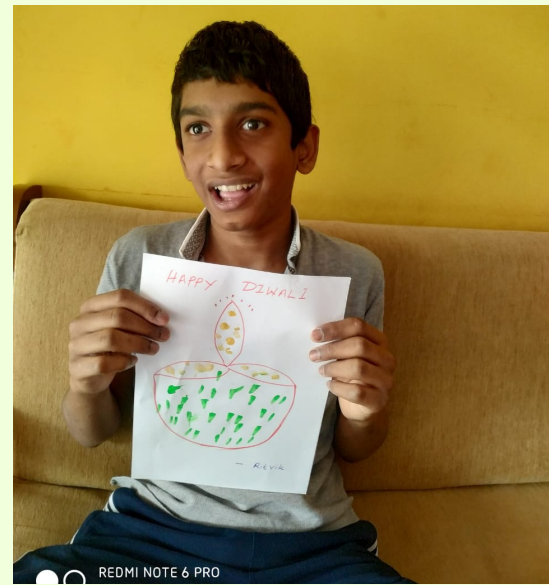
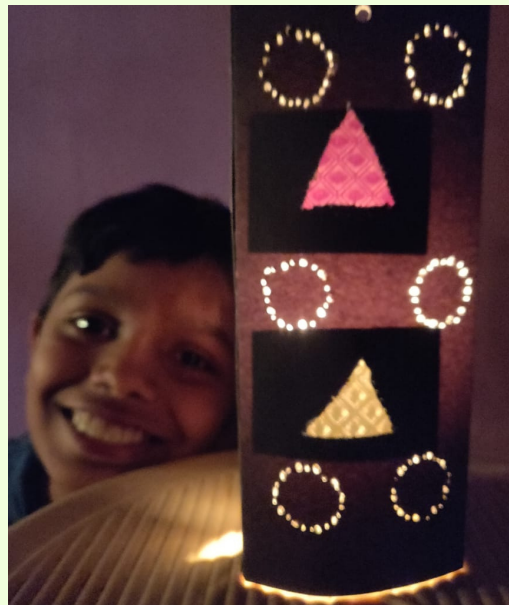
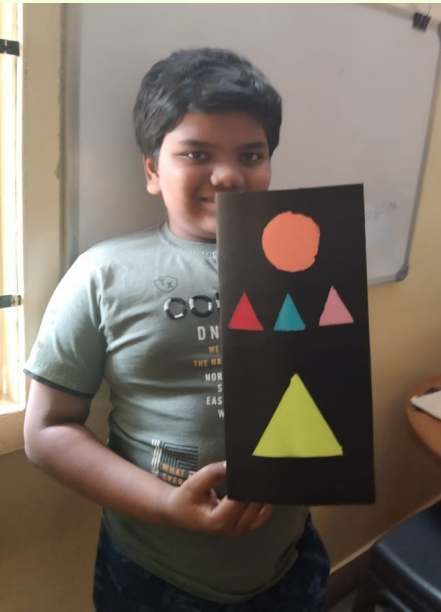
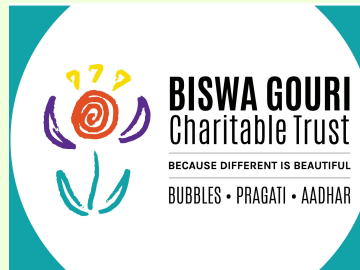


Art Gallery with creatives made during lockdown 2020





NEWSLETTER

AUGUST-OCTOBER 2020

LATEST EDITION FROM BISWA GOURI CHARITABLE TRUST



FOSTERING SOCIAL INCLUSION DURING COVID19 LOCKDOWN

Social Inclusion and community involvement is one of our pillars of approach.

COVID19 could not deter our focus and determination to bring individuals together and spread hope, joy and smiles.

We have weekly social hour sessions for our students to address social communication and mental health of the families. On festivals, we have continued to host virtual events showcasing the skills of our students.

Our young adults have taken up the role of being the Masters of Ceremonies (MC) for the virtual programs now. We are looking forward to continue our endeavor to bring together individuals during these challenging times. We are grateful to our students and their families, staff, funders and well-wishers for supporting us.

INDEPENDENCE DAY 2020

We had our virtual Independence day celebration on 15 August, 2020. Even though we could not hoist our national flag and perform a march past like last year, we made sure the spirit of the day is imbibed. All of us wore white dresses, with saffron, white or green dupattas depicting the colours of the National Flag. We began the celebration by singing our National Anthem. Thereafter, we jointly prepared a tri-coloured salad which we all relished. Finally, we also danced to the tunes of a patriotic song .

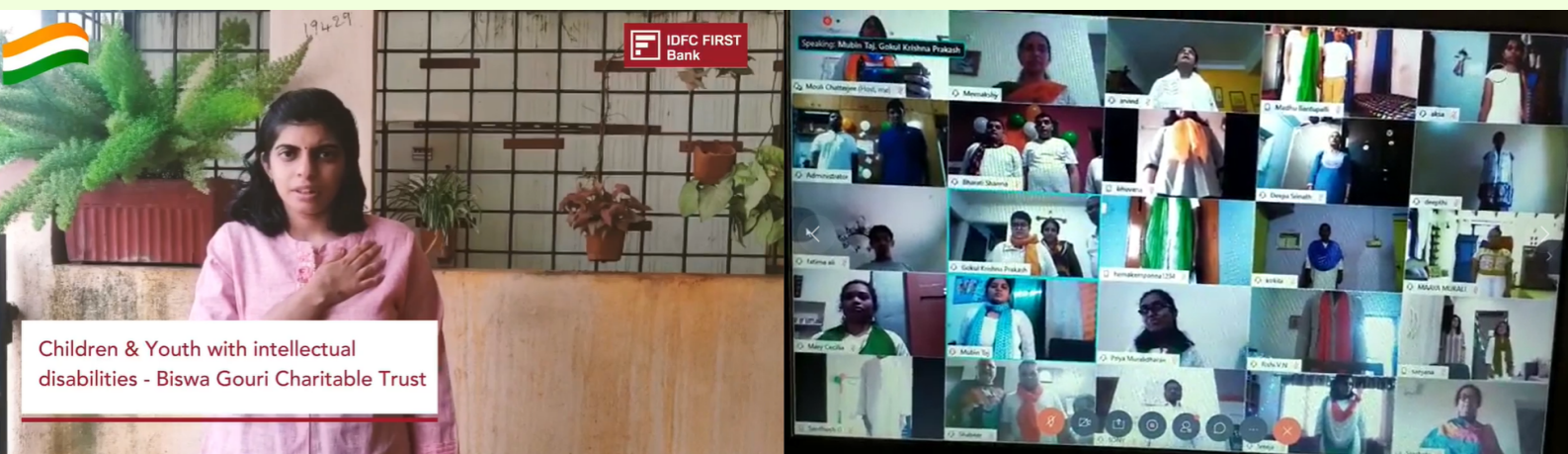
We were fortunate to be part of the video made by IDFC FIRST Bank on the occasion of Independence Day to pledge their support towards inclusion.

Here is the link to the video:

<https://www.facebook.com/428959033946938/posts/1638785379630958/>

Checkout our virtual celebration:

<https://www.facebook.com/100423724870450/posts/170107717902050/>



GANESH CHATURTHI AND ONAM 2020

Ganesh Chaturthi was a week long celebration as our students made beautiful Ganeshas using various home based materials. We used leaves, paper with mosaic art, flour and elaichi to make forms of Ganeshas.

In our virtual Onam celebration, one of our students narrated the importance of the festival and how it is celebrated. Our students made creative floral arrangements on round plates, depicting the 'pookkalam'. Therefore, we were able to make this Onam creative and colorful in the safety of our homes.

Here is a short video on Onam: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cHXObxpr1So>



JASHN-E-DUSSEHRA 2020

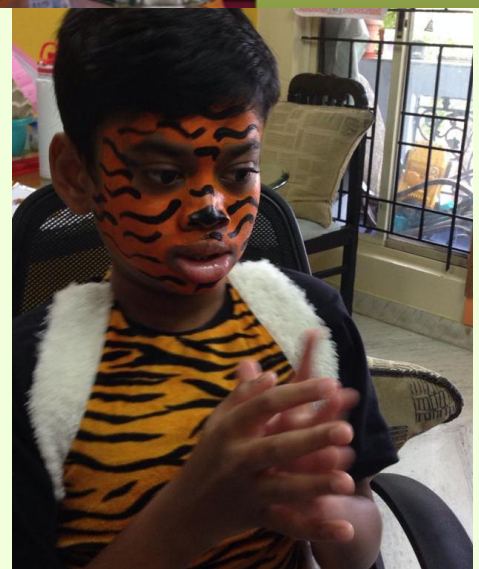
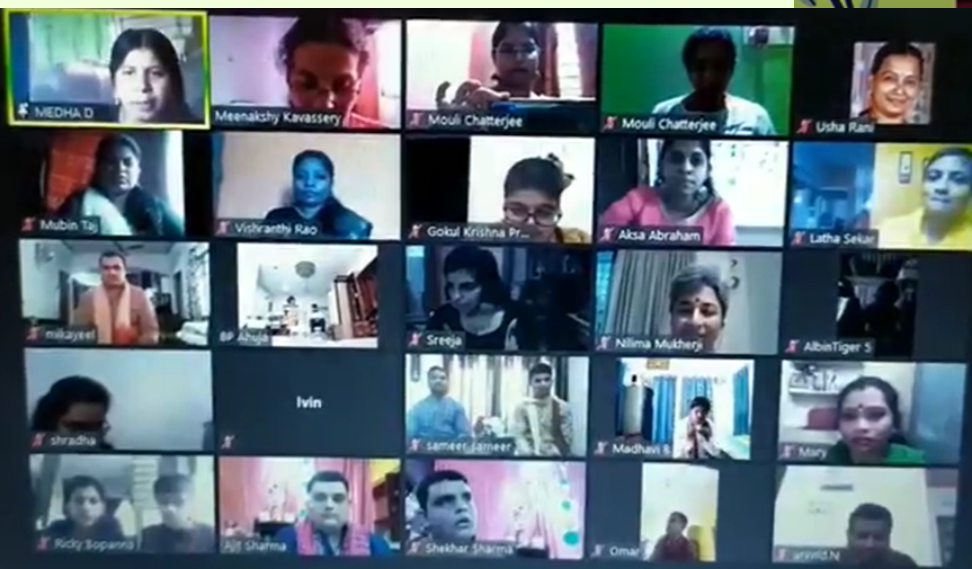
On 17 October, 2020, we celebrated Dussehra virtually with over 70 families. We depicted the diversity of Dussehra across India- in Karnataka by showing the Mysore procession and Tiger Dance. This year, Ravana has taken the form of the COVID19 and we showcased how we can drive away our enemy taking precautions - masks, sanitizer and social distancing - as the weapons.

One of our young adults danced on the 'Dhak'(an old percussion instrument) beats of West Bengal. Along with the inevitable Dandiya, we also traversed to West India with the rhythmic Garba. We are thankful to Vishakha Verma, the Director of Vishakha's Dance & Music Institute in Dubai, where inclusive art forms highlight her unique and pristine venture. She trained our trainers and students on Garba dance for the event.

Creatives made by students: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nYmYnYoEYho>

Take a glimpse of our event:

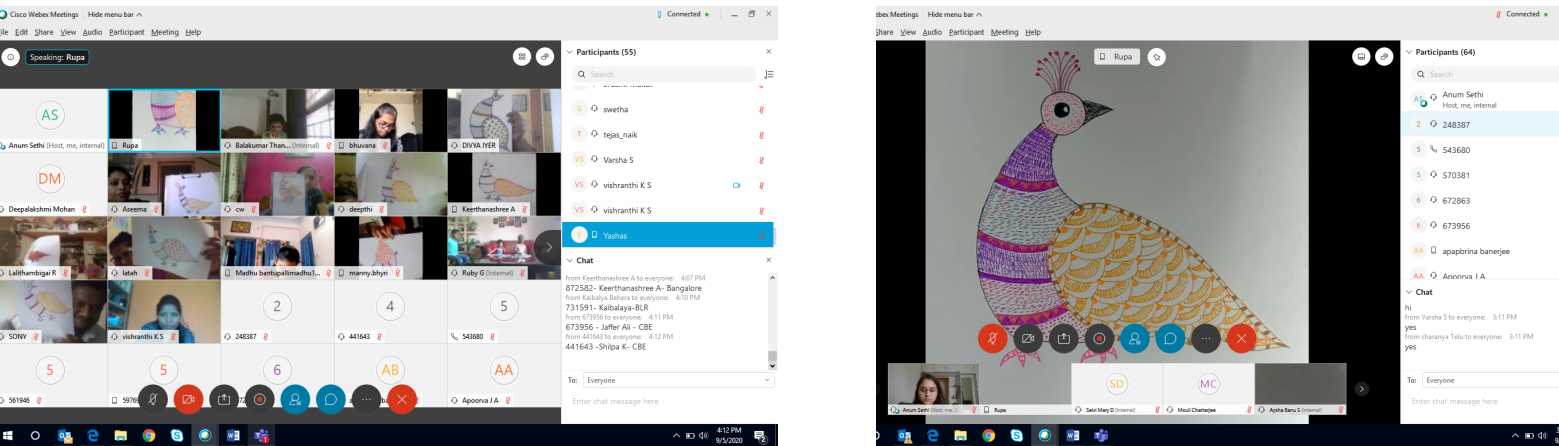
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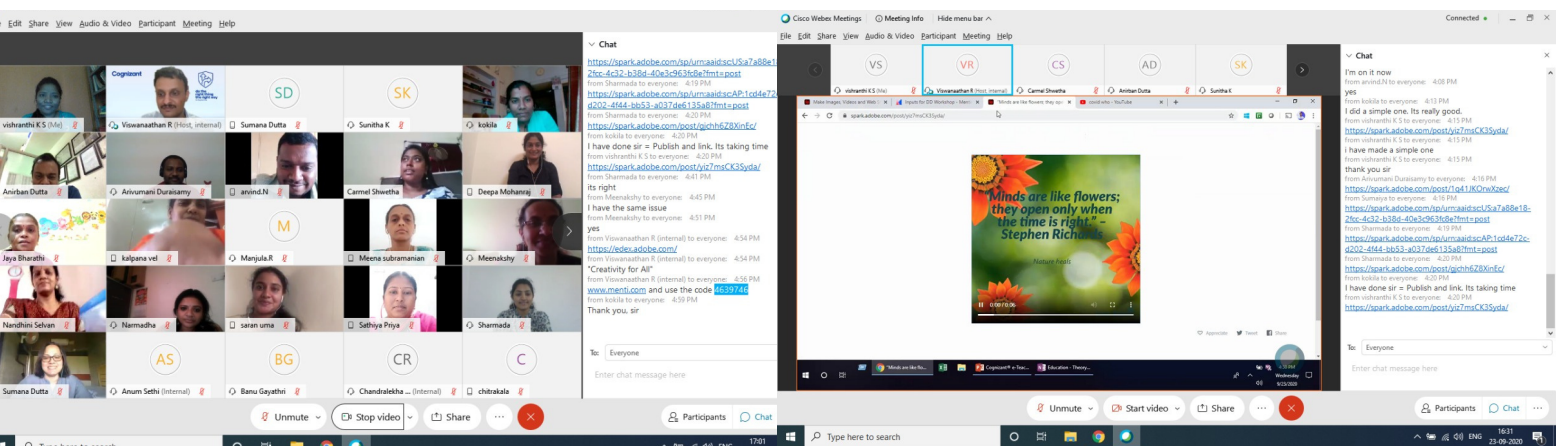
ORGANIZATION'S CAPACITY BUILDING

We are grateful for our BGCT staff for their relentless effort and continued learning to adapt to the 'new' normal. Here are some ways in which we upgraded our skills.

- **Celebrations with Gond Art’ organised by Cognizant**
On 5 September, Teachers’ Day, Cognizant, one of our corporate volunteering partners, organized a virtual session on 'Gond Art' for both the staff and parents of our students. This endeavour, we took up in the virtual set-up to engage the parents and teachers to relax and enjoy the art form, which can later be taken to the children. Thus, with the help of Cognizant Outreach team, we gained a beautiful insight into Gond Art, one of the traditional Indian art forms from Madhya Pradesh. We are glad to be connected with the Cognizant Outreach team.

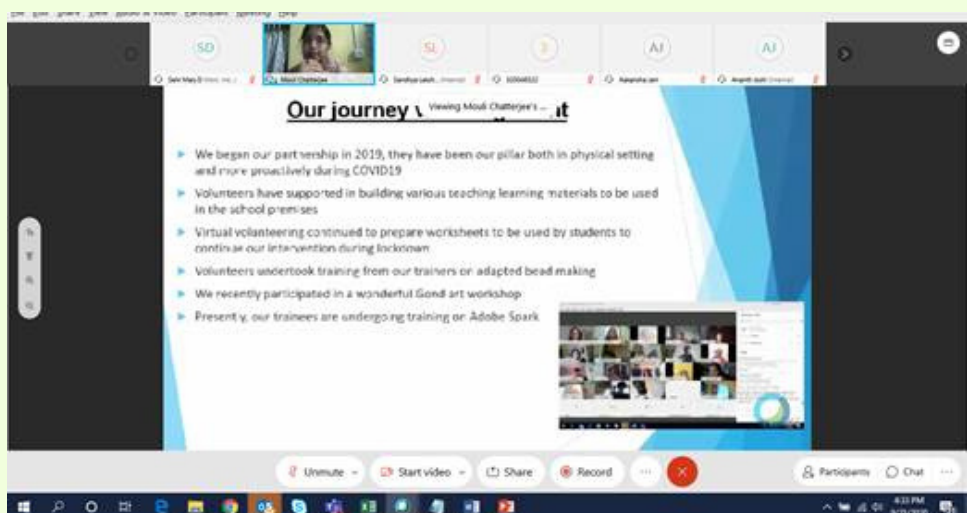


- **Adobe Spark Training**
Cognizant Outreach team supported our trainers with Adobe Spark training. They got the exposure to understand designs and use of Adobe Spark. We received annual license for Adobe Spark.



MAKING OUR PRESENCE FELT

- Workability Asia newsletter(July-September) edition mentioned our Digitization Project of our young adults under Mission1000- an initiative by EnableIndia and DNA. The program aims to compose audio books for individuals with visual impairment of Saksham Trust.
- Mouli Chatterjee (Program Manager) undertook a sensitization session with the employees of Cognizant to inform them about Autism and our work.
- Sarbani Mallick(Founder and Managing Trustee), gave a virtual talk on "Mental health & Asperger Disorder' to the women of the shelter facility at Institute for Family Wellbeing, Bengaluru.



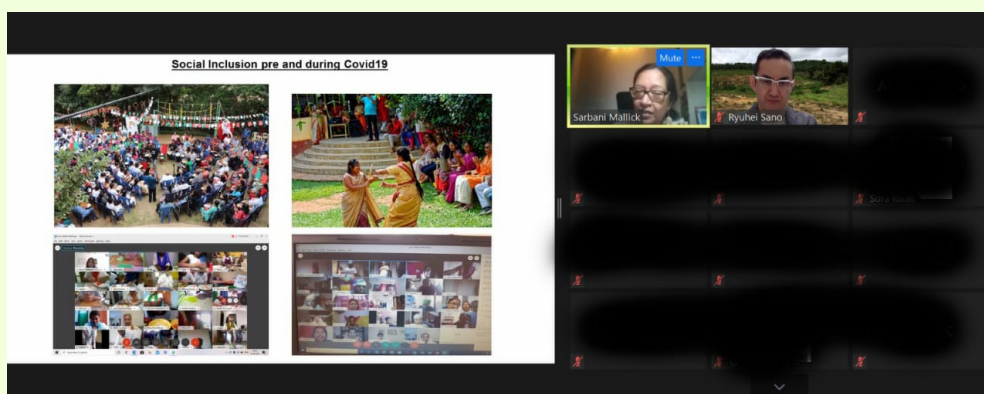
Awareness session with Cognizant

MAKING OUR PRESENCE FELT

- **Maaya and Ajit, two of our young adults participated in the 'Art from Heart' competition organized by Voice of Specially Abled People.** VoSAP is a non-profit unit which strives to create awareness about the “Abilities” of the Specially Abled people and promote accessibility and inclusiveness for them in our society. They hosted as one of their Initiative **"Art from Heart" [International Art Contest]** to inculcate inclusive values and compassion for specially abled people among our youth and everyone in the society. Maaya got selected as one of the finalists along with 300 artists across the country. We explored a new area of art and over a month we went through a journey with our subject matter expert Ms.Nirit Kremer, we are proud of our young adults being a part of an international event.



- Sarbani Mallick(Founder and Managing Trustee), gave a lecture on 'Disability-Autism Services in India' for students of Hosei University, Japan.



NEW INITIATIVES

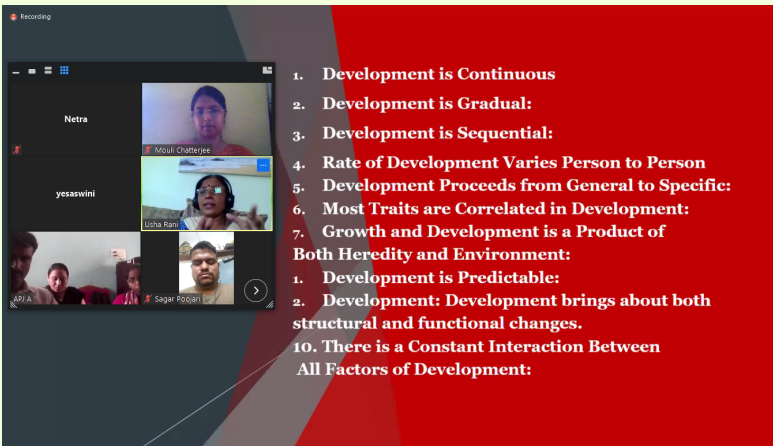
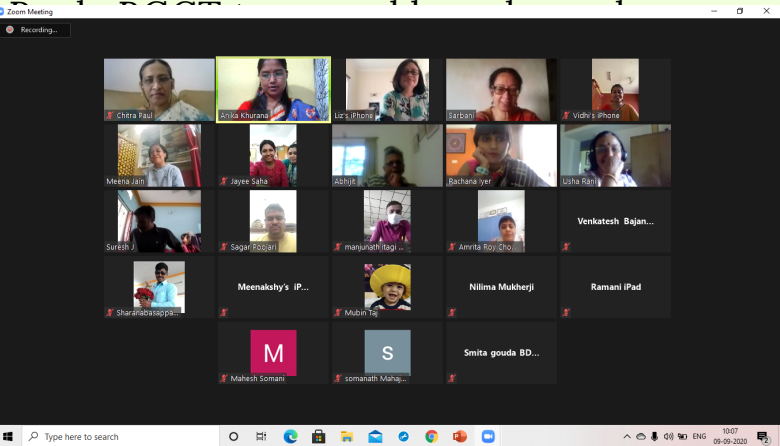
- Digitization Project**

In the Digital Literacy unit, we are part of an initiative Mission1000 by Enable India and DNA, our young adults got a wonderful opportunity to work as proofreader/editor to generate audio books for persons with visual impairment of Saksham Trust. We started working on 15th August, 2020 under the leadership of Ms. Meenakshy Kavassery(Program head, Digitization unit) and took our first step towards livelihood opportunity and independence.



- Aadhar Outreach Program (BGCT-IDFC FIRST Bank collaboration)**

Our program took a turn in the 'new normal' under our strategic and funding partner IDFC FIRST Bank. We selected 5 NGOs across Karnataka and West Bengal. We aim to provide capacity building through online sessions for trainers and the organization to run a structured Primary Intervention Program for students upto 10years. We want to extend our best practices to reach the unreached with the support of our partners. We had our virtual launch on 9th September, 2020 in the presence of IDFC FIRST



Launch meet and one of our training sessions

ONGOING NEW INITIATIVES

- **Thompson Reuters Paid Internship**

Two of our young adults got selected for the Thompson Reuters three month paid internship. Its the first initiative in India to deploy interns PWDs to work in different departments of Thompson Reuters. Presently, Employability training is on for a month and end of November we kickstart the internship. We are proud to be associated with one of a kind initiative in our country by Thompson Reuters.

- **Ketto campaign fundraised by corporate volunteers**

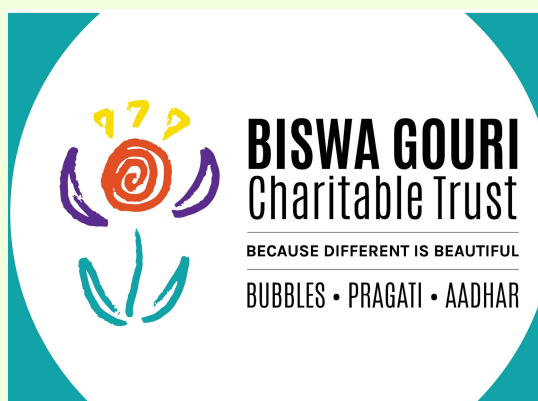
We are grateful to three of our corporate volunteers- Shreya, Aditya and Nalini for fundraising to continue the learning and training for our students in the new normal. They are fundraising to support 25 students with reading programs and teaching learning material kits to be used at home for training purposes

We need your support to reach our target.

Here is the link: <https://www.ketto.org/fundraiser/help-and-support-centre-of-autism-children-and-adults>

Strengthening to resume soon as per Government guidelines

BBMP undertook COVID19 testing for all our employees and sanitized the campus on 6th October, 2020.



Support us: bit.ly/supportBGCT