

ASHA KA JHARNA

Annual Activity Report (April 2019 to March 2020)

This is an annual activity report of **Asha Ka Jharna (AKJ)** special schools from April 2019 to March 2020. 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.

- Periodic meetings of Governing body, management committee, school administration committee, sexual harassment at work place committee and children safety/security committee were held where relevant issues were discussed in detail and decisions taken accordingly. Team members' annual appraisals were also completed.
- As part of empathy among community, birthday of Chairman Municipal Corporation was celebrated on 8th April among children. Birthday of leading newspaper reporter was also celebrated where all correspondents from media fraternity assembled and our cause was made more visible.
- One of our special educators Mr Prabhu Narain Yadav was fully sponsored by us for 15 days 'Short Term Training Program on Basic Skills in Indian Sign Language' from 24th April to 10th May 2019 at Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre New Delhi. He learnt theoretical & practical skills in ISL from national expert faculties. After successful assessment, he was awarded certificate. Upon his return, he has been transferring the knowledge gained among other team members here at AKJ.

- On 25th – 26th April , our chief functionary & access auditor Mr Sudeep Goyal took an Enriching and Lively session on " Decoding Accessibility : Why, What & How" at Regional CRE Workshop at SNEH Nagda (MP) jointly organized by National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Multiple Disabilities and Rehabilitation Council of India. More than 125 special educators and regular school teachers from five states were briefed about nuances of accessibility & inclusion. Live demo and interactive talk made this session more accessible to participants. Later on, access features of MAHAKAAL Temple and world largest Sensory Park Ujjain were shown and explained to delegates in detail by him. We also discussed to take community based inclusive development pilot project by Ministry of Social Justice further in the region.
- Our team members provided their services as Support Person (Sign language interpreter) to Police in three cases of sexual assault where victims/accused were hearing & speech impaired. We are empanelled here at Jhunjhunu & Sikar districts to offer our pro-bono services to Police & Judiciary.
- During Parliamentary General Elections 2019, we actively motivated inclusion of PWD voters in electoral process. As per Election Commission Theme of 'Accessible Elections' , various activities like awareness rally , RUN 4 VOTE etc. were executed by us in association with department of social justice. On 2nd & 3rd May, events were held at Jhunjhunu & Sikar where our children participated enthusiastically. More than 25 of our past children (Now Adult) with intellectual disabilities as well as hearing impairment exercised their voting rights for the first time in these elections.
- Upon request of District Collector, Jhunjhunu Asha Ka Jharna facilitated three Braille instructors who assisted district administration in reading Braille scripts on EVM & demo material for awareness.
- On 4th May, Sub Divisional Magistrate Nawalgarh paid a surprise visit to our school. He was highly impressed and appreciative of our functioning & children progress.

- On 9th May, our chief functionary Mr Sudeep Goyal delivered a talk on FM Radio Sikar on Safe & Unsafe Touch for children. He explained alarming increase in such incidents, social dynamics involved, legislative support mechanism and ways of prevention for parents & community.
- On 10th May, on the occasion of Mother's Day, Alliance Clubs International felicitated five of our women educators of AKJ for their selfless services for children with disabilities. Many speakers in the function commented that we have been providing motherly affection and care to these children more than their natural guardians.
- A meeting on child protection was called by District Collector Jhunjhunu on 24th June in which we were also invited. We shared our views there and raised the vulnerability of disabled children.
- During children summer break, our team again hit the streets braving scorching sun & heat for annual updation survey. New beneficiaries were identified and parents counseled upon to link them to appropriate services (education, social security and employment, 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.
- 'Independent Living Project' saw two more Hearing Impaired youth getting job at Reliance Retail Sikar as 'Customer support executive'. Our mentor Mr Tarun Dubey (Sikar School Coordinator) has been regularly making contacts with parents to counsel upon initiating interaction with skill training & job facilitator agency who is our partner. We do regular hand holding along with monetary help in offsetting the partial cost of living. Our Mentor occasionally visits the youth staying at Jaipur and available on phone always for guidance & counselling support. At present three youth are gainfully employed leading independent livings as envisaged while one is under skill training.
- We proactively look for any potential harmful situations for persons with disabilities. While seeing photos of meals being served at Govt & Private Homes for Intellectually disabled children/adults whom they are mandated to upload on

a dedicated WA group, we saw red flags. Residents were given bland food (Only dry Roti & Dry Vegetable) in the summers of 46* C. No nutrition or balanced diet was given to them. We immediately raised this issue before appropriate authorities at state govt level. We pursued vigorously and managed to get circular inviting comments from stakeholders. Subsequently we engaged a dietitian on our own who prepared a diet chart keeping in mind calorie values & nutritional needs of residents. Now we are pursuing with department to get directives issued in this regard.

- During July, new academic session was initiated with formalization of fresh admissions with logistics finalized. This year 16 new admissions have taken place at both our schools. Similarly State Board Exam 2020 data was uploaded. Total of 9 children would be taking Rajasthan State Board end term exams of Grade 8. Rest of the children would clear interim classes through home exams.

- Annual as well as short term goals for children were selected and fed into our IEP formats by team members. These are quite child - centric and take care of individual qualities & skills.

- Apex body of 280 parents associations of persons with intellectual & developmental disabilities PARIVAAR held it's biannually Executive Council Meeting at Pune on 5th & 6th July. In the capacity of Technical Adviser PARIVAAR, our chief functionary Mr Sudeep Goyal participated in this national gathering. Meet was preceded with a training workshop at 'Agriculture University Pune' on Mushroom Cultivation and its viability as a potential lively hood option for our young adults with disabilities and their families. This was a useful learning exercise. EC meet saw serious deliberations on affairs of The National Trust , Internal matters of confederation , induction of new parent associations and future course of action by PARIVAAR in National Disability Arena. Mr Goyal made an intense presentation on New Education Policy and its contours viz-à-viz our children with special needs.

- A meeting on vocational training to adolescents and youth was attended by our senior technical advisor Ms Monalisa Mehta at Jaipur on 13th July. Focus was on IT skills, Desktop Printing and formation of student clubs in the schools. This was more aimed at regular schools. Ms Mehta urged the organizers to plan some workable vocations for children with intellectual disabilities.

- Educators are the backbone of special schools. Their patience and dedication to the cause was recognized twice during this quarter. On Guru Purnima Day (16th July), Reputed Media Group Rajasthan Patrika Sikar felicitated our coordinator Mr Tarun Dubey & special educator Ms Mamta Verma at a ceremonial function held to mark the day. Similarly, on Teachers Day 5th September, it was again the turn of AKJ team to shine. In the glittering function at Jhunjhunu organized by Dainik Bhaskar Media House, our two special educators Ms. Sonia & Mr. Shashi Kant were felicitated before august gathering of citizens for their contribution in teaching children with disabilities with dedication and passion. High point of both these events was that these were scheduled to be mega events for regular school teachers only but we persisted with organizers to include our educators which they did graciously. In the award ceremony, maximum applaud was for us only when Newspaper editors heaped praise on us citing our functioning and selfless services since 21 years.
- On 20th July, on the occasion of its foundation Day, all staff members from Bank of Baroda Nawalgarh branch spent time with our children here. They distributed stationary and gifts and were truly impressed upon witnessing the special education services which they were unaware of before. During one hour of their stay, we sensitized them all about disability and ways to be empathetic.
- National Program of Vaccination against life threatening diseases of Measles & Rubella was launched by Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Govt of India. Asha Ka Jharna actively participated in this mission. Right from high level drawing board planning meets chaired by district collectors & CMHO till effective execution, mobilization of medical teams, follow up and counseling / dispelling doubts of parents from Minority community - our team did it all. We ensured that all eligible children up to 15th years got vaccinated at special camps being organized at our three premises itself. More than 160 special children got immunized at our schools during first week of August.
- To explore a viable livelihood option for our disabled young adults and their families, a one week Goat Rearing Training Workshop was organized at

Central Institute of Goat Research Mathura (UP) by CBM & PARIVAAR. We sponsored one of our assistant educators Shakuntala Devi, who is also mother of a 20 years young boy with intellectual disability. She embarked on a long journey by herself first time in her life and stayed at CIRG campus. She learnt firsthand the dynamics of Goat Rearing through both theoretical and practical tools. Workshop taught her types of goats & its geographical spread ; use and utility ; how to develop a model goat farm ; how to secure finances ; how to ensure market linkage ; how to avail Govt concessions ; prevention of diseases ; scaling up operations ; getting technical know how's ; breeding and such topics. She is a Master Trainer now for Rajasthan and will impart the knowledge gained further to the sector. She also intends to start a small unit for her son to enable him sustain livelihood.

- AKJ never misses a chance to expose abilities of our children before mass audience and community. We proactively engage the organizer to provide a platform for us. One more such opportunity was seized by us during Founder Day Celebrations of Youth Associations of India (Popularly known as Youth Hostels) Rajasthan Chapter. Students from many schools with professional choreographers performed at traditional folk dance forms at different levels of competition. AKJ Sikar children were granted a special wild card entry in the final event where they simply stole the show by their spectacular musical drama performance. Audience from the town was mesmerized and praised profusely our show of emotions.
- Periodic parents' meeting was held at Nawalgarh on 6th September in which many issues were discussed. Inputs for new IEP were taken; children progress & milestones shared; home management techniques were explained and logistics issues were addressed. School future planning and scheduled activities were also shared with guardians. Team members also briefed about happenings recorded in incidence register at school to record minor issues like child bringing money or mobile from home, freak injury during games, altercation between students or behavior mood swings and associated issues including seizures in children with intellectual disabilities. As a follow up to this meet, our therapist invited parents to Nawalgarh Science Park where he demonstrated the strength and stamina gained by the children after therapeutic intervention. Children were able to navigate smoothly through different hurdles and maneuvering which surprised their

parents who were unsure of this feat. Similarly , all children from Sikar School were taken to one day excursion to central park where they did lot of physical activities including Kabaddi ; Kho Kho ; badminton ; Zig Zag ; Jogging ; Tracking and so on.

- Premier BITS Pilani organized the eight edition of Junoon - a unique sporting extravaganza for the special - abled youth of the country. Junoon promotes equality as it encourages participation from all the sections of society and gives an excellent platform for the special abled people to showcase their talent to the more privileged section of the society. Junoon, a two day event, every year is organized by NSS BITS Pilani in collaboration with the Sports Council, at BITS, Pilani, Pilani Campus. The seventh edition, “Junoon 2019” saw a participation of over 150 children from 7 NGOs all fighting for sporting glory. There were numerous sporting events like Cricket, Softball, Basketball, Badminton and various others. A cultural evening called “JunoonNite” was also organized with various NGOs showcasing their cultures and ability in the form of dance or small acts. Junoon 2019 on 7th& 8th September saw spectacular performance by Asha KaJharna Children. Excursion cum Sports Activities made kids happy.
- Our Strategic and Funding partner The Hans Foundation paid a program review visit on 13th & 14th September where program manager Ms Shabina Bano received insights from all stakeholders including children, parents, team members, employers of our young adults with disabilities and AKJ board members. She provided some valuable feedback and suggestions to enable us fine tune services to the optimum efficiency. She acknowledged and appreciated the scale and range of activities we have been attempting in this region within constraints of space and resources.
- A new technology to enable hearing & speech impaired persons gain speech ‘See Sound Live’ was demonstrated by the developer scientist during state level workshop held at Jaipur on 21st & 22nd September in which we sent two of our senior special educator and speech therapist. They understood the working and deliverables of this device and asked for clarity on some of their concerns. We have gone through their feedback and final decision to use it in our schools is on hold subject to live demo at our site and additional information sought by us from the research lab.

- BVJF (Bhartiya Viklang Jan Forum – A Consortium of DPOs) conducted its National Meet at New Delhi on 25th & 26th September where lot of brainstorming and idea sharing happened. It was attended by our chief functionary who spoke about PARIVAAR ; Self Advocacy and Community based Inclusive Development. Delegates across the country shared their experiences highlighting the unity of disabled persons and benefits it could draw in realizing their rights. National Skill Development Council manager briefed the audience about GOI schemes and their coverage.
- RAJASTHAN SELF ADVOCACY PROJECT as committed by us progressed really well under our stewardship. We had set targets of 5 Districts – Jhunjhunu; Sikar; Ajmer; Jodhpur & Pali spread across 12 blocks. With the guidance of 3 Master Trainers, we trained total of 65 MENTORS by end of September. Further, more than 150 Self Advocates have been provided Seven Weekly Training Sessions which comprised of Decision making ; leadership development ; Saying No to undesirable behavior ; Taking turns & Patience listening ; Setting boundaries of one's body ; Exercising choices ; Expressive & Receptive communication and so on.
- 'Independent Living Project' saw two more Hearing Impaired youth getting jobs in quality control & packaging division of a handicraft firm based at Jaipur. Our mentor regularly keeps contacts with parents and does regular hand holding. He visits the youth staying at Jaipur occasionally and available on phone always for guidance & counseling support. At present five youths are gainfully employed earning respectable salaries thereby leading independent living.
- On 5th October, Asha Ka Jharna celebrated Samajik Uthhan Diwas in collaboration with District Social Justice & Empowerment Deptt. Govt of Rajasthan. There were lots of activities including sports and drawing competitions. Children performed brilliant cultural programs on different themes which spell bound the audience which comprised of Additional District Collector, Deputy Director Women & Child Development, Assistant Director Social Justice & Emowerment , Members Child Welfare Committee Jhunjhunu along with other dignitaries and many parents. Speakers praised lavishly on our activities and self - less services for special needs children

since 22 years. Khemi Shakti Mandir Trust Chairman Sh. Ramakant Ji Tibrewal & Shyam Tibrewal also graced the occasion.

- Regular health check up of all children was conducted at Sikar School on 9th October in collaboration with Lions Club Sunrise. A team of doctors and paramedic staff evaluated on vital statistics like height , weight , heartbeat , oral hygiene , eye & ear infection and overall well being of children. Few cases of concern were intimated to respective parents along with advice to take further medical consultation.
- On 15th October, Sub Divisional Magistrate Nawalgarh Sh. Murari Lal Sharma paid a visit to our school and interacted with children. He took keen interest in school activities and assured all help from administration whenever required.
- Medical checkup at Nawalgarh unit was organized on 17th and 18th October with support from Mohan Goenka Foundation. Focus was on dental and eye deformities with specialists investigating on these. After detailed screening, six children were shortlisted for spectacles to whom AKJ provided free lenses & frames subsequently thereby improving their vision.
- Highly Productive and Enriching Executive Committee Meet , Annual General Council Meeting & National Parents Meet of PARIVAAR National Confederation of 280 PAN INDIA Parents Organization was organized at Ahmedabad from 18th to 20th October which was attended by our chief functionary Sh. Sudeep Goyal along with two parents. He interacted with galaxy of dignitaries in our sector as well as took one technical session on accessibility. He also chaired a session on Skill Building and was elected as PARIVAAR Vice President - Central Zone for three years term. 350 + delegates across the country participated and deliberated on a range of issues concerning persons with intellectual disabilities.
- An opportunity to showcase abilities of our children was seized by us when we participated for the first time in Amrita Hat (One Week Diwali Fair organized by District Administration Jhunjhunu from 16th to 23th October). A stall for display and sale of products (Designer Diyas & Greeting Cards) made by our children was put up which was visited and appreciated by

thousand of community members including all Govt. Functionaries. Brisk sale of around thirty thousand rupees was recorded along with heightened visibility to our cause.

- On 3rd November , we attended a glittering evening interspaced with Ex President India Hon. Pranav Mukerjee pearls of wisdom, The Hans Foundation Founders Sh. Manoj Bhargava and Smt. Shweta Rawat assuring solidarity to change makers, finest MC as Shailesh Lodha, Ear soothing performances by Singer Suresh Wadekar & energetic Shilong Chamber Choir, simply classic extravaganza by Legend Shobana. Occasion was 10th Anniversary Celebrations of THE HANS FOUNDATION – our strategic & funding partner since 10 long years.
- During November month, AKJ Sign Language Interpreter provided our Pro Bono Services to different police stations in Jhunjhunu district in connection with multiple incidents in which either witness or accused was a person with hearing impairment.
- Children Day was celebrated at our three schools on 14th November with multiple activities including Bal Mela (Children Fair), Ramp walk, snack stalls for children by our educators, games, prize distribution, painting & drawing, cake cutting and delicious food served. Children and Team had a gala time.
- On 16th – 17th November at Nagda (MP) , National Meet of Self Advocates of India (SAFI) was attended by our National Trainer Ms Suman Tailor and few Self Advocates from Rajasthan. Chief Guest Shri Thawaarchand Gehlot, Hon Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment, Govt of India lauded the efforts of organizer. Thereafter very interesting technical sessions for Self Advocates comprising of topics concerning empowerment of persons with intellectual & developmental disabilities started in good earnest. They had Annual General Body meeting of SAFI followed by elections of National Office Bearers. In the evening SAs had entertainment and networking among themselves.
- We always keep on evolving with changing dynamics of our eco system. In order to strengthen our organization Human Resource Policy, we approached Tool Box India – A consulting firm providing pro bono capacity

building services to NPO Sector. After an intense brainstorming exercise between us and the talented expert volunteers (working in top notch corporate), a fairly comprehensive HR Manual which covers all areas of employee engagement, retention and separation was finalized. This document contains almost all possible interactions we may come across while working with our team members. Clarity of rights & responsibilities along with deliverables is visible here.

- Media engagement is the key to ensure visibility to our sector. Leading Media Group Dainik Bhaskar celebrated its founder day on 30th November among our children through organizing multiple activities including painting, cultural and snacks distribution. Similarly Alliance Club International President Dr. D S Jangid and Mukundgarh Municipal Committee Chairman Sh Satya Narain Saini along with his friends celebrated his birthday with our Nawalgarh school children on 5th & 10th December respectively. Inclusion was the objective of these events.
- On the eve of International Day for Persons with Disability, our chief functionary recorded a talk on FM SIKAR. He explained in detail about Disability, Types, RPD Act, Right Based Approach, Social Inclusion and Community Participation. Briefed specifically about PwIDDs, challenges and opportunities including Self Advocacy.

REPORT ON INCLUSIVE CHILDREN FESTIVAL 2019

INCLUSIVE CHILDREN FESTIVAL was celebrated on 3rd December 2019 on the occasion of **World Day for Disabled** at Nawalgarh by ASHA KA JHARNA with the support of The Hans Foundation New Delhi. 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 Eleven (11) regular normal schools (8 reputed public schools & 3 Government schools) integrated with 205 of special needs children (Intellectually Disabled & Hearing Impaired) from three of our special schools and another one

special school. 20 Scouts also volunteered their services. Thus 13 institutes took part.

Awareness Rally:

Children from different schools started assembling at starting point from 9.30 AM onwards. Human chains were made with one special and one non disabled child joining hand in hand. At 9.55 AM awareness rally named 'Badhte Kadam' (Let's March Forward) by Sub Divisional Magistrate Nawalgarh Mr. Murari Lal Sharma jointly with our Special Children Master Prince & Baby Neetu was flagged off. Alliance Club International Chairman Dr D S Jangid , Social Security Officer Mr Nikhil , Podar College Principal Dr Shukla, Prominent Citizen Mr Kailash Chotia , Mr Sanjay Sharma cheered up the children who under the supervision of AKJ and normal school educators carried play cards, banners and tricolor balloons depicting following awareness slogans:

- ✓ We Need Solidarity Not Pity
- ✓ We Have Equal Rights
- ✓ Access for All
- ✓ Let's Remove Barriers
- ✓ 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 school vehicles in toe (on which children unable to walk long distance were sitting) leading the convoy and children shouting slogans in portable speaker, waving play cards & dancing on the way . We made the One KM route such as to pass through dense main market, station road, college and schools, Private Hospital, Cinema Hall, Police Station, Municipal

Committee and populated area so as to catch maximum eyeballs. Persons ventured outside of their shops to look at rally. Rally was flagged in at 10.50 AM at Surya Mandal Play Ground by Sh. R G Gupta, President, Agarwal Samaj who announced the games open and wished all children all the best for day ahead.

TOTAL COMMUNITY SENSITIZED: 5000 (Approx.)

Inter School Sports Events: (11.10 AM – 1.15 PM) :

After fifteen minutes rest & relishing fresh juice, second leg was started at 11.10. We had planned various sporting events as follow:

50 Meter Race (Boys & Girls)
100 Meter Race (Boys & Girls)
Soft Ball Throw (Boys & Girls)
Sack Race (Boys & Girls)
Spoon Race (Boys & Girls)
Three Legged Race (Boys & Girls)
Special Race for CP Children
Long Jump
Musical Chair
Zalebi Race

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 63 prizes, 18 were won by special 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 snacks of Chowmein & Paav Bhaji which they relished to the content of their hearts.

Puppet Show , CATWALK & Cultural Program: (1.30 PM – 2.30 PM) :

After all hustle & bustle, finally it was time to relax & get enjoyed. A captivating Puppet Show was arranged for the children by a famed puppeteer who enthralled the gathering with different tricks and moves by beautiful dolls made to dance on the direction of his fingers. This lost tradition was relived and was very much enjoyed by all children.

Then there was the most acclaimed performance of the day. Our young girls with Down syndrome did a mesmerizing CATWALK on the centre stage. They carried themselves with utmost grace and confidence among the wide applause of audience. Children & teachers from regular schools were spellbound to witness this unprecedented event by special girls who were cheered with wide hooting. Thereafter, a musical drama on the theme of '**Save Trees**' was enacted by our children with hearing impairment. We also presented before the gathering our two HI youth who have been provided regular employment as 'retail customer executive' at Reliance Mega Store Sikar. They narrated their stories and journey to success. Our Sign Language Interpreter translated the proceedings.

Prize Distribution Ceremony & Feedback Session: (2.30 PM – 3.00 PM) :

At 2.30 PM, prize distribution ceremony was conducted with Chief Judicial Magistrate Jhunjhunu Mr. Vijay Singh, ACJM Jhunjhunu Ms. Sarita Choudhary, Gram Court Nawalgarh Judge Mr. Gyanendra Singh & Agarwal Samaj President Mr R G Gupta along with Senior Teacher Mr Jitender Gupta and Senior Journalist Mr. Jagdish Jangir giving away the prizes. Judges also spoke about equal rights and legal capacity of children with disabilities before the law. In this program, in addition to special gifts to top position holders, each and every participant (445) was given a goodies bag (gift, cake, juice) along with Twelve (12) school mementoes. Feedback forms were collected from the regular school students where they recorded their true feelings about Inclusion. They vowed to make friendships with their special counterparts. Day long events finally ended at 3.10 PM with school teams' departure.

Inclusive Children Festival High Points:

- ✓ Ramp Walk by Young Girls with Down Syndrome
- ✓ A Mesmerizing Performance on Save Environment by Children with Hearing impairment
- ✓ Captivating Puppet Show
- ✓ Showcasing Abilities (Young Hearing Impaired Adults from AKJ Now Proud Executives in Corporate)
- ✓ Awareness Rally being witnessed by Hundreds of Citizens
- ✓ Participation of Opinion Makers including SDM , CJM , Magistrates , Police , Media , Social Security Officer, Academicians, Politicians , Parents and Mass Public

Our objectives of awareness building & inclusion were effectively met as evident from the feedback we received afterwards. Inclusive Children Festival 2019 created sweet memories and feeling of empathy strongly itched into children and teachers minds. Children wrote the feedback with words like 'Eye opening', 'Incredible' and 'Discovering the abilities' with the promise to take along their special friends in their day to day activities. More than 500 participants directly and 5000 indirect community were sensitized about INCLUSION as way of living. Whole program was widely appreciated by community and those present.

- On World Day for Persons with Disability, our team was specifically invited by District Administration Jhunjhunu to present a mesmerizing and captivating performance at District level program. District Collector Sh Ravi Jain, Superintendent of Police Sh. Gaurav Yadav and all top Govt Officials along with prominent citizens of Jhunjhunu were spell bound and highly emotional after witnessing a touching musical drama by our special needs children. DM personally awarded cash prize to motivate them.

- Awareness Session on Good & Bad Touch along with coping with sexuality related issues in adolescent children with special needs was conducted on 7th, 11th and 21st December at our three schools respectively where parents were sensitized on these vital issues in light of growing incidents of child sexual abuse. These were highly informative sessions by Ms. Suman Tailor, National Trainer and effective communicator of Asha Ka Jharna.
- On 17th December, Western Region Review Conference on JJ Act & POCSO Act was organized at Mumbai by National Human Rights Commission & Tata Institute of Social Sciences. Issues from six states related to these acts were discussed. Our chief functionary Sh. Sudeep Goyal as special invitee presented in detail current status as well as challenges in child protection here at Rajasthan. He specifically mentioned about under reported cases of abuse against child with special needs particularly of intellectually disabled children.
- On 19th December, we met with State Child Right Commission Chairperson Ms Sangeeta Beniwal at Jhunjhunu and briefed her about multiple issues at hand. She was sensitized about child rights and possible violation concerning special children.
- As a part of our annual calendar, another once in a life time & much awaited opportunity for our special children was seized and maximized. Eight children and two educators spent eight days (17th December to 24th December) of their memorable stay at Nature Study cum Adventure Camp organized by Himalayan Nature & Adventure Foundation Siliguri (West Bengal). This year camp venue was on a river bank located in the Himalayan Mountains Range (Village Noam Distt. Kalimpong). Amidst the pristine nature and river bank surrounding mountains, children had a gala time. A typical Day was interspaced 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 36 Hours Train Journey, Jungle, River, Mountain, Animals & Birds in Jungle, Hotel Stay &

Exposure to Different Food, Culture and Landscape & Topography! Few children who initially hesitated & absolutely unsure to explore rock climbing , Burma bridge and paragliding adventure activities did the same with ease and in a jiffy after being persuaded & witnessing their peers from other parts of country. It was an emotional scene on the parting day of camp for both children & team members.

- During December, our two special educators also came out of their shells and were sent by us as a part of team fostering to present talks on FM Radio Sikar about both Intellectual Disability & Hearing Impairment. Such was the confidence and clarity of thoughts on AIR that RJ again sought an appointment with them.
- More than 100 Mentors and 300 Self Advocates were trained at five districts of Rajasthan in multiple domains of self advocacy and asserting their choices. We as state project lead facilitated; organized logistics and provided our stewardship to various partners across the state. Skills acquired by SAs comprised of bonding within peers , Self confidence building , Communicational Skills , Self- Determinations , Independent Skills , Enjoyment, Learning , Decision making, listening, Quick responding, problem solving etc. , Differentiation between appropriate and inappropriate , accept the appropriate things, reject the inappropriate thing , To express their feeling about family and community , To develop self esteem , Recognize the helping person in their group, recognize the public places, Recognize the helping person in emergency like police , Speak out their needs in front of others, know their needs etc.
- On 12th January, Swami Vivekanand Birthday as National Youth Day was celebrated a large scale by Alliance Club International at Nawalgarh. AKJ children were specially invited to present a musical play before huge gathering. They enacted a mesmerizing performance on the theme of 'Save Environment' which was applauded by all including decision makers' (political representatives and beaurocrates).

- On Makar Sakranti occasion, school was in festive mood with colorful kites being distributed to all children. Kites & Manjha, local delicacies, chocolates & biscuits - it was a field day for all our special children at three schools.
- On 17th January, our children visited a science exhibition at Podar College Nawalgarh where they observed the working of different science principles first hand. They were really excited to know and learn through models. Equally enthused were the graduate science students to help them understand concepts.
- Pulse polio drops were administered to our children on 20th January.
- Nawalgarh chapter of All India Journalist & Mass Media Federation celebrated birthdays of two of its journalists among our children where guest of honor was SHO, Police Station along with whole media fraternity. It was very successful inclusive event which raised the collective conscience of community.
- From 13th to 16th February, AKJ 70 children visited Regional Culture Festival 'Shekhawati Utsav' where they enjoyed rural games and cultural programs. They participated and won prizes in the rural games competing with non-disabled children. Everyone was spell bound with our children performance. Mementoes & certificates were awarded to our team.
- Our chief functionary Mr Sudeep Goyal in the capacity of Vice President – Central Zone attended strategic meet at Jabalpur on 18th & 19th February organized by PARIVAAR National Confederation of Parents Associations where he prevailed upon Vice Chancellor, Jabalpur University to roll over department of disability studies there. We also requested joint director, SJE to provide accessible solutions to persons with disabilities at Jabalpur district. During two days of intense brainstorming, we contributed immensely through inputs on PARIVAAR constitution amendment, National Trust affairs, review of Govt. policies etc.
- On 27th February, representatives of See Sound Live from Delhi took a orientation session at Nawalgarh where they explained about this new technique of monitoring progress in speech of hearing impaired children

through digital means. We have started using the same with young children in order to guide them in proper vocalization and amplification of speech.

- On 28th February, AKJ periodic management / governing board meeting was held where we reviewed the progress and challenges faced during recent past. We also discussed in depth about the ways & means through which all stakeholders including educators, therapists, children and parents synergize to attain our objectives in most productive manner. Emphasis was made on timely intervention, revenue generation, using creative pedagogy, building capacities of parent and moving forward.
- On 4th March, we participated in an event organized by The Hans Foundation at Delhi. Nationwide study on mental illness by TISS and other partners was released and sensitization on plight of acid attack survivors was done. It was a great learning experience and opportunity to get first hand insights of possible & available rehabilitation measures aimed at persons with mental illness.
- On International Woman Day 8th March, one of AKJ educators Ms Sarita Sharma at Sikar was felicitated by Rajasthan Patrika media house for her dedicated services towards special need children.
- As part of advocacy among community and showcasing abilities, our children performed at Police Lines Jhunjhunu where SP Police profusely appreciated them. UCO bank observed its foundation day at AKJ where we sensitized bank employees about disability and special education.
- CRE program on 'New Education Policy & Provisions for Disabled Children' was held at Dehradun by Uttarakhand Open University on 15th – 16th March where our coordinator Mr Tarun Dubey expressed his views on the subject.
- During March, our children (both ID and HI) appeared for state board examinations of Grade 5th and 8th. All of them wrote their papers confidently and passed the classes. 37 children cleared their respective levels under state board examinations. 16 children were promoted to next grade after home examinations.

- On 14th March, our physio therapist accompanied two parents and children to Jaipur for getting measurement of therapeutic support including modified shoes, knee braces and arm support. These children badly needed the corrective aids in order to prevent deterioration of posture and gait further. We convinced the families really hard who were unwilling to put time and efforts into this. After our continuous persuasion, finally it was done. Parents realized at the therapeutic workshop the importance and positive effect these aids would be on their wards.
- To further our governance protocols, another vital document ‘Strategic Road Map with one year goals’ to take our organization forward got prepared with the handholding of Tool Box India – A consulting firm providing pro bono capacity building services to NPO Sector. This vision paper will guide in aligning our objectives for sustainable development during next one year. We have started working on the next set of governance tools.
- During March 2020, an unprecedented sudden challenge surfaced in terms of Global Pandemic COVID 19 outbreak. National lockdown was imposed and our schools were force-closed for a considerate period hampering regular training activities. Though we rose to the occasion quickly and organized E-learning services for children confined to homes. We also networked with Rajasthan Govt. to get the advisory issued to provide necessary logistics support to persons with disabilities at district and block levels during this calamity.
- Our ‘**Transparency Badge**’ by Guide Star India in recognition of adherence to public disclosures, compliance management and legal governance to statutory regulations has been further renewed till December 2020.
- During the whole year all traditional festivals as well as National festivals were celebrated with full gusto. Role play activities and cultural programs followed by sweets distribution completed the festivities. Children learnt social skills like taking turns, displaying leadership, team building, controlling emotions and time management in implicit manner by participating in these events.

'Asha Ka Jharna' as a voluntary non-profit organization has been working for the cause of disability since **1998**. Our Three special schools for intellectually disabled (including cerebral palsy, Down syndrome and other developmental disabilities) as well as hearing and speech impaired children have been providing services spanning two districts; three towns and surrounding villages in the semi-arid rural areas of north-western Rajasthan (INDIA). Special education, therapeutic, vocational, guidance and counseling to more than 200 special children and their families are provided on a regular basis. Training, capacity building in the field of rehabilitation and outreach services is also being undertaken.

Special Needs Children Being Benefited As on 1st April 2020

Unit	Intellectually Disabled	Hearing Impaired	Total
Nawalgarh	38	33	71
Jhunjhunu	32	33	65
Sikar	41	27	68
Total	111	93	204

Vision: A Society with Just & Equal Opportunities for All

Mission: To serve less privileged community such as children with special needs & those in need of care & protection with the aim to make them achieve rightful place in their settings with the active participation of all stake holders

Belief & Values: Every child has the inherent right to life, survival and development, including the right to the highest attainable standard of health to facilities for the treatment of illness, the right to education and the right to benefit from social security. Every child has a right to a standard of living adequate for the child's physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development.

Our Guiding principles are Enlightenment, Education, Employment and Empowerment leading to Inclusion & Accessibility.

Special School 1 : Harlal Ka Kothi NAWALGARH - 333042 Phones 91-1594-223094 & 91-1594-222930

Special School 2 : Khemi Shakti Temple JHUNJHUNU - 333001 Phone 91-1592-237537

Special School 3 & CHILDLINE National Children Help Line No. 1098 (24 x 7) : Nageshwar Bagichi
SIKAR - 332001 Phone. 91-1572-256537 Rajasthan (INDIA)

Emails: sudeepgo@rediffmail.com & info@ashakajharna.org

Visit us at: www.ashakajharna.org