

What! Another newsletter!

Do we need yet another one!!!

Well, as Kilikili grows, reaching out to more parents, children, schools, teachers, volunteers, donors, supporters; we feel the need to have something that links all of us.

Something that would help promote our cause, be a source of information, educating people on our work, activities and upcoming events.

Something that would be a forum for exchange of views, news, opinions, related to the Kilikili mission.

And so this newsletter!

This newsletter highlights our activities from April to December 2008. We hope to bring this out every quarter with some regular features such as News and Events, Featured Rides (detailing the developmental benefits of play equipment) and

responses from parents and children.

We look forward to your support in keeping this newsletter full of news and views.

Please do write in at info@kilikili.org

- The Kilikili Team



Vipin talking about what he wants in an inclusive playspace

» Highlights

MAY 25, 2008

Sunfeast World 10K Run



The Sunfeast World 10k Bangalore was held on May 25, 2008. Kilikili participated in the Charity segment of the Marathon – the Majja Run, with the aim of spreading awareness on Inclusive Play. Kilikili volunteers dressed in different elements of an inclusive play space and won the second prize of Rs.50000 at the Costume Competition at the Sunfeast Marathon.

This was also an opportunity for Bangaloreans to contribute to a cause. We had a great response from a number of citizens who helped in raising a generous amount of Rs. 22,000. This money will be used to help maintain Coles Park, ensure more children use the inclusive play space and expand the movement to other parks in the city.

JUNE 17, 2008

Kilikili celebrates second birthday!!

“Two years ago, we had a dream - of a public play space in which our children and other children like ours would be able to play without any discrimination or inhibition, indeed with complete freedom, independence and joy, celebrating their childhood, their very right to be like all other children.”

-Kilikili Trustee

Two years..... and

- One park up and running - of course with its own challenges!
- Four more in the process of coming up
- Two schools regularly visiting Coles Park - that's about 40 children with disabilities using the park every week when school is in session
- Four events that reached out to 185 children with disabilities, 82 children with typical abilities, 35 families and 180 volunteers
- From 3 families to about 40 whom we are in touch with
- Partnerships with three other groups -Fame India, Thought works and Sahaya

At Kilikili, we are raring to go – with so many more opportunities and dreams that we look forward to and are excited about fulfilling! We acknowledge the support of all our parents, children, volunteers, donors and wellwishers and hope that this support will continue and be strengthened in the future too!

EVENTS

Jeevan Bhima Nagar Park Consultation

Children making models of their dream parks at the Jeevan Bhima Nagar consultation



In collaboration with a group of volunteers from Thought Works, a software company, Kilikili has begun a project to make a park in Jeevan Bhima Nagar an inclusive one.

The initial consultations with all stakeholders including children, parents, teachers, rehabilitation professionals from the Spastics Society of Karnataka, National Association for the Blind, Sheela Kotwala Institute for the Deaf, Asha Integrated School and WARDS were held at Spastic Society, Indiranagar on the 12 of April 2008.

Through a morning of fun and joy, the children expressed what they would like in their Dream park – some made clay models, others drew, still others wrote, while their parents, teachers and other adults debated what, in their opinion, is needed in a public play space to enable all children to play together.

The findings of this consultation have been used to develop the design concept for the park. We are currently in the process of securing the requisite permission from the BBMP.

EVENTS

Whitefield Park Consultation

Children with disabilities from Divine Light School for the Blind, Cottelango Convent and Vydehi Special school, accompanied by their families and friends, met on 27 September 2008 at Cottelango Convent to brainstorm on ideas for a disabled friendly park in Whitefield.

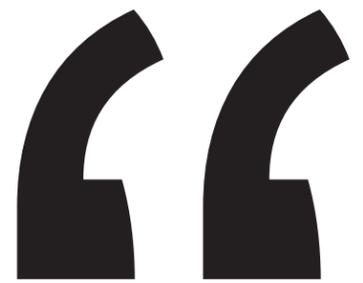
Through games, discussions and drawings, children and parents articulated their ideas for a park in which all children can play together. This Consultation was jointly organised by Sahaya, the parent-volunteers group at Whitefield and Kilikili.

In our search for finding ways to include

children with communication difficulties, we tried out a new medium: children were presented with various options of play equipment and what they picked and the order in which they picked it was considered their choice of equipment. While this worked with some children, it was not

found very useful for all children. On reflecting, we feel that for some children this exercise needs to be done in either the school or the home with facilitators the child is familiar with and who are familiar with the child's communication patterns.

What has been particularly special about this project is the enthusiasm and energy that the Sahaya group brings, motivating all of us to strive to do better and better!



Thank you very much for the wonderful programme at Spastics Society. Your enthusiasm and zeal motivated all of us. We all from SSK will be with you in the noble endeavors of KILIKILI to create disabled- friendly parks.

- P.Gopal, Parent



» NEWS

JULY 04, 2008

Give them space

DECCAN HERALD

Where they do exist, they are being taken over by commercial operators, more concerned with maximising profits than about providing wholesome recreation, and completely disregarding factors such as safety; the recent tragic accident at Bal Bhavan in Cubbon park...

[READ MORE >>](#)

AUGUST 02, 2008

A park without walls

DECCAN HERALD

It's child's play' - this is a phrase used when we talk of something that is very easy, and not very serious. But play, for children, is actually serious business. Developmental professionals across the world have established the critical importance of play and in particular, outdoor play...

[READ MORE >>](#)

PROGRAMMES

Children from Whitefield come to Coles Park!



On 19 July 2008, about 40 children with disabilities accompanied by their parents and teachers were brought to Coles Park by Sahaya.

Rupa, the key person behind Sahaya has this to say about the Coles Park outing: *"As a parent, it was the most heart warming experience because it was the first time I took my son to a park and the fact that he could go all around the place in a wheelchair and also that he could actually play in the merry-go-round was something I could never think of. I will always cherish that and as a volunteer from Sahaya, it has motivated me to do the same in a park in our neighborhood. Hats off to Kilikili for giving me this experience"*.

PROGRAMMES

Family's Day Out

The concept of a family outing with children was initiated for families with children of all abilities to gather together and play at Coles Park. As the children spend their time on inclusive play, parents look at this as an opportunity to discuss and interact with each other and others present.

We now have a Play group comprising of mostly children with developmental disabilities using the play space every Saturday morning. We would like more and more families to join us. **Every Saturday at Coles Park from 10.00 a.m. to 12.00 noon.** Do come!

PROGRAMMES

The Accenture Event

On 13th Dec 2008, 40 children with disabilities from the school run by the Association of People with Disabilities and Bal Jyoti Trust visited Coles Park in an event sponsored by Accenture. Volunteers from Accenture helped

in pre event work as well as helped out on the Event day. Some volunteers have expressed a desire to continue to relate with Kilikili in a more sustained basis. Our thanks to the entire Accenture team!



Kilikili is the first step towards inclusion. The Integration events conducted for parents and children gives attention to special children while fostering interaction with other children. There has been better understanding between the parents of children of all abilities.

- Priya, Parent



» NEWS

OCTOBER 17, 2008

More disabled-friendly parks in city soon

DNA INDIA

Making the city's public parks disabled-friendly has been an ongoing movement among parents of children with disabilities.

Taking an initiative that has brought joy to differently abled children, the Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has made the play area at the Gayatri Devi Park, Rajajinagar, accessible to children with disabilities.

[READ MORE >>](#)

DECEMBER 02, 2008

Disabled kids to get more playing space

BANGALORE MIRROR



Next time when you are taking a physically-challenged child to the park, put all your worries away, for Bangalore will soon have more than 12 disabled-friendly parks.

All thanks to the initiative taken by Kilikili, a trust formed by parents of children with special needs.

[READ MORE >>](#)

DECEMBER 12, 2008

Playing space for disabled children

DECCAN HERALD

The City now has a separate playing space in a park for children with disability: Kilikili, an organisation started by parents of disabled children wanted their children to enjoy at the park like other children. So they came up with an idea of having playing space with equipment made especially for disabled children with or without wheelchairs.

[READ MORE >>](#)

OCTOBER 29, 2008

Kilikili: Playgrounds for Everyone

COLLECTIVE LENS BLOG

One of the greatest pleasures for my three year old niece is swinging and sliding in the public parks. She absolutely loves it, and she can...



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NEWS

Presenting our first Conference paper!

Kilikili presented a paper at the International Rehabilitation Conference organised by the Holy Cross College, Dept of Rehabilitation Science, Trichy from 10-12 Dec 2008 . The paper, accompanied by a one minute film was well received. The concept of inclusive play and a community group spearheading the movement was seen as being innovative and expressions of interest in replicating the project have come from other cities.



» FEATURED RIDES

This column seeks to showcase one specially designed and installed equipment, detailing its developmental benefits. Any suggestions or feedback to bettering its design is most welcome.

SWING

Bucket Swing

For children below 5 years



Playing on the swing is usually a favourite with all children. Spontaneous play on the swing helps children develop coordination, balance, flexibility and strength. Additionally, the design of the bucket swing is suitable for little children as it offers them greater security. It also ensures upper body support and better grip for children with developmental delays.

Kilikili within

Our Monthly meetings have been held quite regularly. In some meetings, we have had resource persons enhancing our understanding on different topics:

1. Play as a developmental tool – Sumitra and Ingersol, Occupational therapists from Premji Occupational Centre did a very informative and interesting presentation on the importance of outdoor play
2. Autism and play needs of children with autism – In a highly interactive session, Dr Shilpa Rao and Poonam Shetty from Asha Integrated School, spoke about autism and the play skills deficits in children with autism. They highlighted the need for the community to be sensitive and inclusive and support children with autism in accessing play.
3. Kavita Ratna from the Concerned for Working Children, in a preparatory session to the Jeevan Bhima Nagar park Consultation, sensitised volunteers to the power in listening to children and taking their opinions on board

Other meetings have deliberated internal issues such as direction, support needed etc. These meetings have helped to build a core group of Kilikili-ites who are closely involved in all decision-making for Kilikili.

NEWS

Advocacy with BBMP: Kilikili and BBMP partners for a cause

There has been a significant involvement with the BBMP in the past quarter. In a welcome move, the Municipal Commissioner has indicated that he would like to make at least ten more parks in Bangalore disabled-friendly. These projects would be accomplished during the course of the year thus enabling more children to participate in Inclusive Play.

NEWS

Upcoming Parks

Gayatri Devi park, Rajajinagar

While inaugurating the Coles Park inclusive play space, the then Municipal commissioner, Mr K Jairaj had sanctioned two more projects – in South Zone and West Zone. Kilikili was invited to provide design inputs the project for the Gayatri Devi park in Rajajinagar in West Zone. A unique play structure that is completely wheelchair accessible with a ramp, a merry-go-round and a slide has been constructed, along with other inclusive equipment such as wheelchair sand tables, safe swings, a Sensory integration track etc. While the inauguration had been scheduled, it had to be called off due to the non availability of a Minister, who was invited by the BBMP. We look forward to its early opening and to children using the facility soon.

Jayanagar

In collaboration with FAME school for differently-abled children, the parents from other special schools in the neighborhood, Kilikili has been involved in a project to convert a park in Jayanagar R V Road into an accessible play space.

The Municipal Commissioner of the Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagar Palike, Dr. Subramanya, has sanctioned Rs. 20 Lakh for the development of this play space. As we go to press, we have received the rather depressing news that the identified park site (in RV Road) comes in the way of the Metro and that the project cannot be carried out there. We are now on the lookout for alternate parks where the project can be developed.

Jeevan Bhima Nagar

Following the Consultations, a design has been prepared which will be shared with the local group of volunteers from the institutions that participated in the Consultation. A formal proposal will then be submitted to the BBMP.

Whitefield

The design will be jointly prepared by Kilikili and Sahaya, based on the inputs of the Consultation. This will then be presented to the BBMP.

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