

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 if 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 Shahrukh 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 SNDT Women University on 22nd July
- ✓ How Accessible is Our Curriculum By SNDT Women University on 24th July
- ✓ Universal Design of Learning By SNDT 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 Anjlee 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

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