



Deaf Children's Foundation

FRIENDS OF VAANI

E-newsletter | July - September 2011



World Deaf Week is celebrated worldwide usually in the last week of September. This week increases solidarity among deaf people and their supporters, and is used as a time to stimulate greater efforts to promote the rights of deaf people throughout the world.

VAANI, Deaf Children's Foundation observes World Deaf Week every year with the objective of celebrating the bond between the deaf children we work with and their families, spreading awareness about this invisible handicap among the wider community and building the capacity of the professionals who work in this field.

The theme for the activities planned during the week was 'Let us communicate in any way we can'.

VAANI believes that communication between deaf children and their families, their peers and their teachers is of prime importance, and all activities planned during this week stressed on different means of communication with deaf children. Deaf children can communicate through speech, sign language, lip-reading, gestures or even body language. Whatever be the mode, it is important that deaf children are able to share their thoughts and feelings with others. This is important for the social and emotional development of the child.



VAANI SPEAK...

With the festive season knocking at the door, VAANI geared up for the week we look forward to every year. The World Deaf Week was celebrated by VAANI and its partners through all the five states VAANI works with from 24 – 30 September 2011 i.e. the last week of September.

We bring to you the news from all the states, giving you an overview of the activities we held in Assam, Jharkhand, Meghalaya, Mizoram and West Bengal.

And we hope to continue to be a voice for deaf children. Do support us so that we can VISIBLY SUPPORT AN INVISIBLE HANDICAP.

All donations made to 'VAANI Deaf Children's Foundation' are exempt from Income Tax under section 80G of the IT Act, 1961.

Best Wishes,

The VAANI Team

VAANI HAS REACHED OUT TO...

March 2010 – June 2011

Deaf Children: 1164

Families: 1451

Professionals: 2953

July 2011 – September 2011

Deaf Children: 61

Families: 87

Professionals: 207

"WE ARE VAANI"

VAANI, Deaf Children's Foundation is an NGO working to empower deaf Indian children and their families.

VAANI means 'eloquent in words, sound'. We believe that VAANI, Deaf Children's Foundation stands for 'sound of the soul', and exists as a platform for deaf children and their families to make themselves heard.



WORLD DEAF WEEK AND VAANI



In Mizoram, VAANI conducted a talk show on the 19th of September with eminent people from various fields. Street plays were held on 25th September to spread awareness about deafness in the community in Aizawl.

On 25 September 2011, Sunday, in Assam, VAANI organised an art competition among the children from various integrated schools covered by Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) and the children of Bhawri Devi Sarawgi Government Deaf School at Guwahati to encourage them to share their ideas and creativity and express them through art.

VAANI organised a Family Day on the 26th of September, 2011 at Nicco Park for about 100 deaf children and their families from the Pandua Pratibandhi Kalyan Samiti who are our partners in Pandua, and the Kolkata Metro Project spread over the four wards of 56, 59, 62 and 65 that is our direct intervention project in Kolkata. A large section of parents of deaf children do not learn to communicate with their deaf children. VAANI organises a Family Day every year, for the deaf children to bond with their parents, leave their worries behind, and have fun together. It is also a platform for parents of deaf children to share their experiences and connect with each other.

Sundeeep Kothari, Training Assistant, VAANI, Deaf Children's Foundation, and Deaf Role Model, performed a mime show to create awareness about deafness and deaf children in the four wards of the Kolkata Metro Project on the 28th of September 2011. This was to spread awareness about childhood deafness in areas where VAANI is trying to involve the local Government officials, teachers working in Government schools through the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, and the local community in our activities.

On the 30th of September, in Meghalaya, VAANI brought together children from various integrated schools covered by SSA to be together with the children of School and Centre for Hearing Handicapped Children to emphasize the importance of visuals in the world of a deaf child. Therefore, there wasn't a better way that the deaf children could be celebrated than by allowing their creativity to flow on paper through drawings and paintings.

VAANI held an awareness and sensitisation workshop for Disabled Persons' Organisations in Hazaribagh, Jharkhand, on the 30th of September, 2011 to commemorate the World Deaf Week celebrations where our partners are helping us spread awareness and build stronger support for the deaf.