

1. Name of the Initiative:

Chetna is a first of its kind innovative program from the state of Gujarat. It is the first state in India to develop a Mobile based Learning Program on Children with Special Needs (CwSN) in local language. It is an innovative and novel teacher training program for cross training and capacity building for teaching Children with Special Needs and Inclusion.

2. Objective:

To aware and build the capacity of all Special Educators and In-Service Teachers on inclusion towards CwSN by learning practical tools, techniques and best practices.

3. Coverage of the initiatives:

In phase 1, 1071 Special Educators were trained and currently, 1030 SEs are registered for training. Further it is planned to provide access to all the In-Service Teachers.

4. Description of the Initiative including innovative aspects of the solution:

Chetna is a 30 Hour Mobile Learning Program and consist of short video led sessions, rich course material, case studies and assessments. The content is provided by world class subject matter experts with long experience in the field of Special needs education. It is first application that focused on 21 disabilities in local language, because of its Unicode the content of the app can be translated in any Indian language. The Pedagogy has latest learning signs and remote learning principles applied for highest level of learning outcome based on a model of “know-Do’ Be”. It’s being developed by using cutting edge technology through learning platform and mobile app with highest level of information security through cloud server. To make it more user-friendly and engaging the application adjusts as per the availability of the internet bandwidth. The content of the program is being divided into 3 modules as summarized below

- 101-Basic: Basic Awareness of 21 disabilities as listed by Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI).
- 201-Effective Educator: This module covers the topics like Attitude, Skills, Child Development, Movement Therapy, Nutrition & Diet
- 301-Advanced: This module focuses on Child Symptoms, Early Intervention, School and Classroom Preparedness.
- Apart from the above it also contained Expert Interviews, Case Studies, Reading Resources, Important websites

5. Date of Launch of the initiatives/ Start date of the initiative:

Since 1st April 2019 the project has been operational

6. Implementation details:

The following steps were followed for the deployment of Chetna Application

- Conducted pilot study with 10 Block Resource Persons / Resource Teachers (henceforth referred as Special Educators), provided digital training kit and trained them through Bhaskaracharya Institute for Space Applications and Geoinformatics (BISAG).
- Revised the content and fixed the bugs based on the feedback/suggestions received from the learners.
- Conducted Chetna Application launch event in a larger scale by inviting Hon'ble Governor, Ministers of Education and Social Justice, Principal Secretary of primary and Secondary Education and State Project Director, Samagra Shiksha.
- A team of Tele Callers were appointed to aware, assist and guide the Special Educators (SE) for easy access of the application.
- Shared user manual on various platforms such as "YouTube and WhatsApp groups"
- Shared log in credentials to all the SEs on their registered mobiles.
- Within 3 weeks of the application launch around 1000 SEs have downloaded and within 5 weeks 200 out of 1000 teachers completed the program and provided positive feedback.

7. Challenges faced during the deployment/implementation:

The following are the challenges faced before deploying the Chetna Application

- Finding disability wise Experts for the e-content development.
- Limited knowledge, Skills and Competencies of Special Educators on how to teach students with multiple disabilities. Since each student is a unique case, the Special Educator must modify their lessons to suit each disabled learner by providing Individualized Education Plans (IEPs).
- Inadequate practical knowledge of SEs as per the provision of Disability Act 2016
- Special Educators limited outreach to CwSN due to their limited knowledge on multiple disabilities

8. Outcomes/Impact of the initiative:

- Interactive learning: Learning on application helped the Special Educators to eliminate the communication gap between the learner and facilitator.
- Paper less and Transportation less thereby Better Environment: Due to this shift to digital learning we are contributing our bit to the environment by reducing the use of paper and emission of carbon dioxide (CO2).
- The Special Educators are building their knowledge by simply going online and referring the content whenever required.

9. Documents/media related to initiatives (Submit any of the below as a documentary proof with short description on the same)

a. Testimonials:

The below is the Testimonial of Hon'ble Smt P. Bharathi, State Project Director, Samagra Shiksha, Gujarat.

Digital India, Inclusion and children with special needs are a high priority of Samagra Shiksha, Gujarat. It is our quest to constantly innovate and bring the best of education and training not only to students but also to teachers and special educators who directly add value to the quality of education.

In accordance with the Government of India's vision, I had the desire to be the flag bearer of a digital program to enhance the capability and bandwidth of special educators and regular teachers in Inclusive schools. After reviewing several service providers and several presentations of various committees, we issued a work order to 361 Degree Minds India Pvt Ltd to develop and deliver this Mobile Learning Program in Gujarati

At present, the program is successfully rolled out in Gujarat to 1071 Special Educators and received very positive feedback. We are now planning to take this program across the state as a foundation program on Cross-Training on Disabilities and Inclusion. The program consists of practical knowledge and practical tips illustrated in a simple & effective manner and based on their unique Know-Do-Be Model.

Throughout the making of the program, I have experienced deep engagement and passion from 361 Degree Minds as many senior executives met me and other stakeholders at various stages right from pre-design to implementation stage to ensure the highest level of customer satisfaction and achieving the vision and objective of the program.

I wish them all the best and look forward to our continued collaboration.

b. Quotes from stakeholders

c. Press release

d. Video/Audio

e. Photos

f. Others

A few screen shots of the Chenta Application

