Early Vision Stimulation for Maximisingthe Potential of Children with Multiple Disabilities Towards Inclusion

Jeeva M, Sujatha C Vidya Sagar

Infants and children with developmental delays quite often miss out on recieving holistic rehabilitation. This is especially true for infants and young children who have Multiple disabilities with Visual impairment(MDVI). Early identification of vision issues and early stimulation planning along with caregiver empowerment paves way for a child's holistic development and growth.

Vidya Sagar is a 33year-old organization that works with children and adults with multiple disabilities. We run a vision center to cater to the needs of children and adults with MDVI. This paper will share Vidya Sagar's work in the area of vision intervention.

For young children, vision cannot be trained in isolation but has to be looked in the context of overall development. We do this by supporting the use of vision through environmental modification, use of suitable materials and by proper positioning of materials and the child.

Vision rehabilitation focuses on three major areas of development:

- 1.) Vision for near tasks (Learning)
- 2.) Vision for Communication
- 3.) Vision for Orientation & Mobility (Movement)

A structured process of intervention will enhance a child's functional abilities, adaptive learning and enhance independence in the path towards inclusion.