

# GiftAble Concept Paper for Inclusive Education

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## **Brief about GiftAble:**

GiftAble Foundation was formed in 2013 as a Public Charitable Trust. GiftAble is a thought that we all can live with dignity and earn our livelihood. People with Disability may not fit into typical societal norms or silos due to their physical limitation. However, that should not be considered a reason to portray them fit only for charity. They can and will contribute towards building a just, sensitive and healthy society. To start looking at their Abilities – They are GiftAble!!!

GiftAble strives to create an ecosystem of like-minded individuals and collectively build a disabled-friendly society. We aim to empower individuals with disabilities across crucial aspects of their life, and have designed several services with this aim in mind.

## **Justification for Inclusive Education for Children with disability:**

Children with disabilities in the country are still a marginalized group more so if they are from the lower economic strata of the society and living in the rural areas. About 30% of the disabled children with mild to moderate forms of disabilities have benefited due to the successful campaigns of inclusion. They get schooling in some form. Another 30% of the urban children with disabilities are able to access education through special schools. The other 40% with moderate to severe disabilities either get very little or no education at all. Those who do get admissions in the mainstream schools, the system does not move beyond admissions. The learning levels are dismal for children with disability, especially so for children with global developmental delays (GDD). The system of education also does not have an effective and efficient model of inclusion to follow as far as learning is concerned. The prevailing situation in the field of education for children with disability has prompted GiftAble to develop multiple models to ensure education for all.

The approach will be to adapt best practices to reach out to all children in schools through building the capacities of teachers to be multi-abled with wide range of disabilities along with non-disabled children. We are setting up appropriate systems in place through resource experts and by networking with NGOs and the government. Trained professionals will be assisting in the professional development of the teachers. We will equip schools with computer labs and appropriate e-materials learning will be adapted to teach children with various disabilities, especial those with communication and writing disabilities. Detailed and careful planning & co-ordination between teachers, therapists and volunteers will be key success factors of this program

**Vision:** *To foster a culture that values Inclusion, while creating opportunities and transforming lives of People with Disabilities so that they can live with dignity and self-esteem through Impact Programs*

**Project Goal:** GiftAble inclusive and Integrated Education Programme is to enable every child with disability to exercise their right through access to appropriate and mainstream education.

## **Project Objectives:**

1. To ensure retention of existing disabled students and to improve enrolment of out of school disabled children,
2. To enhance the capacities of teachers to teach children with disabilities
3. To introduce distance/online learning to children with mobility issues and

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4. To build a strong and sustainable relationship with the government for infrastructural requirements and other schemes.

### **Implementation Strategy:**

GiftAble believes in enabling the existing systems rather than reinventing the wheel. To scale up the program effectively we will:

1. Identify NGO partners in the space of education and disability to implement the inclusive education program.
2. Co-selection of schools through due diligence
3. Identify resource groups for teacher professional development
4. Appropriate technological usage to improve classroom learning
5. NIOS and SWAYAM moocs option for children who cannot access schools
6. Capacity building of the NGOs to manage the multifaceted program
7. Develop government contacts and connects to get the infrastructural renovations of schools and transport
8. Network with likeminded NGOs, resource groups, special educators and policy makers for replicating the program
9. Rehabilitation and therapies through surgeries, aids and appliances if required

### **Our Working Philosophy**

- School reform is a process, not an event. Therefore it takes time, patience and diligence on the part of all stakeholders.
- Change involves mutual adaptation. Hence keeping communication channels open to ensure frequent and open minded dialogues and discussions with all concerned is important.
- Change is not likely to go forward precisely as planned. Periodic reflections and mid-course corrective measures will be required.
- Authentic and enduring learning requires collaboration. Our intervention will be in the nature of mentoring teachers through qualified resource groups who have pioneered in the field of inclusive education for children with disability.
- The goal of our capacity enhancement programme is not to indoctrinate or train teachers to behave in prescribed ways but to equip them to reflect and reason out their teaching and children's learning.