

# weCan Learning Resource Institute

*(Not for profit organization - dedicated to special education and educating the under privileged)*



**SAVITUR- A SPECIAL SCHOOL**

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**SURYODAY- ACADEMIC SUPPORT FOR THE UNDER PRIVILEGED**

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**WECAN WITHIN SCHOOLS**

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**NIOS AND OBE STUDY CENTRE**

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**SUPPORTING THERAPIES**

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**PRE-VOCATIONAL SKILL BUILDING PROGRAMMES**

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**HOME PROGRAMMES**

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**SPOKEN ENGLISH FOR THE UNDER PRIVILEGED**

**8<sup>th</sup> Annual Report 2018-2019**



# Vision

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# Mission

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# and Goal

A lot of us go through life such that the only thing that stands between us and success is our effort/ motivation. Some people don't have that luxury. They are born different. They could be kind and sensitive and talented even, but one or more of their faculties are not in order. India alone is home to 12 million differently-abled children. Of them, a significant number are abandoned by their families, discarded because of the additional responsibility they come with; punished for something that isn't their fault.

Without proper intervention and care, many children with disabilities such as dyslexia, Down's syndrome, attention-deficit-hyperactivity-disorder, autism and Asperger's are pushed to living on the margins because they have not been equipped with the tools, behaviours or skills to be a part of and contribute to mainstream society.

Some don't an opportunity to study and succeed because they are poor. They are so busy surviving the daily struggles that education is not on their radar.

weCan believes that regardless of a child's diagnosis and prognosis, and regardless of their socio-economic background, they all deserve to have their educational needs met, and opportunities to grow and achieve goals.

And that's what weCan is out to accomplish: give these children just that extra bit of love and training they require so they get the best chance they have at life.

For eight years, weCan Learning Resource Institute in Kolkata has been working with special children regardless of socio-economic backgrounds.

**We have touched the lives of more than 600 children on this journey and we plan to reach out to many many more in the coming years.**

We are expanding our services into more areas and to as many children as possible, with the sole aim of quality education for all, raising the bar and bridging the gaps.

We wish to thank our mentors, well-wishers, supporters and mostly the institutions and parents who have placed their trust in us.

**EDUCATION FOR ALL  
RAISING THE BAR  
BRIDGING THE GAPS**





# 8<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting

at

## weCan Learning Resource Institute

25th May, 2019

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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 2018- 2019.

#### **The Highlights of the Year Were:**

- Spoken English for the under-privileged
- GuideStar India Transparency Key
- Partnership With Aims Media
- Content Development For Primary School
- Play Day

#### **Ongoing Projects:**

- Savitur- The weCanSpecial School
- Suryoday- Outreach Programme for the Under-privileged
- OBE/ NIOS Study Center
- The Therapies SIT/ OT/ Speech Therapy/ Play Therapy/ Dance and Movement Therapy
- weCan Within Schools
- Parent Teacher Meetings
- Research and Development
- Special Days Celebrated in Special Ways

#### **Testimonials**

#### **Grateful Acknowledgements**

#### **Partners in Mission**

#### **Affiliations and Registrations**

#### **Executive Committee and Mentors**



# Spoken English for the Under-privileged

## A Suryoday Initiative

Without basic English skills, most students are handicapped in terms of opportunities for higher education and employment, and access to various bodies of knowledge and to new technologies.

In English medium schools, children most often pick up the language as it's the general medium of instruction. But in vernacular schools, spoken English takes a back seat.

*weCan has developed a programme, content and strategy to implement this in all the schools which fall under our outreach umbrella. The pilot project at All Bengal Womens' Union has taken off well and will be fine-tuned along the way.*

### Objectives of the program:

- To help nurture confidence and self-esteem in students regardless of their background and socio-economic status.
- To raise aspirations and make them dream of a life beyond.
- To motivate parents to take their education seriously, and in turn minimize dropouts
- To get them ready to access the plethora of learning resources available out there, which may not be available in their own regional language.
- Speaking the language automatically makes it easier to read it and write it.
- And last but not the least, it does open a lot of doors to a successful future.

*We would like to extend this service to as many schools and institutions possible. We will be conducting extensive material and training programmes for educators to be able to implement it effectively.*

*This is one more step towards our commitment to promoting quality and meaningful education to those who are not privileged enough to get it as par for the course.*



## We Have Been Awarded the GuideStar India Transparency Key

GuideStar India is an initiative of Civil Society Information Services India. It is India's largest and most reliable NGO information repository. It is a fully searchable database of reliable and comparable information on over 9,000 NGOs. Organizations certified by them, have undergone varying levels of due diligence.

In a country like India that has a vast but highly scattered NGO sector, lack of reliable information is a serious bottleneck for philanthropy to grow. As an aggregator of NGO information, GuideStar India is playing a vital role in building the ecosystem for a philanthropy marketplace.

GuideStar India persistently follows up with NGOs to clean up and update the data, while also educating NGOs to embrace transparency by consenting to put their information in the public domain. Verified information is made available in the public domain and is also fed back to the source, including government sources.

After in-depth rigorous checks and processes, WECAN LEARNING RESOURCE INSTITUTE has been awarded the GuideStar India Transparency Key. Our certification has also been updated on our GuideStar India page - <https://guidestarindia.org/Summary.aspx?CCReg=10888>.

***It gives us confidence that our statutory compliances and mandatory requirements are up to the mark, processes are transparent and that we have gained the trust of all stake holders in the NGO community.***



## Partnership With Aims Media

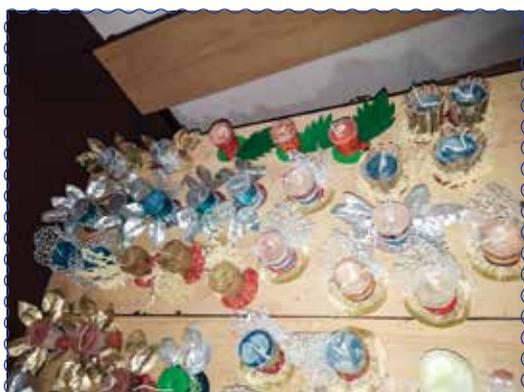
We are now collaborating with Aims Media to provide the children of weCan an opportunity to grow and learn through a programme called 'Art Discovery'. The main objective of this program is to enhance skills (social communication, artistic sense, cognitive skills and motor skills) and to discover artistic talent as well as to get children ready for learning based AEMP (Ability Enhancement Multimedia Program) AEMP was designed by Aims Media keeping in mind different age, abilities and difficulties and over the past years, it had shown tremendous changes in the life of special needs. The purpose of this programme is to establish different multimedia workstations for differently-abled and to build sustainable independent living.

*It is a 2 year certificate programme which covers several modules like sound and dubbing, art magic, photography and computer animation. The aim will be to provide the children opportunities for internships and vocations after they have completed the course.*



## 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.



## Research and Development

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 technique has worked and why the other has failed. Reliable data helps them invent and innovate; all with the ultimate objective is to improve learning outcomes for the kids enrolled with us.

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.

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

Our latest R&D venture is content development for Suryoday. **Total Learning is a complete set of resource books for teachers of Primary school.** The aim is to standardize delivery mechanisms to support the academic needs of all kinds of learners. These are handbooks created and compiled from a variety of resources. They have concept building sheets, plenty of practice sheets and web links as ready reference for audio visual methods.

## Partnership With Parents

Involving parents at every stage is the mantra. Re-enforcing school activities at home will only help the child progress faster and better. Parents are a major part of the system. Exchanging notes also helps us fine-tune systems at every step.

At weCan, regularly we have an observation day for each parent wherein the parent is allowed to observe every activity in the child's normal schedule. It enhances transparency and also guides the parent on how to handle the child at home.

Formal parent teacher meetings are held ever quarter. The first half of the meeting is to share the happenings and programmes at the institute. The second part is interactive as it gives the parent community a platform to share their success stories and challenges as it is a support group. Finally the educators share the IEPs (Individual Education Plan) with the parent individually taking their inputs too in order to make an effective plan for home and the learning center.



# Play Day

Play day at weCan started with the objective of exposing children to activities other than their daily routine. The children at the centre are allowed to choose a game or an activity of their choice according to their potential. It could be a mind game like sudoku or crossword or it could be a group game like snakes and ladders or carom. Physical activities like hopscotch or circle time games are also organized for the older kids. The younger children enjoy their playtime with blocks, puzzles, lego, play-doh etc. Puppet shows and storytelling sessions are also organized by the educators. All activities are chosen with a view to build various extracurricular skills and personality development.



# Savitur- The weCan Special School

Savitur is a school for children with mild to moderate challenges like autism, ADHD, ADD, cognitive impairment, Downs syndrome or Aspergers. Children look forward to being in a safe and enabling environment with a daily routine that makes them self-reliant. The IEP (Individual Educational Plan) is prepared to help them to reach their potential. It is the perfect place to learn and grow at their own pace. The prepared environment and the predictable daily routines offer stability for children with special needs.

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, dance and movement therapy, the children of Savitur are now benefitting from yoga.

Exposing these children to public places- parks, malls, airports and railway stations, is helping them adapt to a mainstream life as much as possible.

Through the various co-curricular activities, they are also exposed to some pre-vocational skills like baking, chocolate making, gift bags and computer skills. These are 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- The Academic Support to the Under-Priviledged

One of the best ways to avoid being poor as an adult is to obtain a good education. Education makes people more productive.

**Suryoday is now providing academic support to more than 300 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
- KasbaJagdish Girls School, Kasba
- Calcutta Social Project, Panditya Road
- We will be extending our services to Hope Foundation from June 2019.

We are developing standardized systems, materials and strategies, which will allow us to reach quality education to a larger number of children even in remote areas.

Counseling services are an 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.

## The weCan Way:

- Strong emphasis on small groups- not more than 8-10 children to a teacher.
- Initial base line assessments
- Individual and group education plans
- Customized content, workbooks, worksheets
- All kinds of teaching aids- techniques using not only chalk and talk but also audio-visual and other technology aided methods.
- Trained, sensitive, passionate and a happy staff with a common vision and mission.
- Process driven tried and tested strategies.
- Emphasis on core subjects- Math and English, which affect all other subjects directly or indirectly.
  - Continuous reviewing and fine-tuning, ultimate aim being to increase the learning outcome.





## NIOS/OBE Study Centre

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 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. We have recently collaborated with Aims Media for a specialized goal oriented computer course, which will solely aim to develop pre-vocational skills.

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 are planning to start some more pre-vocational skill building activities like baking, cooking, gift art etc. The objective is that the children find their niche and are able to develop competency in doing what they can do.





# 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, it's more of a fun activity for children under guided supervised care.



## Dance and Movement Therapy:

Dance 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.



# weCan Within Schools

## Within school premises within school hours.

This programme has touched and benefitted more than 200 children to date. 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.

Our partnership with schools, continues 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)



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 workshop on initial baseline assessments, using basic checklists which can easily be used by mainstream teachers. Setting up resource rooms 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.





# Special Days Celebrated in Special Ways

## Sports Day



## Saraswati Puja



Holi



Diwali



# Parent Feedback

**Name of the Student: Sanjan Dhara**      **Date-14.02.19**

**Age: 6 years**

**Gender: Male**

**Name of the program attending: - Savitur**

**Joining date: 05.04.2017**

**Diagnosis: Down's Syndrome**

**Parents feedback:**

In his last 3 years journey in weCan, Sanjan has improved slowly but steadily in his academics as well as behavioral aspects. At present we are happy about his academic progress but more concerned about his behavioral issues.

I wish entire weCan family will help us to fulfill Sanjan's goals in the coming days. We would like to thank all the staffs for their love and affection towards Sanjan.

**Shreyasi Dhara**

**Name of the Student: V. Subramaniam**      **Date-14.02.19**

**Age: 14+ years**

**Gender: Male**

**Name of the program attending: - OBE-A**

**Joining date: 16.11.2017**

**Diagnosis: Intellectual Disability with Autism spectrum disorder**

**Parents feedback:**

Since his joining Subramaniam has improved a lot academically as well as socially. The therapeutic intervention helped him to deal with his sensory issues. He has been enrolled to Open Basic Education level- A. In the year 2019, January he appeared in two subjects- English and Maths. I am hopeful that with the support of weCan teachers he will be able to show over all progress.

**Uma Maheshwari**

**Name of the Student: Amborish Maity**      **Date-14.02.19**

**Age: 6+ years**

**Gender: Male**

**Name of the program attending: - Savitur**

**Joining date: 03.12.2018**

**Diagnosis: ADHD with Autism spectrum disorder**

**Parents feedback:**

Amborish is completing almost 3 months in his school. He likes to go to school. I have noticed he has become calmer than before and his sitting span also improved than before. His eating habits are improving. I am really thankful to weCan teachers to show care and love for my child. Teachers are requested to work on his concentration and interaction in group. weCan is a great support for my child.

**Monisha Maity**

**Name of the Student :Avnish Saha**      **Date-14.02.19**

**Age: 10 Yrs**

**Gender: Male**

**Name of the program attending: - Savitur**

**Joining date: 6 yrs**

**Diagnosis: Autism spectrum disorder**

**Parents feedback :**

My son Avnish Saha is studying in weCan for the past 6 yrs. First of all I thank weCan that they have opened up a special school Savitur. It is their great endeavour to implement all therapeutic needs and associated activities under one umbrella for our children. Providing best possible opportunities to the children to grow in their own way and not to trim their wings according to parents/ society's expectation.

All the best weCan.

**Shraboni Saha**



Name of the Student : Sankhajit Kar

Date-14.02.19

Age: 4+ years

Gender: Male

Name of the program attending: - Savitur-B

Joining date: 29.05.2017

Diagnosis: Autism spectrum disorder

Parents feedback :

Sankhajit is improving day by day under his teacher's guidance. Recently he has developed speech and his vocabulary is increasing. He needs to improve his writing skill. His current assessment (done by CMC Vellore) suggests that he is performing well according to his Individualized Educational Plan. More exposure is needed in order to become self independent and as per his age group. Your precious guidance will make ways for Sankhajit's future development. Thank you for your support.

Subhajit Kar

## Testimonial- Ehsaan Noorani- Donor

Ehsaan Noorani-Musician

Supports a few Special children of Savitur- The special school

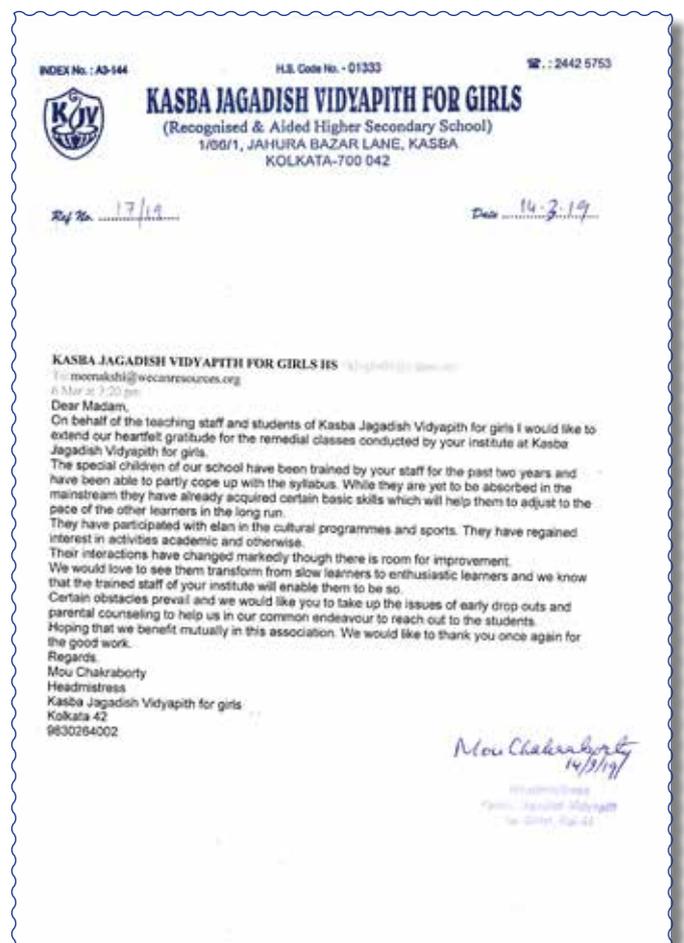
Dec 2017

A couple of years ago I visited weCan an NGO involved in educating children with all kinds of #Autism. There is a child there called Deepshkhar whose education I volunteered to support. Autism is a very complex condition and it takes skilled and selfless people to work at educating these kids. I went back to the NGO today to meet the child and his parents and learn about the child's progress. I was so amazed to see this child and the progress that he has made. When I met him years ago he was like a little super ball bouncing all over the place and unable to keep still. Today I saw him eating food on his own, he has grown so much calmer, he can actually look me in the eye (autistic children find this very difficult). I met with his parents and they were beaming because of the child's progress. These small everyday normal things are very difficult for autistic children and it takes therapy and loads of work by the teachers to get them to do this.

Kudos Neena Goel for starting this organization I can't even begin to understand what it must take to educate these little pieces of heaven.

29th Nov 2018

Little Deepshkhar who is the child I support now is so calm receiving these flowers from brought tears to my eyes ....a few years ago he couldn't be still .....



## Partners in the Mission

weCan, gratefully 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 Kumar Sen
A P Consultants	Anil Sahani
Bengal Energy Ltd	Bengal Energy Ltd
Cognizant Foundation	Chhavi Garg
Goodrike Tea	Ehsaan Noorani
Larsen & Tubro	Gautam Kumar
JSW Steel Ltd	Geeta Amin
Small Change.NGO	Minu Jain
Magus Marketing Private Limited	Rajinder Kaura
Mentor Management Services	Rajendra B Barwale
Oswal Education Trust	Ramakant Garg
Pallan Experts	Renuka Agarwal
Pullman Engineering Company Pvt Ltd	Vinod Kumar Dwivedi
Rungta Foundation	
Sany Heavy Industry India Pvt Ltd	
Sarom International	
SBI Foundation	
Veeline Media Ltd.	
Vividh Finvest Private Limited	

## Executive Committee For 2018-2019

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Meenakshi Atal

Dhruv Sharma

Neena Goel

Anindita Chatterjee

Biswadip Gupta

Vijaya Sharma

Mala Banerjee

### Mentors

Mr. John Mason

Dr. Sudha Kaul

Dr. Reena Sen

Ms. Seema Sapru

### Registrations and 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.

GuideStar India Transparency Key





## **weCan Learning Resource Institute**

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