



ASHA KA JHARNA

Annual Report 2024-2025

Celebrating Inclusion. Empowering Potential. Inspiring Change

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Message from the Leadership

2024-25 has been a year of purposeful momentum at Asha Ka Jharna. Our programs not only expanded their reach across Rajasthan but deepened their roots in community, education, and family empowerment. From academic achievements and national accolades to meaningful partnerships and transformative stories, this year affirms that inclusion is not a dream—it's a shared reality we are creating every day. Our Inclusive Education Program “Sanjhi Udaan” made inroads into community and regular school teachers making 50 special children first generation learners.

Our children have participated in national sports meets, explored remote forests on adventure camps, mastered basic literacy, and shared festive stages with their peers without disabilities. Our educators conducted training across states, our leaders were invited to national policy platforms, and our advocacy lit the path for thousands more.

We are especially proud of the ripple of impact we've seen—from a young girl confidently managing her father's shop, to entire classrooms in rural Rajasthan learning sign language and sharing stages with their neurodiverse classmates.

Thank you to each and every stakeholder—children, families, team members, donors, government allies, and community champions—who continue to believe in the potential of every child.

Together, we are not just serving children with disabilities. We are building a more Inclusive India.

Dr. Sudeep Goyal
Chief Functionary, Asha Ka Jharna



About Asha Ka Jharna

Asha Ka Jharna (AKJ), meaning "A Stream of Hope," was founded in 1998 in the semi-arid Shekhawati region of Rajasthan. What started as a small, passionate initiative is today a recognized institution in the disability and inclusion landscape of India.

Our work is anchored in the rights-based approach. We believe that disability is not a barrier, but society's attitudes and systems can be. Every day, we break down these barriers—through education, advocacy, inclusion, and empowerment.

Our Legal & Institutional Credentials:

- Registered under Society Registration Act, 1860
- Recognized by the Government of Rajasthan Social Justice Department
- Accredited by Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI) to run diploma programs in Special Education
- Empanelled as an Access Auditor with DEPwD, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Govt. of India
- GuideStar India Transparency Badge Holder

Institutional Footprint:

- Three Special Schools: Nawalgarh, Jhunjhunu, Sikar
- Teacher Training Institute offering Diplomas in Special Education (IDD & HI)
- Inclusive Education Program in three Government Schools
- Outreach across neighbourhood villages through surveys & awareness
- Community sensitization and family empowerment
- Policy input and advocacy at district, state and national levels

Core Interventions:

- Special & Inclusive Education
- Speech, Occupational & Physiotherapy
- Vocational Training & Livelihood Linkages
- RCI-Approved Teacher Training Programs
- Accessibility Audits & Awareness Campaigns
- Parent Counseling & Self-Advocacy

Our work is built on compassion, technical rigor, community partnership, and the unshakeable belief that every life can shine.

Our Vision, Mission & Values

“The future we want is one where every child—regardless of disability—can live with dignity, contribute meaningfully, and flourish in inclusive communities.”

Our Vision

A just and inclusive society where children and youth with disabilities live with dignity, independence, and equal opportunity.

Our Mission

To empower children and youth with disabilities, especially from rural and underserved areas, by providing quality education, therapeutic support, vocational training, and by advocating for their rights and inclusion at all levels.

Our Core Values

- Inclusion: We believe diversity strengthens communities. Every child belongs.
- Empowerment: We promote skills, confidence, and decision-making capacity in children and families.
- Respect: We affirm the value and dignity of every individual.
- Commitment: We remain accountable to our mission, our stakeholders, and the children we serve.
- Collaboration: We work alongside families, schools, governments, and other organizations to maximize our impact.

Our Philosophy: The CREAM Approach

- C – Catch Them Young: Early identification and support is crucial
- R – Rights-Based: Disability is a matter of rights, not charity
- E – Engage: Communities, families, and peers play a central role
- A – Advocate: We push for systemic change at all levels
- M – Maximize Potential: Every child can learn, grow, and thrive



Annual Progress Report 2024-25

A Tapestry of Inclusion and Empowerment

Executive Summary

Asha Ka Jharna (AKJ) proudly presents its Annual Activity Report for the period spanning April 2024 to March 2025. This report, symbolized by the vibrant "Rainbow @ Asha Ka Jharna" theme, encapsulates the organization's unwavering commitment to fostering an inclusive and supportive environment for children with disabilities across Rajasthan. Since its inception in 1998, Asha Ka Jharna has been at the forefront of empowering underprivileged communities, particularly children requiring special care and protection. Our holistic approach encompasses education, therapeutic interventions, vocational training, and robust advocacy, all designed to ensure that every child achieves their full potential and rightful place in society.

The 2024-25 period has been marked by significant milestones and transformative initiatives. We have expanded our reach through strategic community outreach and identification programs, linking more children with special needs to our specialized educational services. Our dedication to academic excellence is reflected in the success of students undertaking NIOS board examinations, with a remarkable 100% pass rate over the past fifteen years besides spectacular performance in mainstream grade 10th & 12th board examinations. Beyond academics, our children have excelled in various inclusive events, sports competitions, and adventure activities, showcasing their talents and resilience on both regional and national platforms.

A cornerstone of our success lies in the continuous capacity building and professional development of our educators and support staff. Through RCI-accredited programs, national workshops, and exposure visits, our team remains at the vanguard of special education and rehabilitation practices, ensuring high-quality, child-centric services. Furthermore, our robust advocacy and government engagement initiatives have amplified the voices of persons with disabilities, promoting inclusive policies and fostering societal empathy. From voter awareness rallies to engagements with opinion & decision makers and participation in cultural events, Asha Ka Jharna actively works to ensure that the rights and dignity of every individual are upheld.

This report details these endeavors across our seven project locations: Nawalgarh, Fatehpur, Jhunjhunu, Ramgarh, Khandela, and Sikar, each contributing a unique hue to our "Tapestry of Colours". We envision a society where children with disabilities thrive with dignity and independence, and through the comprehensive programs outlined herein, Asha Ka Jharna continues to build a solid foundation for a truly inclusive future.

Programs at a Glance

Asha Ka Jharna operates a spectrum of programs that address the educational, social, emotional, and physical development of children with intellectual and hearing disabilities. Our work spans from special education to livelihood support and policy advocacy.

Program Area	Description	Reach 2024–25
Special Education	Classroom-based learning for children with ID, ASD, CP, and Down syndrome	140+ children across 3 centers
Inclusive Education	Support in govt. schools, mainstreaming CWDs, teacher facilitation	50+ children in 3 govt. schools
Therapeutic Services	Physiotherapy, occupational therapy, speech-language intervention	100+ children enrolled
Teacher Training	RCI-accredited diploma courses and CRE programs	140 trainees + 150 CRE participants
Parent Engagement	Counseling, group sessions, awareness camps	500+ parents and caregivers reached
Advocacy & Accessibility	Access audits, awareness rallies, policy inputs	100+ sites audited, 5 major campaigns
Vocational & Life Skills	Pre-employment training, AMBA & Youth4Jobs collaboration	100+ youth, 30 placed in mainstream

Quick Facts: - 3 Special Schools (Nawalgarh, Sikar, Jhunjhunu) - 3 Partner Government Schools – Teacher Training Institute at Nawalgarh - 25 Villages covered under outreach - 100+ therapy sessions delivered monthly - 480 children (with and without disabilities) engaged through inclusive festivals

“The strength of our model lies in its comprehensiveness—spanning education, health, family support, and advocacy.”



Key Highlights 2024–25

Education & Learning

- 24 students cleared NIOS exams (Class 3, 5 & 8 equivalents)
- 5 students cleared Grade 12th boards with above 70 % marks while another 6 students passed their Grade 10th boards. Another ten learners cleared 9th and 11th classes.
- Individualized Education Plans tracked quarterly for 140 students
- Inclusive support extended to 50 new CWDs in 3 rural government schools

Therapeutic Impact

- 1000+ physiotherapy and occupational therapy sessions delivered
- 85% of therapy recipients showed measurable improvement in motor and cognitive goals

Community Impact

- 2 regional parent conventions organized (Bhopal & Varanasi) with 400+ families
- 25+ medals won by our students at Junoon 2024 Sports Festival (BITS Pilani)
- 100+ children and youth participated in exposure camps to Kalimpong, Bhubaneswar, Bikaner

Organizational Development

- School transport enhanced with new 21-seater bus (CSR donation)
- First batch of trainee educators graduated from our Institute



1. Education & Inclusion Initiatives

At Asha Ka Jharna, education is the bedrock of empowerment, designed to be accessible, individualized, and deeply inclusive. Our initiatives in this domain are multifaceted, addressing both specialized educational needs and the integration of children with disabilities into mainstream learning environments. The academic session 2024-25 has seen significant strides in strengthening our educational framework and broadening our impact across various programs.

1.1. Specialized Education and Therapeutic Care

Asha Ka Jharna operates three dedicated special schools strategically located in the semi-arid regions of north-western Rajasthan. These schools serve as vital hubs, providing comprehensive services to over 240 children with disabilities, including intellectual disabilities and speech impairments. Our programs extend beyond conventional academics to encompass:

- **Specialized Curricula:** Tailored educational plans are developed for each child, considering their unique learning styles, abilities, and developmental goals. This individualized approach ensures that instruction is not only effective but also engaging and relevant to their specific needs. Our focus remains on fostering cognitive, social, emotional, and physical development.
- **Therapeutic Services:** Integral to our educational model are the therapeutic interventions provided delivered by a team of qualified physiotherapists. These therapies are crucial for enhancing communication skills, improving motor functions, and addressing sensory integration challenges, thereby enabling children to participate more fully in their educational and daily lives.
- **Vocational Training and Guidance:** Recognizing the importance of self-reliance, we integrate vocational training into our curriculum. These programs are designed to equip young adults with disabilities with practical skills that can lead to meaningful employment and livelihood opportunities. This proactive approach to vocational guidance is key to promoting their successful integration into the community and fostering economic independence.
- **Family-Centric Support:** We firmly believe that the family plays an indispensable role in a child's development. Our programs extend guidance and resources to parents and caregivers, empowering them with the knowledge and skills to support their child's learning journey at home. This collaborative approach ensures consistency in care and education, strengthening the overall support system for the child.

On 21st November 2024, another periodic parent teacher meet at asha Ka Jharna Nawalgarh saw the enthusiastic participation of parents, grandparents & siblings. Our team put up a great show guiding the families about the progress and milestones achieved by their children and simultaneously talking of challenges & way forward. High points of today interaction were:

- a) **Belief in your child unique ability and not blindly emulate others**
- b) **How to communicate with your hearing & speech impaired child through sign language**
- c) **Behavioural modification & adaptation**
- d) **Greater engagement and participation of children in Co curricular events to enhance their self confidence and skills**
- e) **Mind your growing adolescents against evil company near your community.**
- f) **Carve out a future ready plan in consultation with our educators**
- g) **Enhanced attention on the child when she returns home after our school**



1.2. Inclusive Education Settings and Remedial Support

Beyond our special schools, Asha Ka Jharna actively promotes and facilitates inclusive education by offering remedial teaching within mainstream settings. The academic session 2024–25 marked a significant expansion in this area, with the new enrolment of 20 students in the remedial inclusive education setup at our Nawalgarh school. 21 students with hearing impairment overcame the obstacles of inclusive higher education when due to our sustained efforts, they cleared grades 9th to 12th taking same exams as those of nondisabled counterparts.

50 children with disabilities (38 ID & 12 HI) were enrolled at three Government schools at Fatehpur, Ramgarh & Khandela towns in Sikar District. This initiative is a testament to our commitment to expanding support for children with disabilities within mainstream environments, fostering a sense of belonging and enabling them to learn alongside their peers.

Our remedial programs are meticulously designed to:

- **Bridge Learning Gaps:** Provide targeted support to students who require additional assistance in specific academic areas, ensuring they can keep pace with the mainstream curriculum.
- **Personalized Learning Plans:** Develop individualized strategies that cater to each student's learning pace and style, utilizing adaptive teaching methodologies and resources.
- **Promote Social Integration:** Encourage interaction and collaboration between students with and without disabilities, fostering mutual understanding and respect within the classroom.
- **Enhance Self-Confidence:** Build the confidence of children with disabilities by creating a supportive learning environment where their strengths are recognized and celebrated.

1.2. NIOS Curriculum and Academic Achievements

A significant highlight of our educational initiatives is the successful integration of the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) curriculum. This pathway is crucial for preparing children to attain recognized qualifications, opening doors for future training and employment opportunities. For the academic session 2024–25, our students demonstrated exceptional dedication and resilience:

- **Successful Examinations:** Between the 5th and 17th of February 2025, 24 of our students confidently appeared for their NIOS board examinations for Grades 3, 5, and 8. These students diligently followed the prescribed curriculum throughout the year, showcasing remarkable academic growth and personal resilience.
- **100% Pass Rate:** We are incredibly proud to announce that all 24 students successfully cleared their respective grades, with official passing certificates expected to be issued in April and May. This achievement is not an isolated success but part of a consistent, fifteen-year effort during which over 370 students have successfully passed their exams through Asha Ka Jharna.



- **Reflecting Excellence:** This consistent academic success stands as a powerful testament to the strength of our inclusive teaching model, the unwavering dedication of our educators, and the profound determination of our students to overcome challenges. It underscores their ability to move forward with pride and confidence in their learning journey, setting a precedent for future cohorts.

1.3. Holistic Development and Empowering Journeys

Our foundational goals are deeply rooted in the principles of accessibility and education, ensuring that every child has the opportunity to partake in a nurturing learning environment and that their families receive the necessary resources and support. The inspiring journey of Asha Ka Jharna is a testament to our unwavering commitment to transforming lives and advocating for the rights of all children and individuals with disabilities, ultimately working towards an inclusive society.

The story of Rekha Sharma, a 28-year-old youth with an intellectual disability, beautifully exemplifies the transformative power of our self-advocacy and self-determination programs. Initially confined to her home, isolated and withdrawn, Rekha lacked independence in daily living, hygiene, and communication. Her family was deeply concerned about her limited autonomy and her unawareness of body safety.

Asha Ka Jharna intervened with a comprehensive program tailored to Rekha's (changed name) needs, which included:

- **Family-Inclusive Training:** Regular sessions focused on communication, independence, and understanding rights, involving her family to ensure a supportive home environment.
- **Public Exposure Visits:** Guided visits to markets, hospitals, railway stations, and police stations were organized to build real-world confidence and practical skills.
- **Transactional Training:** Practical sessions on handling money, making choices, and bargaining were provided to enhance her self-reliance in everyday transactions.
- **Body Safety Education:** Crucial education on body safety, including the concepts of safe and unsafe touch, was imparted to protect her well-being.
- **Menstrual Hygiene Management:** Training on self-care and menstrual hygiene was provided, fostering greater independence and dignity.
- **Leadership Opportunities:** Rekha was given opportunities for leadership, including her first public speaking engagement at the National Conference on Self Advocacy in Chennai.

The results of this intervention have been profoundly inspiring:

- Rekha now expresses herself confidently and understands personal boundaries.
- She independently manages her hygiene and menstrual care.
- She has become assertive about her rights, even challenging inappropriate behavior within her family.
- Rekha moves independently in public spaces, including visiting the temple alone.
- In a remarkable instance, she confidently responded with awareness when faced with unwanted touch in a queue, a clear indicator of her newfound empowerment.
- Critically, Rekha made an independent life decision not to marry, choosing instead to focus on achieving financial self-reliance.
- With Asha Ka Jharna's facilitation, her disability pension has been activated, providing her with financial support and a significant boost in self-worth.

Rekha's transformation from isolation and dependence to agency, voice, and dignity serves as a powerful testament to the impact of consistent support, structured training, and personal courage. Her journey embodies our vision of a society where children and individuals with disabilities can thrive with dignity and independence.

2. Community Outreach & Identification

Community outreach and the systematic identification of individuals with disabilities form the critical initial steps in fulfilling Asha Ka Jharna's mission of inclusive education and comprehensive support. Our efforts in this domain are designed to reach underserved populations, raise awareness, and ensure that every child with special needs is identified and linked to appropriate services. This proactive approach is fundamental to fostering societal inclusion and equitable access to opportunities.

2.1. Targeted Community Surveys and Door-to-Door Initiatives

To ensure that inclusive education reaches every eligible child, Asha Ka Jharna meticulously plans and executes targeted community surveys across various regions. During the reporting period, significant efforts were concentrated in Nawalgarh, Sikar, Fatehpur, Ramgarh Shekhawati, Khandela, and Mandawa. These areas, often characterized by limited access to specialized services, are central to our outreach strategy.

Key initiatives included:

- **Summer Vacation Surveys:** Leveraging the period of summer vacations, our dedicated educators embarked on extensive door-to-door surveys. This direct engagement allowed them to identify several new children with disabilities who might otherwise remain unreached. The personalized approach of visiting families

at their homes is crucial for building trust and understanding the unique circumstances of each household.

- **Family Counselling:** A critical component of these surveys was the provision of immediate counselling to families of identified children. Many families are often unaware of their child's specific disability, the available support systems, or the potential for growth and development. Our educators provided vital information, dispelled myths, and offered emotional support, encouraging families to embrace the possibilities of inclusive education and therapeutic interventions.
- **Linking to Special Schools:** Following identification and initial counselling, a streamlined process ensured that these newly identified children were linked to our special schools, commencing from July onwards. This seamless transition from identification to enrolment is vital for providing timely and effective support.

2.2. Role of Trainee Educators in Outreach

The Asha Ka Jharna Institute of Inclusive Rehabilitation Training plays a pivotal role in these outreach endeavors. Trainee educators from the institute lead many of these community initiatives, providing them with invaluable practical experience while simultaneously expanding our reach. This symbiotic relationship ensures that future educators are grounded in community-based rehabilitation and equipped with the skills necessary for identifying and supporting individuals with disabilities in diverse settings. Their efforts extend to identifying both children and adults with disabilities, ensuring that appropriate services are recommended for all age groups.

2.3. Focused Campaigns and Expanding Reach

Our outreach activities are not only ongoing but also include focused campaigns in specific regions to maximize impact. A notable example from February 2025 saw our Nawalgarh team conducting a concentrated survey in Mandawa, which resulted in the identification of over 90 children with various disabilities across 25 villages. This intensive effort highlights the significant unmet need for disability identification and support in these rural areas.

Furthermore, similar sustained efforts are continuously underway in Khandela, Ramgarh, and Fatehpur. The aim is to systematically expand the reach of our inclusive education programs, ensuring that more children with disabilities gain access to quality learning environments and holistic development opportunities.

2.4. Multi Speciality Diagnostic, Assessment & counselling Camp

Asha Ka Jharna organized a free multi-specialty occupational, speech, physio and psychotherapy camp on 30th November 2024 in the institute's premises in Nawalgarh. In this counselling camp organized under the joint aegis of Jaipur's prestigious clinic Rehab Buddy Child Development Center & Autism Research Institute, children and adults both from AKJ and the community were examined and counselled by senior occupational therapists from Jaipur, Dr. Nakul Kaushik, Dr. Kashish Samuel, Dr. Yogesh, speech therapist Priyanka Das, clinical psychologist Tanisha, physiotherapists Mohd. Saddam, Pradeep Kumar, Sagar Kumar, Anuj Kumar and the team of special educators of Asha Ka Jharna. More than 115 intellectually disabled and hearing-impaired children were provided services in the camp. People suffering from developmental delay, speech or hearing problems, autism, cerebral palsy, mental health and walking problems were provided proper counseling and therapy techniques.



While addressing the camp, Nawalgarh MLA Sh. Vikram Singh Jakhal emphasized on cultivating the feeling of equality in the society towards children with disabilities and also assured all possible support from his side. He also released the awareness leaflet published by us on the identification of 21 types of disabilities and wished for its mass dissemination. Communication in sign language with the deaf children was explained to him and hearing aids got distributed by the Honorable MLA.



2.5. "Badhte Kadam" Multi-Specialty Assessment Camp: A Model of Integrated Outreach

On Saturday, March 1st, 2025, with the support of **The National Trust Asha Ka Jharna** organized a landmark “Badhte Kadam” (Stepping Forward) Multi-Specialty Assessment Camp and Disability Awareness Program at its Sikar campus. This comprehensive initiative served as a powerful testament to our integrated approach to community outreach, combining awareness-building with early diagnosis and therapeutic support for children and youth with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDDs).

Building Awareness and Community Support:

The event garnered significant attention and was inaugurated by the Hon’ble Member of Parliament (Sikar Lok Sabha), Shri Amra Ram. In his address, he underscored the paramount importance of equality, empathy, and timely intervention for children with disabilities, urging parents to commit to consistent

therapies in collaboration with professionals to ensure their children's developmental progress.



Dr. Sudeep Goyal, Director of Asha Ka Jharna, provided crucial insights to attending families, outlining the key provisions of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act and detailing the 21 types of recognized disabilities. He emphasized the vital role of early intervention, encouraging parents to remain vigilant for developmental red flags and proactively seek support. Dr. Nakul Kaushik, Director of Rehab Buddy (Jaipur), further elaborated on the critical importance of parental engagement, emphasizing consistency and patience in applying developmental therapy practices within the home environment.



As a tangible outcome of the awareness drive, **two highly informative leaflets were released by Asha Ka Jharna and widely distributed among attendees. One leaflet focused on the identification of the 21 disabilities, while the other provided a Hindi edition of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016.** These materials are instrumental in facilitating further community-level dissemination of crucial knowledge, empowering families and local communities with the information needed to identify and support individuals with disabilities.

Holistic Multi-Therapy Services Delivered:

The assessment and therapy camp was a collaborative success, organized in partnership with Rehab Buddy, a leading Jaipur-based child development center. A multi-disciplinary team comprising over a dozen experienced professionals offered specialized consultation and therapy planning, encompassing a wide range of services:

- **Occupational Therapy:** Led by Dr. Nakul Kaushik, focusing on developing daily living skills and sensory integration.
- **Speech Therapy:** Provided by Priyanka Das and Tarun Dubey, addressing communication challenges.
- **Physiotherapy:** Conducted by Dr. Saddam, aimed at improving mobility and physical function.
- **Clinical Psychology and ABA Therapy:** Delivered by Suhani Agarwal, Vikas, Rakesh, and Jyoti, offering behavioral and psychological support.
- **Developmental Assessments:** Carried out by Dr. Shubham, Dr. Yogesh, Dr. Pradeep Kashyap, and Dr. Sagar, providing comprehensive evaluations.
- **Special Education Support:** Offered by Asha Ka Jharna's trained educators, providing pedagogical guidance.

During the camp, over 130 children and their families received personalized assessments and counseling. Children having developmental delays, speech and hearing impairments, autism spectrum disorders, cerebral palsy, and mobility challenges, as well as mental health concerns, were provided with practical therapy techniques and clear guidance for follow-up care.

दिव्यांगों को मिली राहत

सीकर. आशा का झरना संस्थान की ओर से शनिवार को मल्टी स्पेशलिटी शिविर लगाया गया। राष्ट्रीय न्यास के दिव्यांगता जागरूकता कार्यक्रम के तहत आयोजित शिविर में जयपुर के वरिष्ठ आक्यूपेशनल थेरेपिस्ट डॉ. नकुल कौशिक, डॉ. शुभम, डॉ. योगेश, स्पीच थेरेपिस्ट प्रियंका दास व तरुण दुबे, क्लीनिकल साइकलोजिस्ट सुहानी अग्रवाल, ऑटिज्म विशेषज्ञ विकास, एबीए थेरेपिस्ट राकेश व ज्योति फिजियोथेरेपिस्ट डा. सद्दाम, डा. प्रदीप कश्यप, डा. सागर ने दिव्यांग बच्चों व युवाओं की जांच व परामर्श दिया गया। संस्था निदेशक डॉ. सुदीप गोयल ने बताया कि शिविर में 130 से अधिक बौद्धिक दिव्यांग व मूक-बधिर बच्चों को परामर्श दिया गया। शिविर में सीकर सांसद अमराराम ने अभिभावकों को मौजूदगी में दो जागृति लीफलेट का विमोचन किया।



सीकर भास्कर
02-03-2025

निशुल्क शिविर में बच्चों के स्वास्थ्य की जांच की

सीकर | स्वयंसेवी संस्था आशा का झरना की ओर से सुबोध शिक्षण संस्थान परिसर में निशुल्क मल्टी स्पेशलिटी ऑक्यूपेशनल, स्पीच, फिजियो एवं साइको थेरेपी शिविर लगाया गया। संस्था निदेशक डॉ. सुदीप गोयल ने बताया कि शिविर में जयपुर से वरिष्ठ ऑक्यूपेशनल थेरेपिस्ट डॉ. नकुल कौशिक, डॉ. शुभम, डॉ. योगेश, स्पीच थेरेपिस्ट प्रियंका दास व तरुण दुबे, क्लीनिकल साइकलोजिस्ट सुहानी अग्रवाल आदि ने दिव्यांग बच्चों व युवाओं की जांच कर परामर्श दिया। शिविर में 130 से अधिक बौद्धिक दिव्यांग व मूक-बधिर बच्चों को सेवाएं दी गईं। इस मौके पर सांसद अमराराम ने दिव्यांग बच्चों के लिए हर संभव सहयोग करने का भरोसा दिलाया। उन्होंने जागृति लीफलेट का विमोचन किया।

Impact and Reflections:

The “Badhte Kadam” camp served as a vital touchpoint for families in and around Sikar, offering not only professional assistance but also instilling a profound sense of community, hope, and direction. It powerfully reinforced the importance of timely diagnosis, family-centered intervention, and ongoing support. For many who attended for the first time, it marked the beginning of a structured journey toward comprehensive care and empowerment. This initiative stands as a clear testament to Asha Ka Jharna’s unwavering commitment to holistic rehabilitation and to ensuring that no child is left behind due to a lack of awareness or restricted access to essential services.

Our consistent and expanded community outreach and identification programs are central to realizing our vision of a society where equal opportunities and just treatment are afforded to all, reinforcing the belief that every child has the right to life, survival, and development, including access to health, education, and social security.

3. Inclusive Events & Exposure Activities

Asha Ka Jharna strongly believes that holistic development extends beyond the classroom. Exposure to diverse environments, participation in cultural events, and engagement in adventure activities are crucial for building confidence, fostering social skills, and broadening the horizons of children with disabilities. The past year has been vibrant with numerous inclusive events and enriching exposure activities, providing our children with invaluable experiences and opportunities for personal growth.

3.1. Junoon 2024 – BITS Pilani Sports Fest

The "Junoon 2024" Sports Fest, organized by the NSS unit of engineering students at BITS Pilani on September 14th and 15th 2024, was a significant platform for our children to showcase their athletic prowess. Children with intellectual and hearing disabilities from Asha Ka Jharna once again demonstrated outstanding athletic talent, reinforcing the capabilities of individuals with special needs in competitive sports.

Event Highlights:

- **Participation:** The festival brought together over 125 children from institutions across Delhi and Rajasthan, creating a vibrant and competitive atmosphere.

- **Our Contingent:** A proud contingent of 25 children represented Asha Ka Jharna, embodying the spirit of sportsmanship and determination.
- **Medal Tally:** Our children achieved remarkable success, securing a total of 25 medals: 17 Gold, 6 Silver, and 2 Bronze. This exceptional performance is a testament to their dedication and the effectiveness of their training.
- **Events Competed:** Our athletes competed across a range of disciplines, including 50m, 100m, and 200m sprints, Shotput, High Jump, Long Jump, and Carrom Board.
- **Star Performers:** Individual brilliance was evident, with Sahil, Lakshya Jain, Mohammad Kaif, Pritam, Kuldeep, Neeraj Bhakhar, Ejaz, Suraj, Jatin, Abdul Matin, Bhakhar, Dhruv, Rihan, and Zameer delivering stellar performances. Their skills, determination, and exemplary sportsmanship captivated the audience.

Asha Ka Jharna's consistent participation in Junoon for the past decade, consistently earning laurels, powerfully demonstrates the immense capabilities of children with disabilities in sports and reinforces their potential for excellence.

3.2. 23rd Skill Development Camp in Bikaner

From September 27th to October 2nd, 2024, a group of 40 children with hearing impairments, accompanied by their trainers from Asha Ka Jharna, actively participated in the 23rd Skill Development Camp in Bikaner. Organized by the Mahavir Intercontinental Service Institute (MISO), this six-day residential camp was a dynamic environment for learning, collaboration, and empowerment, bringing together over 1,100 deaf children from 50 institutions across India.

Vocational Training and Skill Building:

The camp offered invaluable hands-on vocational training through a diverse array of workshops designed to cultivate sustainable skills. Our children gained practical expertise in:

- **Crafting Techniques:** Soap and chocolate making, crafting clay lamps, and garland-making techniques.
- **Production Skills:** Face wash and handwash production.
- **Eco-Friendly Practices:** Creating bio-enzymes from fruit peels and generating bio greens from coconut husk.
- **Artisan Skills:** Working with bamboo.

These sessions were meticulously designed to foster self-reliance and open up tangible avenues for future livelihood, aligning with our commitment to empowering children with practical skills for economic independence.

Cultural Immersion and Environmental Contribution:

Beyond vocational training, the camp provided a rich cultural experience. Children explored Bikaner's historical heritage, visiting iconic landmarks such as Lakshmi Palace, Junagarh Fort, Karni Mata Temple, and the National Camel Conservation Center. This exposure broadened their cultural understanding and appreciation.

One of the most impactful moments was their participation in a record-setting event: planting 2,511 saplings in Malasar village near Bikaner. This remarkable achievement earned a place in the Limca Book of Records, highlighting their significant contribution to environmental sustainability and fostering a sense of civic responsibility.

3.3. 23rd Anjali National Children's Festival

Nine children from Asha Ka Jharna had the enriching opportunity to participate in the prestigious 23rd Anjali National Children's Festival, held in Bhubaneswar, Odisha, from November 13th to 17th, 2024. This five-day celebration brought together over 800 children from 13 different states, creating a vibrant platform of diversity, creativity, and profound inclusion.

Showcasing Talents and Skill Building:

- **Dance Performance:** Representing Rajasthan, our special children proudly showcased their talents through a captivating dance performance that received heartfelt appreciation from the diverse audience.
- **Skill-Building Workshops:** Throughout the festival, the children immersed themselves in a wide array of skill-building workshops, fostering both artistic expression and practical learning. These included photography, pottery, caricature, papier-mâché, theatre, dance, and various arts and crafts. These interactive sessions nurtured their creative spirit and provided meaningful exposure to cultural art forms from across India.



Cultural and Scenic Exploration:

Adding to the excitement, the children explored the scenic beauty of Odisha, marvelling at the intricate sand sculptures of renowned artist Sudarshan Patnaik, and visited iconic landmarks, including the Jagannath Puri Temple and the Golden Beach seashore, enriching their cultural understanding and creating lasting memories. The festival underscored the importance of providing inclusive platforms where children with disabilities can express themselves, learn new skills, and experience the richness of India's cultural heritage.



3.4. 33rd Nature Study and Adventure Camp

In a truly transformative experience, a group of fourteen children with intellectual and hearing disabilities from Asha Ka Jharna embarked on a once-in-a-lifetime journey to the 33rd Nature Study and Adventure Camp. Held from December 18th to 23rd, 2024, in the serene Samsing Forest Range, Kalimpong, West Bengal, this camp offered a unique blend of environmental education and adventure.

Nature Immersion and Adventure Activities:

Accompanied by three dedicated special educators, the children immersed themselves in nature's embrace, exploring lush tea gardens, river ecosystems, dense mountain trails, and vibrant village life. Organized annually by the Himalayan Nature & Adventure Foundation, this celebrated camp welcomed over 120 special participants from across India.



Our children enthusiastically took part in a wide range of activities, designed to challenge and inspire:

- **Physical Challenges:** Wall climbing, rope bridge making, and net climbing.
- **Nature Exploration:** Nature walks, allowing them to connect with the natural environment.
- **Wellness:** Yoga and daily physical training sessions promoting health and well-being.
- **Cultural Engagement:** Cultural programs around the campfire, fostering camaraderie and shared experiences.

These experiences were instrumental in igniting their sense of adventure, instilling self-confidence, promoting independence, and strengthening teamwork skills.



Cultural Exchange and Personal Growth:

The camp offered a rich blend of environmental education, cultural exchange, and profound personal growth. Children interacted with local villagers, learning about regional flora and fauna, savoring local delicacies, and forging friendships with peers from other states. The exposure to new landscapes and social settings proved especially empowering, helping children overcome fears and embrace challenges with joy and enthusiasm.

Enroute Detour to Maha Kumbh 2025:

On their journey back home, a special detour was planned enroute at Prayagraj, where the Maha Kumbh 2025 was taking place. This provided a unique cultural experience, as the children were taken to the Holy Sangam on boats. They were immensely excited to witness the bustling activity related to the Mela, and for all of them, it was their first time seeing a river, adding another memorable highlight to their transformative journey.

3.5. Joyful Inclusion in Divine Celebration: Shri Krishna Janmashtami at Vivaana Museum Hotel, Nawalgarh

Children from Asha Ka Jharna brought spirit, color, and joy to the Shri Krishna Janmashtami celebrations hosted at the beautiful Vivaana Museum Hotel, Nawalgarh. Dressed as Radha, Krishna, and gopikas, the children participated in cultural performances, devotional songs, and playful activities that captivated the audience and showcased their talents.

This inclusive celebration offered a unique platform for children with disabilities to express themselves through art, music, and dance, breaking societal barriers and embracing tradition with dignity. The warm hospitality and support from Vivaana made the event a truly memorable one, reinforcing the belief that every child deserves a space in cultural and festive joy, regardless of ability.

3.6. Adnan's Achievement in State-Level Sports Competition

In a moment of immense pride for Asha Ka Jharna, Adnan, an 18-year-old student with hearing impairment from our Jhunjhunu Special School, achieved a remarkable feat by winning silver medal at the divisional-level sports competition for children with special needs. Held at Sawai Mansingh Stadium, Jaipur, and organized under the aegis of the Rajasthan State Legal Services Authority, the event brought together talented young athletes from across the state.

Adnan showcased his exceptional athletic ability in the long jump event, where he secured first place at the divisional level with an impressive jump of 4.27 meters, surpassing competitors from multiple districts. His outstanding performance earned him the second overall position in the entire state, a powerful testament to his dedication, perseverance, and rigorous training. Adnan's success serves as an inspiration, highlighting the incredible potential within every child with disabilities when provided with the right opportunities and support.

These inclusive events and exposure activities collectively contribute to the holistic development of our children, equipping them with life skills, fostering self-confidence, and promoting their integration into society as active and valued members. Each activity underscores our commitment to ensuring that every child, regardless of disability, has the chance to explore their potential and be seen, heard, and celebrated.



4. Sports & Vocational Skills

The development of sports and vocational skills is a cornerstone of Asha Ka Jharna's holistic approach to empowering children and young adults with disabilities. We recognize that these skills are not only vital for physical well-being and personal growth but also crucial for fostering self-reliance, opening avenues for future employment, and promoting full societal integration. Our programs are meticulously designed to provide diverse opportunities for skill acquisition, fostering both athletic talent and practical capabilities.

4.1. Sports for Physical Well-being and Confidence Building

Participation in sports offers numerous benefits, including improved physical health, enhanced motor skills, teamwork, and the development of self-confidence. Asha Ka Jharna actively encourages and facilitates engagement in various sports activities, enabling children with disabilities to discover their athletic potential and experience the joy of competition and achievement.

- **Junoon 2024 – BITS Pilani Sports Fest:** As detailed in the "Inclusive Events & Exposure Activities" section, the Junoon 2024 Sports Fest was a prime example of our commitment to sports. Our contingent of 25 children with intellectual and hearing disabilities showcased exceptional athletic talent, winning 17 Gold, 6 Silver, and 2 Bronze medals across various track and field events (50m, 100m, 200m sprints, Shotput, High Jump, Long Jump) and carrom board. This consistent success, spanning over 10 years of participation in Junoon, highlights their immense capabilities and the effectiveness of our sports programs in nurturing competitive spirit and physical prowess. The achievements of star performers like Sahil, Lakshya Jain, and Mohammad Kaif underscore the individual dedication and the collective strength of our team.

- **Daily Physical Training and Yoga:** Beyond competitive events, our regular curriculum includes daily physical training and yoga sessions. These activities are essential for maintaining physical fitness, improving coordination, and fostering a sense of discipline and well-being among our children.

4.2. Vocational Training for Livelihood and Independence

Vocational training is a critical component of our comprehensive services, aimed at equipping young adults with disabilities with practical skills that can lead to sustainable livelihoods and greater independence. These programs are designed to be relevant to market demands and aligned with the abilities and interests of our students.

- **23rd Skill Development Camp:** The 23rd Skill Development Camp in Bikaner was a significant initiative in this area. A group of 40 children with hearing impairments actively participated in this six-day residential camp, which offered hands-on vocational training through a wide variety of workshops tailored to develop sustainable skills. The skills learned included:
 - **Soap and Chocolate Making:** Practical training in producing marketable consumer goods.
 - **Crafting Clay Lamps:** Developing artistic and entrepreneurial skills through traditional crafts.
 - **Face Wash and Handwash Production:** Learning processes for hygiene product manufacturing.
 - **Bio-enzymes from Fruit Peels:** Promoting eco-friendly practices and resourcefulness.
 - **Bio Greens from Coconut Husk:** Innovative use of natural materials for sustainable products.
 - **Bamboo and Garland-Making Techniques:** Cultivating traditional artisan skills.

These sessions were meticulously designed to foster self-reliance and open up potential avenues for future livelihood, directly contributing to their economic independence. The camp also provided opportunities for interaction with dignitaries, highlighting the importance of these skill development initiatives.

After their return, we immediately started implementing by piloting the Phenyl making. Raw material was procured and sample products of finished phenyl made by our special youth were sent to local nursing homes. Feedback received was very heart warming and prospective buyers were happy with the quality. Price points are now being finalised to make it a regular livelihood avenue.

- **Open Employment and Livelihood Opportunities:** Asha Ka Jharna actively seeks and facilitates open employment and livelihood opportunities for young adults with disabilities. This includes connecting them with potential employers, providing job-specific training, and offering ongoing support to ensure successful integration into the workforce. The aim is to move beyond sheltered workshops and promote genuine community integration through meaningful employment.

Some of our alumni (youth with hearing impairment & intellectual disability) included in regular work force are:

NAME	EMPLOYER	JOB RESPONSIBILITY	MONTHLY REMUNERATION
SURESH	HANDICRAFT FIRM JAIPUR	PACKING DIVISION	11000
SAMEER	RELIANCE RETAIL SIKAR	CUSTOMER SUPPORT ASSOCIATE	7600
SAJID	RELIANCE RETAIL NWL	CUSTOMER SUPPORT ASSOCIATE	7000
VINAY	BPO JAIPUR	BACK OFFICE (COMPUTER)	20000
NAVEEN	RELIANCE RETAIL SIKAR	CUSTOMER SUPPORT ASSOCIATE	9000
JITENDRA	RELIANCE RETAIL SIKAR	CUSTOMER SUPPORT ASSOCIATE	9000
RAKESH	RELIANCE RETAIL SIKAR	CUSTOMER SUPPORT ASSOCIATE	9200
NABIL	RELIANCE RETAIL SIKAR	CUSTOMER SUPPORT ASSOCIATE	7500
DHEERAJ	RELIANCE RETAIL NWL	CUSTOMER SUPPORT ASSOCIATE	7500
NAGESHWAR	RELIANCE RETAIL NWL	CUSTOMER SUPPORT ASSOCIATE	11000
ASHRAF	BAKERY SHOP LAXMANGARH	GENERAL ASSISTANT	9000

4.3. Developing Self-Reliance and Confidence

The emphasis on sports and vocational skills extends beyond mere technical proficiency; it is deeply intertwined with developing crucial life skills such as problem-solving, decision-making, and self-advocacy. The case of Rekha Sharma, as detailed in the Education & Inclusion Initiatives section, is highly relevant here. Through training that included public exposure visits and transactional training (like money handling and bargaining), Rekha developed practical skills essential for daily

living and economic independence. Her ability to make an independent life decision not to marry and focus on financial self-reliance, further supported by the activation of her disability pension, exemplifies the profound impact of these skill development initiatives.

The combined focus on physical activity, competitive sports, and practical vocational training ensures that children and young adults at Asha Ka Jharna are not only academically proficient but also physically capable, creatively skilled, and prepared for a life of dignity, independence, and active participation in society. Every program is designed to unleash their potential and ensure they can confidently navigate the world and contribute meaningfully to their communities.

5. Capacity Building & Educator Training

At Asha Ka Jharna, we firmly believe that the effectiveness and sustainability of any inclusive education and rehabilitation initiative are directly proportional to the continuous growth and professional development of its educators and support staff. Our commitment to delivering high-quality, child-centric services is underpinned by a robust program of capacity building, educator enrichment, and ongoing learning opportunities. Throughout the year, our team actively engaged in a series of structured training programs, workshops, and seminars, meticulously designed to deepen their understanding, sharpen their skills, and align with the latest best practices in special education and rehabilitation.

This ongoing investment in professional development ensures that our educators possess not only enhanced technical and therapeutic competencies but also foster a deeper sensitivity and adaptive approach toward the diverse and evolving needs of our children.

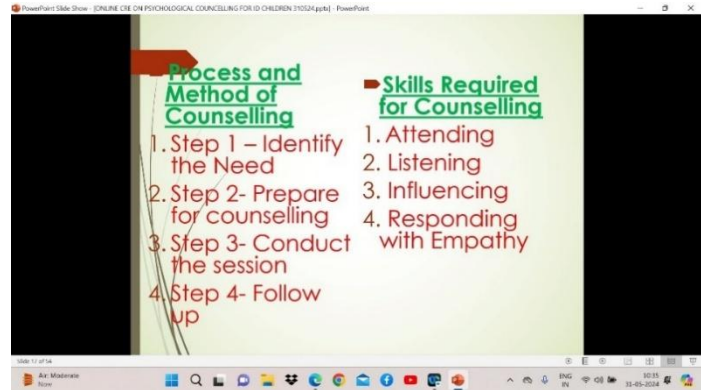
5.1. Continuous Rehabilitation Education (CRE) Programs

Asha Ka Jharna is not only a recipient of training but also a significant contributor to nationwide capacity building, evident through our organization of RCI-accredited Continuous Rehabilitation Education (CRE) programs.

- **National Webinar on Enabling Accessibility in Built Environment:** On April 27th, 2024, Asha Ka Jharna organized a national-level CRE program focusing on "Enabling Accessibility in Built Environment". Led by our Chief Functionary and Certified Access Auditor, Dr. Sudeep Goyal, this webinar provided in-depth training on public infrastructure accessibility. The session explored legal and policy frameworks, the Accessible India Campaign, understanding diverse needs of

persons with disabilities, evaluation and implementation of accessible features, and Universal Design principles. Not only theory but practical demonstrations and best practices were also shared to the hundreds of practitioners/educators joined. This webinar aimed to build practical knowledge among rehabilitation professionals across India, promoting inclusive infrastructure in educational and public spaces.

- **Online CRE Program on Psychological Counseling:** On May 31st, 2024, we organized another RCI-approved online CRE program on "Effective Psychological Counselling for Children with Intellectual Disabilities". Resource persons Vinod Yadav and Vishal Gupta, both Special Educators from AKJ, delivered theoretical insights and practical applications over four hours. Key topics included counselling concepts, methods, addressing emotional and social needs of children with intellectual disabilities, and family counselling techniques. The program, which involved 250 rehabilitation professionals, concluded with a quiz by the Rehabilitation Council of India to assess learning outcomes. This marked Asha Ka Jharna's third CRE event within three months, showcasing our active role in national capacity building.



5.2. National Workshops and Training Programs

Our educators actively participate in national-level workshops and training programs, gaining exposure to cutting-edge methodologies and collaborative practices.

- **National Workshop on Self-Advocacy and Self-Determination:** From July 18th to 20th, 2024, Ms. Suman Tailor, a Special Educator and Master Trainer from Asha Ka Jharna, participated in an intensive three-day national workshop at Mano Vikas, New Delhi, "Assessing Self-Determination Skills & Establishing Self-Advocacy Programs". The workshop equipped professionals with strategies to foster self-determination and advocacy among individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD). It covered understanding rights, advocacy fundamentals, tools like the Self-Determination Scale for IDD (SDS-IDD), enhancing problem-solving, structuring



self-advocacy programs, developing advocacy plans, and engaging community resources, aligning perfectly with our mission of empowerment through education and skill development.

Training on Advancing Universal Design:

Dr. Sudeep Goyal participated in a national training program on "Advancing Universal Design in Built Environment" from August 6th to 13th, 2024. Organized by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD), MSJE, Government of India, and Enable Me Access, with lead trainers Peter Gibson and Anubha Singhal, this program brought together empanelled access auditors to enhance expertise in universal design and accessibility. The immersive modules focused on inclusive infrastructure planning, accessibility audits, and barrier-free architectural solutions. Dr. Goyal's participation significantly strengthened Asha Ka Jharna's technical proficiency in accessibility advocacy and implementation, reaffirming the shared mission of creating truly inclusive environments.



- **Capsule Course on National Building Code (NBC) 2016 & Accessibility:** On August 22nd and 23rd, 2024, two of Asha Ka Jharna's special educators, Shailendra Sharma and Vinod Kumar Yadav, attended a "Capsule Course on National Building Code 2016 – Focus on Accessibility" organized by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) Training Institute, Noida. As empanelled access auditors with DEPwD, MSJE, this intensive training enhanced their understanding of technical specifications, compliance measures, and practical application of accessible infrastructure design. This aligns with our commitment to strengthening internal capacity and developing qualified access auditors, ensuring our team remains updated with evolving norms and best practices in building an inclusive built environment.



- **Capsule Course on Fire and Life Safety:** Demonstrating continued professional development aligned with the Accessible India Campaign, Dr. Sudeep Goyal also completed a two-day capsule course on "Fire and Life Safety" on March 18th-19th, 2025, conducted by the Bureau of Indian Standards. This program covered critical safety protocols, emergency planning, and regulatory standards for public and institutional buildings. The knowledge gained will contribute significantly to designing comprehensive accessibility

solutions, ensuring inclusive environments are also safe, resilient, and compliant with national codes, adding another vital dimension to Asha Ka Jharna's capabilities.

5.3. Webinars and Conferences for Knowledge Sharing

Participation in webinars and conferences provides valuable opportunities for knowledge exchange, networking, and staying abreast of the latest trends and innovations in the field.

- **Webinars on Inclusive Education:** On July 18th and August 1st, 2024, Dr. Sudeep Goyal participated in webinars on "Inclusive Education" organized by UMMEED Child Development Center (CDC) & WIPRO, Mumbai. These sessions explored foundational principles and practical components of Inclusive Education (IE) and Universal Design for Learning (UDL), facilitating rich discussions on inclusive practices. Dr. Goyal's participation highlighted Asha Ka Jharna's grassroots inclusion model, which received appreciation for its impact and replicability.
- **National Conference on Disability Inclusive Sanitation:** Sh. Tarun Dubey, Sikar School Coordinator, represented Asha Ka Jharna at the "National Conference on Disability Inclusive Sanitation" held on September 19th and 20th, 2024, in Jaipur. Organized by CREA, this conference brought together stakeholders to deliberate on accessible sanitation infrastructure. Sh. Dubey participated in discussions emphasizing policy integration, inclusive design, and community engagement, highlighting practical approaches for universal access, especially in schools and public institutions.
- **Zero Project India Conference:** Ms. Monalisa Mehta, Senior Technical Adviser, participated in the "Zero Project India Conference" on September 19th and 20th, 2024, in Gurugram. Organized by Youth4Jobs in collaboration with The Hans Foundation, this platform showcased innovations and best practices for persons with disabilities, focusing on accessibility, employment, and inclusive education. Ms. Mehta's participation in thematic discussions and learning forums explored real-world solutions for scalable inclusion, providing valuable exposure to current trends and collaborative models that will strengthen AKJ's strategic approach.



• **Knowledge Sharing & Capacity Building Workshop:** From October 22nd to 24th, 2024, Vinod Yadav, special educator from Asha Ka Jharna attended a "Knowledge Sharing & Capacity Building Workshop" organized by VANI (Voluntary Action Network India) in collaboration with Bosch in Jaipur. This three-day workshop fostered collaboration among civil society organizations, focusing on enhancing organizational effectiveness, community engagement, resource mobilization, and strategic planning. The exposure gained is expected to strengthen our team's capacity to innovate and lead in disability inclusion and education.

5.4. Internal Review and Exposure Visits

Regular internal reviews and strategic exposure visits are crucial for continuous improvement and incorporating best practices.

- **Internal Management Review Meeting:**

On October 25th, 2024, a comprehensive internal management meeting was held to review ongoing projects across Asha Ka Jharna's centres. All centre coordinators and senior management participated in a four-hour session to assess progress, identify gaps, and chart action plans based on a 20-point agenda covering academic delivery, therapy outcomes, staff performance, parent engagement, and upcoming initiatives. Clear directives and timelines were issued to ensure consistent follow-up and streamlined execution.



- **Exposure & Training Visit to Ujjain and Nagda:** From February 22nd to 26th, 2025, a team of eleven professionals from Asha Ka Jharna—educators, school coordinators, and therapists—undertook a five-day exposure and training visit to centers of excellence in Ujjain and Nagda, Madhya Pradesh. The purpose was to strengthen their understanding of inclusive infrastructure, assistive technology, and multi-disciplinary rehabilitation models.

- ❖ **Shri Mahakal Temple:** The team conducted a firsthand self-led accessibility audit review, identifying barriers and discussing improvements.
- ❖ **Atal Anubhuti Udhayan:** Visited India's largest inclusive park, learning about sensory-friendly and accessible amenities like tactile paths, aroma

gardens, sound equipment, and acupressure flooring, deepening knowledge of inclusive recreational design.

- ❖ **ALIMCO Facility Ujjain:** Toured the Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India facility, gaining insight into the production and distribution of assistive devices like hearing aids, smart canes, artificial limbs, and wheelchairs at a national scale.



- ❖ **MPVSS (Madhya Pradesh Viklang Sahayata Samiti), Ujjain:** Engaged with this comprehensive disability services organization, exploring their model aligned with Asha Ka Jharna's ecosystem, covering special education, inclusive schooling, residential care, and teacher

training, fostering rich peer learning.

- ❖ **SNEH (Special Needs Education Home) Nagda:**

Observed a multi-therapy assessment camp, witnessed aids and appliances distribution, and reviewed curriculum innovations like DISHA. The visit concluded with an inspiring training session by Dr. Pankaj Maru, founder of SNEH, offering actionable insights and a visionary roadmap for advancing disability rehabilitation. This multifaceted exposure visit provided practical learning, renewed perspectives, and collaborative takeaways that will significantly enhance the quality and inclusiveness of services offered at Asha Ka Jharna.



शिविर में सीखी बारीकियां



सीकर, आशा का झरना संस्थान के प्रशिक्षक दल ने मध्यप्रदेश के उज्जैन व नागदा में आयोजित शिविर में दिव्यांगों के लिए नवाचार व थैरेपी कं बारीकियों की जानकारी ली। दल ने दिव्यांगों के लिए उपकरण बनाने वाले इकाई एलिम्को तथा मनोविकास विशेष शिक्षा संस्थान का अवलोकन किया गया साथ ही नागदा स्थित राष्ट्रीय पुरस्कार प्राप्त स्नेह संस्था में प्रशिक्षण लिया। शिविर में दल ने फिजियो व स्पीच थैरेपी की बारीकियां सीखी तथा बौद्धिक दिव्यांग बच्चों के लिए नए तरीके से शिक्षण योजनाएं बनाने का भी अध्ययन किया

आशा का झरना की टीम एमपी में ले रही प्रशिक्षण

नवलगढ़ @ पत्रिका. दिव्यांगों के लिए कार्य कर रही संस्था आशा का झरना के 11 प्रशिक्षकों का दल मध्य प्रदेश के उज्जैन व नागदा में तीन दिवसीय प्रशिक्षण दौर पर है। टीम ने उज्जैन स्थित अटल अनुभूति समावेशी उद्यान एंव भारत सरकार की दिव्यांग उपकरण बनाने वाली इकाई एलिम्को तथा मनोविकास विशेष शिक्षा संस्थान का अवलोकन किया। साथ ही नागदा स्थित



राष्ट्रीय पुरस्कार प्राप्त स्नेह संस्था में प्रशिक्षण प्राप्त किया व दिव्यांगों के लिए नवाचारों की जानकारी ली। थैरेपी शिविर में फिजियो व स्पीच थैरेपी कं बारीकियां सीखी तथा बौद्धिक दिव्यांग बच्चों के लिए नए तरीके से शिक्षण योजनाएं बनाने का भी अध्ययन किया। उज्जैन महाकाल मंदिर को दिव्यांग के लिए बाधा रहित बनाने हेतु जल्द ही संस्था द्वारा सुगम्यता परीक्षण किया जाएगा।

- Quarterly Management Meeting:** On February 19th, 2025, Asha Ka Jharna held its Quarterly Management Review Meeting, bringing together coordinators from all seven operational units for a comprehensive assessment and strategic planning session. Over four hours, the team evaluated the previous quarter's progress and defined short- and long-term priorities. The meeting fostered open dialogue and cross-functional brainstorming on operational challenges, program enhancements, staff development, and community outreach, aligning efforts with the vision of becoming a premier institution for high-quality, inclusive rehabilitation services. These extensive capacity-building initiatives underscore Asha Ka Jharna's dedication to empowering its team, ensuring they remain at the forefront of providing exceptional support and driving systemic change for children with disabilities.

6. Advocacy & Government Engagement

At Asha Ka Jharna, advocacy is a dynamic and continuous process that transcends mere awareness-building; it is about actively shaping perceptions, influencing policies, and fostering a profound sense of empathy across all segments of society. Through sustained engagement with governmental bodies, mass media, and the general population, we tirelessly strive to cultivate a more inclusive society where the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities are not only recognized but fully honoured and upheld. Our strategic efforts are designed to bridge existing gaps, spark essential dialogue, and drive systemic, ground-up change that truly transforms lives.

6.1. Promoting Inclusive Civic Participation

Ensuring that persons with disabilities are active and equal participants in democratic processes is a key area of our advocacy.

- Public Awareness Rally for Lok Sabha Elections 2024:** On April 3rd, 2024, Asha Ka Jharna, in close collaboration with the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of Rajasthan, organized a powerful public awareness



rally in Jhunjhunu. The primary objective was to promote 100% voter participation in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections, with a robust and explicit focus on the inclusion of persons with disabilities. The rally was flagged off by prominent dignitaries, including Additional District Collector Jhunjhunu Ram Ratan Saukaria, Assistant District Collector Suman Sonal, Deputy Director of Social Justice and Empowerment Pawan Poonia, Deputy Director of Women and Child Development Vijender Singh, and Dr. Sudeep Goyal, Director of Asha Ka Jharna. In a deeply

symbolic and inspiring gesture, two of our students with disabilities— Deepika, a girl with hearing impairment and Sahil, a young boy with intellectual disability joined the officials to raise the green flag and release balloons, signifying the commencement of the SWEAP (Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation) Rally. The procession moved through the town's main roads, with participants passionately raising powerful slogans advocating for disability rights and promoting societal inclusion. The event culminated at the Collectorate, where more than 200 participants, including children with disabilities, special educators, ex-servicemen, medical personnel, scout guides and volunteers took a collective pledge to actively participate in the democratic process, showcasing a unified commitment to inclusive governance. Our governing board member Aanchal Bhagat (Youth with Cerebral Palsy) interacted with electronic media urging everyone to participate in the dance of democracy (Elections).



Empowering Participation: First-Time Voters Lead by Example: A moment of



profound pride unfolded on April 19th, 2024, as several young adults from Asha Ka Jharna Nawalgarh, Jhunjhunu and Sikar centres stepped out early in the morning to cast their votes in the Lok Sabha elections. For many, this marked their first-ever experience as voters, symbolizing not just their participation in a democratic process but a powerful assertion of their just rights and inclusion within society. This act of civic engagement stands as



a testament to the success of our ongoing efforts to empower individuals with disabilities as informed, responsible citizens, fully capable of shaping the future of their communities and the nation. Their enthusiastic participation serves as a compelling inspiration for inclusive democracy in action.

6.2. Engaging with Government Bodies and Public Representatives

Direct engagement with government bodies and public institutions is vital for advocating for policy changes, improving service provision, and fostering a collaborative environment.

- Exposure Visit to Jhunjhunu SP Office & Police Stations:** In a meaningful exposure initiative, children from Asha Ka Jharna had the invaluable opportunity to visit the office of the Superintendent of Police, Jhunjhunu, followed by a guided tour of Sadar Thana Police Station. This visit was graciously arranged at our request by Sh. Rajshri Raj Verma, IPS, Superintendent of Police, who warmly welcomed our children and staff. The primary aim of this visit was to familiarize the children with the multifaceted roles and responsibilities of law enforcement, thereby helping to demystify the functioning of the police force and fostering a crucial sense of safety and civic awareness. Officers patiently explained day-to-day police work and provided a comprehensive tour of the facility, actively fostering a respectful connection between the police force and the disability community. In a heartfelt gesture of gratitude, our students presented handmade drawings celebrating the tireless service of the Rajasthan Police, which were deeply appreciated by the officers. This visit not only educated the children but also successfully created a space for mutual respect and inclusive outreach, building bridges between the police and the disability community.



- Interactions with Ministers at Skill Development Camp:** During the 23rd Skill Development Camp in Bikaner, our children had the unique opportunity to interact with key dignitaries, including Sh. Avinash Gehlot, Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment, and Sh. Sanjay Sharma, Forest Minister. They shared details about Asha Ka Jharna's ongoing initiatives and impact, receiving appreciation and words of encouragement from the ministers. Such interactions are crucial for showcasing our work directly to policymakers and gaining their support for future endeavors.

6.3. Inclusive Cultural and Community Engagement

Advocacy also extends to promoting inclusion within cultural and traditional community events, challenging societal norms and fostering acceptance.

- Inclusive Faith in Action: Kawad Procession at Ancient Shiv Temple:** During the sacred month of Holi Sawan, Asha Ka Jharna participated in a truly inclusive Kawad procession at the ancient Shiv Temple, seamlessly blending spiritual devotion with profound social inclusion. Children and young adults with disabilities walked alongside community members, reverently carrying decorated kawads and

chanting with palpable joy and devotion. The event transcended traditional religious observance, sending a powerful and unequivocal message of unity—that devotion knows no barriers. It served as a poignant reminder that persons with disabilities hold an equal and rightful place in every cultural, religious, and community expression. The procession was met with immense warmth, enthusiasm, and widespread participation from the community, powerfully reflecting how inclusive traditions can effectively foster dignity and belonging for all.

- **Honouring Inclusion: Public Felicitation of Educators on Teacher’s Day**

On the occasion of **Teacher’s Day**, all educators from Asha Ka Jharna were **publicly felicitated** in a community gathering organized in **Nawalgarh**. The event was graced by **Hon’ble MLA of Nawalgarh**, who personally acknowledged the dedicated efforts of our special educators in the field of disability rehabilitation and inclusive education.



Beyond the recognition, the event served as a powerful **platform for community sensitization**, where the importance of **disability rights, inclusive teaching practices, and equal opportunities for all learners** was shared with the broader public. The celebration reinforced the community’s respect for educators working with children with disabilities and deepened local understanding of inclusive values.

- **Advocacy in Action: Charter of Demands Submitted on International Day for the Deaf**

Marking the **International Day for the Deaf**, Asha Ka Jharna led a meaningful advocacy effort by submitting a **Charter of Demands** to the **District Collector of Jhunjhunu**. The document urged the district administration to take concrete steps toward ensuring the **full and effective participation of the deaf community** in all aspects of public life.



The charter outlined key recommendations related to **access to education, communication support, accessible public services, and employment opportunities** for persons with hearing impairments. This symbolic yet powerful action reflected Asha Ka Jharna's commitment to **systemic change** and the recognition of **deaf individuals as equal citizens with equal rights**.

- **Building Bridges: Inclusive Friendship with Dev Vidyalaya, Sikar**

Asha Ka Jharna had the heartwarming opportunity to deepen **inclusive friendships** through a special two-part exchange with **Dev Vidyalaya, Sikar**—a premier public school known for its progressive values.

On **24th August**, Dev Vidyalaya students visited our school, engaging in a day of **environmental stewardship and joyful interaction**. Together with our children, they planted saplings, performed a short play on **environment conservation**, and created shared memories through laughter and learning. A particularly moving highlight was their **rendition of the National Anthem in sign language**, a surprise that touched everyone present.

The connection blossomed further when, on **6th September**, our children were warmly welcomed into the **sprawling Dev Vidyalaya campus**. What followed was a beautiful day of **adventure activities, inclusive outdoor games, collaborative art & craft, dance, songs**, and a shared lunch that truly embodied the spirit of unity.

This exchange wasn't just about interaction—it was about **recognition, respect, and inclusion**. By forging friendships with their **neurotypical counterparts**, our children experienced a sense of belonging, while the students of Dev Vidyalaya grew as empathetic, socially aware citizens.



- **Asha Ka Jharna Shines at Nawalgarh Inclusive Garba Night**

On **6th October 2024**, the spirit of inclusion lit up the evening sky as **24 special children from Asha Ka Jharna** took center stage at a **spectacular Garba Night** held at **Subodh School, Nawalgarh**. Dressed in vibrant traditional Gujarati attire, they mesmerized a crowd of over **2,000 spectators** with their energetic and graceful **Dandiya and Garba dance performances**.

Their rhythm, confidence, and joy **won the hearts of the entire gathering**, as they invited members of the public to join them in dancing—**breaking social barriers and building bridges through celebration**. It was a powerful moment of shared joy, showcasing the beauty of inclusive participation in cultural festivities.



We extend heartfelt gratitude to the event organizers, **Shri Shekhar Sunariwal and Shri Hariom Saini**, for their thoughtful gesture in **honoring every child** with school bags, tiffin boxes, stationery kits, and snacks—making the evening not only memorable, but also meaningful.

Asha Ka Jharna Performs at Dainik Bhaskar Garba Festival

Taking yet another meaningful step toward inclusive cultural participation, children from Asha Ka Jharna were invited to perform at the **glittering Garba Festival** organized by **Dainik Bhaskar**, the largest media group in the region, at **Jhunjhunu**.



Amid festive lights, music, and a vibrant crowd, our children captivated the audience with their **colorful costumes, synchronized movements**, and sheer joy. Their presence on such a prominent platform was not only a celebration of talent, but also a powerful **message of acceptance, equality, and integration**.

- **Spreading Awareness on World Mental Health Day**

On **10th October 2024**, in observance of **World Mental Health Day**, Asha Ka Jharna organized an **awareness rally** to promote understanding and reduce stigma surrounding mental health issues. The rally was led by our **team of special educators** alongside **trainee educators enrolled in the D.Ed. Special Education program**.



Marching through local streets with thoughtfully designed placards, the participants conveyed strong messages on the **prevention of mental illness, managing stress**, and the **importance of timely psychological counseling**. The rally engaged local residents and passersby, sparking meaningful conversations around mental well-being.

- **Celebrating National Postal Day: Learning & Connection at the Post Office**

On **10th October 2024**, in honor of **National Postal Day**, the children of Asha Ka Jharna's Nawalgarh Special School embarked on a hands-on journey into the world of mail and communication. Under the guidance of their educators, each student crafted and wrote personalized postcards—some for friends and relatives, others as tokens of appreciation to their own school community.

Following the creative session, the group visited the **local post office**, where the postal staff welcomed them warmly. Children observed mail sorting, learned how letters and parcels move from sender to recipient, and even had the chance to post their postcards.



- **Community Awareness Program**

On **19th October 2024**, Asha Ka Jharna organized a **community awareness program** at **Government Senior Secondary School, Jogiyon Ka Bas**, in District Sikar, to promote **inclusive education and early intervention** at the grassroots level.

The event featured **inclusive sports activities** where children from Asha Ka Jharna played alongside their non-disabled peers, fostering friendship, mutual respect, and a shared spirit of participation.



Senior Special Educator **Mr. Ramlal Mali** addressed the gathering, emphasizing the importance of **early intervention, inclusive learning environments,** and **community collaboration** to uphold the rights of children with disabilities. **School**

Principal Ms. Sunita Dudi also spoke, elaborating on the key provisions of the **Right to Education Act** and the **Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act**, highlighting the legal backing for inclusive practices in schools.

The program concluded with a collective call to action, urging **teachers, parents, and village community members** to continue their efforts toward **mainstreaming children with disabilities** by upholding the principles of **accessibility, inclusion, and empowerment**.

- **Promoting Grassroots Inclusion**

On **21st October 2024**, Asha Ka Jharna organized a **community awareness program** at **Government Senior Secondary School, Birodi Badi**. Our children participated in **inclusive sports and roleplay activities**, highlighting the importance of education and rehabilitation for children with disabilities.

Vice Principal Shrestha ji encouraged students and villagers to treat children with disabilities as equals and support their talents through inclusive community values. **Mr. Shailendra Sharma**, Senior Special Teacher, explained the types of disabilities and emphasized the need for community-driven inclusion.

The event was attended by **students, villagers, teachers, and Anganwadi workers**, all of whom pledged to support the mainstreaming of children with disabilities

- **Celebrating Self-Reliance: Diwali the Inclusive Way**

In a joyful display of **self-determination and life skills**, special children from all three units of Asha Ka Jharna celebrated Diwali in a uniquely empowering way. They **chose and purchased firecrackers independently**, confidently bargaining with shopkeepers and making decisions based on their preferences.



A delightful and proud moment came when the children **identified and corrected a miscalculated bill**, showcasing not only their growing numeracy skills but also their **confidence and awareness** in real-world situations.

This activity reflected the true spirit of **inclusive celebration**—centered on **autonomy, learning, and joy**.

- **An Inclusive Diwali with the Community**

To mark the festival of lights, Asha Ka Jharna hosted an **Inclusive Diwali celebration** by welcoming **community members** to our school premises. The event created a warm, festive atmosphere where **children with disabilities and local residents** came together to celebrate through **lights, laughter, and shared traditions**.



- **Christmas Cheer: Celebrating Inclusion Through Festivity**

At Asha Ka Jharna, every celebration is an opportunity to build an **inclusive community**—and Christmas was no exception. To mark the occasion, we invited **students from a nearby government school** to join our children in a joyful celebration filled with **laughter, music, and shared activities**.



The event fostered **friendship, acceptance, and festive spirit**, highlighting the joy of togetherness and the power of inclusion during the season of giving.



A Day of Color and Connection with Bharat Vikas Parishad

On **28th December 2024**, members from **Bharat Vikas Parishad, Sikar branch** spent a heartwarming day with the children at Asha Ka Jharna. They organized **Mehandi and Rangoli competitions**, turning the school into a joyful space filled with color, laughter, and creativity. Our children loved

every moment—excitedly designing rangolis, getting their hands decorated, and enjoying the festive atmosphere.



- **World Down Syndrome Day at Asha Ka Jharna**

On **21st March 2025**, Asha Ka Jharna observed **World Down Syndrome Day** with a series of heartwarming and awareness-driven activities. Our team of **special educators and D.Ed. trainee educators** led an **awareness rally**, spreading messages of inclusion, acceptance, and early support for individuals with Down syndrome.

Back at the campus, the celebration continued with a **talk on awareness and understanding of Down syndrome**, followed by a **drawing and painting session** where



children expressed themselves with color and creativity. The highlight of the day was a joyful **cake-cutting ceremony led by two of our children with Down syndrome**, surrounded by cheers and applause.

Each participating child was given a **gift as a token of appreciation**, making the day not just educational, but truly memorable and full of love.

- **Strength in Unity: Inclusive Kabaddi Match Promotes Sportsmanship**

On **8th February 2025**, Asha Ka Jharna hosted an exciting **inclusive Kabaddi match** between its children and students from a regular school. The game was filled with energy, laughter, and team spirit, showing that **sports can be a powerful tool for inclusion**.

Children from both sides played with enthusiasm and mutual respect, breaking barriers and building friendships through fair play. The match beautifully demonstrated that when it comes to the field, **ability is defined by teamwork, not disability**.



- **Eton University Students Visit Asha Ka Jharna**

A group of students from **Eton University, USA**, visited Asha Ka Jharna's special school as part of their exposure visit to rural India. Coming from a **public health background**, the group showed deep curiosity and appreciation for the **grassroots-level intervention** and inclusive practices being implemented in our countryside setting.



They engaged in thoughtful discussions with our team, asking questions about the **state's disability and health mechanisms**, and took particular note of how we deliver impactful outcomes with **lean yet high-quality resources**. The visit served as a valuable **cross-cultural learning exchange**, and their appreciation reinforced the strength of our inclusive and community-focused model.

- **Strengthening Partnerships: Meaningful Guest Visits to Asha Ka Jharna**

Asha Ka Jharna was honored to welcome two **distinguished guests** who visited our school and engaged meaningfully with our children and staff.

Ms. Vedica Podar, Managing Trustee of **The Anandilal Podar Trust, Mumbai**, and a passionate **mental health advocate**, spent time interacting with our students and understanding our work on the ground. She appreciated our inclusive model and generously offered her support in addressing the **mental health needs of both children and educators**, recognizing the emotional dimensions of disability care.

We also had the privilege of hosting **Dr. Kapur Thalod**, Senior Psychiatrist from **Govt. B.D.K. Hospital, Jhunjhunu**, who assured us of his continued assistance in facilitating the issuance of **disability certificates** and **UDID cards** for our beneficiaries—an essential step in accessing government benefits and rights.

- **Celebrating Holi the Inclusive Way**

At Asha Ka Jharna, **Holi is more than just a festival of colors—it is a celebration of inclusion and friendship**. Children from a nearby regular school were invited to our **Nawalgarh campus**, where they joined our students in playing with colors, dancing, and enjoying the festive spirit together.

The school came alive with laughter, music, and joy as children of all abilities celebrated side by side, creating memories that beautifully reflected the true essence of **togetherness and acceptance**.



- **Republic Day 2025: Celebrating Inclusion, Dignity & Unity**

At Asha Ka Jharna, every celebration is a reflection of our core belief—that **true inclusion begins with shared experiences**. This **Republic Day 2025**, our **four special schools & teacher training institute** and **three inclusive education project locations** came together in spirited celebration, with **active participation from children with and without disabilities**.

As per our 27-year-old tradition, the **youngest child at Asha Ka Jharna** was given the honour of **hoisting the National Flag**, accompanied by a guest dignitary. This symbolic gesture continues to reinforce our belief that **every child, regardless of ability, deserves the right to lead, participate, and be seen**.



The celebrations featured cultural performances, community involvement, and a strong emphasis on **collaboration with local stakeholders**, fostering empathy and unity. We don't just celebrate the Republic—we live its values: **equality, dignity, rights, freedom, and full participation for all.**

- **Basant Panchami with Sunshine Faces: A Day of Joy and Togetherness**

On the festive occasion of **Basant Panchami**, women from the **Sunshine Faces organization, Sikar branch**, visited Asha Ka Jharna and spent a joyful day with our children. They organized engaging activities and interactive sessions that brought smiles, laughter, and a strong sense of celebration to the school.



सीकर। सनशाइन फेसेस की तरफ से नवलगढ़ रोड स्थित भूक बधिर बच्चों के स्कूल आशा का झरना में संस्था की महिला सदस्यों ने बसंत पंचमी के मौके पर बच्चों के साथ मां सरस्वती की मूर्ति पर माल्यार्पण कर उनको पूजा अर्चना की। बच्चों ने कबूट्टों का खेल खेला जिसमें से विजेता टीम को संस्था की तरफ से बच्चों को गिफ्ट दिए गए। स्कूल के समस्त बच्चों और स्टाफ को खेलन का हल्ला और खेलन का सकोड़ा भी संस्था के द्वारा बिखलाया गया। कार्यक्रम में विद्यालय के प्रधानाचार्य तल्ल दुबे जी का खूब सहयोग प्राप्त हुआ। संस्था की तरफ से गरिमा सक्सेना, शामिलता शर्मा, प्रियंका अग्रवाल, निधि निगम, सुर्भच अग्रवाल, गायत्री जी, बबीता जी, शोभा जी और अनुराग सक्सेना आदि मौजूद रहे।

- **MCX CCL Donates School Bus to Asha Ka Jharna**

In a significant step toward improving **access to inclusive education**, **Multi Commodity Exchange Clearing Corporation of India (MCX CCL)**, the country's largest commodity exchange clearing house, extended its support to Asha Ka Jharna under its **Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)** initiative.



As part of this support, a **21-seater school bus** was generously donated to our organization. The bus was personally handed over to our children by **Mr. Soundar Rajan**, Chief Operating Officer of MCX CCL, who travelled from Mumbai to participate in the event.

This vehicle will play a vital role in **transporting intellectually disabled and hearing-impaired children** from villages within a **30-kilometer radius of Nawalgarh**, allowing them to attend school regularly and be meaningfully included in the education system and society.

- **Raising Voices Through Art: Role Play on Child Labour & Education**

On **5th January 2025**, children from Asha Ka Jharna's **Sikar school** delivered a powerful **role play performance** on the theme of **child labour and the importance of education** at a public event organized by **Deep Expression**.

Their heartfelt portrayal and expressive storytelling captivated the audience, leaving many deeply moved and inspired. The performance not only highlighted a critical social issue but also showcased the **remarkable talent and awareness** of our children.

- ❖ **Networking, Capacity Building & Resource Sharing among Fellow Non-Governmental Organizations and stakeholders**

At Asha Ka Jharna, we believe that **collaboration strengthens impact**. By actively networking with fellow NGOs, professionals, and institutional stakeholders, we aim to **share knowledge, build collective capacity, and foster resource exchange**. These partnerships not only enrich our own practices but also contribute to a stronger, more unified ecosystem working toward **inclusive development and disability empowerment**.

1) Building Bonds: CLC International School Visits Asha Ka Jharna, Sikar

On **16th April 2024**, students from **CLC International School** visited our **Sikar school**, spending a meaningful day interacting with children at Asha Ka Jharna. Through shared conversations, activities, and smiles, the visit fostered a spirit of empathy, understanding, and mutual respect.

The visiting students returned with **more compassionate hearts and a deeper awareness** of the world of disability—carrying forward the message of inclusion and acceptance into their own lives and communities.

2) National Convention Participation: Strengthening Networks for Disability Inclusion

On **9th and 10th June 2024**, Asha Ka Jharna's Chief Functionary participated in the **National Convention of Saksham**, a prominent umbrella organization dedicated to the **comprehensive rehabilitation of persons with disabilities**.



The convention served as a valuable platform for **idea exchange, collaboration, and learning**, where he connected with **like-minded professionals, experts, and advocates** from across the country. The experience reinforced our shared commitment to advancing inclusive practices and strengthening the disability support ecosystem nationwide.

3) Leading the Conversation: National Symposium on Disability & Inclusion, Delhi

On **7th August 2024**, Asha Ka Jharna's Chief Functionary participated as resource person in the **National Symposium on Disability & Inclusion** held in **Delhi**, where he had the honour of **chairing and moderating a session on digital accessibility**.

The symposium brought together a wide spectrum of **policymakers, practitioners, and advocates** dedicated to developing practical solutions that address the barriers faced by **Persons with Disabilities (PwDs)** in India. The event was graced by **Shri Rajesh Agarwal, Secretary, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPWD), Government of India**. With focused discussions on **inclusive education, digital accessibility**, and the broader landscape of **disability rights**, the symposium provided a powerful platform for exchanging ideas and driving collaborative action toward a more inclusive India.



4) Empowering Families: Regional Parent Meets at Bhopal & Varanasi

In a major step toward family-centered advocacy and capacity building, **two Regional Parent Meets** were organized with the support of **NIEPID**—held in **Bhopal (10th–11th August)** and **Varanasi (21st–22nd September 2024)**. These events brought together over **400 families of children with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD)** from **10 states** across Northern and Central India. Curated and executed by us in the capacity of **Secretary, PARIVAAR – National Confederation of Parent Associations**, the events were centered around the theme: **“Strategy & Support Mechanism Towards Empowered Families.”**

The sessions were rich with learning and interaction, covering vital topics such as:

Behaviour management strategies for children with IDD
Provisions and redressal mechanisms under the **RPwD Act, 2016**

Vocational training and livelihood models for young adults with ID

Self-advocacy as a tool for inclusion

Designing assisted living solutions

Early intervention and home-based rehabilitation

Government schemes and policy navigation

Parental self-care and emotional wellness

Innovative livelihood models for adults with ID



Families engaged in **lively discussions, practical learning**, and received insights from **expert resource persons** from across the country. The meets served as both a **knowledge hub and emotional support space**, helping families feel heard, connected, and empowered.



5) Building Capacities: Virtual Awareness Session on Disability Schemes & Concessions

On **8th September 2024**, Asha Ka Jharna's Chief Functionary conducted an **intensive three-hour virtual session** on "*Schemes and Concessions for Persons with Disabilities*," organized by **Approach Autism**.

With over **100 participants** from across India, the session offered in-depth insights into **government provisions, entitlements, and support systems** available for persons with disabilities and their families. The session helped bridge critical knowledge gaps and empowered attendees to better navigate available resources for inclusion and support.



6) Learning Through Collaboration: Exposure Visit to RMKM, Ajmer

On **25th September 2024**, Asha Ka Jharna's **trainee and special educators** undertook an enriching **exposure visit** to **Rajasthan Mahila Kalyan Mandal (RMKM), Ajmer**—one of the country's leading organizations in the field of disability rehabilitation and inclusive development.

The visit offered a valuable opportunity for **exchange of ideas and shared learning**, as the team explored RMKM's **multi-faceted programs**, including **special education, therapeutic services, sensory park facilities, vocational training units, livelihood projects**, and their **teacher training institute**.

This exposure not only broadened our team's understanding of best practices but also strengthened our commitment to quality service delivery and innovation in disability care.



7) Felicitation by State and Community Leaders

On 3rd October 2024, Asha Ka Jharna was felicitated in recognition of its dedicated service to the disability sector at a prestigious function held in Nawalgarh. The honour was presented by **Shri Gautam Kumar Dak**, State Minister, Government of Rajasthan; **Shri Vikram Jakhal**, MLA, Nawalgarh; and **Shri Pradeep Mittal**, National Chairman of the **All India Agarwal Association**, along with other esteemed dignitaries.



8) Participation in The Hans Foundation's 15th Anniversary Celebration



Asha Ka Jharna's Chief Functionary attended the **15th Anniversary Celebration of The Hans Foundation (THF)**, our long-standing funding and strategic partner in change, marking a significant milestone for one of the country's leading philanthropic organizations. The event provided a valuable opportunity to **connect with THF officials, partner organizations, and like-minded individuals**, fostering relationships and sharing ideas to strengthen collaborative efforts in the field of **disability inclusion and community development**.

9) Fostering Awareness: Psychology Students Visit Asha Ka Jharna, Nawalgarh

On 9th December 2024, a group of **40 undergraduate psychology students** from **Ram Kumari Girls PG College, Mukundgarh**, visited Asha Ka Jharna, Nawalgarh, for an educational exposure visit focused on **disability and special education**.

Our team provided a detailed orientation on the **real-world application of inclusive education, therapeutic practices, and the challenges and strengths of children with disabilities**. The students also toured our classrooms, observing teaching methodologies and interacting with our educators—gaining valuable insights into the **practical aspects of disability support and intervention**.



10) Spreading Awareness at Scale: Disability Sensitization for Bihar Jeevika Mission

Delivering knowledge to those on the frontlines is both **challenging and deeply rewarding**. Throughout **November 2024**, Asha Ka Jharna's Chief Functionary, **Mr. Sudeep Goyal**, served as a **resource person** for a series of **virtual training sessions** organized by **Sight Savers Bihar** for the **Bihar Jeevika Mission**—a flagship rural livelihood program.

Over **500 block-level team members from 38 districts** were sensitized through intensive three-hour sessions (conducted in multiple batches) covering key topics such as:

- The **global and Indian disability landscape**
- **Legislative frameworks**, including the RPwD Act
- Specified types of disabilities
- Government schemes, entitlements, and concessions under **MSJE**

While each session involved over a **hundred slides and uninterrupted delivery**, the **engagement, curiosity, and eagerness of participants** made it worthwhile.

11) Participation in National Conference on Disability & Accessibility

Asha Ka Jharna participated in the **National Conference on Disability & Accessibility**, organized by the **Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Mumbai**. The event brought together key voices from across the country to discuss evolving challenges and opportunities in the field of disability rights and inclusion.



Our participation provided a valuable platform to **network with professionals, researchers, and organizations** working in the disability sector, opening doors to **new collaborations and shared learning** aimed at building a more accessible and inclusive society.

12) Training Workshop for Bihar Rural Livelihood Mission

On **18–19th December 2024**, Asha Ka Jharna's Chief Functionary conducted an intensive **two-day training workshop** in **Patna** for **District Project Managers of the Bihar Rural Livelihood Mission**,



Livelihood Mission, organized by **Sight Savers Bihar**. More than **70 participants** were oriented on key aspects of disability inclusion, including:

*** The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016** * Identification

and understanding of the **21 specified disabilities** * The **global and Indian legal framework** on disability rights * **Developing advocacy plans** to support inclusion and access * **Role of stakeholders** in ensuring rights & entitlements for PwDs. The sessions fostered a deeper understanding among project leaders, equipping them to integrate disability rights into grassroots development and livelihood strategies across Bihar.

13) National Recognition: Dr. Sudeep Goyal Takes on Two Prestigious Roles

We are proud to share that **Dr. Sudeep Goyal**, Chief Functionary of Asha Ka Jharna, has been entrusted with **two significant national responsibilities**, reflecting his expertise and long-standing contribution to the disability and development sector. He has been **nominated to the expert committee** of a prestigious project worth **₹100 crore**, launched by the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India**, at **Maulana Azad National University, Hyderabad**. The project aims to develop a **Virtual Reality (VR)-based assistive learning and evaluation system for persons with intellectual disabilities**. Over the two-year period, the expert committee will be responsible for **curriculum design, content validation, coordination with the technical team**, and development of **AR/VR educational content** tailored to the needs of learners with intellectual disabilities.



In another key development, **Dr. Sudeep Goyal** has been elected as a board member of **VANI (Voluntary Action Network India)**—the country’s largest network of over **650 voluntary organizations**. As a **governing body member for a three-year term**, he will contribute to **strategic guidance, government liaison, and community linkages**, helping to strengthen the role and impact of the voluntary sector in India.

These national-level appointments are not only a recognition of Dr. Goyal’s leadership but also a reflection of **Asha Ka Jharna’s growing influence in shaping inclusive policy and innovation at the national level**.

14) Empowering OPD Members: Accessibility Audit Training Workshop in Kasganj

From **23rd to 25th February 2025**, Asha Ka Jharna’s Chief Functionary, **Dr. Sudeep Goyal**, conducted a comprehensive **three-day training workshop** in **Kasganj, Uttar Pradesh**, for the **Sight Savers UP Project**. The workshop aimed at **building the capacities of OPD (Organizations of Persons with Disabilities) members** in auditing the built environment for accessibility.

On **Day 1**, over **60 participants from disabled people’s groups** were oriented on:

- The **Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016**
- Identification of the **21 types of disabilities**
- Global and Indian **legal frameworks**
- Developing **advocacy strategies, gender-inclusive approaches, and leadership skills**
- The role of various **stakeholders in realizing disability rights**



On **Day 2**, the focus shifted to **built environment accessibility**, where participants received detailed theoretical training and **live demonstrations** on how to conduct accessibility audits.



On **Day 3**, under Dr. Goyal’s guidance, participants conducted **hands-on access audits of two government primary schools**. Practical tools such as **detailed checklists and report writing formats** were shared, ensuring participants gained both knowledge

and real-world application skills.

15) National Parents Meet 2025: A Landmark Gathering for PwIDD Families

The **30th edition** of the flagship event ‘**National Parents Meet**’, organized by **PARIVAAR – National Confederation of Parent Associations**, was held on **15th & 16th February 2025** in **Kolkata**. As the **largest confluence of parents and families of Persons with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (PwIDDs)** in India, the meet witnessed the **active participation of over 375 parents and professionals from 21 states** across the country.



In his role as **National General Secretary of PARIVAAR**, **Dr. Sudeep Goyal** played a key leadership role in **streamlining and coordinating the entire event**. The conference featured a **stellar lineup of national and international resource persons**, who shared insights on issues spanning the **full life cycle of PwIDDs**—including early intervention, education, livelihood, legal rights, independent living, mental health, and aging care.

16) Exploring Synergies

On **4th February 2025**, Asha Ka Jharna had the privilege of engaging in a **thoughtful and productive discussion** with **Mr. Atul Khanna**, Managing Director of **Vivana Resorts** and **Patron of Kathika Culture Centre & Museum, Old Delhi**.

During the interaction, we shared an overview of the **disability landscape** in India and the **inclusive intervention strategies** practiced at Asha Ka Jharna. Mr. Khanna, a passionate advocate for **culture, heritage, and social inclusion**, listened with genuine interest and offered his **full support for integrating Asha Ka Jharna into future heritage and cultural initiatives**.



17) Capacity Building by Brahma Kumaris Mount Abu Team

In a thoughtful gesture of support, the **Brahma Kumaris (Om Shanti) Mount Abu team** conducted a **capacity-building session** at Asha Ka Jharna, organizing a series of **interactive activities** aimed at enhancing the **motor, visual, and sensory processing skills** of our children.

Celebrating Diversity & Inclusion

Asha Ka Jharna Flagship Event - Inclusive Children Festival 2024

Organized by Asha Ka Jharna in partnership with The Hans Foundation

Date: 5th December 2024

Venue: S.K. Government Senior Secondary School Sports Ground, Sikar, Rajasthan

Occasion: International Day for Persons with Disabilities (IDPD)

Introduction

To mark the occasion of the **International Day for Persons with Disabilities 2024**, Asha Ka Jharna, in collaboration with **The Hans Foundation**, organized its flagship event—the **Inclusive Children Festival (ICF)**—on **5th December 2024**. The celebration aimed to foster **social inclusion, community sensitization, and equal opportunity** through interaction between children with and without disabilities in a vibrant, joyful setting.

Participation Overview

- **Total Participants:** 480 children
 - 210 children with disabilities from:
 - 3 Asha Ka Jharna special schools
 - 3 inclusive education project locations
 - 1 partner NGO
 - 240 non-disabled children from:
 - 12 regular schools (5 government, 7 private)
 - 2 shelter homes (for children in need of care & protection)
 - 30 trainee educators from:
 - Asha Ka Jharna Institute of Training & Inclusive Rehabilitation
 - Subodh B.Ed. College, Sikar

Event Highlights

Awareness Rally: "Badhte Kadam – Let's Move On"

- **Start Time:** 9:45 AM
- **Participants:** 550
- **Route:** Through main market area of Sikar
- **Purpose:** To raise awareness on:
 - Equal rights & opportunities
 - Inclusive education
 - Electoral participation
 - Accessibility & empowerment
- **Community Impact:** Over **5,000 residents** witnessed and supported the rally
- **Rally Concluded At:** S.K. School Sports Ground, 10:40 AM

Opening Ceremony

The **Opening Ceremony** began on a high note as children with and without disabilities gathered at the sports ground of S.K. Government Senior Secondary School in Sikar. At **11:00 AM**, the event was officially declared open with the **release of tri-colored balloons into the sky**, a symbolic gesture led jointly by special and non-disabled children.

Inclusive Sports & Ability Games

- **Total Games Conducted:** 21
- **Participation:** Mixed teams of children with and without disabilities
- **Key Events:**
 - 50m Race, Spoon Race, Sack Race, Jalebi Jump
 - Three-legged Race, Musical Chair, Gunshot
 - Basketball Throw, Blindfolded Balloon Pricking
 - Bowling Alley, Ring Throw, Mehndi Applying
 - *New "One Minute Fun Games":*
 - Cartoon Character Identification
 - Peeling & Eating Oranges
 - Blindfolded Object Identification
 - Self-Face Bindi Challenge
- **Prize Winners:**
 - 30 children with disabilities
 - 36 children without disabilities

Cultural Segment

The **Cultural Segment** of the festival, held in the afternoon, was one of the most heartwarming and memorable parts of the day. The highlight was a beautifully coordinated **Inclusive Play**, jointly performed by children from a premier English medium school and children with intellectual and hearing disabilities from Asha Ka Jharna. Their seamless collaboration, expressive storytelling, and confident stage presence captivated the entire audience, leaving many moved and inspired. The performance not only showcased the artistic talents of the children but also powerfully conveyed the message of **unity in diversity**.

Recreational Activities & Stalls

- Children enjoyed:
 - Bouncy & Trampoline Swings
 - Balloon Bursting
 - Gulgappas, Candy Floss & Popcorncreating an accessible, joyful, and sensory-rich environment.

Prize Distribution & Community Recognition

The presence of esteemed **guests and dignitaries** during the **prize distribution ceremony** added great value to the day's celebrations. Representatives from the **Education and Social Justice Departments, District Legal Services Authority, Saksham, Vaish Samaj, and Bharat Vikas Parishad** joined us to **encourage the children** and recognize their achievements. By personally handing over prizes and addressing the gathering, the guests reinforced the importance of **equality, opportunity, and inclusive participation** for persons with disabilities. Their involvement also helped in sensitizing influential community organizations, strengthening the shared commitment to building a more inclusive and supportive society.

Support & Volunteer Engagement

- **Volunteers:**
 - Trainee educators from AKJ and Subodh B.Ed. College
 - Nursing students from Anupama Medical Training Institute provided First Aid
- **All Children Received:**
 - Participation certificate
 - Gift packet
 - Snacks

Outcomes & Impact

- **Inclusion in Action:** The festival provided a rare and meaningful platform where **children with and without disabilities actively participated side by side**—not in isolation or separate categories, but as one team. From sports to cultural programs and fun games, this **blended participation fostered natural peer bonding**, eliminated hesitation, and normalized inclusion in a joyful, experiential way. It demonstrated that when given the chance, inclusion happens seamlessly in shared spaces.
- **Sensitization:** Throughout the day, **non-disabled children gained firsthand exposure** to the capabilities, enthusiasm, and individuality of their peers with disabilities. This broke down preconceived notions and helped nurture **genuine empathy, understanding, and mutual respect**. Many children, in informal feedback, shared how the experience made them more thoughtful and accepting, reinforcing the festival's aim to shape inclusive mindsets from a young age.
- **Community Engagement:** The awareness rally and day-long celebration reached an estimated **5,000+ community members** who watched, interacted, and applauded the efforts of participating children. Play cards, slogans, and the vibrant presence of children in public spaces helped **spread awareness about disability rights, accessibility, education, and inclusion**, strengthening public discourse around these vital issues.

- **Empowerment:** For children with disabilities, the festival was a powerful moment of **visibility, recognition, and self-expression**. Being applauded for their performances, winning prizes, and sharing the stage with non-disabled peers instilled pride and **boosted their confidence and self-worth**. It proved that, when provided an inclusive platform, they can excel, inspire, and lead.
- **Feedback:** Positive responses poured in from **students, parents, teachers, volunteers, and community members**, many of whom noted that the festival had challenged assumptions, created emotional connections, and **reinforced the importance of celebrating diversity**. Feedback validated the event's objectives—**inclusion, sensitization, empowerment, and community transformation**—making it not just a celebration, but a social statement.



Conclusion

The **Inclusive Children Festival 2024** was a grand success—an embodiment of Asha Ka Jharna's core values of **equality, inclusion, and dignity for all**. Through this vibrant, day-long celebration, barriers were broken, friendships were built, and the message was clear: **every child belongs**.







6.4. Policy Influence and Best Practice Dissemination

Our engagement in various conferences and training programs also serves as an advocacy tool, allowing us to influence policy discussions and disseminate best practices. Through these diverse and impactful advocacy and government engagement initiatives, Asha Ka Jharna continues to be a powerful voice for persons with disabilities, striving to create a society that truly champions equal opportunities, just treatment, and the full recognition of their rights and dignity. We are committed to fostering a world where every child and individual with disabilities can live a dignified and fulfilled life.

Stories of Change: Real Lives, Real Impact

Transformative journeys of empowerment, dignity, and inclusion

Transforming Lives: Khushi's Journey of Growth and Independence

Demographic Profile: Khushi, a 15-year-old girl from Village Lohargal, Tehsil Nawalgarh, District Jhunjhunu, Rajasthan, faces the daily challenges of living with an intellectual disability. Her father is a small trader of pickles and her devoted mother travels 20 kilometers every day to bring her to Asha Ka Jharna, a special school for children like Khushi.



Issues and Challenges before Project Intervention: Khushi, initially diagnosed with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), faced several challenges when she first came to school. She was frightened and displayed disruptive behaviour, such as screaming and pushing younger children. She struggled to sit still, often wandering around the school premises

and even attempting to run outside. This prompted her mother to stay throughout the entire five-hour school day to ensure her safety while our educators attempted to engage her. Furthermore, Khushi had difficulty concentrating, often ignoring instructions from her educators, and exhibited non-comprehensible speech patterns, frequently screaming in excitement. She preferred to sit alone and did not respond to instructions or her own name. Khushi had limited vocabulary and lacked essential skills in reading, writing, and arithmetic. Holding a pencil, organizing her belongings, and grasping social skills were also difficulties for her.

Project Interventions and Impact: Thanks to the dedicated efforts of our educators and therapists, positive changes in Khushi's life have been remarkable. Our team personally attended to Khushi's needs, employing individual attention strategies. Through carefully designed activities that captured her attention, her focus improved over time.

To enhance her abilities, Khushi engaged in practical tasks, such as counting, sorting, and matching vegetables, gradually progressing to cutting them under vigilant supervision. Additionally, she received speech therapy from a therapist, contributing to the improvement of her communication skills.

Khushi received individualized education and training through Asha Ka Jharna. The project team developed specific goals to address her challenges. They focused on improving her motor skills, developing cognitive abilities, and fostering social interaction.

The goals included holding a pencil correctly, recognizing objects and body parts, learning prewriting skills, understanding numbers and colors, as well as grasping concepts of quantity and direction.

Positive Changes Realized by Khushi: The transformation in Khushi's life has been truly inspiring. Thanks to the dedicated efforts of Asha Ka Jharna and Khushi's hard work, significant positive changes have been observed. Khushi now follows instructions, recognizes her personal belongings, and keeps them in the right place. She actively participates in cleaning tasks, greeting elders, and assisting her parents with various household chores. She has developed social manners and is respectful towards others. Khushi has also shown improvement in academic skills and is able to wait for her turn. Additionally, she now interacts with her family and educators with confidence and enjoys participating in religious gatherings.

She now actively participates in all school activities, including morning assembly, tiffin time, and outdoor games, effectively utilizing her full five-hour school day.

Gaining practical skills, Khushi has become independent in chopping vegetables and assists her father in transferring pickles from larger containers to smaller jars. This newfound independence empowers her while strengthening her cognition, allowing her to better understand others' speech.

Furthermore, Khushi has acquired daily living skills and now manages her personal hygiene, using the toilet independently. Currently, she is also being taught how to appropriately handle her menstrual cycle, ensuring her overall well-being.

Parent Feedback and Optimism for Future: Khushi's parents are overjoyed with the progress she has made. Her father is now confident enough to leave her in charge of his pickle shop during lunch breaks, where she independently assists customers and informs her father when needed. Khushi's parents appreciate her newfound ability to engage positively with her extended family and share belongings with other children. She has become more self-sufficient and helps her mother with various household tasks. Khushi's parents are optimistic about her future, thanks to the intensive efforts of Asha Ka Jharna.

Acknowledgement: We gratefully acknowledge the generous funding support from Rural India Supporting Trust, enabling us at Asha Ka Jharna to provide children like Khushi with a safe and nurturing environment to develop their full potential. The impact of their support is immeasurable, and we commend their commitment to creating positive change in the lives of those with intellectual disabilities.

Impact: Khushi's journey reflects not just personal development—but the reclaiming of identity, dignity, and familial pride.

Story of Change Adnan – Leaping Towards Excellence

Background: Adnan, a bright and energetic child with a hearing disability, always had a keen interest in sports. However, opportunities for him to excel in athletics were limited within conventional settings. His passion for movement and competition needed a nurturing environment that understood and adapted to his unique abilities.

Intervention by Asha Ka Jharna: Asha Ka Jharna's emphasis on holistic development includes robust sports and physical activity programs designed for children with disabilities. Our special educators and physical trainers identified Adnan's potential in track and field events. He received:

- **Specialized Coaching:** Tailored training sessions focusing on improving his long jump technique, speed, and overall physical conditioning, keeping his specific needs in mind.
- **Access to Inclusive Events:** Asha Ka Jharna actively facilitates participation in various inclusive sports festivals and competitions. Adnan was encouraged and supported to compete at higher levels.

Outcome: Adnan's dedication and the specialized training bore fruit when he participated in the state-level sports competition at Sawai Mansingh Stadium in Jaipur. He not only competed with spirit but also secured a silver medal in the long jump. Adnan's achievement is a source of immense pride for Asha Ka Jharna and an inspiration to all our students. His story highlights how focused support in extracurricular activities can lead to significant accomplishments, building self-confidence and showcasing the incredible athletic prowess of children with disabilities.



Story of Change

The NIOS Success Stories – A Collective Triumph

Background: For many children with disabilities, accessing formal education and achieving mainstream academic qualifications can be a significant challenge due to lack of accessible infrastructure, adapted curricula, and trained educators in conventional schools. The dream of obtaining a matriculation or senior secondary certificate often remains out of reach.

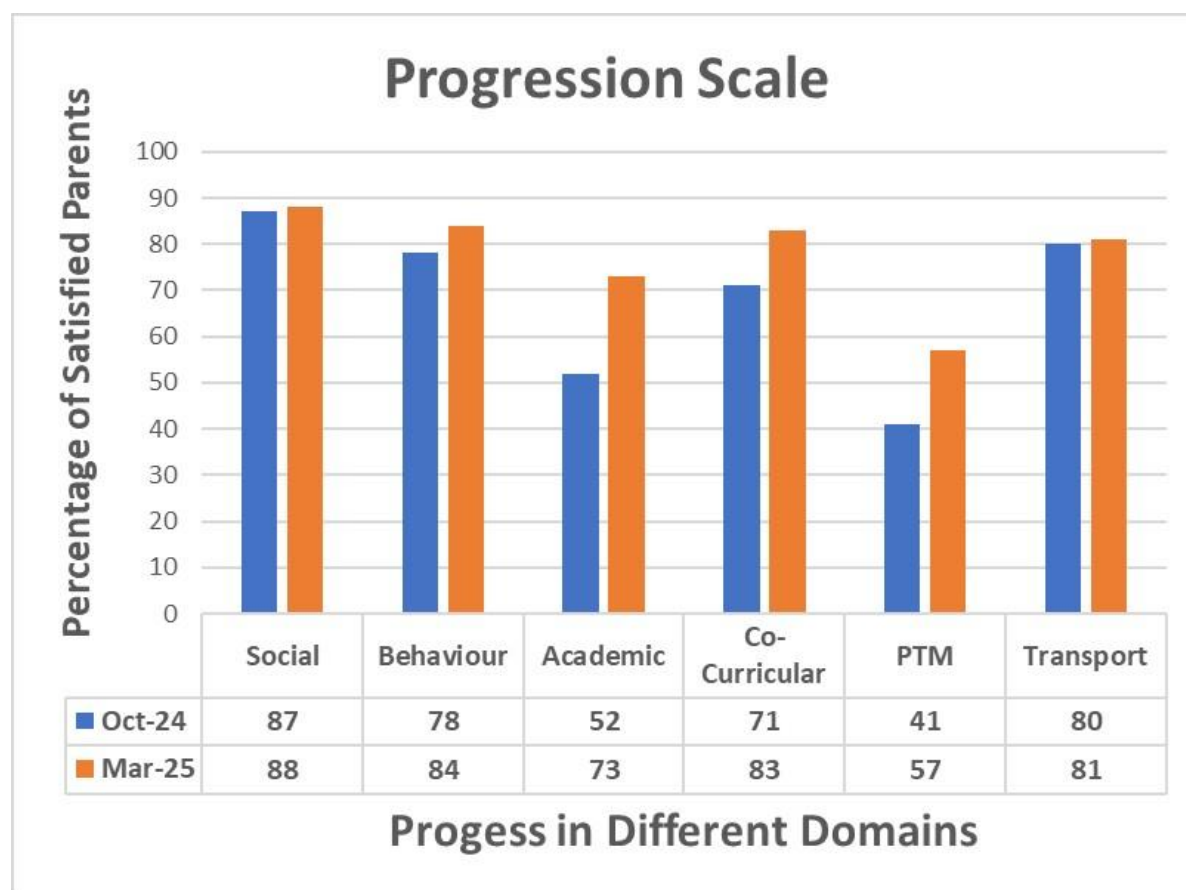
Intervention by Asha Ka Jharna: Asha Ka Jharna recognized this critical gap and established a robust program focused on preparing students for the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) board examinations.

Our approach includes:

- **Accessible Curriculum Delivery:** Adapting teaching methodologies and materials to suit diverse learning styles and needs of children with various disabilities.
- **Dedicated Special Educators:** Providing highly trained special educators who offer individualized attention and remedial support.
- **Conducive Learning Environment:** Creating an encouraging and supportive atmosphere where students feel empowered to learn at their own pace.
- **Continuous Assessment and Support:** Regular assessments and counseling to identify learning gaps and provide necessary interventions.

Outcome: Asha Ka Jharna is incredibly proud to announce a consistent 100% pass rate in the NIOS board examinations for the last four consecutive years. This remarkable achievement is not just a statistic; it represents countless individual stories of resilience, hard work, and triumph over adversity. Each certificate earned is a key that unlocks further educational and vocational opportunities for our students, validating their intellect and effort. This collective success underscores the effectiveness of our inclusive educational model and our unwavering commitment to ensuring that every child has the opportunity to achieve academic milestones and build a foundation for a brighter future.

Parent Satisfaction Progression: Oct 2024 – Mar 2025



The **Progression Scale** highlights a **notable increase in parent satisfaction** across multiple developmental and support domains between **October 2024 and March 2025**. Significant improvement is seen in **academic (from 52% to 73%)**, **co-curricular (71% to 83%)**, and **PTM participation (41% to 57%)**, reflecting the impact of targeted interventions and enhanced parent engagement strategies. Overall, the data affirms growing confidence among parents in Asha Ka Jharna’s comprehensive approach to child development and inclusive education.

Conclusion and Future Outlook

The 2024-25 annual report of Asha Ka Jharna vividly illustrates a year brimming with meaningful learning, joyful experiences, and inspiring achievements. From significant academic milestones and practical vocational training to transformative national camps, triumphant sports victories, and deeply enriching cultural events, our children have consistently demonstrated remarkable growth in confidence, skills, and spirit. Each and every activity undertaken during this period was a direct reflection of our unwavering commitment to holistic development and profound inclusion, meticulously designed to

ensure that every child, irrespective of their disability, was afforded the invaluable opportunity to explore their full potential and, crucially, to be seen, heard, and celebrated within our community and beyond.

As we look towards the future, Asha Ka Jharna remains steadfast in its mission to empower more children and families, building upon the solid foundation laid by comprehensive services, impactful programs, and dedicated community engagement efforts. The journey ahead is imbued with immense potential, and with continued collaboration across all stakeholders – including families, educators, governmental bodies, and supportive communities – we aim to transcend existing barriers. Our ultimate goal is to enable every child to enjoy a dignified and fulfilled life, realizing our vision of a society where children with disabilities thrive with dignity and independence. We are dedicated to creating even more opportunities that truly empower, uplift, and transform lives, driving systemic change for a more inclusive and equitable world.

Acknowledgement

Asha Ka Jharna extends its heartfelt gratitude to all the individuals, organizations, and partners who have generously contributed their time, resources, expertise, and unwavering support to our mission throughout the 2024-25 fiscal year. Our achievements, so vividly portrayed in this Annual Activity Report, are a testament to the collective spirit of compassion, dedication, and collaboration that underpins all our endeavors.

We express our profound appreciation to:

- **Our Esteemed Patrons and Funding Partners:** Your invaluable financial support and belief in our vision enable us to sustain and expand our crucial programs, reaching more children and families in need. Your commitment to empowering persons with disabilities is truly inspiring.
- **The Government of Rajasthan and Relevant Departments:** We are deeply thankful for the consistent collaboration and support from the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment, and other governmental bodies. Their participation in our rallies, camps, and policy discussions is instrumental in advancing inclusive policies and ensuring that the rights of persons with disabilities are upheld.
- **Our Dedicated Staff and Special Educators:** To our relentless team of special educators, training college faculties, therapists, coordinators, and administrative staff across Nawalgarh, Fatehpur, Jhunjhunu, Ramgarh, Khandela, and Sikar—your tireless efforts, expertise, and unwavering commitment to the children are the bedrock of Asha Ka Jharna's success. Your passion for inclusive education and rehabilitation is truly commendable.
- **The Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI) and Partner Organizations:** We are grateful for the accreditation and collaboration with RCI, which enables our Continuous Rehabilitation Education (CRE) programs. Our thanks also extend to

partners like Rehab Buddy (Jaipur), Mahavir Intercontinental Service Institute (MISO), Himalayan Nature & Adventure Foundation, CREA, Youth4Jobs, The Hans Foundation, VANI (Voluntary Action Network India), Bosch, UMMEED Child Development Center, Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), Enable Me Access, MPVSS (Madhya Pradesh Viklang Sahayata Samiti), and SNEH (Special Needs Education Home), Nagda, for their invaluable partnerships, shared knowledge, and collaborative initiatives that enhance our service delivery and broader impact.

- **Our Supportive Families and Community Members:** The strength and resilience of the families we serve are a constant source of inspiration. Their trust in Asha Ka Jharna and their active participation in our programs are vital for the holistic development of their children. We also extend our thanks to the wider community for their acceptance, participation in our inclusive events, and for fostering an environment of empathy and understanding.
- **Our Enthusiastic Volunteers:** To all the volunteers who have dedicated their time and energy to various activities, from community surveys to event support—your selfless contributions amplify our reach and impact.
- **And Most Importantly, Our Incredible Children:** To every child who walks through our doors, your determination, courage, and zest for life inspire us daily. Your achievements are the true measure of our success, and it is a privilege to be a part of your journey towards a life of dignity, independence, and fulfillment.

Together, we continue to build a future where every individual, regardless of ability, is valued, included, and empowered to shine. Thank you for being an integral part of the Asha Ka Jharna family.

ASHA KA JHARNA PROFILE

‘Asha Ka Jharna’ as a voluntary non-profit organization has been working for the cause of disability and child rights **since 1998**. Our Three special schools for children with intellectual disability (including cerebral palsy, Down syndrome, autism and other developmental disabilities) as well as those with hearing and speech impairment have been providing services in the semi-arid rural areas of north-western Rajasthan (INDIA). School based special education, therapeutic, vocational training, guidance and counseling services (both special schools & in inclusive setup) to around 270 children with disabilities and their families are provided on a regular basis. Remedial teaching support to students enrolled in inclusive education setup at three Government schools is also being provided. Open employment and livelihood options are sought for young adults with disabilities to ensure their rehabilitation into community. Training of educator trainees, capacity building in the field of rehabilitation and outreach services is also being undertaken. 140 Trainee Educators are currently undergoing Diplomas in special education (DEd Intellectual Disability) & (DEd Hearing Impairment) at our RCI recognized training institute.

Children with Disabilities Being Benefited as on 1st June 2025

Special Education Unit	Children with Intellectually Disability	Children with Hearing Impairment	Total Children
Nawalgarh	45	32	77
Jhunjhunu	36	30	66
Sikar	50	25	75
Inclusive Education at 1. Fatehpur 2. Ramgarh 3. Khandela			51
Total Children Being Served	156	102	269

Apart from special school set up, we also provide OPD services for physio & speech therapy; referral; need based home therapeutics & special education facilities etc. **Asha Ka Jharna is an Empaneled Access Auditor with Department of Empowerment for Persons with Disabilities, Govt of India for a period of five years effective 29th February 2024.**

AKJ ACCOLADES:

- ❖ **Asha Ka Jharna is the recipient of “BEST NATIONAL ORGANIZATION AWARD 2014” by The National Trust (Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Govt. of India) as well as “BEST STATE NGO AWARD 2009” by Rajasthan Government. We also got National “Nina Sibal Award 2018” for Best Organization in Disability Sector. ‘Dainik Bhaskar’ Media Group awarded us during March 2019.**

Services & Facilities

- ✓ *Survey & Identification*
- ✓ *Special Education*
 - *For Children with Intellectual Disability*
 - *For Children with Hearing Impairment*
- ✓ *Training College for Diplomas in Special Education DEd (ID) & DEd (HI)*
- ✓ *Inclusive Education Programs at Govt Schools*
- ✓ *Physiotherapy*
- ✓ *Speech Therapy & Audiometric services*
- ✓ *Counseling & Guidance*
- ✓ *Training for Parents/ Siblings*
- ✓ *Training for Govt. School Teachers Under SSA Inclusive Education Stream*
- ✓ *Advocacy, Opinion Building among Govt. Bodies, Mass Media & General Population*
- ✓ *Awareness Among Local Community*
- ✓ *Community Rehabilitation*
- ✓ *Computer Assistive Learning*
- ✓ *Govt. Social Benefits Schemes facilitation services*
- ✓ *Inclusion in Regular Schools & Remedial Teaching*
- ✓ *Medical Checkup by Various Medical Professionals*
- ✓ *Networking, Capacity Building & Resource Sharing among Fellow NGO*
- ✓ *Orientation Sessions for Regular School Teachers*
- ✓ *Providing Aids/ Appliances , BTE Hearing Aids Through Various Camps*
- ✓ *Referral Services*
- ✓ *Social Services to Local Community*
- ✓ *Child Rights & Child Protection*
- ✓ *Vocational Guidance, Training & Job Placement*
- ✓ *Access Audit of the Built Environment following Recommendations to make these Barrier Free for Persons with Reduced Abilities*

Ultimate aim of Asha Ka Jharna is to make the lives of children with disabilities more meaningful and dignified by attaining their rightful place in the society.

OUR IMPACT & ACHIEVEMENTS SO FAR

- *Regular ongoing special education, training and therapeutics services to more than 200 special need children and their families every year since 1997. More than 5000 children with disabilities have been regularly served by us.*
- *Accessibility and Inclusion made possible to more than 1000 beneficiaries through disability certificates, assistive devices, aids & appliances, polio corrective surgeries.*
- *Free distribution of high quality behind the ear hearing aids to 669 children across the surrounding region with support from Starkey Hearing Foundation.*
- *Community counselling services to more than 5000 persons.*
- *Massive school/college awareness programmes on disability in the Shekhawati area. 50000 school students and teachers covered.*
- *Formal Training courses in association with Indira Gandhi National Open University New Delhi delivered to 360 Govt teachers and 80 parents.*
- *'District Games for Disabled' Conducted at Sikar under the scheme of Ministry of Sports & Youth Affairs (232 Special Needs Athletes participated)*
- *'District Games for Disabled' Conducted at Jhunjhunu under the scheme of Deptt. of Social Justice, Govt of Raj (400 Special Athletes participated)*
- *'Regional Parents Meet' by NIMH & PARIVAAR organized at Jhunjhunu. (112 Parents from Rajasthan and Gujarat participated)*
- *'Regional Parents Meets' Facilitated by us completely at Jaipur , Ajmer , Udaipur & Sawai Madhopur as well as National Parents Meet & Self Advocates National Convention at Udaipur (More than 1000 Parents & 300 Self Advocates Across the country benefitted)*
- *Community sensitization events at different places (> 50000 targeted)*
- *Special needs children taken to Special Olympics, Abylampics, excursions, adventure expeditions, fairs etc. to various places all over India. Around 1000 children have explored Darjeeling, Dalhousie, Bhubaneshwar, Chandigarh, Amritsar, Delhi, Jaipur and many towns across the country.*
- *373 Nos. of special needs children passed School Board levels A, B and C (equivalent to class 8th) from National Institute of Open Schooling so far.*
- *More than one hundred young adults with hearing impairment have pursued higher education up to graduation studying in inclusive setup facilitated by us.*
- *More than one hundred youth with disabilities placed successfully in gainful employment through our handholding, mentoring and livelihood support.*
- *Our children have participated and won laurels in Special Olympics National Level Athletics & Volleyball Events. They have also shown skills in Abylampics.*

CHILDLINE SIKAR ACHIEVEMENTS :

AKJ has been a collaborative partner for eight years managing CHILDLINE (1098) - Nationwide Toll-Free Helpline for children in distress providing round the clock emergency outreach services at our Sikar center. From inception since July 2015 till handing over of the project to Government of Rajasthan on 7th October 2023, we reached out to 3821 children & their families in need of care and protection vide a whole range of intervention services. During this period around 13000 calls were received on our Helpline No 1098

INFRASTRUCTURE SUPPORT

- 1. Three school buildings at Nawalgarh, Jhunjhunu and Sikar (Rented Premises). There are two hundred and eighteen children [Intellectually Disabled (131) and hearing impaired (87)] getting special education / training & allied services at all the schools. Besides, 51 children are getting remedial teaching support in inclusive mainstream education. We are catering to 269 direct beneficiaries (students with disabilities) as on date.*
- 2. **Institute of training & inclusive rehabilitation** at Nawalgarh with necessary physical infrastructure & human resources offering two years diplomas in special education (intellectual disability & hearing impairment) duly recognized by RCI with sanctioned seats of 70. In two batches, 140 trainee educators are enrolled as on date.*
- 3. Human resources: Multi-disciplinary team of 52 trained & experienced personnel's with professional qualifications in special education, therapeutics and social work.*
- 4. Well-equipped Physiotherapy & Speech Therapy Departments consisting of physiotherapy equipment's along with sound proof booth, audiometric & speech trainer.*
- 5. Library with more than two thousand books, journals, reference books, regular newsletters/periodicals on disability, special education, leisure reading for children and staff, govt. schemes etc.*
- 6. Multiple Psychological tests and assessment tools for pedagogy.*
- 7. Well-equipped ICT rooms at all units with thirty computers, printers, scanners, inverters.*
- 8. Audio-Visual facilities comprising of three colour T.V., CD and DVD music players, Cameras etc.*

Various Registrations/Recognitions for Asha Ka Jharna (Valid As On Date)

- **Registered under Society Registration Act 1860 No. 33579 Dated 27.08.1998**
- **Registered and Recognized with Department of Social Justice & Empowerment Govt. of Rajasthan under Persons with Disabilities Act. 1995 & Revised Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2016 since 27.11.2002**
- **Registered and Verified Voluntary Organization with NGO Darpan (NITI AAYOG) Govt. of India vide Unique Id. RJ/2009/0000175 since 2009**
- **Vetted & Verified By Guide Star India , Give Foundation & Benevity**

- **Registered under Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act 1976 with ‘Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt. of India’ vide Regd. No. 125620007 Dated 08.04.2003 valid Up to 31st March 2027**
- **Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI) Approved Training Institute (Code RJ122) conducting Diplomas in Special Education DEd. (ID) & (HI)**
- **Accredited with ‘National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) for ‘Open Basic Education’ OBE level A, B and C (up to 8th class)**
- **Registered with ‘National Trust for the Welfare of persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Intellectual Disability and Multiple Disabilities, Delhi’ Valid Up to 3rd July 2027**
- **Registered under Income Tax Act 1961 U/S 12AB No. AAATA3825HE20214 Valid Up to 31st March 2026**
- **Registered under Income Tax Act 1961 Exemption U/S 80G No. AAATA3825HF20214 Valid Up to 31st March 2026**
- **Registered with Ministry of Corporate Affairs for undertaking CSR activities vide Regd. No. CSR00000984 Effective from 07th April 2021**
- **Registered with Voluntary Sector Development Centre Rajasthan (VSDC/2023/JAIPUR/655)**
- **Governing Board Member (Membership No. 6037) of Voluntary Action Network India VANI (PAN INDIA apex body of 600 plus voluntary organizations)**

AKJ and its Secretary has been nominated for the following committees

- ❖ **Rajasthan’s First Certified & Trained Access Auditor for Built Environment By Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Govt of India.**
- ❖ **Former Executive Council Member at National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities (NIEPID), Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Govt of India**
- ❖ **National General Secretary of PARIVAAR NCPO ‘National Confederation of > 300 Parent Associations of Persons with Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities’.**
- ❖ **Former Member of ‘Rajasthan State Commission for Protection of Child Rights’ statutory body nominated by State Govt.**
- ❖ **Member of Rajasthan State Level Coordination Committee constituted by ‘The National Trust’.**
- ❖ **Member of Jhunjhunu District local level committee constituted by ‘National Trust for the welfare of persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Intellectual Disability and Multiple Disabilities, New Delhi’.**
- ❖ **Member of Jhunjhunu District monitoring committee constituted under RPD Act**
- ❖ **Member of District Resource Groups (DRG) constituted by Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Distt. Jhunjhunu and Distt. Sikar.**
- ❖ **Member of Jhunjhunu District ‘Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan Samiti’**
- ❖ **Regularly Providing Sign Language Interpretation, Support Person & Braille Expert Services to Local Police, Judiciary and District Administration.**

- ❖ *Active Networking with other NGO'S and charitable organizations like Lions Club, Rotary Club, Bharat Vikas Parishad, Inner wheel Club, other likeminded organizations, regular schools etc.*
- ❖ *'AMBA Certified Partner Centre' conducting professional back office visual data entry & livelihood program for young adults with intellectual disabilities*

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

Project Saajhi Udaan "साझी उडान"

Every child, every dream - together to reach great heights

"Saajhi Udaan" is an inclusive education project that aims to bring abled and differently abled children together on a common educational platform to create a world of learning where there is cooperation, respect and equal opportunity, not discrimination. This initiative recognizes the unique abilities of each child and works towards making them self-reliant, confident and socially connected citizens.

Vision Statement:

Our dream is to create a learning environment where every child—whether they have different abilities or special needs—can learn with respect, affection and equal opportunities. 'Saajhi Udaan' is a platform where diversity is considered a strength and cooperation is considered flight.

Mission Statement:

"Saajhi Udaan's mission is to create an inclusive educational environment where all children—with and without disabilities—learn, grow and thrive together. We aim to make education accessible and meaningful to every child by promoting a spirit of cooperation, compassion and equal opportunities, so that each child can reach his or her full potential as a self-reliant and socially responsible citizen."

Belief & Values: Every child has the inherent right to life, survival and development, 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 Accessibility, Awareness, Education, and Livelihood leading to Inclusion & Empowerment.

Feel free to reach out for more information or to engage with our initiatives.

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ASHA KA JHARNA

ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT 2023-2024

Overview

Asha Ka Jharna: Empowering Children with Disabilities Since 1998

Founded in 1998, Asha Ka Jharna is a dedicated non-profit organization committed to serving underprivileged communities, particularly children with special needs and those requiring protection and care. Our goal is to provide a full spectrum of services—education, therapeutic care, vocational training, and advocacy—to ensure these children achieve holistic development and societal inclusion.

The organization's mission is to ensure that these children achieve their rightful place in society through active participation from all stakeholders. Our vision is a society where equal opportunities and just treatment are afforded to all, reinforcing the belief that every child has the right to life, survival, and development, which encompasses access to health, education, and social security.

At Asha Ka Jharna, our core values emphasize accessibility, awareness, education, and livelihood, pathways that lead to inclusion and empowerment. We operate three special schools in the semi-arid regions of north-western Rajasthan, providing vital services to over 240 children with various disabilities, including intellectual disabilities and speech impairments. Our programs include specialized education, therapeutic services, vocational training, and guidance, aimed at both the children and their families.

We also offer remedial teaching within inclusive education settings and actively seek open employment and livelihood opportunities for young adults with disabilities to promote their community integration. Furthermore, our training institute plays a crucial role in developing 140 aspiring educators, equipping them with diplomas in special education to enhance the quality of support provided to children with special needs.

Our foundational goals revolve around the principles of accessibility and education, ensuring that every child can partake in a nurturing learning environment and that families receive the necessary resources and support. The inspiring journey of Asha Ka Jharna is a testament to our unwavering

commitment to transforming lives, creating an inclusive society while advocating for the rights of all children and individuals with disabilities.

Vision: We envision a society where children with disabilities thrive with dignity and independence.

Mission Objectives

- Deliver exceptional educational and rehabilitative services to children with disabilities.
- Foster awareness and advocate for the rights of these children within the community.
- Collaborate with governmental bodies and other stakeholders to improve service provision.
- Empower families and communities in supporting the needs of disabled children.

Core Principles

- Inclusivity
- Empowerment
- Respect
- Commitment
- Collaboration

Asha Ka Jharna operates under several legal and statutory registrations, including registration under the Society Registration Act of 1860, recognition from the Government of Rajasthan under disability legislation, and accreditation as a training institute by the Rehabilitation Council of India. We are also registered with relevant government bodies and hold certifications that validate our commitment to transparency, accountability, and effective service delivery. This ensures our adherence to the highest operational standards and our ability to continue making a meaningful impact in the communities we serve.

This annual report for the period April 2023 to March 2024 of **Asha Ka Jharna (AKJ)** special schools is aimed to depict, describe and list various activities undertaken with children, staff and community members during this period. The report also illustrates the various events organized by the organization, visits of prominent personalities, awards, honors and accreditations received etc.



- ❖ For successful rehabilitation, life cycle approach is followed at Asha Ka Jharna for which first step is to **conduct surveys among the targeted communities to identify children with disabilities** who do not have access to education.

A survey at the town of Ramgarh Shekhawati District Sikar was done by our educators during the month of March 24 to identify children with disabilities after which 29 such children were screened. Their parents were counselled and motivated to get prevailing social benefits.



Similar Community survey to identify children with disabilities and follow up counselling to families was undertaken at Fatehpur district Sikar during July 2023 by our educators under remedial teaching project. Close to thirty children with disability were identified who are out of school and have no exposure to any type of educational intervention. Families were facilitated to get social benefits available. Community survey was also undertaken at



Nawalgarh, Jhunjhunu & Sikar locations by our educators during summer vacations where new children with disability were identified to be considered for admission from academic session 2023-24.



- ❖ **Ascertaining the special needs of children, forming an Individualized Education Program & Formal Education**

Curriculum transaction through Individualized Education & Training Programs were delivered by our team so as to attain desired goals for children studying in their sections. For more than 125 children with intellectual disabilities, three IETPs in a year comprising of 20-25 goals were planned whereas around 100 children with hearing impairment got educated to appear for level A, B and C NIOS open basic education stream as well as Grade 9 to 11 Rajasthan school education board regular examinations.



- ❖ We provided Physiotherapy to children needing therapeutic intervention (those with cerebral palsy, spastics, hemiplegic, stiffness in joints, postural deformities) so as to reduce the stiffness, increase muscle flexibility, improve body control & postures and maintain the current level of tone and balance. Using tools in occupational therapy, multiple activities in cognition enhancing exercises, sensory integration, gross and fine motor function, understanding, communication and social adaptability were done throughout the year.

An online training for two days in occupational/developmental therapy organized by Vijayanand Institute Pune was imparted to two of our educators where they learnt about innovative ways to engage children and work upon their gross & fine motor skills using common found objects.



Physical motor functions, cognitive abilities, behavioral aspects, and activities of daily living were assessed regularly of the children. General intervention for handling the condition included sensory integration techniques, behavioral approaches, social and relational development. Emphasis was laid on approaching children in their flow of interest and applying the relationship-based model of intervention (floor time)



Apart from our special children at Asha Ka Jharna schools, we do offer physiotherapy services to community at large. Three weeks free therapy camp was conducted from 18th May till 10th June 2023 at our three schools where senior citizens and those with physical ailments received therapeutic facilities from our therapists. Everyday many community members were benefitted. Conditions being treated were Muscle Skeletal like Ortho & RH Arthritis, Back Pain, Neck Pain, Post Traumatic Stiffness, Frozen Shoulders; Neurological Cases like Stroke, Parkinson and Sports Injuries. More than fifty persons availed our services during these three weeks.



- ❖ NIOS end term exams of children enrolled for academic session 2023-24 were successfully conducted during the month of February 24. All of them cleared their grades (3rd, 5th & 8th) with good scores. Term end exams of 9th and 11th grades and Rajasthan school board matriculation examinations (under our inclusive remedial education stream) were over in March where our students with hearing impairment wrote their papers and cleared the grades breaking the societal attitudinal barrier.



During academic session 2022 -23 five of our children with hearing & speech disability cleared their Grade 9th exams in inclusive education stream (same curriculum and evaluation pattern by Rajasthan school board as those of non disabled students in regular schools). They got 66 to 70 % marks in total.



Five of our girl students with hearing impairment under inclusive education setup cleared their Grade Xth board examinations. This was an unique achievement as they are first generation learners and overcame hurdles to achieve this feat.

❖ **Organizing Excursions Trips; Sports & Adventure Activities.**

There were multiple excursion trips during the reported year 2023-24. Children from all three schools were taken to Pilani, Jhunjhunu Conservation Forest, Khandela temple, Local fun fair & Shekhawati Festival at Nawalgarh (where they took part in sport competitions along with regular school students). More than two hundred children from our schools explored & enjoyed these outings and community integration.



Highlight of the Year : As a part of our annual calendar, another once in a life time & much awaited opportunity for our special children was seized and maximized.

Twelve children and three educators spent eight days (17th December to 24th December 2023) of their memorable stay at 32nd Himalayan Nature Study & Adventure Camp 2023 organized by Himalayan Nature & Adventure Foundation Siliguri (West Bengal). This year camp venue was on a river bank located in the Himalayan Mountains Range Karakhola Forest Region District Kalim pong (West Bengal). Amidst the pristine nature and river bank surrounding mountains, children had a gala time. A typical Day was interspaced with activities like morning Physical Training & exercise, nature walk, jungle trail, cooking in the woods, tent life, exploring flora & fauna, games, trekking, making knots, crossing 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.

This annual exposure to nature, forest, mountains, river and wild life is our much sought after opportunity to enable our special needs children at Asha Ka Jharna explore the diversity, culture, food and bonding.



Junoon 2023 (Sporting Fest at BITS Pilani) was attended by twenty of AKJ students on 16th & 17th September 2023. Participation at this event for so many years is always a refreshing change and opportunity to showcase for our children. There was fun , games , meet ups and caring budding engineers. During two days event, around 130 special children from eight institutions across the state competed in multiple games. Our children secured overall first position bagging total of twenty three medals in 100 & 200 meter race, high & long jump. Our children have been participating and consistently bringing glory in this fest since nine years.



स्पेशल ओलम्पिक के लिए आशा का झरना में दिव्यांग बच्चों के लिए खेल प्रशिक्षण शिविर
 नवलपराड @ परिष्कार. दिव्यांग बच्चों की संस्था आशा का झरना के लक्ष्यवर्धन में स्पेशल ओलम्पिक खेलों के लिए एम्प्रीकड्ड बुनिफाइड स्कूल प्रशिक्षण प्रोग्राम के तहत खेल प्रशिक्षण शिविर का आयोजन किया गया। आशा का झरना के निदेशक सुदीप गोवाल ने बताया कि सूर्य मंदल हॉल में आयोजित केम्पिस्टन शिविर में 40 बौद्धिक दिव्यांग व इनके पारटनर 40 सामान्य युवाओं ने एकसाथ केम्पिस्टन खेल की श्रवणिक्या समझी। प्रशिक्षण के बाद स्पेशल ओलम्पिक राजस्थान कमेटी के प्रतिनिधि सुदीप गोवाल ने प्रतिभागियों को बुनिफाइड स्पोर्ट्स के बारे में बताया। स्पेशल ओलम्पिक प्रतिभागिताएँ बौद्धिक दिव्यांग पक्षियों के लिए विश्व के 190 से अधिक देशों में आयोजित की जाती हैं। आशापी जून में थालन में होने वाले क्वॉ, नेम में भारत के 200 से अधिक बौद्धिक दिव्यांग एथलीटों में पाए लेंगे।

On 5th September, our children from Sikar special school participated in the district level inclusive games organized by education department. This was a unique event conceived by district collector Sikar for which we expressed our gratitude to him after the competition.



- ❖ Distribution of uniform, stationery and nutritional supplements is our ongoing activity. During this year, we provided one set of uniform to all 240 children at our schools where as woolen cloths (sweaters & jackets) for all children were arranged as community solidarity. Similarly, stationery consumables (pencil, notebook, colour, eraser etc.) were given to students when demanded.



- ❖ **Procurement of mini bus for children's transportation from homes to school**

This year, we welcomed one more member in our fleet of three school mini buses TATA WINGER (18 seater each) enabling a safe and secure transportation option to children from their homes to schools. Another school vehicle for our children was procured out of CSR support from MCX India Limited during December 2023.



- ❖ Under the CSR Project of Indian Oil, ALIMCO, a Government of India undertaking, Department of Social Justice and Empowerment, **provided high quality BTE hearing aids** to 53 of our hearing-impaired children at Jhunjhunu. ALIMCO Audiologist Mr. Vishal Maurya fitted hearing aids to the HI children after assessing their hearing loss. Our special educators and trainee educators were given short training about their upkeep & maintenance. We further trained parents and children.



- ❖ General health checkup camps were organized regularly at schools where dental hygiene, ENT, weight, height and general overall well-being of all children were assessed by team of doctors and medicos. Appropriate advice was provided subsequently.



- ❖ **Training & continuous hand-holding** of parents, siblings and families is ensured through regular home visits & parent-teacher meeting. Counselling & guidance for socio-emotional support is also being provided so as to prepare child for life.

Parent Meetings were organized at all of our three schools where more than 80 % families attended these PTMs. Our educators discussed over progress reports, communication strategies of parents with their children at home, curriculum and Co curriculum planning for the year, ways to enhance social skills, ways to address absenteeism, ID card & diary checking, accessing social benefits UDID cards and many allied issues. An active and healthy exchange of ideas took place between families (parent to parent discourse moderated by our educators) over pedagogy & intervention done for our children. This quarterly group interaction supplemented our quarterly one to one intense home visits by respective class teacher to each of our children.



- ❖ Regional parent meet at Jaipur was organized on 30th September & 1st October 2023 where more than 150 families of children with intellectual & developmental disabilities from Rajasthan, MP & Chhattisgarh participated. This event was curated & executed by us in the capacity of Secretary, PARIVAAR National Confederation of Parent Associations on the following Theme: **ACCESSIBLE MINDSET - SOCIAL INCLUSION - EMPOWERING FAMILIES**

Highly enriched sessions were conducted on topics as follow:
Sustainable Employment Avenue & Rehabilitation of PwIDDs
Life Long Care and Living Standards for Persons with IDD
Self-Advocacy as a tool to realize social inclusion
Chasing Valued Roles
Empowering Families – Care Giver Well Being
Assisted Living Models -Indian Landscape
Accessing Govt Schemes and Policies
Preparing for Life & Showcasing Abilities
Role of Psychosocial Aspect in Independent Living

Parents & siblings learnt a lot with lively interactions and getting solutions from expert resource persons drawn across the country.



- ❖ On 26th April, a lively three hours parent interaction was held at our Nawalgarh special school where more than fifty parents and guardians participated enthusiastically. We briefed them about initiatives like livelihood training at Bangalore for intellectually disabled children; graduating of grade 10 by hearing impaired girls in inclusive education setup; opportunity for higher education up to grade 12 and beyond; commissioning of special teacher training college; role of families in designing highly child centric planning and other

logistics issues. Families were highly appreciative of our services and despite we asking multiple times about any shortcomings and suggestions to improve, did not speak up. This is both rewarding as well as put huge responsibility on us to plan, conceive and execute best possible ways to realize the rights and exploring full potential of our children with disabilities here. Gift of watches and bracelets to five girls who excelled in their studies brought smiles and cheers in the audience.



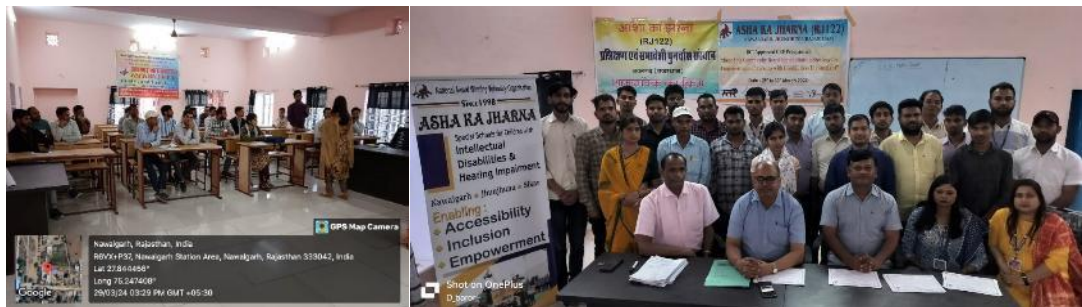
❖ **Professional Development Training of Staff Members (On the Job; Workshops & Seminars)**

Multiple training opportunities were made accessible throughout the year to our team of educators and therapists so as to enrich their knowledge and skills.

- ✓ Two educators Asha Ka Jharna attended two-day online training session (17th & 18th January) on using occupational therapy techniques for effective rehabilitation of children with developmental disabilities.
- ✓ Our chief functionary completed two days training in accessibility for built environment organized by Bureau of Indian Standards. National Building Code and specific accessibility provisions into it were discussed at length which enriched our skills as Certified Access Auditor while identifying barriers and providing solutions for making built environment barrier free.



- ✓ RCI Approved Continuous Rehabilitation Enrichment (CRE) Program on the exciting subject 'Decoding Community Based Rehabilitation Strategy for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities' was conducted by us at Nawalgarh on 29th & 30th March 2024. Twenty-Four educators from Asha Ka Jharna took training in CBR concept, its aims & needs, successful CBR strategy, monitoring & community participation. Extensive training in using CBR matrix having key components or domains related to health, education, livelihood, social, and empowerment aspects of individuals with disabilities within a community context was imparted to our educators by resource persons.



- ✓ Three special teachers of Asha Ka Jharna participated in the three-day yoga training workshop organized at Kaivalya Dham Yoga Institute, Lonavala, Maharashtra under the aegis of Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India. A total of 30 special trainers from across the country were trained to work for children with intellectual disabilities and to increase concentration and memory power through yoga. More than twenty yogic exercises including Taad Asana, Veera Asana, Meru Asana, Marjari Asana, Pranayam, Bhujangasana, Setubandha Pawanmuktasana, Shavasana were practiced. Professor Meena Ramanathan of Balaji Vidyapeeth, Pondicherry. Ramanathan presented the benefits of continuously doing yoga with disabled children through research papers. After the training, regular Yoga is being practiced at our schools.



- ✓ Our master trainer Suman Tailor delivered two trainings on self advocacy to more than fifty participants at Bharatpur (Rajasthan) on 27/28 November and Nagda (MP) from 15th to 17th December 2023.
- ✓ An online session on sexuality of children with intellectual & developmental disabilities organized by Vijayanand Institute Pune was attended by our educators on 9th December.
- ✓ Two of our educators were enrolled in the two months online training course on 'Counselling for school children and families'. During this training held from December 23 till February 24 following topics were covered : Counselling concept, aspect, basic skills, stages, types, methods, process , ABC model, cognitive distortion, emotional changes & behaviour affect in the clients, various theories of counselling, intervention with ADHD , ID and autistic children, understanding family structure , moulding environment, mental health and stress coping strategies, use of various therapy techniques including puppet , music , psycho drama and recording the psychological interventions.
- ✓ Asha Ka Jharna team mates received yet another session of intense learning's at the hands of powerhouse of wisdom Ms Arpita Yadav, Director, Adult Living Program at Shaurya Foundation Trust New Delhi.

From 31st August to 2nd September 2023, three days of her stay here at AKJ Nawalgarh saw moments of excitement, WOW, reflections, contentment and a sense of commitment among our educators and therapists from three special schools. She delved extensively on our proposed new curriculum development on the lines of ICF aligned with SRV principles.

At the end of third day, post training quick assessment with participants reinforced the key takeaways while working with children with intellectual disabilities and hearing impairment as below:

Focus on applications, find the patterns.
 Make use of other senses apart from five.
 Design child specific learning goals.
 Chew one bite at a time, don't gulp it.
 Learn to use VAKT & Time Lapse technique.
 Evaluation includes Verbal, Concrete, Signage, Matching & Sorting.
 Concept of 2D and 3D.
 How to use PECS (Picture Exchange Communication System)
 Identify communication channels to communicate with non verbal child.
 Make the child Do It than Mug It.
 Cupping and other calming exercises.
 Neuro plasticity and growing up.
 Sequential learning & Many More...

Core Message by her to our team:

Connect with her Life. Make Connections & Patterns. Believe in Child Abilities First. Believe in Yourself. Miracles will Eventually Happen.



- ✓ SRV overview session in Hindi was attended by nine of our team members on 9th May. Principles of devalued lives , seeking valued roles and good things in life were explained by resource person Geeta Mondal of Key Stone India.
- ✓ Never Undone the Work of a Special Child - Powerful words by the strongest Iron Lady !

On 29th June, Ms Arpita Yadav, Director, Adult Living Program at Shaurya Foundation Trust New Delhi at the capacity building workshop for all our educators and therapists here, conveyed this beautiful message of respecting child efforts when one team member asked a question about child in her class losing interest in doing repetitive activities. Arpita provided some very valuable insights into baseline assessment followed by curriculum plan fine tuning on the lines of ICF, classroom management, behaviour modification, use of expressive and creative art, parental engagement, more focused child centric approach and many more pedagogy issues. Day long session ended with some exciting ice breaking and team bonding activities.



❖ **Advocacy, Opinion Building among Govt. Bodies, Mass Media & General Population**

- ✓ Children at our special schools celebrated Holi - Festival of Colours 2024 with traditional fun and rituals. In our efforts to inculcate empathy, we arranged Inclusive Holi Celebration in the local ground with our children along with a nearby school students and community members.

This was widely acknowledged and appreciated by the prominent citizens in the locality who offered to carry on this tradition of celebrating inclusive fests in future.



दैनिक भास्कर
24-03-2024

आशा का झरना में बच्चों ने मनाया होली उत्सव

झरना | आशा का झरना विरोध विद्यालय में दिवंगत बच्चों के



विद्यालय के बच्चों ने खेले रक्षा मंदिर परिसर में होली का उत्सव मनाया। समन्वयक राजेश कुमार ने बताया कि शी से अधिक बच्चों ने खेल व

उफ की धूप पर फागुन धमाल पर डांस किया और गुफाल व पूरों से होली खेली। इसके बाद बच्चों को मिठाई वितरित की।

नवरात्र | कर्म में विरोध बच्चों की संस्था आशा का झरना की ओर से शनिवार को विरोध होली का आयोजन किया गया। इस दौरान विरोध बच्चों ने पूरों ने पूरों की होली खेली, विरोध बच्चों ने संस्कृत स्कूल के बच्चों संग भी पूरों की होली खेली। पूरों की होली खेलकर बच्चों ने सांस्कृतिक प्रस्तुतियां भी दी। राधा-कृष्ण की झांकी सजाई गई।

On the similar lines, Lord Shree Ram Temple function was celebrated at our premises with community members invited.



- ✓ Disability sensitization & awareness program was organized by us on 12th February 2024 at PM Shri Kendriya Vidyalaya, Sikar. Our chief functionary led a detailed talk with the students and teachers during school assembly on various aspects related to disability. He underlined the role of children in accessibility, making an inclusive society and empowerment of their disabled counterparts. Success stories of achievers with disability were shared to motivate the students.

A role play for KV students was conducted to feel the challenges faced by disabled child which was a eye opener for them. Our children showed an excellent display of Indian culture by wearing costumes of different states and also presented a short drama on helping the disabled, elderly people and women. Slogans depicting equal rights and fostering inclusive friendships were raised by the students. Our special educator demonstrated sign language & taught children some basic conversational words in ISL.

This was an excellent advocacy opportunity which led to building relationship with premier central school. KV Principal Sh. K C Meena along with all the staff members were present.



- ✓ We observed Down Syndrome Day on 21st March by organizing a rally at Nawalgarh railway station. Travellers and passerby were made aware of this developmental disability caused by chromosomal disorder.



पत्रिका
 आशा का झरना के दिव्यांग बच्चों ने मनाया विश्व डाउन सिंड्रोम दिवस
 नवलगढ़ @ पत्रिका, विशेष बच्चों की संस्था आशा का झरना की ओर से गुरुवार को विश्व डाउन सिंड्रोम दिवस मनाया गया। दिव्यांग बच्चों ने रैलवे स्टेशन पर रैली निकालकर जागरूकता का संदेश दिया। आशा का झरना के निदेशक सुदीप गौगल ने बताया कि संयुक्त राष्ट्र महासभा द्वारा हर वर्ष 21 मार्च को डाउन सिंड्रोम के प्रति जागरूकता बढ़ाने के उद्देश्य से विश्व के सभी देशों में यह दिवस मनाया जाता है। प्रत्येक मनुष्य के जीवने में 23 जोड़ी गुणसूत्र होते हैं जिसमें से इक्कीसवाँ नंबर का गुणसूत्र दो की जगह यदि तीन हो तो इस अतिरिक्त गुणसूत्र को वजाह से बच्चों को व्यसंधी या डाउन सिंड्रोम या बौद्धिक विकलांगता हो जाती है। जर्मीक व यमनिक विकास में देरी, सीखने में कठिनाई तथा स्वास्थ्य संबंधी समस्याएं डाउन टाउन बच्चों के प्रमुख लक्षण हैं समय पर जीवन प्रशिक्षण व पुनर्वास सेवाएं मिलने पर इन बच्चों में सुधार देखा गया है। संगीत, नृत्य, चित्रकला, खेलों व अन्य क्लिनिकल कठोर अभ्यासों से बच्चों को उत्तम ढंग से तैयार कर सकते हैं। साथ ही उपलब्ध प्रशिक्षण मिलने पर कई स्तर होटलों में वे सकलतार्किक कुशल कर्मचारी के रूप में सेवाएं दे रहे हैं।

- ✓ During Accessibility Audit of PwD Managed Polling Booth for Ensuing Parliamentary Elections, we interacted with Grade 10th Students at Govt Senior Secondary School, Dabra District Pratapgarh Rajasthan and touched upon disability, child rights, education & career choices.



OUR FLAGSHIP ADVOCACY & INCLUSION EVENT

REPORT OF INCLUSIVE CHILDREN FESTIVAL

Asha Ka Jharna in partnership with The Hans Foundation celebrated Inclusive Children Festival on 17th February 2024 at Podar Sports Ground Nawalgarh (Rajasthan). We invited 251 children from 11 regular (3 government & 8 private) schools. They along with 215 of our children with disabilities from three special schools, remedial teaching project, one another NGO and 50 trainees from our teacher training institute participated in day long events. Day started at 9.45 AM with dignitaries along with special children flagging off awareness rally Badhte Kadam (Let's Move On) comprising of 550 participants who travelled through main market of town. Play cards depicting equal rights, equal opportunity, education for all, accessibility, inclusion, participation in electoral process, community integration & empowerment through advocacy were flashed thereby sensitizing the society. More than 5000 community members along the rally path cheered up the children. Rally assembled at Podar Sports Ground opposite Nawalgarh railway station at 10.45 AM where after settling down & relaxing, school team in charges got their children registered at the counter. At 11 AM, tri-coloured balloons were let off to sky by the invited guests, special and non-disabled children declaring ICF 24 open. In the second phase, 14 sporting & ability games were organized including 50-meter race, sack race, spoon race, jalebi jump, musical chair race, three-legged race, mehndi applying, gunshot, balloon & disposal cup game, ring throw, bowling alley, navigating while blind folded in which children participated enthusiastically. In all sporting events both disabled and non-disabled children were there attempting inclusion. Special children proved their talent by winning 16 prizes whereas non disabled students bagged 29 prizes. After a sumptuous lunch, in the third phase of cultural program segment, highlight of the day was the catwalk on the ramp and cultural tableaux of different states of India by our girls with Intellectual disabilities which stole the show. An emotional act by our teacher training college students based on Tare Jamin Par movie captivated the audience. Children also enjoyed

many amusements activities & snack stalls including bouncy swing, joker mascots, balloon bursting, golgappas, popcorn counter etc. In the prize distribution ceremony, Sh. Kailash Chotia (Vice chairman Municipal council), Senior advocate & Nawalgarh bar president Sh. Vidhya Dhar Jakhar, Dr. D S Jangid from Alliance International, Axis Bank Manager Sh. Pawan Gupta, Podar Trust CEO Sh. M D Shanbhag, Agarwal Samaj President Sh. R G Gupta, Sh. Sanjay Sharma from R R Morarka Charitable Trust encouraged the children by handing over prizes and pledging to support equal rights of persons with disabilities. Trainee special educators from AKJ Institute of training & inclusive rehabilitation volunteered in the event and nursing students of Sushila Institute of Paramedical Sciences provided medical services with First Aid Box. All the children were provided with participation gift, certificate and snacks. Day ended with sweet memories and fostering of new friendship with children vowing to take along their special buddy to the path of development. Feedback we received from non-disabled children validated our intended objectives of inclusion, sensitization of young citizens & showcasing talent of children with disabilities. Event was widely covered by print and local electronic media.





- ✓ Our young adults with disabilities at Asha Ka Jharna exercised their voting rights at Rajasthan State Legislative Elections held on 25th November 2023 reinforcing the belief **Nothing About Us Without Us**



- ✓ Children at our three special schools celebrated Deepawali - Festival of Light with traditional fun and rituals. We invited members from community to share the empathy and joy.



- ✓ International Day of Sign Language was observed on 23rd September at our special schools. An awareness rally was taken through the prominent locations of Nawalgarh sensitizing the community about the cause. Our DEd Trainee Educators took a procession carrying placards highlighting the importance of sign language to communicate with people with disabilities.



- ✓ On the occasion of Independence Day , we sensitized the community and mass media by explaining National Anthem (Jan Gan Man) in sign language. News was carried in print media on 15th August.



- ✓ On 6th September, we were invited by district administration Sikar to provide inputs on Rajasthan Mission 2030. We gave valuable suggestions on strengthening district early intervention centers, streamlining UDID card issuance, making government buildings accessible, getting children with disabilities enrolled in regular schools and other inputs to district collector and social justice deputy director.

❖ **Networking, Capacity Building & Resource Sharing among Fellow Non-Governmental Organizations and stakeholders**



- ✓ On 15th February 2024, our chief functionary took a daylong session at Indira Gandhi Panchayati Raj Institute Jaipur on RPD Act 2016, 21 Types of Disabilities and Accessibility for District level officials across the state organized by Department of Panchayati Raj , Govt of Rajasthan.

- ✓ **Creating A More Accessible Environ:** During the months of January & March, our chief functionary conducted Accessibility Audits and Live Training to Persons with Disabilities from Sight Savers India UP & Rajasthan projects. Important state government buildings District collectorate office at Kasganj (UP), District social justice office, District collectorate & SP offices at Pratapgarh (Rajasthan) were audited to identify the barriers and provide solutions for ensuring accessibility.

Capacity of more than two hundred participants were built through these disability sensitization workshop comprising of more than sixty SHG women & disabled members, E Mitras supervisors, officials from Rajeevika Livelihood Mission Department and other stakeholders. We explained in details all twenty-one types of disabilities, their characteristics and assessment, shared the perspective and nuances of RPwD Act and its detailed sections, UDID enrolment process and way forward to remove the bottlenecks in certification. Day Long Training was also imparted to OPD members on Disability Rights & Entitlements, Leadership Skills, Advocacy Plan, Gender Issues and more.



- ✓ On 15th March, Asha Ka Jharna provided our expert services and guidance to children with disabilities enrolled at PM Shree Central School Sikar under the wellness & counselling session conducted. Our team assessed, counselled and made further intervention plans and shared this with educators there.



- ✓ Our funding and strategic partner RIST Meet was attended by our chief functionary on 29th November at THF Gurugram office. The partners' meet aimed to explore strategies for holistic growth in special education, covering aspects such as quality education provision, operational strategies in diverse socio-demographic contexts, stakeholder engagement, teacher training, professional development, and ensuring the inclusion and well-being of children with disabilities in mainstream education.



Asha Ka Jharna shared our experiences & interventions in the disability sphere and also gained insights from other fellow partners, Aasra Trust, Kenduadihi Bikash Society and Ashish Foundation for the Differently Able along with THF team. Together, we led insightful discussions to develop new inclusive strategies, united in the common goal of advancing educational opportunities within disabilities space.

- ✓ From 18th to 20th December 2023, our chief functionary conducted Access Audit and Live Training to Persons with Disabilities from OPD groups from Sight Savers India. Two of important state government buildings 1. Social Justice Directorate Campus and 2. Cerebral Palsy Gait Lab; Govt College for HI & VI and State Resource & Physical Referral Rehabilitation Centre at Raipur (Chhattisgarh) was audited to identify the barriers and provide solutions for ensuring accessibility.



- ✓ From 23rd to 25th August, our chief functionary took workshop and training sessions on accessibility for around two hundred participants at Chhattisgarh organized by Sight Savers India as per following schedule:
 - Day 1: Mahasamund (Chhattisgarh): Interaction with district government functionaries and OPD members was fruitful to stress upon need and ways to design accessibility features in buildings.
 - Day 2: Capacity Building Workshop cum Training on 'How to Ensure Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities' to 85 NGOs at Raipur (Chhattisgarh)

Day 3: Training on Accessibility for 60 district level officials and Govt Institute functionaries



✓ On 3rd August 2023, a high level delegation from PARIVAAR, country's largest organization of parents of people with intellectual disabilities met Mr. Rajesh Aggarwal,



नागदा 06-08-2023



Secretary of the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Government of India, Joint Secretary Mr. Rajeev Sharma, Deputy Director General Mr. Kishore Surwade, Director Mr. Vineet Singhal and National Trust CEO Mr. K.R. Vedishwaram and discussed multiple issues concerning persons with

intellectual disability and our sector.



✓ On 10th September, four of AKJ district officials of Special Olympics Rajasthan participated in AGM and election meeting at Sri Ganga Nagar where we elected the new executive council of SOB Rajasthan chapter for the term 2023 to 27. We charted out the roadmap to strengthen the sports body and annual calendar of events. We stressed up on transparent selection of athletes with intellectual disabilities for various sporting competitions, enhanced coaching and greater participation by Rajasthan in National and International events.

✓ World Autism Awareness Day was observed on 1st April at our special schools. Inclusive drawing/painting events by our children with intellectual and developmental disabilities along were organized. A seminar on ASD for our DED Spl Ed. Trainees was

held. Later an awareness rally was taken through the prominent locations of Nawalgarh sensitizing the community about the cause.



- ✓ On 23rd June, we attended district level committee meeting on accessible elections for persons with disabilities chaired by District collector Jhunjhunu where we provided many valuable insights, suggestions and way forward to ensure that #NoOneLeaveBehind. District administration including ADM, CMHO, DEO and AD (SJE) was highly appreciative of our ideas and willingness to hand hold as well as build capacities in this regard.



- ✓ Executive Council Meeting of National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities was held on 29th & 31st May 2023 in virtual mode where we discussed threadbare on many issues concerning welfare of persons with IDD. DEPwD, MSJE, Govt. of India Joint Secretary Sh. Rajeev Sharma Chairperson appreciated our ideas and suggestions.
- ✓ On 18th April, a full day hands on workshop we took training sessions on accessibility for more than Seventy senior engineers from multiple departments of UP Government including Public Works Department, Nagar Nigam Lucknow, Lucknow Development Authority, UP Tourism Development Corporation, UP Project Corporation Ltd, Rural Engineering Department, Social Justice Department, Employment Department, Town Planning Department, Department of Cooperatives, Housing & Urban Development, Irrigation, Home department and others. Detailed provisions of Rights of Persons with Disabilities covering accessibility; Harmonized Guidelines for Universal Accessibility 2021; National Building Code and such legal frameworks were elaborated to participants. A demo access audit of Head Quarter building was done explaining each element of built environment, identifying barriers and suggesting accessibility solutions. All sessions were in interactive mode with both theoretical, technical inputs and practical implementation challenges as well as solutions were delivered.



सामुदायिक सेवा की गतिविधियां आयोजित

संक्र। आशा का इलाका एवं चण्डल लड़कन 1098 के साथ विभिन्न स्थानों पर सामुदायिक सेवा में सामाजिक गतिविधियों का आयोजन किया गया। आशा का इलाका के सुदीप गोयल ने बताया कि गतिविधियों में द. ब्रह्मस्ट यूनिवर्सिटी केन्द्र के विद्यार्थियों ने भाग लिया। बीकानेर ऑनर्स की विधि गोयल, शिक्षता पारिक व वेदांत अश्वाल ने मीलाना अखिल कलाम स्कूल संस्कर में चण्डल लड़कन 1098 की कार्यवाहकी और बाल अधिकारों की जानकारी दी। उदकाल को डण्डी में ग्राम सभा मीटिंग के दौरान बाल विवाह रोकथाम की शपथ दिलवाई गई। रेलवे स्टेशन आरपीएफ थाने में स्टॉफ से बाल संरक्षण मुठों पर चर्चा की गई। कच्ची बस्ती के बच्चों के साथ आवासीय स्कूल में अंतरराष्ट्रीय बालग्राम निधि दिवस पर बच्चों को शिक्षा के लिए प्रेरित किया।

✓ A high-power meeting with finance secretary (budget), Govt of Rajasthan was held on 12th May. Same was attended by our chief functionary. Agenda was to discuss formation of a centre of excellence (COE) for assistive technology at Jaipur. We presented various measures and key components like mandatory accessibility, innovative & cutting age inventions using Artificial Intelligence & incubation centre for young professionals, creating solutions for rural segment of disabled persons, universal design of learning principles, addressing needs of persons with invisible disabilities and so on. Draft of developing the COE is in pipeline.

❖ Shaping Policies & Protocols (Intervention with Government):

Closed Networking with other institutes & social organizations throughout the state & country towards shared objectives are done actively by us. Capacity building, hand holding and resource sharing are actively attempted.



In the capacity of executive members of national and state level forums, organization raises voices and articulate its concern towards the relevant sectoral issues at hand. During last executive council meeting chaired by joint secretary, Govt of India of National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities, we got following decisions made after

raising issues, suggesting rational solutions and judicious deliberations:

1. Waiving off of assessment and therapy charges at NIEPID for persons with disabilities having UDID card
2. Enhancement of budgetary support to parent association for organizing national and regional parent meet aimed at awareness raising & building capacities to take better care of their children with intellectual & developmental disabilities
3. Data capturing and analyzing of clients visiting NIEPID centres to gauge the incidence of autism spectrum disorder in India
4. Enabling accessibility of aids and appliances to more community members through NIEPID centres and sub centres
5. Proposal of conducting 75 sensitization programs PAN India for grassroot level workers about rehabilitation services

All these proposals will mitigate the sufferings to an extent of persons with disabilities

❖ **Notable Achievements During 2023 - 24:**



We were felicitated by SDM Nawalgarh on mainstreaming persons with disabilities into Electoral Process. More than 100 voter id cards of our adult beneficiaries made by us.



On 19th January, we were felicitated by Honorable cabinet minister of social justice & empowerment, Govt of Rajasthan at Jaipur.



On 9th February 2024, in recognition of our long services in special education, we were awarded Eduvisionary Award 2024 at a glittering function at Jaipur.

❖ **EMPANELMENT WITH GOVT OF INDIA:** On 29th February 2024, Asha Ka Jharna was empaneled as Certified Access Auditor for a period of five years by Department for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Govt of India. We are one of the seventeen selected organization PAN India who has been chosen after rigorous scrutiny and detailed assessment & evaluation procedure by the central govt. Weightage was given to our past experience of over seven years in auditing more than one hundred and ten public uses buildings across the country.

संस्कृत भास्कर
10-03-2024

आशा का झरना को एक्सेस ऑडिटर के रूप में किया अधिकृत

नवम्बर दिवसों के लिए कार्यरत स्वयंसेवी संस्था आशा का झरना को दिव्यांग सार्वजनिकरण विभाग सार्वजनिक न्याय अभिवर्द्धता मंत्रालय भारत सरकार द्वारा अधिकृत एक्सेस ऑडिटर के रूप में पांच साल के लिए एम्पैन्ल किया गया है। निदेशक प्रवर्धित लीड एक्सेस ऑडिटर डॉ. सुदीप गोयल ने विल १४ वर्षों में 110 से अधिक सरकारी और गैर सरकारी सार्वजनिक उपयोग की इमारतों का सुगमता ऑडिट करने के बाद दिव्यांगों के लिए बाधा रहित वातावरण बनाने में अपने सुझाव दिए। स्वयं ही उन्होंने देश भर में 500 से अधिक इन्वीन्सिबर ऑब्जेक्टिव व सरकारी अभिकर्तियों को सुगमता या निवृत्त वरिष्ठता दिया है। एम्पैन्लमेंट के बाद आशा का झरना केंद्र सरकार राज्य सरकार स्थानीय निकाय, सरकारी और सरकारी भवनों का सुगमता ऑडिट कर उन्हें बाधा रहित बनाने के लिए उपाय सुझाएंगे।

दैनिक भास्कर 04-10-2023

एनसीपीईडीपी एम्पेसिस सार्वभौमिक अवार्ड से नवाजे गए सुदीप गोयल

भारत संवाददाता | सुंदर

विशेष बर्षों के लिए संचालित संस्था आशा का झरना के निदेशक सुदीप गोयल को भारत के प्रसिद्ध एम्पेसिस सार्वभौमिक डिजाइन अवार्ड से नवाजा गया है। उन्हें यह अवार्ड सुगम भारत अभियान के अंतर्गत पिछले सात वर्षों में दिव्यांगजनों की सुगमता के क्षेत्र में उनके दृढ़ किए गए उत्कृष्ट कार्यों के लिए दिया गया।

नई दिल्ली में आयोजित समारोह में भारत सरकार के दिव्यांग सार्वजनिकरण विभाग के सचिव राजेश अशवाल, भारतीय पुनर्वसन परिषद के पूर्व अध्यक्ष जनरल कार्डनो, अमेरिकी उच्चायोग से एंड्रयू पोप्येन, एम्पेसिस को वॉरपंट उपन्यास दीप नारायण, एम्पेसिसीओ अध्यक्ष प्रदीप गुला व कार्कसरी निदेशक अरविण अरवी ने सुदीप को अवार्ड प्रदान किया। गोयल ने कि गोयल भारत सरकार के सर्टिफाइड एक्सेस ऑडिटर हैं। उन्होंने सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग जयपुर, एरिशन पेट्रोल लिमिटेड के भारतभर में विचार प्लेटफॉर्म, दिल्ली महिला अयोग सहित 100 से अधिक भवनों को दिव्यांगों के लिए सुगम एवं बाधा रहित बनाने में अपनी दृढ़ता दिखाई है। स्वयं ही उत्तर प्रदेश, मध्य प्रदेश, छत्तीसगढ़ तथा राजस्थान में विभिन्न कार्यक्रमों में दिव्यांगों के लिए सुगम एवं बाधा रहित बनाने व प्रदान बाधा रहित अवधारणा व इमारतों का सुगमता या निवृत्त वरिष्ठता को सुगमता पर प्रशिक्षण भी दिया है। लोक दिव्यांग व प्रदान बाधा रहित अवधारणा व इमारतों का सुगमता उपयोग कर सके।

Making Accessible & Inclusive Spaces

Our chief functionary Mr Sudeep Goyal illustrious work in accessibility domain was validated when he received 14th Universal Design Award 2023 (under Working Professional Category) instituted by [National Centre for Promotion of Employment for Disabled People \(NCPEDP\)](#) and [Mphasis](#).



Citation: Sudeep Goyal is a champion for disability inclusion and child rights. For 25 years, his NGO, Asha Ka Jharna, has been regularly supporting over 200 children with disabilities and their community. As an Executive Council member of NIEPID and National General Secretary of PARIVAAR, he shaped national policies, offering invaluable insights to the government. With 7+ years of experience in auditing accessibility, he's made 80 public-use buildings in Jaipur accessible, positively impacting countless lives. He works relentlessly to effect change through advocacy, policy development, collaboration, and direct service delivery.

Brief of Assignments: As disability and child rights professional, I have always raised accessibility and inclusion on multiple forums at state and national level for twenty-five years. During 2012-15, in my capacity of Rajasthan state child rights commission member, I issued directives to schools violating provisions of ramps and accessible toilets for students with disabilities. During 2016, Under Accessible India Campaign, I got trained & certified by CPWD as Access Auditor for built environment. Since then, I have undertaken multiple activities in making accessible environment in the state and country. These included conducting sensitization sessions with engineers and architects at Rajasthan & Uttar Pradesh making them aware of different provisions & guidelines including NBC & Harmonized Guidelines. Since March 2018, I have supervised various retrofitting civil works funded under SIPDA scheme of Department for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Govt. of India & executed by Public Works Department at Eighty Public Use buildings situated across Jaipur. I did hundreds of site visits of these buildings, took ground measurements and after assessing barriers workable solutions incorporating access elements & features were facilitated. Between 8 to 10 lacs persons visit / use these buildings on daily basis which have been made universally accessible under my mentoring. During 2022, I did access audits of 12 plant & sales locations of Asian Paints Ltd PAN INDIA; Delhi state women commission building; Govt Hospital Pratapgarh and nine public use buildings at Jaipur. I have taken sessions on accessibility at multiple forums across the country, Children Festival, College Youth Leadership Training as well as talk shows on Doordarshan ; All India Radio Jaipur & FM Sikar thus sensitizing mass community. I am a resource person on accessibility for Sight Savers India also (Rajasthan & MP states). I keep on updating myself by taking advanced training



(Dr. Sudeep Goyal)

Transformation after Behaviour Modification

Bhavishya Sharma is a nine-year young girl with intellectual disability who got admitted one year ago (April 2023) in Asha Ka Jharna Special School Sikar. Her father told our educators that she was an underweight and weak child by birth. She also had a fall from her bed while infant and got her head injured leading to arrested developmental growth.

Social & Behavioral Skills: Bhavishya mother told that she did not mix up with any one at home. Even she did not like to accompany her parents in social gatherings. She was very possessive of her objects and did not share at all. Her mother further complained of her obstinate and pushy behaviour. She used to fascinate with mobile phone and in phone she always watched horror serials and movies.



Educator Findings: Child used to be sit in the class always plucking her hair and shouting that 'I am a witch – I will drink your blood – I will eat you alive – I am a vampire'. She kept on repeating same all day. Other children in the class, feared, used to keep distance from her. This was a problematic behaviour and a challenge for our educator which she accepted.

Our educator Shamim Bano started intervention from July 23 onwards after children summer vacations. She planned for all three area – Education; Social & Behaviour. She faced lot of issues in the beginning and interacted intensively with child parents. After taking special permission from office, she started showing mobile to Bhavishya in the presence of other class children. Mobile was never handed over to any child but some positive stories, Panchatantra tales and animated poems related to fairy land were shown in the group itself. This caught child attention and she started to cooperate her teacher.

Slowly Shamim shifted to TV screen and smart board through projector. She gave continuous positive affirmation to the child and asked her to repeat – 'I am an angel. I am a fairy. I help all'.

Slowly after five months, progress started visible. Child started sharing her things with other children in the class first and then to the school children during interval. She stopped saying that I am a witch. Instead, she said that I am an angel. She sings poems and takes interest now in pre writing, colouring and dancing.

Parental Feedback: Bhavishya mother is highly thankful to our educator. She said that there is a remarkable improvement in her social & behaviour manners. She now plays with other kids in her house and neighborhood. She also accompanies her mother to market while taking vegetables and milk. She has stopped watching mobile. Once in a while, she insists on viewing poem and stories on it. She practices dance at the home.

Towards Inclusive Education



During year 2023-24, we embarked upon an ambitious journey of carving out inclusive space for children with disabilities by making regular education accessible for them. After initial surveys, we zeroed down on three locations in Sikar district area: Fatehpur Shekhawati ; Ramgarh Shekhawati and Khandela. After intense follow up, counselling & persuasion with parents, government department & school management,

finally twenty children with disabilities got admitted by us in a regular school Sh. Laxminath Higher Secondary School Fatehpur district Sikar. Our two special educators have been imparting them education after getting the assessment done. Children have been gradually & successfully integrated into the mainstreaming. Apart from getting academic intervention, social adaptation and communication skills are being developed through equal participation of morning prayers & school assembly, computer classes, mid-day meal, sports & games and all such cocurricular activities. Peer group of students as well as fellow educators have been sensitized to the needs and rights of children with disabilities.



Case Study

Greater family engagement is dispensable for successful rehabilitation and community integration of special needs children. To keep both our educators and parents on same page, we at Asha Ka Jharna regularly conduct home visits. These one hour plus long sessions deep dive into the child participation at family & community; exercising and respecting her choices; gaining insights & structuring his post school day; reviewing academic & other goals; addressing behaviour issues; gauging parent expectations from school; devising future goals and an honest feedback. Home Visits to all the students homes were done by their respective class teacher during the month of December. Total of 120 families were visited by our team at their communities/homes.

PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT SURVEY BY ASHA KA JHARNA

In order to gauge the level of engagement our parents have with their special children progress and well being, AKJ organized a field survey of parents where our educators made home visits to around one hundred and twenty families of our students. A set of questions were asked as per questionnaire enclosed herewith. Following inferences can be made after studying the responses received:

1. Children's Attendance:

Parents have started sending their children more regularly to the school. Average attendance is above 75 % in the school. Apart from family function, health issue or non availability of transport, parents do not keep children at home.

2. Hygiene & Cleanliness:

Children come to school considerably neat and clean now and with clean cloths except for few children. Almost 70% improvement from previous years though needs more improvement.

3. School Uniform:

Now almost all the children come in school uniform on fixed days of week. Children themselves remind the parents about this.

4 Home work :

Parents in both the groups HI and ID check Home work given to their children regularly. If on any day our educator missed out in writing home work parents would call up the class teacher to know the reason.

5. Lunch Box :

80% of the children bring their lunch box from homes which were insisted by AKJ as rights based approach because their non disabled siblings were also carrying these to their schools. Now parents also make extra efforts to visit school for dropping lunch box of their child, in case it was not sent in the morning. This is also a good involvement of parents and shows their enhanced concern.

6. Exposure Trips:

Mostly, younger children parents are not ready to send their children out of the town for overnight stay though they do not mind day trips provided it's free of cost. Parents do not want to pay for trips

whereas somewhat older children parents are willing but again there is money issue. In this aspect, parents' cooperation is lacking. Barring few , almost all of them expect free excursions on behalf of school.

7. Parent Teacher Meet:

Parents' participation in PTM is an area of concern with around 50% parents attending these. Reasons cited are: Father not available due to livelihood whereas mother unable to come alone due to social barriers.

8. Personal Safety Issue:

During the survey, it was found that most parents were not aware about good & bad (safe & unsafe) touch for their children. They asked AKJ for an awareness session on this subject which was immediately arranged by us at our all three schools. Response from the parents was good with frank and open discussions. Parents asked questions without any hesitation which we usually do not get to see pretty much this region. This was heartening and we offered them our whole hearted support in bringing the issues of safety for vulnerable children.

It can be summarized that families' engagement and concern for training of their special wards has increased due to our intervention and sustained efforts of AKJ Team.

Conclusion

The financial year 2023-2024 was marked by remarkable progress and numerous achievements by Asha Ka Jharna (AKJ) in its mission to support and empower children with disabilities. This report has detailed the diverse and impactful activities conducted throughout the year, underscoring the organization's unwavering commitment to creating an inclusive society. Below is an elaboration on the significant milestones and overarching outcomes of AKJ's initiatives.

Enhanced Identification and Support for Children with Disabilities

AKJ's rigorous community surveys and outreach efforts across various districts have significantly increased the identification and enrollment of children with disabilities in educational and rehabilitative programs. By consistently engaging with families and local communities, AKJ has successfully counseled parents and facilitated access to essential social benefits and government services, ensuring that no child with special needs is left behind.

Comprehensive Therapeutic Interventions

Physiotherapy and occupational therapy services provided by AKJ have been instrumental in enhancing the physical and cognitive abilities of children with disabilities. Regular assessments and targeted interventions have helped reduce stiffness, improve muscle flexibility, and foster better body control and posture. The integration of innovative occupational therapy techniques has further enriched the therapeutic experience for the children.

Successful Integration into Mainstream Education

AKJ's efforts to prepare children for the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) curriculum have yielded impressive results. Children have successfully cleared their exams, demonstrating their ability to compete academically with their peers. The inclusive education model adopted by AKJ has facilitated the seamless integration of children with disabilities into mainstream educational settings, fostering a sense of normalcy and inclusion.

Enriching Excursions and Extracurricular Activities

The diverse range of excursions, sports, and adventure activities organized by AKJ has provided children with invaluable experiences beyond the classroom. These activities have not only enhanced their social skills and self-confidence but also offered them opportunities to explore new environments and engage with their peers in meaningful ways. The annual Himalayan Nature Study and Adventure Camp, in particular, was a highlight, offering children a unique blend of education, adventure, and personal growth.

Consistent Provision of Nutritional and Material Support

AKJ has maintained a consistent focus on the well-being of children through the provision of nutritional supplements, uniforms, and stationery. By ensuring that children receive balanced and nutritious snacks, appropriate clothing, and necessary school supplies, AKJ has created a conducive learning environment that supports their overall development.

Safe and Reliable Transportation

The procurement of minibuses for school transportation has addressed a critical need for safe and reliable commuting options for children with disabilities. This initiative has significantly improved attendance and participation, enabling children to access educational and therapeutic services without the hindrance of transportation challenges.

Advocacy and Sensitization Efforts

AKJ's advocacy and awareness programs have played a crucial role in fostering an inclusive mindset within the community. Through rallies, sensitization sessions, and inclusive celebrations, AKJ has raised awareness about the rights and needs of children with disabilities. These efforts have led to greater empathy, understanding, and support from the local community, government bodies, and other stakeholders.

Professional Development and Capacity Building

The continuous professional development of AKJ staff has ensured that educators and therapists are equipped with the latest skills and knowledge to effectively support children with disabilities. Training sessions on occupational therapy, yoga, self-advocacy, and accessibility have enhanced the capabilities of the team, enabling them to deliver high-quality services.

Transformative Stories of Impact

The transformation of children like Bhavishya Sharma stands as a testament to the profound impact of AKJ's interventions. Through dedicated efforts and personalized care, children have shown remarkable improvements in their behavior, social skills, and academic performance. These stories of change and progress highlight the effectiveness of AKJ's holistic approach.

In conclusion, the financial year 2023-2024 has been a period of significant growth and accomplishment for Asha Ka Jharna. The organization's dedicated efforts have not only transformed the lives of children with disabilities but also fostered a more inclusive and compassionate community. With unwavering commitment and continued support from stakeholders, AKJ is poised to achieve even greater milestones in the years to come.

Looking Ahead

The financial year 2023-2024 showcased Asha Ka Jharna's unwavering commitment to improving the lives of children with disabilities. It remains committed to its vision of creating an inclusive and supportive environment for children with disabilities. Comprehensive services, impactful programs, and community engagement efforts have laid a solid foundation for an inclusive society. The organization will continue to build on its successes, exploring new strategies and partnerships to further enhance its impact. By staying true to our core values, we remain steadfast in our mission to empower more children and families. The journey ahead is filled with potential, and with continued collaboration, we aim to transcend barriers, enabling every child to enjoy a dignified and fulfilled life.

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Feel free to reach out for more information or to engage with our initiatives.

ASHA KA JHARNA

Annual Activity Report (April 2022 to March 2023)

This annual activity report for the period April 2022 to March 2023 of **Asha Ka Jharna (AKJ)** special schools is aimed to depict, describe and list various activities undertaken with children, staff and community members during this period. The report also illustrates the various events organized by the organization, visits of prominent personalities, awards, honors and accreditations received etc.

Accessible Toilet : Dr. Bhausahab Botre (Principal Scientist and Associate Professor CSIR Central Electronics Engineering Research Institute Pilani) inaugurated the newly constructed universal accessible toilet block and ramp on 13th May at Asha Ka Jharna Nawalgarh school.



Accessibility Audit of Delhi State Women Commission. on 18th May, we audited whole premises of Delhi State Women Commission and provided detailed recommendations to make facilities there barrier free and accessible for persons with reduced mobility.



Rajasthan state level selection camp for athletics and badminton games under Special Olympics Bharat-Rajasthan chapter was organised on 23rd May by us at Nawalgarh. More than 45 young athletes with intellectual & developmental disabilities coming from different districts of the state showed their sporting skills in 100 & 200 Mtrs. race, Shot-put, Javelin throw and badminton. Around 20 parents, coaches and educators also witnessed and cheered up the athletes. Winners from this selection camp will participate in the National Games to be conducted by Special Olympics Bharat in association with Sports Authority of India next at Gandhinagar (Gujarat).



National level selection camps for athletics and volleyball Games

Young athletes with intellectual disabilities Devendra & Tofik (students of AKJ Sikar) were selected as in Volleyball male team of Special Olympics Rajasthan. They showed their sporting skills at National Selection Camp held at Pondicherry from 1st to 7th July where selections for World Games due next year in Germany were held. Similar achievement was bagged by Irfan and Kaif from AKJ Nawalgarh who were selected for Special Olympics Athletics National Selection Camp held at SAI Centre Gandhinagar (Gujarat) from 13th to 20th June. It was a once in a life time opportunity for all four of them who have ventured first time outside of their home town so far.



Community Outreach Service:

a) From 27th May till 11th June, free physiotherapy camp was organized by us at our three special school premises where multiple categories of adult & elderly persons from general community requiring therapeutics were benefited daily.



- b) We did an intensive community survey from 25th May to 10th June during student summer break and identified more than twenty new children with disability to be considered for admission from current academic session 2022-23. Simultaneously, families were counseled and briefed about Govt. services available for their children.



Inclusion & Integration:

On 28th May (World Play Day), Asha Ka Jharna and CHILDLINE 1098 SIKAR took 51 children (16 children with intellectual disabilities and hearing impairment along with 35 children from slums / Kachhi Basti area) to Maru Public Park Sikar where all of them did multiple recreational activities. From carom board, snake - ladder, Ludo to badminton, skipping ropes, roll over, swings - children had a field day. They danced to their content on popular Bollywood numbers. A drawing and painting event was also organised by us. Fruits and Kulfi were served. Afterwards, all children were taken to Govt. Museum where they had a chance to encounter with ancient history. A day well spent. New friendships forged.





A lively & engaging session on Inclusive Education & Universal Design of Learning for our team by taken on 2nd June by Ms Kshama Kaushik from RMKM Ajmer. She elucidated What, Why & How of taking all children together irrespective of their diverse needs. UDL is not a technique but philosophy to be embedded in our thought processes for which community attitudinal barriers need to be removed. Our educators took the key learnings to be reflected into their plannings.



Periodic Health Checkup:

On 26th April, we took our children for health checkup at block level Health Fair organized at Sub Divisional Hospital Nawalgarh. All children were found healthy free from any apparent disease. Similarly, on 30th April, regular health checkup of Asha Ka Jharna children at our Sikar unit was done at school premises





Advocacy & Convergence: Attended day long Executive Council Meeting held on 6th May where we discussed extensively on many issues. DEPwD , MSJE, Govt. of India Joint Secretary Sh. Rajeev Sharma who chaired the meeting was very receptive of our ideas and suggestions to transform 'National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities' (NIEPID) into centre of eminence. Visited services and interacted with students undergoing rehabilitation training courses, parents of children with intellectual disability & team members of Institute.



National Conclave on Gender and Disability Inclusion in Indian Cities : On 28th April , we attended 'National Conclave on Gender and Disability Inclusion in Indian Cities' held at New Delhi which was organized by UN & National Institute of Urban Affairs. A galaxy of eminent speakers enlightened the audience about nuances of accessibility in urban landscape, diversity & inclusion of all stakeholders, new vistas in town planning incorporating accessible

design elements , legislative framework and challenges in implementation. It was highly learning and enriching.



Self Advocacy: During National Self Advocacy Convention being held at Palakkad (Kerala) on 7th & 8th May, Rajasthan team comprising of nine youth with intellectual disabilities who were mentored by us presented themselves confidently before PAN India audience.



Inclusive Education & Remedial Teaching Success Story : All our six girls with hearing impairment who were provided remedial teaching both at AKJ and in the inclusive setup in a regular private school cleared their Grade Ninth Exams with flying colours term end results of which were declared during May second week. All of them secured first divisions after studying state board regular curriculum. Our educator sustained effort was also instrumental in this success. Now they have started preparing for secondary examination due next year.



Festivals & Celebrations :

We always plan festivals within community settings so that society becomes aware of our cause. In this regards, Ramanavami and Indian New Year were celebrated by showcasing our children talent.



Rehabilitation Training Courses Approval: To address the dire need of quality professionals in the rehabilitation field, it was decided by our governing body to start diploma courses in Intellectual Disability & Hearing Impairment to teach trainee special educators. After rigorous ground work and planning, NOC was received by us from state government followed by detailed documentary due diligence and physical inspection by Rehabilitation Council of India. Asha Ka Jharna got the approval for both courses DEd.(HI) and DEd.(IDD) from current academic session 2022-23 with sanctioned intake of 35 students each training course. We aim to churn out competent trained manpower in this arena.

Meeting with AMBA to initiate skill training to youth with intellectual disability

On 18th August, we visited AMBA Centre, Bangalore and apprised ourselves of employable IT skills training being imparted there to persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities. We expressed our intent to be their partner in this project. Both of us will now take this as pilot to train ten to fifteen of our youth here



Accessible Elections for All District and Block level steering committee meetings on accessible elections chaired by Additional & Sub District Collector were attended by our chief functionary as expert speaker on 29th August. He provided many insights and model best practices to government officials to include all persons with disabilities into electoral process. He offered technical knowhow in making barrier free model polling booths in the district. We have already enrolled more than one hundred new eligible PwD voters into the system as well as provided list of two hundred prospective voters with disabilities.

Organizational Development

We have been running our three special schools from rented premises all these 25 years. Need was felt to own space for organic growth and to create a nucleus. Our governing body member Sh. Umakant Nangalia from Mumbai very graciously donated a part of his ancestor land at Nawalgarh admeasuring 562.50 sq. yards to Asha Ka Jharna on 01st September 2022.

Advocacy & Convergence: 'National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities' (NIEPID) Executive Council Meeting was held on 6th September through virtual mode where discussions were held on many issues concerning PwIDDs. Sh. Rajeev Sharma, Joint Secretary, Govt. of India chaired the meeting. We presented our ideas and suggestions to plan & execute multifaceted services for mainstreaming.



Access to Aids & Appliances On 9th & 10th September, our team assisted Alliance Club, Nawalgarh in screening and identifying persons with disabilities who needed assistive aids for their enhanced mobility. More than two hundred persons were benefited. Twenty-Six of our children with hearing impairment were provided BTE hearing aids in this camp.



Occupational Therapy Assessment & Intervention Training for Parents & Staff

On September 10th & September 24, 2022, Rehab Buddy (India's first multidisciplinary tele-rehabilitation & home-based rehabilitation service provider) collaborated with Asha Ka Jharna in pursuit of making occupational therapy and child developmental therapy accessible in the remote areas of Rajasthan. Dr. Nakul Kaushik and Dr. Kashish Samuel, working with the Rehab Buddy team, screened 51 children with intellectual disabilities in total over the course of two phases and developed a thorough treatment plan for issues with delayed speech, behavioural problems, ADL, delayed milestones, and other areas.

Later on, an informational and doubt-clearing session lasting more than two hours was held with parents of children with intellectual disabilities where, by demonstrating the treatment, queries of families were resolved. The home management plan that parents can implement at home to promote the child's development more effectively was given particular attention by the team.

Finally, during one hour interaction with our team mates, various intervention techniques in Oro – motor control, attention span, behaviour modification, sensory diet, playful engagement domains, enhancing cognitive capacities, memory, and social participation were explained by Team Rehab Buddy. They had a thorough conversation about the challenges special educators experience when working with kids who have intellectual disabilities.



Making Accessible Built Environment

In the capacity of certified access auditor, our chief functionary was engaged as accessibility consultant to premier corporate Asian Paints Limited. He visited thirteen plants and office locations of the company PAN INDIA, did access audits and provided detailed reports & recommendations for retrofitting to make these premises barrier free & universal accessible for persons with reduced abilities.



Community Integration

On World Tourism Day (27th September), Department of Tourism, Sikar hosted exclusively our children for a half day sightseeing of historical place followed by a captivating puppet performance and visit to Govt. Museum.



Networking, Capacity Building & Resource Sharing among Fellow NGOs

Our chief functionary attended day long launch program of multiple projects of 'Sight Savers International' aimed at social inclusion and empowerment of persons with disabilities at Pratapgarh district of Rajasthan. He took a long session on RPD Act 2016 - it's nuances and on ground implementation strategies. We also oriented the audience about Govt schemes and concessions as well as about 21 types of disabilities as specified in the act. Interaction with District Collector Sh. Saurabh Swami and other officials was done to make the district disability inclusive. This workshop was followed by an accessibility audit of Govt district hospital there.



Roll out of rehabilitation training courses : Asha Ka Jharna has been accorded approval by Rehabilitation Council of India (APEX statutory body) to conduct two years Diploma in Special Education Training Programs in the field Of Hearing Impairment & Intellectual Disability. 64 students have been admitted at our Institute of Training & Inclusive Rehabilitation during current academic session whom rigorous training has been undergoing with the aim to churn out competent trained manpower in this arena.



Sporting Excellence at Junoon 2k22 :

AKJ children excelled at the inter school sporting fest Junoon organized by BITS Pilani NSS engineering student body on 8th-9th October. During two days event, around 150 special children from eight institutions competed in multiple games. Nineteen of our children secured first position in individual category bagging total of seventeen medals in 100 & 200 meter race, high & long jump. Our children have been participating and consistently bringing glory in this fest since eight years.



Building Capacities of Future Health Professionals:

On 11th October, we took a disability orientation session with 40 Trainees Auxiliary Nursing Midwives (ANM) from Govt. ANM Training Centre, Jhunjhunu. Students were taken to different classes and sensitised about different types of disabilities, their identification, assessment and best intervention thereafter. A brief quiz was taken to quickly gauge their learning.



Rajasthan State Level Consultation on Rights of Children with Disabilities:

A state level consultation with civil society and different government departments was organised at Jaipur on 18th – 19th October by Department of special abled persons, Govt. of Rajasthan in partnership with UNICEF. Select NPOs were invited by the state. We actively took part in the deliberations and interacted with all stakeholders. We also led the working group on education and provided critical inputs in effective implementation of RPwD act. Event was attended by cabinet minister, disability commissioner , department principal secretary, UNICEF state head and other key officials who took note of issues cropped up during two days.



National Parents Meet:

Our chief functionary Dr. Sudeep Goyal was elected as National General Secretary of PARIVAAR NCPO (Confederation of 310 PAN India Parents Associations of Persons with Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities) for the term 2022 - 25 by the AGM held on 11th

November 2022 at Thrissur (Kerala). He also chaired the learning sessions at National Parents Meet there.



Enrolment Drive for PwD Voters

Special cluster camp for enrolment of PwD voters in the election process was held at AKJ Nawalgarh on 19th November where our team got many young prospective voters aged 17 years and above registered. District administration was highly appreciative of our dedicated services in this regard.



Yoga for the body , mind and soul:

On 20th November, Mr. Abhishek Soti, Rajasthan Yoga Coordinator of Art of Living Foundation run by Sri Sri Ravi Shankar taught Yoga, Asana, Meditation, Pranayama methods in a very simple & lucid way to more than 60 children with Intellectual disability & hearing impairment along with their educators of Asha Ka Jharna Sikar school. Yoga will prove to be a useful tool in the development of concentration, auditory power and removal of restlessness in special needs children.



Advocacy & Convergence: 'National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities' (NIEPID) Executive Council Meeting was held on 22nd November through virtual mode where discussions were held on many issues concerning PwIDDs. Sh. Rajeev Sharma, Joint Secretary, Govt. of India chaired the meeting. Among many other decisions, our EC approved the proposal for entering into Memorandum of Understanding with The Hans Foundation, our funding & strategic partner for conduct of Mobile Community Outreach Rehabilitation for persons with Disabilities in Goutham Budh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh through the NIEPID Regional Centre, Noida for an initial period of 3 years.



Occupational Therapy Assessment , Intervention & Staff Training:

Rehab Buddy's team of occupational therapists comprising Dr. Nakul Kaushik (Founder and Director), Dr. Kashish Samuel (Co-founder and Clinical director), Dr. Abhishek Saini and Dr. Nidhi Kerkar (interns) visited Asha Ka Jharna Sikar on 26th November. The team set up two stations on which 12-13 children each were assessed through facilitation by respective educators and physiotherapists from AKJ. Physical motor functions, cognitive abilities, behavioural aspects and activities of daily living were the key parameters to be assessed of all the children. The children were very well-behaved & well-managed. Class teachers and physiotherapist were aware of the conditions of the children which made the assessment process very smooth and easy. Children were very adequately trained in ADL and vocational habits. Few children with autism were also assessed and occupational therapists provided requisite briefing about the intervention to the staff. The therapists gave general intervention tips to the educators for handling the condition which included sensory integration techniques, behavioural approaches, social and relational development. Emphasis was laid on

approaching children in their flow of interest and applying the relationship-based model of intervention (floor time). In the second phase, after the assessment and break, Rehab Buddy's team took teachers's training program and explained each & every component of the treatment provided along with the activities/exercises that can be done specific to child. Specific doubts of the staff members were discussed and cleared by the team members and also the maintenance of the daily register including the occupational therapy component was explained to the team. In general, the children were having good motor abilities and academic skills. ADL training was complete for most of the children. Vocational training was emerging for many children and the staff took complete care of the children's after-school activities at their level best. Behavioral and functional abilities needed to be worked upon more.

Report By: Dr. Kashish Samuel (OT)



आशा का झरना के 19 बच्चों ने खेलकूद में जीते 17 मेडल



नवराष्ट्र | बिस्व पिलानी के इंजीनियरिंग छात्रों द्वारा आयोजित सुनून् -2022 क्रीडा प्रतियोगिताओं में आशा का झरना विशेष विद्यालय के मानसिक विवेकित व मुक्त खरिभर बच्चों ने अपना परचम लहराया। संस्था सचिव सुदीप गोयल ने बताया कि आठ व नौ अक्टूबर को आयोजित दो दिवसीय प्रतियोगिताओं में दिल्ली, जयपुर, अलवर स्थित विभिन्न स्थानों से छह संस्थाओं के 120 दिव्यांग बच्चों ने भाग लिया। जिसमें आशा का झरना के 19 बच्चों ने 17 मेडल प्राप्त कर प्रथम स्थान हासिल

डॉ.गोयल ने दिव्यांगों से जुड़ी योजनाओं की दी जानकारी

नवराष्ट्र | अंतरराष्ट्रीय संगठन साइट सेवर्स इंटरनेशनल की ओर से भोपाल में राज्य स्तरीय कार्यक्रम का आयोजन किया गया। जिसमें मध्यप्रदेश के 100 से अधिक प्रतिभागियों ने भाग लिया। कार्यक्रम में मुख्य संदर्भ व्यक्ति आशा का झरना निदेशक डॉ. सुदीप गोयल ने व्याख्यान दिया। गोयल ने संयुक्त राष्ट्र दिव्यांग अधिकार संधि 2007, दिव्यांग अधिकार अधिनियम 2016, सतत विकास लक्ष्य 2030, भारत सरकार की दिव्यांगों के लिए चलाई जा रही योजनाएं और कार्यक्रम, 21 दिव्यांगताओं की पहचान तथा मध्य प्रदेश में सरकार द्वारा किए जा रहे दिव्यांगों के उत्थान हेतु



योजनाओं की विस्तृत जानकारी दी। सभी प्रतिभागियों को जिज्ञासाओं का समाधान किया। साइट सेवर्स इंटरनेशनल इंग्लैंड (लंदन) से वैट वेसन, मध्य प्रदेश प्रमुख जयश्री मीनाक्षी पटेल व निराश्रतजन आयुक्त कार्यालय ने गोयल के प्रस्तुतिकरण की सराहना की।



विशेष आवश्यकता वाले बच्चों की समस्या जानी

सीकर | विशेष स्कूल आशा का झरना में शनिवार को पुनर्वास सर्विस प्रोवाइडर रहैब बड़ी जयपुर की टीम ने बच्चों की समस्या जानी। निदेशक सुदीप गोयल ने बताया कि इस मौके पर टीम के ऑक्यूपेशनल थेरेपिस्ट डॉ. नकुल कौशिक व डॉ. कशिश सैमुअल ने स्कूल के बौद्धिक अक्षमता वाले 51 बच्चों की विलंबित वाणी, व्यवहार संबंधी समस्या, दैनिक जीवन के क्रिया-कलाप, देरी से होने वाले विकास आदि से जुड़ी जानकारी ली और इलाज के बारे में बताया।



सीकर | दोपहर 12 बजे विशेष स्कूल आशा का झरना में आयोजित 2022 कार्यक्रम का आयोजन किया गया। इस अवसर पर दिव्यांग, मेकअप व निर्दिष्ट बच्चों ने लेखन कार्यक्रमों की प्रस्तुति दी। कार्यक्रम में डॉ. अनुराग सिंह शंभुवन, इंसान फिल वल्लेड, कन्नौरी प्रसाद हरीना, जयश्री मीनाक्षी पटेल के रूप में मौजूद रहे। मंच का संयोजन प्रो. पीडी प्रिती ने किया।

दिव्यांगों के अधिकारों के बारे में बताया



सीकर | साइट सेवर्स इंटरनेशनल की ओर से भोपाल में राज्य स्तरीय कार्यक्रम आयोजित की गई। कार्यक्रम में आशा का झरना निदेशक डॉ. सुदीप गोयल ने व्याख्यान दिया। गोयल ने संयुक्त राष्ट्र दिव्यांग अधिकार संधि, अधिनियम 2016 व सतत विकास लक्ष्य 2030 योजना के बारे में व्याख्यान किया। जिज्ञासाओं का समाधान किया।

दिव्यांग दिवस पर बच्चों ने निकाली रैली



नवराष्ट्र | विश्व दिव्यांग दिवस के अवसर पर शनिवार को बौद्धिक दिव्यांग व श्रवण वंशित बच्चों की संस्था आशा का झरना द्वारा द हंस फाउंडेशन नई दिल्ली के सहयोग से समारोहित बाल उत्सव का आयोजन किया गया। सूर्यमंडल खेल मैदान में दिव्यांग बच्चों की कई प्रतियोगिताएं हुईं, जिसमें दिव्यांग बच्चों ने भाग लिया। इससे पहले सेवाज्योति से रैली का आयोजन किया गया, रैली के फालिग्न उपाध्यक्ष कैलाश चौटिया ने रवाना किया। अनु महर्षि व संजय शर्मा बतौर अतिथि थे। सुदीप गोयल ने स्वागत किया। विनोद सैनी ने आभार जताया।

दिव्यांग बच्चों ने दिखाई प्रतिभा

गणित गुरु नेटवर्क

गणित गुरु नेटवर्क के अध्यक्ष डॉ. अशोक कुमार ने बताया कि गणित गुरु नेटवर्क का उद्देश्य है कि दिव्यांग बच्चों को गणित के माध्यम से अपनी प्रतिभा को दिखाने का अवसर मिले।

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Community Engagement

One more community engagement activity was executed on 23rd November when noted social worker Sh. Girdhari Lal Indoria led Dundlod Jan Sewa Samiti distributed school uniform and woollen sweaters to all of our children here.



Networking, Capacity Building & Resource Sharing among Fellow NGOs

Under Social Inclusion Program and empowerment of persons with disabilities, 'Sight Savers International (India)' organised a state level workshop for its stakeholders (OPDs) at Bhopal on 23rd December where as a sole resource person, our chief functionary took an extended session (Two days resources capsuled into three and half hours) covering following topics:

- ❖ *United Nation Convention for Persons with Disabilities #UNCRPD*
- ❖ *Disability focussed Sustainable Development Goals #SDG*
- ❖ *Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2016 #RPWDAct*
- ❖ *Identification of Specified Disabilities*
- ❖ *Schemes & Concessions for PwDs*
- ❖ *Initiatives in our sector taken by Madhya Pradesh Govt*

All policies, acts, schemes nuances and on ground implementation strategies were explained in detail.



FLAGSHIP EVENT:

Inclusive Children Festival 2022: Celebrating Diversity

200 Special Children

250 Non-Disabled Children

One Goal: INCLUSION

Organised by Asha Ka Jharna

Supported by The Hans Foundation & Rural India Supporting Trust

On the occasion of International Day of Persons with Disabilities, Asha Ka Jharna in partnership with The Hans Foundation celebrated Inclusive Children Festival on 3rd December 2022 at Surya Mandal Public Ground Nawalgarh (Rajasthan). We invited 250 children from 10 regular (government & private) schools. They along with 200 of our special needs children from three units and one another NGO participated in day long events. Day started at 10 AM with dignitaries along with special children flagging off awareness rally Badhte Kadam (Let's Move On) which travelled through main market of town. Play cards depicting equal rights, equal opportunity, making all building barrier free under Accessible India Campaign were flashed thereby sensitizing the community.

Rally assembled at the public ground at 10.45 AM where after settling down & relaxing, school team in charges got their children registered at the counter. At 11 AM, tri-coloured balloons were let off to sky by the invited guests, special and non-disabled children declaring ICF 22 open. In the second phase, more than 20 sporting competitions were organized including 50, 100 & 200 meters race, soft ball throw, sack race, spoon race, jalebi jump, musical chair race, three legged race, long jump, painting (both girls & boys) in which children participated enthusiastically. **In all sporting events both disabled and non-disabled children were there attempting inclusion. Special children proved their talent by winning 28 prizes out of 66 prizes on stake.**

In the third phase of cultural program segment, highlight of the day was the catwalk on the ramp and cultural tableaux of different states of India by our girls with Intellectual disabilities which stole the show. Enchanting dance performances by our teacher training college students and girls from secondary school captivated the audience. Children also enjoyed many amusement activities including bouncy swing, balloon bursting, popcorn counter etc. In the prize distribution ceremony, Assistant Director Social Justice & Empowerment Jhunjhunu Mo. Ashfakh Khan, Dr. D S Jangid from Alliance International, Mr Omendra Singh, Sr. Manager State Bank of India, Mr. R G Gupta, Mr. Jitendra Gupta, Mr. Sanjay Sharma from R R Murarka Trust encouraged the children by handing over prizes and pledging to support equal rights of persons with disabilities.

Trainee special educators from AKJ Institute of training & inclusive rehabilitation volunteered in the event and Nursing students of Shekhawati Nursing Institute provided medical services with First Aid Box. All the children were provided with participation award, certificate and snacks. Day ended with sweet memories and fostering of new friendship with children vowing to take along their special buddy to the path of development.

Feedback we received from non-disabled children validated our intended objectives of inclusion, sensitization of young citizens & showcasing talent of children with disabilities.



Advocacy on a Broader Canvass:

Asha Ka Jharna chief functionary Sudeep Goyal delivered a talk on DD Rajasthan on the occasion of 'International Day of People with Disability' 2022 to spread our Mantra of Inclusion and Accessibility.



Community Integration: On 6th January 2023, distribution of uniform & sweaters to children at Asha Ka Jharna Nawalgarh school was done along with new year celebrations by a spirited women group thus strengthening our community ties.



Learning by Practical Exposure: We always try to give practical exposure to our children with disabilities here. On 17th January, they were taken on a science fair cum exhibition organised by Poddar College Science Department Nawalgarh. Principles of Physics & Botany were explained through text book and models which they grasped quite easily. College administration had arranged a spontaneous quiz for visitors where our children surpassed non disabled students from regular schools and answered correctly. Other schools' children and teachers were made aware about inherent abilities of children with disability.



Planning Ahead: A marathon four hours Management Meeting with coordinators of our all three special schools at Nawalgarh, Jhunjhunu & Sikar along with CHILDLINE SIKAR coordinator and our Institute of Training & Inclusive Rehabilitation (DEd College) coordinator was held on 21st January at Asha Ka Jharna admin office. Our senior technical advisor and board member Monalisa Mehta and accounts manager were also present. Lots of issues discussed, ecosystem explained, directives for next two months issued, performance assessment made, finances briefed, existing curriculum transaction & reporting practices reviewed etc. Centre heads were asked to think one step ahead and make their units centre of excellence.



Advocacy & Convergence: Unlike many of those Chai - Biscuit meetings, our NIEPID executive council meetings are always no - nonsense all business affairs. 'National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities' (NIEPID) Executive Council Meeting was held on 23rd January through virtual mode where discussions were held on many issues concerning PwIDDs. Sh. Rajeev Sharma, Joint Secretary, Govt. of India chaired the meeting. Out of 32 agenda items, more than 95 % were approved after deliberations, tweaking, taking all members on board and in a congenial environment. Many of decisions taken will have far reaching positive impact on persons with intellectual & developmental disabilities, their families, rehabilitation professionals across the country and organic growth of the National Institute.



Children Day Out: On 2nd February, children spent a day full of fun and frolic at local fair put up at Nawalgarh. They enjoyed the outing, slides, shopping stalls, juice & popcorn.



Building An Inclusive Community: On 3rd February, our children participated in Mehndi designing & drawing competitions held at Shekhawati Festival Nawalgarh where they integrated with their non disabled counterparts effortlessly.



You have to seize any and every opportunity to promote inclusion in community. From media, we got to know that Sikar municipal council has taken an initiative to get the walls of silver jubilee road painted by school and college students as expression of art. Only regular school children were involved in this event.

We immediately approached authorities and secured a prime location near district collector bungalow to be painted by our children with intellectual disabilities and hearing impairment who created this beautiful artwork depicting messages on right to education for all, accessibility, inclusion & empowerment and finding space for every disability in the discourse.



Community & Family Engagement: DEd (Special Education) Intellectual & Developmental Disability & Hearing Impairment Diploma Courses Trainee Educators at Asha Ka Jharna Institute of Training & Inclusive Rehabilitation Nawalgarh have been grasping theory and practicum skills enthusiastically. We will ensure that a competent and compassionate batch of special educators be churned out for providing quality education to special needs children.



During the month of February, our all three schools team did extensive home visits. They interacted with families and discussed road maps for the children. Objective was to bring both parents and educators on one page to plan better. Visits were followed by joint Parent meetings at school where many issues of common interest were sorted out.



Building Capacities & Community Sensitization:

As part of our sensitisation exercise, undergraduate college girls visited and interacted with our children and team at Nawalgarh special school on 22nd February. Briefing was done about disability, legislation and ways to include and empower PwDs in the community. Gen Y vowed to tread on the path of empathy.



Team Members Knowledge Enrichment Training: Three Days Continuous Rehabilitation Extension program duly approved by Rehabilitation Council of India (APEX regulatory body) was conducted by National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities (NIEPID), Govt of India at Asha Ka Jharna from 1st to 3rd March 2023. Topic of the training was 'Best practices in management of children with disabilities.'

It was an intensive capacity building program in which twenty-six special educators along with ten assistant educators and thirty trainees pursuing Diploma in special education at Asha Ka Jharna Institute of Training & Inclusive Rehabilitation got hand on learning from most experienced faculties of NIEPID Regional Centre Noida.

Resource persons Dr. Hemant Singh Keshwal , Assistant Professor in special education , NIEPID RC & Mr. Subhesh Choudhary , Program Coordinator , Model School delved extensively upon following topics:

- a. Role of Behaviour Modification in Managing Special Children
- b. Professional Ethics of a Teacher
- c. Universal Design of Learning
- d. UNCRPD
- e. Schemes and Benefits for PwID
- f. National Education Policy 2020: Implementation in Schools and Higher Education Institutions
- g. Identification and intervention techniques for children with intellectual disabilities
- h. How to design an effective IEP
- i. Importance of trans disciplinary approach in addressing needs of special needs children

Three days program comprised of presentations, role play activities, Q & A and interactive transaction of knowledge by the resource persons to the participants.



National Self Advocates Convention:

Four children with intellectual disabilities from Asha Ka Jharna actively participated in Seventh National Convention of Self Advocate Forum of India (SAFI) (India largest association of persons with intellectual disabilities) which was held from 11th to 13th March at Mumbai. More than 250 countrywide delegates participated in this event. Three days stay was full of activities aimed at self-determination, leadership building, developing companionship, team spirit and inculcating many such qualities among self-advocates; election of national executive; lots of fun followed by Mumbai darshan.



Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse:

We don't just educate here at Asha Ka Jharna. Our educator here at Nawalgarh special school noticed an abnormal behaviour change in one of her class girls with intellectual disability (aged 11 years). She had been doing some vulgar hand signs for one week. We immediately called her mother to school. On investigation, it was found that one youth from their neighbourhood was in contact with the girl (Fortunately nothing adverse happened so far). Mother was shocked to find the truth and told us that she could not have imagined about the guy being such nasty. We counselled both the girl and her mother about safe unsafe touch and ways to prevent one. We were pleasantly surprised to see that while leaving the school premises, mother raised her hand to sky and asked Allah to bless our school.

Time for Assessment & Evaluation:

National institute for open schooling Open Basic Stream Term End Exam for Grade 8, 5 and 3 students for academic session 2022 – 23 were conducted from 20th to 31st March at Asha Ka Jharna Nawalgarh special school in which sixteen children wrote their papers. Similarly Grade 10th board exams by Rajasthan board of school education was taken enthusiastically in inclusive education setup by five of our girls with hearing impairment.



Livelihood for Youth with Intellectual Disabilities:

Asha Ka Jharna has been selected as the only 'AMBA Certified Partner Centre' in Rajasthan conducting professional back office visual data entry & livelihood program for young adults with intellectual disabilities. Our four intellectually disabled youths Neeraj, Aryan, Abdul Matin and Yaman along with special educators Shailendra Kumar and Vishal Gupta received intensive training from 27 March to 2 April at Amba Hub Bangalore. Skills imparted included visual cues & matching, non-computer activities, use of information technology, computer related work like data entry, mailing and dispatch etc. for corporate and industries. Master trainers, when proficient in skills, will further train other peers in backend data entry.

During their one week stay, the children also visited ISKCON Temple, Jayaprakash Narayan Park, Sanke Lake and Burger King Bangalore.



Accolades:

On 9th December, Shekhawati Group of Institutions Sikar honored us for empowerment of disabled. Similarly, on 21st December, AKJ was felicitated by Medical & Health Department Jhunjhunu towards our services rendered during COVID 19.



आशा का झरना के बौद्धिक दिव्यांग बच्चों ने बैंगलोर में लिया प्रशिक्षण



नवलमण्ड, बैंगलोर में डेटा एंटी अपिरेटर का प्रशिक्षण लेने पहुंचे बौद्धिक दिव्यांग बच्चे व प्रशिक्षक।

नवलमण्ड। पत्रिका बौद्धिक दिव्यांगों को गैर-ऑफिस डेटा एंटी अपिरेटर की कोशिश प्रशिक्षण के बाद आर्गोविका से जोड़ने के लिए नवलमण्ड की संस्था आशा का झरना को सहस्त्रान का एकमात्र अंका सर्टिफाइड पार्टनर सेंटर के रूप में चयनित किया गया है। निदेशक सुदीप गोखल ने बताया कि संस्था से चार बौद्धिक दिव्यांग युवा नीरज, आर्यन, अद्वुल मलीन व यमन ने

अंका संस्था बैंगलोर में 27 मार्च से 2 अप्रैल तक अंका सहस्रानक युवांचा सुकृतयाज के निर्देशन में कर्मचारी तथा उद्योगों के लिए डेटा एंटी कलना, भेलिंग व हिम्येव अदि कम्प्युटर से संबंधित कार्य प्रशिक्षण प्राप्त किया। अंथ ये प्रशिक्षित युवा अन्य दिव्यांगों को प्रशिक्षण देकर आर्गोविका से जोड़ने का कार्य करेंगे। अंका संस्था द्वारा आशा का झरना को प्रशिक्षण के लिए 3 लेवटॉप प्रदान किए गए।

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नवलमण्ड, ट्रेनिंग में धारा लेने वाले स्टूडेंट्स।

आशा का झरना को प्रदेश का पहला अंका सर्टिफाइड पार्टनर सेंटर बनाया

नवलमण्ड। बौद्धिक दिव्यांगों को गैर-ऑफिस डेटा एंटी अपिरेटर की कोशिश दिखाने के बाद आर्गोविका से जोड़ने के लिए आशा का झरना को सहस्त्रान का एकमात्र अंका सर्टिफाइड पार्टनर सेंटर के रूप में चयनित किया गया है।

संस्था निदेशक निदेशक सुदीप गोखल ने बताया कि संस्था से चार बौद्धिक दिव्यांग युवा नीरज, आर्यन, अद्वुल मलीन व यमन ने विशेष प्रशिक्षक रोहित व विशाल के साथ अंका संस्था बैंगलोर में 27 मार्च से 2 अप्रैल तक महान प्रशिक्षण प्राप्त किया। अंका संस्थाक सुदीप सुकृतयाज के निर्देशन में सुचना प्रौद्योगिकी का उपयोग करते हुए

कर्मचारी तथा उद्योगों के लिए डेटा एंटी कलना, भेलिंग व हिम्येव अदि कम्प्युटर से संबंधित कार्य मानसिक दिव्यांगों द्वारा सहस्त्रानकृतक किए जा रहे हैं। आशा का झरना के एक नोडलर में परमेश शीने के मद अन्य दिव्यांगों को प्रशिक्षण देकर आर्गोविका से जोड़ने का कार्य करेंगे। एक सप्ताह के प्रवास के दौरान बच्चों ने केवल कर्मचारी तमिलनाडु व अन्य राज्यों के प्रशिक्षणार्थियों के साथ शिक्षक विश्विद्यालय की साथ ही इस्पात मंदिर, नवलमण्डला यात्राएं पाके, बैंक लेनक एवं बंगरे किंग बंगलौर का भ्रमण भी किया। अंका द्वारा आशा का झरना को प्रशिक्षण के लिए तीन लेवटॉप प्रदान किए गए हैं।

Festivals & Celebrations:

We always plan festivals within community settings so that society becomes aware of our cause. In this regards, Shiv Kanwad Yatra, Janmashtami, Ganesh Chaturthi, Rakshabandhan, Independence Day, Vijayadashami, Diwali, Guru Nanak Jayanti and Christmas were celebrated by showcasing our children talent. During the reported period, festival Makar Sankranti, Republic Day 2023, festival of colour Holi and Nav Samvatsar were celebrated.

Festivals & Celebrations :



❖ During the reported period, following offline sessions and on-line webinars/ learning cohorts were regularly attended by us actively where critical inputs were provided by us:

- ✓ Webinar on RPD Act by CRC Gorakhpur on 09th May
- ✓ Webinar on Development of Speech in Children by NIEPID RC Mumbai on 27th May
- ✓ Webinar on Cyber Security on 30th May
- ✓ Session on Digital Marketing by Cognizant on 18th June 2022
- ✓ Awareness session for our children & team on safe use of cooking gas by Indane Gas Limited on 01st October
- ✓ Webinar on Proposal Writing by Wipro Foundation on 01st October
- ✓ Multiple sessions on revamping of our website by Paypal Volunteers
- ✓ Webinar on Integration of mental health & psychological support by TISS & Americares India Foundation on 13th October
- ✓ Manak Manthan on circulation draft of IS 15330/17900 requirements of lifts for persons with disabilities organized by Bureau of Indian Standards on 14th December
- ✓ Review of Livelihood project for PwIDDs by CBM & PARIVAAR NCPO on 21st December 2022
- ✓ Play therapy workshop by SF Positive Mental Health institute Pune on 24-25th January 2023
- ✓ Team building workshop by motivational trainer Anand Mehta Mumbai on 11th March
- ✓ RCI Western region course coordinator meet at Nagpur on 16-17th March

CHILDLINE SIKAR ACHIEVEMENTS:

From inception since July 2015 till March 2023, we have reached out to 3595 children & their families in need of care and protection vide a whole range of intervention services:

Child Labour Rescued	422
Medical Assistance Provided	224
Linked to Sponsorship/Palanhar Scheme	236
Protection from Physical / Sexual / Mental Abuse	637
Children Provided Shelter	112
Begging Street Children Rescued	518
Missing / Abandoned Children	254
Stopped Child Marriages	139
Emotional Support & Guidance	67
Linked to Govt Schemes & Counselling / Information	909
Non Classified Assistance Provided	77

Innovations by CHILDLINE SIKAR:

- A) Regularity in District Child Protection Unit, Special Juvenile Police Unit and District Labour Task Force Meetings has been ensured by our sustained efforts and pursuance.
- B) Close Networking with Police has been instrumental in rescuing child beggars and labours more efficiently and effectively. As follow up after rescue , our team has also been deposing in various courts across Sikar district in cases against employers engaging child labours.
- C) Our team has been sensitising students and teachers by regularly visiting schools across the district during No Bag Day (Saturday of every week).
- D) 1098 visibility has been enhanced significantly by getting it printed on OPD slips of all government hospitals including CHC/PHC of Sikar district. Thousands of patients and their attendants now come across CHILDLINE message every day.
- E) Awareness program done at Eidgah Chowk on Eid festival
- F) CHILDLINE Sikar organized a 15-day summer camp in Kutchi Basti in which multiple activities related to awareness about child rights through recreational & various games were organized for the children by our team in collaboration with volunteer engineering students engaged with us as part of their internship.
- G) CHILDLINE 1098 Sikar got issued a circular from the Department of Women and Child Development followed by launching a special campaign in the month of August 22, sensitizing more than 300 supervisors, workers, Asha workers at 10 Anganwadi centres for prevention of child sexual abuse, child marriage.
- H) Our team explained about CHILDLINE 1098 emergency service in different Madrasa of Sikar district (Total 23 in numbers) where children were sensitized about safe and unsafe touch, cyber safety, ill effects of child marriage and POCSO act.
- I) CHILDLINE Sikar along with Child Empowerment Department conducted a seven-day awareness campaign for the prevention of child marriage and various activities were organized in the community.
- J) A notable achievement of CHILDLINE Sikar was to rescue 98 children from begging during the reporting period April 2022 to March 2023 from Khatu Shyam, Jeenmata, and Sikar local area monthly melas in collaboration with Police department.
- K) CHILDLINE 1098 SIKAR celebrated Friendship Week with children (CHILDLINE SE DOSTI SAPTAH) from 7th to 14th November, in which drawing, painting competition, Antakshari, excursion program, quiz on Good Touch Bad Touch, signature campaign, Bal Mela etc. were organized with children.

- L) CHILDLINE 1098 SIKAR Team celebrated Festival of DIWALI with more than 75 children from Kachhi Basti Sabalpura, our team distributed sweets to all children.
- M) Child Marriage Free India Campaign - An initiative by CHILDLINE 1098 SIKAR, students of Government Girls Senior Secondary School and Government Hostel and district level officials of Directorate of Child Rights, Government of Rajasthan took a pledge to end child marriage.
- N) On specific request of district collector Sikar, we developed a questionnaire on safe & unsafe touch to be used during extensive awareness sessions among all schools in the district with the help of teachers. In this regard, our team sensitised the students at many government schools of Sikar district by making them aware about safe and unsafe touch, cyber safety and POCSO act.
- O) CHILDLINE 1098 SIKAR celebrated Makar Sankranti festival with the children of Parmarth Seva Sansthan Children's Home, in which kites and sweets were distributed to the children and information about CHILDLINE 1098 was given to the children.
- P) CHILDLINE SIKAR along with Department of Child Empowerment designed a tableau on the topic of safe abandon of new born babies / girl child and prevention of child labour during Republic Day parade 2023 which got second prize.
- Q) On 11th February 2023, a highly productive sensitization workshop on types of safe unsafe touch and ways to prevent child sexual abuse was held for the grand audience of 1800 plus teachers from Government schools of Sikar district at ALLEN Coaching. Workshop was jointly organized by District administration Sikar and CHILD LINE 1098 SIKAR along with Child Rights Directorate and Women Empowerment department Sikar. Resource person Sh. Naveen Jain, Secretary Panchayati Raj, Govt of Rajasthan effortlessly connected with the teachers and explained in details need of training young children about ownership of their body, how to protect themselves from unsafe touch and abuse. NO - GO - TELL Mantra was delivered. When in distress, call Childline 1098 was also stressed upon by him. District Collector Sikar Dr Amit Yadav, ADM Sh. Rakesh Kumar, SDM Ms. Garima Lata, AD ICPS Dr Gargi Sharma, AD WE Dr Anuradha Saxena, ALLEN Sikar Centre head Sh. Surendra Saharan along with whole team of CHILDLINE SIKAR was present in the day long district level workshop.





सुरक्षित बचपन और सुरक्षित सीकर पर कार्यशाला आयोजित

सिकर में किए गए कार्यक्रम, बचपन और सुरक्षित सीकर पर आयोजित कार्यशाला का उद्देश्य बच्चों को सुरक्षित बचपन के बारे में जानकारी देना है। कार्यक्रम में बच्चों को सुरक्षित बचपन के बारे में जानकारी देना है। कार्यक्रम में बच्चों को सुरक्षित बचपन के बारे में जानकारी देना है।



रक्षित बचपन, सुरक्षित सीकर पर कार्यशाला

सिकर में आयोजित कार्यशाला का उद्देश्य बच्चों को सुरक्षित बचपन के बारे में जानकारी देना है। कार्यक्रम में बच्चों को सुरक्षित बचपन के बारे में जानकारी देना है।



कार्यशाला में बच्चों को सुरक्षित बचपन के बारे में जानकारी देना है। कार्यक्रम में बच्चों को सुरक्षित बचपन के बारे में जानकारी देना है।

Grass roots level outreach with children and concerned adults done by CHIDLIN SIKAR during the year :

Target Group	No. contacted	Number of programs
Railway station	2855	27
Bus stops	1425	19
Shelter children	195	04
Cinema halls	95	02
Parks	990	10
Religious places	20150	67
Schools	8955	44
Slums	1270	20
Others	7150	66

'Asha Ka Jharna' as a voluntary non-profit organization has been working for the cause of disability and child rights since 1998. Our Three special schools for children with intellectual disability (including cerebral palsy, Down syndrome, autism and other developmental disabilities) as well as those with hearing and speech impairment have been providing services in the semi-arid rural areas of north-western Rajasthan (INDIA). School based special education, therapeutic, vocational training, guidance and counseling services to more than 200 children with disabilities and their families are provided on a regular basis. Remedial teaching support to students enrolled in inclusive education setup is also provided. Open employment and livelihood options are sought for young adults with disabilities to ensure their rehabilitation into community. Training of educator trainees, capacity building in the field of rehabilitation and outreach services is also being undertaken. Sixty four trainee educators are currently undergoing Diplomas in special education (DEd Intellectual Disability) & (DEd Hearing Impairment) for academic session 2022-24 at our RCI recognized training institute.

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.

Sustainable Development Goals: Out of 17 Sustainable Development Goals defined by United Nations, work of the organization is aligned with Goal 4- Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all as well as Goal 10 - Reduce inequalities among country. Similarly, GOAL 3 - Good Health and Well-being & GOAL 17 -Partnerships to achieve the Goal are also addressed through intervention of our organization. Moreover, Disability as a cross cutting theme encompasses all SDG goals.

Services & Facilities

- ✓ *Survey & Identification*
- ✓ *Special Education*
 - *For Children with Intellectual Disability*
 - *For Children with Hearing Impairment*
- ✓ *Training College for Diplomas in Special Education DEd (ID) & DEd (HI)*
- ✓ *Physiotherapy*
- ✓ *Speech Therapy & Audiometric services*
- ✓ *Counseling & Guidance*
- ✓ *Training for Parents/ Siblings*
- ✓ *Training for Govt. School Teachers Under SSA Inclusive Education Stream*
- ✓ *Advocacy, Opinion Building among Govt. Bodies, Mass Media & General Population*
- ✓ *Awareness Among Local Community*
- ✓ *Community Rehabilitation*
- ✓ *Computer Assistive Learning*
- ✓ *Govt. Social Benefits Schemes facilitation services*
- ✓ *Inclusion in Regular Schools & Remedial Teaching*
- ✓ *Medical Checkup by Various Medical Professionals*
- ✓ *Networking, Capacity Building & Resource Sharing among Fellow NGOs*
- ✓ *Orientation Sessions for Regular School Teachers*
- ✓ *Providing Aids/ Appliances , BTE Hearing Aids Through Various Camps*
- ✓ *Referral Services*
- ✓ *Social Services to Local Community*
- ✓ *Emergency Outreach Services for Children in Need of Care & Protection through CHILDLINE 1098 (National Toll-Free Number)*
- ✓ *Child Rights & Child Protection*
- ✓ *Vocational Guidance, Training & Job Placement*

Ultimate aim of Asha Ka Jharna is to make their lives more meaningful and dignified by attaining their rightful place in the society.

OUR IMPACT & ACHIEVEMENTS SO FAR

- ***Regular ongoing special education, training and therapeutics services to around 200 special need children and their families every year since 1997. More than 5000 children with disabilities have been regularly served by us.***
- ***Accessibility and Inclusion made possible to more than 1000 beneficiaries through disability certificates, assistive devices, aids & appliances, polio corrective surgeries.***

- **Free distribution of high quality behind the ear hearing aids to 669 children across the surrounding region with support from Starkey Hearing Foundation.**
- **Community counselling services to more than 5000 persons.**
- **Massive school/college awareness programmes on disability in the Shekhawati area. 50000 school students and teachers covered.**
- **Formal Training courses in association with Indira Gandhi National Open University New Delhi delivered to 360 Govt teachers and 80 parents.**
- **'District Games for Disabled' Conducted at Sikar under the scheme of Ministry of Sports & Youth Affairs (232 Special Needs Athletes participated)**
- **'District Games for Disabled' Conducted at Jhunjhunu under the scheme of Deptt. of Social Justice, Govt of Raj (400 Special Athletes participated)**
- **'Regional Parents Meet' by NIMH & PARIVAAR organized at Jhunjhunu. (112 Parents from Rajasthan and Gujarat participated)**
- **'Regional Parents Meets' Facilitated by us completely at Jaipur , Ajmer , Udaipur & Sawai Madhopur as well as National Parents Meet & Self Advocates National Convention at Udaipur (More than 1000 Parents & 300 Self Advocates Across the country benefitted)**
- **Community sensitization events at different places (> 50000 targeted)**
- **Special needs children taken to Special Olympics, Abylampics, excursions, adventure expeditions, fairs etc. to various places all over India. Around 1000 children have explored Darjeeling, Dalhousie, Bhubaneshwar, Chandigarh, Amritsar, Delhi, Jaipur and many towns across the country.**
- **349 Nos. of special needs children passed School Board levels A, B and C (equivalent to class 8th) from National Institute of Open Schooling so far.**
- **More than one hundred young adults with hearing impairment have pursued higher education up to graduation studying in inclusive setup facilitated by us.**
- **More than one hundred youth with disabilities placed successfully in gainful employment through our handholding, mentoring and livelihood support.**
- **Our children have participated and won laurels in Special Olympics National Level Athletics & Volleyball Events. They have also shown skills in Abylampics.**

COORDINATES: Special School 1: Harlal Ka Kothi NAWALGARH - 333042 Phones 91-1594-223094 & 91-1594-222930 Special Teacher Training College: Ward No 2, NAWALGARH - 333042 Phone 91 1594 299235
 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): Bhagat Singh Colony Nawalgarh Road SIKAR - 332001 Phone. 91-1572-256537 Rajasthan (INDIA)

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

Visit us at: www.ashakajharna.org

FB Page : www.facebook.com/akirajasthan

Twitter Handle : @akjnlw

M 9414036896 (SUDEEP GOYAL, CHIEF FUNCTIONARY & SECRETARY)



ASHA KA JHARNA

Annual Activity Report (April 2021 to March 2022)

This annual activity report for the period April 2021 to March 2022 of **Asha Ka Jharna (AKJ)** special schools is aimed to depict, describe and list various activities undertaken with children, staff and community members during the preceding period. The report also illustrates the various events organized by the organization, visits of prominent personalities, awards, honors and accreditations received etc.

Compliances Achieved:

Asha Ka Jharna got registered with Ministry of Corporate Affairs to implement CSR projects in collaboration with eligible corporates under Section 135 of Companies Act 2020. We also got our Income Tax 12AB and 80G registrations revalidated for five years till March 2026. Our FCRA designated account at State Bank of India New Delhi Main Branch got approved and operational. FRCA renewal application was also filed by us and granted till March 2027 by MHA.

- ❖ Ministry of Social Justice streamlined and made accessible issuance of disability certificates on UDID portal PAN India thereby bypassing multiple visits to hospital and wait for doctors at camps. In Rajasthan alone, two Lacs UDID cards are yet to be issued as per latest dashboard. We took up this issue with media and secretary, social justice, Govt of Rajasthan. Block level camps are now being organized to clear the backlog.

- ❖ We successfully completed a certificate course after rigorous 4 months of training and learnings attained through covering following modules: NGO Formation, Governance & Legal Compliances; Program & Project Development & Management; Resource Mobilisation & Fund Raising ; CSR Law & NGO Partnership ; Writing Project Proposal ; Budgeting , Financial Management & Book Keeping ; Office Management , Documentation & Reporting ; Stakeholder Engagement, Digital Presence & Communication



- ❖ Our sustained advocacy yielded positive result. Order for priority COVID vaccination of persons with disabilities and through special camps got issued at Rajasthan. We had urged and continuously followed up with state government authorities (senior beaurocrates & state disability commissioner) for this legitimate right.



- ❖ Special Covid Vaccination Camp for Persons with Disabilities was organized at Asha Ka Jharna Special School Sikar in coordination with Health department. 146 persons were vaccinated first dose of Covishield thus providing them protection cover against the deadly virus. N 95 mask and Hand Sanitizer were provided to each of beneficiaries to reinforce practice of safe behaviour. Snacks and beverages were also arranged by us.



❖ **Another Successful Advocacy Drive By Us:**

Pic 1: Handrails installation at Interstate Bus Terminal Jaipur under Accessible India Campaign

Pic 2: Vandalism by Canteen contractor in connivance with authorities

We made a complaint to state disability commissioner and followed up rigorously. By continuously chasing the roadways authorities.

Pic 3: Reinstalled Handrails



- ❖ We delivered two virtual sessions on Govt schemes and concessions for persons with disabilities for ICPS functionaries at Jammu and Kashmir. In depth provisions of RPD Act and various central schemes were explained to participants.



- ❖ AKJ chief executive Sudeep Goyal attended Executive Committee meet of National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities (NIEPID) on 11th June. Agenda comprised many issues of organizational development, policy matters and strategic decisions on which productive and constructive brainstorming was done.
- ❖ Summer Buzz (Two weeks online workshop on Self – defense, musical instruments, theatre, martial arts and African mask making) organized by Shaurya Foundation Trust, New Delhi was attended by two of our educators. Learnings were shared with other team members to plan more creative classroom sessions with children. Similarly, five days Contemporary Dance & Craft Workshop organized by Aura Academy Jaipur was attended by our special educator and six of our children where they learnt craft activities and practiced movement.

- ❖ Thirty-Four Children orphaned during the Corona epidemic were assisted by us with financial support from DIFK Germany under Project SAMBAL. 15 families were provided ration material, school fees, financial assistance for daughters, sewing machine for livelihood and material for small business. In a brief event held on 5th July, Sikar District Collector Avichal Chaturvedi, Assistant Director, Social Empowerment Department Omprakash Rahad, AD Child Empowerment Priyanka Pareek, CHILDLINE Sikar Coordinator Rahul Danodia and AKJ Coordinator Tarun Dubey distributed aid checks, sewing machines and ration materials to the families. District Collector also instructed the department to link the eligible families with the social security schemes. Our team identified the orphan children, did pre and post field verifications and hand held the families throughout the intervention.



After distribution, we did two quarterly follow ups with the families assisted and were satisfied with the rehabilitation pace.

- ❖ District steering committee on accessible elections chaired by District Collector Jhunjhunu was attended by our chief functionary Sudeep Goyal as expert speaker on 14th July. He provided many insights and model best

practices to government officials to include all persons with disabilities into electoral process. He offered technical knowhow in making barrier free polling booths in the district. We also enrolled more than one hundred new eligible voters into the system as well as provided list of two hundred prospective voters with disabilities.

- ❖ Under CBM – PARIVAAR Livelihood project for persons with intellectual disabilities being steer headed by us, Validation and cross verification of baseline skill assessment forms from Nim Ka Thana block (Rajasthan) done by our senior special educator Mr Ashish Sharma. He interviewed PwIDDs and their families to build upon future course of action here under Livelihood Project. On 21st July, a brainstorming session by Muskan New Delhi was conducted to design multiple models of livelihood for the chosen self-advocates as per their choice, skill set, capacity & capability, opportunities available in the local demography. Further on 11th August, an exciting session on livelihood options for PwIDDs was attended by us where Mr Suresh Dhondge from PARIVAAR touched upon various dimensions of approaching local establishments for securing open employment, moral boost up & handholding, financial linkage, monitoring & impact, local self-help group connect, awareness creation and sensitizing PRIs, livelihood basket assessment, capacity of PwIDD as well as his family, potential of environment, community and Govt. It was a though provoking session aimed at out of box thinking while planning for PwID livelihood.
- ❖ On 24th and 31st July, Executive meetings of PARIVAAR NCPO were called to discuss its constitution amendment. In the capacity of draft committee core member, our chief functionary explained to members all proposed amendments and rational behind these.
- ❖ On 28th – 29th July, two days training sessions on Universal Design of Learning (UDL) were attended by four of our special educators. This CRE was conducted by National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities (NIEPID) where subject experts explained in details about three UDL principles **engagement** (Look for ways to motivate learners and sustain their interest), **representation** (Offer information in more than one format) **and action & expression** (Give learners more than

one way to interact with the material and to show what they know). Multiple means and ways to implement these principles through instructional methods and tools are used by educators in a classroom full of students with diverse needs so as to ensure that ALL students have an equal opportunity to learn. By facilitating the design and implementation of a flexible, responsive curriculum, UDL offers options for how information is presented, how students respond or demonstrate their knowledge and skills, and how students are engaged in learning. UDL framework helps teachers design learning experiences that accommodate the varying level of skills and abilities among students and reduce the need for special adaptations for students with disabilities. UDL implementation provides the opportunity for all students to access, participate in, and progress in the curriculum by reducing barriers to instruction.

Key learnings of this training were subsequently shared by all four of them to AKJ team mates in a formal debriefing session.

- ❖ As part of convergence with Govt schemes, we provided services of our team member to state government from 17th to 31st July to help beneficiaries fill applications for social security schemes. More than one hundred children including those with disabilities benefitted from this outreach service.
- ❖ On 03rd August, AKJ team volunteered during the identification and certification camp for persons with disabilities held at Panchayat Samiti, Nawalgarh organized by Medical & Health Department. Our special educators assisted in filling of application & registration forms of the Persons with Disabilities and provided guidance to them. More than 200 families were served in the camp.
- ❖ We are pleased to inform that our inclusive education program for higher classes kicked off at Nawalgarh as expected. Seven of our alumni (children with hearing impairment who cleared Grade VIII from AKJ during recent two years and were sitting idle at home) were admitted into regular stream school 'Rajasthan Public Senior Secondary School' Grade IX & X by us. Their classes are being conducted regularly since August both at AKJ and that school. At AKJ also, as subjects to be taught are of higher order, we have engaged two special educators in rotation (Hindi, English & Social Studies - One and Mathematics, Science & Sanskrit - Another). At regular

school, our educator assists regular teacher in inclusive class room translating curriculum transaction in sign language to our students. Both school children have embraced inclusiveness really well and started making friends. Another positive highlight is that out of seven students, six are girls.

Going further, we have also zeroed in one Government school at Sikar district where few children with disabilities are enrolled but not getting any inputs. We have offered our handholding to their principal and will soon take things forward by way of remedial inclusive teaching.



- ❖ We never miss to seize inclusive opportunity which alter the mindsets of community towards disability. Birthday celebration of Master Priyansh saw him and his family getting jelled with our children effortlessly and enjoying the party on 15th August following Independence Day festivities. Team Haritima gifted us potted indoor plants while we presented a beautiful craft piece created by our children.



- ❖ A webinar on challenges and way forward in effective implementation of Open Basic Education stream of National Institute of Open Schooling was attended by us on 17th August where we presented difficulties in learner enrolment due to less digital literacy and apathy of families. Erratic academic calendar and late results also demotivated the parents to opt for this otherwise good program for learners from disadvantaged strata including children with disabilities.



- ❖ Two days accessibility workshop with representatives from Disabled persons organizations and PWD Engineers, Architects & Town Planners across six districts of Rajasthan aiming barrier free enabling built environment was organized by Samarthyam under UNESCAP program on 31st August & 01 September where AKJ chief functionary Sudeep Goyal in the capacity of certified access auditor shared his experience in making 80 buildings at Jaipur accessible for persons with reduced abilities. He guided the participants in identification of barriers and ways to remove these in a mock drill.



❖ Some glimpses of inclusion through festival celebrations:



Ganesh Chaturthi with Alliance Club



दिव्यांग बच्चों को रक्षा सत्र बांधा, समाज की मुख्यधारा में जोड़ने का लिया तयारप
 संदेश : भारत का इतना विविध राष्ट्र है, यहाँ विभिन्न एवं सुंदर बच्चे हैं, इनके लिए समाज में एक विशेष कार्यक्रम आयोजित किया गया। इसी दिवस बच्चों को रक्षा सत्र बांधकर उन्हें समाज की मुख्यधारा में जोड़ने का संकल्प लिया गया।

Raksha Bandhan with Bramham Kumaris (Om Shanti)
 Janmashtami within local community

- ❖ Second COVID Vaccination Camp for Persons with Disabilities was organized by us at our Sikar school on 18th September where 97 persons were given Covishield shots. Hand sanitizer and N 95 masks were provided to all. During the first camp in June, 146 persons with disabilities were vaccinated.



- ❖ Project Deep Rashmi ! 51000 Designer Diyas (Deepawali Deepak) will be marketed this festival season with the facilitation of women and



child development department Jhunjhunu. Special Child Akshay and Adnan, Additional District Collector JP Gaur, SDM Shailesh Khairwa released designer lamps on 22nd September. Assistant Director, WE Viplav Neola, Sudeep Goyal, Coordinator Vinod Saini, Rajesh

Kumar and Public Relations Officer Himanshu Singh were present on this occasion. Sale proceeds will be utilized on education, training and welfare of children with disabilities at Asha Ka Jharna.



- ❖ Training and Learning Material Kits worth three lacs rupees were distributed free of cost to twenty of our children with intellectual disabilities from low-income families under ADIP scheme by NIEPID (Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Govt of India) on 23rd September. TLM kits help children with intellectual disabilities develop skills in the domains of self-help; pre academic concepts; basic socio communication; prevocational & vocational; functional reading; functional writing; functional arithmetic and multiple such learning areas. Use of TLMs would enable educators and parents to involve and engage children with intellectual disabilities effectively in classroom and home settings in meaningful manner. Different types of TLMs kits have been scientifically and systematically developed by experts after careful consideration of child age-appropriate individual needs and abilities. At a event held at AKJ Jhunjhunu, NIEPID northern regional center senior social worker Ms Shabari Ghosh trained & oriented parents and educators about use of different components in the kits. Deputy Director Women & Child Development and Assistant Director Social Justice & Empowerment graced the occasion and appreciated our efforts to organize this first camp at Rajasthan. We would also strive to get these kits accessible to other children and families in the state through our advocacy.



- ❖ We have also been using Snake & Ladder game developed by RMKM, Ajmer with community here to sensitize them about disability issues.



- ❖ On the occasion of World Tourism Day on 27th September, our Sikar school children visited Govt Museum. They were entertained by Puppeteers and Tour Guides. Additional District Collector Dhara Singh Meena appreciated our inclusive approach.



- ❖ On the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti, our children at Sikar school, did Shramdaan in the school premises and locality, spreading the message of cleanliness. Along with this, the sanitation workers were also felicitated by them reinforcing empathy and inclusion in community.



❖ District Level Games for Children with Disabilities were organized by Asha Ka Jharna on 7th October at Jhunjhunu. More than one hundred children with intellectual disabilities and hearing impairment from our Nawalgarh and Jhunjhunu schools enthusiastically participated in 15 sporting events including fifty & one-hundred-meter race, softball throw, shot put, standing jump, long jump etc. Chief guest of the program was Mr. Rajiv Kulhar of Social Justice & Empowerment Department Jhunjhunu who provided information about Government schemes. Wheel chairs were distributed to two persons with locomotor disability.



- ❖ Dance Movement Therapy workshop by dance movement practitioner Ms Nisha Purohit was initiated from 19th October. She visited regularly to our Sikar school and trained the children along with educators. Through video sessions, learnings were reinforced and practice done. There was marked improvement in body reflexes and hand eye coordination after this workshop.
- ❖ As part of convergence and outreach, we provided services of our special educator to district court as sign language interpreter.
- ❖ AKJ chief executive Sudeep Goyal attended Executive Committee meet of National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities (NIEPID) on 22nd October at Secunderabad (Telangana). We visited the premier institute facilities and learnt about best rehabilitation practices being followed. Meeting with Joint Secretary (Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities), Director and other functionaries was very productive with many issues of organizational development, policy matters and strategic decisions discussed and constructive brainstorming done. Teaching and Learning Material Kits were distributed to persons with intellectual disabilities.



- ❖ Eight of our Children with hearing impairment took mid term examinations along with their regular counterparts at a mainstream senior secondary school as part of our Inclusive /remedial teaching program. All of them are pursuing Grades IX and X and have been progressing well. **It was heartening to know that few of them scored more marks than their non disabled friends.**



❖ Activities in pictures:





- ❖ As part of sensitization of allied stakeholders, we oriented 40 nursing trainees from MTCC Jhunjhunu about disability – early detection and intervention. On 13th November, they spent half day with our educators in the school and learnt the nuances. Most of them were only aware about physical disability and did not know about other forms of impairment one may have.
- ❖ Special Olympics Rajasthan State Selection Camp was organized at Jaipur on 14th November in which two athletes with intellectual disabilities from our Sikar school participated and assessed for Basketball and Volleyball National Games.



- ❖ On Children Day 14th November, Children Fair at Vatsalya Seva Samiti Raiwasa was attended by our children of Asha Ka Jharna special school Sikar who enjoyed a lot having field day. A variety of swings, clowns, puppet dance and snacks counter followed by a delicious lunch was served to them along with colourful cultural performances.
- ❖ Media as opinion maker is a crucial stakeholder and we always use this platform to raise issues concerning our sector. On 18th November, during a select invited gathering of prominent citizen, we highlighted the lack of livelihood options, non-conformity of inclusion in Govt schools and poor state of accessibility for persons with disabilities before Sh. Gulab Kothari, managing editor of Rajasthan Patrika (prominent regional daily). He assured to take up coverage of these vital issues.
- ❖ A webinar on less touched subject 'Sexuality & Special Needs: Let's Talk' organized by NIEPID was attended by our educators and interactions made.
- ❖ As capacity building of other special schools, our chief functionary took opening session on a CRE program titled 'Effective Classroom Communication' organized by Tapovan Institute Ganganagar. More than one hundred special educators across the country participated in this webinar.

AKJ Flagship Inclusion Event :

- ❖ On the occasion of International Day for Persons with Disabilities, Asha Ka Jharna in partnership with The Hans Foundation celebrated Inclusive Children Festival on 3rd December 2021 at S K School Ground Sikar (Rajasthan). We invited 250 children from 16 normal (government & private schools) as well as shelter homes for orphan children and one school exclusively for slum children. They along with 150 of our special needs children from three units participated in day long events. Day started with District Collector Sh. Avichal Chaturvedi and Deputy Director of Social Justice Empowerment Sh.O. P. Rahad along with special children letting balloons off to sky. Play cards

depicting equal rights, equal opportunity, making all building barrier free under Accessible India Campaign were flashed. Following this, more than 16 sporting competitions were organized including fifty & one hundred meters race, sack race, spoon race, jalebi jump, musical chair race, three legged race, long jump, painting in which children participated enthusiastically. In all sports, both disabled and non-disabled children were there attempting inclusion. Special children also proved their talent by winning many prizes. Highlight of the day was the catwalk on the ramp and cultural tableaux of different states of India which stole the show. Children also enjoyed many amusement activities including puppet dance, bouncy swing, balloon bursting. Juice biscuits and chocolates were distributed by Digambar Jain Social Group. In the price distribution ceremony, Assistant Director Child Empowerment Ms. Priyanka Paree, Child Welfare Committee President Dr Madhu Arya, Member Ms. Reena Trihan , Vaish Samaj Trustee Sh. Suresh Aggarwal , Former CWC member Sh. Kamal Kant



Sharma, Counselor Ms. Pramila Singh encouraged the children by handing over prizes and pledging to support equal rights of persons with disabilities. Trainee students of Shekhawati Special Education Training College volunteered in the event and Nursing students of Shekhawati Nursing Institute provided medical services with First Aid Box. All the children were provided with participation award and certificate. Day ended with sweet memories and fostering of new friendship with children vowing to take along their special buddy to the path of development. Feedback we received from non-disabled children validated our intended objectives of inclusion , sensitization of young citizens & showcasing talent of children with disabilities.





विश्व विकलांग दिवस पर उसके स्कूल के खेल मैदान पर हुआ आयोजन, रैंप पर कैंटवॉक किया सामान्य को पछाड़ कर विशेष बच्चों ने जीते मेडल, बोरी दौड़ में पहले, दूसरे और तीसरे स्थान पर दिव्यांग खिलाड़ियों का कब्जा

अक्षय खन्ना/दिल्ली

आशा का ज्ञान और न हम परदेसन नई दिल्ली की ओर से विश्व विकलांग दिवस पर शुक्रवार को अपने स्कूल के खेल मैदान पर विशेष व सामान्य बच्चों के बीच समवेतित बहाल उत्सव का आयोजन किया गया। इसमें 16 से अधिक प्रतियोगिताएँ हुईं।

आशा का ज्ञान के निदेशक सुरेश खन्ना ने बताया कि लड़कों की हुई बोरी दौड़ में सामान्य बच्चों को पहले जगह पर पाने, दूसरे और तीसरे नंबर पर दिव्यांग बच्चों को मिलने, सहित व जयपट्ट मिलने से। उत्सव का उद्घाटन अक्षय खन्ना ने खुद ही व समवेतित जगह अतिथिगत विभाग के उपनिदेशक अक्षय खन्ना तथा विशेष बहाल लक्ष्य, लक्ष्य, सहित, तैयार व उठाया। सुबह उद्घाटन किया गया। कार्यक्रम में आशा का ज्ञान विशेष स्कूल सौरा, व नवलपड, वर्धमान विश्व विश्व, आदर्श विश्वी स्कूल, कन्नड पदार्थाल अज्ञान वेड, जन भगवै पत्रिका सैकेंडरी स्कूल, एडुर्शन सर्वोच्च एकेडमी, जैन वैश्वी स्कूल, बालसत्य धर्म, पामार्थ सेवा समिति,



विश्व विकलांग दिवस पर दौड़ में भाग लेते विशेष और सामान्य बच्चे।

एकके स्कूल, श्री काशी निष्ठान, कस्तूरबा सेवा संस्थान, मरु गहरी स्कूल, दशमथ मनोविक्रम संस्थान तथा अन्य विभिन्न विभागों के बच्चों शामिल हुए। विजेताओं को बहाल अतिथिगत विभाग की सहायक निदेशक प्रियंका शर्मा, बालकल्याण समिति अध्यक्ष डॉ. मधु शर्मा, सत्यम रीना निष्ठान, कैथ्य समाज टास्टी सुदेशा आश्रित, कमल शर्मा, कार्यकारी प्रमुख सिंह ने पुरस्कार दिए। अक्षय का ज्ञान विशेष जैन संस्थान रूप की ओर से की गई।

ओलिंपिक में जाएंगे विजेता

आशा का ज्ञान के निदेशक सुरेश खन्ना के अनुसार प्रतियोगिता में मिलने से विशेष बच्चों को स्थिति ओलिंपिक में भिन्नता जाएगा। इधर, प्रतियोगिता के दौरान मानसिक विमर्श बच्चों ने रैंप पर कैंटवॉक किया। इसके अलावा बच्चों ने भारत के विभिन्न प्रदेशों की सांस्कृतिक इंसों निदेशकता दर्शकों को मंत्रमुग्ध कर दिया। कवचुमती नृत्य, बॉटली ड्रम व गुब्बारा फेड़ने में भी बच्चों ने उत्कृष्ट निशाने लगाए।

प्रतियोगिता में इन्होंने पाया पहला स्थान

लड़कियों की बोरी दौड़ में श्री काशी निष्ठान स्कूल की अज्ञा प्रथम रही, जबकि लड़कों में आशा का ज्ञान सौरा का इमान पहले नंबर पर रहा। एडुर्शन वेध में आशा का ज्ञान नवलपड का इमान, सर्वोच्च नंबर में पराजय का रॉचन, जलेशी दौड़ में आदर्श विश्वी पन्त की लक्ष्य, वेध में आशा का ज्ञान को मारिया, लक्ष्य जग में कस्तूरबा संस्थान का संदीप, लड़कियों की 50 मीटर दौड़ में आदर्श विश्वी सौरा की शिखरी सेनी, लड़कियों में बालसत्य सेवा समिति का सुंदर, जबकि लड़कों की 100 मीटर दौड़ में बालसत्य धर्म सेवा का लक्षण, लड़कियों में आदर्श विश्वी की शंका सोलंकी, इधर, लड़कियों की लैन टॉप दौड़ में बालसत्य वेध की शशीष व आशा का ज्ञान नवलपड की सारिया पहले नंबर पर रही, जबकि लड़कों में एडुर्शन स्कूल का सैक अली व चम्मच दौड़ में जन भरवै के देवेश ने पहले नंबर पर कब्जा जमाया।

- ❖ State consultation to make Rajasthan Disability Inclusive was held by Department of Social Justice & Empowerment, Govt of Rajasthan at Jaipur on 3rd December to commemorate International Day for Persons with Disabilities. We were among top five NGOs only invited by department to share views and present suggestions. We submitted following memorandum:

On the occasion of International Day for Persons with Disabilities, we heartily welcome your initiative to brainstorm among stakeholders to

make our state disability inclusive. We have shared our presentation during state consultation separately and are willing to hand hold the state offering following solutions to issues raised:

- a) To address lack of credible actionable disability Data in State, we suggest Government to develop a Mobile App on the lines of MP linkage of which can be provided by us.*
- b) Universal accessibility of built environment, transport & ICT is to be ensured by June 2022 as per RPwD Act timeline. We in the capacity of certified access auditor can support in this. SIPDA Funds may be explored for retrofitting*
- c) There is no standardized curriculum and assessment tools for children with intellectual disabilities at State/NGO run schools. Performance indicators may be developed in our state like being done in Maharashtra under Project Disha. We are ready to become a knowledge partner and rolling out same here in collaboration with Jai Vakeel School Mumbai. (A brief concept note is enclosed herewith)*
- d) To tackle low UDID coverage, mission mode approach may be adopted taking front line professionals like RCI Training Centers Trainees / ASHA / AW / ANM on board. NGO like ours may be given access to UDID dashboard in each district to track the progress in coordination with DLOs.*
- e) Convergence with Schemes of Other Bodies may be sought. We may explore the funding of insurance premium under National Trust Niramaya scheme for persons with intellectual & developmental disabilities.*
- f) Establishment of Composite Rehabilitation Centre at Jaipur as one stop solution for assessment, distribution of aids & appliances, therapeutic intervention and rehabilitation of persons with disabilities must be expedited by the state as funding for this would be provided by Central Ministry. We may push the cause to higher authorities.*

❖ Sixteen of our children with intellectual & hearing disabilities performed before audience assembled to witness 4th foundation day of AURA. At auditorium of science park at Jaipur on 7th December. our children presented a collage of diverse and rich cultural legacy of our country. Dressed in traditional attire of Assam, Gujarat, Punjab and Rajasthan, they displayed skills in folk dance with brilliant footwork, expressions and body movement.



Case Study:

The Case study is based on the observation from the Dance Movement Therapy Workshop conducted during the months of October & November 2021 through a series of weekly onsite visits by professional trainer & dance movement practitioner Ms Nisha Purohit of AURA Foundation Jaipur at Asha Ka Jharna Special School Sikar. She imparted the training to both children with disabilities as well as educators.

Dance Movement Therapy is based on systematic application of movement, music and dance principles combining movement- oriented sequence of dance patterns and free flowing techniques allowing every child with disability to understand his/her body better and work on the body muscles that require strengthening. It improves attention and concentration of learners and gives them the liberty to be expressive of their emotions using movements. It also helps in enhancing social interactions, develops vocabulary skills using the imitation of the repetitive movements. Group bonding, improved body image, stimulation of verbal communication skills and strengthening of fine motor skills are other takeaways.

This was an event-based workshop in which we could observe the basic changes in the children from start to the end. This report is not based on any medical supervision. It is based on emotional content, rhythm, form and space relations.

Initially, the children were finding difficulties to form a tempo at times rhythm but the most important thing which was observed was the emotional connection with the therapist wherein the emotional response helped us to improvise the difficulties they were facing in developing the tempo, hold and seek comfort zone in the given space.

Slowly and gradually with challenges of hearing the beats they did very well, followed the hand movements and after a certain period of time the body knew when to move which means they start memorizing it. Simultaneously the body and mind were getting aligned.

Finally on 7th December, before the august gathering at Science Park Auditorium, Jaipur sixteen of AKJ children performed a medley of different Indian cultural legacy by enacting fusion dance of five states dressed in traditional attire. Audience applauded and appreciated that performance. This study shows that if this would be continued it would help them on the wholistic personality development. It was a great experience with these wonderful kids, I thank the whole team and Sudeep sir for your patience, believe and cooperation. Looking forward to have such wonderful experience again.

Thanking you,
Nisha Purohit,

Founder: Aura Foundation.



- ❖ As per our planned objectives, we have been redesigning and redeveloping student curriculum based upon ICF and SRV framework. Intensive brainstorming and conceptual study with Ms Arpita Yadav,

Lead Content Developer followed by validation of draft resource material by our educators is underway.

- ❖ Celebrations are more special when you include those having lesser opportunities. New year 2022 was welcomed by an inclusive activity between AKJ students and those from a premier public school. On the same day, birthday of the prominent industrialist Sh. Gautam Murarka was celebrated among our children.



- ❖ **Prabodhan** - A series of excellent learning modules on organizational capacity building, legal & statutory compliance was attended by us. Through the journey of nine weeks starting 6th January, resource persons guided the participants to a path of greater accountability and record keeping meeting the requirements in letter and spirit of the prevailing statutes including Income Tax, FCRA, CSR, Labour Codes, NGO Darpan etc. We were found fully compliant on most of the parameters.
- ❖ On 8th January, school uniform, woolen sweaters and shoes were distributed to sixty of our Sikar students.



- ❖ We always raise heightened voice against rights violation of children with disabilities. To protest against sexual assault on a young girl with hearing impaired at Alwar and apathy of administration, our children and team took a silent procession at Sikar on 13th January.



- ❖ Equally important is sustained advocacy concerning our sectoral issues. To highlight the scarcity of sign language interpreter in our state, we persuaded media to carry the story.



- ❖ Uplifting people with intellectual and developmental disability in a dignified way involves creating a respected profession for those that

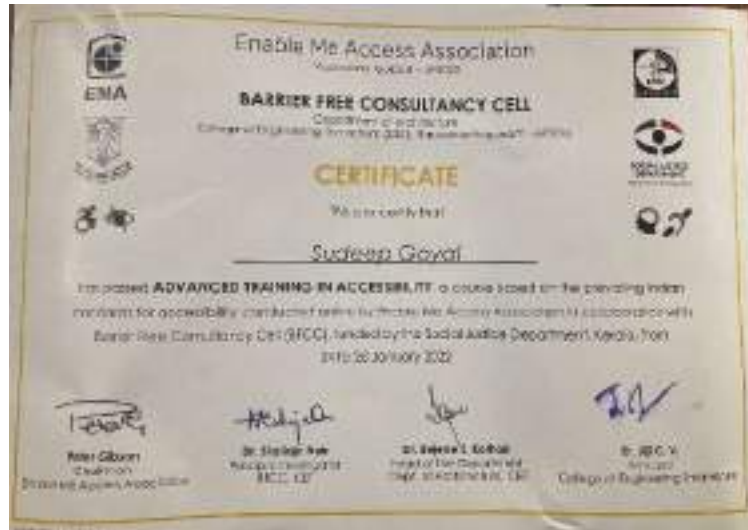
walk beside such people as support workers. Inaugural Trainer Certification Course for "Foundations of Direct Support" conceived by Keystone India Institute was attended by our senior technical adviser Ms Monalisa Mehta. Through the rigorous on-line modules from 20 to 22th January and onsite training on 3rd & 4th March held at Delhi, she graduated to be a master trainer and would further train educators & parents here.



❖ Special COVID Vaccination camps for our children at AKJ falling under both age bands 15 plus and 12 plus in phased manner were organized in collaboration with medical department at Nawalgarh & Sikar schools. Seventy-five children got vaccinated during these drives. Now 100 % of our team members and eligible children (>12) are immunized against the deadly virus.



❖ Five days 'Advanced training in accessibility' from 24th to 28th January organized by 'Enable Me Access Association Vadodara' & 'College of Engineering, Trivandrum' was attended by our chief functionary in which various provisions of National Building Code and Harmonized Guidelines were elaborated in context of assessment, planning & evaluating accessibility features for persons with reduced abilities.



❖ On 26th January 2022, we were felicitated by cabinet minister Government of Rajasthan at district level Republic Day function acknowledging our services to children with disabilities and child protection activities.



- ❖ On 4th March, our Nawalgarh school children were taken to a local fair as part of our community engagement policy. They interacted with other visitors and enjoyed themselves a lot.



- ❖ We also did advocacy at different Government and multi-lateral funded projects to ensure equal participation and addressing accessibility needs of persons with disabilities in urban development spheres. Government of Rajasthan announced setting up open gyms & community halls at all local bodies. We urged the department to include universal design elements in these structures. Similarly, we approached Asian Development Bank (which has been funding urban landscaping & development works at Nawalgarh) requesting to include accessibility features in all projects to which they confirmed in affirmation.

- ❖ As part of capacity building of NPOs, we conducted a learning webinar on 5th March in which our chief functionary deliberated upon compliance & sustainability measures to be taken in light of amended FCRA Act, Income Tax Act, CSR Rules and other statutes. More than fifty participants across the country attended this event.

- ❖ Our self-advocate Rashmi Sharma, a young girl with intellectual disability presented herself confidently before a nationwide gathering of 200 plus delegates at '**National Conference on Self Advocacy**' organized by National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Multiple Disabilities Chennai. She along with her mentor Suman Tailor participated in many sessions during three days event from 10th to 12th March.



❖ Inclusion is the way of life. On 16th March, AKJ children celebrated Holi – Festival of Colors along with their counterparts from a premier public school.



❖

❖ It's heartening when young generation prefers to celebrate their birthday with those children not so privileged. Our Jhunjhunu school children were happy to welcome concerned citizens to celebrate their joys. We thank our goodwill ambassador Sh. Viplav Neola, Deputy Director, Women Rights Jhunjhunu for showing this gesture of solidarity with our cause.



❖ 28 of our children took term end examinations under NIOS stream for three levels (Grade 3rd, 5th and 8th). All of them cleared their grades and are promoted to next class.



CHILDLINE 1098 SIKAR ACTIVITIES AT A GLANCE

- ❖ During the reported period our CHILDLINE SIKAR did multiple activities both direct intervention and training of stakeholders as well as community sensitization and outreach. Due to COVID 19 second wave lockdown, outdoor activities and physical engagement with community could not take place during initial weeks as planned. From July 2021 onwards, we did following activities:
 - Awareness in Govt. Departments
 - Targeted awareness during COVID Vaccination Camps
 - Awareness through participation in Gram Sabhas
 - Celebrating Anti-Child Labour Day
 - Stickers Pasting on Buses, Autos & Bikes
 - CHILDLINE Stickers Pasting in various residential and commercial apartments
 - Our team member attended two days capacity building workshop on challenges of greater cyber exposure and digital abuse of children. This important training was organised by UNICEF Jaipur.
 - On 10th November, child beggar/labour free Sikar campaign by launched by district administration and CHILDLINE Sikar. We initiated signature drive and got local traders to pledge not engaging child labours in their enterprises. On 18th November, we in collaboration with directorate child rights Sikar organized a district level workshop on child protection with all stakeholders. We presented district statistics, action plan and vision before National Commission on Protection of Child Rights convened high level meeting. Our team rescued twenty four children begging on the streets of prominent religious place Sh. Khatu Shyam Ji during December itself. We also conducted a special drive there in sensitizing local community, police personnel's and others not to encourage child begging and labour.

Impact by CHILDLINE SIKAR:

- Regularity in DCPU, SJPU and District Labour Task Force Meetings has been ensured by our sustained efforts and pursuance.
- Close Networking with Police has been instrumental in rescuing child beggars and labours more efficiently and effectively.
- Our team has been deposing in various courts across Sikar district in cases against employers engaging child labours

- During one of DCPU meeting, we had offered our services to schools during No Bag Day (Saturday of every week). Circular got issued from DEO in this regard. Now our team has been sensitizing students and teachers by regularly visiting schools across the district.
- 1098 visibility has been enhanced significantly by getting it printed on OPD slips of all government hospitals including CHC/PHC of Sikar district. Thousands of patients and their attendants now come across CHILDLINE message every day.
- Post COVID train services restoration, we again connected with railway authorities at different stations Sikar Junction; Ringas Junction and Neem Ka Thana of Sikar district to make them watch for possible child trafficking and runaway/unattended children on trains and station followed by intimation to CHILD LINE 1098 SIKAR for rescue and restoration. We also placed anti child trafficking flexes at different railway stations of Sikar district to make passengers aware and raise the alarm if anyone comes across abandoned, missing or unattended child or group of children in trains and platforms.
- We took an initiative in outreach named 'Touch The Border' through which our team members were supposed to visit last mile of Sikar district border and do intensive outreach activity there to enhance 1098 visibility and spread awareness. From 21st to 28th September 2021, our team conducted multiple outreach events at twelve locations across Sikar district bordering Jhunjhunu, Churu and Jaipur districts.



CHILDLINE SIKAR ACHIEVEMENTS :

From inception since July 2015 till March 2022, we have served 2913 children & their families in need of care and protection vide a whole range of intervention services:

Child Labour Rescued	393
Medical Assistance Provided	208
Linked to Sponsorship/Palanhar Scheme	187
Protection from Physical / Sexual / Mental Abuse	448
Children Provided Shelter	108
Begging Street Children Rescued	392
Missing / Abandoned Children	203
Stopped Child Marriages	120
Emotional Support & Guidance	59
Linked to Govt Schemes & Counselling / Information	738
Non Classified Assistance Provided	57

❖ **During this period 11065 calls were received on our Helpline No 1098**







❖ During the reported period, on line webinars and learning cohorts were regularly attended by us actively. Few of these included:

- ✓ Role of Civil Society in COVID Preparedness By Niti Aayog on 8th April 2021
- ✓ Webinar on 12AB / 80G & CSR 1 By FMSF on 8th April
- ✓ National Conference on Disability Inclusive Disaster Management on 20th April
- ✓ Monitoring & Evaluation Symposium By HCL on 20th April
- ✓ Webinar on Partnership By GOODERA on 22th April
- ✓ Vaccination Drive Webinar By Niti Aayog on 26th April
- ✓ Impact of Key Regulatory Amendments By KPMG on 28th April
- ✓ Boosting Transparency & Accountability By Ashoka University on 28th April
- ✓ Getting CSR Funds & Donor Ready By CSR Hub on 4th May
- ✓ Workshop on Communication Tools By Impact Yog on 8th May
- ✓ Rights of Child By Manovikas on 8th May
- ✓ Inclusive Education in the light of NEP on 16th June
- ✓ Organizing Virtual Classrooms By NIEPID on 17th June
- ✓ Intervention by families with children in lockdown on 30th June
- ✓ Regional Consultation on COVID 3rd Wave preparedness and way forward By CHILDLINE India Foundation on 3rd July 2021
- ✓ IEP Development Tools By Manovikas on 3rd July
- ✓ Integration of Sustainable Development Goals in Gram Panchayat Development Plan By NIRD on 22nd & 23rd July
- ✓ Dance Movement Therapy By AURA Foundation on 17th July
- ✓ Speech Development in children with down syndrome By Manovikas on 17th July
- ✓ UDID Card – Procedure and way forward By Shaurya Foundation on 17th July
- ✓ How to write success story By Impact Yog on 27th July
- ✓ National convention on digital best practices By National Trust on 07th August
- ✓ Working wonders with PDF By NASSCOM on 26th August
- ✓ Inclusive Education By Anugraham on 29th August
- ✓ Webinar on Sexuality & Developmental Disabilities on 19th September
- ✓ CSR Landscape -Opportunities & Challenges By BoschVYK on 27th – 28th September

- ✓ National Trust Annual General Meeting on 28th September
- ✓ Revival of Special Olympics Rajasthan on 29th September 2021
- ✓ AKJ Long Term Strategic Roadmap & Social Media Engagement policy documents discussed and finalized (drafted by Pro Bono volunteers of Toolbox India Foundation) on 1st October 2021
- ✓ PARIVAAR EGM on 2nd October
- ✓ Impact Assessment for CSR By BOSCH-VYK on 4th & 5th October
- ✓ Intervention for Street Children By UNICEF on 5th October
- ✓ Panel discussion on Inclusive education E- learning curriculum delivery by Anugraham
- ✓ Activating Special Olympics Bharat Rajasthan Chapter on 23rd November
- ✓ Global standard for CSO accountability Webinar By VANI on 24th November
- ✓ CBM – PARIVAAR Livelihood Project Review Meeting on 26th November
- ✓ Disability inclusive Self Help Group Training by CBM – PARIVAAR on 12th January
- ✓ PARIVAAR EC Meet on 15th January
- ✓ VYK – Aditi College Leadership Training Webinar on 15th January
- ✓ Special Olympics Bharat Rajasthan Chapter Strategy Meet on 23rd January
- ✓ CBM – PARIVAAR Livelihood Project Review Meeting on 16th February 2022

'Asha Ka Jharna' as a voluntary non-profit organization has been working for the cause of disability and child rights **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 and surrounding villages in the semi-arid rural areas of north-western Rajasthan (INDIA). School based special education, therapeutic, vocational training, guidance and counseling services to more than 200 children with disabilities and their families are provided on a regular basis. Remedial teaching support to students enrolled in inclusive education setup is also provided. Open employment and livelihood options are sought for young adults with disabilities to ensure their rehabilitation into community. Training, capacity building in the field of rehabilitation and outreach services is also being undertaken.

AKJ is also a collaborative partner managing CHILDLINE (1098) - Nationwide Toll Free Helpline for children in distress providing round the clock emergency outreach services at our Sikar center.

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) : Bhagat Singh Colony Nawalgarh Road SIKAR - 332001 Phone. 91-1572-256537 Rajasthan (INDIA)

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

Visit us at: www.ashakajharna.org

FB Page : www.facebook.com/akjrajasthan **Twitter Handle :** @akjnw1

M 9414036896 (SUDEEP GOYAL, CHIEF FUNCTIONARY & SECRETARY)

ASHA KA JHARNA

Annual Activity Report (April 2020 to March 2021)

This annual activity report for the period April 2020 to March 2021 of **Asha Ka Jharna (AKJ)** special schools is aimed to depict, describe and list various activities undertaken with children, staff and community members during the preceding period. The report also illustrates the various events organized by the organization, visits of prominent personalities, awards, honors and accreditations received etc.

- ❖ COVID 19 caught all of us unprepared and magnitude of this kind of unprecedented pandemic threw up enormous challenge which is multifold given the nature of prevailing situation. To carry on relief measures coupled with physical distancing norms, we followed Government directives. As our project locations Jhunjhunu & Sikar at Rajasthan (India) fall into high risk zones with many cases of Corona patients' present and fairly high chances of community spread, administration imposed total curfew in our operational areas. Under this constraint and Near Zero Mobility, we executed following relief activities:
 1. We contacted every single family of our special children and counseled them about this disease and prevention steps. We also enquired of their needs. More than 30 families were linked to Government support & schemes. We followed up with authorities to ensure that all of them received Dry Ration Packs.
 2. In association with another like - minded benefactors and supporters, Asha Ka Jharna provided 250 dry ration kits worth one hundred and fifty thousand rupees to most needy families. One ration kit was sufficient for one week food supply to one family. We also distributed 52 kits to needy families of intellectually disabled children across three districts of Rajasthan.

3. We distributed more than 3000 face masks to persons manning front operations like Police personals, Health workers including ambulance teams, sanitation workers in municipal areas and CHILDLINE team.
4. 10 Ltrs of sanitizer solution was also distributed to cleaners manning garbage pickup vans.
5. We also provided our manpower support to organize cooked food distribution.
6. Govt of India had issued the advisory for creating Single Point contact for persons with disabilities. We continuously followed up with Rajasthan state govt. and requested principal secretary, social justice department to activate the mechanism in our state. With our efforts, state and district level nodal officers were appointed to provide all COVID related support including food, medical, shelter, counseling etc. to PWDs in Rajasthan.
7. We distributed Ayurvedic immunity booster 'Kadha' recommended by Ministry of Ayush to 500 families.
8. Our CHILDLINE 1098 Team at Sikar remained fully operational and active during these trying times responding to calls for children in need of care and protection. They managed to reunite missing children to their parents; provided milk, food and dry ration to desperate families and counseling support.

AKJ Alternate Strategy for Education Delivery during COVID

Special Measures to continue education of children were taken by us during COVID 19 Lockdown. Schools were forced to shut down vide Govt. Orders in Rajasthan from 15th March 2020 onwards but we ensured that education must not be compromised. We took a mix of remedial measures to enable children and families access our services.

1. Digital E-Learning (From March till September):

Our educators had initiated E-learning for their special needs children confined to homes. With the help of parents and siblings, they had been contacting children through video / voice calls and training them. Instructions were given to hearing impaired children through sign language and intellectual disabled children through work sheets and demonstrations. Regular home work was given. Our physio therapists also guided parents to do simple exercises with their children. Recreational activities like art & craft, dance & drama movement, Yoga, assisting in household jobs, gardening, flowering plants and so on were also practiced by children under the advice of our educators. Parents were much relieved accessing this crucial hand holding support by AKJ.

a. As decided by AKJ management during March third week, our senior technical advisor took school wise conference calls with all educators and oriented them about continuing training of children confined to homes with the help of family members. Few logistics like recharge on team member mobiles and basic procedure to conduct video calls were taken care of by us.

b. All educators recollected and noted down present goals being taught to their respective class children. They also called the parents to schedule convenient time slots for connecting the homes as few of them were busy in farms harvesting their produce.

c. Every day, one educator connected with three to five children through video calls or voice calls (if families or our staff did not possess smart phone or network issues). S/he takes parents and siblings on board by persuading them to accompany the child. For children with hearing impairment, curriculum or lessons in different subjects were taught through sign language with the help of text books available at homes. Home work and practice exercises were given with families asked to monitor their wards. For children with intellectual disability; verbal & physical prompting, adaptive daily living, recognition of body parts, colours, household objects, prewriting & writing through work sheets, cognitive & social skill enhancement, story- telling and picking the concept, behavior modification etc. were taught.

Apart from academics, recreational and leisure activities were also done with children. Some indoor games aimed at fun, entertainment and learning were suggested to families. Skills such as drawing and painting, gardening, singing, dancing, playing instrument, support in household chores were encouraged during lockdown. We announced a sort of competition in which parent sent one minute video depicting such activity.

d. Our educators also designed and prepared question papers for home examinations. Children were told to be prepared for their annual exams. Revision and doubt clearing sessions were conducted online. Parents were given tasks to periodically make and check the study time table. Yearly assessment was done both online and by calling individual child to school post which s/he was promoted to next grade.

e. Educators had also been told to upgrade their skills at home through digital means. They got online ideas about how to make creative teaching and learning material for classrooms. New pedagogy and innovative methods of special education, use of visual & expressive arts in teaching, effective storytelling, engaging families, setting child centric goals etc. are few of suggestive topics on which we have asked them to explore.

Monitoring: We constantly monitored and recorded the home-based study program by all educators. Every week, three or more group conference calls with

all staff lasting more than two hours each were conducted apart from individual mentoring support. Besides, they wrote the daily lesson planning and tasks done with children in their notebooks which was reviewed regularly by us. These would be appended to regular class files once schools reopen. Thus continuity was maintained.

Impact:

- We saw in one video that one child with intellectual disability; when told by his father that there was a call from his school teacher; immediately went inside and came out after wearing school uniform without being told so.
- A girl was seen confidently climbing up the stairs with the verbal prompting of her grandmother on field and our team member on phone.
- Children seen assisting their families in kitchen, sweeping & mopping, cleaning clothes, watering plants, eating their food without any help and so on after our counseling and intervention with them.

2. Small Group Teaching at School (From June Onwards):

When the Unlocked was declared and employees were permitted to attend their organizations by Govt, we changed our strategy and offered the parents to come to school along with their child on individual basis. Our educators had been imparting education to a focused small group (of three children max) for a duration of two hours at school premises itself. Most of the parents dropped and picked up the child themselves while we also arranged for skeleton transport services keeping social distancing and Govt. directives in mind.

3. Small Group Teaching at Home (Cluster Approach) (From June Onwards):

Similar to above, we also innovated a cluster approach in community. Three children residing in same locality assembled at the home of one of the child where our educator visited them for two hours of small group teaching as per IETP. This methodology was used for children from very poor families. Transportation cost of our educators was borne by AKJ only.

4. One on One Teaching at Home (From June Onwards) :

This facility of one to one teaching at home was offered to those parents who were somewhat willing to pay our educator transportation cost. She took personal sessions for one and a half hours daily with the chosen child as per IETP and planning.

- ❖ During July, ten of our team members were trained in online ISL (beginner & intermediate level) certificate course spread over three weeks conducted by V-Shesh. All of them cleared the end term assessment with flying grades and competency. They are now better skilled to interact with children with hearing impairment and those with communication issues.
- ❖ As part of our convergence with other stakeholders, an immunization camp was organized by health department on 13th July at AKJ Nawalgarh where children living in near vicinity from zero to ten years were vaccinated against many life threatening but preventable diseases.
- ❖ During lockdown also, we had been assisting children through different means. New corrective aids for limbs got measured and delivered to two of our intellectual disabled children with locomotor issues. Now their mobility is much improved.
- ❖ A review meet with Ms Shabina Bano , Program Manager, THF was held on 15th July in which a stock taking of ongoing activities was undertaken through virtual media. All team members shared their workings and strategies to engage the children in meaningful way during these times. Challenges faced were also discussed along with probable solutions.
- ❖ CHILDLINE SIKAR managed by Asha Ka Jharna celebrated its fifth foundation day on 15th July. We have covered an eventful journey so far with more than 2000 children in need of care and protection supported by us. Learning & sharing workshop was organized with child welfare officers of three police stations and GRP; assistant director child empowerment; CWC member and media in attendance. Various issues in child protection

were briefed upon and solutions envisaged. We urged each component of ICPS to join the dots. Cake was cut by a child (reason for our existence) and a 1098 sticker for pasting on public vehicle was released. We also met District Collector Sikar Mr Avichal Chaturvedi who had taken the charge only last week. We apprised him of our activities which he appreciated a lot. We also narrated few challenges in child protection to which he assured to look into. We requested to call District Child Protection Unit meeting overdue for seven months now due to COVID-19. Our first interaction was highly positive.

- ❖ On 8th August, an exciting webinar on New Education Policy was attended and inputs provided by us. It was indeed a wonderful opportunity to listen from horses' mouth. Sector stalwart's Dr Anupam Ahuja, Aloka Guha, Bhushan Punani, Arman Ali along with Akhil Paul threw light in lucid manner on nitty gritty of NEP with reference to education of children with disabilities.
- ❖ On 9th August, a review meeting with Asha Ka Jharna team members was conducted. Surprise test on Indian Sign Language training and discussions on enabling our children to continue getting education during this pandemic through digital means , focussed group teaching , home based education and cluster approach were held. Let no child remain devoid of learning and social skill enrichment.
- ❖ On 11th August, Under National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction, we crafted and submitted a detailed action plan to make Jhunjhunu nasha-mukt. Being a task force member, action points with implementation schedules were explained by our chief functionary in district level committee meeting chaired by District Collector Jhunjhunu. From awareness raising to capacity building, participation of students to community push, medical intervention to counselling & rehabilitation, taking PRIs on board to media engagement - all our points were appreciated by the administration and are now part of official strategy to combat the menace of substance abuse.

- ❖ AKJ chief executive Sudeep Goyal was nominated as Executive Committee member at National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities (NIEPID) by Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment Govt of India. We aim to get policies framed & executed to the best of our intention & abilities so as to get just & equitable space for persons with intellectual & developmental disabilities - Most marginalized & neglected section of our community. On 20th September, we attended first EC Meeting of NIEPID under the chairmanship of Dr Prabodh Seth, Joint Secretary, Govt of India. Many issues of national importance were discussed and decided. We stressed upon developing innovative solutions, focusing on R & D and providing relief to families during COVID times. Also requested to establish CRC at Jaipur for comprehensive rehabilitation services to the community in this region. These were highly productive deliberations.
- ❖ On 4th September, we provided inputs in a webinar to finalize India country status report to WHO on protection of children from violence - an alarming issue in child rights. Our focus was on children/girls with disabilities specifically those having cognitive deficiency to comprehend the abuse they face at the hands of community & families equally.
- ❖ On 14th September, Under Accessible Elections for All, at district level disability committee meeting chaired by District Collector Jhunjhunu, we submitted our views and learnings of National Consultations held last year detailing measures to be taken to include persons with disabilities in the electoral process. Awareness generation, social media integration, designing barrier free polling booths, making special provisions for benchmark disabilities, appointing brand ambassador, activation of toll-free number & control room for grievance redressal, sensitization of polling parties – all our suggestions were well taken of.
- ❖ On 20th September, a webinar on attending sexual needs of children & adults with special needs by attended by 22 of AKJ team members. Expert Arpita Yadav delved into this vital but hidden topic in detail. She explained the nuances both theoretically and practically. Through intense interaction

with participants comprising of parents and professionals, she dispelled many myths. Our team was now more competent to handle this issue both at school and counsel the parents at home.

- ❖ As part of achieving greater governance, Financial Tracker was finalized in collaboration with Tool Box India as part of our short-term strategic framework. We also interacted and initiated parleys with Dhvani for developing Goonjan software to be used for maintaining database of children and updating goals & progress made thereafter.
- ❖ An advocacy and sensitization session with parents was organized by us during which we informed them of legal guardianship and Govt entitlements. Detailed procedure was explained resulting in few online applications. We being LLC member processed these and LG certificates were issued to few children with intellectual disabilities.
- ❖ Children with intellectual disabilities at AKJ displayed some fine self-advocacy skills. A funny photo competition was organized by PARIVAAR NCPO in which one of our children Shahruxh submitted his camera clicks and bagged certificate & cash award. Another girl Rashmi presented her speech in a webinar held on 26th September among an impressive gathering of 100 plus participants. She expressed her thoughts on rights & responsibilities in a lucid manner independently in a very clear way.
- ❖ During the reported period, Asha Ka Jharna took part in two massive advocacy campaigns. During July first week, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Govt of India proposed dilution of Rights of Persons with Disability Act 2016 by proposing deletion of punishment clauses arising out of violation of human rights of disabled persons. We led the civil society in this region and made strong representation against this move by writing letters and raising our voice on social media platforms. Our collective efforts paid off and department shelved the idea.

Similarly, during September last week, we got the information that in the name of austerity measure, finance ministry was mooting the idea of merging

The National Trust for the welfare of persons with ID , CP , ASD and MD with DEPwD. This would result in further marginalization of this neglected community which is at the bottom end of all disabilities and can not advocate for themselves. We again mobilized our accomplices and raised our protest with ministry and PMO.

❖ During the COVID Pandemic, regular educational services were disrupted. We took innovative steps to continue education of children throughout the intermittent lockdowns. We ensured that education must not be compromised. We took a mix of following remedial measures to enable children and families access our services:

- Digital E-Learning
- Small Group Teaching at School
- Small Group Teaching at Home (Cluster Approach)
- One on One Teaching at Home

After November onwards, situation started turning to normalcy and children attendance in schools improved to 70 % and more. We maintained stricter COVID protocols of regular hand sanitizing, repeated premises cleaning, maintaining physical distancing in classes and always wearing masks. None of our team members or children reported any symptoms. To keep the staff motivated and comforted during the COVID exigency, we had regularly transferred the salaries on time during entire year. Special health insurance was done of all team members. Personal safety kit comprising of Sanitizer, Face Shield & Masks (Disposable & Reusable) was provided to them. This was a huge relieving step for them.

❖ As part of our convergence with other stakeholders, an immunization camp aimed at early intervention was regularly organized by health department every month at AKJ Nawalgarh school premises where infant children were vaccinated against many life-threatening but preventable diseases thereby also mitigating disability risk.

❖ A ten years young bed ridden multiple disabled girl (Intellectual Disabled with Cerebral Palsy) was not getting any benefits as her biometric (finger prints and iris scan) was not being captured due to her disability. AKJ team contacted her family after distress news of her family was flashed in local

dailies. Her father, a daily wage earner had attempted twice in the past but was unsuccessful to pass the doors of Government offices. We persuaded him and brought the child to District Government Hospital Jhunjhunu. We got her disability certificate made as a special case after following up with doctors there (condition of IQ testing at state capital hospital some 200 km away and having long waiting list got bypassed by us). After her certificate of disability was issued, we again contacted Govt AADHAR enrolment agency and requested them to take special permission in this case from higher ups. After much efforts, her biometrics were recorded and sent to Jaipur for approval. After getting UDID, we got her father applied for disability pension and inclusion of her name in ration card for Public Distribution Scheme benefits. A classic case of perseverance and advocacy!

- ❖ On 2nd October, Gandhi Jayanti was celebrated with children doing role play activity Dandi March.
- ❖ This year, an ambitious project of making environment friendly designer diyas (earthen lamp) was taken by us. Sale of Deepak Packets was launched by ADM Sh R P Agarwal and DD Women & Child Development Jhunjhunu Sh Viplav Neola on 20th October. With the compassion and foresight of WCD department team, we sold eleven thousand diyas thus lighting the homes of buyers and children both.
- ❖ **COVID 19 Resilience Strategy / Sustainable Solutions for Persons with Disabilities – Educational and Rehabilitation Outreach By our Chief Functionary Sudeep Goyal as shared in AIWEFA Webinar**

Mr. Sudeep Goyal started his presentation by first describing the challenges faced by persons with disabilities due to the execution of new guidelines during Covid-19 pandemic. He presented the data provided by UNESCO stating that around 1.5 billion children are out of school all over the world due to Covid-19 outbreak and lockdown situation. In his address, he mentioned that as the current situation being entirely unprecedented in the history of pandemics, there is a vacuum of

information. On the other hand, due to its unknown behaviour, there are new research findings and forecasts every other day leading to an overflow of information. Though there is an abundance of information available, the absence of any concrete evidence, leads to an information vacuum. The weak information network has added to our anxiety, fear and stress levels.

Regarding children with disabilities, he stressed that rigid restrictions due to the pandemic have posed several challenges for persons with disabilities. Furthermore, these challenges vary with the type of disability i.e. all children with disabilities may not face the same type of challenge. Firstly, the lockdown has not only curtailed the education but has restrained many other scenarios such as a conducive environment for growth and learning, peer learning, sense of protection, emotional support, psycho-social support, inclusive development, mid-day meal facility and much more. Moreover, their confinement at home has induced some behavioural and emotion problems in them. Besides, the situation has led to increased work pressures on family members especially mothers.

Secondly, the lack of access to health services is another big challenge for persons with disabilities. He emphasised that children with epilepsy or children on medication need continuous health care and medical services.

Thirdly, children with intellectual disabilities have limitations in understanding issues like threat perception or the importance of personal hygiene.

Fourthly, children with visual impairment who most times act based on their tactile stimulus face a huge challenge during this period of social distancing. Similarly, children with hearing impairment face great difficulties in lip reading due to masks worn by other people.

Another issue highlighted by Mr. Goyal was concerning social distancing. In this context, he underlined that this segment of persons with disabilities was already cut off from the mainstream. Therefore, further imposing of the social distancing clause during the Covid-19 pandemic has

pushed this segment of the population to the periphery. Bringing out this hard fact, he mentioned that on one side where we talk of inclusive growth, this pandemic has forced them to live in isolation and to deal with their limitations on their own.

During his address, he also put forth the adverse climatic conditions of Rajasthan, like scarce water, obstructing the norms of a new normal, advising frequent washing of hands. Mr. Goyal stressed that both washing hands and sanitisation are difficult in rural areas specifically in certain parts of rural Rajasthan.

Another aspect highlighted in his presentation pertained to the maintenance of a database comprising of PwD details. In this context, he elaborated that RPD Act, 2016 (Rights for Persons with Disabilities Act) mandates the maintenance of record of PwD details with NDMA (National Disaster Management Authority) and SDMA (State Disaster Management Authority). The database is foreseen as a ready reckoner to reach out to persons with disabilities during such pandemics or any other exigency and for doing resource mapping for other development activities. However, the database is missing in our government systems. Elucidating on the current situation of the pandemic, he mentioned that the government has details of only those children with disabilities who are associated with formal institutions. However, those children with disabilities who are not connected with any institute or education centres; the government does not have any record. In this context, Mr. Goyal highlighted the effective role played by his organisation in reaching out to children with disabilities who were otherwise not associated with any institute.

In the next section of the presentation, Mr. Goyal described a three-fold approach adopted by the organisation as a coping mechanism against the stressful situation of Covid-19.

The approach included:

- i.) Relief and Reach
- ii.) Recovery and Resilience and
- iii.) Reforms

Under relief and reach activity, the organisation reached out to the parents of all of their students and conducted counselling sessions on an individual basis. Besides creating awareness on the Covid-19 pandemic, the organisation also provided relief support in the form of dry ration kit, face masks, sanitisers and immunity-boosting ayurvedic 'Kadha'. Also, these families were facilitated to obtain government benefits to which they were entitled such as advance pension payments of two months, one-month extra ration to families.

Above all, the organisation also pursued for the appointment of a nodal officer in each district of Rajasthan for persons with disabilities under CCPD (Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities) guidelines. Under the provision, the District Social Welfare Officer would be the nodal officer for persons with disabilities who could be contacted for any government benefits related issues, medical issues or any other issues. This also provides a toll-free helpline number in every district.

Under recovery and resilience, the organisation focused on the education of its students. Similar to other organisations, they developed online modules and e-learning platforms. This also included the development and execution of assignment worksheets along with the support of their parents. Basic therapeutic sessions including occupational therapy were also conducted with the support of parents. Besides this, the children are also being trained in simple household work, art & craft and yoga to increase their beneficial role at home. Mr. Goyal stressed that e-learning has its limitations like many students have connectivity issues or sometimes their mobiles are not recharged. Moreover, children with disabilities require physical interface including physical prompting or emotional prompting which is lacking in e-learning platforms. He emphasised that the organisation, therefore, might have to look into solutions that are more robust and long-lasting. In his address, he also mentioned about a 24- hrs Childline service that was active throughout the lockdown period.

From a perspective of reforms, he underlined various advocacy level issues that were taken up by the organisation in collaboration with other organisations and national bodies. Regarding employment, he stressed

the need to work harder to create employment opportunities. As the economy of the country was already experiencing weaker growth, the shock of Covid-19 has further sullied the situation, in cases of persons with disabilities. In this respect, Mr. Goyal stated about collaborative efforts that include 5% reservation for persons with disabilities under the NREGA programme. Similarly, the organisation attained the permission of allowing a caregiver to the intellectually disabled person at the hospital who is Covid positive.

Looking forward to the post lockdown period when the restrictions would be lifted and schools would reopen, Mr. Goyal underlined the need to make some more inclusions such as new seating arrangements in classrooms and transportation, temporary suspension of some activities like morning prayers, annual day or parent-teacher meet.

While describing long term reforms in the education system, he stated that the introduction of life skill training, emotional intelligence training, experiential training, capacity building of educators and development of some software are the next course of action.

He ended the session by stating that Covid-19 pandemic certainly has given deep schisms in our economy and human capital but in some of the areas it can be seen as an opportunity especially from the government's perspective as it has created a platform to reinforce good health practices in the community and need for investing in public health systems.

Q. How will the teachers be able to handle problems which are happening this new normal due to lockdown?

A. Here, self-care is very important. As a teacher or special educator, we have to give our best and not what is left. Therefore, it is very important for teacher, caregivers and special educators to build their own emotional intelligence and mental balance. In this context, we must continue paying their salaries which is required for their emotional balance. In addition, capacity building of persons working with children with special needs is a mandate while striving for coping mechanisms in this unprecedented situation.

- ❖ On 20th October, a review meeting on providing livelihood to persons with disabilities was attended by us. Meeting was hosted by our partner Youth4Jobs. We shared the profiles of our beneficiaries and most likely job sourcing. Through our facilitation, one more young adult with hearing impairment was placed at a retail store at Sikar. Now, with our efforts, seven youth have been employed as regular work force at different enterprises thus having independent life with dignity.
- ❖ Our educators at Asha Ka Jharna also upgraded their skills during lockdown apart from imparting E learning to children with disabilities at homes through digital means. Twenty-five of AKJ and CHILDLINE Team members were sponsored by us for COVID Suraksha (Combating Pandemic) on line training batch organized by CMC Vellore. Through multiple course modules, they gained the insights to face the disease in more sensible manner. Course completion certificates were issued after evaluation of learning outcomes. Similarly, WHO administered virtual certificate courses were also attended by few of our team mates.
- ❖ On 2nd November, CHILDLINE SIKAR in collaboration with Rajasthan Police participated in Aawaj campaign aimed at making aware girls and women about legal rights and redressal mechanism in case of abuse. Our team explained safe/unsafe touch, POCSO act and availability of 1098 toll free number for reporting grievances.
- ❖ Diwali (Festival of Light) Pujan at our three schools & CHILDLINE was done in customary traditional manner. Joy & Gaiety were evident among special children and team members despite these being the most challenging times. Sweets were there but fireworks can wait till next year. To share the happiness with disadvantaged group, sweets and cloths were distributed by us in slum areas of Sikar.
- ❖ On 20th November, during child rights week, one of our girls with intellectual disability along with district collector Sikar flagged off the specially designed vehicle to spread awareness of child rights among the community. We conceived this activity to demonstrate their empowerment and realization of rights.
- ❖ On 24th November, Virtual Workshop on Combating Child Sexual Abuse & Child Labour was hosted by CHILDLINE SIKAR in partnership with Department of Child Rights, Govt of Rajasthan. More than 40 participants

from various police stations, CWC, NGOs listened attentively to provisions in the acts. Panelists included serving and past members of Rajasthan state child rights commission.

- ❖ On 24th November, Social Roles Valorization overview Hindi workshop specially curated by Keystone Institute India for AKJ team went off really well. Through three hours of deep dive into minds to shake beliefs & cajoling fresh thinking by expert resources Ms Geeta Mondal & Ms Leela brought fresh perspective in addressing wounds and searching for valued roles for our children.
- ❖ On the eve of International Day for Persons with Disabilities, we did a sensitization activity with decision makers of Jhunjhunu and Sikar districts. District Collectors, Superintendent of Police, Additional District Magistrate, Chief Medical & Health Officer and other senior officials of the districts pledged: **I Support Equal Rights for Persons with Disabilities.**
- ❖ In view of the epidemic, International Day for Persons with Disabilities on 3rd December 2020 was celebrated in an innovative way by us keeping in mind the physical distancing norms at different places of Sikar town (ward number 7, 19, 40, 56 and 60). Mentally deprived and deaf children. Inclusive activities among our children and nondisabled ones from that locality were conducted. Children participated in drawing & painting, rangoli making, softball throw, jalebi race, quiz on proper hand washing & sanitizing etc. Their parents and families were also involved in these events. Ward councilors distributed gifts and snacks to all children. More than one hundred children participated in the staggered Inclusive Children Festivals. At Nawalgarh, a short rally depicting play cards on inclusion & accessibility was conducted while at Jhunjhunu, children participated inhouse co-curricular activities. Our chief functionary along with Collector Jhunjhunu attended the virtual conference called by chief minister on this occasion.
- ❖ Though all of our team serve diligently, there are some members who outshine more. We reward them to motivate all. AKJ STAR OF THE YEAR 2020 awardees Ms. Suman Tailor (Special Educator) and Mr. Rakesh Chirania (CHILDLINE Team Member) excelled in the workplace innovating ideas and taking initiatives on their own. We felicitated them by cash award and memento on 5th December.

- ❖ PARIVAAR NCPO in partnership with CBM launched a three years ambitious program to link 250 persons with intellectual & developmental disabilities with livelihood & income generation opportunities in five states. Rajasthan project is being conceived and managed by us at Nim Ka Thana block of Sikar district.
- ❖ As part of advocacy our CHILDLINE 1098 SIKAR had pasted the stickers on public transport vehicles including three wheelers and city buses. These keep on reminding the travelers that assistance is just one call away in case any child needs it.
- ❖ Persons with disabilities have equal rights to participate in electoral process and exercise their free will to elect the law makers. Sometimes they lack the ways and means to include their names in the voter list. During special enrolment drive, voter registration forms of more than 100 PwDs were filled as well as already enrolled PWD data with EPIC was flagged in the master list at Jhunjhunu & Nawalgarh. Note that ours is a day school and none of our regular student is above 18. This exercise was done by our team through community visit and door to door survey of the town.
- ❖ On 15th December, virtual AGM of National Trust was attended by our chief functionary where he raised issues of importance including setting up CRC at Rajasthan, early intervention reinforcement etc. before secretary of department of empowerment of persons with disabilities, Govt of India.
- ❖ On 20th December, a parent awareness session by conducted by our master trainer Ms Suman Tailor at Nim Ka Thana. Issues covered were: Parent expectation and potential of their children along with principles of self-advocacy and livelihood generation program for young adults with Intellectual disabilities. More than 50 families participated in day long interactive workshop.
- ❖ In compliance with the Rights of Persons with Disability Act 2016, it is mandatory to provide barrier-free facility to the disabled people at all religious places. On a grievance, Commissioner (Disability) Rajasthan Government directed nationally renowned Khatu Shyam Ji Temple to provide accessibility to devotees with reduced mobilities. In the capacity of access auditor, our chief functionary Sudeep Goyal called a review meeting on 21st December at temple premises. Govt board assistant

commissioner, PWD assistant engineer, local bodies executive officer, Khatu committee trustee and police station in charge were present. On the spot measurements were taken. As desired space for standard specification ramp was not available, temple trust was directed to install a platform lift meeting the accessibility standards. Through our regular follow up, it got executed by February 2021 and devotees were facilitated for smooth Darshan.

- ❖ Under Accessible India Campaign, retrofitting existing structures & additional civil works funded under SIPDA scheme of Department for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Govt. of India were executed during 2018-20 by implementing agency Public Works Department Jaipur at 79 (Seventy-Nine) Public Use buildings situated across Jaipur. Asha Ka Jharna chief functionary Mr. Sudeep Goyal, Access Auditor was engaged as PWD Consultant to advise and oversee the process. He was instrumental in ensuring compliance of 'Harmonised Guidelines and Space Standards for Barrier-Free Built Environment for persons with Disability and Elderly Persons' issued by Ministry of Urban Development, Govt. of India.

He did multiple site visits; took on ground measurements; assessed barriers and designed workable solutions incorporating access elements & features as per respective accessibility audit reports as well as standards & best practices followed globally; coordinated, interacted & convinced client departments to expedite the work; supervised & modified on - going works and accomplished all related jobs in most professional manner. His detailed visit notes provided clear direction & actionable inputs to our department site engineers to create barrier free facilities at various premises at multiple locations unique in their designs & structures.

- ❖ NIEPID Regional Centre, Noida organized 2-days Online CRE program on "Mental Health: A Global Perspective" on 18th & 19th January which was attended by our team members. Keeping sound frame of mind and resilience during these trying times is one of the most important need of the hour.
- ❖ On 22nd January, a state consultation for strengthening coordination on disability inclusive disaster risk reduction organized by Sphere India, NIDM and DSAP was attended by our chief functionary in which he provided

critical inputs of data up dation by civic agencies; always being in exigency ready situation; identifying specific needs of persons with disabilities; building recovery & resilience after immediate relief measures.

- ❖ AKJ chief executive Sudeep Goyal attended Executive Committee meet of National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities (NIEPID) on 28th January. Agenda comprised many issues of organizational development, policy matters and strategic decisions on which productive and constructive brainstorming was done.
- ❖ On 29th January, in two back-to-back meetings (called after our sustained persuasion with authorities), CHILDLINE SIKAR coordinator raised multiple issues of child protection - strengthening the existing systems; flagging critical gaps and offering our pro bono services in addressing these. District Child Protection Committee chaired by District Collector and Special Juvenile Police Unit chaired by Deputy Commissioner of Police saw our active participation once again.

Similarly, in our pursuit of convergence with Government departments, we persuaded DTO (District Transport Officer) Sikar to get CHILDLINE Stickers printed to be pasted on Bal Vahini (Children School Buses) and City Buses. Now the department has printed 1000 big size stickers and handed over to us. We are further following up with them for more numbers so that public transport like three wheelers and E-Rickshaw can also be covered.

- ❖ Role Play is one of the most effective tools to teach concept and develop social skills to children with special needs. We extensively make use of this technique along with Art Based Therapy & Self Advocacy. Few of the concepts transferred to children by AKJ Team are:
 - Helping other persons weaker than you
 - Let's show compassion to each & every one
 - Because birds have also right to live
 - Obeying Traffic Signals
 - My body is my private space (Session on preventing sexual abuse)
 - Expressive & Creative Arts
 - Recognizing Shapes & Sizes
 - Simulated Jungle Safari
 - Communicating through Signs

- Channelizing the Energy
- Science Experiments at school & home
- Enactment of various moral stories

Example of one of these sessions : Children at Asha Ka Jharna Special School Nawalgarh were tasked to cook their food. We divided them into two teams - Team A consisting of children with Intellectual Disabilities and Team B of those with hearing impairment. They made makeshift earthen stove with bricks, fallen tree branches and miscellaneous stuff; ignited the flame and sautéed (cooked) sweet potatoes on fire. Afterwards, a group of Jury consisting of non-participating six children from different classes adjudged final product of both teams by physical examination of cooked sweet potatoes. Team A was declared winner hands down by 5:1. Chocolates were given to both team children and their mentors. Finally sweet potatoes boiled in school kitchen were served to all children along with their own produce.

This exercise was aimed at developing team spirit, decision making, leadership, resource management and time keeping traits among our special needs children.

- ❖ On 13th February, after a prolonged period, children were taken to a local fair where they enjoyed rides and relished ice cream to their heartfelt content. Besides developing social skills, this was also aimed at enhancing visibility of our cause among community.
- ❖ On 16th February, Basant Panchami was celebrated by offering yellow flowers and sweet rice to Goddess of Learning Saraswati to whom children also worshiped for bestowing upon blessings.
- ❖ Recognizing our 23 years' service legacy, AKJ was conferred Lifetime Achievement Award at Global Excellence Award organized by Samarthya Seva Sansthan at a glittering ceremony held at Jaipur on 23rd February.
- ❖ On 05th March, we provided our sign language interpreter services to child welfare committee Jhunjhunu to assist in a case of lost and found girl with hearing impairment.
- ❖ On 05th March, AKJ team volunteered during the identification and certification camp for persons with disabilities held at Community Health Center, Udaipurwati organized by Medical & Health Department. Our special educators assisted in filling of application & registration forms of

the PwDs and provided guidance to them. More than 300 Divyangs were served in the camp.

- ❖ Under CBM PARIVAAR Livelihood Project for persons with intellectual disabilities, during the ongoing field survey at Nim Ka Thana (Rajasthan), till now close to 100 persons with intellectual disabilities have been identified. Meanwhile mid-term review and day long Mentor training workshop was organized on 7th March where our National Master Trainer Suman Tailor from Asha Ka Jharna imparted training on following topics:
 - Defining Self Advocacy
 - Developing Self Advocacy & Livelihood skills
 - Types of livelihood
 - Identifying Strength and Weakness of SA in livelihood
 - Role of families in successful livelihood
 - Field Challenges and Solutions before MentorsProject Coordinator Gulshan Kumar had been doing excellent job in successful execution of this innovative project.
- ❖ On 10th March , at Women Day Program organised by Directorate of Women Empowerment, Sikar , CHILDLINE SIKAR put our display and got signatures of District Collector, CEO (Zila Parishad) , CMHO , PMO , DEO , PRO , DD (ICDS) and other Govt officials as well as citizens on a pledge to stand against Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) thus achieving convergence with all stakeholders.
- ❖ Asha Ka Jharna received our first major CSR support from State Bank of India in procuring a WINGER School Van for transportation of our special children from their homes to school. Chairman SBI Sh Dinesh Khara and other senior bank functionaries handed over the ceremonial cheque at a short event on 21st March. On the auspicious occasion of Maha Shivaratri, we got the delivery of the vehicle from the most amazing team of Shree Ganga Four Wheels Sikar who welcomed our children and team with red carpet, offered delicious sweets & snacks as well as personalized gifts to all of fifteen team members. After customary religious ceremony, vehicle was brought in to our Sikar Special School. Children were simply excited so were we. Our Heartfelt Gratitude to SBI and All Our Well Wishers!

- ❖ On 27th March festival of colors HOLI was celebrated with customary zeal at our three special schools. We always take community along and make events inclusive. Team from prominent education group at Jhunjhunu and visitors passing by our Sikar school were involved in the festivities. In-House Organic colours made from flowers to be accompanied with Delicious Gujiya made with love by our team complimented the gaiety.
- ❖ Prominent visitors to our special schools during the reported period were:
 - 07/12/20 Sh. Sawai Singh (RAS), Jaipur
 - 23/01/21 Sh. Mahesh Sharma (RAS), Director Child Rights Jaipur
 - 20/03/21 Sh. U D Khan (IAS), District Collector Jhunjhunu
- ❖ During the reported period, national festival Independence Day; Eid-ul-Fitar; Shri Krishan Janamashtami ; Republic Day and Maha Shivratri were celebrated as low key affair keeping Govt. regulations in mind.
- ❖ As a new normal, on line meetups, webinars, conference calls and learning cohorts were regularly organized by various stakeholders on multiple domains of evolving NPO governance sector and disability related. We participated in these events as delegate as well as speaker. Few of these included:
 - ✓ Draft CSR Rules By SRRF on 9th April 2020
 - ✓ Executive Council Meet By PARIVAAR NCPO on 17th April
 - ✓ Social Impact and Management By ISDM on 17th April
 - ✓ Match Based Fund Raising By GuideStar India on 18th April
 - ✓ Financial Management- During and After the Lockdown By Tool Box India on 22nd April
 - ✓ Orientation of CHILDLINE frontline functionaries on Psychosocial Support to Children By CHILDLINE India Foundation on 4th May
 - ✓ CBM India - UNESCO webinar on the impact of Covid19 on Persons with Disabilities" on 22nd May
 - ✓ National Colloquium on " Are we Ready? Preparedness of Special Schools for Reopening By NIPIED on 4th June
 - ✓ AVPN - Adobe International Conference on 10th June
 - ✓ Sustainable Solutions for Persons with Disabilities: Educational and Rehabilitation Outreach By AIEFA on 13th June
 - ✓ Rajasthan State Level NGO Meet By National Trust on 16th June
 - ✓ Learning Cohort on Effective Digital Media Communication and Engagement By Tool Box & Social Lens on 2nd to 5th July

- ✓ Accessibility Standards Webinar By Enable Me Access on 3rd July
- ✓ PARIVAAR NCPO Meeting to Discuss Proposed Amendments in RPD Act on 6th July
- ✓ Why the Social Stock Exchange Matters for the Non Profit Sector By Omidyar Network on 9th July
- ✓ Child Safeguarding Workshop By CBM on 10th July
- ✓ Intelligent Fund Raising By CROWDERA on 17th July
- ✓ Making Digital Education Inclusive By Vidhi Centre for Legal Rights on 20th July
- ✓ Embracing Diverse Learners By SNTD Women University on 22nd July
- ✓ How Accessible is Our Curriculum By SNTD Women University on 24th July
- ✓ Universal Design of Learning By SNTD Women University on 31st July
- ✓ National Education Policy By Child Rights Rajasthan on 05th August
- ✓ National Education Policy By CII New Delhi Chapter on 06th August
- ✓ National Education Policy By SENSE India on 08th August
- ✓ Cohort on Business Continuity & Change Mgmt By Social Lens on 12th August
- ✓ National Education Policy By NITI AAYOG on 22nd August
- ✓ Excel in Accessibility By Access for All on 30th August
- ✓ Disability Inclusive Agenda By Anjee Agarwal on 30th August
- ✓ Cohort on Organization Development By Social Lens on 05th September
- ✓ Children Parliament By Pratyek on 09th September
- ✓ IT Section 80 G & 12 AB By GOODERA on 10th September
- ✓ Digital Dialogue on Monitoring & Evaluation By Social Lens on 12th September
- ✓ Shift towards Successful Digital Marketing By Social Lens on 19th September
- ✓ Decoding FCRA Amendment Act 2020 By FMSF on 29th September
- ✓ International conference on mental health By DEPwD on 8th October
- ✓ FCRA Amendment Act By SRRF on 10th October
- ✓ Untangling FCRA By AVPN on 16th October
- ✓ Eight Principles of Fund raising on 16th October

- ✓ Consultation on Psychosocial Support By UNICEF on 28th October
 - ✓ FCRA Storm By FMSF on 30th October
 - ✓ Executive Council Meet By PARIVAAR NCPO on 4th November
 - ✓ Creating Emerging Videos with Abode on 5th November
 - ✓ Overcoming Donor Fatigue By GIVE INDIA on 5th November
 - ✓ Doing Good in India: Challenges & Opportunities By Guide Star India & CAP on 6th November
 - ✓ KARMA Summit By GOODERA on 25th November
 - ✓ Decoding FCRA Rules By FMSF on 27th November
 - ✓ ILSS Fund Raising Session on 15th December
 - ✓ Consultation on RCI Act Proposed Amendments on 17th December
 - ✓ Livelihood opportunities for PwIDDs By PARIVAAR on 19th December
 - ✓ Executive Council Meet By PARIVAAR NCPO on 14th January 2021
 - ✓ Practical Challenges in FCRA 2020 By VANI on 22nd January
 - ✓ EGM of PARIVAAR NCPO on 27th January
 - ✓ CSR Amendments By India CSR Network on 28th January
 - ✓ Rashtriya Kamdhenu Aayog opportunity for livelihood on 8th February
 - ✓ CSR Webinar By GOODERA on 18th February
 - ✓ CSR Compliance By Sattva Consulting on 18th February 2021
- ❖ NPO governance has become more systematic, transparent, accountable and compliances-driven. During recent times, there were multiple new rules and regulations notified from Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Corporate Affairs and Income Tax Department. Amended FCRA Act 2020 mandated opening up a new designated bank account exclusively for receiving foreign funds at State Bank of India Main Branch New Delhi. Amended Companies Act 2020 stipulated that for undertaking CSR project activities, implementing agency (NPO) needed to get itself registered with MCA. Amended Income Tax Act 2020 required compulsory renewal of 12A and 80G registrations after every five years. Similar requirement of FCRA registration renewal was notified by MHA. In a nutshell, this year was a churning & grinding pot on rising flames in which only tough nuts came out refined and polished. Asha Ka Jharna is one of those few with strong mettle. We executed all of these tasks to perfection and became fully

compliant with all regulations well before deadlines. Many webinars and learning resources were referred by us.

CHILDLINE SIKAR ACHIEVEMENTS :

From inception since July 2015 till March 2021, we have served 2266 children & their families in need of care and protection vide a whole range of intervention services:

Child Labour Rescued	349
Medical Assistance Provided	190
Linked to Sponsorship/Palanhar Scheme	127
Protection from Physical / Sexual / Mental Abuse	329
Children Provided Shelter	95
Begging Street Children Rescued	328
Missing / Abandoned Children	154
Stopped Child Marriages	94
Emotional Support & Guidance	54
Linked to Govt Schemes & Counselling / Information	500
Non Classified Assistance Provided	46

❖ During this period 9314 calls were received on our Helpline No 1098

‘Asha Ka Jharna’ as a voluntary non-profit organization has been working for the cause of disability and child rights 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 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. **AKJ is also a collaborative partner managing CHILDLINE (1098) - Nationwide Toll Free Helpline for children in distress providing round the clock emergency outreach services at our Sikar center.**

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) : Bhagat Singh Colony Nawalgarh Road SIKAR - 332001 Phone. 91-1572-256537 Rajasthan (INDIA)

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

Visit us at: www.ashakajharna.org

FB Page : www.facebook.com/akjrajasthan Twitter Handle : @akjnw1

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