

ASHA KA JHARNA

Quarterly Activity Report (July 2021 to September 2021)

This quarterly activity report for the period July to September 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 this period. The report also illustrates the various events organized by the organization, visits of prominent personalities, awards, honors and accreditations received etc.

- 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 Danodiya 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.



- 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:



दिव्यांग बच्चों को रक्षा सूत्र बांधा, समाज की मुख्यधारा में जोड़ने का लिया संकल्प



सीकर | आशा का झरना विशेष स्कूल के मासिक विमर्दित एवं मूक बाधिर बच्चों के लिए ब्रह्म कुमारी संस्थान में एक विशेष कार्यक्रम आयोजित किया गया। इसमें दिव्यांग बच्चों को रक्षा सूत्र बांधकर उन्हें समाज की मुख्यधारा में जोड़ने का संकल्प लिया गया।



1. Ganesh Chaturthi with Alliance Club
2. Raksha Bandhan with Bramham Kumaris (Om Shanti)
3. 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.



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

- ✓ 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