

Indian campaign to educate visually-impaired children is going global

India – International Council for Education of People with Visual Impairment (ICEVI)

SUMMARY OF PROJECT

Following three years of research and planning a global initiative was launched by ICEVI in partnership with the World Blind Union to reach the 4 million blind and low vision children throughout the developing world who have no access to education. The project is currently working with and through government and non-government organizations in 20 developing countries to provide guidelines, accessible teaching and learning materials, access to appropriate ICT and provision of capacity building programs for teachers and parents to promote inclusive education for these children.

QUOTE

“Making the right to education a reality for every child with a visual impairment.”

— Dr. M. N. G. Mani, ICEVI

FACTS & FIGURES

- To date, the project has benefitted over 105,000 visually-impaired children in the participating countries.
- More than 650 capacity-building programmes have been organized and more than 60,000 students and parents trained.
- The project brought together 23 leading organizations working in the area of visual impairment to promote education, which is a giant step forward in influencing policymakers to promote Inclusion Education. In addition, ICEVI works closely with the Global Campaign for Education, UNESCO, UNICEF, etc.

PROBLEMS TARGETED

Visually-impaired students face many barriers in attending mainstream schools due to the lack of assistive devices and awareness of their special needs. This is one reason why these students remain separated in special schools. The project promotes the necessary equipment for their inclusion in mainstream schools, including accessible learning and teaching materials and the capacity-building of teachers.

SOLUTION & METHODOLOGY

The success of Inclusive Education depends on the knowledge of general classroom teachers, the awareness of parents, and the technical skills of special teachers. More than 650 capacity-building programmes for general classroom teachers, special teachers, and parents have been conducted on such topics as Low Vision, Early Detection and Assessment, Adapted Learning Materials, Abacus, Braille, Education of Multiple Disabled Visually-Impaired Children, Inclusive Education, Visual Stimulation, Orientation and Mobility, Child Protection Policies, Role of Parents in Education of Children with Visual Impairment, and Activities of Daily Living. In addition, every six months ICEVI publishes *The Educator*, its official magazine.

OUTLOOK & TRANSFERABILITY

The Executive Committee of ICEVI has fixed a target of at least a 10% increase in the enrolment of children with visual impairment in mainstream schools every year. Therefore, the target is about 121,000 children in 2015 and 133,000 in 2016. The capacity-building programmes will reach out to at least 10,000 additional teachers and parents in 2015 and 14,000 in 2016. In 2016, the World Blind Union and the ICEVI will be hosting their Joint General Assemblies in Orlando, Florida, where advocacy and networking among global organizations will be strengthened.

Photo: Yes

CONTACT

International Council for Education of People with Visual Impairment (ICEVI)

Dr. M. N. G. Mani

India

www.icevi.org

+91-9442649104

sgicevi@vsnl.net; ceoicevi@gmail.com

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