

DHANVANTRI SCHOOL
(Run by the Child Welfare Trust, Bhuj)
Reg. No. E-1340/Kutch

Education & Training Centre for Children with Hearing Impairment, Mentally Challenged and Cerebral Palsy
C-10, Mundra Relocation, Near Pramukh Swami Char Rasta,
Bhuj, Kutch Gujarat 370001.
Phone: +91-(02832)291366

Founder Trustee: - Late Dr. Shantuben V Patel

Trustee:

Prof. Madhuri Kulkarni
Ex. Head of Ped. Dept. Sion Hosp.
Mumbai

Trustee:

Neelamben Sarda
Speech Pathologist &
Audiologist Jamnagar

Trustee:

Anita Chitre
Psychologist
Mumbai

Introduction of Organisation:

Child Welfare Trust (CWT), Bhuj was established in 1998, with a clear objective of education and mainstreaming the special children in Kutch. CWT is registered as public charitable trust under the Bombay Public Trust Act, 1950, and it runs Dhanvantari School. The school was established by the founder member late Dr. Shantuben Patel and Dr. Madhuri Kulkarni in 1996 with a clear understanding of magnitude of problem of disabled children and need for providing education and training to them.



CWT's general objective is to develop and implement structured programmes for challenged children from their birth till the age of 16 years of age.

It is a big challenge to educate a normal child so one can imagine how difficult it is to educate a special child. Over a period of 20 years, nearly 1100 children have attended the school. About 100-120 children have been integrated in various regular schools and nearly 12 children have been employed or managing their own small scale businesses (working in industries, insurance and RTO sector, electrician, office assistants, beauty parlor, tailoring work, etc.). Others are continuing the on-going educational program. Other major contribution has been the attitudinal change of people by sensitizing them to the issues and exposing them to various development and progress that has happened in the field of special education empowering differently-abled children to their best. Twice a year parent training programs are conducted in the school. This has resulted in establishment of parent association since the year 2000.



Other major contribution is providing vocational training and ability to make a livelihood for special needs children. Over 50 children, age 8 and above, are currently involved in vocational activities like jewellery making, tailoring (includes making bags, purses, aprons, embroidery, etc.), learning *mehndi*, *bandhni* and block printing, preparing greeting cards, mud work.

Our experience of implementing school program for handicapped children is extremely rewarding particularly in our efforts of parental and community inclusion strategy i.e. ways to include or integrate handicap children in to the family activities and into mainstream community. Responsibility of caring for the child is shared by the trust hence mothers get free time for themselves so their mental health is improved. Because of our early intervention program, the trust has been able to diagnose disability early and treat them.

Achievement of School:



Mainstreaming, employment generation and sewing skills.....



Development of Art and Craft Skills.....



Regular medical and assessment camps and counseling to parents...



Our children performing in Aavishkar (Our annual day)...

Current Activities of School:

Currently the school has four departments, based on different impairments, as follows:

1. Hearing Impaired – There are 47 children in this department.
 2. Intellectually Disabled – There are 65 children in this department.
 3. Cerebral Palsy – There are 14 children with Early Intervention through therapy, while school children are also a part of this department.
 4. Autism – There are 14 children in this department.
- The school runs classes from Nursery to Class 8th affiliated to the Gujarat Board of Education.
 - The school organizes medical camps and awareness programmes from time to time for the betterment of the children and wider society.
 - The school also runs a pre-vocational programme for children above 8 years of age.

In academic section, our trained teachers use educational software for classroom teaching. At present, we are using Learning Delight and E-Sense software for our children to help them learn better through audio-visual methods. Apart from this, children are also offered computer education, facilitated by a Computer Lab with 15 computers of the latest version.

In our Physiotherapy unit, we are using latest equipments for children with Cerebral Palsy.

Future Plan:

In the coming years, we aim to provide better services to the society through enhanced facilities and equipments.

We aim to start a Speech Therapy Unit by using specialized software called Dr. Speech, which will benefit children with speech disorders in our school.

We also plan to initiate a Vocational Training Centre in our school campus, which can enable our students, who do not wish to continue their academic education, to earn a stable living by acquiring various skills.