



According to Rehabilitation Council of India's (RCI) statistics, three per cent of children below 14 years of age have mental retardation. Nearly 70 per cent of them live in the rural areas, which have remained less accessible to the government's rehabilitation programmes till date. According to 1991 Census, nine million children below 14 years have mental retardation and we have 800 special schools equipped only to cater to the needs of 25,000 children. While community based rehabilitation is a solution to this, there is need for resource centres, special schools and preparatory setups which will help children with mild and moderate disabilities to provide training for possible integration in the normal schools. Experience of many people has shown that without this preparatory training, integration will be a difficult process.

“SPADANA resource center”, was established in December 2006 and is catering to 55 children and their parents in and around Kaiwara. Support and encouragement due to collaboration with Sri Kaiwara Yoginareyana Ashrama, Sri Sai Mandali, Malleshwaram and local government and private agencies has made difference to the endeavor. The school located within the premises of government middle school, Kaiwara is catering to children from Kaiwara and surrounding villages. The children at Spandana are provided the requisite support and training in activities of daily living, formal education and other life skills. A vocational training center is also started in the premises to enable the children and their parents to acquire certain vocational skills such as tailoring, candle making and crafts.

Several students have been able to successfully complete the seventh standard board exams and SSLC exams also. Annual health appraisal programs are being undertaken to objectively evaluate the progress of these special children.