

## World Autism Awareness Day Celebrated at GRIID

World Autism Awareness Day was celebrated at Government Rehabilitation Institute for Intellectual Disabilities (GRIID), sector 31 C, Chandigarh in full swing. GRIID followed the theme set by the United Nations for the celebration of the World Autism Awareness Day for the year 2022 as 'Inclusion in the Workplace: Challenges and Opportunities in a Post-Pandemic World'.

The students with autism from GRIID, children with autism attending OPD services at GRIID clinic and children of GRIID staff from six years and above were the participants. Everyone was dressed in blue. In line with this year's theme, games were organised for children in a way that a child with autism was paired up with child without autism. Their imagination knew no bounds as they together made cakes in slime game and pour active sand into moulds of different shapes. Aarav, a child from GRIID OPD clinic and Mannat from GRIID special school Autism section sang a lullaby 'Mera chanda hai tu, mera sooraj hai tu' and 'lathe di chander, ute saleti' individually. Students and children got together to dance on beats of various songs, and ring a ring roses rhyme in talent showcasing and inclusive dance activity, Harsh from Pre-vocational 1 class of GRIID special school surprised the audience with beautiful dance on 'bijlee bijlee kahan'.

"It takes patience to work with these children. Teachers in GRIID including my mother are doing commendable job" shared a child of GRIID staff. Parents from GRIID OPD clinic also appreciated the program and shared their views. Dr R Vani Ratnam, Principal GRIID special school and Dr Reena, GRIID clinic incharge congratulated and said thanks to the organising team of the program. Dr R Vani Ratnam said that they would organise such programs in future also and such kind of program has been organised for first time in GRIID. Dr Reena distributed refreshment to children with autism along with Dr Ratnam.

Ms Ashima, Ms Alpana and Ms Sheetal were the co-ordinators of the program. Sai, Riya, Diya, Vrinda, Madhav, Aaruhi, Yashi and Arnav - children of GRIID school staff - participated in the program.



Students with autism in GRIID school, Children with autism of GRIID clinic and children of GRIID staff participating as a team in various activities such as dance, singing song and games.





**Parents/guardians of children with autism sharing their views**



**Dr Vani Ratnam, Principal GRIID special school sharing her views.**



**Dr Reena, GRIID clinic in-charge meeting children**



**GRID staff, students and children of GRID staff with Principal madam, Dr Reena and Ms Vandana**