

# **ASHA KA JHARNA**

## **Half Yearly Activity Report (April 2017 to September 2017)**

This mid-year activity report for the period April 2017 to September 2017 of **Asha Ka Jharna (AKJ)** special schools is aimed to depict, describe and list various activities undertaken with children, staff and community members during the preceding period. The report also illustrates the various events organized by the organization, visits of prominent personalities, awards, honors and accreditations received etc.

- On 3rd April, World Day for Autism, "National Conference on Autism" held at Vigyan Bhawan , New Delhi by National Trust , MSJE was attended by us. Success stories celebrating diversity, technical sessions on various aspects of ASD, lively Q & A were highlights of this one day conference.
- On 9th May, local functionaries from community celebrated birthday of Rajasthan Ex CM Sh. Ashok Gehlot among special children at Asha Ka Jharna Nawalgarh School. Cake cutting was followed by stationary distribution. Children designed a beautiful hand crafted collage of birthday wishes for him which was later presented by hand at Jaipur. Hon. Gehlot Ji conveyed his best wishes for our children and organization.
- During children summer break, our team again hit the streets braving scorching sun & heat for annual updation survey. New beneficiaries were identified and parents counselled upon to link them to appropriate services (education, social security, employment and medical). Those fit for our school, after the initial screening at home, were called to school for detailed assessment followed by admission from next session to be started in July.

- On 17<sup>th</sup> May, we discussed ways and means of providing employable skills to our passed out youth with SARTHAK, National Organization working for livelihood to PWDs. We offered to start a sub center at AKJ for skill training followed by job placement in collaboration with SARTHAK.
- Executive Council Meet of PARIVAAR (Apex National body of 250 parent associations of IDD's) was attended by AKJ chief functionary from 19<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> May at Bangalore in which lot of issues were discussed. Way forward in keeping up of various provisions of New RPD ACT 2016 was deliberated upon.
- On 26 May, four of our special educators attended one day workshop on 'Behavioural Challenges & Techniques of Behavior Modification' for Mentally Challenged Children. This was organized by Directorate Special Abled, Govt of Rajasthan at MR Home Jamdoli Jaipur. They learnt the tools from eminent resource persons. One of our special educators Rajat presented the findings from group discussions among participants which he led on the topic of 'How to Overcome Fear' among children.
- During children summer break, on 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> June Exciting Capacity Building Workshop on Using Expressive & Creative Art Techniques for Special Children was organized at Asha Ka Jharna Nawalgarh unit. All three school team members as well as Childline Sikar team learnt & enjoyed innovative ways from Arpita Yadav Master Trainer & Excellent Task Master along with facilitator Meeta Mathur. Role play activities enabled staff to shed their inhibitions and they evolved as more vocal & expressive. Realized that they possessed the potential but lacked the stimuli to maximize it which this interactive workshop provided. Team Building, Bonding & Organizational Ethos Reinforcement were the other takeaways. On DAY 2, it was a transformation and day of reckoning. Our team displayed their oratory, creative, visualization and expressive skills. Hands folded yesterday in first hour were now flowing like wings. Day schedule consisted of making Best out of Waste and Creativity Let Loose.

Newspaper & Magazines Raddi , Old Bottels , Broken Toys , All discarded stuff lying in store was pulled out and they were mandated to create Something Unique. After one hour of juggling, tinkering brains and doing trial & error, what emerges as finished products was simply awesome. Team was assigned the task of developing and value adding earmarked sensory stimulation space within the school premises.

- After constant follow up by us, now Govt of Rajasthan has launched a mega campaign to identify, assessment, certification followed by distribution of aids & appliances to all special abled persons in the state. Series of workshops and training were held at district and block levels where our team actively participated and offered our un-flinched support to make this drive successful.
- On 10-11 June, An exhibition of products made by young adults with Intellectual Disabilities from Angels at Work Jaipur and Asha Ka Jharna was held at Sikar. Imitation Jewelry, Hand Crafted Strolls, Sarees and Greetings Cards were on display and sale. Response was encouraging with many visitors made aware of the abilities and skills of special needs persons.
- From 16<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> June, five days CRE (Continuing Rehabilitation Education) program on the topic of "Parent Empowerment" was attended by our special educator.
- On 24 June, a training workshop on "Legal Compliance for NGO's " with focus on GST, FCRA and Income Tax Acts was attended by Chief Functionary. Topics discussed were : Concept of GST, CGST and SGST , Overview of GST Taxation , Applicability of GST to NGOs , Overview of FCRA including latest developments ,Compulsory Online Updation through FC-6 , Penalties on late filing of FCRA annual Return , Impact of various legislative decisions on S. 12A, S.80G & 80GGA , E-filing of Income Tax return followed by Q & A.

- During the whole quarter (July to September), we had undertaken 'Deen Dayal Upadhyay Vishesh Yogya Jan Abhiyan' in mission mode to ensure that maximum beneficiaries get enrolled for Universal ID Cards (UDID) which would provide one stop solution for Disabled. Towards this end following tasks were executed :
  - ✓ Attended orientation sessions and VCs conducted by Social Justice Deptt , Govt of Rajasthan and District collectors from time to time.
  - ✓ Organized parents meeting at our schools to brief them about the Campaign and required documents to enroll their wards.
  - ✓ Arranged & compiled desired documents. Counselling the parents through regular phones and home visits continuously for getting the documents ready.
  - ✓ Contacted E - Mitra Kiosk to register all those children having necessary papers.
  - ✓ Contacted Municipal Committee and arranged camps at school premises to capture biometrics of left out children.
  - ✓ Constant hand holding with community with linkage to local administration so that no one is left behind.

Result of our pain taking efforts were that out of 208 admitted children at our three schools , nearly 175 UDID cards enrollment were done by the end September while in few cases , biometrics were not captured and some technical bottleneck were there. Few parents unfortunately refused to enroll their children citing flimsy reasons.

- Strategic Planning Meet for Self-Advocacy Movement in India was held at Nagpur by PARIVAAR on 6<sup>th</sup> August in which our chief functionary in the capacity of technical adviser Rajasthan participated. During the lay long brain storming session it was decided to spread the Self Advocacy Movement in the country and our region. Action plan was finalized to create a pool of enlightened Self Advocate along with competent mentors. As a first step, training of Master Trainers (TOMT) course from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> Nov at Jabalpur is planned. Selected MT should be literate and must have worked with PwIDDs, compassionate about the cause to make them as self-reliant as possible and SPARE TIME FOR MENTOR

training. One of our team members would be MT from Rajasthan along with three more selected ones from Udaipur, Jodhpur & Ajmer.

- Special Children from Asha Ka Jharna participated at 5 KM Marathon Run on 27th August at SIKAR (Rajasthan). This Grand Event was organized by LEO Club (Lions Club Youth Arm) to spread awareness about Health among local community. More than 1000 citizens walked / ran along with 22 of our children thereby promoting Inclusion. #InclusiveIndiaCampaign
- On 23<sup>rd</sup> August, a Heritage conservation and awareness workshop organized by INTACH was attended by three of our special educators. Indian rich cultural legacy and traditions were shared among participants and they were asked to disseminate the importance of preservation and cleanliness among the students.
- On 5<sup>th</sup> September, one of our team member attended Yoga & Healthy Living training sessions. Same is being practiced with our children during morning assembly to build up their attention & concentration span and body posture.
- On Teachers Day, it was turn of AKJ team to shine. In the glittering functions at Sikar & Jhunjhunu organized by 'Dainik Bhaskar' Media House, our six special educators were felicitated before august gathering of citizens for their contribution in teaching children with disabilities with dedication and passion.
- Rajasthan State Advocacy & Network Meet on Deaf Blindness organized by Sense International India & hosted by State Resource Centre of Deaf blindness, "SPARSH" at RMKM Ajmer was attended by us on 8<sup>th</sup> September. Macro planning with stakeholders including medical professionals, administration & academia and way forward to put peculiar requirements of persons with deaf blindness in focus was discussed.

- On 11<sup>th</sup> September, base assessment camp was attended by one of our special & talented team member. Murari Soni, youth with hearing & speech impairment employed as computer instructor who is also a gifted painter. He works magic at canvass as well as on computer screen. National Abylampics Association of India organized this camp at New Delhi to screen and further train the skills of Persons with Disabilities. Murari performance was widely appreciated there. We are hopeful that he will go to next round.
- Asha Ka Jharna was represented by our special educator at Inclusive India Summit and AGM conducted at New Delhi by The National Trust. Full day of learning and sharing space with acclaimed celebrities. We raised issues regarding NT schemes and legal guardian ship for Persons with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. Inclusion in all walks of life and with everyone on the board will lead to a true inclusive society. #AccessibleIndiaCampaign
- Two of our special educators (Hearing Impairment) were fully sponsored by the organization for three months Sign Language Training to Kota. Instructor from Noida Deaf Society will guide them with hands on training with HI children studying at Badhit Bal Vikas Samiti Kota. In line synergy with Mrs Sarveshwari Raniwala, Chairperson BBVS who gracefully consented to accommodate our educators with her staff for this training, we would build our capacities to prepare AKJ HI children face real world and higher education by learning ISL.
- Our children were taken on an excursion trip to Jaipur on 16<sup>th</sup> September. They always look forward to this outing which provide them a bird view of outer world and exposed to different stimulations. Jaipur scenic places like Zoo, Museum, Jal Dhara, Birla Temple and a mall. Children and staff thoroughly enjoyed this day trip.
- Asha Ka Jharna was selected for prestigious one year long Organization Capacity Enhancement Program supported by ORACLE Foundation. First Strategic Management Workshop to make our systems robust was held at Noida on 21<sup>st</sup> -22<sup>nd</sup> September which Chief functionary along with one of our governing body member attended. On first Day , FMSF Team

delivered about Voluntary Organization Board Processes : Composition , Recruitment , Orientation , Appraisal of Governing Body Members & Meeting , Notices , Agenda Setting , Attendance/Quorum , Minutes & Resolution Recording. Day 2 of OCEP was more interesting with deliberations on Board oversight Functions. Why How & When of Revisiting Policies, Budget, Controls, Audits, Governance, Reporting, and Human Resource & Compliance Mechanism was discussed. There were fruitful productive sessions on sharing best practices. We look forward to put newly acquired skills in strengthening the systems & protocols at Asha Ka Jharna with the hand holding of new forged relationships.

- On 23rd September, we had a wonderful meeting with Dr Jitender Agarwal of SARTHAK Educational Trust New Delhi, National Organization working for livelihood to PWDs. New avenues for skill building, employment opportunities and showcasing abilities through ABylamps for our children were discussed. Asha Ka Jharna plans to send few special youth for gaining employable skills to their training center.
- On 25 & 26<sup>th</sup> September, our Senior Technical Adviser Monalisa Mehta & Special Educator Rajat Kumar from Asha Ka Jharna participated in two days' workshop by SJE Rajasthan at Jaipur. Launching of a new program for automating screening, assessment and lesson planning for children with Intellectually Disabilities. Contributed our thoughts and inputs on this soon to be evolved Web based assessment tool named 'Punarjjani' developed by Information & Technology Deptt. Govt of India. Based on our feedback, review is anticipated further to make the tool more effective.