

“**HUM SAATH-SAATH** - हम साथ-साथ”

(To Setup Inclusive Model School for “Children with Disability”)



ABOUT SFID

Society for Inclusive Development (formerly SEWAA), is a non-profit making, non-political, secular, socially responsible civil society organization founded in July 1994 to address the issues related to **5 E's** (*Environment, Education, Energy, Entrepreneurship & Empowerment*).



SFID is working with Corporate India under their Strategic CSR framework and has presently under-taken some Relief and Rehabilitation projects in the disaster affected region of Uttarakhand in the area of **Education, Health, Rehab, Knowledge**

Sharing, Swach Bharat Mission with Govt., PSUs and Academia.

BACKGROUND & NEED

Despite considerable achievements during a journey of seven decades of affirmative actions in education, legacies of discrimination, marginalisation and denial are still enmeshed in Indian Social Composition. Although Equality is a fundamental right guaranteed in the Indian Constitution for every citizen of the country, yet have



failed to cope with inequalities at different stages. Our already divided society *is also facing another kind of divide between “People with Special Needs” & “People with No Special Need”*.

According to survey out of 700 million disabled persons of the world, approximately 10 percent of them are in India alone, making India home to a large population of people with various kinds of disabilities. Due to a lack of awareness, education and social stigma (by *Schools, Parents, teachers, students, community, decision makers, NGOs*), a large number of **“People with Disability”** are not able to join the mainstream for their development, are unaware of their rights and are either isolated, discarded, dumped or lead an un-dignified life without the support and services they need to be successful. This sector has also not received adequate attention from decision makers to design and develop **“Pro-Disabled”** policies at an early stage.

NEED TO SETUP INCLUSIVE SCHOOL

- a. **About Inclusive Education:** When every child is welcomed and valued regardless of ability or disability. It is an attitude which means the doors to schools, classrooms and school activities are open for every child and they are provided every opportunity to be **Included** with their non-disabled peers and every child is given the help she/he needs to learn.
- b. **Advantages of Inclusive Education:** Inclusive Model of education is least restrictive and most cost effective solutions without disturbing a child's natural self. It also provides equal opportunities for active participation of a child in all learning processes with support from qualified trainers and peers with alternate therapies.
- c. **Issues Faced by Parents:** Parents face initial problems, when they do not get proper counselling, assessment and do not find proper schooling or early interventions programs/centers for their kids. Insensitive Schools are also prompted to make them feel different and lack properly trained personnel (*Special Educators*), have unmotivated staff, lack the required environment including accessible disabled friendly infrastructure and face many other barriers that prevents them from handling parents respectfully.
- d. **Present Status:** Many Integrated schools are promoted by Govt. & NGOs in the past few years offering special education to these students in urban areas across the country. Rural & Urban slums are still not receiving adequate attention and are ignored about this most vulnerable population of the country. Girls without proper support are forced to stay away from schools and miss the opportunities to be part of mainstream development through no fault of their own.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE

Understanding the urgency and importance of such initiative “**SFID**” is collaborating with Dehradun based Community school “**Green Field School (GFS)**” & running pilot project “**Ham Saath-Saath**”- an **Inclusive Schooling program** for “**Children with a Disability**” .

As **GFS** is already catering to around 25 differently-able students along with 350 other (*Children without Disability*) students from economically weaker section of society but limited resources and infrastructure, mean that **GFS** is not able to offer required support and resources. Most of the students coming to this inclusive setup are “*Children with Dyslexia, Learning Disability, Border line Mental Retardation, Low Vision, Cerebral Palsy, Autism, Hearing Impaired, Behaviour and Mood disorders and various other type of disabilities*”.

SFID has been supporting **GFS** in its philosophy and mission of serving the marginalised and under privileged community of the society and to enhance its infrastructure and accessibility for “**Children with Disabilities**”.

STRATEGY

- *Assessment for these “**Children with Disabilities**” will be conducted by experts to identify their problems, interact with parents, study their medical history and course of treatment to enable a clearer understanding in order to define a specific action plan for each child.*
- *Use of **ICT tools** i.e. Computers, Mobile Applications, Audio Video, SMART Classroom, Multimedia CDs will be provided to **GFS** to increase effectiveness of their remedial classes in this domain and bring some tangible results.*
- *Special Resources i.e. Books, CDs, Online/Offline resources will also be provided to support this mission.*
- *A network with other domain experts, Early Interventions Centers, Resource Centers, concerned Govt. bodies will be established & seek their expertise in order to provide better and tested strategy for “Children with Disabilities”.*
- *Special, trained & qualified teachers and support staff will be hired to provide individual attentions for each student.*
- *Alternate strategies and therapies like music (instrumental & vocal), yoga, drawing, speech, dance will also be given to these students & to facilitate the learning of various lifelong skills and provide them opportunities to explore their natural self/ capabilities.*
- *A group of Parent of Children with disabilities will also be formed to have strong and close networking between SFID, GFS and Parents group for knowledge sharing and reflections.*
- ***SFID** will develop master resource center at **GFS** for providing Inclusive Education support and related information to other interested institutes and network.*
- *Regular orientation and capacity building programs for parents, teaching & support staff of **GFS** with resource persons will also be conducted to enable them to deal with situations effectively and to understand them better.*

SCALEUP

Presently there are around 25 children with different types of disabilities in different classes (3 years to 14 years). Due to its limitation and lack of resources, **GFS** is not able to cater to larger number of students. But we are sure once the project “**Hum Saath Saath**” is established and transport facility is provided more students from the region will be able to attend, increasing the number of children with disabilities to be in the 100s.

APPEAL

We know that such task can not be tackled individually or in isolation and we therefore need the support, guidance and mentoring from other like-minded & responsible organisations from Govt., PSUs, Corporate World, Academia, Media Civil Society and Advocacy organisations. Therefore we extend our appeal to your sensitive and responsible organisation to come forward and help us to help these “**Children with Special Needs**” to bring them in mainstream for their natural growth and be part of our respected and dignified society.

LEGAL STATUS

SFID is registered under Indian Society Act 1860 with Head office in Dehradun and all donations/grant are exempted under **80-G of Income Tax Act**. We accept grant and donations to carry forward our holistic mission to empower grassroots and under-privileged communities in remote, tribal and isolated rural and urban (slums) areas with special focus on women, people with disability, tribal's and unemployed youth.

Please come forward and help us to remove inequalities and injustice in the society and join us for inclusive and sustainable growth.



For Further Information, Please Contact:



Society For Inclusive Development (SFID)

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