

ASHA KA JHARNA

Annual Activity Report (April 2017 to March 2018)

This is an annual activity report of **Asha Ka Jharna (AKJ)** special schools from April 2017 to March 2018. The report 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.

- On 3rd April, World Day for Autism, "National Conference on Autism" held at Vigyan Bhawan , New Delhi by National Trust , MSJE was attended by us. Success stories celebrating diversity, technical sessions on various aspects of ASD, lively Q & A were highlights of this one day conference.
- On 9th May, local functionaries from community celebrated birthday of Rajasthan Ex CM Sh. Ashok Gehlot among special children at Asha Ka Jharna Nawalgarh School. Cake cutting was followed by stationary distribution. Children designed a beautiful hand crafted collage of birthday wishes for him which was later presented by hand at Jaipur. Hon. Gehlot Ji conveyed his best wishes for our children and organization.
- During children summer break, our team again hit the streets braving scorching sun & heat for annual updation survey. New beneficiaries were identified and parents counselled upon to link them to appropriate services (education, social security, employment and medical). Those fit for our school, after the initial screening at home, were called to school for detailed assessment followed by admission from next session to be started in July.

- On 17th May, we discussed ways and means of providing employable skills to our passed out youth with SARTHAK, National Organization working for livelihood to PWDs. We offered to start a sub center at AKJ for skill training followed by job placement in collaboration with SARTHAK.
- Executive Council Meet of PARIVAAR (Apex National body of 250 parent associations of IDD's) was attended by AKJ chief functionary from 19th to 22nd May at Bangalore in which lot of issues were discussed. Way forward in keeping up of various provisions of New RPD ACT 2016 was deliberated upon.
- On 26 May, four of our special educators attended one day workshop on 'Behavioural Challenges & Techniques of Behavior Modification' for Mentally Challenged Children. This was organized by Directorate Special Abled, Govt of Rajasthan at MR Home Jamdoli Jaipur. They learnt the tools from eminent resource persons. One of our special educators Rajat presented the findings from group discussions among participants which he led on the topic of 'How to Overcome Fear' among children.
- During children summer break, on 3rd & 4th June Exciting Capacity Building Workshop on Using Expressive & Creative Art Techniques for Special Children was organized at Asha Ka Jharna Nawalgarh unit. All three school team members as well as Childline Sikar team learnt & enjoyed innovative ways from Arpita Yadav Master Trainer & Excellent Task Master along with facilitator Meeta Mathur. Role play activities enabled staff to shed their inhibitions and they evolved as more vocal & expressive. Realized that they possessed the potential but lacked the stimuli to maximize it which this interactive workshop provided. Team Building, Bonding & Organizational Ethos Reinforcement were the other takeaways. On DAY 2, it was a transformation and day of reckoning. Our team displayed their oratory, creative, visualization and expressive skills. Hands folded yesterday in first hour were now flowing like wings. Day schedule consisted of making Best

out of Waste and Creativity Let Loose. Newspaper & Magazines Raddi , Old Bottels , Broken Toys , All discarded stuff lying in store was pulled out and they were mandated to create Something Unique. After one hour of juggling, tinkering brains and doing trial & error, what emerges as finished products was simply awesome. Team was assigned the task of developing and value adding earmarked sensory stimulation space within the school premises.

- After constant follow up by us, now Govt of Rajasthan has launched a mega campaign to identify, assessment, certification followed by distribution of aids & appliances to all special abled persons in the state. Series of workshops and training were held at district and block levels where our team actively participated and offered our un-flinched support to make this drive successful.
- On 10-11 June, An exhibition of products made by young adults with Intellectual Disabilities from Angels at Work Jaipur and Asha Ka Jharna was held at Sikar. Imitation Jewelry, Hand Crafted Strolls, Sarees and Greetings Cards were on display and sale. Response was encouraging with many visitors made aware of the abilities and skills of special needs persons.
- From 16th to 20th June, five days CRE (Continuing Rehabilitation Education) program on the topic of "Parent Empowerment" was attended by our special educator.
- On 24 June, a training workshop on "Legal Compliance for NGO's " with focus on GST, FCRA and Income Tax Acts was attended by Chief Functionary. Topics discussed were : Concept of GST, CGST and SGST , Overview of GST Taxation , Applicability of GST to NGOs , Overview of FCRA including latest developments ,Compulsory Online Updation through FC-6 , Penalties on late filing of FCRA annual Return , Impact of various legislative decisions on S. 12A, S.80G & 80GGA , E-filing of Income Tax return followed by Q & A.

- Strategic Planning Meet for Self-Advocacy Movement in India was held at Nagpur by PARIVAAR on 6th August in which our chief functionary in the capacity of technical adviser Rajasthan participated. During the lay long brain storming session it was decided to spread the Self Advocacy Movement in the country and our region. Action plan was finalized to create a pool of enlightened Self Advocate along with competent mentors. As a first step, training of Master Trainers (TOMT) course from 2nd to 4th Nov at Jabalpur is planned. Selected MT should be literate and must have worked with PwIDDs, compassionate about the cause to make them as self-reliant as possible and SPARE TIME FOR MENTOR training. One of our team members would be MT from Rajasthan along with three more selected ones from Udaipur, Jodhpur & Ajmer.
- Special Children from Asha Ka Jharna participated at 5 KM Marathon Run on 27th August at SIKAR (Rajasthan). This Grand Event was organized by LEO Club (Lions Club Youth Arm) to spread awareness about Health among local community. More than 1000 citizens walked / ran along with 22 of our children thereby promoting Inclusion. #InclusiveIndiaCampaign
- On 23rd August, a Heritage conservation and awareness workshop organized by INTACH was attended by three of our special educators. Indian rich cultural legacy and traditions were shared among participants and they were asked to disseminate the importance of preservation and cleanliness among the students.
- On 5th September, one of our team member attended Yoga & Healthy Living training sessions. Same is being practiced with our children during morning assembly to build up their attention & concentration span and body posture.
- On Teachers Day, it was turn of AKJ team to shine. In the glittering functions at Sikar & Jhunjhunu organized by 'Dainik Bhaskar' Media House, our six special educators were felicitated before august gathering of citizens for their contribution in teaching children with disabilities with dedication and passion.

- Rajasthan State Advocacy & Network Meet on Deaf Blindness organized by Sense International India & hosted by State Resource Centre of Deaf blindness, “SPARSH’ at RMKM Ajmer was attended by us on 8th September. Macro planning with stakeholders including medical professionals, administration & academia and way forward to put peculiar requirements of persons with deaf blindness in focus was discussed.
- On 11th September, base assessment camp was attended by one of our special & talented team member. Murari Soni, youth with hearing & speech impairment employed as computer instructor who is also a gifted painter. He works magic at canvass as well as on computer screen. National Apylampics Association of India organized this camp at New Delhi to screen and further train the skills of Persons with Disabilities. Murari performance was widely appreciated there. We are hopeful that he will go to next round.
- Asha Ka Jharna was represented by our special educator at Inclusive India Summit and AGM conducted at New Delhi by The National Trust. Full day of learning and sharing space with acclaimed celebrities. We raised issues regarding NT schemes and legal guardian ship for Persons with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. Inclusion in all walks of life and with everyone on the board will lead to a true inclusive society.
#AccessibleIndiaCampaign
- Two of our special educators (Hearing Impairment) were fully sponsored by the organization for three months Sign Language Training to Kota. Instructor from Noida Deaf Society will guide them with hands on training with HI children studying at Badhit Bal Vikas Samiti Kota. In line synergy with Mrs Sarveshwari Raniwala, Chairperson BBVS who gracefully consented to accommodate our educators with her staff for this training, we would build our capacities to prepare AKJ HI children face real world and higher education by learning ISL.

- Our children were taken on an excursion trip to Jaipur on 16th September. They always look forward to this outing which provide them a bird view of outer world and exposed to different stimulations. Jaipur scenic places like Zoo, Museum, Jal Dhara, Birla Temple and a mall. Children and staff thoroughly enjoyed this day trip.
- Asha Ka Jharna was selected for prestigious one year long Organization Capacity Enhancement Program supported by ORACLE Foundation. First Strategic Management Workshop to make our systems robust was held at Noida on 21st -22nd September which Chief functionary along with one of our governing body member attended. On first Day , FMSF Team delivered about Voluntary Organization Board Processes : Composition , Recruitment , Orientation , Appraisal of Governing Body Members & Meeting , Notices , Agenda Setting , Attendance/Quorum , Minutes & Resolution Recording. Day 2 of OCEP was more interesting with deliberations on Board oversight Functions. Why How & When of Revisiting Policies, Budget, Controls, Audits, Governance, Reporting, and Human Resource & Compliance Mechanism was discussed. There were fruitful productive sessions on sharing best practices. We look forward to put newly acquired skills in strengthening the systems & protocols at Asha Ka Jharna with the hand holding of new forged relationships.
- On 23rd September, we had a wonderful meeting with Dr Jitender Agarwal of SARTHAK Educational Trust New Delhi, National Organization working for livelihood to PWDs. New avenues for skill building, employment opportunities and showcasing abilities through Abylampics for our children were discussed. Asha Ka Jharna plans to send few special youth for gaining employable skills to their training center.
- On 25 & 26th September, our Senior Technical Adviser Monalisa Mehta & Special Educator Rajat Kumar from Asha Ka Jharna participated in two days' workshop by SJE Rajasthan at Jaipur. Launching of a new program for automating screening, assessment and lesson planning for children with Intellectually Disabilities. Contributed our thoughts and inputs on this soon to be evolved Web based assessment tool named 'Punarjjani' developed by

Information & Technology Deptt. Govt of India. Based on our feedback, review is anticipated further to make the tool more effective.

- During the last three quarters of FY 2017-18, Asha Ka Jharna had undertaken 'Deen Dayal Upadhyay Vishesh Yogya Jan Abhiyan' in mission mode to ensure that maximum beneficiaries get enrolled for Universal ID Cards (UDID) which would provide one stop solution for Disabled. Towards this end following tasks were executed :
 - a) Attended orientation sessions and VCs conducted by Social Justice Deptt Govt of Rajasthan and District collectors from time to time.
 - b) Organized parents meeting at our schools to brief them about the Campaign and required documents to enroll their wards.
 - c) Arranged & compiled desired documents. Counselling the parents through regular phones and home visits continuously for getting the documents ready.
 - d) Contacted E Mitra Kiosk to register all those children having necessary papers.
 - e) Contacted Municipal Committee and arranged camps at school premises to capture biometrics of left out children.
 - f) Constant hand holding with community with linkage to local administration so that no one is left behind.

Result of our pain taking efforts were that out of 212 admitted children at our three schools , nearly 180 UDID cards enrollment were done by the end December while in few cases , biometrics were not captured and some technical bottleneck were there. Few parents unfortunately refused to enroll their children citing flimsy reasons. Now in the second phase, these children are being called for medical assessment.

- Mr Dhanna Lal Purohit, State Disability Commissioner visited our school on 10th October; oversaw the activities and interacted with children & team members. He was impressed with our functioning and wished us accordingly. We raised the issue of delay in framing state rules for New RPD Act 2016. Our inputs on draft rules were handed over to him.

- On 11th October, Mental Health Day was observed in the company of legal fraternity. Magistrate from Jhunjhunu Court & Legal Service Authority delivered a talk on child rights. Parents & Guardians were briefed upon New RPD Act provisions and entitlements.
- Until now, parents have been their children's best advocate - protecting them from harsh realities of life. But the earlier we parents empower them to advocate for themselves, the more prepared they will be for life ahead - no matter what path they take. Our children must be prepared for self-advocacy. With this theme Fourth National Self Advocates National Convention was held at Ahmedabad on 25th and 26th October. Around 250 SAs from different parts of the country took place in this event with sessions on leadership, listening exercises, expressive communication techniques, recreational & team building activities aimed at young adults with intellectual disabilities and their mentors. Our team of 14 SA and 4 parents participated there and gained new insights.
- To spread the Self Advocacy Movement in the country, as a first step, training of Master Trainers (TOMT) from 2nd to 4th Nov was conducted by PARIVAAR National Confederation at Jabalpur (MP). Objectives of this training were :
 - a) Explain the concepts of "Powerlessness", "Empowerment" and "Self-Advocacy".
 - b) Develop a positive attitude towards Self Advocacy.
 - c) Utilize the basic skills required for Self-Advocacy in your day to day activities.
 - d) Explain the concept of "Mentoring".
 - e) Develop a positive attitude towards Mentoring.
 - f) Utilize the basic skills required for Mentoring in your day to day activities.
 - g) State the basic requirements for formulating a training program for mentee Self Advocates.

- h) Develop a positive attitude towards training of Self Advocates.
- i) Utilize the basic skills required for training self-advocates in your day to day activities.

Self-Advocacy Steps	Skills to learn	Support skills to learn
Step 1: Understanding self-advocacy	What is self-advocacy?	
Step 2: Understanding yourself	Where do I need to use self-advocacy? What skills are needed for self-advocacy? What am I already good at in self-advocacy? What skills so I need to improve for self-advocacy?	
Step 3: Understanding your rights and responsibilities	What are the rights as a person with a disability? What are the responsibilities as a person with a disability?	
Step 4: Understanding the problem	What is the problem? Who can help me change the situation or give me information? How would I like to change the situation?	Self-esteem Assertiveness Support networking
Step 5: Understanding how to prepare for self-advocacy	How do I find the information I need? How do I think of solutions for the problem? What order should I do	Communication Listening Planning

	things?	
Step 6: Understanding how to use self-advocacy	When should I use the telephone? When should I write a letter? When should I go to a meeting? When should I do more?	Stress management Conflict resolution Negotiation

We in the capacity of state nodal point facilitated four participants (including one from AKJ) across Rajasthan for this TOT.

- CII Rajasthan in association with Department of Social Justice and Empowerment, Govt of Rajasthan organised a two day National Conference on “Disability: Multiple Possibilities and Prospects” on 10-11 November 2017. The Conference was Partnered by Rehabilitation Council of India and Disha Foundation. The conference worked as the platform to discuss the issues related to needs of differently abled people though keynote addresses, paper presentations, poster presentations, discussions and workshops. Chief Secretary, Government of Rajasthan, Mr Ashok Jain & ACS –SJE Mr J C Mohanty along with Dr Samit Sharma, Director addressed the Inaugural Session of the Programme. Some of the other eminent speakers at the Conference included Professor Pratibha Singhi, Director Paediatric Neurology and Neurodevelopment, Medanta, Padma Bhushan Dr Shayama Chona , Founder President-Tamana Special School, Padamshri Dr Ashok Panagariya, Member, Chief Minister’s Advisory Council, Mrs Mala Khaitan, Chairman Disha Foundation, Mr Madhusudan Srinivasan, Senior News Editor, NDTV, New Delhi , Dr Sudhir Bhandari; Dr Ashok Gupta; Dr Shiv Gautam; Ms Meera Shenoy, Founder, Youth4Jobs; Ms P N Kavoori, Educationist , Advisor-Disha Foundation, Mr Nipun Malhotra, CEO ,Nipman Foundation , Dr Jitendra Agarwal, Chairman , Sarthak Foundation, Ms Christina Adams (USA) , Writer & parent of a special child; Ms Elizabeth "Betsy" Neville , Executive Director of The Keystone Institute; Ms Meenu

Bhambani, Vice President Mphasis; Dr S Sitharaman, Pediatrician, HOD, J K Lon Hospital etc.

More than 200 participants attended the Conference. Our chief functionary along with three special educators participated in the National Conference.

- A high level meeting was called by ACS , SJE to draft and frame Rajasthan State Rules in light with New RPD Act. Our chief functionary was invited into the working group in which he submitted critical inputs and point wise suggestions to be incorporated. New rules after vetting from legal and finance department are likely to be notified early 2018.
- National Parents Meet organized by PARIVAAR at Bangalore was attended by us. Proceedings are enclosed.

25th NATIONAL PARENTS MEET: 11.11.2017

The inaugural ceremony was enriched by the dignified presence of Dr.Thaaawarchand Gehlot, the Hon'ble Minister of Social Justice & Empowerment, Dr.Kiran Bedi, the Lt. Governor of Pondicherry, Dr.D.K.Menon, Archbishop Dr.Bernard, Dr.Himangshu Das, Director, NIEPMD, Shri Mukesh Jain, CEO, National Trust, Dr.Doly Chakraborty, Joint Secretary. Unlike the usual hasty and breezy presence of VVIPs, the Hon'ble Minister Dr.Gehlot remained in his seat and let all others speak. President Cdr.Bijur presented in a nutshell of the present scenario and the immediate necessities like NT Amendment, Skill Development and Placement and representation of Parents' Organisations in different committees to be constituted as per RPD Act. Shri Mukesh Jain spoke about NT schemes, especially DISHA and Gharaunda. Smt.Doly Chakraborty spoke about the symbiotic relationship between Parivaar and NIMH. She lauded Parivaar for the unique assemblage of parents from all over the country. She touched areas like educational empowerment, awareness creation, necessity of State RPD Rules etc. She reminded the audience that any legislature will be meaningless unless it creates a momentum. It has been

heartening that Dr Kiran Bedi requested specifically the recognition of Parivaar by the National Trust, ear-marking identified jobs to parents of PwIDDs, grant for Parivaar and creating awareness about schemes among parents. Dr Menon, as always, sounded differently. He spoke about keeping friendship, initiating conversation and not letting PwIDDs lonely and also to train PwIDDs to safeguard themselves. The Silver Jubilee Souvenir was released by Dr Gehlot. Those who expected any announcement from the Hon'ble Minister might have been disappointed. First technical session was on "New Schemes of National Trust and other Govt. Programmes", led by Shri Mukesh Jain, Mrs Jayasree Ramesh and Shri M G Prakash. Certain questions (written and submitted) remained unanswered. In the next session on "Inclusive Education – Provisions in Legislations, Schemes", Dr Bhushan Punani insisted that PwIDDs could be taught beyond primary level. The third session was "RPD Act – Ensuring Rights & Entitlements of PwIDDs" by Dr L. Govinda Rao. Dr Rao's mention of making 'fully equal' sounded like 'more circular'. One didn't get anything out of it as the presenter was rushing through, for want of time. The last session of the day was on "Self-Advocacy – Ensuring Human Rights and Independent Living", led by Shri Vijay Kant and Shri Parthiban.

12.11.2017 NPM: DAY TWO:

The proceedings of the day commenced at 9.40 A.M. with a song by our North-East friends which made the atmosphere lively. The first session was on "Skill Development & Employment for PwIDD" by Shri Pankaj Maru, Cdr. Bijur and Mrs. Suganda Sukrutraj being chairpersons. Shri Maru explained different NHFDC schemes. However, he skipped the issue of 1% job reservation and avoided answering the question of inclusion of LD along with ID. Mrs. Suganda gave a brief account of AMBA. Next session on "Role of Parents' Organisations and Parents' Responsibilities", an important subject from parents' perspective, was handled by Cdr. Bijur, with Smt. Ranoo Banerjee, Krishnakumari Menon and Ruby Singh. Cdr. Bijur said after 18 years of age of a PwIDD, parents have to kick-start initiative for skill

development and vocational training; form self-help groups; open employment, mentoring; leisure and sports; formation of group homes (which shall ensure sustainability, good management and safety). He also stressed on parents' awareness, spreading self-advocacy, formation of parent groups, capacity building, support for resource generation, coordination and advocacy with Government and knowledge pooling and sharing. Cdr.Bijur also suggested a check-list to see whether one has done one's duty as a parent. The third session of the day was on "Adolescents with IDD, Parents, Sexuality & Safety", handled by Dr.Shaibya Saldhana, Director, ENFOLD. Without doubt one can say that this has been one of the best sessions. Dr.Shaibya was superb with her openness and confidence in handling the subject. Many parents were in repentant mood as they felt they didn't do justice to their children with regard to sex education. Next session was on "Involving Community in Development of PwIDDs" by Ms.Prerana Singh, supported by Shri Anil Joshi, Ruby Singh and Shri P.S.Burde, with Mrs.Suchitra Somasekhar in the chair. Ms.Prerana Singh divided the community into three: the inner circle consisting of family members of the PwIDDs, the middle circle consisting of professionals and the outer circle. She said there must be a sense of belonging; support must be value based and qualitative. She reminded that supporters shall not be competitors. Shri Anil Joshi said that it was heartening to see that younger generation is taking up the cause (meaning Ms.Prerana Singh who took up the field because of her differently abled brother). However, mother of Ms.Prerana Singh asked a pertinent question: "Where is the next line of leadership? I see here only old faces." Shri Anil Joshi also reminded the need for synergy of ideas. Mrs.Ruby Singh was forceful and unique in her presentation. The last session was on "Life Long Care – Living Standards for Persons with High Support Needs" by Shri Ajin Kumar Sen, with S/Shri Jha, Tapan Ghosh and Prof.Venkatesha.

...And the Valedictory session.

- Anjali International Inclusive Children Festival Bhubaneswar (13th to 18th November 2017) is an eagerly awaited event on our calendar. This year ten children from AKJ participated in it.
- During November, three passed out HI youth from Asha Ka Jharna underwent two months skill training program at Gurgaon being organized by SARTHAK Educational Trust. This is a path breaking initiative by us as due to depressing economic environment in our region, skill building exposure is not there. These youth will learn modules in soft skills, retail mgmt., BPO handling etc. followed by linkage to job opportunities.
- 12 of our children were taken on an excursion trip to New Delhi on 4th – 5th December. They always look forward to this outing which provide them a bird view of outer world and exposed to different stimulations. They presented an excellent choreographed skit and earned thunderous applause at Akshay Utsav. (Annual Fest of Akshay Pratishthan). Children were thrilled on their maiden Metro Ride and visit to Kutub Minar. View of IGI Airport and Sky Scrapers at Gurgaon was of particular interest for them. Children thoroughly enjoyed this trip.
- One day National Consultation on Regulatory Laws & Compliances in NPOs was attended by our chief functionary on 7th December at New Delhi. During the day long deliberations, issues concerning FCRA developments; IT amendments and GST applicability concerning voluntary organizations were explained in detail by legal & technical experts.
- In due recognition of his services to the cause of disability , our Chief Functionary Mr Sudeep Goyal received "Vishishith Sewa Samman" at 6th International Conference on ' Paradigm Shift in Global Business Practices and Socio Economic Development ' held at Indore on 8th December at the hands of Dr Narendra Kumar Dhakad , Hon. Vice Chacellor Devi Ahilaya Vishwa Vidhalaya ; Dr Dilip K Pithadia , Chairman Pithadia Foundation USA ; Dr Rangana Sri Shalika , University of Sri Lanka & Dr. Narang , Dynamic MD

Vishishith Group of Institutions. Attended Technical Sessions thereafter where more than 300 papers of diverse topics were presented by academicians across the country and six nations.

- Two of our special educators (Hearing Impairment) are being sponsored by us for three months Sign Language Training to Kota. Deaf Instructor from Noida Deaf Society has been guiding them with hands on training with HI children studying at Badhit Bal Vikas Samiti Kota. Training would be completed by End January or Mid-February 18.
- Year ended on another important interaction for our sector. Mr Kamlesh Pandey, Chief Commissioner Disability, Govt of India visited Jaipur on 28th December. We met him and raised Rajasthan issues including poor state of affairs of accessibility in built environment; inordinate delay in framing state rules; RTE act etc.
- Year 2018 started with some good networking events. District Collector Jhunjhunu celebrated New Year with our children at Jhunjhunu where he also gave some uniforms and stationery items to most needy ones. Our services were widely acclaimed with Asha Ka Jharna declared one of the Top rated NGO in Rajasthan by Social Justice Deptt.

On Makar Sakranti occasion, school was in festive mood with colorful kites being distributed to all children and sweets provided. Birthday of one media journalist was also celebrated at our Nawalgarh unit where many reporters from local print and digital media were present who interacted with children passionately. Disability related issues were shared with them by us with a request to allocate more media space to our sector.

- As part of Organization Capacity Enhancement Program, field visits and validation of our organization systems and documentation was done by external experts from FMSF twice during this quarter. First time, on 17th –

18th January they went through our protocols in the domains of Governance, Policies & Administrative Management as well as Legal Compliance & Reporting Mechanism. During their second visit in last quarter of March , Financial Procedures, Budgeting, Voucher Management, Internal Control, Auditing & Reporting Timelines to Statutory Bodies were checked upon and feedback provided. Post evaluation, now we would get appropriate ratings thereby enabling our NGO run on corporate governance model.

- On 23rd January, under Accessible India Campaign, our chief functionary Mr Sudeep Goyal took a technical session as resource person in the capacity of certified Access Auditor with more than 50 civil engineers of PWD deptt at Jaipur. Objective was to orient them in best ways of making 90 Govt Buildings at state capital fully accessible. Active participation of engineers was there. Lots of questions were responded to with practical demo and specifications standards were shared by him of different elements in built environment like approach roads & footpaths, parking, entrance to building , reception , ramp , stair case , lift, corridors , doors , universal accessible toilet , placing of fixtures & controls , signage and emergency egress etc. Session lasted for more than three hours beyond stipulated time period. Let's hope these professionals will now strive hard in retrofitting existing important buildings for making these barriers free to persons with reduced mobility. Sudeep stressed upon to put Access Lens in each development activity being undertaken while remodeling the buildings of public use.
- INCLUSIVE CHILDREN FESTIVAL was celebrated on 30th January 2018 at Nawalgarh by ASHA KA JHARNA with the support of The Hans Foundation New Delhi. Nearly 450 children (220 Special from four schools Nawalgarh , Jhunjhunu and Sikar Units of Asha Ka Jharna and Akshay Pratishthan Chirawa ; 225 Non-Disabled studying from grades 4 to 8 from Nine Public English Medium & Govt. Schools) walked hand in hand through an awareness rally BADHTE KADAM (Moving Forward) through main market of the town for sensitization of community. Colorful balloons, decorative

camel cart escorted by Nagada (Drum) beating and slogan shouting on portable address system persuaded traders to step out of their shops and encourage our children. Play cards and banners depicting slogans of realizing their equal rights were carried out in the rally. There after 20 inclusive events (sports, recreational, painting and cultural) among these children at Surya Mandal Public Ground were organized in true sportsmanship followed by group dance. As every child is a winner, each of them got goodie bag (Gift, Juice, Cake, Wafer, Biscuit, Lunch Packet) while top three in every event bagged another prize. Aim of promoting empathy and inclusion was achieved fairly successfully. Our governing body members Ms. Aanchal Bhagat (Youth with Cerebral Palsy) & Mr. Murari Lal Soni (Youth with Hearing & Speech Impairment) made motivational speeches. Our Four Sign Language Interpreters translated the proceedings. Daylong event ended with sweet memories and feeling of empathy strongly itched into children and teachers minds. Children wrote the feedback with words like 'Eye opening', 'Incredible' and 'Discovering the abilities' with the promise to take along their special friends in their day to day activities. More than 500 participants directly and 5000 indirect community were sensitized about INCLUSION as way of living.

- Regular Health checkup of all children at Nawalgarh School was done in phased manner with the kind support of Jaipuria Hospital Management. They made access to all specialist doctors in ENT, Ophthalmology, GP, Pediatrics, PT departments examine our children. Appropriate guidance and counselling to those children in which further medical intervention is required. We have asked their parents to contact the hospital.
- Two days' workshop by FMSF was attended by our chief functionary on 1st & 2nd February at New Delhi. Financial compliance mechanism in case of an organization from scratch till end was explained thoroughly by legal & technical experts. Income Tax Act/Rules, Reporting & record keeping under FCRA Act and Good Practices in accounting were shared by them.

- On 15th Feb, Local Level Committee Jhunjhunu meeting was called upon under the chairmanship of Distt. Collector. We as convener raised issues of legal guardian ship application for PWIDDs and enhanced awareness about their rights & legal capacity among community. Ongoing UDID project was also discussed with stress upon fast medical assessment of enrolled persons with disabilities. DM instructed health department to expedite the process and complete the certification at the earliest.
- As a part of digital learning, we made a new addition to our special school at Nawalgarh. Smart Board (78') along with Multi Media Projector got installed in one class room for educational & training purpose. It would be utilized for imparting multimedia content to children and transaction of training modules to team members, parents and other stake holders.\
- From 15th to 17th February, 75 children from NWL School visited Regional Fair named and styled as Shekhawati Utsav organized by tourism deptt. Where they enjoyed rural games and cultural programs. They participated and won prizes in the rural games competing with non-disabled children. Everyone was spell bound with our children performance. During this event, one day orientation session on training of Heritage Mistry was organized in which ten of our passed out hearing impaired youth also took part. We plan to enroll them in forthcoming three months livelihood training course so that they can lead an independent life thereafter.
- Ministry of Skill & Entrepreneurship, Government of India & NAAI would be conducting National Abilympics competition in 20 trades in the month of July. NAAI & Sarthak Educational Trust organized a "Round Table Discussion" at Jaipur on 19th February where our senior technical advisor Ms Monalisa Mehta represented Asha Ka Jharna. Theme was 'Excellence in Skilling' for PwDs. A roadmap for the upcoming Regional & National Abilympics competitions was drawn with our key inputs. We stressed upon

a time bound and accountable system for hosting these events so that optimum participation of PWDs can be ensured.

- Another Exciting Trip Planned & Executed to Perfection for Our Children. Forty of our children accompanied with seven team members from our Sikar special school undertook an excursion from 23rd to 27th February. Destinations were Chandigarh & Amritsar. Rose Garden with Eye Catching Display Exhibition, Rock Garden, Sukhna Lake at Chandigarh mesmerized the kids and educators alike. Next stop was Amritsar. Stay was at Magnificent Golden Temple itself. Jaliawala Bagh , Durgiana Temple , War Museum , Gobindgarh Fort with Captivating 7D Show and Lip Smacking Food , Sadda Pind Resort , Khalsa College were visited through Double Decker Air Conditioned Bus to the delight of children. But Icing on the Cake was waiting for them. Wagha Border with its full glory. Sitting in Front VIP Row witnessing Beating Retreat Parade & Chanting Patriotic Slogans! What else do you need ? Group came back after once in a life time opportunity with 56 inch smiles on children as well as staff faces. Thus our groundwork of two months paid off.

- During the reporting period , AKJ Master trainer Ms Suman Tailor took four sessions on Self Advocacy with parent mentors and self-advocates (PWID youth) at Sikar. Objectives of this training were :
 - j) Explain the concepts of “Powerlessness”, “Empowerment” and “Self-Advocacy”.
 - k) Develop a positive attitude towards Self Advocacy.
 - l) Utilize the basic skills required for Self-Advocacy in your day to day activities.
 - m) Explain the concept of “Mentoring”.
 - n) Develop a positive attitude towards Mentoring.
 - o) Utilize the basic skills required for Mentoring in your day to day activities.
 - p) State the basic requirements for formulating a training program for mentee Self Advocates.

- q) Develop a positive attitude towards training of Self Advocates.
- r) Utilize the basic skills required for training self-advocates in your day to day activities.

These sessions would continue for next seven months so as to develop a strong pool of mentors and SAs with rich understanding of Self Advocacy Movement.

- PARIVAAR Regional Parents Meet for Rajasthan, MP and Chhattisgarh states was organized at Bhillai (Chattisgarh) on 22nd & 23rd March in which ten parents from Rajasthan were mobilized by us to participate. It was a successful capacity enhancement event with gathering of more than 160 parents getting valuable insights from galaxy of resource persons. Following were the themes on which sessions during two days were conducted: Early Intervention, its Importance and implementation of activities; Role of Parents, Professionals and Community in Development of PwIDDs ; Importance of Self Advocacy , Role of SA in realizing their rights ; Capacity building of NGOs and parent associations ; Rights For Persons With Disability Act 2016 – Important provisions and status quo in implementation ; Govt schemes and policies etc.
- During March, Board examinations of 8th class conducted by Rajasthan School Education Board saw the enthusiastic participation of ten AKJ children who wrote these exams confidently along with non-disabled students from regular schools thus achieving equality.
- On 28th March 2018 , “Starkey Hearing Foundation ” team of Senior Audiologists Mr Yashwant Singh and Mr Ankush Yadav conducted an ear mould assessment camp for the hearing impaired children here who would be provided High Quality Behind the Ear Hearing Aids in a later distribution event. Total of 45 new HI children were identified and enrolled. Since eight years, 625 hearing & speech impaired children so far have been benefitted across our region by facilitating these aids through **Asha Ka Jharna**.