

Madhuri Deshpande

Ankur Vidya Mandir is an innovative school housed in the campus of the well-known and recognised Ferguson College of Pune. This is a simple yet impressive school that ensures equal opportunities for everyone. This school ensures that everyone gets their share of experiences according to their needs. At the same time, this school is confident of bringing about a revolution in the field of education. For this purpose, Ms Madhuri Deshpande believes that every child has equal right to education and has been active in equality among children for education. She has been working to achieve a society that practices inclusion in the field of education.

This educational institution works on a unique principle. Here the students are taught with a firm belief that they will get equal and abundant

opportunities for rehabilitation. It is important that children with special needs become self-reliant and independent financially. In this school special children are taught that they are capable of playing significant role in the society while helping others. There a number of curriculum oriented as well as co-curricular activities carried out regularly. At the Ankur Vidyalay, in the first phase all the children are initiated with education in the same classroom. Later on, they are treated and educated according to their special needs.

Another speciality is that there are no restrictions on admission of children to the school. Here children with special needs, socially deprived and challenged in any way are provided admission without any questions. This school provides equal opportunity for education to children

without considering their physical, mental, social, emotional, lingual or any other such circumstances. Handicapped but mentally capable, children of labourers or tribal children, all are welcome. Here children are given admission even if they belong to minority groups such as lingual, religion, cultural or ethnic diversity.

In this way, we can say that Ankur Vidyalay supports and works on the principle of inclusion in education and has been training children for the past 27 years. This school should be

appreciated for its efforts to meet the challenges of inclusive education which is supported by trained, empathetic and dedicated teachers as well as other staff members.

We are indeed proud to be honouring Ms Madhuri Despande with the SRISTI Sanman for her inspiring work and innovative approach towards inclusive education for nearly three decades now.