

ASHA KA JHARNA

Quarterly Activity Report (October 2017 to December 2017)

This quarterly activity report for the period October 2017 to December 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 this period. The report also illustrates the various events organized by the organization, visits of prominent personalities, awards, honors and accreditations received etc.

- During the recent quarters, Asha Ka Jharna 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 :
 - a) Attended orientation sessions and VCs conducted by Social Justice Deptt Govt of Rajasthan and District collectors from time to time.
 - b) Organized parents meeting at our schools to brief them about the Campaign and required documents to enroll their wards.
 - c) Arranged & compiled desired documents. Counselling the parents through regular phones and home visits continuously for getting the documents ready.
 - d) Contacted E Mitra Kiosk to register all those children having necessary papers.
 - e) Contacted Municipal Committee and arranged camps at school premises to capture biometrics of left out children.

f) 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 212 admitted children at our three schools , nearly 180 UDID cards enrollment were done by the end December 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. Now in the second phase, these children are being called for medical assessment.

- Mr Dhanna Lal Purohit, State Disability Commissioner visited our school on 10th October; oversaw the activities and interacted with children & team members. He was impressed with our functioning and wished us accordingly. We raised the issue of delay in framing state rules for New RPD Act 2016. Our inputs on draft rules were handed over to him.
- On 11th October, Mental Health Day was observed in the company of legal fraternity. Magistrate from Jhunjhunu Court & Legal Service Authority delivered a talk on child rights. Parents & Guardians were briefed upon New RPD Act provisions and entitlements.
- Until now, parents have been their children's best advocate - protecting them from harsh realities of life. But the earlier we parents empower them to advocate for themselves, the more prepared they will be for life ahead - no matter what path they take. Our children must be prepared for self-advocacy. With this theme Fourth National Self Advocates National Convention was held at Ahmedabad on 25th and 26th October. Around 250 SAs from different parts of the country took place in this event with sessions on leadership, listening exercises, expressive communication techniques, recreational & team building activities aimed at young adults with intellectual disabilities and their mentors. Our team of 14 SA and 4 parents participated there and gained new insights.

- To spread the Self Advocacy Movement in the country, as a first step, training of Master Trainers (TOMT) from 2nd to 4th Nov was conducted by PARIVAAR National Confederation at Jabalpur (MP). Objectives of this training were :
 - a) Explain the concepts of “Powerlessness”, “Empowerment” and “Self-Advocacy”.
 - b) Develop a positive attitude towards Self Advocacy.
 - c) Utilize the basic skills required for Self-Advocacy in your day to day activities.
 - d) Explain the concept of “Mentoring”.
 - e) Develop a positive attitude towards Mentoring.
 - f) Utilize the basic skills required for Mentoring in your day to day activities.
 - g) State the basic requirements for formulating a training program for mentee Self Advocates.
 - h) Develop a positive attitude towards training of Self Advocates.
 - i) Utilize the basic skills required for training self-advocates in your day to day activities.

Self-Advocacy Steps	Skills to learn	Support skills to learn
Step 1: Understanding self-advocacy	What is self-advocacy?	
Step 2: Understanding yourself	Where do I need to use self-advocacy? What skills are needed for self-advocacy? What am I already good at in self-advocacy? What skills so I need to improve for self-advocacy?	
Step 3: Understanding your rights and responsibilities	What are the rights as a person with a disability? What are the responsibilities as a person with a disability?	
Step 4: Understanding the	What is the problem? Who can help me change the situation	Self-esteem Assertiveness

problem	or give me information? How would I like to change the situation?	Support networking
Step 5: Understanding how to prepare for self-advocacy	How do I find the information I need? How do I think of solutions for the problem? What order should I do things?	Communication Listening Planning
Step 6: Understanding how to use self-advocacy	When should I use the telephone? When should I write a letter? When should I go to a meeting? When should I do more?	Stress management Conflict resolution Negotiation

We in the capacity of state nodal point facilitated four participants (including one from AKJ) across Rajasthan for this TOT.

- CII Rajasthan in association with Department of Social Justice and Empowerment, Govt of Rajasthan organised a two day National Conference on “Disability: Multiple Possibilities and Prospects” on 10-11 November 2017. The Conference was Partnered by Rehabilitation Council of India and Disha Foundation. The conference worked as the platform to discuss the issues related to needs of differently abled people through keynote addresses, paper presentations, poster presentations, discussions and workshops. Chief Secretary, Government of Rajasthan, Mr Ashok Jain & ACS –SJE Mr J C Mohanty along with Dr Samit Sharma, Director addressed the Inaugural Session of the Programme. Some of the other eminent speakers at the Conference included Professor Pratibha Singhi, Director Paediatric Neurology and Neurodevelopment, Medanta, Padma Bhushan Dr Shayama Chona , Founder President-Tamana Special School, Padamshri Dr Ashok Panagariya, Member, Chief Minister’s Advisory Council, Mrs Mala Khaitan, Chairman Disha Foundation, Mr Madhusudan Srinivasan, Senior News Editor, NDTV, New Delhi , Dr Sudhir Bhandari; Dr Ashok Gupta; Dr Shiv Gautam; Ms Meera Shenoy, Founder, Youth4Jobs; Ms P N Kavoori, Educationist , Advisor-Disha Foundation, Mr Nipun Malhotra, CEO ,Nipman Foundation , Dr Jitendra Agarwal, Chairman , Sarthak Foundation, Ms Christina Adams (USA) , Writer & parent of a special child; Ms

Elizabeth "Betsy" Neuville , Executive Director of The Keystone Institute; Ms Meenu Bhambani, Vice President Mphasis; Dr S Sitharaman, Pediatrician, HOD, J K Lon Hospital etc.

More than 200 participants attended the Conference. Our chief functionary along with three special educators participated in the National Conference.

- A high level meeting was called by ACS , SJE to draft and frame Rajasthan State Rules in light with New RPD Act. Our chief functionary was invited into the working group in which he submitted critical inputs and point wise suggestions to be incorporated. New rules after vetting from legal and finance department are likely to be notified early 2018.
- National Parents Meet organized by PARIVAAR at Bangalore was attended by us. Proceedings are enclosed.

25th NATIONAL PARENTS MEET: 11.11.2017

The inaugural ceremony was enriched by the dignified presence of Dr.Thawarchand Gehlot, the Hon'ble Minister of Social Justice & Empowerment, Dr.Kiran Bedi, the Lt. Governor of Pondicherry, Dr.D.K.Menon, Archbishop Dr.Bernard, Dr.Himangshu Das, Director, NIEPMD, Shri Mukesh Jain, CEO, National Trust, Dr.Doly Chakraborty, Joint Secretary. Unlike the usual hasty and breezy presence of VVIPs, the Hon'ble Minister Dr.Gehlot remained in his seat and let all others speak. President Cdr.Bijur presented in a nutshell of the present scenario and the immediate necessities like NT Amendment, Skill Development and Placement and representation of Parents' Organisations in different committees to be constituted as per RPD Act. Shri Mukesh Jain spoke about NT schemes, especially DISHA and Gharaunda. Smt.Doly Chakraborty spoke about the symbiotic relationship between Parivaar and NIMH. She lauded Parivaar for the unique assemblage of parents from all over the country. She touched areas like educational empowerment, awareness creation, necessity of State RPD Rules etc. She reminded the audience that any legislature will be meaningless unless it creates a momentum. It has been heartening that Dr.Kiran Bedi requested specifically the recognition of Parivaar by the National Trust, ear-marking identified jobs to parents of PwIDDs, grant for Parivaar and creating awareness about

schemes among parents. Dr.Menon, as always, sounded differently. He spoke about keeping friendship, initiating conversation and not letting PwIDDs lonely and also to train PwIDDs to safeguard themselves. The Silver Jubilee Souvenir was released by Dr.Gehlot. Those who expected any announcement from the Hon'ble Minister might have been disappointed. First technical session was on "New Schemes of National Trust and other Govt.Programmes", led by Shri Mukesh Jain, Mrs.Jayasree Ramesh and Shri M.G.Prakash. Certain questions (written and submitted) remained unanswered. In the next session on "Inclusive Education – Provisions in Legislations, Schemes", Dr.Bhushan Punani insisted that PwIDDs could be taught beyond primary level. The third session was "RPD Act – Ensuring Rights & Entitlements of PwIDDs" by Dr.L.Govinda Rao. Dr.Rao's mention of making 'fully equal' sounded like 'more circular'. One didn't get anything out of it as the presenter was rushing through, for want of time. The last session of the day was on "Self-Advocacy – Ensuring Human Rights and Independent Living", led by Shri Vijay Kant and Shri Parthiban.

12.11.2017 NPM: DAY TWO:

The proceedings of the day commenced at 9.40 A.M. with a song by our North-East friends which made the atmosphere lively. The first session was on "Skill Development & Employment for PwIDD" by Shri Pankaj Maru, Cdr.Bijur and Mrs.Suganda Sukrutraj being chairpersons. Shri Maru explained different NHFDC schemes. However, he skipped the issue of 1% job reservation and avoided answering the question of inclusion of LD along with ID. Mrs.Suganda gave a brief account of AMBA. Next session on "Role of Parents' Organisations and Parents' Responsibilities", an important subject from parents' perspective, was handled by Cdr.Bijur, with Smt.Ranoo Banerjee, Krishnakumari Menon and Ruby Singh. Cdr.Bijur said after 18 years of age of a PwIDD, parents have to kick-start initiative for skill development and vocational training; form self-help groups; open employment, mentoring; leisure and sports; formation of group homes (which shall ensure sustainability, good management and safety). He also stressed on parents' awareness, spreading self-advocacy, formation of parent groups, capacity building, and support for resource generation, coordination and advocacy with Government and knowledge pooling and sharing. Cdr.Bijur also suggested a check-list to see whether one has done one's duty

as a parent. The third session of the day was on “Adolescents with IDD, Parents, Sexuality & Safety”, handled by Dr.Shaibya Saldhana, Director, ENFOLD. Without doubt one can say that this has been one of the best sessions. Dr.Shaibya was superb with her openness and confidence in handling the subject. Many parents were in repentant mood as they felt they didn’t do justice to their children with regard to sex education. Next session was on “Involving Community in Development of PwIDDs” by Ms.Prerana Singh, supported by Shri Anil Joshi, Ruby Singh and Shri P.S.Burde, with Mrs.Suchitra Somasekhar in the chair. Ms.Prerana Singh divided the community into three: the inner circle consisting of family members of the PwIDDs, the middle circle consisting of professionals and the outer circle. She said there must be a sense of belonging; support must be value based and qualitative. She reminded that supporters shall not be competitors. Shri Anil Joshi said that it was heartening to see that younger generation is taking up the cause (meaning Ms.Prerana Singh who took up the field because of her differently abled brother). However, mother of Ms.Prerana Singh asked a pertinent question: “Where is the next line of leadership? I see here only old faces.” Shri Anil Joshi also reminded the need for synergy of ideas. Mrs.Ruby Singh was forceful and unique in her presentation. The last session was on “Life Long Care – Living Standards for Persons with High Support Needs” by Shri Ajin Kumar Sen, with S/Shri Jha, Tapan Ghosh and Prof.Venkatesha.
....And the Valedictory session.

- Anjali International Inclusive Children Festival Bhubaneshwar (13th to 18th November 2017) is an eagerly awaited event on our calendar. This year ten children from AKJ participated in it. Detailed report enclosed separately.
- During November, three passed out HI youth from Asha Ka Jharna underwent two months skill training program at Gurgaon being organized by SARTHAK Educational Trust. This is a path breaking initiative by us as due to depressing economic environment in our region, skill building exposure is not there. These youth will learn modules in soft skills, retail mgmt., BPO handling etc. followed by linkage to job opportunities.
- 12 of our children were taken on an excursion trip to New Delhi on 4th – 5th December. They always look forward to this outing which provide them a

bird view of outer world and exposed to different stimulations. They presented an excellent choreographed skit and earned thunderous applause at Akshay Utsav. (Annual Fest of Akshay Pratishthan). Children were thrilled on their maiden Metro Ride and visit to Kutub Minar. View of IGI Airport and Sky Scrapers at Gurgaon was of particular interest for them. Children thoroughly enjoyed this trip.

- One day National Consultation on Regulatory Laws & Compliances in NPOs was attended by our chief functionary on 7th December at New Delhi. During the day long deliberations, issues concerning FCRA developments; IT amendments and GST applicability concerning voluntary organizations were explained in detail by legal & technical experts.
- In due recognition of his services to the cause of disability , our Chief Functionary Mr Sudeep Goyal received "Vishishith Sewa Samman" at 6th International Conference on ' Paradigm Shift in Global Business Practices and Socio Economic Development ' held at Indore on 8th December at the hands of Dr Narendra Kumar Dhakad , Hon. Vice Chacellor Devi Ahilaya Vishwa Vidhalaya ; Dr Dilip K Pithadia , Chairman Pithadia Foundation USA ; Dr Rangana Sri Shalika , University of Sri Lanka & Dr. Narang , Dynamic MD Vishishith Group of Institutions. Attended Technical Sessions thereafter where more than 300 papers of diverse topics were presented by academicians across the country and six nations.
- Two of our special educators (Hearing Impairment) are being sponsored by us for three months Sign Language Training to Kota. Deaf Instructor from Noida Deaf Society has been guiding them with hands on training with HI children studying at Badhit Bal Vikas Samiti Kota. Training would be completed by End January or Mid-February 18.
- Year ended on another important interaction for our sector. Mr Kamlesh Pandey, Chief Commissioner Disability, Govt of India visited Jaipur on 28th December. We met him and raised Rajasthan issues including poor state of affairs of accessibility in built environment; inordinate delay in framing state rules; RTE act etc.