

# **ASHA KA JHARNA**

## **Annual Activity Report (April 2016 to March 2017)**

This is an annual activity report of **Asha Ka Jharna (AKJ)** special schools from April 2016 to March 2017. The report 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.

### **Humanity Died at Jaipur**

During third week of April, 12 mentally challenged children succumbed to the inhuman miserable living conditions at state Govt run MR Home. An army of staff and care takers & these could not ensure even potable water. Children as young as 5 year drank contaminated water from toilet tanks and ate stale food in 44+ temperature as their last supper. The facility was a living hell hole for mentally impaired children. The children were treated like animals there. Two hundred of them including ninety girls who were packed in just three rooms! They didn't even have access to safe drinking water! They were made to drink water from the toilet while the so called 'staff' conveniently got their own water from their homes. Do our PWIDDs and special children deserve this much? Where are the parents at the first place who have dumped their own blood just because she is intellectually delayed? Govt agencies responsible for monitoring: CWC, Child Commission, SJE Deptt., Directorate of Disability and Directorate of Child Rights: All have failed squarely in discharging their mandated roles.

Asha Ka Jharna Children along with their parents and our team members did a candle vigil march on 2<sup>nd</sup> May at Sikar to protest against this man made calamity. Children eyes were blindfolded, hands tied and locks placed on their lips to highlight the insensitivity, apathy and neglect of administration and community towards our special kids.

## **Networking for Better Synergies**

Executive Council Meet of PARIVAAR (Apex National body of 240 parent associations of IDD) was attended by AKJ chief functionary from 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> June at Bangalore in which lot of issues were discussed. New RPD Bill pending before parliament was thoroughly deliberated.

## **Brain Storming for Preventive Strategy**

In order to design safeguards to prevent Govt MR home like mishaps, a high level meeting with select NGOs was convened by Govt of Rajasthan on 25th June at Jaipur in which we were invited. I explained in detail about UNCRPD, PWD Act and Child Rights along with JJ Act. Minimum standards of running a residential set up were also shared by me. Post this meeting a committee was set up to devise monitoring mechanism across Rajasthan.

## **Food for Thought – New Learnings**

Mrs. Elizabeth Betsy from Key Stone Human Services (Strategic & Training Partner of THF) took a half-day session on 10<sup>th</sup> June at Bangalore covering all aspects of Indian disability scenario.

### ***Extract of the Highly Interactive Workshop:***

#### ***I. History (what participants told to the facilitator):***

- 1. Discrimination, social recognition long lost, rejection from school “You are now welcome here”.*
- 2. Rural v/s Urban...case ...disability...poverty – each form a part of the picture of disability in India – layers and layers*
- 3. Joint Families moving towards nuclear families (especially hurts poor people) informal  
Grass roots work to try to establish a future for the children with disability*
- 4. Housing discrimination (people with disabilities cannot get housing, neither can their families – perilous (risky/dangerous).*
- 4. Role of government? – This is unclear*
- 5. Treated worse than animals – literally tied out with the cows by a rope around the neck*
- 6. Impoverishment means very bad news for the people with disabilities. “My son will be like that” – this is what parents think*
- 7. Parents –shock & denial, deep stigma, abandoned their children to the church /temple.*

8. *Self-pity ...blamed, curse, hiding “Why me, Why my Family? What did I do to deserve this ?*

## **II. Now Realities:**

1. *Increasing independence for people.*

2. *A strong and vital family movement.*

3. *A practical approach.*

4. *Early Intervention is lacking in rural areas.....*

5. *Disability is not recognized and named.*

6. *Medical profession-not available, not trained, too few.*

7. *80% poor- poverty...disability...*

8. *“Feedback loop “Poor=high disability, and Disability= high poverty.*

9. *Public transport - rejection “risk” (kicked off buses, trains and planes), still waiting.....*

10. *What helps.....?*

11. *Encouragement from neighbors, supportive people...invested families.*

12. *NCRPD signed but not acted on Gradual address of needs– but slowly.*

13. *Property rights/legacy denied.*

14. *Programs help- vocational, educational, awareness programs.*

15. *Government talk...no action.*

16. *Medical model thinking is still prominent*

## **III. Vision:**

1. *Career is a possibility... “I am...I can...I will”*

2. *There is now clarity and direction regarding programs and schemes.*

3. *AN INCLUSIVE LIFE IS AT THE CORE - Reverse inclusion has been successful: 1. Person-first Mind set cultivation, 2. No discrimination, 3. Expanded vocation 4. Another world 5. Education is individualized 6. Everyone is a citizen first, 7. Developmental ideology in place 8. We took great care to avoid exploitation, 9. Education is inclusive in schools, 10. Everyone taught via adapted curriculum , students, university, medical school.*

4. *The Change is growth and movement both economic and political*

5. *Life is better; fear is less...there is more understanding. Career capacity.*

6. *Money in the bank (money & work) for people with disabilities*

7. *Equal opportunities- We are together, finally **Disabled/non-disabled***

8. ***Now, there is only one stream***

9. *We challenged the hierarchy of intellect*

10. *Everyone’s gifts are contributed- New RCI bill,*

11. *Challenge values, real democracy, real education for all (skill development, how to think &*

*Reason, why not what)*

## **IV. Actions to move forward:**

1. *Expand the opportunities.....mainstream now.*
2. *Curriculum must be aligned (disability from early school all through high school).*
3. *There must be powerful advocacy & learning.*
4. *Sensitize all government officials, all doctors, and all politicians.*
5. *Remove the physical & other barriers (which are less obvious but so real), through awareness and action.*
6. *Skill development training must be pursued.*
7. *Media impacted- films.*
8. *Strengthen local level communities, through NT.*
9. *“I can...I am...I will?” – must be action behind the slogan.*
10. *Self-advocacy is strengthened. “Nothing about us without us”.*
11. *Prioritize disability especially intellectual disability.*
12. *People with development disability at the highest levels of decision making.*
13. *Don’t let physical disability speak for us.*
14. *Show case talents through real life.*

### **Knowledge Workshop**

Networking & Knowledge workshop at Jaipur was attended by our technical adviser Ms Monalisa Mehta on 30<sup>th</sup> June where representative from National Association of Blind New Delhi and The National Trust delved upon various issues concerning Deaf Blind Children and New Schemes respectively.

### **Updation Survey (May – June)**

During the children summer vacations, all staff members at our three schools were engaged in various tasks like making assessment reports, designing teaching & learning aids, doing home visits, disability database updating survey. Our continuous intense counselling and awareness campaign created the desired buzz among community thereby identifying more than 70 new special children in our project area. We focused on educable group with stress on Younger ones. Logistics and transport arrangement were made to link these to our centres.

### **Sporting Glory**

Junoon is a unique sporting extravaganza for the specially-abled children organized by NSS and the Sports Council of Birla Institute of Technology & Science (BITS) Pilani since five years. Objective is to promote equality by

encouraging participation and providing a platform for the specially-abled to showcase their talent to the more privileged section of the society. 'Junoon 2016' was a two day Sports event, It saw a participation of around 200 special needs children from selected NGOs from Chirawa, Pilani, Delhi, Jaipur and our special schools ,all fighting for sporting glory. There were various sporting events like Cricket, Volleyball, Basketball, Badminton, Bocce and Athletics. Besides, a cultural evening called 'Junoon Nite' was organized depicting their cultures and abilities in the form of dance or small acts. 25 children from Asha Ka Jharna excelled in all the events they participated and bagged many medals. Our team was also winner in cultural fest.

### **Achievement Under Accessible India Campaign (Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan)**

Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Government of India has launched the “Accessible India Campaign (Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan)” as a nation-wide campaign for achieving universal accessibility for all citizens including persons with disabilities.

One of the target under the objective of enhancing the proportion of accessible government buildings under nation-wide Accessible India Campaign(AIC) is to conduct accessibility audit of 2500 buildings from 50 cities, 705 railway stations and about 25 airports of the country and converting them into fully accessible. Access Audits are an important means of ensuring accessibility and must cover all stages of the process of planning, design, construction, maintenance and monitoring and evaluation.

So far, 18 Access Auditors have been empaneled under AIC. While, this number by itself may not be sufficient to conduct access audit of above mentioned buildings and railway stations etc., in future the Campaign is going to create awareness about need for accessibility in private infrastructure also. Many private organizations and Public Sector Enterprises have already working for creating accessibility in their infrastructure. All these developments indicate need for significant number of access auditors in the country. In this respect, training need was felt so that Access Auditors are empanelled to conduct accessibility audit of most important government buildings and prepare action plans for converting them into fully accessible buildings in a time bound manner to be monitored through a PERT Chart.

Chief Functionary Mr Sudeep Goyal underwent an intensive two weeks rigorous training on ‘Principles & Tools for Access Audit of Built Environment’ at CPWD Academy Ghaziabad from 27<sup>th</sup> June to 8<sup>th</sup> July 2016. He was nominated by Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment under Prime Minister 'Accessible India Campaign'. He is the first and only certified and trained access consultant now from Rajasthan.

### **Pioneering Training on Social Role Valorization**

National Invitational Course “Valued Lives: A Three-Day Introduction to Social Role Valorization” was held in Delhi from 22<sup>nd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> August. It was a Joint Venture of The Hans Foundation, The National Trust & Key Stone Human Services. Same was attended by the chief functionary. Many new ideas and concepts were learned as per following schedule. SRV is being implemented now at Asha Ka Jharna in phases.

#### **SRV COURSE SCHEDULE**

#### **AUGUST 22: The Phenomenon of Social Devaluation and Introduction to the Themes of SRV**

Presentation: Wounding and Social Devaluation
Small Group Discussion: Devaluation and its Consequences
Two Reflections on Devaluation: “My Favorite Devalued People” and “The Universality of Oppression”

#### **AUGUST 23: The Ten Themes of Social Role Valorization**

	<b>Introduction to the Themes of SRV – The Red Thread of the</b>
	(1) The Power of Unconsciousness (Presentation and Discussion)
	Unconsciousness small group work
	(2) The Conservatism Corollary (presentation and discussion)
	‘Prevent, Reduce, and Compensate’ small group work
	<b>An Overview of The Hans Foundation</b>
	(3) Dynamics of Interpersonal Identification (presentation and
	(4) The Power of Mindsets
	Seeing is believing, believing is seeing: Small group work
	(5) The Dynamics of Role Circularity (presentation and discussion)

#### **AUGUST 24: The Themes of Social Role Valorization**

	(6) Model Coherency: Presentation and Discussion
	(7) Symbolism and Imagery Use :Presentation and Discussion
	(8) Personal Competency Enhancement and The Developmental Model Presentation and Video
	(9) The Power of Imitation: Presentation and discussion

	(10) Personal Social Integration and Valued Social Integration (presentation, discussion and video)
	<b>PART 3: Implementation of SRV</b>
	Small group discussion: Preparation for the Implementation of SRV

### **Visit by Govt. Administration**

SDM Nawalgarh visited our Nawalgarh school during September and praised the services rendered. He particularly mentioned the new services conceived in this region by AKJ.

### **Counselling Session By Mental Health Expert**

On Mental Health Day (6<sup>th</sup> October), training and counselling session was conducted for all parents at Sikar. Senior Psychiatrist Dr Mahesh Choudhary from District Govt Hospital took many queries of parents related to behavior disorders, bed wetting, aggression, introvert, delayed developmental milestones and problems in getting disability certification.

### **Handholding Judiciary in Realizing Child Rights**

On 18<sup>th</sup> October, two of our special educators and sign language interpreter played the role of Amicus Curie assisting District Judge Jhunjhunu in a case involving hearing impaired person related to sexual abuse of a child.

### **Health Check Up Camp**

On 18<sup>th</sup> October, a medical and health checkup camp was organized for children at Nawalgarh wherein doctors examined the general health and oral hygiene of all children. As follow up few parents were called up for counselling and advice on their children related issues.

### **Social Initiatives**

AKJ always takes active interest in social issues concerning community welfare. During the Demonetization drive, our team at Asha Ka Jharna along with special children helped filling currency exchange and other related forms of those in queues. Tea was also served to them. We also conducted a signature campaign

declaring support to this vital movement of nation building. General public at large is favoring this move though inconvenienced. This campaign was done from 15<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> November.

### **Sharing Experience**

On 30<sup>th</sup> November, Smt Manan Surman Chaturvedi, Chair Person, Rajasthan State Commission for Protection of Child Rights paid a short visit to Asha Ka Jharna Nawalgarh school while on her way to Jhunjhunu. She interacted and made excellent chemistry with the special children. During her quick round of classes, issues were discussed on child rights, govt policies and technical upgradation of special education. Her connect and empathy for our cause was appreciable. She was thoroughly impressive with our services here.

### **Capacity Building**

From 10<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> November, PARIVAAR EC Meet, AGM and 24<sup>th</sup> National Parents Meet in Jalandhar, Punjab was attended by our chief functionary Mr Sudeep Goyal who also took a session on **Accessible India Campaign** before an impressive gathering of 300 plus parents and professionals gathered across the country. Making Rights Real was the theme for this year NPM. We shared our experience and learnt from the galaxy of stalwarts in Indian Disability Sector. He was also elected as Technical Adviser, PARIVAAR for a further term of three years.

## **15<sup>th</sup> Anjali National Children Festival 2016**

Anjali Inter National Children Festival is an extravaganza organized by the 'Swabhiman Foundation' based out of Bhubaneswar (Orissa). A cherished festival of literacy, creative and performing arts, it has been educating and inspiring young minds from across India since 2001 in the city of Bhubaneswar. A wide range of workshops, competitions, cultural programs, musical performance and exhibitions are organized in this festival.

15th Anjali Festival was a grand affair with participations from 3 international teams (Bhutan, Srilanka and Nepal), 11 states (Asha Ka Jharna - Rajasthan, Roshni



- Gwalior, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Manipur, Punjab, Satya Special School - Pondicherry) 2 local NGOs - Home and Hope, Hamara Bachpan and 3 Schools – Harihar Nanda Bal Ashram, Mothers Public School and BBC School for the deaf and participants from all 30 districts of Odisha. This festival was a great opportunity for our children because of its multifaceted activities and participation. From Asha Ka Jharna, eight special children along with two special educators Mr Pradeep Yadav and Ms Aruna Sharma participated into 15th Anjali National Children's festival from 14th November to 18th November 2016.

The camp started on 14th November with Carnival and inaugural event for five days in Adivasi Exhibition Ground Bhubaneswar. Carnival of Joy (cultural rally) was flagged off by the guests assembled there. Students from various states walked through five long kilometers across the capital city. Native art and dance forms were presented in the rally by the professional performers. Our students, though tired, really enjoyed the rally where they got an opportunity to see and understand the art and culture from other states of India. Nearly 5000 children participated in this mega show.

15 joyful classrooms in form of workshops (Art, Craft - DIY, Balloon Sculpture, Pottery and Terracotta, Pantomime, Yoga, Magic, Dance, Music, Ventriloquism, Theater, Mask making, 3d module workshop, Science Module and Cartooning) continued for four days. From 15<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> November, our schedule was almost the same. In the morning after breakfast, children attended the workshops they opted for. Then in the afternoon there would be many competitions organized. After the competition, in the evening various cultural programs were regularly presented by the children participants. Our children also presented enthralling culture programs on the stage which were applauded by one and all.

On 13<sup>th</sup> November, our team explored the magnificent city of Puri. They visited Konark temple and beautiful sea beach. All of them had seen the sea for first time in their lives. On 15<sup>th</sup>, we went for a local sight-seeing tour of the capital city in the evening. We visited many places.

Four festivals (Kartik Purnima, Holi, IDD and Christmas) were celebrated with Joy. Camel Rides, Game Zones, pay and play and food court attracted the visitors. AKJ children thoroughly enjoyed this wonderful event. On the camp each day, a specific festival was celebrated. The venue was decorated according to the festival and volunteers and participants from the respective culture presented their traditions. It was very entertaining and educating at the same time.

The workshops were a learning experience for the children without the constraints of a classroom. Workshops were models of joyful and alternate methods of learning. It gave general students and differently-abled students an opportunity to work together and interact with each other via learning. Following are the workshop details:

- Paper Craft workshop: Children love to play with paper and create. Paper is a relatively inexpensive medium, readily available, and easier to work with than the more complicated media. They learnt to make paper hangings, paper flowers, bouquets and animals.
- Creative Dance Workshop: At the end of the workshop, Children were happy and enjoyed using different parts of the body, learning body rhythmic patterns of a dance. They also learnt story telling & putting movements to the stories. Children with disabilities and those without any coordinated very well with each other. The children with disabilities proved that they can face every situation in their life without any sadness.
- Fine Art Workshop: On the first day, they were instructed to make a drawing from their own memory to known the skill and creativity. As per individual skill and requirement, various suggestions were made and demonstrated how to put them into practice. On second and third day, the instructor demonstrated landscape painting and animal figures. Children were given the freedom to work and tips were given at the time of coloring. All enjoyed the workshop and painted in with enthusiasm.
- Magic Workshop: Both the differently abled and general students had the same eagerness to acquire al minute details of all tricks. The teacher was also very co-operative. They learnt magic from rope, cards, bottle, paper, bangles and coin. The instructor ended the class by saying no manner how far off dreams may seem now, they will achieve it one day because magic

happens in real life too, if you want to make it happen. The children were really motivated after the workshop.

- Paper Quilling and Paper Jewelry Workshop: Various techniques and patterns were demonstrated to the children. They were taught to make paper earrings. The children enjoyed the workshop and all of them wore those paper earrings that they made on the last day.
- Pottery and Terracotta Workshop: In pottery workshop children learnt using the potter's wheel. They made small diyas, bowls, plates and cups. In terracotta they learnt to make birds, toys, fish, peacock, tree with snake etc. Children loved moving their hands with the potter's wheel creating cups, and cooking pots.

After the camp, our children came back with a lot of new skills and life enriching experiences. They learnt many new skills in the workshops. They learned how to live independently and away from their parents and family. The camp also provided them to interact and work along with regular children. The various festivals celebrated during the festival exposed the children to the diversity of the Indian culture and gave them more knowledge about the lifestyle, taste and practices of different parts of the country. Through this camp, children availed a once in a life time chance to learn, interact and exposure. We are very happy we could provide our children such an opportunity courtesy 'The Hans Foundation'.

**International Day for Persons with Disability**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> December 2016**

World Disability Day 2016 was observed and celebrated on a large canvass by Asha Ka Jharna at Sikar. This year all our three special schools at Nawalgarh, Sikar and Jhunjhunu participated in a unified event to put up a great show aimed at inclusion and sensitization among community. This was an event with 500+ children and teachers comprising of 240 children (studying from Grade 4 to 8) from Ten (10) regular normal schools (6 reputed public schools & 4 Government schools) integrated with 220 of special needs children (Mentally Challenged ,

Hearing Impaired & Visually Impaired) from three of our schools and three other institutes.

### **Awareness Rally:**

Children from different schools started assembling at starting point from 9.15 AM onwards. Human chains were made with one special and one normal child joining hand in hand. At 9.50 AM awareness rally named 'Badhte Kadam' (Let's March Forward) by District Collector Sikar Dr. Kunj Bihari Gupta jointly with our Special Children Rakshita & Leelapati was flagged off. Child Welfare Committee Chairperson Mr Ratan Lal Mishra, Member Ms Durga Ranwa, Assistant Director (Social Justice) Mr Om Prakash Rahad and City Police In charge Mr Madan Lal cheered up the children which under the supervision of AKJ and normal school educators carried play cards, banners and tricolor balloons depicting following awareness slogans:

- ✓ Pass the RPD Bill
- ✓ We Need Solidarity Not Pity
- ✓ We Have Equal Rights
- ✓ We Can Do
- ✓ Equal Opportunities for Us
- ✓ Look upon our Abilities, Not Disability
- ✓ Disability is not a Curse
- ✓ Make us Your Strength, Not Weakness
- ✓ We have to Knock on Every Door to mitigate Disability related Sufferings
- ✓ Constitution Gives Us Equal Rights to Live, Education, Voting, Recreation, Livelihood, Participation in Decision Making, Free Expression & Speech

This was an exciting lively rally with a camel cart (on which children unable to walk long distance were sitting) leading the convoy and children shouting slogans in portable speaker and waving play cards. We made the 2 KM route such as to pass through dense main market, station road, colleges and schools, Govt and Pvt. Hospitals, vegetable mandi and populated area so as to catch maximum eyeballs. Persons ventured outside of their shops to look & comment at rally. During the rally procession, snacks and juice were served to children at two places. Highlight

of the rally was that District Collector and other guests walked through entire route for more than one hour. We utilized this opportunity to brief him about different aspects of disability and role of administration in convergence of schemes to provide livelihood options so as to enable economic rehabilitation leading to realizing their rights. Rally was flagged in at 11.15 AM at S K Govt Senior Secondary School Play Ground. District Collector after brief words announced the games open and wished all children all the best for day ahead.

**TOTAL COMMUNITY SENSITIZED: 10000 (Approx.)**

### **Inter School Sports Events :**

After half an hour rest and settling down, second leg was started at 12'o clock. We had planned 10 sporting events as follow:

50 Meter Race

100 Meter Race

Long Jump

High Jump

Sack Race

Spoon Race

Musical Chair

Zalebi Race

Three Legged Race

Tug - O – War

Along with these, a Drawing & Painting Competition was also organized.

All the children (with prior registered entries) participated in these competitions enthusiastically. They were extremely excited and thrilled to integrate with our special children whom we had placed in every event. Their teachers were initially apprehensive but when AKJ children bagged top positions in few games, they cheered up their students to take it seriously. Out of 33 prizes, eight were won by AKJ children. Through these two hours of sporting events, we were able to achieve

our desired objective of showcasing the abilities & potential of all children. Participants were served delicious lunch afterwards.

### **Inter School Cultural Program :**

Finally it was time to shake the legs. Again it was a mesmerizing show with dance by our children and other schools. One school musical band presented Orchestra while two children with visually impairment sang soul stirring compositions which audience appreciated greatly.

At 2.45 PM prize distribution ceremony was conducted with Rotary Club Past President Dr B S Chirana and Bharat Vikas Parishad Secretary Mr Abhishek Sharma giving away the prizes. In this program, in addition to special gifts to top position holders, each and every participant (460) was given a goodies bag (gift, cake, juice) along with Thirteen (13) school mementoes. Day long events finally ended at 3.15 PM with school teams' departure. Our objectives of awareness building & inclusion were effectively met as evident from the feedback we received afterwards. Whole program was widely appreciated by community and those present.

### **Observation of Disability Week at Regular Schools**

We not only celebrated one day but whole week was dedicated for bringing disability as a focal point among regular school children and teaches. From 5<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> December 2016, at Sikar, Asha Ka Jharna team along with our project CHILDLINE (1098) members visited seven schools (Both Govt and Pvt) after taking prior permission from the respective principals. There a lecture on disability related issues followed by simulation exercises were delivered. Children were blind folded; handcuffed; legs were joined; incoherent talk spoken to make them understand how it feels to be a person with visual, locomotor and intellectual disability. This was a new and unique experience not only for school children but their teachers too. Outcome of sensitization and empathy for special children was achieved through these talks & exercises. More than 1000 students and staff members were covered.

### **Sensitizing Opinion Makers**

We designed a wooden photo frame depicting slogan **‘I Support Equal Rights for Disabled’**. Our team then met various dignitaries and got them clicked with this frame. Aim was to sensitize and mobilize the solidarity of opinion makers and community leaders for the cause. As the ‘Rights for Persons with Disabilities Bill’ was being debated in Parliament, we succeeded in bring Disability on center stage. Current and past MLAs, District Medical Officer, District Education Officer, District Social Justice Officer, Public Transport Manager, Child Welfare Committee Member were few of prominent persons we clicked for supporting Equal Rights for Persons with Disabilities (DIVYANGS).

### **All India Nature Study cum Adventure Camp for the Challenged Children**

Another Once in a life time Opportunity for our special children from Asha Ka Jharna ! Like in past Ten children and two educators spent eight days (17<sup>th</sup> December to 24<sup>th</sup> December) of their memorable stay at Nature Study cum Adventure Camp organized by Himalayan Nature & Adventure Foundation Siliguri (West Bengal) followed by a short stay at Siliguri exploring . This year camp venue was at remotest Indian corner near Bhutan - China Border (Village Dalgaon, Jhalong Distt. Darjeeling). Amidst the pristine nature and river bank surrounding mountains, children had a gala time. A typical Day was bubbling with activities like morning PT , nature walk , cooking in the woods , tent life , exploring flora & fauna , games , trekking , making rope bridges , climbing on wall , relishing local delicacies , painting , camp fire , evening hall , cultural program and what not. Bonding, Self Confidence, Leadership, Team Spirit & Companionship were the key takeaways. There were many firsts for the children including 48 Hour Train Journey , Jungle , River , Mountain , Tea Bagan , Animals & Birds in Jungle Safari , Tea/Coffee Machine in the Hotel Room & Hotel Stay Itself , Mall , Escalator , Urban Life & Exposure to Different Food , Culture & Landscape !

### **Engaging Youth & Intelligentsia**

On Christmas day eve, IIT Guwahati Youth Wing activity club UDAAN and local senior secondary school students organized a get together with our Sikar children.

They planned painting competition, indoor games and cultural activities followed by lip smacking lunch. Children had a gala time and perfect ending of an eventful year 2016.

### **Children Excursion**

On 7<sup>th</sup> January, children from Nawalgarh school did an excursion visit to Pilani where they saw Birla Museum, Panchwati Park and Saraswati temple. They enjoyed this short trip a lot.

### **State Level Coordination Committee Meeting**

Under the chairmanship of Additional Chief Secretary, Govt of Rajasthan (Social Justice) National Trust State Level Coordination Committee meeting was conducted at Jaipur on 24<sup>th</sup> January where our secretary raised many issues and submitted following key pointers :

a) For any policy making, Reliable Data is first foundation. In this area, our state is unfortunately lacking. We have in past, many times raised this issue of compiling figures of total population of PWDs with age and disability wise classification. Request you again to take this on priority and consolidate all information which can be fetched from database of 1) Census 2) Disability Pension 3) SSA Inclusive Education figures 4) Medical Deptt. Numbers of Disability Certificates Issued 5) Surveys by SJE Deptt. time to time. **If needed NSSO can be requested to undertake a fresh comprehensive survey of the state in order to have a concrete database.**

b) UDID is going to be the game changer. Other states have taken the lead in encouraging beneficiaries to register online for applying this card. We may also take this on mission mode like Bhamashah card enrollment and can arrange camps at all local bodies and Gram Panchayats level for facilitating public at large. Along with NGOs, SJE may converge with Medical , WCD as well as Education departments to take support of ASHA , ANM and Aanganwadi workers and IED , SSA resource teachers.

c) SIPDA scheme of Union Ministry SJE has ample funds for anything and everything under Innovative Projects and Accessibility. All Govt & Prominent public buildings can be made barrier free using this window. A



start can be made asking District Collectors 5 to 10 Key Built Environments in their districts which needs to be made accessible in first phase. Wish to share that post nomination by Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment under Prime Minister 'Accessible India Campaign', I did the first two weeks intensive training course on Access Audit during July 2016 and now from Rajasthan , I am the first and only certified and trained access auditor. I would be happy to offer my services in this regard.

d) Streamlining of Grant in Aid schemes (both center and state) is the need of hour to mitigate the hardships grass root organizations face. Calendar/time lines may be enforced for timely proposal submission, inspections, sanction and disbursement of GIA with monitoring mechanism.

e) Also request you to convene a meet of all NGOs working in disability sector to provide us opportunity to share and learn best practices.

### **Distt. Games for PWDs Sikar**




On 27<sup>th</sup> January, children from Sikar School participated in District level games where they bagged many prizes in athletics events.

### **Participation of Children in Regional Event**

From 9<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> February, 70 children from NWL School visited Regional Fair organized by tourism deptt. where they enjoyed rural games and cultural programs. Our HI child stood 2<sup>nd</sup> in painting competition under General Category while our HI Girl invited big round of applause from thousands of audience on her mesmerizing dance performance on a traditional song. Everyone was spell bound with our children performance.

### **Regional Parents Training Workshop & Meet**

PARIVAAR Regional Parents Meet for Rajasthan, MP and Chhattisgarh states was organized at Sawai Madhopur on 12 – 13 Feb. All the ground work was done by us only. It was a highly successful event with more than 150 parents getting valuable insights from galaxy of resource persons. Following was the business transacted:

	<p><b>PROGRAMME SCHEDULE</b></p>  <p><b>MRS</b></p> <p><b>REGIONAL PARENTS' MEET</b>  <b>SAWAI MADHOPUR</b>  <b>11-12 FEBRUARY 2017</b></p>	
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*Hosted by: MERCY REHABILITATION SOCIETY*

*Theme : Towards Rights Regime*

**VENUE: Ranthambhore Siddhi Vinayak Resort , Ranthambhore Road  
Sawai Madhopur -322001 Ph :07462 222293**

<b>DAY ONE : Saturday , 11<sup>th</sup> February 2017</b>		
<b>9.00-10.00 AM</b>	<b>Registration</b>	
<b>10.00 to 11.00</b>	<b>Inaugural Session</b>	
<b>11.00-11.30 am</b>	<b>Tea break</b>	
<b>Time</b>	<b>Technical Session</b>	<b>Presenter</b>
<b>11.30 – 12.15</b>	<b>Session on Life Cycle Approach &amp; Transition to Work</b>	<b>Dr. Amrita Sahay NIEPID RC , New Delhi</b>
<b>12.15 – 12.30</b>	<b>DISCUSSION</b>	
<b>12.30 - 1.15</b>	<b>Skill Development and livelihood</b>	<b>Cdr S N Bijur National President PARIVAAR</b>
<b>1.15 – 1.30</b>	<b>DISCUSSION</b>	
<b>1.30 - 2.15</b>	<b>Lunch Break</b>	
<b>2.15 - 3.00</b>	<b>Role of Parents, Professionals and Community in Development of PwIDDs.</b>	<b>Ms Arpita Yadav Technical Adviser PARIVAAR</b>
<b>3.00 – 3.15</b>	<b>DISCUSSION</b>	
<b>3.15 - 4.00</b>	<b>Role of technology in sensory, cognitive and social development</b>	<b>Mr H P Sharma Vice President – Central Zone PARIVAAR</b>
<b>4.00 – 4.15</b>	<b>DISCUSSION</b>	
<b>4.15 p.m</b>	<b>Tea Break</b>	

<b>5.00 pm onwards</b>	<b>GENERAL SESSION – GROUP DISCUSSIONS/ EXPERIENCE SHARING</b>	
	<b>Cultural Programme</b>	
	<b>VENUE : NATIONAL HISTORY MUSEUM</b>	
<b>DAY TWO : Sunday , 12<sup>th</sup> February 2017</b>		
<b>10.00 – 10.45</b>	<b>Self-Advocacy – Importance &amp; Implementation guidelines</b>	<b>Col V K Gautam Immediate Past President PARIVAAR</b>
<b>10.45 - 11.00</b>	<b>DISCUSSION</b>	
<b>11.00 - 11.35</b>	<b>Rights For Persons With Disability Act 2016 – Brief Overview</b>	<b>Mr Bhanu Prasad Chouhan National Treasurer PARIVAAR</b>
<b>11.35 - 12.15</b>	<b>Ensuring Rights and Legal Entitlements of PwIDDs</b>	<b>Mr Pankaj Maru National Trust SNAC , MP</b>
<b>12.15 – 12.30</b>	<b>Discussion</b>	
<b>12.30 – 1.10</b>	<b>Early Intervention, its Importance and implementation of activities.</b>	<b>Mr Sudeep Goyal Technical Adviser PARIVAAR Asha Ka Jharna (NGO)</b>
<b>1.10 – 1.25</b>	<b>DISCUSSION</b>	
<b>1.25-2.15 pm</b>	<b>Lunch Break</b>	
<b>2.15–3.00</b>	<b>Regional Meet on Plans and Provisions with Local Govt. Officials</b>	<b>District CWC , SJE , ICPS , Administration &amp; Eminent Local Personalities</b>
<b>3.00 – 3.15</b>	<b>Discussion</b>	
<b>3.15 - 4.00</b>	<b>Formation &amp; Orientation of Divyang Parivaar Seva Samiti Sawai Madhopur Parent Association AND OPEN HOUSE</b>	<b>Parivaar RPs along with the local Representatives</b>
<b>4.00 – 4.30</b>	<b>Tea Break</b>	
<b>4.30 – 5.00</b>	<b>Valedictory</b>	

Mr Sudeep Goyal as resource person and two parents from AKJ Sikar as delegates participated in the RPM.

### **Hearing Aid After Care Camp**

On 15<sup>th</sup>– 16<sup>th</sup> February “Starkey Hearing Foundation ” team of Senior Audiologists Mr Nihar Pradhan and Mr Yashwant Singh conducted an after care camp for the hearing impaired children which were provided High Quality Behind the Ear Hearing Aids earlier. They checked the devices and ear moulds; cleaned the tubing’s; replaced batteries and did minor repairs. All aids were tested OK for clear sound by wearing on children. Those un-serviceable were taken to their head office for replacements. Our staff was counselled about constantly pressurizing parents for regular wearing of these aids. Both of them were highly impressed with our services here. Total of 92 children were screened. Since last seven years, 625 hearing & speech impaired children have been benefitted across our region by facilitating aids worth 1.60 Crores through [Asha Ka Jharna](#).

### **Capacity Building & CSR Conclave**

On 17<sup>th</sup> February, Partner Meet was organised by The Hans Foundation (Our Strategic & Funding Partner) in which AKJ presentation was made along with four other organizations working in disability sector. On the same day, CSR National Conclave was attended by our chief functionary at New Delhi.

### **Distt. Games for PWDs at Jhunjhunu**

AKJ successfully organized District level games for persons with disabilities at its Jhunjhunu unit on 3<sup>rd</sup> March in which 270 PWDs from six institutions and children studying at govt schools from eight blocks of the district participated. 28 sporting events were conducted in which special athletes showed their stamina. Whole event was planned meticulously and executed in most professional manner. It was attended & appreciated by top brass of district administration including CEO Zila Parishad Sh J P Bunkar, ACEO Ms Pratishta Pilania, DD Women & Child Development Vaidh Ramavtar Sharma, AD Social Justice Mr Pawan Punia and Bank of Baroda Lead Manager Mr G L Sharma. Snacks, Juice, Lunch and Gifts were provided to every athlete besides medals to winning ones. A medical team along with first aid kit was stationed throughout the games to attend any eventuality.

## **Support to Judiciary**

Our special educator acted as AMIS CURIE in a case involving sexual abuse of a mentally challenged minor girl. He is appointed as support person by District & Session Court to assist in proceedings. Four hearings have been attended by him so far.

## **State Level Workshop on Social Role Valorization**

When Right People are at Right Place on Right Time, MAGIC HAPPENS ! Asha Ka Jharna made this possible. Magical moments during Social Role Valorization Overview Workshop held at JAIPUR on 15th March where 40 stalwarts from Rajasthan Disability Sector assembled for a day and deliberated upon ways and means to enable devalued people accessing good things in Life. Engaged sessions and small group discussions saw enthusiastic participation from all. Event was co-hosted by The National Trust, Asha Ka Jharna and Key Stone Institute India with support from The Hans Foundation.

## **Parent Engagement Session on Social Role Valorization**

Social Role Valorization Parent Engagement Session at Asha Ka Jharna Nawalgarh Special School was conducted on 17th March. Ms Elizabeth Neuville & Ms Bindu Sengar from Key Stone Institute India delved upon nuances of Social Roles Valorization & Power of Roles for our special children and adults so that they also enjoy good things in life just like each of us aspire to be. Image Enhancement & Competency Enhancement are two strong pillars upon which valued social roles are founded. Historical negative roles thrust on them and the price of devaluation comprising on rejection , distanciation , stigmatization , discrimination leading to banishment were touched upon. Vision and Action Points for altering this within our cultural socially accepted context were deliberated upon. More than 60 parents and AKJ Team Members took part in animated discussions opening up layer by layer. Our senior technical adviser Ms. Monalisa Mehta did an excellent translation job for parents while our Sign Language Interpreter Mr. Ashok Kumar did interpreting for whole session for our hearing impaired team members. Muslim women thinking loudly were the hallmark of this exciting event. Colorful & Vibrant Flip Chart was the outcome of three hours of shared learnings.