

Shishu Sarothi

SHISHU
SAROTHI



2024 - 2025

ACTIVITY REPORT

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www.shishusarothi.org

ABOUT US

Shishu Sarothi Centre for Rehabilitation & Training for Multiple Disability is a non-profit organization working in Assam and North East India since 1987, towards enabling and empowering children and persons with disabilities through a range of services to ensure their inclusion and full participation in society.



OUR VISION, MISSION AND VALUES

VISION

An inclusive world where all people with disabilities - children, women, and men - live on equal terms with respect and dignity, enjoy their rights and fundamental freedoms, and are valued as a part of human diversity and humanity.

MISSION

To uphold and advocate for the rights of children and persons with disabilities, ensure equal opportunities, and promote their inclusion and full participation in a non-discriminating barrier-free society.

VALUES

Equality, sensitivity, accountability, and commitment.

THEMATIC AREAS

- HEALTH
- EDUCATION
- AWARENESS AND ADVOCACY
- RESEARCH AND DOCUMENTATION



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

I am very pleased to share this Annual Activity Report that summarises the work done by our team during the 2024-25 reporting year.

It highlights our reach & impact, new initiatives, key milestones, and capacity-building work, success stories, as well as some data-driven outcomes across the different services, projects, and programs - Early Intervention (EI), Community-Based Inclusive Development in different locations, the Education-related services for children with different developmental disabilities, our efforts to promote Inclusive Education, the Scholarship program, scale up vocational skill training and our evolution into a regional Resource Centre for disability studies and action.

Key figures at a glance:

- Children reached by the Early Intervention team - 2444
- Community level engagement with children and persons with disabilities - 471
- Students receiving centre-based education services - 295
- Students covered by Inclusive Education programs in 50 SSA schools in 3 districts~1400
Parents reached/served: ~1000+
- Diploma and Certificate course participants -64
- Scholarships for students with disabilities worth Rs. 78 Lakhs given - 496 (78 new)
- Vocational Skill training for youth and women with disabilities - 118
- Resource Centre program participants reached ~ 800 across the Northeast

All this was possible only because of the generous support of all our donors and funders, who helped us tide over crises and sustain the work of the deeply committed 100-strong team at Shishu Sarothi!

Ketaki Bardalai

HEALTH

EARLY INTERVENTION (EI) SERVICES

Shishu Sarothi's Early Intervention services include regular daily centre based and fortnightly and quarterly outreach programs at different locations.

This year the team reached:

- **2444** (1898 new and 546 previously enrolled) **children**, over
- **12721 sessions** at
- **13 locations across Assam** expanding to **2 new locations** in Morigaon and Bamunigaon
- **534 children are being tracked and monitored** via the Enabling Inclusion App
- **29 children** were referred to our Centre for Education
- Additionally a series of related activities were held
- **4 Awareness Meetings** in communities
- **5 Free Play Stimulation and Colour activity** sessions
- **2 Health check ups and screening** sessions
- **1 Parent Meeting and 2 exposure visits**



Impact story – Ayush Das

Ayush enrolled on 8 August 2023 with delayed motor milestones and was diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy (diplegia). After 27 weekly centre-based sessions combined with a structured home programme, Ayush, now 3 years 6 months, demonstrates marked gains: crawling, independent standing, assisted walking, responsive interaction, and improved assessment scores (baseline 66.67% → 77.78% by 4th assessment). This clearly demonstrates the value of consistent, family-centred early intervention and play-based therapy.

COMMUNITY BASED REHABILITATION AND INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT

This is a new initiative launched in August 2024 to help connect people, especially children with disabilities, to a range of services in Morigaon and Goalpara. It uses a multi-sectoral approach that brings together education, health, employment, social services, and advocacy. At its core is the community, with all activities carried out in close partnership with community members.

KEY DATA

- 291 people including 181 children, 53 adolescents, and 57 adults have been identified in the Goalpara and Morigaon.
- 600 home visits have happened across these two locations.
- 13 persons with disabilities were supported to enroll in a free skill training program under the DD Divyangjan Punorstansthapana Scheme of the Assam Skill Development Mission at the Government ITI Campus, Goalpara.
- 54 persons were assisted with UDID registration, 39 received UDID cards; 25 were assisted in applying for Orunodoi Scheme



EDUCATION

CENTRE FOR EDUCATION

This service is supported by Azim Premji Foundation. **172 children** with developmental disabilities (Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Intellectual Disability) received centre and home-based services.

- School readiness – Inclusive Playschool and preschool training for children with ASD
- Special education – Functional Academics, Functional and Pre-Vocational Skill training
- Focus on children with high support needs – Special Teaching Unit, Leisure Learning Unit
- Need-based therapies – physio, occupational and speech
- Co-curricular inputs in yoga, sports, dance, music, and art

KEY MILESTONES

- Launch of National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) - **Open Basic Education (OBE)** with the first batch of 8 students (7-M 1-F) completing Level A exams successfully.
- **7 students** cleared the NIOS **Secondary exams**
- **6 students from the Inclusive Preschool graduated** – 5 moved to Standard 1 in mainstream schools, and 1 student has moved to the NIOS-OBE readiness group.



RECOGNITION

- 1st Prize in Group Dance (Xatriya) during the International Day for Persons with Disabilities program of the Department of SJ&E, Govt of Assam
- Secured 2nd place in the Inclusive Asmita Football League U14 district level competition that included 4 girls from Shishu Sarothi - a milestone for inclusive sports.

INDUS TOWERS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM (ITSP)

This program addresses the low participation rates (~0.19–0.22%) in higher education for students with disabilities and scales systemic support for a positive outcome.

The 2024–25 session transitioned from supporting purely academic courses to a stronger focus on vocational and skill-based education across five Northeast states (Assam, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland), in:

- Professional & administrative skills (accounting, office skills)
- Computer & digital skills
- Retail & sales management
- Beauty, hospitality, tourism, music & fine arts
- Technical skills (electrical, mechanical), tailoring & weaving, agriculture



KEY DATA

- **494 students - 78 New + 416 students from previous years Total students supported: 494**
- **Rs 78,82,071** scholarship funds disbursed
- **Scholarship award ceremonies held across 4 states: Meghalaya, Manipur, Nagaland, and Assam with state dignitaries and Indus Towers representatives.**
- Coffee Table Book featuring 100 stories of scholars finalized with FGDs and interviews conducted in Aizawl, Agartala, Imphal, Shillong, and Guwahati.

IMPACT STORY

Bhubon Dutta's journey from grappling with multiple disabilities and financial hardship to completing graduation and an MBA (hybrid mode) exemplifies the program's impact. His subsequent employment as a Commercial Officer renews prospects for youth with disabilities with flexible education and mentoring support.

TRAINING

Shishu Sarothi is an approved Training Institution of the Rehabilitation Council of India. Since 2003 it has conducted numerous RCI courses, creating a cadre of trained special educators for Assam and NE India over the years.

KEY DATA

30 students enrolled in the 2-year Diploma Course on Special Education in Multiple Disability (D.Ed- SE-MD) for the 24-26 batch

- All 14 students of the 22-24 batch passed in 1st Div
- 25 students enrolled in the 3rd batch of the 6-month Certificate Course Community-Based Inclusive Development (CBID)

Regular resource support given to NIPCCD, IGNOU Navodaya Training Centre, Samagra Shiksha Axom in-service training programs.



PROMOTING INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

Project UDAYAMAAN (HCL Tech Foundation grant)

- 20 schools; 896 students; 60 teachers; 120 parents reached in Rani and Rampur blocks of Kamrup district, with an array of school-level engagement and teacher training programs.

KEY MILESTONES

- Winter Carnival that engaged **300 students**, community members, and **10 government officials**; honoured 8 students with disabilities for their achievements.
- **324 Matrigot members** from **20 schools** participated in capacity-building workshops;
- Exposure visits to the Regional Museum in Guwahati catalysed peer-led engagement.

Inclusive Education (WIPRO Foundation Grant) in Karbi Anglong & West Karbi Anglong

- 3,550 children in 30 SSA schools reached in Lumbajong and Chinthong Blocks
- 517 children directly engaged by the program
- 596 Parents reached/served

ACTIVITIES

- Competitions: Handwriting, Poem Recitation, Drawing, Quiz, Handicraft
- Events: Indigenous Games, Open Day in schools, Inclusive Green Mind event
- Governance & outreach: SMC meetings & training; awareness campaigns on education & Early Childhood Care
- Childhood Care; participation in educational fairs with models

KEY MILESTONE

Indigenous Inclusive Games – a flagship event promoting interaction between children across abilities and backgrounds to learn, play, and celebrate inclusion.

Notable positive shift in parental attitudes; many parents now prioritise education, accompany children to school and remain during class hours – a direct result of repeated awareness and community engagement.

Promoting Inclusive Early Childhood Education – UNICEF-supported project

- 20 Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) in Dudhnoi Block were identified for a pilot project
- Training programs on inclusive Early Childhood Education were rolled out.

SPARSH PROGRAM & DEAF BLIND RESOURCE CENTRE

FOR PERSONS WITH MULTI-SENSORY IMPAIRMENT AND DEAFBLINDNESS (MSI&DB) & DEAFBLIND RESOURCE CENTRE (DBRC)

KEY DATA

123 children received Centre-based services – special education, therapy and counselling

180 persons given Home-based services

30 new persons with MSI/Db identified

- Regional level Training and sensitisation on Deafblindness for NE based NGOs held
- Sensitisation programme on Deafblindness held in Dimapur, Nagaland, with Deaf Biblical Ministry.



Impact story – Dhruvansh Giri

Dhruvansh, age 4, who has deafness along with Cerebral Palsy, progressed across all domains - pre-academic skills (colors, fruit names in sign), social greetings and turn-taking, gross motor (independent walking, throwing), fine motor (bead activity), and expressive communication (using sign for "water"), demonstrating how targeted interventions foster communication, motor and social skills in children with complex needs.

SKILL TRAINING

VOCATIONAL SKILLS TRAINING



KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Café Under the Mango Tree launched and became operational, providing hands-on livelihood experiences and operational responsibilities (procurement, order management and customer interactions) to trainees including women and youth with disabilities and mothers

Training & Partnerships

3-month certificate training in Baking & Confectionery conducted in collaboration with Institute of Hotel Management (IHM), Guwahati

Participants trained:

20 trainees (women with disabilities, youth with disabilities, mothers of children with disabilities, and girls from economically disadvantaged backgrounds).



REACH AND EVENTS



200+ people attended the Bhogali Mela food festival to showcase Bijoyini Bakes and other products

Bijoyini Bakes started receiving orders from parents, staff and partner organisations; supply partnership with a local catering service 'Happy Wedding'

Impact & Recognition

Trainees now manage daily café operations; increased regular attendance and engagement following counselling and community outreach.

Vocational Training Unit and Sheltered Workshop at Shishu Sarothi



Supported by Indigo Reach, this initiative was aimed to empower young adults with and without disabilities through skill development training in papercraft and screen printing. The project aimed to enhance livelihood options while fostering inclusivity and socioeconomic empowerment. Products developed included tote bags, T-shirts, notebooks, gift tags, mugs, and coasters paper bags, envelopes, folders, bottles, art works and decorated diyas.

- **30** youth with disabilities and **17** youth without disabilities have been trained.
- Products worth **Rs: 4,25,235/-** were sold during the year out of which **Rs: 2,41,285/-** was disbursed as remuneration to the student trainees for their efforts.
- Participated in Daan Utsav, Divya Kala Mela, Pre-Diwali celebrations, and other local exhibitions and sales etc. Orders were also taken for customised products.
- Certification ceremonies were attended by trainees, families, and Indigo Airlines representatives

ITI-Ability program in Bodo Territorial Region

The ITI-Ability Program is a dedicated skills training initiative aimed at empowering youth with disabilities in the Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR). Launched in collaboration with Shishu Sarothi, the program offers one-year vocational training in identified trades at the Industrial Training Institute (ITI) in Kokrajhar.



Program highlights

- 6 Focus Group Discussions were organized across Kokrajhar, Chirang, Tamulpur, Udalguri, and Baksa with a total of 60 participants, including youth with disabilities and their family members.
- 5 awareness programs were conducted across the districts of BTR, engaging 311 participants and encouraging youth with disabilities to explore skill training opportunities
- 48 students successfully enrolled in the ITI-Ability Program across four trades in COPA, Multimedia, Secretarial Practice, and Sewing Technology
- Access Audit of the ITI, Kokrajhar at Dhauliguri to evaluate the ITI's accessibility to ensure inclusivity, safety, and compliance with standards for individuals with disabilities



COMPOSITE RESOURCE CENTRE (NE) FOR DISABILITY STUDIES AND ACTION

The Resource Centre achieved significant milestones in 2024-25, directly serving 800 participants across multiple initiatives spanning diverse locations including Assam, Nagaland, Manipur, Tripura, and the entire North East region. The work ranged from grassroots community interventions to state-level policy consultations, demonstrating its comprehensive approach to disability inclusion and rights advocacy.

- **20+ comprehensive training programs** ranging from 1-day sessions to 6-month long courses.
- **Operations across multiple states** – all districts of Assam (through SSA partnerships), Senapati district of Manipur, State Govt collaboration in Tripura, and pan-India for online programs.
- **Collaborated with academic institutions (Gauhati University, Arya Vidyapeeth College), government departments (SSA Assam, Government of Tripura, NIPCCD), and corporate entities (Indus Towers Ltd.).**
- **Specialized Training Areas in Inclusive education, disability studies, community leadership, accessible classrooms, specific learning disabilities, and disaster risk reduction.**

Capacity Building Initiatives: The Centre expanded its reach through dual-pronged capacity building efforts, providing

- **specialized resource support** to external partner organizations including Bosco Reach Out (BRO) Guwahati, MANEDA in Manipur, Samagrah Siksha Assam
- **consultancy services** to the Government of Tripura's Department of Social Welfare and Rural Development,
- **targeted internal capacity building programs** for in-house staff, focusing on working with children with Autism Spectrum Disorders across different age groups and enhancing educators' competencies in supporting students with Specific Learning Disabilities
- **special inputs** on disability and inclusive pedagogical practices to Gauhati University students and faculty.



SHISHU SAROTHI

"Classroom Solutions for Inclusive Education"

Introducing a Certificate Course, offering a distinctive blend of theory and practical strategies for immediate implementation to make your classroom inclusive.

Who can do this course:

- School teachers
- Resource Persons (SSA)
- Students from Teachers Training institutes and
- Personnel working in the education setting

Dates & Duration

Start Date: May 23, 2025
Duration: 6 Months (May–November, 2025)
Mode: Hybrid (10 days In-Person training, 20 online sessions, guided practice and mentoring spread over 6 months)

Learning Outcomes:

- In-depth understanding of Inclusive Education
- Skills to implement inclusive strategies in school settings
- Capacity to address learning needs of diverse learners in the classroom

Course fee: INR 3500/-
(This fee covers books. Registration will be on a first come first serve basis.)

Participants: 25–30
Last date for registration: May 18, 2025

Click here to Register
 For more information:
 ✉ inclusion@shishusarothi.org
 ☎ +91 82228 67130

Together, let us create an inclusive future, where all schools belong to all children.



ACHIEVEMENT



State Level Consultation on "Pre-Monsoon Preparation and DRR" (May-June 2024) – a first-of-its-kind program organized in collaboration with Rural Volunteer Centre (RVC) and Inter Agency Group (IAG) Assam, successfully brought together 78 NGO representatives from 24 districts of Assam.

This initiative highlighted the traditionally overlooked but critical intersection of disability with disaster preparedness and raised awareness about the specific vulnerabilities and needs of persons with disabilities during emergency situations.

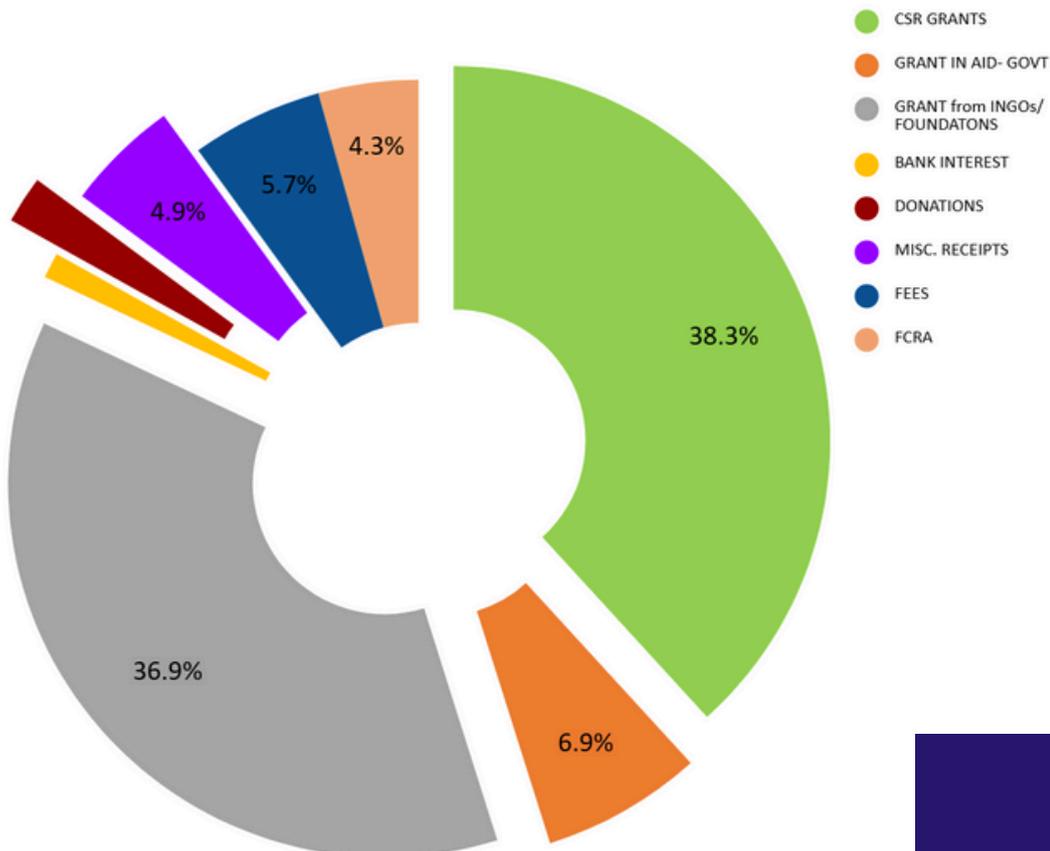


4 pivotal and strategic consultations and webinars addressing diverse dimensions of disability rights and inclusion, brought together stakeholders from multiple states to address **critical issues and intersectional challenges** - political participation, electoral accessibility, disaster risk reduction and emergency preparedness, legal framework implementation, entitlement access, justice delivery systems, health insurance accessibility and state disability

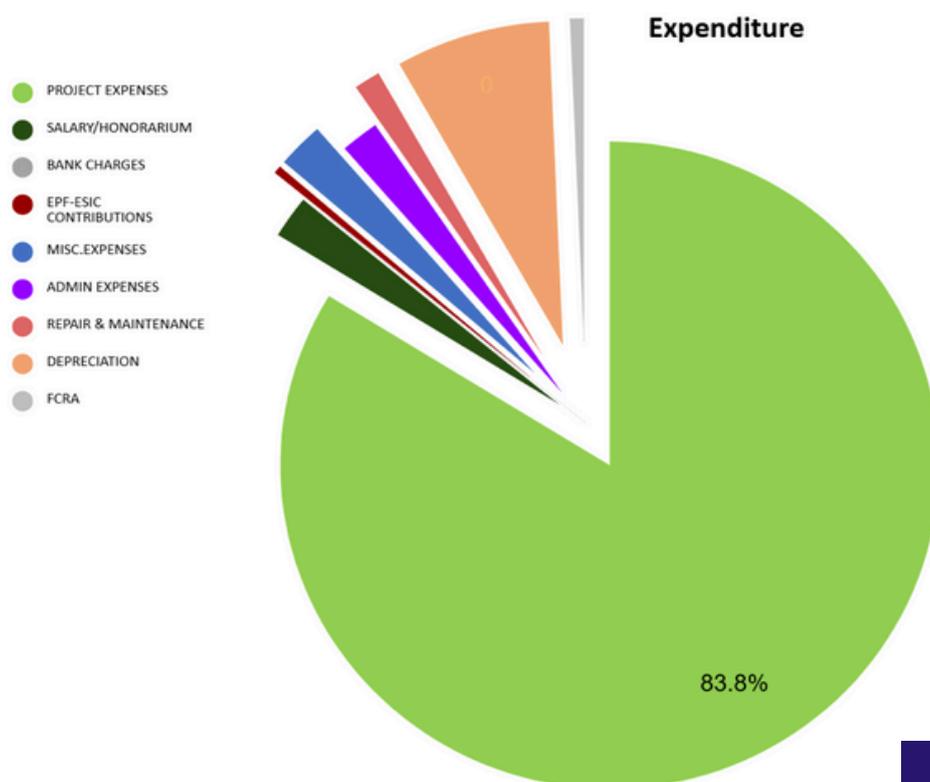
FINANCIALS

Income Source	Income Source	%
CSR Grants	22,176,469.00	38
Grant in Aid - Govt	4,004,896.00	7
Grant from INGOs/Foundations	21,373,786.00	37
Bank Interest	633,445.00	1
Donations	1,189,636.00	2
Misc. Receipts	2,829,625.00	5
Fees	3,278,500.00	6
FCRA	2,490,580.00	4
Total	57,976,937.00	100

Income



Expenditure	Amount (Local)	%
Project Expenses	44,415,101	84
Salary/Honorarium	1,121,978	2
Bank Charges	6,382	0
EPF-ESIC Contributions	206,799	0
Misc. Expenses	1,214,156	2
Admin Expenses	996,401	2
Repair & Maintenance	686,329	1
Depreciation	4,024,917	8
FCRA	357,127	1
Total	53,029,190	100



ROAD AHEAD

- Continue to scale early intervention services; deepen community-level engagement.
 - Build and improve internal capacities, systems, and practices.
 - Invest in teacher training to promote inclusive education pathways.
 - Engage actively with parents, service users, and other stakeholders.
 - Consolidate documentation and storytelling to amplify voices, share good practices, and influence policy partners.
 - Expand partnerships for livelihood skill training; sensitise and orient employers for equitable employment policies and practices.
 - Deepen discourse on disability across crosscutting issues and domains
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