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## Special events mark World Disability Day

With placards and street plays, the special kids create awareness

### Dec 3: World Disability Day

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Vashi: On World Disability Day yesterday, when the world acknowledges the lives of many who are living with disability, the satellite city witnessed programmes being organised to celebrate the lives of these differently-abled community, who otherwise live lives of anonymity, throughout the year.

The students of Hellen Keller Institute for Deaf and Deafblind, Mahape, and Aashray Special School, Sanpada, took it on the streets for the celebration. They were seen with placards and doing street plays to build in awareness amongst masses and commuters at Vashi.

While the special kids of both the institutes gathered at Vashi railway station in the morning hours, the students of Aashray made their way to Inorbit mall and Hellen Keller to Millenium park for a second campaign.

Sheela Sinha, education director, Hellen Keller said, "On this day, we wished to bring in an awareness amongst masses that being disabled does not restrict to perform like an abled. Our kids are equally talented, in fact, more talented than normal kids. Though learning process in some cases might be slow, good care, concern and techniques to educate special kids, helps for the holistic development of the child."

Now, appreciating the works that go to make these programmes wonderful and thought provoking, on the flip side, at the end of the day, these children go back to their normal lives that may be far from the gaiety as painted.

A student said, "The promises made by many on this day during such programmes are often forgotten much too soon. Therefore, I feel that parents, stakeholders and persons with disabilities have much to ponder upon and have to themselves become champions of the cause rather than wait for help to arrive."


Nagmani Rao, principal of Aashray said, "We're dealing with issues that most people don't have a clue about, and it's intrusive when you get someone coming up to you and saying, he needs a clip round the ear, when one of them has a tantrum. Special kids do not need sympathy they need empathy."

She added, "Special kids are really special because they need a set of trained tutors to guide and tutor them. Education through various teaching techniques like that of visual teaching helps alot through interactive visual boards (smart boards), which are costly, yet effective mode of teaching."

Disability cannot stop people from dreaming and chasing the stars. The special kids stated that instead of observing sympathy by masses, there needs to be more opportunities for the individuals from the

differently-abled community and they should be encouraged in taking up arts, drama, dance, theatre and even research work to earn their living.

Good care, concern and techniques to educate the special kids helps for the holistic development of the child  
— Sheela Sinha, Hellen Keller


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**"Want empathy not sympathy"**

The article sets of Hellen Keller Institute for Deaf and Dumb, Mumbai, and another Special School, Chennai, how from the children for their education. They have been providing and doing everything to build an inclusive environment for all children and their parents.

While the special kids of today are not being given an equal chance to study in the regular schools, the children of today make their way to build a world and their parents are being asked to pay for a second campaign.

In this day, when the world is moving towards a more inclusive society, the children of today are not being given an equal chance to study in the regular schools. The children of today are being asked to pay for a second campaign. The children of today are being asked to pay for a second campaign. The children of today are being asked to pay for a second campaign.

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