

# ASHA KA JHARNA

## Annual Activity Report (April 2018 to March 2019)

This is an annual activity report of **Asha Ka Jharna (AKJ)** special schools from April 2018 to March 2019. 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.

- We were given '**Transparency Badge**' by Guide Star India in recognition of adherence to public disclosures, compliance management and legal governance to statutory regulations.
- Our Chief Functionary Mr Sudeep Goyal was invited by Election Commission of Rajasthan for State Level Workshop on Accessible Elections held at Jaipur on 16<sup>th</sup> April. Inputs were gathered from the stakeholders including persons with disabilities, professionals working in disability sector, district electoral officers etc. and presented to Election Commission of India by Ms Smitha Sadasivan , Consultant, Accessible Elections , Election Commission of India.
- On 30<sup>th</sup> April, uniform were distributed to 60 of our school children by one of our well-wisher at a function held at Govt Hospital Nawalgarh. Speakers including local MLA Sh. Raj Kumar Sharma praised high of our services since last twenty years.
- Board examinations results of 8<sup>th</sup> class which were conducted by Rajasthan School Education Board were declared in May. All ten AKJ children (students with hearing impairment) passed these exams confidently and were declared eligible to be promoted to next class.

- On 17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> May, "Social Role Valorization" Overview Batch 2 - 'Power of Roles' theme based Workshop was held at Jaipur thereby proving that strong momentum has built here at Rajasthan. A lively group of more than 40 professionals and mothers learnt about various aspects of wounding, devaluation and valued roles. SRV grads Arpita Yadav, Sudeep Goyal, Geeta Mondol and Bharti Shekhawat provided leadership, along with national content expert Betsy Neuville from Key Stone India Institute. We talked about building on the learning, next steps, forging alliances, and joining the growing community of change agents in India.
- On 21<sup>st</sup> May, as last leg of Deen Dayal Upadhyay Vishesh Yogya Jan Campaign Drive, an aids & appliances distribution camp was held at Sikar where hundreds of persons with disabilities were provided motorized tricycles, wheel chairs, calipers, Jaipur foot, white cane etc. Concession certificates were made by the doctors and UDID registration completed. Similar camp was organized at Jhunjhunu on 21<sup>st</sup> June. Our team members actively participated in both of these camps by assisting PWDs in filling the forms, guiding them about schemes and general logistic support for which we were felicitated by district administration.
- On 23<sup>rd</sup> May, Local Level Committee Jhunjhunu meeting was called upon under the chairmanship of Distt. Collector. We as convener had processed applications for legal guardian ship of PWIDDs. These were placed before LLC and approved. UDID project was also discussed with our emphasis on fast tracking the smart card issuance.
- On 25<sup>th</sup> May, Networking Meet was held by our funding & strategic partner 'The Hans Foundation' at New Delhi where we exchanged the best practices among us thereby leveraging our strengths. Wide spectrum of organizations workings in a Metropolitan to a rural setting were touched upon. Key learnings from this meet are being implemented by AKJ straight away.
- Five Days Continuous Rehabilitation Extension/Enrichment (CRE) workshop at Asha Ka Jharna Special School Nawalgarh (Rajasthan) was organized from 1st to 5th June. Resource Faculties Sh Dattatreya Rai & Sh Pushvinder Singh from 'National Institute of Empowerment of Persons with Intellectual

Disabilities' , Govt of India and 45 Special Educator Participants from Rajasthan , Haryana , Gujarat & Delhi took part in this CRE. Lectures , Case Study , Small Group Work , Presentations by Group Leaders followed by Q & A , Doubt Clearing Sessions were scheduled in 5 Days.

Topics Covered : Introduction to Human Behaviour ; Characteristics ; Deviation in PWIDDs ; Intro to Problem Behaviours ; Types & Whys of Problem ; Techniques of Recording ; Types of Behavioural Recording and Recording Maintenance ; Functions of Behaviour ; Techniques of Behaviour Management ; Implementation of Behaviour Techniques - With Case Studies & Discussions ; Description , Illustration of Behaviour Management Plan (BMP) Format ; Demo of Recording Techniques in BMP format & Procedure of filling BMP format . Plenty case illustrations & ways of filling up of BMP format were discussed along with case workups in groups. The participants took active interest in the program and contributed in discussions during the sessions. Feedback form was distributed to them at the end of training program. It was learnt that they thoroughly appreciated the program and many new concepts related to Behaviour Modification Techniques were learnt by them for the first time.

This CRE was first in our state conducted at RCI Non Training Centre and was facilitated by Dr Mousumi Bhowmik , course coordinator NIEPID Regional Centre Noida along with Dr Himanshu Das , Director NIEPID Secunderabad. AKJ all teaching staff members participated in this training workshop.

- Our chief functionary Mr Sudeep Goyal delivered a talk on All India Radio Jaipur broadcasting all over Rajasthan under the show "Sugamya Gulabi Nagri". He explained nuances of Accessible India Campaign in general and particularly about retrofitting works being carried out under his supervision throughout 90 Govt Buildings at Jaipur to remove the barriers and making these Universally Accessible for Persons with reduced mobility.
- Another Milestone for Asha Ka Jharna ! DEd (Special Education) in MR & HI Diploma Courses have been approved by RCI to our collaborative partner training institution at Sikar. Trainee students will learn theory there and will do practicums class room at our special school. We will ensure that a

competent and compassionate batch of special educators be churned out for providing quality education to special needs children.

- On 27<sup>th</sup> June, SLCC (State Level Coordination Committee) of National Trust was held under the chairmanship of special Secretary, Social Justice & Empowerment, Govt of Rajasthan at Jaipur. We as one of the member participated extensively and put forward many suggestions including finalizing state rules under New RPD Act , medical insurance premium financing for PWIDDs in the state , monitoring mechanism of MR homes , adopting some welfare schemes as CSR by corporates etc.
- 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, 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.
- During July, new admissions were formalized with logistics finalized. This year 28 new admissions have taken place at three of our schools. Similarly NIOS Board Exam 2019 data was uploaded. Total of 39 children would be taking NIOS end term exams (Level A 15; Level B 16 and Level C 08). Rest of the children would clear interim classes through home exams.
- New designed IEP formats were filled by our team members. Being quite child - centric and exhaustive, it took almost two months to complete these for all children. Now educators have become more confident in planning and means to achieve goals selected for their class students.
- Recently, we undertook a quick random survey to know about present status of children who ever attended our schools at Nawalgarh & Sikar. Our findings are as below:
  - a) 21 children have been integrated into mainstream education. They are studying upto class 12 at regular schools and Govt School for hearing impaired at Jaipur.

- b) 09 youth are enrolled for higher studies. They are doing graduation at different colleges at Jaipur and Delhi.
- c) 14 of passed out youth are gainfully employed doing petty jobs and earning average salary of Rs. 6000/- PM.
- d) 04 of them are preparing for competitive exams.
- e) Total of 76 children have so far cleared OBE Level 3 (Equivalent to 8th Standard) of NIOS Examination from AKJ.
- f) More than 100 young adults (both ID and HI) having basic education of grade 5 and above are not gain fully employed and sitting idle at home due to lack of income generating avenues. They can be provided employable skills and absorbed into economy.

There are practically no income generation activities at our project locations. Business & office establishments as well as service sector jobs exist at Jaipur which is the nearest town but parents (being accustomed to residing in rural settings) have apprehensions & reservations in sending their wards to metro city. We would provide that needed exposure to hesitant families and youth by counseling, mentorship, arranging jobs and facilitating their stay at Jaipur. In this regard a series of meetings were held during July with Youth 4 Job and Aahan Foundation Jaipur. Y4J agreed to impart soft skills, English, personality development and computers to our youth with HI. After getting the training, Youth4Jobs will explore and place the youth on the service sector jobs in hospitality, F & B, BPO and retail. We would strive to ensure job placement for 10 to 15 youth in coming year thus leading them to Independent Living. 9 HI youth were interviewed during this period and screening & counselling of parents has been ongoing.

- Periodic parents' meeting was held at Nawalgarh on 27<sup>th</sup> July 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. From this session, we have also introduced student diary and ID card for all children to facilitate better interaction. Another initiative taken is keeping an 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.

- We are pleased to share that on 2nd August 2018 Asha Ka Jharna was conferred 16th Nina Sibal Memorial Award for Best Organization Working in Disability Sector. Mr. Sudeep Goyal as Chief Functionary received this award at the hands of Dr Karan Singh, MP and Sh Kapil Sibal, Noted lawyer & Ex Union Minister at a glittering function held at Delhi. 90 years old organization AIWEFA has been bestowing this prestigious award since last 16 years to an organization executing exemplary services and innovative work for persons with disabilities. Our chief functionary presented a snapshot of our activities of last 20 years before the august audience which was widely acclaimed and deeply appreciated. Speakers spoke high of us and a citation, trophy along with award cheque of Rs 7 Lacs was handed over to Asha Ka Jharna.
- On 14<sup>th</sup> August, uniform were distributed to 60 of our Sikar School children by Sh Shradhha Jan Kalyan Trust Sikar branch at a function.
- On 20<sup>th</sup> August, our Chief Functionary Mr Sudeep Goyal was invited by Shri Keshvanand Institute of Technology & Management Jaipur for their annual prestigious workshop on 'Leadership Enhancement Skills'. It was a wonderful opportunity for us to apprise younger generation about the work AKJ has been doing for the society. During two hours long session , we sensitized the students and staff members about nuances of disability , special education and rehabilitation strategies and leadership mantras with key takeaways behind our organization journey so far. Techno & Management students were made motivated enough to explore social sector as a smart career option.
- In response to recent cases of sexual abuse of children staying in shelter homes in country, an intensive scrutiny and validation exercise was done by Govt. of Rajasthan across the state. Though ours being day schools are out of purview still we voluntarily invited the authorities to our premises. A series of surprise visits by SDM; Child Welfare Committee Chairperson;

District Child Protection Officer and Child Welfare Officer from Police Station were conducted at AKJ three schools. Physical verification of our policy documents, student files and protocols followed by in person interaction with children converted initially suspicious authorities into delighted ones.

- A group of 70 comprising 55 of our children were taken on an excursion trip to Jaipur on 3rd September. This outing provided them a bird view of outer world with exposure to different stimulations. Jaipur scenic places like Albert Hall Museum, Jal Dhara and Birla Temple were visited along with a ride on Jaipur Metro. Children and staff thoroughly enjoyed this day trip.
- On Teachers Day 5<sup>th</sup> September, it was turn of AKJ team to shine. In the glittering function at Jhunjhunu organized by Dainik Bhaskar Media House, our three special educators were felicitated before august gathering of citizens for their contribution in teaching children with disabilities with dedication and passion. That was scheduled to be a mega event 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 editor heaped praise on us citing our functioning and dedication to cause.
- Premier BITS Pilani organized the seventh 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 2018" 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 "Junoon Nite" was also organized with various NGOs showcasing their cultures and ability in the form of dance or small acts.

Junoon 2018 on 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> September saw spectacular performance by Asha Ka Jharna Children. Excursion cum Sports Activities made kids happy. With 4 Gold, 8 Silver & 9 Bronze Medals, our team stole the show.

- Apex body of 260 parents associations of persons with intellectual & developmental disabilities PARIVAAR held it's biannually Executive Council Meeting at NIEPID Secunderabad (Telangana) on 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> September. In the capacity of Technical Adviser PARIVAAR, our chief functionary Mr Sudeep Goyal participated in this national gathering. Meet was preceded with strategy sessions on Best models of Residential care; Self Advocacy and Fiduciary management for PWIDDs. During these sessions intense brain storming was witnessed among 35 delegates. EC meet saw serious deliberations on affairs of The National Trust, Implementation Status of RPD Act, Internal matters of confederation, induction of new parent associations and future course of action by PARIVAAR in National Disability Arena.
- Local Level Committee Jhunjhunu meeting was called upon under the chairmanship of Distt. Collector. We as convener had processed and approved applications for legal guardian ship of PWIDDs. Two legal guardians were appointed for care & maintenance of two adult girls with autism and ID.
- 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!

- Year 2019 started with some good networking and awareness generation events. On 6<sup>th</sup> January, Seven of our Intellectually Disabled Children from Asha Ka Jharna Special School Sikar draped in designer outfits walked on ramp side by side with professional models at a Fashion Show organized by Rajasthan Khadi Board Jaipur. Cat Walk by special children was first in their history and was made possible by convincing the board officials to provide a platform to prove that **'We Can Do'**. Children simply loved travelling to Jaipur, enjoying fair & swings with some good food and then wide applauses from audience which was spell bound by their elegance & grace. This again proved that Mainstreaming is Possible if we have Inclusive Mindsets.
- On 8<sup>th</sup> January, acclaimed dance practitioner Ms. Nisha Purohit from AURA Jaipur visited AKJ Nawalgarh unit to interact and explore training opportunities for our children. She was warmly received particularly by our HI section who displayed a good bonding & chemistry even in the very first visit. Both of us decided to work out logistics to train the children in dance & movement activities.

- National Parents Meet Bhilai (CG) was attended on 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> January by three of our special educators who picked upon intricacies of sensory stimulation techniques , legal capacity , government concessions & entitlements , parental counselling , work life transition , self-advocacy and many such issues from galaxy of resource persons.
- On Makar Sakranti occasion eve 12<sup>th</sup> January, school was in festive mood with colorful kites being distributed to all children. Kites & Dor, Feeny & Ghewar, Chocolates & Biscuits - it was a field day for our special children at Nawalgarh, Jhunjhunu and Sikar.
- An Exciting Social Roles Valorization overview workshop themed "Power of Roles" was again facilitated by us on 16<sup>th</sup> of January at Disha Jaipur. Rajasthani SRV Leadership Circle, who reached a national milestone by presenting the first ever full day workshop on Social Role Valorization with 100% Indian leadership. AKJ Chief Functionary & very first SRV Graduate Mr Sudeep Goyal along with Ms Arpita Yadav , Bharati Shekhawat , Geeta Mondal and Bindu Senger presented and explained these powerful ideas which deeply impact the lives of devalued & rejected persons or groups (those at the very bottom of societal norms and widely accepted standards). A lively and engaged audience comprising of around 40 teachers, therapists, parents, and NGO leaders kept all of us high on toes. Key Stone India Director Ms Betsy Neuville was there to value add, mentoring and handholding. After this third event, SRV movement here at Rajasthan is now 100 Plus Strong ideators & practitioners.
- On 15<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> January, woolen sweaters, caps and socks were distributed to 80 of our Nawalgarh school children by Sh Dinesh Verma and Seksaria family Mumbai.
- On 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> January, SSA Jhunjhunu organized games and awareness rally by disabled children in which our children also participated.

- Alliance Club International President Dr D S Jangid and his cabinet celebrated Swami Vivekanand Birth Celebration at AKJ Nawalgarh School. Children presented dance and sayings of Swami Ji were conveyed to them. We exhorted club members to be more involved in disability related projects.
- Under the aegis of All India Journalist & Mass Media Federation Nawalgarh Branch , birthday of one media journalist was celebrated at our Nawalgarh unit on 31<sup>st</sup> January 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.

### **SHORT REPORT ON INCLUSIVE CHILDREN FESTIVAL 2019**

- **INCLUSIVE CHILDREN FESTIVAL** was celebrated on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2019 at Sikar by ASHA KA JHARNA with the support of The Hans Foundation New Delhi. All our three special schools at Nawalgarh, Sikar and Jhunjhunu participated in a unified event to put up a great show aimed at inclusion and sensitization among community. This was an event with 500+ children and teachers comprising of 230 children (studying from Grade 4 to 8) from Eight (08) regular normal schools (5 reputed public schools & 3 Government schools) integrated with 235 of special needs children (Intellectually Disabled , Hearing Impaired & Visually Impaired) from three of our special schools and five other homes for disabled & destitute children. 30 trainees of 'Diploma in Special Education' course from our partner training college also volunteered their services. Thus 15 institutes took part.

#### **Awareness Rally:**

Children from different schools started assembling at starting point from 9.15 AM onwards. Human chains were made with one special and one normal child joining hand in hand. At 9.50 AM awareness rally named 'Badhte Kadam' (Let's March Forward) by Additional Superintendent of Police Sikar Dr. jointly with our Special Children Tanisha , Mansi & Ayaan was flagged off. Child Welfare Committee Chairperson Mr Ratan Lal Mishra,

Assistant Director (Social Justice) Mr Om Prakash Rahad and prominent citizen Mr Suresh Agarwal cheered up the children who under the supervision of AKJ and normal school educators carried play cards, banners and tricolor balloons depicting following awareness slogans:

- ✓ We Need Solidarity Not Pity
- ✓ We Have Equal Rights
- ✓ Access for All
- ✓ Let's Remove Barriers
- ✓ Equal Opportunities for Us
- ✓ Look upon our Abilities, Not Disability
- ✓ Disability is not a Curse
- ✓ Make us Your Strength, Not Weakness
- ✓ We have to Knock on Every Door to mitigate Disability related Sufferings
- ✓ Constitution Gives Us Equal Rights to Live, Education, Voting, Recreation, Livelihood, Participation in Decision Making, Free Expression & Speech

This was an exciting lively rally with E Rickshaws and school vehicles in toe (on which children unable to walk long distance were sitting) leading the convoy and children shouting slogans in portable speaker and waving play cards. We made the 2 KM route such as to pass through dense main market, station road, colleges and schools, Govt and Pvt. Hospitals, vegetable mandi and populated area so as to catch maximum eyeballs. Persons ventured outside of their shops to look at rally. During the rally procession, snacks and juice were served to children at two places. Highlight of the rally was that Addl. SP and other guests walked through entire route for more than one hour. We utilized this opportunity to brief him about different aspects of disability and role of administration in realizing their equal rights. He was particularly interested in genetic profiling and its importance in prevention of disability in successive generations. Rally was flagged in at 11.15 AM at S K Govt Senior Secondary School Play Ground by Mr. Ranjeet Singh, Chairman, Shekhawati Group of

Institutes who announced the games open and wished all children all the best for day ahead.

- TOTAL COMMUNITY SENSITIZED: 10000 (Approx.)

**Inter School Sports Events: (11.30 AM – 1.30 PM) :**

After fifteen minutes rest and settling down, second leg was started at 11.30. We had planned various sporting events as follow:

- ❖ 50 Meter Race (Boys & Girls)
- ❖ 100 Meter Race (Boys & Girls)
- ❖ Soft Ball Throw (Boys & Girls)
- ❖ Sack Race (Boys & Girls)
- ❖ Spoon Race (Boys & Girls)
- ❖ Three Legged Race (Boys & Girls)
- ❖ Long Jump
- ❖ High Jump
- ❖ Musical Chair
- ❖ Zalebi Race
- ❖ Best Selfie

Along with these, a Drawing & Painting Competition was also organized.

All the children (with prior registered entries) participated in these competitions enthusiastically. They were extremely excited and thrilled to integrate with our special children whom we had placed in every event. Their teachers were initially apprehensive but when AKJ children bagged top positions in few games, they cheered up their students to take it seriously. Out of 51 prizes, 19 were won by special children. Through these two hours of sporting events, we were able to achieve our desired objective of showcasing the abilities & potential of all children. Participants were served delicious & hygienically packed lunch afterwards.

**Inter School Cultural Program: (1.55 PM – 2.30 PM) :**

Finally it was time to shake the legs. Again it was a mesmerizing show with dance by our children and other schools. One school team presented YOGA

Moves while two children with visually impairment sang soul stirring compositions which audience appreciated greatly. Our Nawalgarh children Bollywood dance stole the show with wide hooting and once more demands. Our governing body members Ms. Aanchal Bhagat (Youth with Cerebral Palsy) made a motivational speech. Our Four Sign Language Interpreters translated the proceedings.

At 2.30 PM prize distribution ceremony was conducted with Bharat Vikas Parishad Rajasthan North East State Vice President Mr Rajendra Agarwal & Sikar branch President Mr G L Sharma giving away the prizes. In this program, in addition to special gifts to top position holders, each and every participant (465) was given a goodies bag (gift, cake, juice) along with Fourteen (14) school mementoes. Day long events finally ended at 3.00 PM with school teams' departure.

***Our objectives of awareness building & inclusion were effectively met as evident from the feedback we received afterwards. Inclusive Children Festival 2019 created 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 550 participants directly and 10000 indirect community were sensitized about INCLUSION as way of living. Whole program was widely appreciated by community and those present. It was widely covered by local print media.***

- A heartwarming story welcomed us in February. Our CHILDLINE Sikar received a call from Prayagraj (UP) informing of a hearing impaired youth found there wandering in Kumbh Mela. On enquiry, he only wrote Asha Ka Jharna. When team googled us, it threw some images of our children and team members along with class room activities which this child Toffik immediately identified. We contacted his family in Jhunjhunu who informed us that he had left his home more than one month ago after some minor issue at house. A missing person report was already lodged at



local police station. As the family was extremely poor, we arranged their tickets to Prayagraj , got all legal & procedural formalities completed and reunited the child with family.

- From 8th to 10th 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 mesmerized with our children performance and special cash prizes were awarded to our team.
- Mr Sudeep Goyal in the capacity of Rajasthan Project Head attended strategic meet at Nagpur on 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> February organized by PARIVAAR National Confederation of Parents Associations. Two days of intense briefings and desk work resulted into an action plan along with timeline and responsibilities. If everything go as planned, by end of this calender year PARIVAAR should have a rich resource of 200 Mentors and 2000 Self Advocates. We committed training 40 to 50 Mentors and 400 Self Advocates in Rajasthan. Database of more than 5000 PWIDDs and convergence with Govt policies would be additional takeaway.
- During February second half, NIOS Board examinations of Grade 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> were conducted by us at the authorized accredited center AKJ Nawalgarh. Total of 37 learners (our ID & HI children) wrote their papers confidently and passed their grades during result declared in March 19.
- On 26<sup>th</sup> February, our chief functionary delivered a talk on 90.4 FM Sikar community radio station in which he delved upon issues of disability, education, equal rights, accessibility and inclusion of special persons in community.

- During the reported period, Independent Living Project was initiated with first HI youth getting job at handicraft firm Jaipur as quality check executive. AKJ had been continuously making contacts with our parents and counsel them to visit Jaipur for interaction with skill training & job facilitator agency. We offered them mentoring support and regular hand holding along with monetary help in offsetting the partial cost of living. After our sustained efforts, now three youth are gainfully employed and getting skill training at Jaipur in collaboration with our partner 'Youth 4 Jobs'.
  
- 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 47 MENTORS by end of March. 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.
  
- Four days Special Scout Camp at Jhunjhunu was held from 5<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> March in which 50 of AKJ children learnt the skills of leadership development, crisis management, team bonding, decision making and life skills. This camp was first of its kind for disabled children & youth which greatly enhanced confidence among them.

- Our children were taken on an excursion trip to Jaipur on 9<sup>th</sup> March with various sight-seeing points visited. These outings & trips provided learning & stimulating experience for them.
- A team of trainee educators from Amar Jyoti New Delhi visited our Jhunjhunu school and interacted with our team and children. They were impressed by our lesson planning and teaching methodologies. On the similar lines , trainees of DSE courses from Shekhawati & Balaji Colleges Sikar have been regularly visiting and observing activities at AKJ Sikar.
- We are pleased to share that on 16<sup>th</sup> March Asha Ka Jharna was conferred Green Parrot Award in the category 'Hope and Care for Deprived' by largest media group Dainik Bhaskar. Award was sponsored by State Bank of India & Vedanta Foundation to recognize Best Organizations in Rajasthan.
- During March 2019 , we also successfully cleared our first crowd funding challenge at Global Giving (World Largest Platform for Non Profits) by raising stipulated donations in record time from various contributors across the globe. Now Asha Ka Jharna got permanent listing there.
- During the whole year all traditional festivals like Raksha Bandhan, Eid-ul-Joha, Sh Krishana Janamashtami , Vijayadashmi, Deepawali, Christmas, Maha Shivaratri, Holi as well as National festivals Independence Day , Gandhi Jayanti , Bal Diwas & Republic Day 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.