

# **Annual Activity Report**

April 2012 to March 2013

## **Introduction:**

This is an annual activity report of **Asha Ka Jharna (AKJ)** special schools from April 2012 to March 2013. The report is aimed to depict, describe and list various activities that were performed by 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.

This should help all stakeholders, well-wishers and grant makers to apprise of multi-faceted activities and events being executed during the reported period at AKJ with the aim to benefit special needs children & community, enrich educators and other staff members. Objective here is the better learning outcomes of the students and help them improving in their lives by using the modern techniques, equipment, method, pedagogies and technologies.

## **A) Adventure, Recreational & Sporting Events:**

AKJ strongly believes in attaining full potential of children and periodically organizes various trips to enable them participate in different sports and recreational activities. Objective is to seek physical as well as psychological development of students apart from providing them the platform of showcasing their talent and abilities. Following are some of the notable events:

### **Excursion at Jaipur:**

On 16th April 2012, with the support of young volunteers from 'BOOND', children participated in recreational; sports and cultural events organized at a farmhouse in Kukas (Near Jaipur) Activities like Treasure Hunt, Tug-O-War, Drawing & Painting and cultural programmes were performed by them. They were also taken to 'Pizza Hut' Fast Food Chain to explore the new age culture and its diversities.

### **Junoon at Pilani :**

On, 8th September, a sporting extravaganza 'Junoon' was conceived and executed by the NSS wing of Birla Institute of Technology & Science Pilani wherein during their regular sports week; they also provided a platform for special children. More than 100 children from five NGOs Muskaan (Delhi), Umang (Jaipur), Akshay Pratishthan (Chirawa), Amla Birla (Pilani) and Asha Ka Jharna (All three Schools at Nawalgarh, Jhunjhunu & Sikar) competed in various sporting events among the cheers of budding engineers and proved that they are no behind. Integrated events were also organized. AKJ bagged 3 Gold, 4 Silver and 4 Bronze medals.

### **Dharamshala Visit:**

From 19<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> November, 32 children along with 8 special educators went for a journey of their life to various places in Himachal Pradesh including Dalhousie, Mini Switzerland of India Khajjiar and Dharamshala where they were blessed by none other than Holi Saint Dalai Lama and were thrilled & excited to see river , mountains , valleys , flora & fauna first time in their lives.

### **Samarth Exhibition:**

On 9th September, one beautiful poster on the theme of livelihood for special persons which was designed by one of our hearing impaired child Master Murari Lal Soni got selected for Abilities India Exhibition SAMARTH organized by Deptt. of Disability Affairs, Govt of India.

### **B) Direct Benefits & Social Security :**

As part of regular activities , direct beneficiaries i.e. Special Needs Children are being provided special education & training ; therapeutic intervention ; transportation from homes to school and back ; daily nutrition supplements ; stationery and learning aids ; two pairs of uniform, woolen sweater, blanket, socks in a year ; medical checkup twice an year ; medical facility wherever needed . Apart from these , aids & appliances camps and special drives for ensuring social benefits to beneficiary families are regularly undertaken.

### **Hearing Aid Distribution:**

On 18th October, AKJ in partnership with 'Starkey Hearing Foundation, USA' organized another Ear Mould Measurement & Hearing Diagnostic Camp in which impressions of 75 children with speech & hearing

impairment were taken for designing the mould. Subsequently on 29<sup>th</sup> November, High Quality behind the Ear (BTE) Hearing Aids were distributed at a glittering function at Jaipur to them. With this camp, during last four years , free distribution of BTE Aids along with ear mould (worth nearly 125 Lacs INR) to 460 children across the surrounding region has been made so far thus gifting them Virtue of Sound leading to Speech.

### **C) Parents Meets:**

Parents are the key stakeholder in realizing full potential of their wards. Unfortunately their involvement always remains an issue. To address this gap, we evolve various ways like monthly home visits, parent-teacher meet, awareness workshops, training capsules etc. to engage them.

Being a Member of PARIVAAR 'National Confederation of more than 240 Parent Associations of Persons with Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities', we have been constantly hand holding the parents / siblings of special needs children.

On 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> October, at Regional Parents Meet held at Ujjain (M.P.) more than 125 parents from the states of MP, Rajasthan and Chattisgarh learnt various dimensions of early intervention, self help groups, legal capacity, improving quality of lives and such issues. Mr Sudeep Goyal , as a resource person, also took a session on making realization of rights of PWIDs real . He emphasized on the rights based approach with a shift from welfare model. This session was highly interactive with many questions raised from the parents.

Similarly, on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> December, National Parents Meet was organized at Mumbai in which AKJ participated and gained insights.

## **D) Awareness, Sensitization & Outreach Programms:**

Awareness and Sensitization towards the cause of disability among all segments of society and general community is a vital component of any rehabilitation strategy. We make great efforts in this direction and never miss a chance to build capacities. During the reported period also, we took many initiatives in this regard in order to create buzz and spread right awareness amongst the masses.

### **Badhte Kadam (Let's Move Ahead) Awareness Campaign :**

On 8th of November, we organised a massive awareness campaign named 'Badhte Kadam' at our Sikar special school. Following were the components of day long activity –

- 1) Disabled Rights Rally carried through main parts of the town by regular school children along with special needs children (150 children participated)
- 2) Sports and Cultural programmes by both types of children to promote inclusion (300 children along with dignitaries/parents witnessed)
- 3) Nukkad Natak (Street Play) on early identification, intervention theme played at three community places - Bisaito Ka Chowk (targeted at Muslim audience) ; Mochiwada Mohalla and Opposite Railway Station (targeted at general public) by senior girls of Mody School Laxmangarh (Nearly 1000 community persons enlightened)

On 30th November 2012, this campaign was replicated in Nawalgarh where Ms Deepak Kalra, Chairperson, Rajasthan State Commission for Protection of Child Rights was the chief guest and key speaker. Following events were organized:

- 1) Disabled Rights & Awareness rally with regular and special children moving along the streets carrying play cards.
- 2) Inclusion activities (cultural program, painting, outdoor sports & fun games).

More than 1000 children, parents, teachers and community members were sensitized.

### **E) Prominent Visits and Networking :**

From time-to-time, various personalities across the section of the society keep visiting our schools for sharing time with the students while apprising themselves of the techniques used in special education. Activities have been appreciated & recorded by the visitors from the diverse background (Foreign Tourists, Govt. officials, prominent citizens from society & people's representatives). Following are the noticeable visits:

- 7<sup>th</sup> April – Students from Jhunjhunu Academy Public School
- 25<sup>th</sup> September & 5<sup>th</sup> October – Officials from State Bank of India donated one water purifier and six ceiling fans.
- 27<sup>th</sup> November – Socialist Sh Mohan Lal from Mumbai
- 28<sup>th</sup> November – A team of The Hans Foundation, New Delhi under the leadership of Ms Prerna Madhok visited our schools and spent time with children. They distributed 60 sets of winter uniform.
- 1<sup>st</sup> December – Local religious guru blessed the children.
- 26<sup>th</sup> December – Mr Ajeet Sharma, Deputy Director (Directorate of Disability, Govt. of Rajasthan) visited us.
- 10<sup>th</sup> January 2013 – Our Governing body founder member Dr Roshan Agarwal from UK visited and took review of progress made. Roadmap of next year planned activities and goals to achieve desired objectives were also discussed.

- 13<sup>th</sup> January – Mr Avdhesh Saraf , local businessman distributed kites and sweets on the occasion of Makar Sakranti.
- 17<sup>th</sup> January – In a unique and touching gesture, Mr. Jogaram , Distt. Collector Jhunjhunu celebrated his birthday with our special children.
- 20<sup>th</sup> February – Sh. Mohan Lal Goenka , Noted Industrialist from Chennai along with his family visited us.
- From September 2012 to March 2013, nearly every week we received foreign visitors as a part of Intrepid Travels. They were briefed and sensitized on various issues concerning children and disability in India. Intrepid central office at Delhi was also sensitized through our presentation on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2012.

#### **F) Staff Enrichment Workshops & Trainings :**

Skills up gradation and continuous knowledge enrichment are very high on our priority list. We regularly sponsor the visits of our staff members to the workshops and seminars across the country In order to keep them updated with the most modern techniques in the field of rehabilitation.

#### **Workshop on Accessibility -**

On 1<sup>st</sup> February, Ms Monalisa Mehta, our technical advisor participated in a state workshop at Jaipur to frame Govt. policies where she delved on issues related to accessibility & employment for persons with disabilities.

#### **International Workshop on Autism:**

On 17<sup>th</sup>- 18<sup>th</sup> February, an international conference on Autism Spectrum Disorder (organized by The Hans Foundation) was held at Maulana Azad Medical College, New Delhi. This was attended by three of our senior staff members who were immensely enriched by this experience sharing opportunity. Galaxy of speakers and professionals across the world deliberated at length about all aspects of ASD.

### **CRE Programme at Jaipur:**

From 26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> February, Mr Ashish Sharma, special educator attended workshop at Nirmal Vivek School, Jaipur and learnt on topics like universal design, barrier free environment, early intervention and how to deal with very young special children.

### **Early Intervention Workshop at Secunderabad:**

Four of our special educators (Two each from Mentally Challenged & Hearing Impaired sections) attended a workshop on Early Intervention at National Institute for Mentally Handicapped, Secunderabad (A.P.) on 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> March. During this national conference, all issues related to EI viz-a-viz all disabilities were touched upon and delegates were imparted skills to do better intervention among young kids.

### **G) Festivals ,Occasions & Special Days Celebrations:**

In order to connect the children with current times, AKJ celebrates / observes all major festivals, functions, occasions and special days in the year wherein we also invite community members to witness their performance as well as motivate them. Following are some of the noteworthy days that were celebrated customary enthusiasm and vigor:

- 1<sup>st</sup> August – Raksha Bandhan celebrations
- 9<sup>th</sup> August – Shri Krishan Janamashtami celebration
- 15<sup>th</sup> August – Independence Day function in the presence of community and Lions Club.
- 18<sup>th</sup> August – Eid-ul- fitar celebrations
- 15<sup>th</sup> October – Navratra Staphana and Dandia Ras
- 23<sup>rd</sup> October – Vijayadashmi with burning of Ravan effigy
- 25<sup>th</sup> October – Eid-ul-joha celebration



- 10<sup>th</sup> November – Before breaking for Deepawali vacations, children did Laxmi Puja, lit Diyas and candles and in the evening fired noiseless crackers. Schools were illuminated and heartily lunch was served followed by sweets distribution.
- World Day for Disabled – on 3<sup>rd</sup> December, WDD was observed with much fanfare. In coordination with Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, many events were organized including disability rally, painting, sports, debate etc. Objective was to generate empathy in general public.
- Christmas Fete – on 25<sup>th</sup> December, 60 children at Sikar school enjoyed thoroughly at Annual Fete organized at premier Mody Girls School, Laxmangarh. It was a unique event in a way that student volunteer from Mody took charge of each child and made them explore the world in a caring and entertaining way. They took them along on the various stalls of fun, games, food, rides, magic, ice-cream etc. displayed there. Children really had a fulfilling day with lot of excitement, entertainment and happiness. We also displayed candles and greeting cards designed by the children which were sold like hot cakes. At Nawalgarh and Jhunjhunu schools also, Santa Claus distributed gifts to them.
- 13<sup>rd</sup> January – Makar Sakranti celebration
- 26<sup>th</sup> January – Republic Day function in the presence of Bharat Vikas Parishad Members.
- 25<sup>th</sup> March – Festival of colors Holi celebrated with much enthusiasm assorted with Gulal and sweets.

#### **H) Human Resource Development / Training Delivered:**

Asha Ka Jharna also conducts short term training programs and refresher courses for parents, special educators and other professionals from time-to-time to align them with our objectives. Similarly Government teachers/siblings/ families are being inducted in various training and orientation programs.

### **Foundation Course on Disability :**

During the reported period, another batch of 40 Govt. Teachers from three districts took part in two face-to-face programmes of 21 days as part of their IGNOU course module at our Nawalgarh study centre. Expert resource persons from cross – section of professionals coupled with our special educators took theory and practical components. Teachers were given hands – on training at lesson planning, class room management, making & using appropriate teaching aids, assessment and counseling of special children in inclusive school setup. We have strived hard to inculcate the feeling of empathy among these teachers who always go back with a sense of belongingness and desire to work more closely with special children. We also made them promise to integrate the children in their schools during all the opportunities possible besides making practical use of classroom teaching what they have learnt here at AKJ.

### **Advanced Coach Training under Special Olympics:**

To conduct the various sporting events under the arena of Special Olympics, coach training was imparted to 30 persons by the National Coach and Master Trainer Mo. Vakil who taught those rules and regulations for organizing different games and competitions.

#### **I) Awards, Honors & Recognitions:**

- ✓ On 17<sup>th</sup> May 2012, AKJ Secretary Sudeep Goyal was nominated by State Government as a Member of 'Rajasthan State Commission for Protection of Child Rights' with a motto "EVERY RIGHT FOR EVERY CHILD" in the state. He is a member of three cells - Right to Education, Disability and Nutrition where he has been actively

monitoring various policies and programmes ; reviewing complaints & rights violation cases ; drafting new policies and advocating child rights in society.

- ✓ Samaj Seva Ratan by Singhania University on 29th October 2012.
- ✓ We are happy to share here that an article on our society Asha Ka Jharna was published as cover story in the prestigious lifestyle magazine Marwar India January 2013 issue dedicated to Altruism ( A Bimonthly Mag with 70000 + subscription PAN INDIA released from Mumbai with focus on Marwaris). Our hearing impaired girl Vinita is on cover page and our activities have been highlighted in the main article. This is a big achievement for us as this is the first full article on AKJ since inception. This issue also covered philanthropic activities by big marwari houses like Morarka,Bajaj,Ruia,Modi etc and we have been placed in the same league.
- ✓ Community Leadership Award by Sh. Mahesh Joshi, MP, Jaipur at Institute of Leadership Development, Jaipur on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2013.

### **Summary:**

In conclusion, Asha Ka Jharna as an organization is committed to ensure the development of special needs children & community and does every possible effort to train them, entertain them, motivate them, share excitements with them, foster love and provide them the platform where children can demonstrate their talent and abilities.