

Innovative Art Based Interventions for the Skill Development of Children with ASD and Other Disabilities

Gopinath Muthukad

Founder and Executive Director of Different Art Centre,

UNICEF celebrity supporter and ambassador of Child Friendly Kerala, an initiative by the Govt. of Kerala, India.

Abstract

The Different Art Centre model for empowerment of Children with Disabilities - the raw talents in the differently abled children are being identified, enhanced, and appreciated with the participation of family members, caregivers, and the society.

This model has effectively utilized the physical and psychological factors of different art forms like magic, music, dance etc. in the skill development of children with any kind of disabilities, including intellectual disabilities.

The training contents are focused on the improvement of their psychomotor functioning, cognitive abilities, self-esteem, self-confidence, ability to control anxiety, etc.

Given equal importance to create active performance platforms, where these children can showcase their talents in front of a socially responsible audience and get acknowledged and appreciated for their talents, which plays an important role in the psychological improvement.

A unique model of disability management beyond the ideas of special education and medical rehabilitation and mainstreaming it into other discourses such as entertainment and sports.