



**DR. D Y PATIL SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT**

**LOHEGAON, PUNE-412 105**

# **NGO / SOCIAL VIST REPORT**

## **On 11/10/2017**

### **At**

# **THE POONA SCHOOL AND HOME FOR BLIND GIRLS**

**Near Ghandi Bhavan, Kothrud,  
Pune – 411038. Tel. (020)25384589**



# **D Y PATIL SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT, Lohegaon, Pune**

## **Visit Objectives:**

- **To Social responsibility as give back to society.**
- **To encourage and motivate go toward success.**
- **To understand learning & creative abilities process.**

## **Poona School and Home for Blind Girls**

### **Profile:**

The Poona School and Home for the Blind has been a pioneer institution in Pune. This eight decade old institution was started by Dr.S.R.Machave, a practicing eye specialist who worked specifically for the noble cause of securing a future for people who were blind. The Poona School and Home for the blind was established in the year 1934 at a rented premise in Somwar Peth, Pune. The school for boys was later shifted to another campus in Koregaon Park, and has come a long way since then.

40 years after the inception of this school for the blind, a separate school for blind girls came into existence in the year 1974. Soon thereafter, a vocational training centre for girls was established in order to make them self sufficient in the outside world. Training these students for self-employment and rehabilitation was the objective of starting this blind school. Just starting a school for the blind was not enough; a need to provide special training to effectively teach the visually impaired students was the next step to be taken by the founder. The school was already running well, but a vacuum existed in training teachers. Considering this, we started a teachers training institute in 1990.

The blind school trust now has five institutions and has been inclusive in its policy of accepting blind boys and girls from all socio-economic backgrounds. It aims at fully integrating these students with the environment outside as independent members of our modern society. At present, around 177 boys and 121 girls are benefited by these efforts. Most of whom are also residents on campus, a provision which is made available free of cost.

## PRE PRIMARY



The section comprises of Montessori and Braille classes. These classes are well equipped with beautiful tools and apparatus for sensory training useful for the students. We have equipped this class with toys and other fun activities, both outdoor and indoor. The activities planned at the school ensure overall mental and physical development of these children. From the age of 5, children are sent to sighted schools up to the 10th standard under the integrated education system. The curriculum and the subjects for these students are similar to those of normal school going children.

## VOCATIONAL TRAINING



We provide vocational training to blind women as well. The boys are trained in chalk making, candle making, cane work etc. Women are trained in rescanning, weaving, handloom articles, chalk and candle making, knitting, simple sewing, job work, envelope making, etc. For personal development of the trainees, daily living skills, home management, orientation, domestic art and crafts are also included as daily activities.

## TEACHER TRAINING CENTRE



The trust started a Teacher Training program in 1990 which is recognized by the Rehabilitation Council of India, New Delhi. There was a great demand for the teacher Training Centre as there was no other centre in Maharashtra providing this facility. This led to the establishing a Teacher Training Centre in Pune for Maharashtra. Till date we have successfully trained nearly 200 teachers.

## BRAILLE PRESS



Books mostly those books in Braille which are not easily available to our blind children such as storybooks, poem, novel, literature & also school curriculum books, Braille reading worksheets. Our 4X4 Pro Embosser is controlled by an ink and Braille labeled front panel combined with a speech feedback. It is easy to install and operate; both by blind and sighted people. For our Braille press we usually face shortage of paper and suitable card quality papers. So we are always in search of donors who can help us.

## GIRLS TRAINING CENTER



In the year 1979, the need for a vocational training centre for blind girls who couldn't continue their education even till the 10th standard, led to the establishment of a training centre only for girls at Kothrud. In 1998, Mr. Shashank Paranjpe of Kirloskars Cummins, (today's Cummins India) expended help in the construction of another facility for the same purpose.

In 2006, Dr. Wagholikar and his wife extended their support to ensure smooth functioning of the school.

## USE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY



The 21st Century is known as the age of Information. Literacy in Information Technology has become an essential and integral part of our day-to-day life and is a must to grow and excel in the future. Even the blind children need to be up to date with knowledge and Information.

If students with visual disabilities are to participate on an equal basis with their sighted peers, then they must be given an equal opportunity to take advantage of the enormous benefits offered by IT. To fulfill this purpose the trust had also started a computer education facility in their institute from 2006.



Our institute imparts education and training in computer and IT related skills right from the 3rd standard. The students are first given basic instructions on how to use a computer, what are the different components and parts of a system and after that the students are trained in using a keyboard and its functionalities with the help of JAWS (a screen reader software). Packages like MS WORD and MS- EXCEL are also taught which help the students in preparing documents and tables that can be used in their daily activities. Literacy in information Technology can help in boosting the career of an individual by making him more employable. Employment opportunities are as data operator, programmer & there is large scope of it if it is used as tool for other professions.

The approximate cost of the JAWS software package is around Rs 50,000, while the cost of a Talking Typing Teacher software is around Rs. 18,000. Private individuals like businessmen, industrialists, etc. can extend their help and support for purchasing the JAWS software package by way of donations. Help in the form of providing training personally is also welcomed.

## ACTIVITIES

### CRAFT



Workshops related to art and craft provides an excellent media to these blind children to utilize their creative minds ideas into an aesthetic form. We teach them to prepare candles, string bags, school chalk sticks and decorative candles.

## MUSIC



Music plays a very important role in the life of the visually handicapped. All the students receive extensive training in music. Our students are encouraged to participate in various music related competitions including the Sangit Visharad and Gandharva Mahavidyalaya exam of music.

The musical orchestra of our children is well known throughout Maharashtra.

## SPORTS



Apart from studies and music, students are also encouraged to participate in various extracurricular activities, games and camps. As sports plays an important role in the growth and development of a child's personality, we encourage students to participate in all kinds of sports. Our students participate in various local, regional and national level sports competitions. They also participate in Braille reading and writing competitions and outdoor sports organized by us, the Lions Club and the Rotary club at a local, regional and national level.

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION



Physical education and exercise is another important aspect as it enhances their mobility and makes them feel energetic and active. We have a qualified physical training and education teacher who teaches students the drill, Lezim and many more exercises. The students are encouraged to participate in scout activities and outdoor camps.

## SHIRDI SAI BABA NURSERY



The Nursery building is donated by the Shamdasani Foundation, Pune. This Nursery is equipped with audio cassettes, toys and other play material. The trust caters to around 15 children in its Nursery.

We always encourage our children to mix up with others freely and without any fear. To achieve best results, education must be imparted at the earliest stages and should be as joyous as possible. This is all pertinent when children are handicapped, physically or mentally in one way or another, for theirs is the greatest need. Aware of this need we create



just such an atmosphere for the small blind children with us. Through the play-way Montessori method through song and dance.

### **Visit Feed Back From Students:**

**As Management students after the visit and observation they submitted their feedback as:**

- 1. This visit is very informative and gives many ideas for the marketing and very inspiring to us.**
- 2. New innovative ideas about the crafts products.**
- 3. Students are to contribute their time for their satisfaction and happiness.**
- 4. Grate craft art and designs are motivate us to do better things in life.**

