and easy to relate to.

What is required to conduct a street play ?

- Again for a street play, a group of 10-12 committed community workers, working towards a cause. They require to be creative, confident and have loud voices to draw attention.
- A theme dealing with a social issue is required.
- A storyline or a script is required that lasts for 7-10 minutes.
- A few slogans and short songs that assist in disseminating information effectively to spread awareness on certain social issues. These slogans should be short, rhyming with a common message in all.
- Certain props such as banners with slogans, a drum or a steel thali and spoons to attract crowds.
- A common colour code or dress code that all the group members are to wear in order to draw attention effectively.



Spreading awareness through street play

How do you conduct a street play ?

- The group members should decide on the area they require to sensitize. Later, they need to decide the convenient spots where the play can be held. These spots should be open, preferably near a temple, a market or a school where a large number of people can be drawn.

- An appropriate time should be chosen when most of the community people are relatively free.
- A common language used and understood by most community people should be used to make the rally more effective and easy to relate to.
- Then you attract people's attention by beating drums or a steel thali and by blowing a trumpet till a large crowd has accumulated.
- This is followed by the group leader addressing the crowd by informing them about the purpose of the street play.
- The group members move around in a circle by singing songs and slogans.
- Finally the street play begins with each character coming to the centre of the circle introducing themselves, as the particular character they are enacting while the play is on. No separate introductions are made.
- Each group member would have to move around while acting in order to face the entire crowd.
- The group leader member concludes the play by addressing the crowd with an encouraging message related to the theme of the play.
- Finally, the entire group ends the street play by singing songs and slogans.



Spreading awareness through street play

It may be difficult to get an idea on how to conduct street plays and rallies just by reading about them. However if you can collect a group of committed anganwadi teachers who are interested in sensitizing your community, the National Resource Centre for Inclusion or the Spastics Society of India, could always arrange a workshop for two days involving practical sessions.

Street Play Script

Background

The attitude of the community is negative towards inclusive education. This is because of lack of awareness on disability. The importance of educating the child with disability and inclusive education must be presented.

Objective

To change this, we conducted street plays. We found that in the community, street plays are effective as they attract a large crowd due to the performance. The street play uses simple language to communicate social issues. People find this mode of communication easy to understand wherein songs, parodies, slogans and action are used. These are more effective than lecturing.

Role players

Site supervisors, anganwadi multipurpose workers, and parents of children with and without disabilities attending the anganwadi.

Script

Intermediary- In the lanes of the community the intermediary takes a steel plate and spoon in his hands, bangs the spoon on the plate and he says:

"Hello, Hello, Hello ladies and gentlemen, brothers and sisters, grandfathers and grandmothers, uncles, aunties and children pay attention and listen carefully. The SSI/UNICEF staff is going to present a street play on inclusive education which will depict attitudes of the people in the community to disability and inclusive education."

After the intermediary finishes his speech, all the role players form a circle and sing a song moving around in a circle.

Song

"Aao logon tumhe bataein faide inclusive school ke
Is school mein padh rahe hain bacche sare samaj ke.
Dekho dekho tum, dekho dekho tum.
Dekho dekho tum, dekho dekho tum"

Parent of child with disability says (Shanta): " What? Inclusive education? Inclusive education, what are you saying? My child is handicapped. How can he be able to study in the normal school? How can a teacher of the normal school teach him?"

Another parent of the child with disability says (Shila): " No my sister Shanta. I also have a child with disability. I also used to think the same way as you. These people are from SSI/UNICEF. They have opened an anganwadi in our community and they have admitted my child in that anganwadi. After joining the anganwadi, I can see much improvement in my child where children with and without disabilities study together. I think you should also admit your child in this anganwadi."

Shanta: " But how will the teacher teach my child? How is she going to communicate with my child as my child cannot speak. Also my child has a problem in sitting how will she manage this?"

Songs

Na koi aids hai na koi samugri hai

Apke school mein hai kya

Eh ek kathin prashna hai

(Shaila introduces the anganwadi multipurpose worker to Shanta)

Anganwadi multi purpose worker says "No no. It is totally different from what you think. I am a teacher of SSI/UNICEF anganwadi. I teach both children with and without disability in my class. We have different types of teaching aids to teach all children. We have been trained by SSI/UNICEF to teach all children. So you do not worry about admitting your child in our anganwadi. We will take care of your child."

Shanta: "It's okay. But what about the normal children? They will tease my child and also beat my child."

Normal child's parent (Alka): - "No sister Shanta. If we tell the children, they understand. My child also goes to Ugam anganwadi. My child is normal but his friend who is attending the same anganwadi is disabled. Both play together, go to anganwadi together and study together. It is not true that the normal children will beat and tease the disabled children."

Shanta: " Okay. Now I understand what you said. But what about after that? What about the Principal and teachers of the normal school? Are they going to admit my child in their school? "

Teacher " Why not? Come, I will take you to the Principal of a mainstream inclusive school who has already admitted children with disability in her school."

Mainstream school Principal " I am a principal of the B.M.C School. We also admit disabled children in our school. Our school takes SSI's help to teach these children."

(Depict a child with disability going to school with a bag on his back. As he walks he slips and falls. Two children without disability are also on their way to school. They help him up and they proceed together)

Intermediary - " See? The children are ready, teachers and principal are ready to admit and support the disabled children. Why are you not ready? We will take two steps forward. Why don't you take at least one step forward."

Shanta - "You people have opened my eyes. I am ready to send my child to an inclusive school. If you all are ready to teach and accept my child, I am ready to change my attitude and admit my child."

All participants Yes. We are all ready to take your child.

Song

Saathi haath badhana ,
 Saathi haath badhana,
 Ek baccha viklang hai to sabke sath padhana,
 Saathi haath badhana
 Saathi haath badhana saathi re,
 Saathi haath badaana saathi re,
 Saathi haath badhana saathi re.



Spreading awareness through street play

Awareness Rallies



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List of Manuals

Policy: how to develop and implement inclusive education

1. Policy makers at National and State level
2. Policy implementers at local and community level

Community: How to create an inclusive community

3. How to open an inclusive nursery or anganwadi
4. How to open a Mahila Mandal (women's empowerment group)
5. How to sensitize the community (street plays (scripts), awareness-rallies, yatras)
6. How to work with partnership in parents

Education: How to plan an inclusive programme

7. How to carry out an Ecological Inventory
8. How to design an Ecologically-enriched Curriculum
9. How to plan an inclusive curriculum
10. How to build community resources
11. How to provide opportunities for play

Training:

12. How to train Anganwadi Multipurpose Workers (AMW)

Meeting individual needs:

13. How to develop aids and appliances
14. How to work on improving health and nutrition

How to plan an inclusive classroom:

15. How to identify children with disability
16. How to include children with disability

Including children with...

- a. Multiple Disabilities
- b. ADHD
- c. Epilepsy
- d. Autism
- e. Visual impairment
- f. Speech, Language and Communication
- g. Intellectual impairment



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