

ASHA KA JHARNA

Quarterly Activity Report (July 2019 to September 2019)

This quarterly activity report for the period July 2019 to September 2019 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.

- During July, new academic session was initiated with formalization of fresh admissions with logistics finalized. This year 16 new admissions have taken place at both our schools. Similarly State Board Exam 2020 data was uploaded. Total of 9 children would be taking Rajasthan State Board end term exams of Grade 8. Rest of the children would clear interim classes through home exams.
- Annual as well as short term goals for children were selected and fed into our IEP formats by team members. These are quite child - centric and take care of individual qualities & skills.
- Apex body of 280 parents associations of persons with intellectual & developmental disabilities PARIVAAR held it's biannually Executive Council Meeting at Pune on 5th & 6th July. In the capacity of Technical Adviser PARIVAAR, our chief functionary Mr Sudeep Goyal participated in this national gathering. Meet was preceded with a training workshop at 'Agriculture University Pune' on Mushroom Cultivation and its viability as a potential lively hood option for our young adults with disabilities and their families. This was a useful learning exercise. EC meet saw serious deliberations on affairs of The National Trust , Internal matters of confederation , induction of new parent associations and future course of action by PARIVAAR in National Disability Arena. Mr Goyal made an intense presentation on New Education Policy and its contours viz-à-viz our children with special needs.

- A meeting on vocational training to adolescents and youth was attended by our senior technical advisor Ms Monalisa Mehta at Jaipur on 13th July. Focus was on IT skills, Desktop Printing and formation of student clubs in the schools. This was more aimed at regular schools. Ms Mehta urged the organizers to plan some doable vocations for children with intellectual disabilities.
- Educators are the backbone of special schools. Their patience and dedication to the cause was recognized twice during this quarter. On Guru Purnima Day (16th July), Reputed Media Group Rajasthan Patrika Sikar felicitated our coordinator Mr Tarun Dubey & special educator Ms Mamta Verma at a ceremonial function held to mark the day. Similarly, on Teachers Day 5th September, it was again the turn of AKJ team to shine. In the glittering function at Jhunjhunu organized by Dainik Bhaskar Media House, our two special educators Ms. Sonia & Mr. Shashi Kant were felicitated before august gathering of citizens for their contribution in teaching children with disabilities with dedication and passion. High point of both these events was that these were scheduled to be mega events for regular school teachers only but we persisted with organizers to include our educators which they did graciously. In the award ceremony, maximum applaud was for us only when Newspaper editors heaped praise on us citing our functioning and selfless services since 21 years.
- On 20th July, on the occasion of its foundation Day, all staff members from Bank of Baroda Nawalgarh branch spent time with our children here. They distributed stationary and gifts and were truly impressed upon witnessing the special education services which they were unaware of before. During one hour of their stay, we sensitized them all about disability and ways to be empathetic.
- National Program of Vaccination against life threatening diseases of Measles & Rubella was launched by Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Govt of India. Asha Ka Jharna actively participated in this mission. Right from high level drawing board planning meets chaired by district collectors & CMHO till effective execution, mobilization of medical teams, follow up and counseling / dispelling doubts of parents from Minority community -

our team did it all. We ensured that all eligible children up to 15th years got vaccinated at special camps being organized at our three premises itself. More than 160 special children got immunized at our schools during first week of August.

- To explore a viable livelihood option for our disabled young adults and their families, a one week Goat Rearing Training Workshop was organized at Central Institute of Goat Research Mathura (UP) by CBM & PARIVAAR. We sponsored one of our assistant educators Shakuntala Devi, who is also mother of a 20 years young boy with intellectual disability. She embarked on a long journey by herself first time in her life and stayed at CIRG campus. She learnt firsthand the dynamics of Goat Rearing through both theoretical and practical tools. Workshop taught her types of goats & its geographical spread ; use and utility ; how to develop a model goat farm ; how to secure finances ; how to ensure market linkage ; how to avail Govt concessions ; prevention of diseases ; scaling up operations ; getting technical know how's ; breeding and such topics. She is a Master Trainer now for Rajasthan and will impart the knowledge gained further to the sector. She also intends to start a small unit for her son to enable him sustain livelihood.
- AKJ never misses a chance to expose abilities of our children before mass audience and community. We proactively engage the organizer to provide a platform for us. One more such opportunity was seized by us during Founder Day Celebrations of Youth Associations of India (Popularly known as Youth Hostels) Rajasthan Chapter. Students from many schools with professional choreographers performed at traditional folk dance forms at different levels of competition. AKJ Sikar children were granted a special wild card entry in the final event where they simply stole the show by their spectacular musical drama performance. Audience from the town was mesmerized and praised profusely our show of emotions.
- Periodic parents' meeting was held at Nawalgarh on 6th September in which many issues were discussed. Inputs for new IEP were taken; children progress & milestones shared; home management techniques were explained and logistics issues were addressed. School future planning and scheduled activities were also shared with guardians. Team members also briefed about happenings recorded in incidence register at school to record

minor issues like child bringing money or mobile from home, freak injury during games, altercation between students or behavior mood swings and associated issues including seizures in children with intellectual disabilities. As a follow up to this meet, our therapist invited parents to Nawalgarh Science Park where he demonstrated the strength and stamina gained by the children after therapeutic intervention. Children were able to navigate smoothly through different hurdles and maneuvering which surprised their parents who were unsure of this feat. Similarly, all children from Sikar School were taken to one day excursion to central park where they did lot of physical activities including Kabaddi ; Kho Kho ; badminton ; Zig Zag ; Jogging ; Tracking and so on.

- Premier BITS Pilani organized the eight edition of Junoon - a unique sporting extravaganza for the special abled youth of the country. Junoon promotes equality as it encourages participation from all the sections of society and gives an excellent platform for the special abled people to showcase their talent to the more privileged section of the society. Junoon, a two day event, every year is organized by NSS BITS Pilani in collaboration with the Sports Council, at BITS, Pilani, Pilani Campus. The seventh edition, "Junoon 2019" saw a participation of over 150 children from 7 NGOs all fighting for sporting glory. There were numerous sporting events like Cricket, Softball, Basketball, Badminton and various others. A cultural evening called "JunoonNite" was also organized with various NGOs showcasing their cultures and ability in the form of dance or small acts. Junoon 2019 on 7th & 8th September saw spectacular performance by Asha KaJharna Children. Excursion cum Sports Activities made kids happy.
- Our Strategic and Funding partner The Hans Foundation paid a program review visit on 13th & 14th September where program manager Ms Shabina Bano received insights from all stakeholders including children, parents, team members, employers of our young adults with disabilities and AKJ board members. She provided some valuable feedback and suggestions to enable us fine tune services to the optimum efficiency. She acknowledged and appreciated the scale and range of activities we have been attempting in this region within constraints of space and resources.

- A new technology to enable hearing & speech impaired persons gain speech 'See Sound Live' was demonstrated by the developer scientist during state level workshop held at Jaipur on 21st & 22nd September in which we sent two of our senior special educator and speech therapist. They understood the working and deliverables of this device and asked for clarity on some of their concerns. We have gone through their feedback and final decision to use it in our schools is on hold subject to live demo at our site and additional information sought by us from the research lab.
- BVJF (Bhartiya Viklang Jan Forum – A Consortium of DPOs) conducted its National Meet at New Delhi on 25th & 26th September where lot of brainstorming and idea sharing happened. It was attended by our chief functionary who spoke about PARIVAAR ; Self Advocacy and Community based Inclusive Development. Delegates across the country shared their experiences highlighting the unity of disabled persons and benefits it could draw in realizing their rights. National Skill Development Council manager briefed the audience about GOI schemes and their coverage.
- RAJASTHAN SELF ADVOCACY PROJECT as committed by us progressed really well under our stewardship. We had set targets of 5 Districts – Jhunjhunu; Sikar; Ajmer; Jodhpur & Pali spread across 12 blocks. With the guidance of 3 Master Trainers, we trained total of 65 MENTORS by end of September. Further, more than 150 Self Advocates have been provided Seven Weekly Training Sessions which comprised of Decision making ; leadership development ; Saying No to undesirable behavior ; Taking turns & Patience listening ; Setting boundaries of one's body ; Exercising choices ; Expressive & Receptive communication and so on.
- During this quarter, various festivals like Shri Krishan Janamashtami, Ganesh Chaturthi and Teacher Day were celebrated with traditional fanfare. Community was invited to schools to witness the skills and talent of our children. Birthday of India Hon. Prime Minister was also celebrated by the citizens in our Sikar School. Our Chief Functionary got an award by Nawalgarh Alliance Club. Through all these events, we inched further towards our objectives of Inclusion and Accessibility in the community.

- 'Independent Living Project' saw two more Hearing Impaired youth getting jobs in quality control & packaging division of a handicraft firm based at Jaipur. Our mentor regularly keeps contacts with parents and does regular hand holding. He visits the youth staying at Jaipur occasionally and available on phone always for guidance & counseling support. At present five youths are gainfully employed earning respectable salaries thereby leading independent living.