

## ASHA KA JHARNA

### Quarterly Activity Report (October 2018 to December 2018)

This quarterly activity report for the period October 2018 to December 2018 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 whole quarter, teaching and learning through new innovative ways was undertaken by our team. New IETPs with focused child centric goals along with structured weekly activity and computer planning are being implemented.
- ❖ Student ID card and Diary has been introduced from current quarter. Class monitor election was conducted on 6th October in which contestants themselves canvassed and their class co students voted their preferred choice. This was a very good self-advocacy activity used for expressing & exercising choices by ID and HI children.
- ❖ On 11th October, Mental Health Day was observed in the company of legal fraternity. Additional District Judge and other magistrates from Jhunjhunu Court & Legal Service Authority delivered a talk on child rights. Parents & Guardians were briefed upon New RPD Act provisions and entitlements.
- ❖ In continuation to budget announcement by Chief Minister Rajasthan, we deliberated on 16th October during a day long workshop held at Jaipur on creating a University targeted at persons with disabilities. Broad contours were discussed through group exercise and here are the key takeaways :

We were successful in prevailing upon changing the name from Divyang or Special Abled Persons University to University for all in inclusive setup. Accessibility and enabling environment was stressed upon along with financial and operational autonomy to the Governing body by our group. Broad schools of learnings and interdisciplinary departments were proposed. Research on Disability studies, Human rights, Law and cross cutting domains with focus on social inclusion should be the key areas. We proposed at least 25 % reservation for persons with lived experience of disability in all the staffing recruitment across all bands and scales of posts to be created at University. E learning and distance education courses along with regular class room ones to be transacted. As it's not logistical to offer each and every subject under one roof, it was proposed to affiliate and grant recognition to existing colleges of multi domains such as management, law, commerce, humanities and social sciences and so on. University could incentivize these institutions to create centers of excellence with focus on inclusive learning and teaching practices. Assistive technologies and cutting edge aids and appliances to be made available to learners requiring the same. Many more issues including policies , establishing grievance redressal cells , equal opportunity center , workplace sexual harassment committee, admin staffing etc. were briefly touched upon due to paucity of time. Funding gap was discussed in detail with Govt scouting for CSR or Foundations support in establishing chairs or model schools.

- ❖ During October, inclusion of our children within the community was attempted through performances at Dandia Night and Amrita Hat Mela Cultural Night (Govt Handicraft Fair). These slots were specially asked for by us and dignitaries including district collector appreciated and felicitated our children. Besides, we contacted Govt Museum Sikar Superintendent and requested her for including our children in their tourism activity which was acceded to and we planned a trip subsequently.

- ❖ 55 of our Sikar school children were taken on an excursion trip to nearby Fatehpur Shekhawati. This cultural and heritage half day trip was in collaboration with department of tourism, Govt of Rajasthan. Their empaneled guides made children explore rich heritage & tradition of this region by escorting them to 100 years old Havelies, Step Wells and other architectural marvels. Children thoroughly enjoyed this trip and drew of what they saw after returning.
- ❖ During November, prior to Rajasthan assembly elections, SVEEP activities were executed to ensure full participation of disabled voters in electoral process. As the theme this year was 'Accessible Elections 4 All' we offered services of our interpreters to explain EVM & VVPAT functioning to HI voters. Our team also took part in an awareness rally at Sikar.
- ❖ On 1st December, woolen jackets were distributed to 80 of our Nawalgarh school children by Sh Chetan Das Maharaj at a function.
- ❖ On the occasion of World Day for Disabled, District Legal Service Authority conducted legal rights awareness session with our parents and children at Sikar special school on 3rd December. Issues related to law were addressed and Govt schemes of free litigation and victim compensation were shared.
- ❖ Another Once in a life time Opportunity for our special children from Asha Ka Jharna ! Ten children and two educators spent eight days (17th December to 24th December) of their memorable stay at Nature Study cum Adventure Camp organized by Himalayan Nature & Adventure Foundation Siliguri (West Bengal) followed by a short stay at Siliguri exploring . This year camp venue was near to a Tea Bagan location in the Himalayan Mountains Range (Village Pather Jhola Distt. Darjeeling). Amidst the pristine nature and river bank surrounding mountains, children had a gala time. A typical Day was bubbling with activities like morning PT , nature walk , cooking in the woods , tent life , exploring

flora & fauna , games , trekking , making rope bridges , climbing on wall , relishing local delicacies ,painting , camp fire , evening hall , cultural program and what not. Bonding, Self Confidence, Leadership, Team Spirit & Companionship were the key takeaways. There were many firsts for the children including 48 Hour Train Journey, Jungle, River, Mountain, Tea Bagan, Animals & Birds in Jungle, Hotel Stay & Exposure to Different Food, Culture, Landscape & Topography!

- ❖ During the reported period all festivals like Vijayadashmi, Deepawali, Christmas as well as National Days Gandhi Jayanti & Bal Diwas were celebrated with full gusto. Role play activities and cultural programs followed by sweets distribution completed the festivities. Children learnt social skills like taking turns, displaying leadership, team building, controlling emotions and time management in implicit manner by participating in these events.