

VAANI, Deaf Children's Foundation
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... a voice for deaf children



MEET VANI, OUR MASCOT ...

Vani is a little deaf girl, bright, alert and just a little bit shy, as you can see from the way she's hiding behind her mother. She represents every Indian deaf child who is the final beneficiary of all VAANI, Deaf Children's Foundation's activities.

All VAANI programmes are planned to help parents like Vani's mother by promoting the exchange of clear and balanced information and providing opportunities for families of deaf children to come together, access information, develop their knowledge and make informed choices for their children.



VAANI's Vision and Mission

VAANI's vision is to advocate for the right of every deaf child to a full and complete life with respect and dignity.

VAANI's mission is to promote the entitlement of every deaf child to total and complete access to communication, education, protection and personal safety, equity and equality in all spheres and information and knowledge to reach his or her full potential as an individual and as a member of society.

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NOTE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON, MR AKHIL PAUL



With the passing of the first year of the new decade, VAANI has taken a few more steps towards turning its vision into reality. Though the journey is long, there has been a lot of progress. Everyone associated with VAANI is committed to bringing communication to the lives of deaf children of our country. It is good to feel the change that is taking place in the lives of the deaf children and the families that VAANI has been able to reach out to.

VAANI has been able to consolidate its work in the Northeastern states of Assam, Meghalaya and Mizoram in addressing the needs of deaf children and their families. This year VAANI has been able to tie up with the Sarva Siksha Abhiyan and aims at widening its reach to the maximum number of deaf children in the states possible. In the past year VAANI has also been able to extend its work to Jharkhand. We are looking forward to see the work pick up pace in the State with the help of the partner NGOs.

As we look back at the journey of the year that has passed, the events, the successes, the challenges and the work that VAANI has done in taking its cause forward, it is also time to ponder on the journey that lies ahead. I am sure VAANI will continue to serve the cause with the same zeal and enthusiasm in the future.

Best wishes

TSpand

Akhil Paul Chairperson Board of Trustees VAANI, Deaf Children's Foundation



NOTE FROM THE MANAGING TRUSTEE, BRINDA CRISHNA

"I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."

Maya Angelou

Each one of us at VAANI believes that the focus of all we do is to bring about positive changes in the lives of the people we interact with and provide services for: deaf children and their families, teachers and community workers, and other professionals. Hence besides addressing the communication and educational needs for deaf children and their families, we also consciously address the social and emotional needs of the groups we work with.

In the Northeastern States of Assam, Meghalaya and Mizoram, we have set up 6 partnerships. We are reaching populations where there have been no services delivered before we initiated them; Massar village in Meghalaya is one such, where there are over 99 families who have at least one member of their family who is deaf.

In the East we have established services in 4 municipal wards of Kolkata, which comprise of some of the poorest slums of the city. We continue to provide services through partners in rural Bengal and have initiated services in North Bengal, in Siliguri this year. We have also established 2 partnerships in Jharkhand, thus increasing the scope of our work in Eastern India into another State.

We have carried out 'Situation of Deafness' studies in Assam, Mizoram, Meghalaya and West Bengal. These reports hope to fill the gap

in reliable information available about the incidence and conditions of deaf children and their families in these states and in the country and help to develop a database to ensure that planned services deliver real and felt needs. We are also present as working members on various government bodies on deaf education, both Central and State, to support the development of training curriculum.

Our fund raising efforts are slowly beginning to show results, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our supporters for helping us to get a little closer to our goal of establishing a nodal centre in every state of India and taking our first steps towards developing a healthy corpus.

VAANI's team of committed and competent professionals remain the very soul of the organisation as it continues to grow.

Best Wishes,

Brinda Crishna Managing Trustee

VAANI, Deaf Children's Foundation

VAANI ACTIVITIES IN THE NORTHEAST - ASSAM, MEGHALAYA AND MIZORAM



Urmi and Rituraj at a CBR and child evaluation workshop

The region remains Northeast underdeveloped part of the country with very limited services for deaf children that exist in a few of the larger towns. In Assam there are 2 government-run schools for the deaf in Guwahati and Jorhat, a teacher training programme and a couple of small NGOs providing CBR services; in Meghalaya there are a couple of residential schools and CBR programmes and one teacher training programme; in Mizoram there is only one school for disabled children which has a section for deaf children. Till VAANI started its services, there were no programmes that focused on childhood deafness and on the critical role that families play in ensuring that their deaf children grow up as confident adults.

Table 1a shows the statistics of the people with disabilities as per 2001 census in the states of Assam, Meghalaya and Mizoram.

VAANI's project in the Northeast has been supported by Sir Dorabji Tata Trust, and from the onset of the project in July 2009, VAANI has had direct impact on 1400 deaf children, over 2000 family members (mostly parents) and 959 professionals who work with deaf children. The awareness programmes of VAANI have sensitised over 4800 people to issues around deafness and of

State	Visual disability	Speech disability	Hearing disability	Locomotor disability	Mental disability		Total	
						Rural	Urban	
Mizoram	6,257	2,006	2,421	2,476	2,851	1,655	1,196	16,011
Meghalaya	13,381	3,431	3,668	5,127	3,196	2,604	592	28,803
Assam	282,056	56,974	51,825	91,970	47,475	41,309	6,166	530,300

communication in the development of language in children.

VAANI aims at reaching out to deaf children and their families who are not getting any kind of services especially in the remote areas of the Northeast. We plan to build a cadre of parents and professionals trained in issues around deafness so that they can support deaf children at home and at school, and ensure that they are included in all aspects of life. There is a huge gap in information, especially in the vernacular, and we hope to fill this gap by developing high quality information and training material in the regional languages.

The VAANI model is one of working in partnership with existing agencies in the disability/development field, be these big or grassroot-level organisations. VAANI builds the capacity of the selected organisations that may have little or no specialised knowledge pertaining to the needs of deaf children and their families. Through the partners, the project provides awareness, sensitisation and training to all stakeholders to ensure that the needs of deaf children are on their agendas.

VAANI's vision is to try and ensure that the partners also inculcate the same values of total transparency and professionalism. The partners have taken time to understand and appreciate VAANI's relentless insistence on timely budgets, activity plans and feedback, and substantial progress has been made in this area too. Partners are now keeping records of all their VAANI-related activities and also incorporating the same systems into the running of their own organisations.

Assam

Our partner in Assam is Swabalambi, located in the Dimoria Block, near Sonapur in the Kamrup district. Their project with VAANI, "Bodhir Bikash Yojana" community-based rehabilitation project for deaf children, reaches out to 24 deaf children and their families directly. The Swabalambi office has become a resource room for parents of these deaf children and they are encouraged to meet regularly.

VAANI's consultants have been working extensively with Swabalambi's CBR workers. They have been trained to prepare an Individual Education Plan (IEP) for the deaf children in VAANI's project with Swabalambi. The IEP helps to target those areas in which the child needs to improve and the CBR worker visits each child and addresses those areas. The CBR workers have their day to day activities planned out for the whole quarter and at the end of the quarter, it is followed up and monitored by the VAANI team. Located in the Nalbari district of Assam, our second partner, SAROTHI, aims at reaching out to over 80 deaf children directly in four blocks, Pub Nalbari, Paschim Nalbari, Baksa and Tihubarama through the project "Ability for Hearing Impaired children" following the CBR module. Work with the parents and CBR workers of SAROTHI began from February 2011 and since then inputs on Screening Strategies, Assessment, and developing Communication Skills have been given to the workers and the parents. This has accelerated the pace of work for deaf children in Nalbari.

> A young participant attending a workshop at Nalbari with her mother



Meghalaya

Through our partner in Meghalaya, Ferrando Speech and Hearing Centre at Barapani, we have been able to reach out to 20 families with 43 deaf people and at the Ferrando Centre our work covers over 140 deaf children.

Early identification and early stimulation and communication are very essential in the case of deaf babies and deaf children for their overall development. To meet the needs of such services in the rural areas and also to provide training to parents and family members of Ri Bhoi district, VAANI as a partner in the earlier years supported FSHC for the development of a CBR programme.

The Centre has now focused its services on 'Massar' a village in the east Khasi hills with two groups of people- the 'hearing group' and the 'deaf group' living on two different hills.

The project aims at supporting the development of 13 very young deaf children and 10 others (who needed a programme to prepare them for school) and deaf parents of Massar village through education, training and counseling and also providing the primary school teachers with adequate skills to teach the deaf children in the classroom.

Inputs have also been given to the teachers of the school at the Centre to enhance their teaching skills. Indian Sign Language training sessions for parents of the school children at the Centre are encouraged so as to bridge the gap that exists between the hearing parents and their deaf children.

Work with our second partner, School and Centre for Hearing Handicapped Children (SCHHC) in Shillong, Meghalaya, is going on in full swing since December 2009, and through them, we are reaching out to 76 deaf children, 152 parents and 20 professionals

through school-based intervention.

The training workshops for teachers and parents have motivated them to work together and the teachers are ready to help parents learn how to support their children in their homes.

Parents training programme are conducted in SCHHC to train the parents on how they can help their children in studies and in communication at home.

SCHHC has also started a one to one parent teacher programme in classrooms where the parent observes the teacher teaching the child and then the parent is asked to demonstrate the same so that the parent can teach the child in the same method at home. This repetition would help the child immensely.

"Let those of us who can hear, speak for those who can't." With this theme SCHHC did a week long awareness programme to observe the Deaf Awareness Week.

5 year old Subh Agarwal, from Kahilrpara, Assam, is profoundly deaf. He is a very lively and bright child who communicates through gestures. Subh loves watching action shows and action movies. Whenever he is hungry, he puts his fingers in his mouth and then directs them towards his tummy.

His mother always says that the training programme has given her new ideas to teach him about various things. She was very happy to receive VAANI's support at the right time. She wants VAANI to organise training programmes every month. Subh now knows words like "black board", "pen", "chalk", "pencil" and can match object to object.

Mizoram

VAANI is the first organisation to have started work on deafness in Mizoram from November 2009.

Work with our partner, the Spastic Society of Mizoram (SSOM), is a school-based Intervention where the teachers have been getting continuous support from VAANI on textbook teaching. Training inputs have also been given to the CBR workers. The School also has a parents' follow up programme to train the parents on how they can help their children in studies and in communication at home.

Through SSOM we are working with 44 children in the school, and their parents and the community in Mizoram.

VAANI's work with the second partner, Ferrando Integrated Women Development Centre, Peace Home at Durtlang in the Aizawl district is going on very successfully. 17 deaf children have been identified, and the coordinator and the workers have been given inputs on assessing a child, developing IEPs and also on how to develop communication skills.

Through FIWDC, CBR workers of Zoram Entu Paul and CPD, two other organisations working in the Aizawl district on disabilities, were also given inputs on deafness, screening strategies and Identification.

Our projects in all three States have been running smoothly as planned, and we look forward to a long association with all our Northeast partners.





Working through the SSA network in the NE

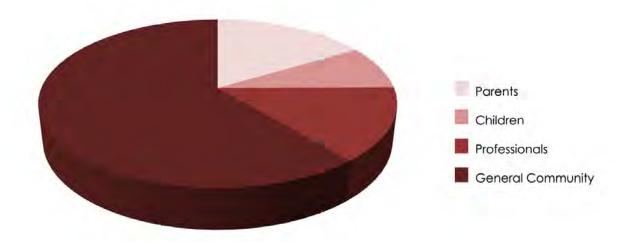
Besides working with our six partners, VAANI has been reaching out to the SSA workers of all the districts of Assam by giving them technical inputs and has also been working with parents from several districts through the SSA network.

In Meghalaya, VAANI has begun to work with parents from the West Khasi Hills, Jaintia

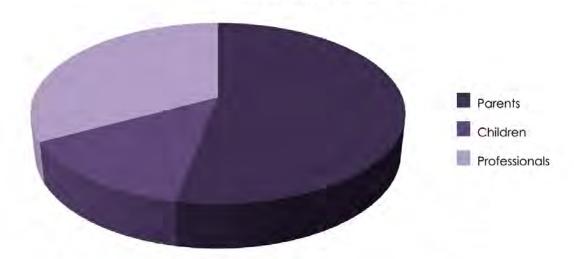
Hills and Ri Bhoi district through the SSA network. Technical Inputs will be given to the Resource Teachers and Volunteers too.

As in the other two states, in Mizoram too, work with parents of deaf children has been taken forward through the SSA network. Inputs have been given to the teachers of SCERT in Aizawl.

People reached through our awareness programmes in the Northeast



People reached through our capacity-building programmes in the Northeast



HE CANNOT HEAR THE WORLD BUT HE MAKES SURE HE IS HEARD - RITURAJ RABHA, ASSAM

Rituraj is a 12 year old boy who loves playing cricket. He plays regularly with a group of 10-12 boys in his village located in Dimoria block in Assam. He studies in Class VI and lives in a joint family where he is the eldest of the children. He has a brother and a sister and is quite close to them. Like any other 12 year old, he is naughty and friendly. Unlike every other 12 year old, he is deaf.

This invisible disability separates Rituraj from the boys he plays with. He 'looks' completely normal, his life is far from it.

He struggles to understand little things that would be common sense to a hearing child. It has nothing to do with his intelligence quotient.

Riturajis one of the children that Swabalambi, VAANI's partner in Assam, works with. His mother, grandmother and his paternal uncle (father's elder brother) are the three people who closely follow his trainings. They are also the ones who train to communicate properly with Rituraj.

Though Rituraj's mother identified his deafness when he was around four years old and still did not speak, Swabalambi got involved with him only when he was nine years old. While working with him, the Swabalambi team realised that while Rituraj was not adept at communicating all his thoughts, he was a very fast learner. Rituraj tries to talk, but his speech is limited. He signs and he follows the sign language well, but he loves to draw to express himself.

He is now good with numbers, words and short sentences and uses the teaching aids comfortably to answer and ask questions. His school is very sensitive to the fact that he is deaf. His teachers know the Swabalambi team and seek assistance whenever they have a problem communicating with Rituraj. He is allowed to sit in front and with friends with whom he tends to communicate more.



Rituraj at home, getting ready for class with his tutor

Even his community members and family members are very supportive and enthusiastic of the intervention made by VAANI. The fact that he now communicates with his family and friends is an unexpected bonus for them. They have extended all their support to ensure that Rituraj gets his rights and is able to live a life that is comfortable, rewarding and fulfilling, for himself and for others around him.

"I am very happy to have come and attended this workshop where I learned the language of my child. This training will help me a lot in expressing myself to my child and also in understanding my child's feelings."

Synthiew Phynah, after attending an ISL session organized by VAANI in Ferrando Speech and Hearing Centre, Barapani, Meghalaya

VAANI ACTIVITIES IN WEST BENGAL AND JHARKHAND



Responding to the teacher's call, at the inauguration of Ward No. 65 of the Kolkata Metro Project

West Bengal

VAANI arranged for a study to be conducted on the status of the deaf child in West Bengal by a reputed external consultant in 2007-08, While interacting with families, the consultant found that most parents stated that their child's deafness was identified quite late, mainly because of lack of knowledge regarding identification and the means to get necessary assistance.

Basic Facts:

Total Disabled Population in West Bengal	18,47.174
Physically Handicapped (in movement)	4,12,658
Visually Impaired	8,62,073
Hearing Impaired (speech and hearing)	3,01,601 (1,70,002+1,31,579)
Mentally Retarded	2,70,842

** Source, 2001 Census of Disability for the state of West Bengal This is the main issue that VAANI is addressing in West Bengal through our work in the rural areas of Pandua and Siliguri and the slums of Kolkata.

VAANI's activities in Siliguri and Pandua aim to empower parents and the extended family of deaf children to fully support the total development of their young deaf children. It further aims to sensitise government officials, teachers, communitybased rehabilitation (CBR) workers and non government organisations (NGOs) to understand the complexities of deafness as a disabiliy and work towards meeting the social, emotional and educational needs of deaf children, and work in partnership with families to ensure the young deaf child will grow into a confident and well rounded adult. The current project, supported by the Paul Hamlyn Foundation, was initiated in October, 2010.

VAANI, in order to achieve these objectives in West Bengal, has partnered with organisations that are motivated to ensure that deafness as an issue is mainstreamed into their larger ongoing programmes of disability. These organisations will also be scaling up advocacy initiatives with various governmental and nongovernmental stakeholders to meet the needs of deaf children and families at the state level. VAANI hopes to collate region-specific learnings on early childhood deafness while advocating for a national platform to promote more sustainable and cost effective strategies to target deafness within the country.

Pandua Pratibandi Kalyan Samity (PPKS):

PPKS was established in 2001 primarily with the objective of working with malnourished children. During the course of working with children and families in Pandua Block, of Hooghly district, several children with disabilities were identified and the organisation felt the need to address the issue of disability.

VAANI has partnered with PPKS from November 2010 to provide services for the deaf children in their care. The special school named "Khirkundi Madhyamik Shiksha Kendra" comprises of 6 trained teachers and a psychologists reaching out to 103 children with special needs out of whom there are about 20 identified deaf children below the age group of 14 yrs. The children mainly hail from Pandua, Khirkhundi-Namajaram, Belun-Dhamasin, Sarai, Simlagarh, Ilchoba in Pandu block of Hooghly district. The partner felt the need to help build the expertise of the teachers in dealing with deaf children and their parents. VAANI, through a series of capacity building workshops and sensitisation programmes have facilitated the process for teachers, parents and caregivers to communicate more effectively with deaf children both at school and at home, through regularised skill based inputs. This will ensure that a stable and enabling environment is created for every deaf child, VAANI's future activities with PPKS will focus on spreading awareness in the wider community on deafness and sensitising key stakeholders.

Table of activities with PPKS:

Activity	Date
Exposure and Training of KMP staff members at PPKS	1-3 June, 2010
Fact Finding & Baseline survey	24 November, 2010
Awareness and sensitisation for teachers	11 January, 2011
Training for Parents	24 January, 2011
Skill training workshop parents and teachers	22-23 February, 2011
Skill training workshop for teachers	15 March, 2011
Skill training workshop for teachers	29-30 March, 2011
Sign language training	29 March, 2011

Waiting for their turn at a screening camp organised by the Kolkata Metro Project



North Bengal Handicapped Rehabilitation Society:

North Bengal Handicapped Rehabilitation Society, a registered non-governmental organisation has been functional since 1988. This cross-disability organisation works with about 130 deaf children. The school offers special needs education from standard I to VIII. Older children then continue their education through National Open School from a study center in Siliguri. The partner is accredited as a District Level Resource organisation under the Sarva Siksha Mission (SSA), Govt. of India. A team of about twelve dedicated teachers cater to the special needs of the children associated with the Society.

VAANI's partnership with NBHRS began in November 2010, and the focus was to ensure skill upgradation of resource teachers who could better address the needs of schoolgoing deaf children. Skill-building sessions on total communication including ISL and Touch Speech have been a priority this year. Parents too have actively participated in sensitisation and training workshops conducted by VAANI.

Table of activities with NBHRS:

Activity	Date
Fact Finding & Baseline survey	5-7 November 2011
Awareness and sensitisation for teachers	11 February 2011
Training for parents and teachers	19-20 January, 2011

"Now I understand everything he says", says the proud mother of nine year old Indranil Ghosh. Deepa Ghosh and her son have been attending the trainings organised by VAANI and PPKS, Pandua since 2010 and communication between them has improved by leaps and bounds.

Kolkata Metro Project

VAANI's Kolkata Metro Project, supported by the Axis Bank Foundation (ABF), aims at promoting access to pre primary and primary education for deaf children in slums of four wards of Kolkata. The project reaches out to beneficiaries in ward numbers 56, 59, 62 and 65 with a focus on enabling parents and the extended family of deaf children to fully support the educational development of their young deaf children. It also aims to increase the ability of the government education professionals workers. non government organisations (NGOs) to meet the pre-primary and primary level educational needs of every deaf child.

The Kolkata Metro Project is a community based intervention that aims at targeting deafness at both a family level and at the level of the wider community. The strategy adopted by VAANI includes direct implementation by eight motivated and trained grassroot-level workers and four community resource persons.

VAANI began by identifying deaf children and families with CINI Asha, who already remedial education programmes for slum based children through regular preparatory and bridge course centers. VAANI's dedicated field team, began with intensive home visits to potential families of deaf children and continued by organising community based screening camps. Children and families actively participated in these camps which provided a check up by a Medical doctor, screening by an audiologist and ENT doctor in case of ENT related problems. Children detected profound/severe deafness immediately enrolled and referred to VAANI's Community Resource Centers where language assessment tests were conducted and a need based Individual Education Programme (IEP) developed for the deaf child and his/her parent. Cases of children suffering from ENT were referred for further diagnostic testing that was followed up by the field team, after which inputs

were provided both at the Centre and at home. With specific needs of children being met through community resource centers, an exhaustive in-house capacity building plan was put in place. Community resource persons and mobilisers underwent a series of training in areas of communication, screening, conducting assessments and developing IEP and Teaching and Learning materials for deaf children, as well as ISL trainings.

Major Milestones

- Setting up Community Resource Centers in all four slums to provide easy access to information on deafness for families, caregivers and professionals dealing with young deaf children
- A total number of 868 children below 14 years were covered through year long screening camps and those detected with deafness were referred to

- Community Resource Centers for further skill based inputs
- About 60% of those detected as HI children underwent language assessments and had individual education plans tailor-made to their levels of language development. About 45% of these children were mainstreamed into regular and inclusive schools while the rest of the 55% are in the process of admission
- To help develop an enabling environment for deaf children and their families, several sensitisation and awareness programmes were conducted through the year. These included celebration of local festivals with ward counselors and community representatives to help spread awareness as well as to ensure that local leaders forged their support to the cause.



A brief introduction to our work in Jharkhand:

VAANI, in its plan of building up partnerships with organisations working in the field of disability, has started to work in the state of Jharkhand since October, 2010. We have, through various fact finding visits, and baseline visits assessed the need for working with early childhood deafness through network of our partners. Most of these organisations that are working generally across the disability field or working with marginalised populations have little or no specialised knowledge pertaining to the needs of deaf children. A total of about five reputed organisations viz. educational institutions and NGOs working on deafness were initially surveyed out of whom one CBR based organisation was selected to partner with VAANI during the year.

Basic Facts:

Hearing Disability	28,233
Speech Disability	39,683

Chotanagpur Sanskritik Sangh:

Chotanagpur Sanskritik Sangh (CSS), is a nongovernmental organisation working since 1968 on various issues including disability and rehabilitation, gender, education and livelihood in Jharkhand. In the field of disability and rehabilitation, CSS runs three inclusive schools providing services to about 300 beneficiaries from standard I to X, out of whom about 15 are deaf children. Besides this, this new VAANI partner implements a community based rehabilitation programme in thirty villages of Bhero with the help of 12 full time staff, 10 CBR workers and 60 volunteers. CSS has made a lot of headway in generating awareness on deafness, and has taken up advocacy initiatives to promote the rights of disabled children and families. However emphasis on deafness and working with parents and caregivers to help build effective communication remained unaddressed in larger programmes for disability, and this gap is being bridged

work in through a series of capacity building programmes in partnership with VAANI.

Other Activities conducted by VAANI

- 7 fact finding visits were conducted in the states of West Bengal and Jharkhand to select partners who shared the vision of VAANI
- A total of 155 deaf children under 14 years, 91 parents of deaf children and 86 professionals who provide services to deaf children have been identified and phase-wise capacity building initiatives have been undertaken.
- Three major sensitisation and awareness programmes were organised as a part of orienting members of partner organisation across both the states.

Activity	Date
Fact-finding & Baseline survey	26 - 27 October, and 13 December 2010
Awareness and sensitisation for CBR workers	25 January, 2011
Skill Training workshop for CBR workers, teachers and parents	28 February - 1 March, 2011

A training material developed by one of our partners in Jharkhand



A BREATH OF FRESH AIR - FARHANAZ MONDOL, KALNA, WEST BENGAL

Farhanaz always has something to say about everything around her. She loves her grandmother and has been staying with her since she was 8 months old. It was her grandmother who identified that Farhanaz was deaf when she was around a year old and did not respond to any sound.

Farhanaz studies in class III of Shishu Shiksha Kendra and loves to talk. She is very inquisitive and a good student. A very opinionated child, Farhanaz has her own point of view about everything she observes and she makes sure she is heard.

Farhanazis a very intelligent student and can write well. She has been responding well to the trainings she has received under VAANI's intervention and actively participates in the worskhops conducted.

Her grandmother is her best friend and she loves spending time with her. So strong is the bond that Farhanaz goes to visit her parents but cannot stay away from her for long periods of time. Her grandmother has been putting in relentless efforts in making sure that Farhanaz receives proper medical care and the right training. She says she is ready to do whatever it takes to ensure that the child lives a healthy, happy and fulfilling life.



Farhanaz during her assessments



For nine year old Farhanaz, the world is a wonder. And her flow of questions do not stop till she has the answers that satisfy her. Her grandmother is her constant companion and the love between the grandmother-granddaughter duo shows in every activity they undertake together. This little breath of fresh air from Kalna comes twice a week to PPKS, VAANI's partner in Pandua, West Bengal for trainings that are provided to her and her grandmother who is her caregiver.

Farhanaz with her doting grandmother

INFORMATION DISSEMINATION



Poster in Khasi



Poster in Mizo

A Poster outlining the Dos and Don'ts to be followed while communicating with deaf children through speech was published in the Mizo and Khasi languages.



A Poster outlining the Dos and Don'ts to be followed while communicating with deaf children through Sign Language was published in Mizo.





Issue 4 Volume 1

Issue 1 Volume 2

The 4th issue of the Lakshana Volume I, our bi-annual newsletter for the families of deaf children was published in the Khasi and Mizo Languages and the 1st issue of Lakshana Volume II was published in English, Hindi, Assamese, Mizo and Khasi languages.



VAANI also published a Parents' Kit which included a Guide for Parents of deaf children and we are hoping to publish a handbook on how to take care of our ears this year, to be included in the kit. This was published in English, Hindi, Khasi, Mizo and Assamese languages.

TRAINING ACTIVITIES 2010-11: ENSURING GREATER REACH OF VAANI



Hima Doloi with a CBR worker and her father

VAANI's role is to act as a catalyst. Rather than directly delivering services, VAANI empowers deaf children and their families by providing training to professionals and families and providing un-biased information to help families make informed choices for their children. We have been conducting seminars on emotional and social needs of deaf children and their families, and following up on these with workshops for parents and professionals to address these needs. It is our training which is helping us to take our work forward and reaching out to the needy.

VAANI believes that communication between deaf children and their families is vital to the healthy development of the child. We believe that it is vital that communication takes place, whatever be the mode – sign language, speech or a combination of the two.

VAANI's experience in the past 5 years has shown that however poor and illiterate family members may be, they have a huge contribution to make in the well-being and healthy upbringing of their children, and their motives are never in doubt.

VAANI's programmes, therefore, are mainly targeted at family members of deaf children, professionals, teachers and community workers. VAANI believes that for the all round development of deaf children we have to work simultaneously with both professionals and the family.

VAANI, Deaf Children's Foundation aims to enable teachers and CBR workers to work with deaf children in a way that is both meaningful to them and to the children. VAANI plans to do this by

- Providing the professionals with an insight into deafness and its impact on the
- Deaf child
- Family of the deaf child
- Reinforcing the knowledge and skills base of teachers and CBR workers through training programmes.

VAANI's training programme consists of training modules. These modules can be used as stand-alone modules or in sequence with the other modules.

VAANI's strategy is to work through -

- Partnerships with local NGOs: This ensures greater reach of our work. This has the added advantage of our partner NGOs bringing a whole lot of local experience to the programme, since they know their own communities, ensuring that the programme is needs based and owned by them, and thus is sustained in the long run. Such partners are often local organisations that focus on disability in their programmes, or representative associations for deaf people. It is our aim to make services locally owned and controlled, responding directly to the needs of deaf children and their families.
- Parents' group networks: The need for parents to be provided with knowledge, skills and attitudes to enable them to fulfil their role as the first and the most important caregiver in the life of their deaf child.

Much of our work therefore involves advice, training, providing information to the families and the professionals, teachers and community workers. We ultimately aim for partner organisations to become sustainable and independent, so that they can continue their work with deaf children and their families without the need of support from VAANI.

How do we do it -

 By working in partnership with NGOs and GOs and giving our training expertise to their professionals and community workers and to the families of deaf children

- By building the capacity of partners' organisations to provide good quality services for deaf children and their families
- By training parents/ family members in rural and urban areas through workshops, seminars etc.
- Circulating awareness & training material
- Identifying group of resource persons from teachers and community workers and also identifying leaders from the families and training them as trainers so that they can take the work forward and train others
- Sharing information of good practices through our newsletters
- Build up a group of skilled community trainers and parent-trainers
- Distributing and sharing teaching materials in regional languages
- Organising workshops
- Enabling parents to form support groups to lobby and advocate for the rights of their children
- Identifying resource persons who can train master trainers and help sustain programmes in the State
- Conducting interactive workshops and seminars to update the skills and knowledge of resource persons
- Encouraging successful parents and partner organisations to become mentors to other organisations
- Encourage active networking

VAANI's focus is childhood deafness. In order to deal with childhood deafness we need to work with parents and also with the professionals and community workers simultaneously. We are now providing our technical expertise in five States –

- 1. Jharkhand
- 2. West Bengal
- 3. Assam
- 4. Meghalaya
- 5. Mizoram

In the five States we are providing training skills to the parents/families, professionals, teachers and community workers on –

Training inputs for parents:

Nature of Input

1. Sensitisation

Social and emotional needs of deaf children and their families. This workshop paves the way with working with a group of parents. The objective of this workshop is for the parents/families to know the importance of their role in the lives of their deaf children in being the support in their social and emotional needs of their deaf child and also being their support in the academic field. This workshop prepares them to receive skills training from VAANI. This in turn helps VAANI to form the strategy for the parents to provide skills training workshop and also forming parents groups.

2. • Awareness on

Deafness as an invisible disability, the communication problems of a deaf child,

Need for assessment

Explanation to parents on why Profile Sheets and Evaluation is necessary to be filled before beginning to work with a parent and a deaf child

- Communication Profile sheet
- Case history
- 3. Child's Language Assessment
 - Child's Development Plan for language
 - Training on language
 - Communication
 - Pre reading & pre writing
 - Reading & writing
- 4. Child's Number Concept pre maths
 - Problem solving up to standard 4
 - Time concept
 - Money concept
- 5. Story
 - Activity
 - Field trip



Train	ing inputs for Community Workers:
Natu	ure of Input
1.	 Awareness and sensitisation Identification and screening strategies Parent and child assessment Need for assessment Communication Profile sheet Case history
2.	 Child's Language Assessment Child's Development Plan for language Training on language Communication Pre reading & pre writing Reading & writing
3.	 Child's Number Concept – pre maths Problem solving up to standard 4 Time concept Money concept
4.	StoryActivityField trip





Trai	ining inputs for Professionals / Teachers:	
	ture of Input	
1	 Awareness and sensitisation Identification and screening strategies Parent and child assessment. Need for assessment Case history 	
2	 Importance of communication and language development Child's Language Assessment Child's Development Plan for language Training on language Communication Pre reading & pre writing Reading & writing 	
3	 Child's Number Concept – pre maths Problem solving up to standard 4 Time concept Money concept 	
4	Story telling	
5	On Inclusive education	
6	Classroom teaching	
7	Text book reading	
8	Sex Education	

In Maharastra we provided technical consultants in India to take the work ahead. expertise to plan and design the structure, equipments and the curriculum for an Early Intervention Centre 'Dhwani' of Save the Children.

VAANI is trying to build a network of

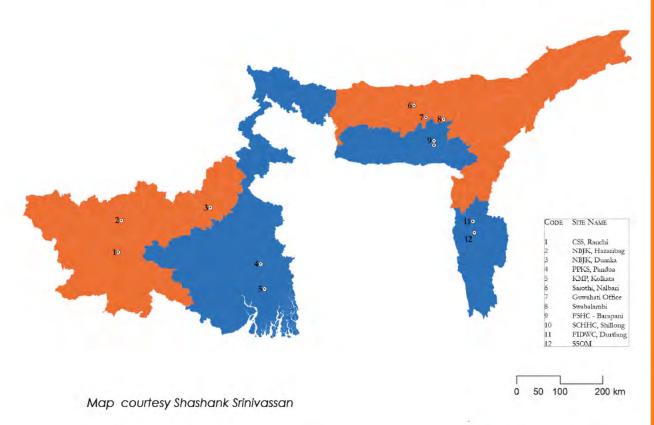
Presently we have Consultants from West Bengal and Gujarat. We already have local consultants supporting us in our training workshops in Assam, Mizoram and Meghalaya.

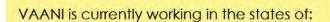


Little Vani signing

WHERE VAANI WORKS

Geographical spread of VAANI





- Assam
- Jharkhand
- Meghalaya
- Mizoram
- West Bengal

in a total of 47 districts across the states.

Little Vani pointing at the map



FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES 2010 -11



Lighting the lamp at Stepping Stones

Creativity and fundraising activities at VAANI have always gone hand in hand. VAANI's approach towards fundraising has always been focussed on raising awareness about the concerns surrounding deafness in children while attempting to raise money for the cause.

VAANI has always organised fundraisers that relate intrinsically to the cause and this year was no different.

Stepping Stones – Art Show in Kolkata:

The importance of vivid visuals and visual aids in the life of a deaf child cannot be neglected. Visual communication holds a very significant place in the communication process with a deaf child, and also in the training and awareness programmes organised and facilitated by VAANI.

As one of the most creative forms of expressions, the world of art has managed to charm its lovers from time immemorial. Hence, the first fundraising activity for the

year was an art show curated by Swaroop Mukherji and Avijit Dutta on June 10, 2010 at the ITC Sonar. Works of art by contemporary artists of Bengal like Palash Halder, Pitambar Khan, Gopal Pal, Arpan Das, Radhika Mansata and Goutam Chakraborty, along with some others as well as works of the curators themselves were on display.

Inaugurated by Chief Guest, Dasho Tsering Wangda, Consul General of Bhutan and the Guest of Honour, Mrs. Bharti Deveshwar, President of the ITC Ladies Society, the event was hosted by Mr. Zubin Songadwala, General Manager, ITC Sonar, Kolkata.

Well-wishers of VAANI and art lovers of the city turned the event into a success by attending it in large numbers.

"Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much."

- Helen Keller

World Deaf Week:

World Deaf Week is celebrated during the last week of September world-wide, to commemorate the first World Congress of the Deaf which was held in Rome, Italy, in 1951. VAANI dedicates the month of September to raising widespread awareness about childhood deafness and to bringing the families of the deaf children closer to them.

VAANI hosted a Family Fun Day on September 5, 2010 in the Assam State Zoo for the families of deaf children in Guwahati. The Zoo authorities graciously lent an area within the zoo, to be adorned with balloons in the VAANI colours. While the children participated in a painting competition, the parents were involved in an interactive session, sharing their experiences and thoughts.

The concept behind Family Day has always been to break the monotony of the daily grind and bring the children closer to their families through a day of fun and frolic. Apart from the Family Day at Guwahati, VAANI hosted a similar fun-filled Family Day for 27 children and their families in Pandua, West Bengal on September 15, 2010.

The BRAT Pack Concert:

The fundraising calendar ended on a musical high as the B.Rat Pack – a famous jazz band from Bengaluru led by Stanley Pinto, Carlton Braganza and Venkat Subramaniyam - held a musical concert in aid of VAANI on Monday, the 28th of March, 2011 at the ITC Hotel, The Sonar in Kolkata.

An evening filled with retro music and old melodies made unforgettable by Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin and Sammy Davis were brought to life by Stanley, Carlton, Venkat and Alexis. Singers Usha Utthup and Sandeep Vyas attended the show to relive the magic created by the Rat Pack's legendary music and to extend their support to the cause of empowering deaf children and their families across India.

A 350 strong audience connected to the cause as Brinda Crishna, the Managing Trustee of VAANI, spoke about how an entire section of society can never participate in such musical evenings and can never connect to magical evenings such as this because of their hearing impairment. The B.RAT Pack concert managed to throw light on how isolation is faced by children due to the hindrances that deafness creates in communication.



The B.Rat Pack in their elements, wooing the audience with melodies

Regular Fundraising Partnerships:

VAANI has always aimed at being environmentally sensitive and hence, one of the fundraising activities is to regularly collect the used newspapers from Vodafone and two of the leading hotels in Kolkata, ITC Sonar and Hotel Hindustan International. The proceeds from the sale of the collected newspapers help us as a regular fundraising source.

Thank you to our supporters

Institutions and Corporate have extended their hand and indeed given a visible support to an invisible handicap. VAANI is grateful to Vodafone Kolkata, Jet Airways

Kolkata, ITC Sonar, Kolkata, Hotel Hindustan International Kolkata, Inner Wheel Club of Kolkata Metropolitan and Mcleod Russell India Limited for their support. We also receive substantial support from Axis Bank, Sir Dorabji Tata Trust and Child Care, Health and Development Trust, UK.

VAANI is registered with Give India and Remit2India to facilitate easy transfer of funds from our supporters who would like to donate online.

To help us continue our activities, VAANI is always looking for support for a cause that strives towards bringing language and communication into the lives of deaf children and their families.

Food for thought

With ₹ 1000, 20 deaf children could be educated with the use of our teaching/learning material

With ₹ 5000, 5 deaf children and their family members would be able to spend a funfilled day of learning together

With ₹ 10000, 20 parents will be able to attend a social and emotional needs workshop

VAANI has two options for individuals who wish to support our cause -

A friend of VAANI makes a commitment to donate a certain amount every month for a minimum period of a year, (with a minimum of ₹ 100 per month) or makes a one-time donation.

A VAANI Ambassador takes on the responsibility of collecting ₹ 1 lac each year. This can be done by contacting 35 friends and collecting ₹ 3000 as a contribution from each of them. This works out to just ₹ 250 a month per person!

What does a VAANI Friend or Ambassador get in return?

- A 'good feeling' knowing that you are contributing to a cause that works for the rights of a very marginalised and isolated group of children
- A visit to any of our projects or programmes once a year
- A quarterly e-newsletter with information and photographs about the different projects conducted in the previous quarter, upcoming programmes for the current quarter, real life stories and write-ups about inspirational people or incidents
- A copy of our annual report, including audited accounts, available on request

Cheque/dd needs to be made out in the name of 'VAANI Deaf Children's Foundation' and sent to VAANI, Deaf Children's Foundation, 9D Annapurna Apartments,68 Ballygunge Circular Road, Kolkata 700019, Phone: 033 22892705/06. We accept donations directly into our bank account:

Bank Name	HDFC
Branch name	Central Plaza, Kolkata
Account Number	00141450000116
Name of Account (Cheque to be made in the name of)	VAANI, Deaf Children's Foundation
9 digit number (MICR number)	700240003
Current/ savings account	SAVINGS ACCOUNT
SWIFT Code/ Remittance Instructions (please check with your bank)	HDFCINBBCAL
IFSC CODE	HDFC0000014

Account details for foreign donations:

Bank Name	HSBC
Branch name	Shakespeare Sarani
Account Number	025-329327-002
Name of Account (Cheque to be made in the name of)	VAANI, Deaf Children's Foundation
9 digit number (MICR number)	70039010
Current/ savings account	CURRENT ACCOUNT
SWIFT Code/ Remittance Instructions (please check with your bank)	HSBCINBB
IFSC CODE	HSBC0700010

All donations made to VAANI are exempt from Income Tax u/s 80G

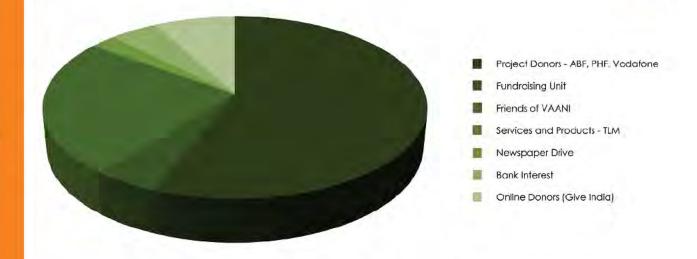
A little love can go a long way in removing insecurity from the minds of deaf children

Lalita Das, a mother who attended a Social and Emotional Needs workshop in Assam, says, " I have two deaf children, a boy and a girl, and honestly I have been in a state of helplessness for a long time but after coming to this workshop I feel someone is there to support me and share my sufferings and problems. During the game activities of the workshop I have laughed my heart out after many years. I will continue to come to all the workshops conducted by VAANI."



SUPPORT FOR VAANI 2010-11

Donations	Amount
Project Donors:	1691792
Axis Bank Foundation, Paul Hamlyn Foundation, Vodafone	
Fundraising Unit	146434
Friends of VAANI	726025
Services and Products - TLM	10000
Newspaper Drive	70272
Bank Interest	140641
Online Donors (Give India)	233267
Total	3018431



VAANI wishes to thank...

(in alphabetical order)

Individual Donors who gave more than ₹ 10000

Mr. Derek O'Brien

Mr. Pandole

Mr. Stanley Pinto

Mr. Sudesh Chander Talwar

Corporates,Trusts and Societies which donated over ₹ 10000

Bhutan Consul General

Changmari Tea

Inner Wheel Club

McLeod Russel

Parcon India

BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND SECRETARY OF VAANI, DEAF CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION

Trustee	Occupation	Office held in the Trust
Mr. Akhil.S.Paul	Social development worker	Chairman/Trustee
Mr. Krupakaran Satish David	Senior Executive	Trustee
Ms. Indrani Roy	Social development worker	Vice Chairperson
Mr. Anand Mandapaka	Senior Executive	Trustee
Dr. Arundhati Gupta	Social development worker	Trustee
Ms Brinda Crishna	Social development worker	Secretary

Remuneration and reimbursements to Board members:

Trustee	Remuneration Received in 2010-11
Mr. Akhil.S.Paul	Nil
Mr. Krupakaran Satish David	Nil
Ms. Indrani Roy	Nil
Mr. Anand Mandapaka	Nil
Ms. Arundhati Gupta	Nil
Ms Brinda Crishna	₹ 98016.00

Amount reimbursed to Mrs Brinda Crishna (Secretary to the Trust):

International Travel	Nil
Domestic travel	₹ 20603.00
Local conveyance	Nil
Entertainment Expenses	Nil
Others	₹ 29527.46

Amount reimbursed to other Board members:

International Travel	Nil
Domestic travel	₹17900.00
Local conveyance	Nil
Entertainment Expenses	Nil
Others	Nil

Trustee Board Meetings Details:

- 1 07 August 2010
- 2 04 February 2011

FINANCIAL DETAILS

Remuneration details:

VAANI Staff member	Amount in Rupees
VAANI Director/Secretary of the Trust	₹8224 (as honorarium) per month
Highest paid staff member: Programme Officer	₹ 29875 per month
Lowest paid staff member: Finance and Operations Officer	₹ 12750 per month
Remuneration to Board members	Nil

Slab of gross salary per month (in Rs) plus benefits paid to staff	Male staff	Female staff	Total staff
Less than 5000			
5,000 – 10,000	2	2	4
10,000 – 25,000	2	6	8
25,000 – 50,000		2	2
50,000 – 1,00,000			
Greater than 1.00.000			

Total cost of national travel by VAANI staff & Board Members – ₹ 11,47,116/-

Total cost of international travel by all personnel (including volunteers) & Board Members: **Nil**

AUDITOR'S REPORT

We have audited the attached Balance Sheet of VAANI DEAF CHILDRENS FOUNDATION, 68, Ballygunge Circular Road, Kolkata – 700 019 as at 31st March, 2011 and the Income and Expenditure Account and the Receipts & Payments Account for the year ended on that date relating to Consolidated Account Annexed hereto. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Trust's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

- 1. We conducted our audit in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in India. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis evidence supporting the amounts and disclosure in the financial misstatements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by the management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.
- 2. We further report that:
- a. We have obtained all the information and explanation, which to the best of our knowledge and belief were necessary for the purpose of our audit.
- b. In our opinion, the Trust as required by law has kept proper books of account so far as appears from our examination of those books.
- c. The Balance Sheet, the Income & Expenditure Account and the Receipt & Payment Account referred to in this report are in agreement with the books of account.
- d. In our opinion the Balance Sheet, the Income and Expenditure Account and the Receipt & Payment Account dealt with by the report are in compliance with the accounting standards as applicable.
- e. In our opinion and to the best of our information and according to the explanations given to us, read with notes appearing in schedule -B, the said Balance Sheet, the Income and Expenditure Account and the Receipt & Payment Account give a true and fair view in conformity with the Accounting Principles generally accepted in India:
- I. In the case of Balance Sheet, of the state of affairs of the Trust as at 31st March, 2011
- II. In the case of Income and Expenditure Account, of the deficit on Expenditure over Income for the year ended on that date.

And

III. In the case of Receipts & Payments Account, of the receipts and payments of the Trust for the year ended on that date.

21, Old Court House Street, Kolkata – 700 001.

Dated: 24.06.2011



For A. R. MAITI & CO. Chartered Accountants

(CA. S. K. Chatterjee)
Partner
Membership No.50498

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH 2011

SOURCES OF FUNDS	Figures as on 31.03.11	Figures as on 31.03.10
GENERAL FUND	1336945.27	1591955.30
TRUST FUND	-	30111.28
SIR DORABJI TATA TRUST FUND	1846016.20	5574692.23
AXIS BANK FOUNDATION FUND	11125.00	192940.25
PAUL HAMLYN FOUNDATION	509109.00	-
LIABILITIES FOR EXPENSES	-	118308.18
CURRENT LIABILITIES &	60007.51	533692.20
PROVISIONS		
TOTAL	3763202.98	8041699.44

APPLICATIONS OF FUNDS	Figures as on 31.03.11	Figures as on 31.03.10
FIXED ASSETS	281420.71	327805.00
SECURITY DEPOSIT	-	175000.00
PAUL HAMLYN FOUNDATION	509109.00	-
SIR DORABJI TATA TRUST FUND	1846016.20	5719961.23
AXIS BANK FOUNDATION FUND	11125.00	192940.25
LOANS & ADVANCES	379226.01	26048.00
CASH & BANK BALANCES	736306.06	1599944.96
TOTAL	3763202.98	8041699.44

For VAANI, Deaf Children's Foundation

Brinda Crishna Managing Trustee Date: 24th June 2011 Place: Kolkata Kolkata **

(CA. S.K. Chatterjee) Partner

For A.R. Maiti & Co. Chartered Accountants

Mem. NO. 050498

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2011

INCOME

PARTICULARS	Figures as on 31.03.11	Figures as on 31.03.10
Donation	1753418.50	3100591.41
Grants	5206994.66	1717456.83
Interest on bank account	28385.18	10225.23
Design & Printing	-	-
Income from other sources	95559.00	79422.00
Consultant fees received	-	274450.00
Excess of Expenditure over Income	380254.82	-
Income Total	7464612.16	5182145.47

EXPENDITURE

PARTICULARS	Figures as on 31.03.11	Figures as on 31.03.10
Programmes	4688869.71	1279870.49
Projects and partnerships	4468341.71	586380.00
Partners training	-	58813.00
Parents networking, workshop & training	899.00	334409.00
Stakeholders consultations	25295.00	5572.00
Screening Camp	54559.00	5645.00
Baseline survey	89029.00	74424.00
Staff training & development	10298.00	63265.49
Awareness campaign	38348.00	64379.00
Planning, Monitoring & Evaluation	2100.00	86983.00
Information dissemination/fund raising	132365.00	562321.50
Administration	2551267.91	2184327.76
Other expenses	31061.00	34661.00
Depreciation	61048.54	78660.00
Excess of Income over Expenditure	-	1042304.72
Expenditure Total	7464612.16	5182145.47

For VAANI, Deaf Children's Foundation

For A.R. Maiti & Co. Chartered Accountants

Brinda Crishna Managing Trustee Date: 24th June 2011

Place: Kolkata



(CA. S.K. Chatterjee)
Partner
Mem. NO. 050498

RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2011

RECEIPTS	Figures as on 31.03.11	Figures as on 31.03.10
Cash in Hand	22905.00	5992.50
Balance with Bank	7409039.44	304915.46
Interest on bank account	140641.06	33051.76
Grants & Donations	2915336.30	1,12,21,030.61
Loan & Advances	1,63,955.00	100418.50
Other Income	5,32,187.01	364529.00
	11184063.81	1,20,29,937.83
PAYMENTS	Figures as on 31.03.11	Figures as on 31.03.10
Programmes	3648839.50	1217949.49
Projects & Partnership	1532814.50	548331.00
Staff Training & Development	10298.00	63265.49
Parent Programmes	873472.00	184291.50
Stakeholder Consultations/Fact Finding	25295.00	54629.00
Awareness Raising	38348.00	10794.00
Planning, Monitoring & Evaluation	199085.00	86983.00
Screening Camp	54559.00	9091.00
Teachers Programme	816869.00	1,66,077.50
Awareness program for wider community	98099.00	37,625.00
Setting up Early Intervention Centre for	-	56862.00
Speech & Hearing Impaired Children		
Information dissemination/ Fund raising	466344.00	5,62,321.50
Publication & Information:	357769.00	1,48,121.50
Fund raising:	108575.00	414200.00
Administration	27 45 452 04	2414002.00
Administration	37,15,452.84	2414803.90
Human Resources	2253193.61	1091967.00
Consultancy Administrative Expenses	243909.00	351758.00
Administrative Expenses	1197850.23	861018.90
Assets Purchase	20500.00	110060.00

PAYMENTS	Figures as on 31.03.11	Figures as on 31.03.10
Loan & Advances	599488.01	402918.50
Cash in Hand	94903.00	22905.00
Balance with Bank	2659036.46	7409039.44
	11184063.81	12029937.83

For VAANI, Deaf Children's Foundation

For A.R. Maiti & Co. Chartered Accountants

Brinda Crishna

Managing Trustee
Date: 24th June 2011

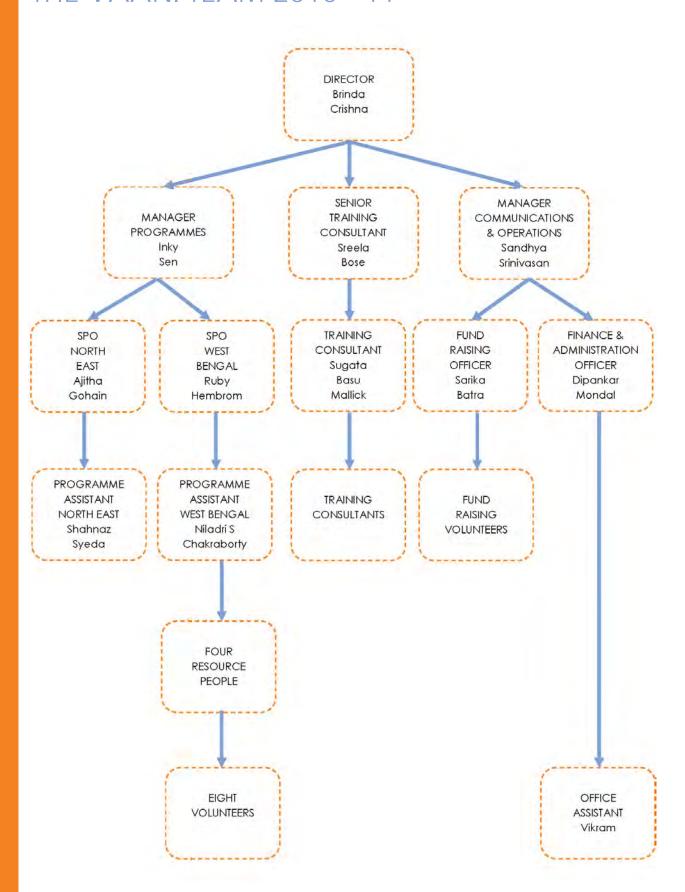
Place: Kolkata



(CA. S.K. Chatterjee)
Partner

Mem. NO. 050498

THE VAANI TEAM 2010 - 11



Some faces have changed...but the spirit remains the same... the new VAANI Team for 2011 - 12 (in alphabetical order)



Ajitha Gohain SPO Northeast

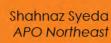


Marissa Dunne Programme Manager

Operations Manager



Atreyee Kar Resource Management Officer



Sreela Bose

Technical Consultant





Brinda Crishna Managing Trustee

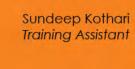


Niladri S Chakrabortty APO East





Dipankar Mondal Finance & Administration Officer







Inky Sen Training Manager



Rohit Raj

Vikram Rajak Office Assistant

