

‘Child Development Aide Training Program’

“It is estimated that 11 million children in developing countries die before their fifth birthday. Nearly 20 times that number –over 200 million children – survive, but do not reach their full human potential. As a result, their countries have an estimated 20 percent loss in adult productivity”.

**WHO/UNICEF statement,
Care for Child Development Advocacy Brochure, 2006.**

Rearing a child with a disability is a challenge in any part of the world. The trauma of the discovery that your child is different, the search for a diagnosis and then a cure, dealing with people and schools who are often insensitive, is all too often the norm for families of children with disabilities. In a country like India, where a potential 40 million children with developmental disabilities share limited resources, (due to severe paucity of services) the challenge is magnified several times over.

While disability does not overtly appear to affect the lives of the majority of Indians, ours is in fact a country with a huge number of children ‘at risk’ for disability. The various risk factors which affect the survival of children are in fact the same factors that, if the child survives, prevent him from reaching his full developmental potential.

The early years of development are crucial for future growth and progress of children. Over and above the visible developmental disabilities, children from underprivileged background are at risk of developing disabilities simply because of their deprived backgrounds and limited interactions with attentive adults.

Ummeed Child Development Center, one of India’s premier non-profit organizations, works with children who have or are at risk of developmental disabilities. In addition to providing direct services in assessment and therapy, Ummeed’s eminent team of child development specialists offers training in a range of disciplines.

Ummeed Child Development Center conducts one year certificate course viz. ‘Child Development Aide’ (CDA). The focus of the course is on training individuals from organizations like NGOs and schools serving low income populations, community based rehabilitation organizations in slums, orphanages etc. in order to create resources within these organizations working with children at risk for, and with, developmental difficulties.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

CDAs are community workers who will work towards empowering families and providing better support system in the community. They will work with children in various settings including *anganwadis*, orphanages, schools and Community Based Rehabilitation programs. By the end of one year of training, a CDA will develop skills required for:

- Promoting typical child development
- Educating the community about prevention of disability
- Identifying children at risk for or having developmental disabilities
- Carrying out simple interventions through structured play and educational activities to address the developmental needs of children.

STRUCTURE OF THE CURRICULUM

The curriculum has as its focus on the ‘Tran disciplinary model’ of child development, the belief that both external influences like family and community, as well as the child’s own inherent characteristics are responsible for the child’s developmental outcome. The program focuses on a ‘family based approach’ to interventions for child development. This is in keeping with the UNCRPD (United Nations Convention for the Rights of Persons with Disability), as well as the International Classification of Functioning (WHO). The curriculum has also been assessed by national and international experts as part of the pilot project funded by USAID in the year 2009-2010.

DURATION

The one year certificate training program is divided into three phases.

Phase 1: Five month theoretical and practical training at Ummeed, including two days per week at partner organizations, working with children and families under supervision doing supervised practical training.

Phase 2: One month internship at Ummeed and partner organization.

Phase 3: Six month post-course mentorship program for ongoing education, peer support and professional review meetings.

FACULTY

The faculty at Ummeed Child Development Center consists of a team of experts including developmental pediatricians, psychologists, occupational therapists, physical therapists, autism therapists, speech therapists, special educators and counselors with several years of clinical and teaching experience. National and international professionals will also be invited as external faculty during the training course.

ENTRY REQUIREMENT

Ummeed Child Development Center is looking for organizations who are interested in building their own resources. The organization will have to support the trainee (paying his/her salary) for the six month period at Ummeed Child Development Center, and commit to supporting the trainee post the training period. This will include sensitizing other staff members to issues around child development and disabilities.

Admission Requirements for the trainee:

- Class Ten graduate
- Fluent in spoken and written Hindi

Preference will be given to parents of children with disabilities and/or community workers working with children from underprivileged background.

SELECTION PROCESS

Trainees for this program will be selected through a rigorous selection procedure undertaken by professionals at Ummeed Child Development Center to ensure that the selected trainee is enthusiastic about and committed to completing the training program and implement the learned skills in the community.

NUMBER OF TRAINEES

10 trainees will be enrolled per batch.
Ummeed does not offer hostel accommodation to the trainees.

CERTIFICATION

Candidates on successful completion of the course will be given a certificate of completion by Ummeed Child Development Center.
The course is under the process of accreditation from Tata Institute of Social Sciences.

COMMENCEMENT DATE

The course will commence in the month of **June 2011.**

Last date for receiving applications is **30th April 2011.**

For further details please contact-

Prof. Rajani Kelkar / Ms Joyeeta Dutta,
Phone: (91-22) 65564054; 65528310, 23002006.
Email: ummeed.joyeeta@gmail.com
ummeed.rajani@gmail.com