



Arpana Services

## *Providing Wings to Underserved Children*



*"Seek your happiness in the happiness of all. Let the joy of living fill your heart to overflowing."*

*Param Pujya Ma*

### **Arpana's Community Welfare Activities in Vasant Vihar, New Delhi -2019**

**Arpana Community Welfare Centre**  
NS-5, F-9 St. Vasant Vihar, New Delhi

**Under the Auspices of:  
ARPANA TRUST**

Headquarters: Madhuban, Karnal, Haryana, INDIA

# Arpana's Rejoice Center –

## Hope for Underprivileged Children

Arpana's Community Welfare Centre, 'Rejoice', in Vasant Vihar is part of a larger organisation, Arpana Trust, an NGO registered under section 80-G of the Income Tax Act.

Arpana has a beautiful series of health, development & education programs for the underprivileged, spread over the states of Haryana, Himachal and Delhi and is recognized at the state, national and international levels.



Rejoice Center is well-established with activities targeted primarily towards providing much-needed support to the underprivileged children of poor families residing in the vicinity. It aims to be a place of values, of community, of spiritual growth reaching out to the underprivileged through education and aims for greater health and wellbeing through knowledge and sharing.

Arpana's Rejoice is working on a long-term objective of "educational opportunities for all".

### Gyan Arambh

Gyan Arambh at Rejoice is an educational program designed to meet the academic needs and life aspirations of the children from marginalized families. These are children of underserved, urban poor families who have migrated from India's poorest states. Their children are first time learners, bursting with energy, untapped potential and talents. Arpana provides a safe environment for new studies and fostering humane values and respect for diversity.

Presently, tuition classes are being provided to 122 students in English, Hindi, Science, Math and Computers in classes 1-9. The program caters to the educational needs of children from 10-12 different schools in the vicinity. Therefore, each class comprises of students from several different schools.

This programme gives children from the most disadvantaged segments of society a chance for a good education and careers where they can hold their heads high.

#### What makes us truly unique:

- Low student to teacher ratio
- Learning by Doing
- Do and Say role plays
- Art based worksheets
- Inculcating Values through the curriculum and celebrations



## English Remedial Classes

English Remedial classes were conducted for students from standards 1-9 for an hour before the usual classes.

These students were not able to correctly identify the letters of the English language and were unable to form correct sentences. Thus, the main aim was to help students recognize alphabets of the English language and pronounce them correctly.



## Computer Classes for Class 8, 9

Computer classes were conducted regularly for classes 8th and 9th. Topics covered included MS Word and MS Excel.



## Scholarships

The Scholarship Program was held on 2<sup>nd</sup> May, 12<sup>th</sup> October 2018 and 5<sup>th</sup> February, 2019. At “Gyan Arambh” Students who have scored good marks and have performed well overall including attendance etc. in Gyan Arambh tests are given the Scholarships. We provide an amount of Rs.150 and Rs.250 to deserving candidates and to motivate the students to do better in the upcoming quarter.

162 recipients of the scholarships received great applause and words of encouragement. It was also an occasion to interact with parents, appreciate their support and guide them to be a valuable part of their child's growth and development. The awards were given to the students by their teachers.



The children were advised to save their prize money for a purpose and to use it judiciously as saving is a good habit to inculcate.

Scholarships were given to “Gyan Arambh” students of Standard 1 to Standard 9 under the categories below:

- Overall Proficiency
- Subject Proficiency
- NIIT (Best Student)
- On the spot Art Competition
- Consolation Prizes
- Attendance

## PTM for Weak Students

A Parent Teacher Meeting (PTM) was organized on 13<sup>th</sup> April, 2019, from classes 1-9 for weak students. Teachers at Gyan Arambh had prepared individual evaluations for all weak students keeping in mind various parameters like class tests, class participation and attendance, etc.

Parents of weak students were shown the individual evaluation reports and were asked to encourage and motivate their children to perform better and be regular.

During the PTA, a painting activity was conducted for classes 1-4 which the children thoroughly enjoyed. Likewise, an art and craft activity (making paper bags from newspapers) was conducted from classes 5-9. All students actively participated in the same.



## Activities



At Arpana, the teachers did some fun activities and action rhymes on the first day of the session.

### *Learning Rhymes*

## Summer Camp Activities

The summer camp started on 14<sup>th</sup> May for all the students of Gyan Arambh and continued till 15<sup>th</sup> June. Our teachers did wonderful work by teaching them many different things like: Art and craft, Fireless cooking, yoga and meditation, prayers and mantras, giving them lots of books to read, lots of story-telling sessions, theatre session, Life skills session and exposure to indoor games. Every week there was one movie show planned for the students. These were primarily English movies that were shown with the intent of enhancing their listening skills.

We did different types of activities for different age groups like:

- Made monkey masks,
- Making Shagun Envelopes and doing lady finger printing on it
- Playing indoor games like chess and scrabble
- Learning yoga and meditation



**Wrapping paper Activity:** A special activity was done in summer vacation when our teachers taught the students how to make gift wrapping paper from the newspaper.

## Exhibition



Along with Arpana's Handicrafts outlet, 'Devotion' in Defence Colony, Gyan Arambh also had a small Exhibit at the Taj Hotel on 23<sup>rd</sup> October.

We exhibited the products made by our students from recycled material like from newspapers which they decorated and made into wrapping sheets. Shopping bags were also made.

## Teachers Workshop

Two workshops were conducted for our Gyan Arambh Teachers by qualified professionals. We planned one-week Workshops, one during the summer break and the other in the month of March.

In month of June, the topics covered were:

Date	Topic	Faculty	
25-6-18	English Reading	Mrs. Meenakshi Mathur	Volunteer (Center In-charge)
26-6-18	Dysexia/Children with Disability	Mrs Surpreet	Volunteer
27-6-18	Discussion on Evaluation process	Mrs Mona Sharma	Volunteer
28-6-18	Maths Made easy	Mrs Shuchy Gera	Volunteer
29-6-18	Meditation	Dr. Dheeraj Desai	Volunteer

**Mrs. Surpreet** is a special Educator in DPS, Vasant Kunj. She gave our teachers insight on children with learning disability-Dyslexia and how to identify these students in the class.

**Mrs. Mona Sharma** is an educationist with over 30 years of teaching and administrative experience with DPS and other private schools. Now she is keenly pursuing intense engagement with economically and physically disadvantaged children and senior citizens by productively employing administrative and educational skills gained over the years.

Ms. Mona is helping us as a consultant and providing us all kind of education guidance required at Gyan Arambh.

**Mrs. Shuchy Gera** is a Math teacher in DPS, Vasant Kunj and helped us with some easy and fun ways of teaching Maths to Primary class students.

**Dr. Dheeraj Desai** is a practicing physiotherapy doctor and teaches Meditation also. He took 45 minutes session for our teachers, showed them video on meditation and taught them how to meditate.





A teacher's workshop was conducted in the month of March, wherein weak students were identified from standards 1-9.

A remedial program for English was commenced immediately. The aim of the remedial classes was to help students recognize the alphabets of the English language and to clear the fundamentals of English language.

All teachers at Gyan Arambh were actively involved in conducting these remedial classes. Moreover, a "Swaach Gyan Arambh Abhiyan" was carried out in which the individual lockers of the teachers, main cupboards, stock cupboards were cleared and stock registers were updated which was then followed by a sumptuous lunch.

## Volunteers Make a Difference

### Life Skills and Arts and Crafts



Two volunteer students from "Sanskriti School" conducted sessions that included topics like:

1. Craft with Primary & Secondary color
2. Making windmill
3. Importance of being happy
4. Importance of Individuality
5. Learning primary and secondary colors
6. A session on menstruation and puberty was also held for senior classes.

- ✚ **Mrs. Neeta Khanna**, from DPS Vasant Kunj is helping us in sorting our library.
- ✚ **Mrs. Sameena Khan** from Vasant Kunj is volunteering and teaching our kids.
- ✚ **Mrs. Inderpreet** has joined us and will start teaching few weaker students from our classes.

### Story-Telling Session

Two volunteer teachers Ms. Punam and Ms. Shalini, from "Once Upon a Story Time" started the story telling session on 10<sup>th</sup> May.

They took 2 sessions per week for different age groups of students from Gyan Arambh. They did an amazing work with the students, encouraging them to speak in English and respond to their stories.

They also planned for the activities after the stories. Our students really enjoyed their sessions.



## Dr. Raghunandan Gaind's Visit at Arpana Rejoice

Dr. Raghunandan Gaind, Neurologist Consultant, Guy's Hospital, London, and Founder of The Arpana Charitable Trust, UK, visited Arpana Rejoice Centre, Vasant Vihar, in New Delhi on 18<sup>th</sup> April 2018, along with his wife, Dr. Susan Gaind, and Arpana's senior trustee, Mr. Ravi Dayal.

Arpana UK raised the funds for the beautiful Rejoice Centre and Dr. Gaind was delighted to see it being used for the "Gyan Arambh" Educational program.

Mrs. Meenakshi Mathur, who had started the educational programme, showed Dr. Gaind classes where enthusiastic children greeted him and gave him cards they had made. He was visibly moved by his interactions with the children. He was welcomed and introduced to the teachers amidst beautiful smiles and flowers.



*A student gives Dr. Gaind a card she made for him*

## Cultural Activities

### Independence Day Celebrations



On Independence Day, a small program was organized at the Center on 14<sup>th</sup> August, 2018.

The program started with an impressive speech by one of our Teachers and many students sang patriotic songs.

A few students recited poems and spoke about our freedom fighters like Bhagat Singh and Subhash Chandra Bose.

One class sang, "Saare Jahan Se Acha".

The program ended with our National Anthem "Jana Gana Mana". The day reminded us of the sacrifices of those who gave up their lives for the freedom of India.

### Teachers Day Celebrations

On the Occasion of Teachers Day, a small get together was organized on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2018, for all the teachers and Volunteers. Special lunch was served and gifts were distributed to all the teachers and volunteers.

Everyone had a lovely time. Students also got a break from the studies and did some fun activities like dancing and singing.





## Children's Day



“Gyan Arambh” celebrated Children's Day on 14<sup>th</sup> November'18.

The Students visited the Nehru Park where they enjoyed playing games, sang songs and ate some of their favorite foods.

On this special occasion the students were taken on a tour of New Delhi to visit the India Gate and the memorable Amar Jawan Jyoti, the Majestic Rashtrapati Bhawan with its Mughal Gardens, the North and South Block offices and the Parliament.

The importance of each of these sites and others enroute, was narrated to the students as they toured through the capital city. It was a refreshing change for the students and teachers to interact outside the classrooms.

The whole trip was possible due to the initiative of Ms. Mona Sharma, our Volunteer and Consultant, who arranged two luxury buses for us free of cost. It was a happy day for all.

## Christmas and New Year Celebration



We celebrated Christmas and New Year. Children decorated the Christmas tree and did related activities. Our classrooms were decorated accordingly and sweets were distributed to our children.

The children were told the Christmas story.



## Republic Day Celebrations

- ✚ In the assembly, students of classes 1 and 2 sang patriotic songs.
- ✚ Ms. Tina made the students aware about the significance of Republic Day.
- ✚ The children sang the National Anthem, Jana Gana Mana.
- ✚ At the end of the day, sweets were distributed among children



## Holi Celebrations

The festival of Holi was celebrated at Gyan Arambh on 19th April with zeal and enthusiasm. Halwa was prepared at the centre and distributed amongst all students. Colourful tikaas adorned the forehead of children. The children thoroughly enjoyed the celebrations of the festival at the centre.



## Theatre Workshop

Gyan Arambh started a new chapter in its educational initiative for the underprivileged children of Vasant Vihar, New Delhi. A theatre workshop began under the guidance of Mr. Sukhangshu Chatterjee, a well known theatre artist, producer and director of plays, with more than four decades of experience.



The program was held on the 30<sup>th</sup> of December, 2018. It was a first time experience of being on stage for our students. Within a period of ten days, they put up a 40 minute performance at Arpana Rejoice Center.

Such was the enthusiasm of the students that 95% of the children happily participated in the program. It was amazing to see how this workshop impacted their self esteem.

Above all, their parents and our guests were happy to witness the children, budding with confidence. Each performance carried a message.

- Students of classes 1 and 2 started the event with a prayer followed by a dance performance on the song titled Happy New Year.
- Afterwards, students from classes 3 to 5 presented a skit on 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyan' where they gave several messages on how we can make our surroundings clean and how the pollution can be reduced so as to make people breathe fresh air.
- Finally, students from classes 6 to 8 performed a play titled *Treasure Island*, based on the value of friendship and teamwork.

It was a wonderful experience in language development in both English and Hindi. Pronunciation, voice modulation, and expression while delivering dialogues will always assist the students in the process of reading, a much required skill.

## Health Checkups for Children

At Arpana, we have started the basic health checkups for our students with a view to help with the Nutrition. We are getting their Height, Weight, Waist, Hemoglobin and eyesight checked.

## Vocational Training

### Computer NIIT

Due to the many courses held by Arpana at Rejoice Center, Vasant Vihar, the NIIT Foundation has also sent us a Certificate of Appreciation



## Organic Farming

On 6<sup>th</sup> May 2018, a program on Organic farming was held by Mr. Somvir, an Engineer by profession, who is doing hydroponics and organic farming, at Arpana Rejoice Centre, Vasant Vihar.



*Bags of organic soil and seeds were given to the parents.*

Arpana organizers were interested in Organic Farming, both as a source of better nutrition for the disadvantaged children, and as a possible source of additional income for their mothers. 17 mothers of Gyan Arambh students attended.

He explained the advantages of organic farming and the enhanced value of the produce as a means for income generation.

## Success Stories

### Ritu



My name is Ritu. I study in class 7<sup>th</sup> in Sarvodaya Vidyalaya, Vasant Vihar. I joined *Gyan Arambh* in August 2017. My father is a gardener, we are three sisters and my father has always encouraged all of us to study hard to achieve our goals and dreams. Now in April 2018, my 2 sisters have also joined the *Gyan Arambh* Program.

Before joining *Gyan Arambh*, I was not very good in reading and understanding English, but now the teachers in *Gyan Arambh* have helped me a lot in my reading skills. My Arithmetic abilities have also improved. Now, I have started speaking and conversing in English language.

I feel I have become confident and my personality has changed. Thanks to all the *Gyan Arambh* teachers for their patience and support.



## *Kiran*

I am Kiran. I have completed my Graduation in B.Com in May 2018. I live in Kusumpur Pahari, Vasant Vihar. My father is a cook and my Mother is a housewife. I have 2 younger sisters. I came to Arpana Trust to learn computers and completed the NIIT certification.

The Arpana Trust Rejoice Centre liked my dedication and my keenness to learn and work, so they gave me the opportunity to join as an Assistant Teacher in their Gyan Arambh Program. Within two months, as the Gyan Arambh Program expanded, I started full time teaching of Computers and Hindi at different class levels.



I am really thankful to Arpana Trust management that they have given me this opportunity and have shown faith in me. After one year the Centre also helped me to join a spoken English class which has really built up my confidence.

This is a good experience for me, I have got lot of exposure and learnt how to deal with children and teach them. Thank you again!

## *In conclusion ...*

Arpana's Rejoice Center is fulfilling an urgent need for quality education for disadvantaged children. Tuition support classes, theatre workshop, art and craft classes, life skills workshops, computer classes, celebration of festivals, story telling sessions during the year – all are contributing towards all round development and nurturing the potential of our children.

*With deep gratitude to all our supporters...  
Your kind support has enabled children to move towards  
achieving their dreams.*