



MAHARASHTRA
DYSLEXIA
ASSOCIATION



Annual Report

2016 - 2017

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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

A new era dawns, and brings with it new challenges. In April 2017, the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act passed into law, bringing with it recognition of the struggles of people with Specific Learning Disability (SLD) and other Neurodevelopmental Disorders for the first time in India. This is a culmination of decades of debate and activism by the SLD community scattered around the country, but there is no time for self-congratulation or celebration. While the Act recognises the existence of SLD, procedures for identification and intervention, appropriate educational support, access to higher/vocational education and jobs, equipping mainstream teachers, therapists, special educators and other professionals with necessary skills have still to be spelt out and implemented. We have only taken the first few steps of a long, long road to self-realisation for all those who struggle with SLD.



The rapidly changing world around us demands we must change too, to remain relevant. While we celebrate the achievements of the many students who have benefitted from our services at our Clinics in Western India, we realise that the vast majority of affected students and their families have little or no access to appropriate support or even information. Over the past year, MDA has launched a vigorous communications and outreach initiative, harnessing the Internet and Social Media to spread the word about Dyslexia and its complexities. Our new Newsletter and Facebook presence are just the beginning. Through social media we plan to reach out to the new generations of young parents and their families who need our support, reaffirming the resolve of our Founders that every child with SLD should get the opportunity to achieve their goals and reach their potential.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

MDA is privileged to have on its Managing Committee dedicated individuals from diverse walks of life who provide strategic support and guidance to the organisation on an ongoing basis.

Ms. Kate Currawalla – President
Ms. Jyoti Row Kavi - Hon. Secretary
Mr. Cyrus Shroff – Hon. Treasurer
Ms. Santhosh Rajan
Ms. Meena Mody
Dr. Indula Panchal
Ms. Tehmi Morris
Ms. Priyamvada Merchant

STAFF MEMBERS

MDA is proud of and thankful to its dedicated team of Psychologists and Special Educators who work to further the cause of Dyslexia and an enthusiastic administrative team who ensure that the day to day workings of the organisation proceed seamlessly.

Ms. Masarrat Khan, CEO
Ms. Divya Balgi, Administrator
Ms. Fatima Martins, Special Educator
Ms. Susan George, Special Educator
Ms. Deesha Pandya, Psychologist
Ms. Diya Basu, Psychologist
Ms. Kaschit Mishra, Psychologist
Ms. Priyanka Pandit, Psychologist
Ms. Sonal Ashok Barve, Psychologist
Ms. Bhakti Niranjana Shah, Psychologist
Ms. Reena Turner, Psychologist and Special Educator
Ms. Kajal Rambhia Shah, Psychologist
Ms. Manek Chitalwala, Special Educator, Certified Dyslexia Therapist, Certified Academic Language Therapist
Ms. Jumana Shipchandler, Psychologist
Ms. Sushma More, Accounts and Admin
Mr. Manjeet Valmiki, Office Boy
Mr. Balkrishna More, Office Boy

MEMBERSHIP DETAILS

Membership	Total
Institutional Members	122
Individual Members	194
Life Members	240

WELCOMING NEW STAFF MEMBERS

Ms. Pervin Dudhmal joined MDA as a volunteer at the Dadar Centre in June 2016. Introduced by Ms. Machhi, whose place she takes, she visits the centre every Tuesday and Thursday to supervise administration and accounts.

Ms. Deepti Makhija re-joined the Deonar Centre as a Remedial Teacher and FIE Facilitator in August 2016.

Ms. Sai Gharpure joined as Trainee Psychologist in March 2017.

Ms. Shruti Bansal joined as Trainee Assistant Remedial Teacher in March 2017.

Ms. Pooja Kale joined as Accounts and Admin Assistant in March 2017.

BIDDING GOODBYE

Ms. Kanika Kohli left in June 2016.

Ms. Sanketa Mangaonkar left in Oct 2016.

ADVOCACY & STRATEGIC PARTNERS

Pratham

MDA has been in a year-long association with Pratham, another non-profit organisation working with government schools all over India, the Bombay Municipal Corporation and the Maharashtra Social Welfare Department, to review and standardize assessments in schools for Special Education Needs. In February 2017, teacher training in the use of Pratham Evaluation Tool was conducted by Ms. Masarrat Khan along with a team of Psychologists from MDA. This was attended by 31 Special Educators from 17 Special Schools.

Additionally, Ms. Masarrat Khan worked very closely with Pratham to develop two manuals for parents and caregivers. The first 'Are You Aware?' emphasises the importance of early detection of developmental delays in children and the second functions as a guide on disabilities and the role of parents and caregivers. The manuals will be produced by Pratham and supported by CBM. The resulting Manual was released by Mr. Avinash Devsatvar, Assistant Commissioner, Department of Social Welfare and Justice (Mumbai), at Y. B. Chavan Pratishthan in Mumbai on 22nd August 2016. The team, including our very own Masarrat Khan, were also felicitated at the event.



UNESCO MGIEP

UNLEARN Conference

UNESCO MGIEP, in partnership with Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi (IITD) organized a two day workshop for instructors on Difference Learning in April 2016. Ms. Kate Currawalla and Ms. Masarrat Khan participated in this event which was attended by 488 professionals including Teachers, Special Educators, Psychologists and Counsellors. Ms. Kate Currawalla shared her experience as a mother of two sons with Dyslexia and Ms. Masarrat Khan conducted a workshop for Language Teachers on Phonological Awareness and Phonics which was attended by over 100 professionals.

Post the conference, ideation continued on ways to extend the workshop to more professionals. Ms. Masarrat Khan subsequently participated in a live chat in December 2016 where she answered questions related to Dyslexia, Education Policies, Inclusion and the Persons with Disabilities Act.



McCann Advertising

To promote an understanding of how students with Dyslexia are easily confused by the letters in the English language that seem to morph into each other, McCann India designed a pop-up book called 'Dancing Letters' demonstrating how letters in the English language are mirror images of each other. The design team approached MDA for assistance and worked closely with the team on the project.

A film crew from McCann visited the Tardeo Centre in April 2016 to record a demo session of the Multisensory Structured Language Therapy. Special Educator Ms. Manek Chitalwala demonstrated the steps with two of her students. The crew also recorded an interview with Ms. Kate Currawalla discussing how the early struggles of students with Dyslexia impact their lives well into adulthood.

This campaign eventually bagged numerous awards at prestigious events like the Adfest 2016, the London International Awards 2016 and the Cannes Lions 2016, leading to much acclaim for McCann Worldgroup's India office.

We hope that the book and video go on to become a valuable resource in creating an understanding of the many challenges of Reading Disabilities.

International Dyslexia Association (IDA)

As a global partner to IDA, MDA contributed to the second edition of IDA Global Partner Handbook 'Responding to Dyslexia Around The World' with a video and an article highlighting its work in India and the need to develop a global network for Dyslexia. The video was screened and the handbook distributed at IDA's International Conference held in Orlando in October 2016.

Atma

MDA has completed the first year of the Atma Accelerator Programme, a capacity building programme for NGOs and social enterprises that work in the education sector. This three year programme is aimed at ensuring that the partner organisations develop a sustainable leadership structure and systems and processes required to scale up, have a strong fundraising capacity, are able to capture and articulate their impact and plan systematic growth. MDA joined this programme in 2016 with the aim of creating a more efficient and professionally run organisation with a clear management structure. MDA in collaboration with Atma, has been reviewing and upgrading the process of staff recruitment, monitoring and evaluation, leadership development as well as communication planning. A lot of work has been done to advance communication, especially with the launch of the newsletter to update stakeholders about the sector and MDA's work. Additionally, Atma supported in the creation of the Annual Report for 2015-16, developed a short video about MDA for the IDA conference as well as facilitated engaging Ms. Ashwini Nair as a Communications Consultant to help develop brand strategy and communications for MDA.



Ashoka Conclave

The Ashoka Foundation held a dinner conclave on Education at Mumbai Cricket Association Club, Mumbai in July 2016. As an Ashoka Fellow, Ms. Kate Currawalla attended the event, which facilitated networking with key organisations and government agencies.

The National Institute of Public Cooperation & Child Development (NIPCCD)

NIPCCD, an autonomous organization working under the aegis of Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India, is a premier institution engaged in the promotion of voluntary action, training, research, consultancy and documentation in the twin fields of women and child development. Ms. Parul Srivastav, Deputy Director in Charge, Child Guidance Centre at NIPCCD reached out to MDA to seek expert guidance for updating assessment tools used for diagnosis of children with Learning Disability. MDA assisted NIPCCD by sharing the list of assessment tools currently in use at the MDA centres.

EmPower

EmPower ODE under the aegis of Joy Lall Memorial Educational Society, held a Conference EMPOWER to Educate, Manage, Prepare, Optimize, Work, Enhance and Reward in November 2016 in Chandigarh. The aim of the programme was to create awareness about the Special Needs of students with Learning Disabilities and to educate parents and other stakeholders about the importance of remediation in schools. Ms. Kate Currawalla was a keynote speaker at the event which had speakers from all over India and conducted a four hour workshop for parents. Ms. Masarrat Khan was one of the panellists and spoke about Dyslexia Myths and also conducted a four hour workshop on Phonological Awareness and Phonics.



New Horizons & TISS

A conference on 'Child Development and Neurodevelopmental Disorders: A Rational Approach' was conducted by New Horizons Institute of Education and Research (NHI) in collaboration with The School of Human Ecology, Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Mumbai, in January 2017. The conference saw an amalgamation of more than 230 delegates comprising stalwart speakers from varied fields of Developmental Paediatrics, Psychiatry, Psychology and Special Education.

Ms. Masarrat Khan was part of the panel created to discuss 'Inclusive Education: Schooling for Differently Abled Students'. Participating panellists included Psychiatrist Dr. Kersi Chavda, Psychiatrist Dr. Yusuf Matcheswalla and Psychologist Ms. Minal Sule.



TRIKA 2016

The Centre for Holistic Integrated Learning and Development, Chennai, held its first International Conference, TRIKA '16, on 17th December 2016 with the theme being 'Empowering to Empower'. The aim of this conference was to empower young adults with Dyslexia to transition smoothly from higher education to employment. Ms. Masarrat Khan presented relevant information on Accommodations and Government Policies for College Students with Dyslexia at this event which was attended by more than 350 students, teachers and professionals from the field of Learning Disability. Ms Khan was honoured for her outstanding service and dedication towards individuals with Learning Disabilities at this event.



TISS

Ms. Kate Currawalla attended a three day National Conference on 'Paradigm Shift in Inclusive Learning' held at TISS, Mumbai, in January 2017. This conference focussed on raising awareness and promoting the use of innovative practices in schools to help build inclusive learning. Ms. Currawalla was also a moderator for a panel discussion on Learning Disabilities.



Toolbox

Ms. Divya Balgi attended 'Out of the Box', an event conducted by Toolbox in India, on Leveraging Partnerships. With over 60 participants in attendance, this event, held in November 2016, covered the journey of Toolbox in India over the last five years. Topics discussed included 'Leveraging Partnerships', 'Collective Impact', 'Outcomes of Successful Partnerships', 'Funding and Financial Model Planning' and 'Good Governance and Compliances'.

TISS & UNICEF

In March 2017, a consultation was organised by TISS and UNICEF to frame Recommendatory Guidelines For Sections Related To Education For Children With Disabilities (CWD) in Maharashtra. Ms. Masarrat Khan participated in this discussion led by Ms Kamini Kapadia, State Consultant, Child Policy and Advocacy, UNICEF Maharashtra and Ms. Sandhya Limaye, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Centre for Disability Studies and Action, School of Social Work, Tata Institute of Social Sciences.

GATI

Gati is a consortium set up by Atma to develop and disseminate best practices and address mutual challenges in the education sector for persons with disabilities. As of March 2017, it is a cohort of 25 members participating through bimonthly meetings and exposure visits that aim to address the challenges faced by students with intellectual disabilities and mental or developmental disorders. Ms. Masarrat Khan represented MDA at an event organised by Atma which saw participation from 12 NGOs. The event, held in January 2017 at Mona Remedial Education Centre, Dadar, included a presentation by Ummeed on Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act and presentations by three other NGOs offering Vocational Training and Consultancy for youth with disabilities.

Ms. Kate Currawalla and Ms. Fatima Martins attended the third Gati Bimonthly Meeting held in March 2017 at Jai Vakeel School, Parel. This meeting included a panel discussion on role of parents in driving intervention and learning for students with disabilities, moderated by Dr. Franzina Coutinho, as well as sessions on Curriculum and Assessments conducted by Ms. Srishti Gulati from Teach For India and Ms. Kimaya Abreu from Atma.

This is a valuable platform for learning and networking created by Atma. This initiative will definitely benefit all stakeholders by bringing likeminded organisations together. Kudos to Atma on this initiative.

Digitization Project with Piramal Foundation

In an effort to be paperless, increase efficiency and for better utilization of office space, Mr. Nishant Singh, Head of Research at the Piramal Foundation will be working with MDA to assist the process of converting manual records of Case Histories into digital format. After evaluating the existing records in July, along with Ms. Tanushree Sharma, Co-ordinator CSR, Mr. Singh recommended developing a software to help psychologists input information directly into the system as they conduct discussions with parents. Ms. Masarrat Khan and Ms. Diya Basu will be working closely with Mr. Singh in order to ensure that the software developed includes all important fields required to develop comprehensive Case Histories. Once development is complete, Mr. Singh will be designating a resource to transfer previous manual Case Histories to the digitized format while current case histories could be uploaded live.

The objective of this project is to ensure quick access to students' records that have been maintained over the last 20 years. This is especially critical, since at MDA, we don't destroy data as it provides valuable information for research and analysis.



SCHOOL COLLABORATIONS

Muktangan

MDA's long association with the Muktangan group of schools for children from low-income backgrounds (municipal schools) continued in a modified form during the reporting year. Sadly, due to a resource crunch, our Special Educators could no longer provide remedial services at the Globe Mills School, a long-standing programme that ended in April 2016. However, our trainers continue to provide support to Muktangan's own remedial teachers, who have been trained in the use of the Multisensory Structured Reading Programme.

Udayachal Schools

In its ongoing role as consultant for the Special Needs Department at the Udayachal (Primary and Secondary) schools, MDA continued to provide guidance and advice on the identification, design and monitoring of support services for students facing a range of language and academic difficulties. Additionally, in July 2016, Ms. Kate Currawalla conducted a two hour workshop for the Primary School on 'Learning Disabilities in the Mainstream Classroom' followed by a lively Q&A session with the teachers.

St. Mary's School, Pune

As part of their plan to set up a 'Special Education Needs Cell' for students with learning challenges, a team of teachers and administrators from St. Mary's visited Mumbai to learn more about remedial education and the services offered by MDA. An introductory workshop on early identification was conducted for the teachers by Ms. Masarrat Khan in March 2017. MDA will be partnering with the school in this initiative by providing training and support for teachers engaged with the SEN Cell.

J. N. Petit Technical High School, Pune

In its second year of partnership, MDA continues to work with the J. N. Petit Technical High School in re-designing their Language Arts Curriculum for the pre-primary classes. Ms. Masarrat Khan of MDA and Ms. Rameeza Khan of Bai Avabai Framji Petit Girls' High School have designed the new curriculum with an emphasis on the acquisition of communication, oral language and pre-reading as well as pre-writing skills for children who are first generation or ESL learners. Regular training sessions were conducted for teachers throughout the year on lesson planning and proficiency in the delivery of the curriculum. Regular visits were made to the school to monitor and evaluate the implementation of the programme, receive feedback and offer consultation and counselling to the teachers. This programme will progress with these students year on year as they move through Primary School, building a customized English Language instruction programme to meet the needs of ESL and first generation learners.



VIDYA

VIDYA is an NGO that specializes in the education and empowerment of underprivileged children, youth and women by working with them at an individual level. Ms. Masarrat Khan was part of a panel discussion on 'What makes a Good Book?' held at Powai English High School in October 2016.

Bai Avabai Framji Petit Girls' High School, Mumbai

A two day workshop on Phonics and Cursive Handwriting was conducted by Ms. Masarrat Khan and Ms. Rameeza Khan in March 2017 for Pre-Primary Teachers, Special Educators and Counsellors.



GITAM University, Visakhapatnam

2-day workshop on 'Phonological Awareness, Phonics, Spelling Rules & Comprehension Strategies' was conducted by Ms. Masarrat Khan for MA Psychology students on 22nd and 23rd March 2017.

Billabong School

As part of a local outreach initiative in the distant suburbs, a team of Psychologists from MDA met the Principal, Dr. Rajani Krishnaswamy in February 2017 to provide information regarding MDA's activities. Dr. Krishnaswamy was especially keen to know more about the Dombivli Centre and was provided an introduction to all the services offered there. Additionally, details of membership for institutions and the Dyslexia Therapist Training Programme and the FIE Programme were also shared. The meeting concluded with Dr. Krishnaswamy expressing her interest in institutional membership at MDA.

We look forward to working with them in the future.



Sri Sri Ravishankar Vidyamandir

At the invitation of a Teach for India Fellow placed at the school, a six day Study Skills Programme was conducted in December 2016 for the students of Sri Sri Ravishankar Vidyamandir, Dharavi, a school for children from under-privileged backgrounds. MDA's Study Skills Programme was adapted to help students with poor grasp of English to learn good study strategies in preparation for the Board Exams.

Rasbihari International School, Nashik

As part of its initiative to provide world-class educational standards to all its students, Rasbihari International School has been relying on MDA's services to support students with special educational needs. In May 2016, Ms. Masarrat Khan and Ms. Deesha Pandya visited the school as part of a panel created to review candidacy for the posts of Special Educator, Occupational Therapist and Speech Therapist.

CAPACITY BUILDING



MDA's flagship programme, the Dyslexia Therapist Training Programme, is the only one of its kind in India to be recognised by the Academic Language Therapy Association (ALTA), USA. This is a two-year part-time certificate course in Dyslexia Therapy organised in collaboration with the Multisensory Language Training Institute of New Mexico (MLTI-NM). Trainees have to complete 700 hours of hands-on teaching to qualify for certification. Course completion certificates are awarded by MLTI-NM and MDA jointly.

Ms. Harshada Pathare of Batch 2 and Ms. Manju Ramchandani and Ms. Payal Chordia of Batch 7 successfully completed the course and received their Dyslexia Therapist Certificate in 2016.

This year was the 10th Batch which included 11 Trainees - 1 each from Dubai, Delhi, Indore, Chennai, Surat, Nashik, Thane and 2 each from Navi Mumbai and Mumbai.

Dyslexia Therapist Training Programme (DTTP)



With the International Dyslexia Association introducing certification recognising specialists in Specific Learning Disability (Dyslexia), our alumni have been recognised as Certified Dyslexia Therapists.

Therapists from MDA who received this certification from IDA are Ms. Manek Chitalwala, Ms. Masarrat Khan, Ms. Archana Sureka and Ms. Rama Tandon (Batch 1), Ms. Harshita Sharma (Batch 2), Ms. Rima Shah (Batch 3) and Ms. Geeta Dalal (Batch 4).

Feuerstein Instrumental Enrichment (FIE) Programme

Based on the concepts developed by the internationally renowned Israeli Psychologist Prof. Reuven Feuerstein, the FIE is an intervention programme designed to enhance cognitive skills necessary for independent thinking. FIE helps with correcting deficient cognitive functions and enhancing the individual's capacity to learn more effectively from direct exposure in formal as well as informal learning situations.

Maharashtra Dyslexia Association organised two intensive training programmes over 5 days each in October and November 2016 to train teachers, special educators, counsellors and psychologists in the use of the FIE instruments. This training, conducted by Prof. Louis H. Falik, Certified Trainer, International Center for the Enhancement of Learning Potential (ICELP), Jerusalem, introduced the first four instruments out of a series of fourteen in the Level 1 programme attended and covered another five instruments in the Level 2 programme. The Level 1 programme saw 14 participants while Level 2 programme included 13 participants. Over the course of both the training programmes, participants gained knowledge in the use of Organisation of Dots, Orientation in Space -1, Comparisons, Analytic Perception, Orientation in Space -2, Family Relations, Temporal Relations, Categorisation and Illustrations.

The use of these instruments proves beneficial for students within classrooms as well as individual diverse populations ranging from low-functioning performers to gifted underachievers. By implementing these instruments, teachers can enable students to sharpen critical thinking with the concepts, skills, strategies, operations, and attitudes necessary for independent learning; to diagnose and correct deficiencies in thinking skills; and to "learn how to learn"

Arya Vidya Mandir Schools

The Arya Vidya Mandir group of schools has been a long standing promoter of inclusion in schools for well over 25 years and regularly participating in MDA's training programmes and workshops. A customised two day training session was held at their request in December 2016 at MDA's Dadar Centre to train 9 Special Educators from the AVM group of schools in the administration, analysis and interpretation of Woodcock Johnson III - Tests of Achievement. Ms. Masarrat Khan and her team of Psychologists and Special Educators trained the participants to assess skill levels of students with learning difficulties and plan IEPs based on their assessment.

Vidya Vikasini School, Coimbatore

This is a school that has taken the initiative to create a special division for students with learning disability. Ms. Masarrat Khan conducted a specially designed Teacher Training Programme over a period of five days in May 2016 for 16 teachers at the school in Coimbatore. Topics covered ranged from Overview of Reading, Phonological and Phonemic Awareness, Phonics, Comprehension Strategies to Study Skills. These teachers are now working with students with diverse learning challenges at the school. During her visit, Ms Khan also held a Q&A session for parents of students identified with learning difficulties and had personal interactions with parents of five students exhibiting severe learning difficulties to provide necessary guidance. We hope this is the start of a mutually satisfying and enriching partnership between MDA and the School.

Learning Disability Awareness Workshops

In June 2016, Ms. Masarrat Khan conducted a series of workshops for 265 teachers from The Akanksha Foundation as well as the Bombay Scottish Schools. The awareness workshop focused on providing teachers with a firsthand experience of what it meant to have a learning disability (Dyslexia). Through real life stories and samples of works of students with learning disability, the teachers learned to recognise the signs and characteristics of learning disability, their role in identifying students 'at risk' of learning disability, whom they should refer to for assessment, what the assessment procedure involves and the importance of early identification and intervention.

Workshop for Pratham Community Workers

A session on 'Intellectual Disability' was conducted by Ms. Masarrat Khan in December 2016 for 35 community workers of Pratham. This was part of Pratham's internal training on disability sensitization and identification held for their field teams from other states.

Workshop for Adoptive Parents

Catalysts for Social Action held a workshop themed 'Adoption and the Growing Years' in May 2016. Over 30 parents, social workers, and counsellors attended this workshop where Ms. Masarrat Khan participated by speaking about 'Dyslexia and Learning Disabilities' to the participants in order to help them understand the challenges surrounding Dyslexia.

With research showing that there is a higher incidence of Learning Disability amongst adoptive children, workshops such as these are relevant and important.

SNDT (CRE)

The Department of Special Education, SNDT Women's University, Mumbai, organized a three day Continuing Rehabilitation Education (CRE) programme on "Phonetic Approach to Reading and Spelling" in December 2016. Owing to her experience in the field, Ms. Masarrat Khan was invited to conduct a session on Phonemic Awareness for 50 special educators at the Department of Special Education, Mumbai. This session helped participants to improve their understanding of the process of development of phonemic awareness skills.

WORKSHOPS FOR NIRMALA NIKETAN MSW PART-2

A. Talk on Learning Disability

Students from the College of Social Work, Nirmala Niketan, invited Ms. Masarrat Khan to participate in the Disability Awareness Workshop held in February 2017 at the National Society For Equal Opportunities For the Handicapped (NASEOH), Chembur. In this workshop attended by 35 Anganwadi and Balwadi teachers, Ms. Masarrat Khan shared valuable insights about learning disability, its causes, methods of prevention and ways of early identification.

B. Psychometric Testing & Assessment

An introductory two hour session on Psychometric Testing and Assessment was conducted by Ms. Masarrat Khan in July 2016 at the College of Social Work, Nirmala Niketan, Mumbai, for 55 post graduate students of Master of Social Work II. The students were shown samples of various tests and also administered parts of certain tests to get a better insight and understanding of psychometric testing and assessment and their relevance.

PARENTS' WORKSHOPS

A new initiative launched during the year under review was a series of workshops for parents of students with Learning Disability. These workshops are conducted by MDA's Special Educators and Psychologists in order to equip parents with usable and practical strategies to cope better with the academic, behavioural and emotional challenges their children face. The two-hour workshops are held on the last Saturday of every month, in English and Hindi.

Learning by Listening

This workshop for parents was conducted in September 2016 by MDA's Special Educators at the Dadar Centre. Topics covered were Auditory Discrimination, Critical Listening, Listening Comprehension and Auditory Memory, and included an interactive Q&A session. In addition to the knowledge gained in the workshop, parents also received informational handouts and a list of educational activities that they could take home and use whenever needed.



Visual Skills

Special Educators of MDA explored the concept of Visual Skills and its various sub categories along with offering tips on helping children read fluently, improve long term memory, concentration as well as providing strategies for behaviour management.

Make Learning Fun

Attended by both parents as well as students of the Dyslexia Therapist Training Programme, this workshop focussed on placing emphasis on the uniqueness of every child so as to develop customised learning plans. The Psychologists introduced a host of topics like Personal Limitations and Potential, Learning Environment, Positive Learning as well as the use of Technology to make learning accessible and relevant.

Developmental Coordination Disorder (DCD)

Topics discussed ranged from diagnostic criteria, occupational therapy and its importance, early intervention techniques for parents as well as tips to help participants understand the symptoms of DCD better. The DTTP Therapists-in-Training also attended this workshop.

Coping With Exams

This workshop equipped parents with the information and skills required to help their children during exam time. This workshop focused on helping parents to understand different learning styles as well as ways to relieve stress through breathing and stretching exercises.

ADHD Awareness and Behaviour Management Techniques

This workshop aimed to introduce parents to topics such as Symptoms of Inattention, Hyperactivity and Impulsivity, Myths of ADHD, Importance of Medication and Behaviour Management Techniques. Conducted by Psychologists at MDA, this workshop gave parents a thorough understanding about ADHD along with equipping them with practical tools required to guide their children at home.

Reading & Comprehension

This workshop highlighted the importance of Reading Comprehension while providing strategies for comprehension along with an introduction to reading resources like Story Weaver and Spotathon.



EVENTS AT MDA CENTRES

Deonar, Dadar, Dombivali, Vile Parle, Tardeo, Surat, Goa

Felicitation Ceremony

The proudest event of the year at MDA allows our staff and students to give themselves a well-deserved pat on the back! This year, 19 students were felicitated for rising to the challenge and achieving academic success. Held in July 2016, this is a day that serves as a validation of MDA's efforts and the students' will to succeed. Chief Guests, Mr. Kabir Bhogilal and Mrs. Farah Bhogilal handed out prizes and gifts to the students.

STANDARD	STUDENT	BOARD	RESULTS (%)
10th	Aditya Chavarkar	CBSE	94
	Vishal Shinkar	ICSE	87
	Krishna Tayde	SSC	85
	Pratik Gautam	ICSE	82
	Ronak Koshy	ICSE	77
	Shivani Shankarnarayan	SSC	74
	Yash Narse	CBSE	72
	Khushal Badhe	SSC	67
	Devesh Chakraborty	SSC	60
	Rithik Shetty	SSC	58
	Gautam Sahasrabudhe	NIOS	52
	Kashyap Devidasani	ICSE	84
12th	Saffana Siddique	ISC	92
	Anand Hiren Merchant	HSC	75
	Aditya Shinkar	HSC	75
	Vikramaditya	ISC	66
	Yash Komal Singh Sirohi	HSC	62

Over and above this illustrious list, it is a matter of pride to celebrate the achievements of our former students: Neha Rao completed her graduation from National Institution of Design (NID) while Lavina Dodeja graduated from K. C. College.



HPY

An initiative by the Parsi Community, the Holiday Programme for the Youth (HPY) is a month-long programme organised for students who have finished their Standard 10 exams. The objective of this programme is to expose students to various career opportunities and improve their employability skills. As part of this initiative, CAP organised visits to various NGOs, one of them being MDA. MDA hosted four batches for 20 kids each, with special educators and psychologists sharing a presentation on Dyslexia. The students had a very positive experience and shared that the experience was an eye opener for them as they finally understood the challenges faced by their classmates who had Dyslexia. It also proved to be a good experience for the MDA staff to present to and interact with students from general education.



One Day - One Story

A special reading programme in association with Pratham Books was conducted at MDA to celebrate International Literacy Day. 17 students actively participated in this event where they were introduced to reading using ClaroRead. In addition, the students tried their hand at Origami and enacted the designated story. Students worked together as a team, thereby learning the importance of mutual respect, trust and acceptance.

Computer Workshop

In a community service initiative by Ecole Mondial School, their students conducted a workshop on basic computer skills for students of MDA. This workshop was held in June 2016 at MDA Deonar and was attended by students of MDA. The students of Ecole Mondial School introduced the basics of computers to MDA students along with imparting information on Internet browsing and providing introduction to software like MS Office and Paint.

Standard Chartered Mumbai Marathon 2017

Mr. Paritosh Joshi represented MDA at SCMM 2017. He was an active fundraiser and managed to raise more than Rs.47,700 through active campaigning for MDA. In addition, MDA raised a total Rs.1,77,000 from auction of bibs.

Summer Workshop

To increase the students' overall reading and vocabulary skills, a series of workshops were conducted in May 2016 to introduce them to the use of Assistive Technology applications like ClaroRead, a highly effective multisensory solution that supports reading and writing. We are grateful to the team from Unique Ability Consulting for making the software available to our students and providing training and technical support.



Christmas Party & Workshop

A party for students was organised by staff at MDA on 17th Dec 2016, at the Dadar Centre. It was a fun-filled day where children enjoyed making and wearing the masks and relishing the Christmas cake. The highlight of the event was playing Secret Santa where everyone exchanged gifts and wonderful memories.



CENTRE-WISE BREAK-UP

	Deonar	Dadar	Dombivalli	Vile Parle	Tardeo	Surat	Goa	Total
Reports Generated	18	48	8	31	-	3	11	119
Case History	30	88	10	35	-	10	16	189
Assessment Session	278	1011	128	433	-	95	214	2159
Remedial Session	1488	896	29	106	207	109	-	2835
Counselling Session	68	38	-	1	1	3	-	111
Study Skills Students	1	7	-	5	-	-	-	13
Remedial Students	24	19	3	1	3	3	-	53
Aptitude Students	6	10	2	-	-	2	-	20

ART AT MDA

MDA places special emphasis on creative arts as a medium for students to explore their skills and serve as a productive outlet to express themselves. As a result, MDA students have shown great affinity to art and have won numerous accolades in the field.

Kaleidoscope

In July 2016 the Piramal Foundation invited students from MDA to be a part of the Kaleidoscope exhibition and attend a small session planned by the Piramal Art Foundation team at the Piramal Art Gallery, Parel. The exhibition was a combination of works by various artists and explored the layered nature of art. Participating artists guided the students through the exhibition while explaining to them about the various artistic media that are used to express the artist's vision. They also held a workshop where they gave the students various materials enabling them to explore their creative sides to develop their own special art pieces. It was a wonderful opportunity for students to see the works of professional artists and be able to interact with them.



Very Special Arts India

Very Special Arts India announced its 22nd Annual Art Competition in January 2016 on topics ranging from Flowers, Paisley Designs, Deserts to Walking in the Rain. Nine students from MDA participated in the competition to showcase their creativity of which 3 students won prizes. Sahil Gawand and Uddhav Borse won the first prize in their respective categories while Ashwini Gunjalkar won second prize.

CREATE Foundation Annual Inter NGO Skit Competition

The Children's Research in Education, Theatre and Art Environment held its 6th Trophy for Artistic Excellence on 16th December 2016 at Seva Sadan, Gamdevi. Of the twenty NGOs that were screened for the audition, eleven, including MDA, were selected. Students of MDA performed a mime on the topic 'Give Peace a Chance' and went on to win the 2nd Runner Up position in the 'Able Category' in this competition judged by eminent theatre personalities Ms. Sabira Merchant and Ms. Tanisha Mukherjee.

Diwali Workshop

To celebrate the festival of lights, two days of fun activities was arranged at MDA, Deonar. 18 students participated in quizzes and games along with gaining an introduction to various activities like preparation of diya holders from waste CDs and paper lantern making. The students thoroughly enjoyed the craft workshop and were proud to see their craftsmanship on display at the end of the event.



All India Sketching & Painting Competition

At this event held in October 2016 by Bhavani CDC, Jaipur, students of MDA participated by sending their artworks depicting Forts in India. Ashwini Gunjalkar, Vikramaditya Sawe and Nimisha Tilekar were awarded participation certificates for their artwork.



ORGANISATIONAL & TEAM DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES

Multisensory Maths Course

Ms. Masarrat Khan and Ms. Rameeza Khan attended a five day course on Multisensory Math 1 in July 2016 which was conducted by Trident Academy, South Carolina. The course conducted by Ms. Marilyn Zecher, M.A., CALT is based on the Orton-Gillingham philosophy of teaching where it applies the research-based Concrete-Representation-Abstract (CRA) approach to teaching mathematics as advocated by the National Math Panel and the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics. Training was imparted on the application of this methodology to guide students from foundation skills and numeracy to place value, operations, fractions and decimals. Participants learnt to use manipulatives effectively to reinforce concepts, aid memory and enhance performance for all students.

Self Defence Training

In May 2016, Mr. Martial Vout, a Swiss security advisor, bodyguard and self-defence instructor, conducted a session on Self Defence for Atma's Partners. After training in the US, France and Switzerland, his past work experience includes the protection of varied CEOs, Middle East personalities and actors in Switzerland and other European countries. He discussed and introduced topics like inner strength and combat techniques to the MDA team. The easy to use techniques gave staff members a hands-on guide to self defence.

Teachers' Day Celebrations

In celebration of Teachers' Day, Ms. Kate Currawalla hosted a lunch party for the entire MDA staff on 16th September 2016. To culminate the event, staff increments were announced and Amazon gift vouchers worth Rs. 1000 along with goodie bags were handed to everyone present in order to make the day a memorable one for the entire MDA team.

Financial Compliance Webinar

Ms. Divya Balgi attended a webinar on Financial Compliance for NGOs organized by the Thomson Reuters Foundation in February 2017. The accountancy firm Sunil Goel & Associates discussed the various ways of setting up an NGO along with compliances and reporting requirements. They also touched upon the recent amendments in FCRA with the aim to guide NGOs to establish an enhanced accounting and taxation outlook.

Learning Through Technology

VIDYA is a not for profit organization working with children, adolescents and youth in the urban slum communities of Delhi, Gurgaon, Mumbai, Bangalore and Pune that has a holistic approach to education and focuses on Academics, Life Skills and Digital Empowerment. VIDYA's Computer Learning Resource Centre (CLRC) works with the aim of making Information Communication Technology (ICT), a tool used to address poverty reduction and to achieve developmental goals across the globe, accessible and affordable to VIDYA's primary beneficiaries as well as the local community. As part of the Technology Fest 2017 held in February where focus was on spreading 'Learning Through Technology', Ms. Susan George and Ms. Deepti Makhija attended a session on Virtual Reality/ Educational Apps. This session provided insight into critical subjects like Cyber Safety, Bullying and creating Android Apps as well as enhancing writing skills using publishing platforms like Story Weaver.

Irlen Syndrome Workshop

To introduce MDA staff to the extent to which sensory issues can impact attention, learning and behaviour, the Irlen Syndrome Workshop was conducted in March 2017 by Ms. Tehnaz Ragi at MDA, Dadar. During the workshop, Ms. Ragi provided tools that would be beneficial in understanding and helping students better, a welcome addition to MDA's repertoire of assessment tools.

CAP's Compliance Complete Conference

Held at Sunville Banquets, Mumbai in March 2017, Ms. Divya Balgi attended this conference on the theme Compliance – Complete. Sessions included topics like Fundraising by Ms. Usha Menon, Human Resources debate led by Ms. Priya Naik, round table discussion on Communication led by Ms. Swati Apte and panel discussion on Sector Intermediaries led by Ms. Rati Forbes.

IN THE NEWS

2016 has been a significant year with the passing of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2016 by Parliament on 16th December 2016. The implementation of the Act came into force on 19th April 2017. This Act recognises Dyslexia under the category of neuro-developmental disorders and has clear guidelines for providing appropriate educational provisions within the mainstream education system. MDA was one of the numerous organisations that actively campaigned for the Bill and was also a key contributor to its drafting.
<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mumbai/new-law-will-help-ld-students-get-admission/articleshow/56029682.cms?from=mdr>

Communications Consultant

As part of MDA's continued effort to stay relevant and constantly improve reach, Ms. Ashwini Nair was signed on as 'Communications Consultant' in order to focus on and improve MDA's communication efforts. She brings with her over 13 years of experience in Brand Strategy and Marketing Communication and will be working closely with the leadership team in order to help define MDA's brand strategy with the aim of positioning Maharashtra Dyslexia Association as the Dyslexia thought leader in India, along with driving long-term communication goals and evaluating impact. As first step in this direction, she conducted an interactive workshop for key staff members of MDA in order to introduce them to the concept and need for branding as a tool to develop strategic and cohesive communication. The interactive workshop guided the participating team members to experience brand thinking and the process of defining a brand personality while highlighting its significance with respect to their work at MDA. Post the workshop, Ms. Ashwini Nair developed a detailed Brand Strategy which would serve as the guide for all upcoming communication efforts.



Pearson Clinical and Talent Assessment (PCTA) is a part of Pearson, the world's leading learning company, with 150 years of experience in publishing. They featured MDA in the second issue of their newsletter.

MDA's entry to CAP Magazine was selected and published in their Q4 news magazine. In line with the theme MAKING A DIFFERENCE, MDA submitted Viraj Joshi's inspiring story and drawing which was featured in the magazine.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

MDA is deeply grateful to its patrons and donors for their sustained support, year on year. Their continuing faith in our work and resolve to help further the cause of individuals with Dyslexia provides us with the motivation to continue our efforts to ensure that individuals with Dyslexia lead an enriching life as productive and independent citizens of tomorrow.

The Pirojsha Godrej Foundation and our ever-supportive Patron Mrs. Pheroza Godrej
Mrs. Smita Crishna

The N. M. Petit Charity Fund and Sir Dinshaw and Lady Petit

The Bai Alamai And Seth Ardeshir Talati And Seth Sarosh B. Mody Charity Trust

Mrs. Scylla R. Vatcha

Sir Shapoorji Burjorji Broacha Charity Trust

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Mr. Gaurav Arya

Mr. Homi Bhabha & Brandon Co. Pvt.Ltd.

Mr. Gopal Vazirani

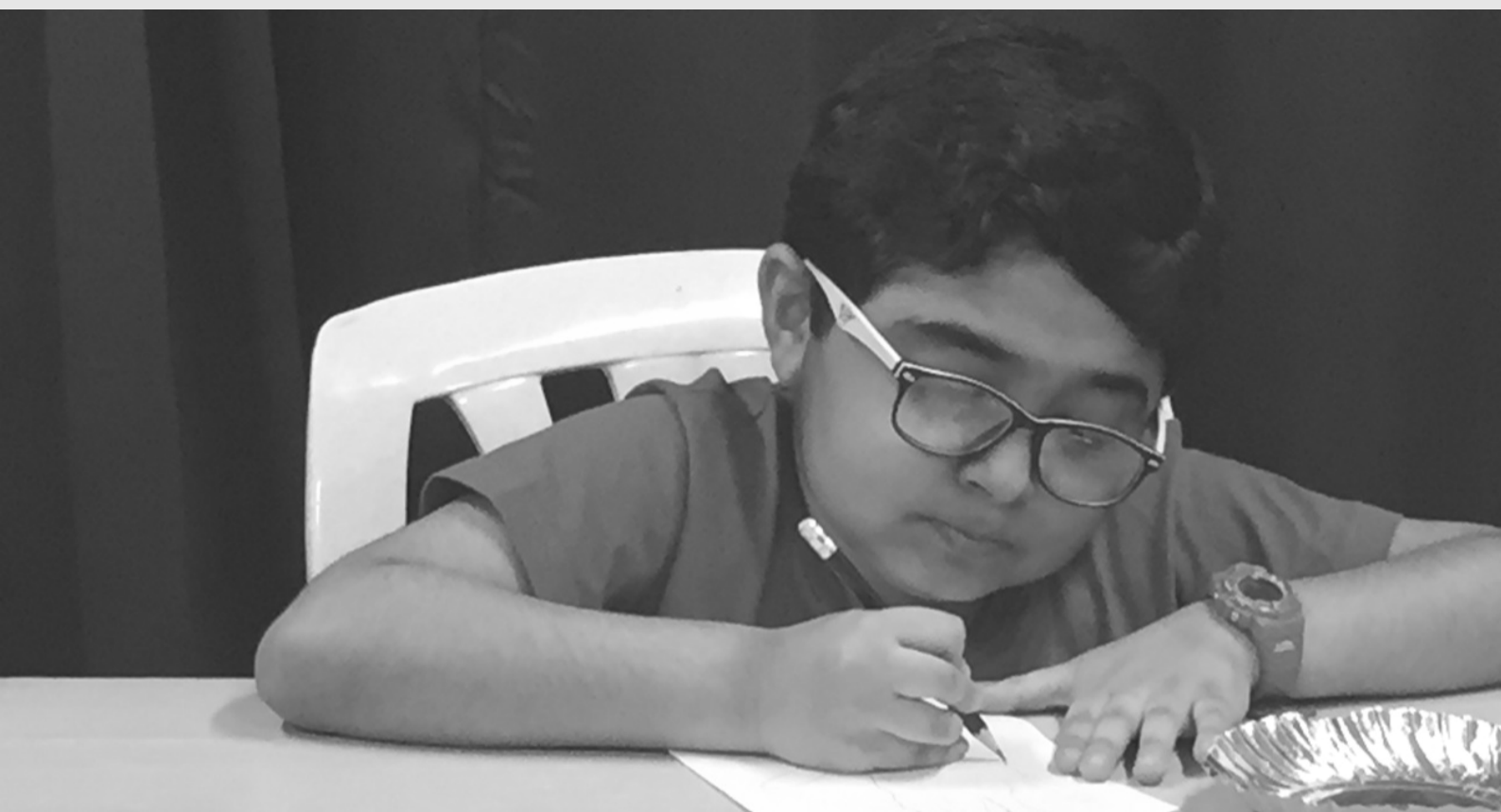
Mr. Kabir Bhogilal and the Leherchand Uttamchand Trust Fund

Mr. Vijay Dodeja

Mr. Sachil Marwah

Mr. Paritosh Joshi

United Way Of Mumbai



ABOUT MDA



Maharashtra Dyslexia Association (MDA) is a not-for-profit organisation committed to building an integrated support system for individuals with Specific Learning Disability (Dyslexia) in order to equip them with the necessary skills and opportunities required to lead successful and fulfilling lives.



Our **Mission** is to enable individuals with Specific Learning Disability (Dyslexia) to reach their full potential by providing them with necessary support services, advocacy, research and capacity building.



Our **Vision** is to see every individual with Specific Learning Disability (Dyslexia) achieving and thriving.



Services:
Assessment
Remediation
Other Services



Workshops & Training:
Apprenticeship Programme
Dyslexia Therapist Training Programme
Other Training Programmes



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“
If I can't learn
the way you teach,
will you teach me
the way I can learn?
”