



**weCan Learning Resource Institute**

7th Annual Report  
2017-2018



# **7th Annual General Meeting**

## **at**

### **weCan Learning Resource Institute**

**2nd July, 2018**

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#### **Secretary's Report**

Dear Members,

It gives me great pleasure to present the annual report of weCan Learning Resource Institute for the year 2017- 2018.

The highlights of the year were:

- Whats New
- Savitur- The weCanSpecial School
- Suryoday- Outreach Programme for the Under-privileged
- OBE/ NIOS - Study Centre
- The Therapies SIT/ OT/ Speech Therapy/ Play Therapy/ Dance and Movement Therapy
- weCan Within Schools
- Training the Trainers
- Special Days Celebrated in Special Ways
- Research and Development
- Grateful Acknowledgements
- Partners in Mission
- Affiliations and Registrations
- Executive Committee and Mentors



## What's New

weCan completes seven years. Seven years of hard work, and tons of support from our well-wishers. A big thank you to all our colleagues, mentors, and most of all the parents who placed their trust in us.

The year gone by has been a happening year for weCan. Lots of new beginnings, with so much excitement and enthusiasm and most importantly a belief in ourselves.



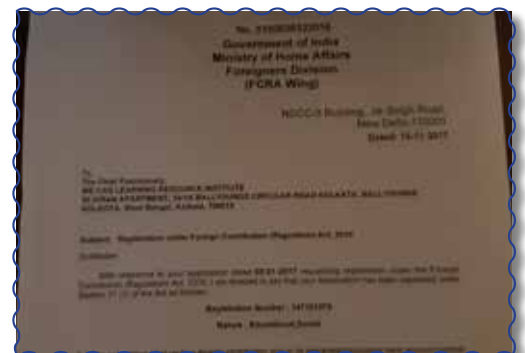
**A new beginning in our new centre,**  
58/23 Prince Anwar Shah Road, Kolkata 700045



**The Resource Room** - well equipped with books and teaching learning material, is well organized, managed with full-fledged library systems, which makes access to teaching learning material easier and quicker.



**Registration under Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010.** Besides opening an important gateway of support it was hugely gratifying that the government recognized our streamlined systems, transparency in operations, genuine intentions and sincerity to the cause.





**Yoga and Personality Development** - Conducted by a very experienced trainer, who is also a certified counselor. Besides teaching yoga, she conducts activities and exercises which promote confidence building and self-esteem. She also counsels kids on a one-to-one basis to address behavioural issues.



**Pre-vocational Activity** - We started with a summer camp based on pre-vocational activities. It was our first step and a very important step. Once they were briefed, they planned, budgeted, shopped, implemented, packaged and sold. Complete with lists, bills, price tags and presentation. This will now be a structured weekly activity, with an objective to help the children find their niche in life.



**Dance and Movement Therapy** - Dance/movement therapy is the psychotherapeutic use of movement and dance to support intellectual, emotional, and motor functions of the body. Our kids who fall under the autism spectrum or even mental retardation, are taking the therapy, enjoying it and definitely benefitting from it. Our trained and certified professional has individual plans for individual needs.



**Parent Observation Day** - Parents are an integral part of every step in our programme. As primary stake holders, they not only need to be a part of the programme- planning, implementing and follow-ups, but also need to know every detail of the 'child's day at work'. On a regular basis we welcome parents to observe, learn, discuss and suggest, during regular classes and therapy sessions. All stake holders work in coordination for optimum benefit to the children.



## *Savitur - The weCan Special School*

Savitur has grown in many ways. The number of children is now above 25. Since this programme is customized for each child, the numbers have to be kept at a manageable level.

Some children have been identified to have academic goals. They are now following a customized curriculum, which will prepare them for OBE / NIOS sections.

ADL (Activities of Daily Living) activities are a very important part of the programme and since the parents are also involved, the progress is faster and more visible.

One-to-one sessions allow the children to learn and grow at their own pace and the group activities benefit the children in terms of learning socially acceptable behavior, and to communicate.

Mealtimes are fun, while they learn table manners, they also learn to share and care.

Therapies are an integral part of the programme. Besides sensory therapy, occupational therapy, play therapy and speech therapy, the children of Savitur are now benefitting from dance and movement therapy.





## Future plans

Plans are on to expose these children to public places- parks, malls, airports and railway stations. The objective is to help them adapt to a mainstream life as much as possible.

Through the various co-curricular activities, they will also be exposed to some pre-vocational skills like baking, chocolate making, gift bags and office management activities. These will be wholesome projects involving planning, budgeting, shopping and marketing. This will help us to gauge the potential in each child and plan for the future course of action for the child.

With great pride, we can confidently say that each and every child is learning and growing, thanks to the in-depth, well researched strategies and plans implemented by a very efficient, passionate and dedicated team.



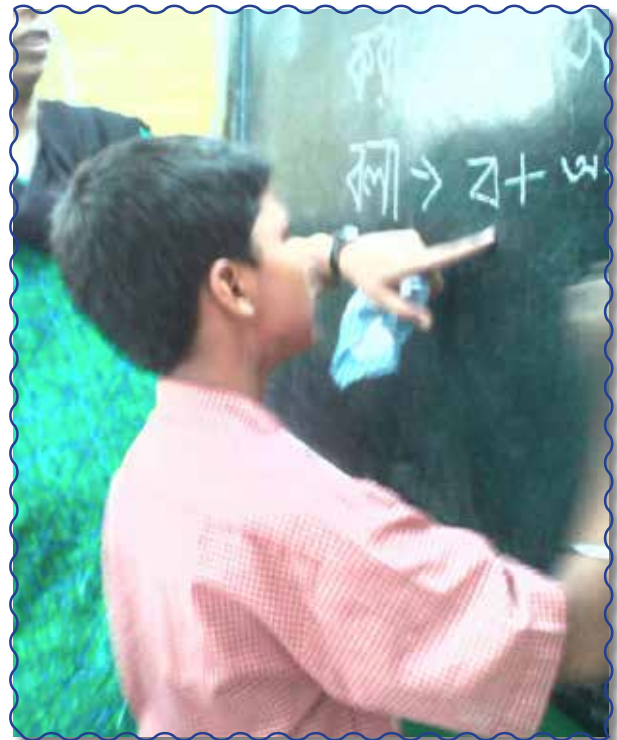
## *Suryoday - weCan Support to the Under- Privileged*

Suryoday is now providing academic support to more than 150 children from economically backward homes. The objective is to provide remedial intervention to children with learning gaps, so that the chances of dropout become minimized. This service is provided free of charge to under-privileged schools, orphanages and individual children from the locality.

### **We are presently partnering:**

- All Bengal Womens' Union, Elliot Road
- Kasba Jagdish Girls School, Kasba
- Calcutta Social Project, Panditya Road

The umbrella term 'under-privileged' can be divided into many segments, each having its unique character, issues and strategies to address those issues. Our aim is to develop and standardize systems, materials and strategies, which will allow us to reach quality education to a larger number of children even in remote areas.





## Future plans

We would like to partner many more organizations and schools to reach our services to as many children as possible. We plan to formalize our research systems and training programmes for educators to be able to deal with all round development of these children.

Counseling services will be integral to Suryoday, for the emotional, social and behavioural aspects along with academic progress of these children.

We believe that if we can improve learning outcomes in primary classes, then the children can navigate the middle school and senior school without too many learning gaps and without dropping out. Success in the initial years at school, motivates the child and also the families to make education a way to a better life.



## *Therapy services at weCan*

**The Sensory Room at weCan** is fully equipped with many different ways to stimulate the senses.

A variety of technology such as multicolored bubble tubes, mirror ball, shape projector, pin spot projector, soundboard, interactive tactile disc and an audiovisual projection system all serve as stimuli operated by a selection of switches which can be linked together in any combination allowing individuals to create and interact with their own preferred environment. The thermostatically controlled water bed and selection of soft furniture compliment the technology enabling the children to enjoy the therapeutic atmosphere.



**The Occupational unit at weCan** is equipped with slides, swings, steppers, balance balls, almost everything our children would need to enhance their intervention programmes. Its an enjoyable fun corner, which provides the necessary therapies, also being a fun activity for children under guided supervised care.





## Dance and Movement Therapy

Dance and movement therapy is the therapeutic use of movement to further the emotional, cognitive, physical and social integration of the individual. Our trained practitioner at weCan develops each session to suit the age, health and emotional needs of the child and facilitates expression of emotion through various ways which has a therapeutic effect.



## Play Therapy

Introduced, planned and implemented by Ms. Jolly Laha, has become an integral part of the programme for most children of Savitur, also for some in the NIOS/OBE sections who need it. It has been very effective form of counselling and psychotherapy in which play is used as a means of helping children express or communicate their feelings. Our own educators are now trained in basic and advanced skills, and are able to apply them on a day to day basis, with supervision under Ms. Laha.



## Speech Therapy

The speech unit at weCan continues to impart essential exercises and therapies to the children. Home programmes are a must for faster improvement. Emphasis is laid on language and communication. Oromotor exercises and other techniques are implemented and also taught to parents as well as other caregivers, so that it becomes a regular part of the day to day routine.

## Tabla Therapy

Due to reduced communication, autistic children need an emotional outlet. This therapy is initiated by teaching children to play an instrument like the drums or tabla. It also promotes a sense of timing and rhythm, which in turn promotes focus and concentration. It enhances motor coordination too. The children at weCan enjoy their sessions and benefit from it in many ways.



## Future plans

We plan to formalize the involvement of parents and fine tune feedback and review systems to make every activity more effective and efficient. We also plan to invite more experts to train our own educators so that the entire process of imparting education can be therapy based.





## INSET Programme - *Promoting Inclusion in Mainstream Schools*

### Within school premises within school hours.

Our partnership with schools, continue to benefit children with learning difficulties within the mainstream environment. The objective of this programme is to offer remedial intervention to children with learning difficulties/ slow learners, within their school hours and premises, so that there is complete coordination with school authorities, in order for the children to be mainstreamed as soon as possible.

### Schools we have worked with:

- Mahadevi Birla World Academy
- The Future Foundation
- Bloomingdale Academy
- South City International
- La Martiniere for Boys (Referral Programme)



## Future Plans

Every classroom has slow learners, who have learning gaps due to a variety of reasons. With some planned and focussed intervention, most of the gaps can be filled and the children can come to the required level. They should not be denied the opportunity to be mainstreamed if they have the potential.

There is complete lack of awareness amongst parents and educators regarding children who learn difficulties. They can be mainstreamed but only with utmost cooperation and understanding of all stake holders. The parents' knowledge levels in most schools are superficial and there is not enough expertise to diagnose, strategize and implement a programme for these kids.

weCan plans to hold workshops on initial baseline assessments, using basic checklists which can easily be used by mainstream teachers. Setting up resource room in montessori schools will also be a part of the plan, as early intervention is the key to filling gaps on time for the child to be mainstreamed as smoothly as possible.





Children who cannot follow a CBSE /ICSE curriculum, are given an opportunity to complete their schooling through open schooling (OBE and NIOS ). The central board offers an alternative curriculum to students to pursue their education goals.

The OBE /NIOS study centre at weCan presently has 15 Children enrolled in this programme. It is a systematically run programme, its processes are fine-tuned every step of the way and there is a constantly evolving library of study material as per current requirement. Supporting audio visual aids are plentiful and are being constantly upgraded.

Because the groups are small, the children get on-to-one attention and also participate in group activities like yoga, public speaking, dramatization and other confidence building activities. Computer classes are aimed at imparting basic computer skills which will be required for any profession/ vocation they will be taking up in future.

The programme is conducted in complete coordination with parents. After the initial counselling and briefing, the study plan and curriculum is handed over to the parent so that they are an integral part of the day to day studies and monitoring. They are guided through the registration procedure, and the children appear for their exams after thorough preparation and practice. Behavioural issues are discussed and addressed by experts.

We are proud to say that our children succeed in the exams with good marks, their aspirations rise and they work harder towards achieving. They start dreaming big.





We will be starting pre-vocational activities for these children. As planned, computer animation and robotics has become a regular part of their programme and for those who have an inclination towards baking or art and craft can choose from those options as well. The objective is the children that the children find their niche and are able to develop competency in doing what they can do.

### Future Plans

We wish to enroll at least 25-30 children in the current year. Since these children do not attend a regular school, they miss out on a regular wholesome school schedule which includes a lot more co-curricular activities. weCan plans to introduce art, dance and music amongst other activities in order to make it a 'school to go to' for these children.

Also on the cards a structured programme for training these children in regular everyday chores, like using email to communicate, workings of post offices and banks, general letter writing skills, presentation skills and account keeping skills. Simple entrepreneurship skills like planning, budgeting, shopping, implementing, marketing etc., will be taught through projects and simulation.



## *Training the trainer*

Date	Topic	Resource Person
21st April, 2017	Role of Information & Communication and Tools as an enabler for Persons with Disabilities.	Prof. Anupam Basu Prof., IIT, Kharagpur
22nd April, 2017	Behaviour Modification Techniques	Prof. Parimal Bera In-Charge, TTC, Manovikas Kendra
17th May 21st May 2017	Play Therapy- Advanced Course	Ms. Jolly Laha Psychoanalyst, Samikshani
24th Sept, 2017 28th Oct, 2017	Reading/ Spelling/ Writing/ Mathematics	Werdoline Rebeiro and Suparna Sarkar Educators, The Heritage School
29th Dec, 2017	Art Therapy	Soumya Paul, Visual Art teachers Manovikas Kendra, Kolkata
3rd March, 2018	Augmentative and Alternative Communication	Dr. Sudha Kaul, Chairperson and Trustee Indian Institute of Cerebral Palsy
28th April, 2018	Various Approaches for Different Types of Learners	Prof. Arindam Gupta, Prof. Dept. of Economics St. Xavier's College, Kolkata
21st May 2018	Speech and Language Intervention	Mr. Partha Banerjee, Senior Speech Therapist Manovikas Kendra, Kolkata
23rd May 2018	Sensory Integration	Mr. Tridib Chatterjee, Occupational Therapist Institute of Psychiatry, Kolkata
23rd May 2018	Non-Formal Education and Children with Special Needs	Mrs. Debanjali Ghosh, Ms. Ishita Sinha, Mrs. Amrita Ghosh and Mrs. Sharmistha, Pal Educators, weCan
24th May 2018	Activity of Daily Living (Adl)	Mr. Surajit Ghosh, Mr. Dipankar Mukherjee, Mr. Chand Pramanik and Mr. Malay Panda
24th May 2018	Sex, Gender, Sexuality and Adolescence Issues	Siddhartha Sanyal Rehabilitation and Clinical Psychologist
25th May 2018	Social Skills Training for Autism	Shabnam Rahman Rehab. Psychologist, Faculty, Teachers' Training College, Manovikas Kendra
25th May 2018	Structure Teaching and Autism	Prof. Parimal Bera In-Charge, TTC, Manovikas Kendra









## *Special Days Celebrated in Special Ways*

### *Independence Day*



### *Childrens Day*



### *Saraswati Puja*





*Holi*



*Rabindra Jayanti*



*Xmas*



*Diwali*





## Sports Days

We Can Learning Resource Institute celebrated the second annual sports day on 10th February at the Heritage School Ground. The event started off with the school anthem following the hoisting of the National flag.

What followed then was indeed some of the most jaw dropping performances of the kids. The parents were enthralled and cheered all the way. The races were not just confined to running, they were an integration of fun and learning. The daily activities like going to school, wearing of shoes, going to the market and like were some which was indeed a test of how the child was developing with time. Events like memory game, hurdle race, marble race were organized for the older kids.

The vigour and enthusiasm was evident in everyone. The smiles on the faces of every parent and educator was a clear indication that it wasn't just the results that mattered. It was the participation which had made a difference in the lives of the kids. It ended with the prize distribution. Kudos to team weCan!





## *Research and Development*

Education professionals should always be learning, finding out things, analyzing information, adapting their behaviour according to information received, looking to improve and adapting to modern demands. All of this constitutes research, and it has to become a pivotal part of an organization such as ours, because special education requires all of the above and more.

At weCan, research and development is by default the most important part of the whole process of intervention. As educators, the team members constantly try to find more suitable strategies, they want to know which a technique has worked and why the other has failed. Reliable data helps them invent and innovate; all with the ultimate objective of it all is to improve learning outcomes for the kids enrolled with us.

This applies to every aspect of intervention – academics and therapies for the learning disabled and for the first generation learners.

### **Future Plans**

We plan to touch many young lives, and this requires formal large scale studies, to identify trends and enable educational outcomes to be related to social and economic needs.

The basic learning will come from our own experiences and data but it will be connected and woven along with other reliable findings, in order to get a larger picture. Standardization of processes and strategies will come from these studies, and that will make it possible for us to deliver high quality education to many more children, with the resources available.

A dedicated research team is being put into place to help us achieve our objectives and make us a true 'learning organization'.

## Partners in the Mission

weCan, greatly acknowledges that our services, are a the culmination of our learning experience and inspiration while being engaged with prestigious institutes. We realized the need together, had a common goal to help children having difficulties in school, we committed ourselves to the cause, and decided walk the path together.

- The Future Foundation School
- La Martiniere For Boys
- South City International
- Mahadevi Birla World Academy
- Bloomingdale International
- All Bengal Women's Union
- St. Lawrence Evening School
- Kasba Jagadish Vidyapith for Girls
- Calcutta Social Project

## Grateful Acknowledgements

**weCan gratefully acknowledges the unconditional support from our well wishers**

Corporate Support	Individual Support
Abzooba	Ashok Sen
Amalgamated Plantations Private Ltd	Anil Sahni
Bengal Energy Ltd	Ehsaan Noorani
Carbon Edge Industries	Geeta Amin
Cognizant Foundation	Gunaseelan Thekken
DMT Consultancy	Kamal Patwari
Goodricke Group Ltd.	Kriti Maheshwari
Jai Balaji Industries	Leela Garg
JSW Steel Ltd	Rajinder Kaura
Larsen and Tubro	Ramakant Garg
Magus Marketing Private Limited	Renuka Agarwal
Mentor Management Services	Varsha Maheshwari
Paharimata Packaging Industries	Vedant Gupta
Rupa Foundation	Vipul Amin
State Bank of India	Chhavi Garg
Veeline Media Ltd.	Rajat Agarwal
Pullman Engineering Company Pvt Ltd	Minu Jain
Sany Heavy Industry India Pvt Ltd	Jyoti Jajodia
Pallan Export & Imports Co.	



## *Executive Committee For 2017-2018*

Dhruv Sharma  
Meenakshi Atal  
Neena Goel  
Anindita Chatterjee  
Biswadip Gupta  
Vijaya Sharma  
Mala Banerjee

### **Mentors**

Mr. John Mason  
Dr. SudhaKaul  
Dr. ReenaSen  
Ms. SeemaSapru

## **Registrations and Affiliations**

### **Affiliations**

Reg No. S/1L/ 82958 Reg under the Societies Registration Act of 1961

Approval U/S 80G(5)(vi) Of The Income Tax Act, 1961

Approval U/S 12AA Of The Income Tax Act, 1961

Certificate of Recognition us 52(2) and (4) of The Persons With Disability (Equal opportunities and protection of human rights and full participation) Act '95- by the Social Welfare Department of West Bengal

Registration under Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010.



## **weCan Learning Resource Institute**

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