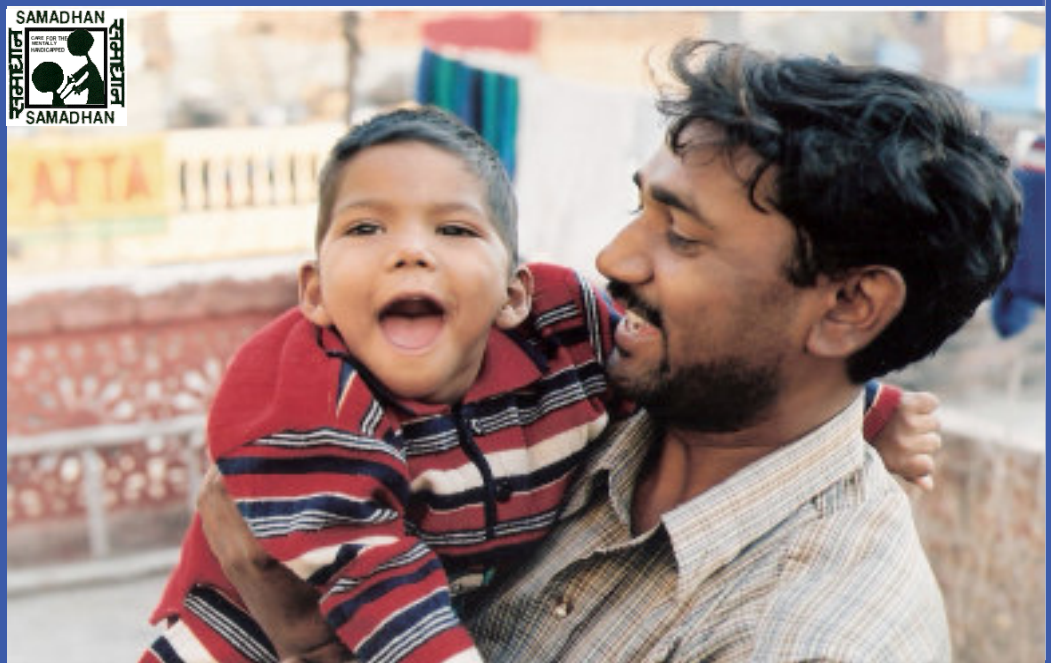


SAMADHAN

Annual Report
2008 - 2009



MISSION STATEMENT

To establish an infrastructure of accessible services for persons with intellectual disability living in low socio economic areas and primarily for infants and preschool children, using as far as possible manpower resources available within the target communities with active community participation and leading to an inclusive society.

Our focus

Poverty impacts on the infant, the young child and the mother most. If the child is intellectually disabled, it is last on the list of priorities. Hence our focus is on families living in conditions of poverty with children who are intellectually disabled or at risk of becoming developmentally delayed.



Legal Status

- Samadhan is a registered society under the Societies Registration Act of the Government of Delhi with registration number 12183.
- Samadhan is covered under the societies registration act of 1981 for income tax rebate under section 80 G. of the Income Tax Act of 1961
- Samadhan is registered under the FCRA with the Ministry of Finance with Registration No 1160156865

Membership

- SAMADHAN is a member of the Inclusion International, the world body, advocating for persons with intellectual disability
- Samadhan is the Indian representative of The Asian Federation for the Intellectually Disabled (AFID) and is elected as the Second Vice President of its Executive Council at the 18th AFID Conference in 2007
- Samadhan is a member of the statutory body of the Government of India, The National Trust and a member of the Local Level Committee for Delhi
- Samadhan is a member of the ARC-Asian Resource Centre, located presently in Tokyo, Japan and a service offered by the AFID.

Major Awards

- The Founder Director received an “ Award of Recognition “ from the Inclusion International, at their World Congress held in November 1998
- SAMDHAN was one of the winners out of approximately 2300 applications in the competition organised by Development Marketplace for the World Bank in Washington in 2002 and won the Award For Innovation

Community Outreach Programmes

Survey

From April 2008-March 2009, 1855 households were visited in [Dwarka](#) and 31 children with intellectual or physical disabilities were identified. In [Dakshinpuri](#), 2982 households were visited and 127 children with intellectual or physical disabilities were identified.

Survey of schools and health centers

In this reporting period, follow up of 28 MCD primary schools, 63 private primary schools, 7 MCD Dispensaries, 69 private clinics, 18 govt. schools were done in Dakshinpuri, Madangir and Tigri areas and Khanpur.



Community awareness programmes

Four community awareness programmes were held, [three at Dakshinpuri and one at Dwarka](#). We used puppet theatre and roleplays to inform and educate the target community on the benefits of early identification and intervention. The local community leaders not only provided space and time but also encouraged the community to make use of the services available at Samadhan. Children and women shared their views on disability with the organizers. Two women from the local community at Dwarka joined as survey workers as the result of the awareness programme. Training was provided to them for two months and now they are conducting house-to-house survey in the colonies of Madhu vihar, Rajapuri and Mahavir Enclave (areas around Dwarka). Survey workers also assist our paediatrician and physiotherapist during clinic days.

Health Camp

An health camp was held on September 13, 2008 in collaboration with Genpact, a corporate house at Gurgaon, Haryana. About 122 children from 0-14 years of age were examined. Twenty-two children were identified with various disabilities. Those with delayed milestones and behavioral problems were advised to attend the regular clinic at the center. Free medicines and nutritional supplements were distributed.



Rehabilitation Programmes

Rehabilitation Clinic

Children identified through surveys undergo initial assessment, screening and diagnosis. A five member multidisciplinary team of professionals - the Pediatrician, occupational therapist, speech therapist, the psychologist and special educator provide assessment, screening diagnosis and planning of intervention measures. Optometric services started in SAMADHAN from mid-January. We are now

extending the services for women and senior citizens.



The clinic is conducted twice a week in Dakshinpuri Centre and once a week in Dwarka Centre. After initial assessment by our healthcare team, the referrals are made to different programmes within the organization such as early intervention or education. In 2008-2009, 205 children benefited from Samadhan, Dwarka's clinical services and 612 children benefited

from Samadhan, Dakshinpuri. Counseling and guidance is provided for parents specially for the mothers and other caregivers of the family. Free medicines given for those in need.

Early Intervention Unit

Children under 5 years of age come to this unit through the initial assessment of our healthcare team. Mothers and caregivers undergo hands-on training for prescribed therapy according to the child's need under expert supervision of occupational and physio therapist. At Dakshinpuri, we have five-day physiotherapy sessions. At Dwarka centre, we have increased the physiotherapy sessions to thrice a week. We encourage mothers' involvement during the sessions.



There are 9 children in the early Intervention unit at Dakshinpuri and three in Dwarka. Transport facility to the children and their mothers with a nominal charge.

Rehabilitation Programmes

Special Education Unit

Although we have made a policy change to phase out special education and focus on the Inclusive Preschool, the reality that confronted us was the fact that some children in the preschool inclusive education had to continue in a special education set up and could not be admitted into mainstream schools as planned. We have 15 children now in the [Special Education Unit at Dwarka](#) with 2 special educators. During this reporting period, a postgraduate student in special education did her internship at the special education unit.

In the primary group, children are trained in Activities of Daily Living and given exercises to maximize their skills. In the secondary level they are trained in academics and other skills. Four of our children with Downs syndrome and MR will be placed in the preschool that we are planning at Dwarka center from the coming academic year. [At Dakshinpuri](#), there are 7 children undergoing training.



Students in Special Education Unit

Nutritious lunch is provided every day for children and adults below poverty line.



The DDA Sports Complex at Dwarka has given permission for our children at Dwarka center to use its facilities without any charges. Children look forward for these outings. Care'n'Cure Charitable Society, Delhi offered free Educational software for children with special needs. Arrangements are made to use computer for our children in both special education unit and preschool at Dakshinpuri and Dwarka.

Ms Christina Morris, Special Education Consultant with 14 years of experience in India evaluated the unit in October 2008.

Inclusive Education Programme

Inclusive Preschool

Samadhan, with its 26 years of service to the communities has carved a niche for itself. Through its awareness programmes, surveys and health camps, Samadhan has created a positive change in the attitude of the communities in the area towards disability issues. Our initiative has set a demonstration model on 'inclusion' for the neighbourhood schools.

Programme Highlights

Experienced Trained teachers: Teachers trained under Rehabilitation Council of India. They are from the community with approximately 23 years of



experience in teaching children with special needs. A school good for special needs is a better school for all and this is one of the reasons for the preference for our school. *Teacher-Student ratio* is 1:8. Two senior teachers and one assistant teacher. The programme *has an 'wholistic' approach*: Our other services such as Rehabilitation Clinic, Early Intervention unit and Special Education Unit complement our main initiative: Inclusive Pre-school *Samadhan-community relationship*: Through our outreach programmes, survey and training programmes, we have created a bonding with the local communities. *Parents' involvement*: Parents show ownership for this programme (refer feedback)



Evaluation

Evaluation of the project is done once

in six months. Samadhan evaluates the performance of our children with special needs admitted with the MCD primary schools and private primary schools and extend any assistance needed. We have started link up with other private primary schools and MCD primary schools to assist in admission procedure for our children. Meetings with the stakeholders suggest that we continue with the special education for those children with severe intellectual disabilities. For our students in special education unit, along with the skill building exercises, we will explore the possibilities of tying up with other vocational centers and job placements.

Inclusive Preschool at Dakshinpuri

No. of non-disabled children - 18

No. of disabled children - 7

No. of children admitted in

Private public schools - 9

No. of children admitted in

MCD schools - 3

Inclusive Education Programme

Feedback from mothers of three of our children who are non-disabled attending our preschool:

- Happy with the method of teaching
- Child earlier used foul language. He is well behaved now
- Has become more responsible with his studies
- One parent said, 'I want my child to be sensitive to the problems of a disabled child, so I was looking for a school which is inclusive'.



Feedback from mothers of our children who are disabled attending our pre-school:

- A mother whose child is a slow learner said *'happy to see my boy who was shy and withdrawn, now telling his preferences. It feels good that he is winning prizes and medals in painting and sports events'*. This child will be joining the mainstream school from the coming academic year.
- Another mother whose child is severely autistic is very happy as his behaviour getting controlled day by day. He will be moving to special education unit for special attention
- Another mother whose child is a slow learner with speech problems said, *'My child started speaking and answers correctly, thanks to medical interventions coupled with creative method of teaching by Samadhan'*. He will be joining the mainstream school.
- Sneha, a child who was admitted to Samadhan's Early Intervention unit with no head control and barely able to sit is now running and spends three hours in inclusive preschool without the assistance of her mother



Feedback from mothers of the children who passed out of Samadhan's pre-school:

- The children progressed well in Samadhan
- Mothers say that the teachers of the school in which they got admitted told them that the children are well informed
- The mothers are happy with the 'wholistic' approach of Samadhan with therapy sessions, clinical assistance and creative method of teaching

Benefits of the programme

- Children with mild to moderate intellectual disabilities do well and show positive development when they are in an inclusive classroom rather than the special units.
- Learn new social and/or communicative skills from their peers.
- Learn new adaptive skills through imitation
- Smooth transition for children with disabilities into mainstream school

Activities At A Glance

Events Participated

Children of Samadhan participated in:

- Special Olympics Bharat-Delhi held at Major Dhyan Chand DDA Sports Complex, New Delhi from 4-7, November 2008
- Special Athletics Events 2008 for south-west schools held at Bharti College, C-4, Janakpuri, New Delhi on December 6, 2009 organised by CMC Ltd and Aashirwad Special Education, New Delhi
- Annual Interschool painting competition for special children, 'Let me paint my dream' on January 29, 2009 held at Okhla Centre School of the Delhi Society for the welfare of special children
- 5th state level interschool quiz competition for persons with special needs at Ashoka Hotel, New Delhi on February 20, 2009



Prizes Won

Event: Special Olympics Bharat - Delhi

Manish - Inclusive preschool - Running - Silver medal
Sumeet - Special Education Unit - Running - Bronze medal
Manish - Inclusive preschool - Soft ball throw - Bronze medal
Sumeet - Special Education Unit - Running - Silver medal

Event: Special Athletics 2008 for Southwest schools - Delhi

Gopish - Special Education Unit - 25 m walk - Gold medal
Pushpender - Special Education Unit - 50 m running - Silver medal
Arif Hasan - Special Education Unit - 100 m walk - Silver medal
Khushboo - Special Education Unit - Assisted walk - Gold medal
Shambhavi - Special Education Unit - Soft ball throw - Silver medal
Aafreen - Special Education Unit -

Event: Annual Interschool painting competition for special children at Okhla

Chandan (18 yrs and above) - Third prize
Farman (6-12 yrs) - Third prize



Celebration of Important Days

Christmas programme was held at Dwarka and Dakshinpuri centres on 22 & 23 December. Parents and well wishers were invited. Independence Day and Republic Day were celebrated. Additional Polio dosages were given by ICDS every month at Samadhan. This year 34 children were administered polio drops.

Capacity Building & Documentation

Meetings on Inclusive Education

In January 2009, the Directorate of Education, Govt. of India invited Samadhan to conduct a three-day training programme on inclusive education for teachers of Sarvodaya schools in South-west region of Delhi. Teachers expressed their need for more training programmes on how to identify and as well handle behavioural problems among children. They also want more inputs on inclusive education.

Samadhan held 10 meetings with core group members at Samadhan, in MCD schools at different blocks of Dakshinpuri to discuss progress in their work in respective areas and to share their experiences and suggestions to implement new strategies for advocating inclusive education. The discussions were also focused on establishing demonstration model in MCD schools. Two meetings were held at Dakshinpuri and Dwarka respectively with parents of disabled children to brief about NIRMAYA health scheme. Meeting was also held for parents of both disabled and nondisabled children to discuss the challenges and possibilities of admission MCD School for both disabled and non disabled children. Four meetings were held with principals and teachers in MCD Schools regarding setting up of demonstration model in MCD schools.

Samadhan participated in Parent Teacher Association meetings in 7 MCD schools. Around 150-200 people attended the meetings. Discussion on inclusive education, demonstration model, and all school related activity, the reading material on inclusive education is also distributed among the teachers and parents. In this reporting period, 7 School Welfare Association meetings of MCD schools were held. About 20-25 members participated in each meeting. We had discussion on Samadhan, MCD-Samadhan Link up, Demonstration model and all school related problems and solutions. The reading material on inclusive education was also distributed among the SWA members.

Samadhan participated in 6 Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan meetings held at MCD Schools. About 100-150 teachers participated in the meetings. Discussions were held on concept of SSA, participation of Samadhan as well the schools participation with SSA. The reading material on inclusive education is also distributed among the teachers. A complete data of the MCD Schools and Private Schools with the help of core group members has been collected. More teachers are showing interest to participate in our workshops on inclusive education.

Two principals have given very positive response on inclusive education and demonstration model. The core group members will meet other MCD school principals would emphasise the need to take up the issue with MCD Education Department for inclusive education, to make the school buildings disabled friendly and establishing demonstration model in MCD schools.

Samadhan was invited to share its experiences in inclusive education and also conduct sessions on 'Causes of Disabilities' and 'Counselling' during the 3-day training programme of *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan*, which means 'Education for All' – an initiative of the Directorate of Education under Government of India organised for teachers under Inclusive Education component of SSA in Dwarka and Najafgarh areas of New Delhi.

Capacity Building & Documentation

Research and Documentation

Samadhan offers an exclusive opportunity to students and research scholars both at national and international level who may require practical training in any or a combination of the issues pertaining to women, poverty and disability. The theoretical studies available in the West very often lack actual hands on opportunities for the kind of study and work opportunities we can provide. The proposed Training Programme will be in Dwarka, where we have the infrastructure of both building and ongoing services and can provide boarding and lodging facilities.



The website of Samadhan: www.samadhanindia.org got a makeover and we are in the process of updating. We are also working on developing an online communication network called Inclusion In Disability. This initiative is to provide factual and up-to-date information and news on disability in India primarily like government policies, dissemination of information about Intellectual disabilities in India. Counselling and guidance to people who need information on facilities available for disabled in India etc.

We have a small library of approximately 1000 books and journals, and conference materials of International, Asian and National conferences and seminars are available. Samadhan has a comprehensive data on the disability scenario in India, specifically on intellectual disability but also on other disabilities is being collated.

Staff Development Programmes

- Director and Senior Coordinator attended a workshop on Media Advocacy in Noida, UP
- A workshop on staff development was held at Dwarka for all programme staff of Samadhan on January 19, 2009.
- Genpact, a corporate house at Gurgaon, UP conducted a month-long training programme for our staff on basics of the computer and spoken English.
- Senior Coordinator attended a two-day workshop on 'Creative Movement therapy' in Delhi conducted by Ms Tripura Kashyap, a Dance educator and movement therapist, from 28-29, March 2009
- Aarti Sood and Neelam, teachers of inclusive preschool at Dakshinpuri attended a five-day workshop on dyslexia organised by NIMH at Model School, Lajpat Nagar.

The 4th regional parents meet of Parivaar on 'Building a Collective Voice: Empowering the Parents Association on 27-28, 2009 at New Delhi. Samadhan was represented by parents of two children and a special educator of the Dwarka centre. The conference was aimed at formulating a charter of demands that will be taken up with the relevant Govt. authorities in the field and keeping up the sustained dialogue.

Income Generation Programmes

Samadhan started income generation programmes for the disabled,



their mothers and women from low income groups.

Today they have taken on an identity of their own. Though most mothers are illiterate with no formal education, they have a wealth of skills.

Samadhan helped them

to make use of their skills by setting up income generation programmes. This has improved their quality of life and has built

their self-confidence. The group makes beautiful paper mache items which are sold during festive season at melas such as that of Blind Relief Association and overseas visitors. This



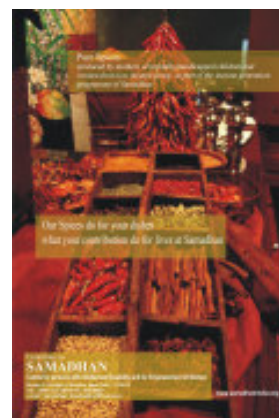
year the department of Handicrafts, Government of India, has given 'artisan' status to all the members of this group which will enable them to participate in govt organised melas and outlets. They also make nutritious laddoos prepared on order. Greeting cards for all occasions are created by our intellectually disabled children.



We are launching a new initiative: Alternatives to plastics with support from the department of Environment, Government of India. We are confident that these women will have the creativity to expand the type and range of paper bags and cloth bags we can make with painting and block printing techniques.

Masala unit:

Publicity: Colorful publicity posters for masalas and papier mache items were printed. Printed stickers on the packages of our products, modified with more attractive design and more informative. A Power Point Presentation was prepared and sent to volunteers who offered to sell our masalas. An analysis of the cost and selling of the masalas is being done.



EVALUATION

Evaluation of the services of Samadhan was done in September 2008 by Ms Heather Payne, a social development consultant in Delhi working in Health Communication and Development with special focus on disability.

Recommendations centre on the drawing up of a new 3-5 year strategy which needs to build on the strengths and address the weaknesses of the organisation. The new strategy needs to be agreed, owned and used by all stakeholders for a combined effort to attain success. Issues to consider include: the building blocks of vision, mission and values, a rights approach to inclusion and advocacy, expansion of services beyond low income families and children under 14 yrs, duplication or complementary services in Dwarka and Dakshinpuri, building staff capacity further, retaining professional staff, building parents' and former students' associations, the use of terminology in this field, the feasibility of the production units and sustainable funding.

Building on the reputation of Samadhan for caring and effective services, its dedicated leadership and staff and the infrastructure are all worthy of full support. This will enable Samadhan to foster inclusive communities which can fulfil the potential of more special children, on a rights basis, and empower their families.

The evaluation report suggests inclusion of elements on the environment and HIV and AIDS because CSLD are especially vulnerable to both. Training in self-help includes hygiene and this is needs to be taught with persistence. Children with learning difficulties, especially girls, are vulnerable to sexual abuse and so awareness HIV and other sexually transmitted infections and prevention measures must be raised in the family.

New Appointments

Ms Sumathi Morgan appointed as Senior coordinator for Projects, Ms Kathakali Das Pandey - as Project coordinator for Dakshinpuri, Ms Runa Neogi - as Finance/Administration Manager. Ms Anju Nandal Physiotherapist has joined Samadhan from October. Mr Pankaj Gupta - as Occupational Therapist, Mr Rajinder - Optometrist and Mr Ashok Nehra - Speech Therapist.

Future plans

1. Health camp at Rajapuri and Mahavir enclave areas.
2. We are planning to approach the school principals to get permission to conduct counseling sessions to children during Parent-Teacher Meetings. This will help to identify slow learners and children with dyslexia etc., and they can be referred to Samadhan; an afternoon session to help these children is being planned.
3. Efforts are on to start an inclusive preschool at Dwarka too and as a first step, we have made arrangements to hold a summer camp for non disabled children at Dwarka.



Namaste!