

SEN GLOBE ASPIRES TO TAKE INCLUSIVE LEARNING TO A DIFFERENT LEVEL

"LET'S DISCOVER OUR children's abilities before we label their disabilities," SEN Globe's agenda for inclusive learning embodies this quote.

Kiit International School has always been proactive and encouraging towards all children since its foundation in 2007 to impart knowledge. With time, it became clear that certain youngsters lacked kinesthetic awareness and performed lower than societal expectations despite numerous remedial sessions, raising concern over their academic performance. Encouraged by Saloni Sundarray's success in obtaining a disability certificate and receiving a scribe for her board exams in 2010, a small team of three individuals, including a psychologist and two special educators, began working alongside the students in 2011, to meet everyone's needs to bring out the best in them. Thereafter, SEN Globe was expanded to include multiple therapy centres for Speech Therapy, Cognitive Therapy and Sensory Integration; and Psychological Counseling, etc under the direction of trained therapists.

The need to assign children to various levels based on their academic and clinical evaluations became important as the number of students with SEN increased. To ensure their academic achievement, 30 special educators are working with 65 children in age-appropriate classrooms. The students are separated into four groups. Students with minor learning disabilities who are making slow progress in class are placed in the first level attending a maximum of five courses each week.



Students with mild learning difficulties who are making minimal progress while getting level-1 classroom help are placed in the second level. They, too, have a limit of 5 courses per week and are required to take CBSE board exams. Students who have severe challenges which prevent them from making enough progress even after getting Level-2 help and who require support for more than three hours per day are placed in the third level. These pupils are subject to tight guidelines set down by the board. In the fourth and final stage, the purpose is to 'socially integrate' the students. Aside from academics, the students will participate in school-sponsored extracurricular activities. Practical goals based on the IEP will be implemented for the students. At this level, students will not be taking school CBSE exams.

SEN Globe intends to hold a bi-weekly camp in the future to ensure that the children may be recommended by an authorised team for the issuance of UIDs by the government. Furthermore, the Kiit International School's SEN Department has been chosen as the hub for spreading the message of inclusive education to other progressive schools in Odisha, a task to be accomplished in PPP mode. Additionally, other school leaders (both public and private) will be able to learn about inclusive teaching approaches through the SEN Globe. A SEN OPD and park will be put in place for the children as is envisioned.

"Children are equal all over the world. We as humans are equal, so why should circumstantial differences set us apart from reaching the pinnacle of glory. SEN Globe has strived to uplift our specially abled students in the past and shall continue doing so even in the future," says Dr. Mona Lisa Bai, Chairperson Kiit International School.