

Cerebral Palsy – the condition



Imagine a child who wants to say something to you but cannot form the words to come out correctly from the mouth.

Think of a little hand that is trying to hold you, but the muscles simply do not do the right thing and finally gives up.

Imagine a 7-year-old trying to walk towards you, but the legs go the wrong way, and cause a fall!

Ladies and Gentlemen – that is what a child with CP suffers daily

These children are completely oblivious of their plight, and yet they are completely at ease in their condition, with NO sense of self-sympathy. Our presence there gets them all excited and that alone is good enough for them.

Work and Activities of Young Jains Nairobi at The Cerebral Palsy Unit in Dr. Ribero Parklands Primary School Nairobi

Young Jains Nairobi supports over 125 children with cerebral Palsy. The center is currently based at Dr. Ribeiro Parklands Primary School where teachers trained in special needs education, physiotherapy and occupational therapy serve the children on daily basis. 43 of these children are integrated to the normal learning school, attending regular classes. From 2014, eight children have sat for the Kenya Certificate of Primary Education exam and joined high school. One of our pupils has managed to get to university!

90% of these children have severe conditions

How it started

In the year 2010, Leaders of Young Jains Nairobi came across children with cerebral palsy who were brought by parents to Parklands Primary School which had formed a unit for these special children. Their condition was very touching on seeing their helplessness.

Imagine a child who wants to say something to you but cannot form the words to come out correctly from the mouth, a little hand that is trying to hold you, but the muscles simply do not do the right thing. A seven-year-old is trying to walk, but the legs go the wrong way. Eventually the child finally gives up...

What is cerebral palsy?

Cerebral Palsy is a neurodevelopmental disorder caused by non-progressive disturbances of the developing brain before, during or after birth. It is a term for a group of conditions in which brain damage affects motor control and posture, resulting in activity limitations. Each child with CP is affected differently depending on the level of damage of the brain.

Over 45,000 children under the age of 14 suffer from cerebral palsy in Kenya. There are no formal facilities for cerebral Palsy in Kenya. Also, these children will live a full life, and there are no vocational training facilities for them to allow them to look after even their basic needs.



Background of the children with cerebral palsy

Most of the parents of these children live in absolute abject poverty, to some it's hard to afford a meal, leave away the inability to afford a therapist, paying public transport to bring these children to school. Most parents feel depressed by the condition of their children and Young Jains had to intervene and help

Veerayatan Kenya Trust/Young Jains Nairobi have successfully sponsored the center on the following areas.

- High quality balanced diet meals served daily
- Employed 6 full time physiotherapist and occupational therapist (**children get therapy on daily basis**)
- Employed 12 full time caregivers
- Employed fulltime activity therapist who trains children on games, play, music, and artwork
- Purchase of modern therapy equipment's
- Maintenance, renovations of classrooms and therapy department
- Employed a fulltime Project Coordinator who coordinates all the programs of between the school and **Veerayatan Kenya Trust/Young Jains**



Therapy Department – As Cerebral Palsy cannot be cured, variety of therapies are needed to help maximize their abilities and physical strength, prevent complications, and improve their quality of life.

We have ensured that there is a well equipped therapy hall equipped with therapy equipment. Physiotherapy and occupational therapy are the routine therapies done daily to all the children.





Surgeries

Young Jains Nairobi in conjunction with MP Shah Hospital has successfully conducted surgeries to 16 children in the Cerebral Palsy Unit

In the year 2018, 6 children with CP underwent surgery followed by 10 more children in the year 2019.

Medical checkup



General medical check-ups, ENT, Eye, Dental, Pediatric tests, Respiratory tests and Orthopedic



Music Therapy

Young Jains Nairobi has funded a live band to provide music therapy sessions for children in the CP Unit. The sessions come twice a month.

