

Cat 4 Resource Development

Group 4-058

Project Acceptance

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ABSTRACT

Project Acceptance aims to educate secondary one to four students of Hwa Chong Institution about children with autism. Through this project, students can gain a better understanding of children with autism and show more care and empathy towards them, thus fostering better integration into Singapore society. Our main resource is a website, which consists of detailed explanations on the misconceptions and ways of interaction, a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) page, a set of teaching slides as well as an interview video with a professional in this field to gain further insight towards children with autism. We also made a social media account to publicise posters made by ourselves. As autism cases are becoming more prevalent in our society, Project Acceptance is relevant and essential to disseminate and provide useful knowledge to students so that they can better understand and empathise with children with autism.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 RATIONALE

The conception of Project Acceptance came about when we saw a child with autism on the public transport. The child had a meltdown in public and this was met with stares and certain rude gestures from the public. At that point in time, we felt that people were not able to understand and empathise with these children with autism. Hence, we wanted to embark on a project that looked into children with autism. As part of our research, we conducted an interview with Ms Lee Siew Hoon, Head of Curriculum of a specialised school for children with autism. According to her, children with autism “are asked to change and cope such that they can adapt into society, but if society remains hostile there is no point no matter how much they change.” Therefore, our group felt the need to change the public view and encourage positive acceptance for children with autism.

1.2 OBJECTIVES

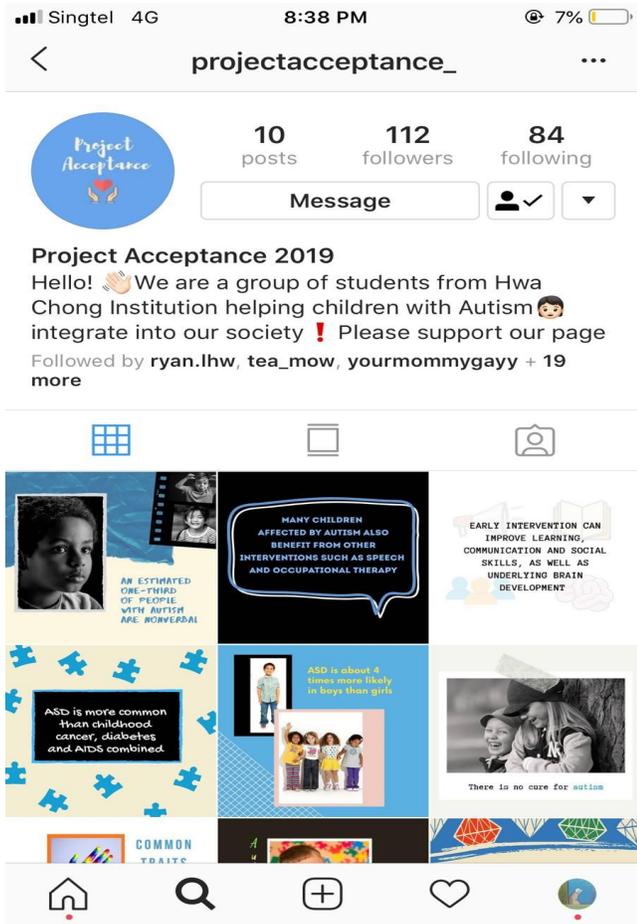
1. Help students learn and understand the do's and don'ts when interacting with children with autism
2. Clear the misconceptions that students have towards children with autism
3. Foster integration between children with autism and members of the society

1.3 TARGET AUDIENCE

The target audience were secondary one to four students. Primary school students are too young to understand our project, thus secondary school students are the best group of people.

1.4 RESOURCES

We created an integrated website. It comprises of several interesting components. Firstly, we created a Frequently Asked Questions Page (FAQ), a page where popular questions about autism are debunked and explained. Secondly, we made a page where the do's and don'ts when interacting with someone with autism. Thirdly, we made a page addressing common misconceptions. Besides that, an interview with a professional as well as a set of teaching slides which contain summarised information of our website were also included. The teaching slides were created for educators to have easy access to teaching materials and planned lessons in classrooms. In the teaching slides, there are also suggested activities to further engage the students and encourage their participation in learning about children with autism. An instagram account was also created to spread awareness of children with autism. The account displayed posters which contained original designs by our group to display facts about children with autism and about autism in general.



Instagram page with posters

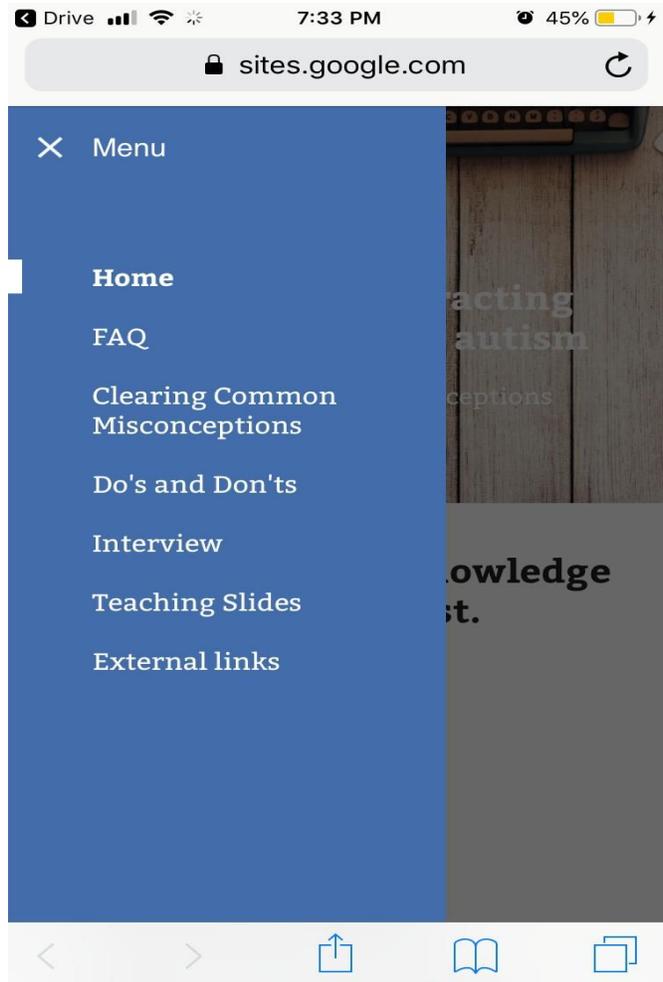
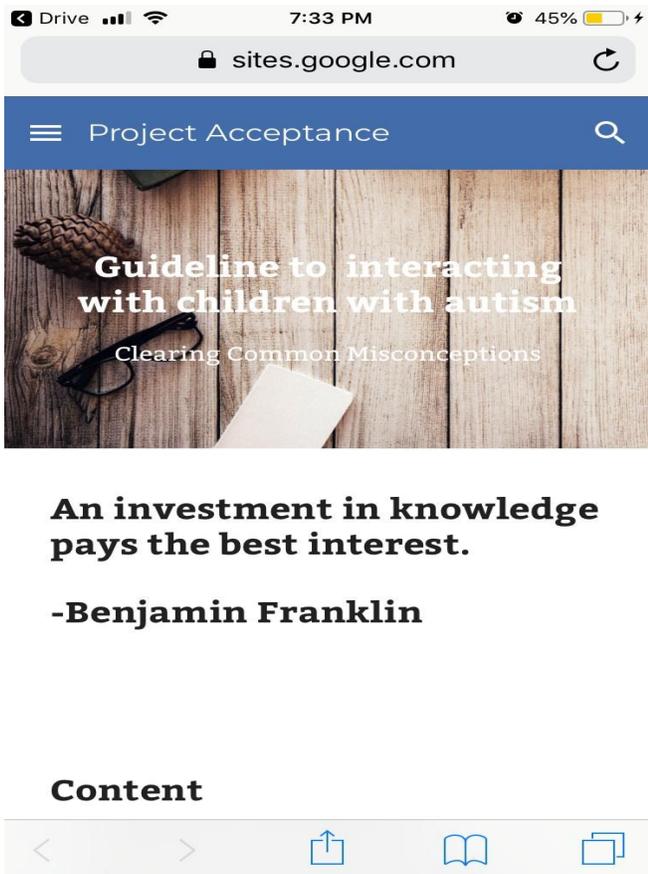
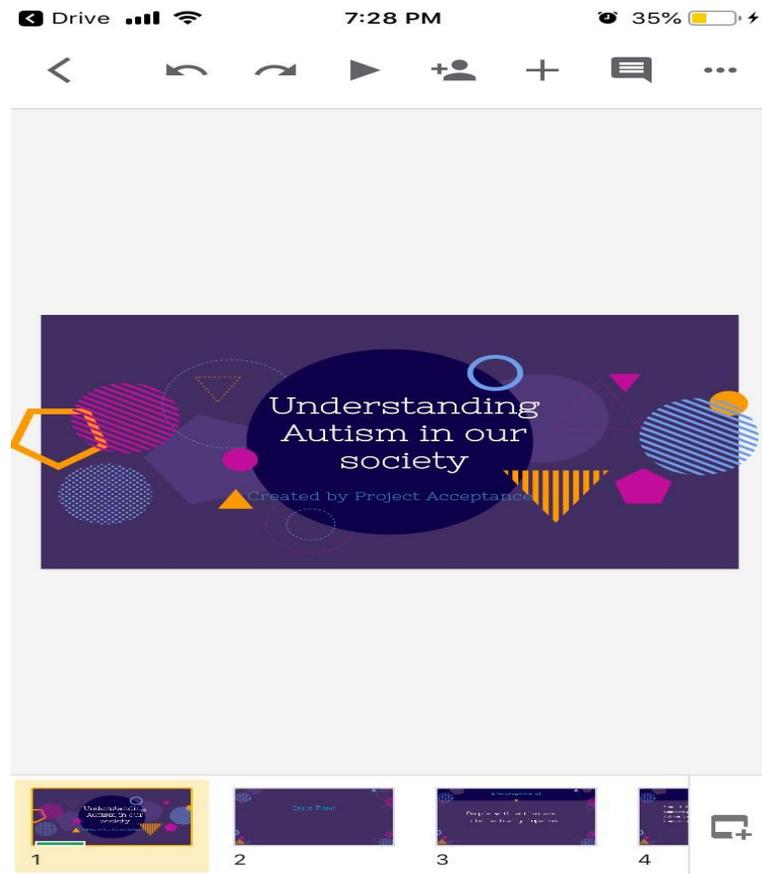


Table of content on website



Main page of website



Teaching slides



Interview video

2 REVIEW

Based on our research, there are existing resources and websites on the topic of autism. However, there are not many Singapore-based websites which address the topic of autism. In addition, these scarce websites do not provide much content, thus it is quite difficult to learn more about autism in Singapore. Furthermore, the websites

merely state the causes and problems faced by children with autism, and fail to cover other important aspects such as the misconceptions surrounding people with autism.

3 METHODOLOGY

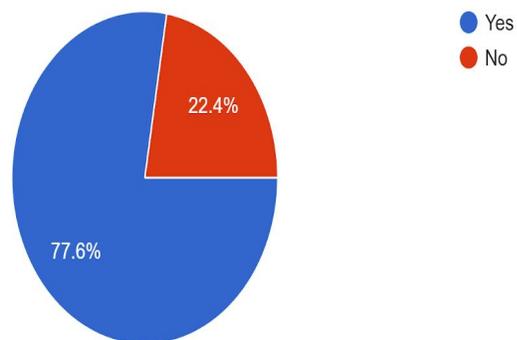
3.1 NEEDS ANALYSIS

We conducted a survey on 76 students from HCI to gain insight on the need of our resource

3.2 SURVEY RESULTS

Do you feel that children with autism are frequently misunderstood and discriminated?

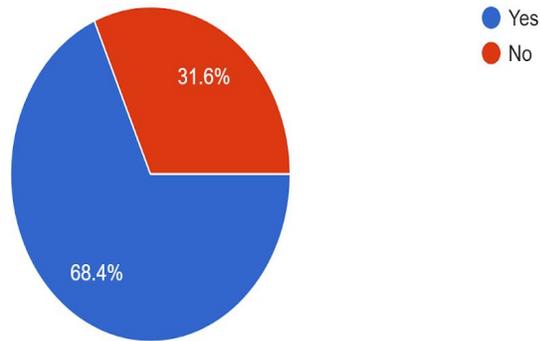
76 responses



77.6% of our respondents felt that children with autism are frequently made fun of and face discrimination.

Do you think that a website which clears misunderstandings about autism and educates you on how to interact with people with autism will be useful?

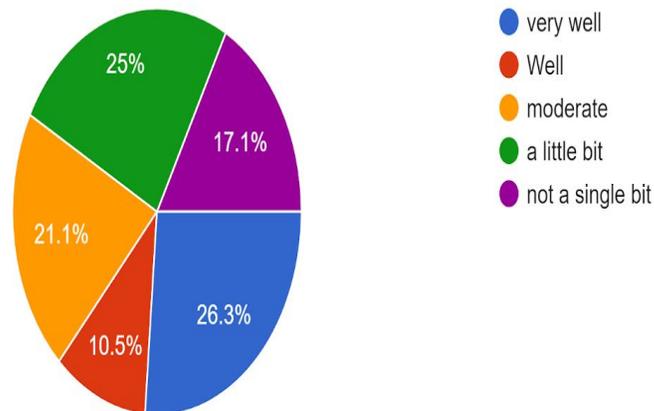
76 responses



68.4% of our respondents felt that a website would be effective in educating them on how to interact with people with autism.

How well is your understanding on autism?

76 responses



About 63% of our respondents stated that they did not have much understanding of autism. Thus, it is clear that our resource package would be useful in addressing the gaps.

3.3 DEVELOPMENT OF RESOURCES

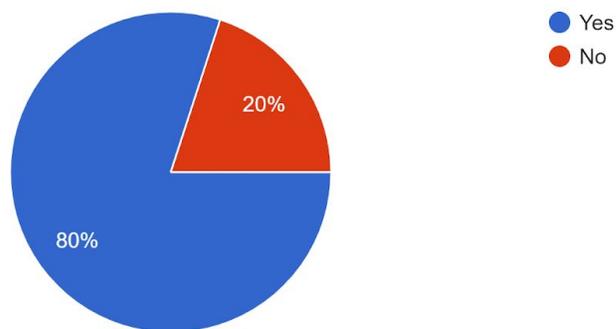
After a thorough review of the existing resources and websites, we consulted a professional, Ms Lee Siew Hoon, Head of Curriculum in a specialised school for children with autism. She gave us a lot of constructive feedback and information, which helped guide us through the creation of our resources. After much research and gathering of information, we then put together our website with all its features.

3.4 PILOT TEST

We conducted a pilot test on 25 respondents. We allowed them to browse through our resources, and their feedback and suggestions were collected.

Have we cleared the misconceptions about the autism spectrum disorder?

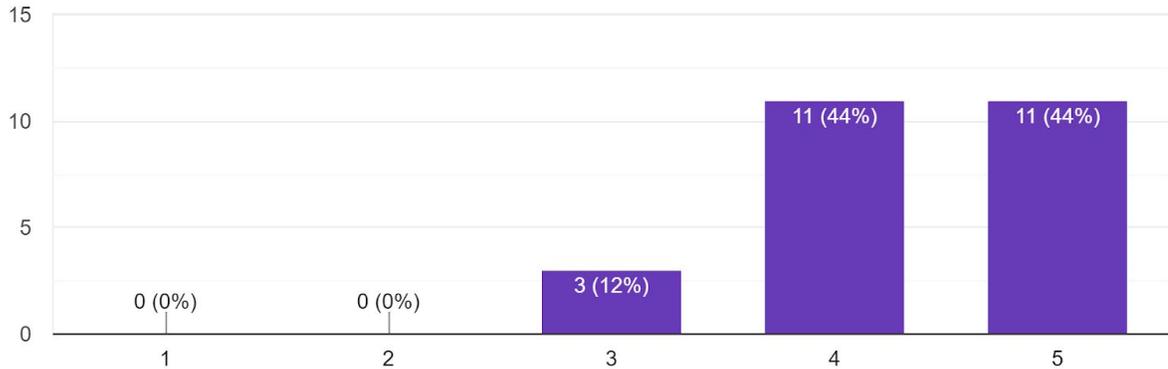
25 responses



Majority of our respondents stated that our website had served one of its purposes

How much have you learnt about the do and don'ts when interacting with people of autism(1 being nothing and 5 being a a lot)

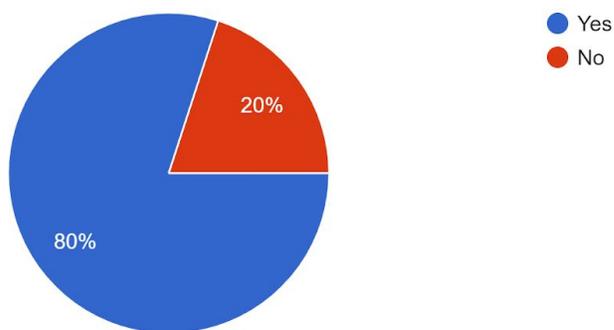
25 responses



When asked about the knowledge that they have gained about the do's and don'ts via our website, about 88% of our respondents gave a score of 4-5.

Would you recommend our website to others?

25 responses

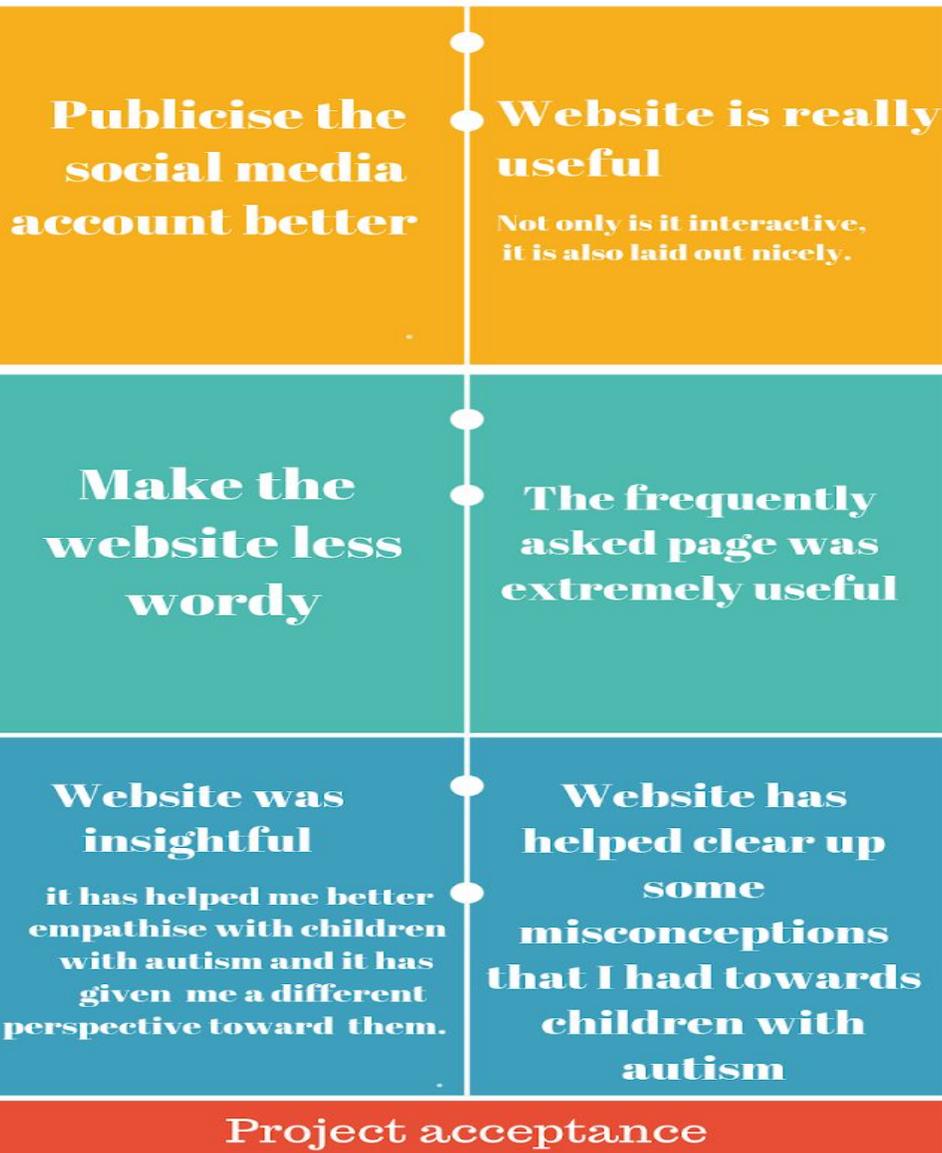


80% of our respondents said that they would recommend our website to other people.

3.5 PILOT TEST COMMENTS

PROJECT ACCEPTANCE

Pilot test Comments



In general, our resources have gathered positive feedback. Nevertheless, there were some minor improvements that needed to be done. Firstly, we took a more proactive

approach towards publicising our Instagram account by appealing to our friends to share our account with their old classmates. In addition, we also reduced redundant parts on the website by deleting the less important parts, and replaced them with more meaningful content.

4 OUTCOME AND DISCUSSION

After improving our website based on the feedback and comments given, our website was finally completed. Through the span of this project, we encountered many problems, such as making time from our busy schedules to meet up and complete our project. However, we felt a sense of accomplishment after completing the project. Some suggestions for future work is to publicise our website and instagram account more frequently to reach out to a larger audience, or to make a mobile app so that users can have access to the information at their own convenience.

5 CONCLUSION

Project Acceptance was quite challenging to carry out as many components of the website had to be completed within a short period of time. These had to be done on top of our school work, tests, CCAs and other commitments. Despite these challenges, it was definitely an enriching and fulfilling experience. Through this process, we gained a lot of valuable skills and knowledge. Firstly, we learned that teamwork is key when doing a project. Being divided will get us nowhere, but by being united it has helped us achieve big accomplishments. Secondly, good planning is very important. With good planning and clear communication, we managed to complete the project efficiently. Lastly, we learned the importance of perseverance. Even though there were times when we felt like giving up, we had to remind one another to continue persevering and to pull through till the completion of the project.

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