

‘Sanvedana’

Cerebral Palsy Development Centre, Latur

Run under the aegis of

Janakalyan Samiti

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- * Rehabilitation Centre For Intellectually disabled children with focus on CP Affected Children
 - * Cerebral Palsy (CP) is a physical condition involving many functions of the brain due to damage to the brain by trauma or hypoxia before or during parturition
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‘Janakalyan’ Samiti is one of the foremost charitable Ngo in Maharashtra.

- It has been operating for over 40 years and provides different social services to the needy within the society.
- It is involved in multiple social activities encompassing different sectors including health, education, agriculture, social upliftment, skill training, relief and rehabilitation

Cerebral palsy sufferers are one of the most neglected groups within the health care sector. Taking note of this neglected group, Sanvedana Comprehensive rehabilitation school for CP children was established in Latur (Maharashtra) on 13th August 2006.

In the early days space and facilities were provided by the Vivekanand Medical Foundation, a benevolent institute working in the health care sector. There were only 3 children in the school at the beginning, but as word spread of the centre, the numbers grew gradually and at the present there are over 50 children on the register today (2016).

Cerebral palsy is not an active progressive disease, but is a stagnant physical condition caused by damage to the brain due to trauma or hypoxia prior to or during birth. The damage to the brain is permanent. The affliction is multifarious causing dysfunction of vision, hearing, speech, locomotion, cognition, intelligence, muscle tone, sensation and many more...

Consequently the child becomes a victim of multiple disabilities and dysfunctions. To rear one of these children is very difficult and demanding. Being a very complex issue it is often very arduous and out of scope for the parents to care for the child.

To treat, educate and rear such children has to be a team effort, all working with a deep sense of dedication and affection.

Running such a school is a joint effort involving many skills and expertise. These are special teachers, social workers, care takers, speech therapist, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, psychologists, psychiatrists, orthopaedic practitioners and neurosurgeons.

At Sanvedana, we have worked with many professionals to make sure that they are all available under one roof with the one aim of providing the very best care to these children.

Sanvedana is not merely a special school but a comprehensive rehabilitation centre with a family friendly atmosphere.

Impressed and satisfied with the work of Sanvedana and seeing the limitations at the current site and recognising the need for a new centre to cater for even more children, a benevolent foundation from UK - 'Sewa UK' has graciously donated a sizable amount for construction of a sufficiently large building which will fulfil all the needs of a modern, world class CP Rehabilitation centre and house all the necessary sub departments and amenities. The construction of the building is already under process and will be completed by January 2017. The children will take advantage of the new premises in February 2017.

The new facilities, amenities and opportunities available at new premises

A. For the Children.

- I) More children will be admitted in the school (up to 80)
- II) Early detection and faster treatment for the younger age group (0 to 6) will be possible.
- III) For children between 5 & 18 years old, both a residential and day school will be available.
- IV) A dedicated physiotherapy hall.
- V) A separate and fully equipped speech therapy room.
- VI) Classrooms will be well equipped, and large enough for students to move around on their wheelchairs. Each class room will house an ensuite toilet/washroom.
- VII) A dedicated occupational therapy unit and sensory room for autistic children.
- VIII) A water tank for water therapy, very useful for children with CP and down syndrome.
- IX) Spacious playground for outdoor games and competitions in near vicinity.
- X) Vocational training classrooms for different handicrafts.
- XI) A separate kitchen and dining hall for both taking meals and for teaching culinary skills.
- XII) Computer training room.
- XIII) Medical examination room where routine physical examination will be carried out by specialists visiting doctors in different disciplines.
- XIV) A function hall for different cultural programmes and gathering.

B. For the Parents –

- I) A separate room for guidance and counselling of the parents.
- II) Meeting room for parents.
- III) Library and reading room for parents and care takers.
- IV) Residential training programmes for parents, especially those from rural areas.
- V) A respite centre for short period stay for parents on travel accompanying CP children.

C. Benefits to the society concerned with CP issue

This project is registered with the National Trust. We plan to facilitate the work of central government by acting as a liaison centre between the government and the beneficiaries at the local level.

There is a separate district committee headed by district collector for helping those with disabilities. Being a member of the committee Sanvedana would be able to share the work of the committee.

The new centre will provide a good venue for arraigning workshops for governments' officials and workers that are involved with the issue of CP and its associated problems.

D. Benefits for Special Teachers, Care takers, etc...

1. Provide training courses
2. Organise workshops for registered therapist and teachers.
3. Arrange discussion and discourse by specialist in the field.

Some children with CP actually have a good IQ and have the potential to go into higher education. Sanvedana has an ambition to provide a good basis for further education of such children.