

**Balvant Parekh Centre for General Semantics
& Other Human Sciences, Vadodara**

In association with

Academy of Excellence –

Spandan: School for Intellectually Challenged, Vadodara

Organizes a Series

Art Workshops

“Rang Rang Vadalia”

(Colorful Clouds)

For the

Special children

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From:

28th November 2018,

(on every alternate Wednesdays)

Time: 2 pm to 4 pm

Venue:

Academy of Excellence

Spandan: School for Intellectually Challenged, Karelibaug, Vadodara

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Dates for Upcoming Workshops in December 2018 and January 2019:

4th December, 2018 / 18th December, 2018

2nd January, 2019 / 16th January, 2018 / 30th January, 2019

Brief Outline of the Series:

In addition to the work in General Semantics Balvant Parekh Centre aims to extend its work in the area of Art-Education for children too. With the experience gathered from previous workshops at ***Academy of Excellence (Spandan: School for Intellectually Challenged Children)*** and other Schools in Vadodara district, we are now initiating on a regular bases a series of Art - Workshops in ***Academy of Excellence (Spandan: School for Intellectually Challenged Children)***, Primary and Secondary Schools and also Public Libraries across Vadodara district.

The title of the present series is ***Rang Rang Vadalia*** (Colorful Clouds). The words *Rang Rang Vadalia* are borrowed from the poem for children by our great Gujarati poet Sundaram. These words and also the poem aptly express the spirit of our series and would also become flagstaff of our many more future programs.

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Aims and Objective of the Art Sessions with Special Children:

1. To impart technical understanding/ familiarity of painting or image making media like Crayon, Oil Pastels and Collage.
2. To make them conversant with their day to day surrounding, esp. in close contact to nature and its various manifestations.
3. To engage them more with actual process of picture making through Songs and Stories.
4. To put them in contact with young creative artists.
5. To make them familiar with various important places, art works and art objects from our city Vadodara through regular slide shows and Site Visits.



Summary of the Series:

The awareness and understanding about art and culture in our society has become critical in our times. We as a society produce and consume objects on a huge scale in the name of culture but we hardly seem to understand its significance. Its necessity as a life giving force is challenged

The production of art objects or artifacts which we notice in our surrounding in the name of popular culture does not have its implication on the art taught in the schools. On the contrary the schools do have art and craft as one of the subjects but they seem to hardly pay any serious attention to its relevance in the daily life of a child. Also the art education offered in the art colleges appears to have no direct relationship with the either the art education in the schools nor the taste of the common man. On the other side the art market has its own trajectory independent of the popular taste and art – education in the schools and colleges. Rather the objects of art recognized as valuable art objects and treasured in Museums as precious heritage seems to have no connection with art schools, art colleges, art market and the popular taste. Amidst this we do notice proliferation of self-help books in the name of art-therapy and also the rampant growth of art-classes which do seem to have its impact on a privileged class of our society, but they also have their own trajectory.

In such a seemingly disparate situation we are initiating a series of interactive sessions, workshops, lectures, esp. in Primary and Secondary Schools aiming to understand and reflect upon the significance of art education in schools, to critique its available curricula and also to posit an alternative towards effective art education. And to put further emphasis is that we do this through rigorous engagement with the children.

We wish to organize these activities applying two broader frameworks borrowed from the ideas of Mahatma Gandhi and Ravindranath Tagore. During the course of these workshops we would revisit Gandhi's ideas of *Nayee Talim* and also would attempt at inculcating Tagore's ideas of art education.

Apart from the privileged section of our society the Art education has never been given required importance in the upbringing of the child. In these workshops we would put emphasis exploring the creative faculties of children where learning through the mother tongue, importance of once own natural environment and effective utilization of natural resources plays a significant role.

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