



Deaf Children's Foundation

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Deaf Children's Foundation

**ANNUAL REPORT
2011-12**

**a voice for
deaf children**





Vani is a little deaf girl, bright, alert and just a little bit shy. She represents every Indian deaf child who is the direct beneficiary of all VAANI, Deaf Children's Foundation's activities.

She is VAANI.

VAANI, Deaf Children's Foundation
A voice for every deaf child

"VAANI"

...means 'eloquent in words, sound'.

...stands for 'sound of the soul'.

...exists as a platform for deaf children and their families to make themselves heard.

Our commitment, is quite simply, access for every deaf child using the means most appropriate for their individual circumstances, so that they can understand, influence and most importantly, participate in the world around them.



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NOTE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON, MR AKHIL PAUL



After almost 2 decades of working with people with communication challenges, it suddenly dawned on me that deaf people learn to live in a hearing world very well but hearing people find it extremely difficult to cope in the deaf world. VAANI Deaf Children's Foundation is committed to providing services for deaf children by working with their families and caregivers. VAANI is also committed to improving the quality of services provided by professionals who work with deaf children.

2011-12 has been a very busy year for VAANI, which has been growing from strength to strength. Along with training workshops for parents and professionals who work with deaf children, there has been increased interaction with families of deaf children, educators, both mainstream and special, and Government professionals.

VAANI's work in Assam, Jharkhand, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Gujarat and West Bengal has had a tremendous impact on deaf children, their families and teachers, and people living around them. We have gone a step ahead by becoming the national level resource organisation on deafness for the regional workshops for the cross disability training of Resource Teachers of Sarva Siksha Abhiyan that were organised in August – September 2011. VAANI has been named as member of the State Resource Team on disability for Jharkhand, along with NGOs like Sight Savers, Sense International (India) and Deepshikha.

In this financial year, we raised over 1 crore from avenues like regular donors and fundraising activities. I would like to express my sincere thanks to all the donors, supporters, central and state governments, Team VAANI and other stakeholders for their untiring support.

With best wishes,

Akhil Paul



NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR, BRINDA CRISHNA

When faced with a mountain, I will not quit! I will keep striving until I climb over, find a pass through, tunnel underneath or simply stay and turn the mountain into a gold mine.....

this describes the spirit of Team VAANI!

An organisation is only as strong as the people who work in it, believe in its values and work as a team to achieve common goals for its growth. I can say with great pride that VAANI's greatest strength is its committed team of professionals.

And so another year ends...and I look back on it in some wonder, as it is already seven years since we started out! We have certainly come a long way and have met many of our goals, but also know there is so much more to do and we have to continue to strive to do it in the best way we can. This year was marked as the year for consolidation, a time to review our aims and ideals and rework our policy documents and strategic plans learning from our experience in the last eight years.

In the East, in Jharkhand, we have established 2 new partnerships, and are now being able to reach children and families in some of the most interior and remote parts of the State through our 3 partners. Our partnerships in West Bengal are doing well, and we continue to increase the impact of our work in rural communities. The numbers of children accessing our 4 resource centres in the Kolkata Metro Project in the municipal wards of 56, 59, 62 and 65 has increased dramatically this year, and we realise that there is a need to take this project further to other slum areas in Kolkata.

In the Northeast our work in Assam, Meghalaya and Mizoram continues to have an impact on the lives of deaf children and their families. A great achievement has been the forming of 2 formal parent's groups, one in Assam and one in Mizoram,. Our parent-leaders and parent-trainers support our work with families, and this has proved to be very successful.

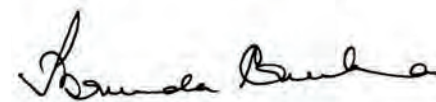


We continue to try and fill the gap for authentic information and data about the status of deaf children in the States we work in. We launched the results of our studies in Assam and Meghalaya, and had an excellent response from all stakeholder groups.

This year our strategy to sustain the work we do by forging links and partnerships with government schemes and programmes has paid off well. We have started working with the Sarva Shiksha Mission in all the States we work. Our representation in national bodies grows as more members of the VAANI team are being asked to represent the organisation and its cause in both government and non-government forums.

Our fund raising efforts continue to bear fruit, but possibly not as quickly as we want it to. Besides continuing to strengthen our existing work, our focus in the next few years is two-fold, to have raised enough funds to expand the scope of our work to other parts of the country, and to start developing a Corpus.

Best Wishes,



Brinda Crishna



ABOUT VAANI, DEAF CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION

A study conducted in 2002 on the status of deaf children in India was the first step in the creation of VAANI, Deaf Children's Foundation. The study showed that there was no involvement of families in the education of their deaf child, and sometimes very little involvement in the upbringing too. There are no accurate statistics available about the number of deaf children in India, the majority of whom grow up in hearing families with no experience or understanding of deafness.

Deafness is described as the 'invisible handicap'. Parents were not consulted on issues which profoundly affected their lives and future of their deaf children. Since there is little understanding about what being deaf means, families with deaf children were unable to claim their rights from governments and service providers, like other disability groups do. As a consequence the majority of deaf children continued to face an unacceptable future of poverty and disadvantage.

Parents and the general public had almost no expectations or aspirations for their deaf child, which led the deaf child to lack confidence or the will to achieve. In many cases, particularly in the poorest of rural areas, parents still believe that sending their deaf children to school is a waste of resources. Parents generally had little understanding of the issues surrounding childhood deafness such as the importance of early diagnosis and intervention, technical aids, the development of appropriate language and communication skills. The resources to support audiology, health and education services to meet the needs of deaf children were limited, and only reach a small section of the community.

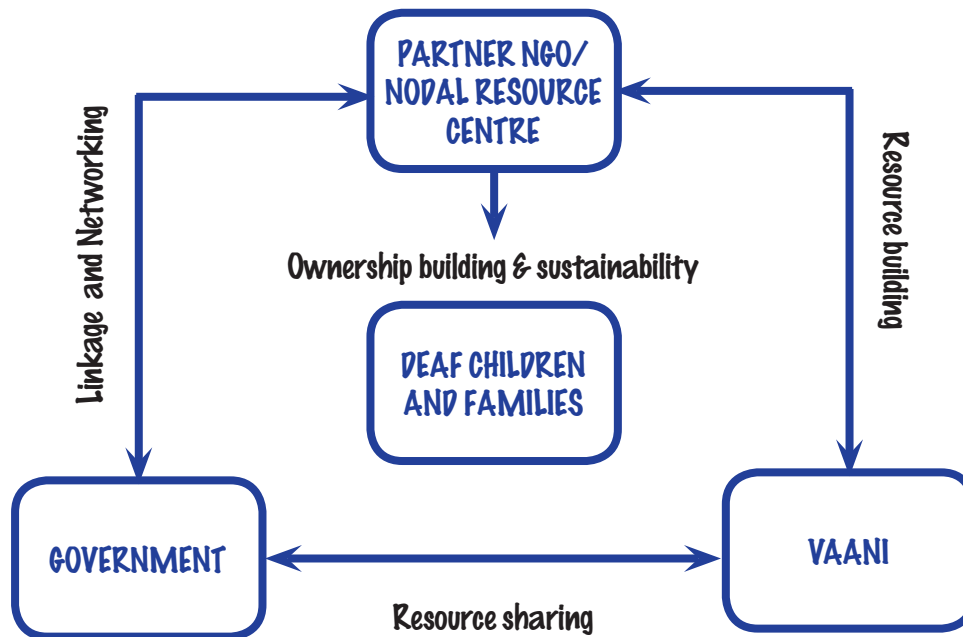


VAANI was created with the aim of bringing communication to the lives of deaf children and their families with a vision to enable access to every deaf child. Since 2005, VAANI has reached out to **14345** deaf children and families, **7587** parents and **3424** professionals through awareness programmes, skill based training programmes, capacity building programmes and workshops on the social and emotional needs of deaf children in the states of Assam, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Karnataka, Gujarat and Maharashtra through local partners.

VAANI was registered as a Trust with the Additional Registrar of Assurances in Kolkata on August 9, 2005. Our Registration number is 4257.

1. FCRA
2. Registered u/s 12A of Income Tax Act -1961
3. Approval under section 80-G (5) of the Income Tax Act,1961
4. Approval under section 35 AC of the Income Tax Act 1961 (100% Donation)





Programme Strategy:

VAANI is guided by its organisational strategic plan, of being a catalyst organisation and our work across the country is governed by the above principle.

At a micro level, VAANI works with partner level organisations in a chosen geographical area and supports their ability to develop services, and most importantly, helps develop their capacity to maintain their services in the long run. VAANI refrains from setting up direct implementations sites and believes in strengthening and integrating work with deaf children and families into larger disability and developmental programmes that are already being run by non-governmental agencies. VAANI sets up two distinct types of partnerships:

1. Institution based partnerships
2. Community based partnerships

VAANI aims at setting up well equipped nodal resource centres in every State it works in, which could continue to sustain work with deaf children and parents, long after VAANI exits out from the state. This nodal centre could be run

by NGOs, Community Based Organisations or parent groups.

The logic behind this model of work is that it addresses the issue of providing quality services to the thousands of deaf children who have not yet been reached, is cost effective and remains an active learning situation for both parties, as VAANI and its partner NGO build on each other's strengths. This model also ensures ownership and sustainability of the work.

At a more macro level i.e. the State and national level, working with government agencies is key. At the state level, VAANI builds linkages with relevant government agencies and state programmes like ICDS, for deaf children in the age group of 0-5 years and the state SSA departments reaching out to children in the age group of 6- 14 years. VAANI plans to link up with additional departments within the state including the State Council for Education and Research (SCERT), Health department and the State Child Protection Society that is championing the cause of child rights. At a national level, VAANI will work to influence policy-making and programmes administered by the National Council and NCERT under the MHRD, Social, National Health programmes under MHFW, ICDS and RCI under



the MSJE and the national child rights and protection programmes under NIPCCD and Child Line India.

Target Population:



The core of VAANI’s intervention remains the deaf child. The primary sphere of influence includes parents and families of deaf children, governmental and non-governmental service providers, professionals viz. teachers, special educators and CBR workers reaching out to the deaf child directly. The secondary sphere of influence for deaf children is the immediate community the deaf child and his family resides in, policy makers who influence rights and entitlements of deaf children and general public, who assist in mainstreaming deaf children so that they can take their rightful position in society like others.

Impact of our work:

Our work in the past year has focused mainly on building convergence and partnerships with national and state level players. This we have attempted to do by:



A training session in process in Assam

1. Contributing towards current and accurate data and information in relation to the situation/ status of deaf children and services within the states of Assam and in Jharkhand and sharing this with policy makers.
2. Formalising partnerships with the SSA and Social welfare department in the three North Eastern states of Assam, Mizoram, and Meghalaya and in the state of Jharkhand.
3. Actively participating in steering the annual action plan and strategies for states in regard to inclusive education for deaf children in case of SSA in Assam and Jharkhand.

We remain committed to deaf children and families by:

- providing ongoing skill building supports with an emphasis on addressing socio emotional/ life skills needs of deaf children
- facilitating linkages with governmental and non-governmental service providers in the field of health, education, child safety etc
- formation of state parent networks and strengthening our cadre of parent leaders/ resource parents across the states we work in
- identification and training of state resource persons from the SSA and social welfare department in VAANI’s area of operation



Achievements and Lesson Learnt:

Our experience in the previous year has revolved around strengthening our focus both at the micro and macro levels. More specifically we have been able to achieve the following:

1. Strengthening partnerships with eight existing and two new partners across 5 states of Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, West Bengal and Jharkhand.
2. Setting up two main regional resource centres in the East and North East.
3. Reaching out directly to 1677 deaf children, 3137 parents and 1141 professionals during the current year.

Region of Work	Deaf Children	Parents	Professionals
Northeast	1289	2631	537
East	388	776	604
Total	1677	3137	1141

4. Through our work with the SSA Teachers, ICDS workers and our partners, VAANI has had an impact on **14345** deaf children and families, **7587** parents and **3424** professionals.
5. Developing state wise beneficiary data base storing information on background profiles, demographic features and services being accessed through VAANI funded projects.
6. Nodal agency for HI for SSA nationally and Member of the State Resource Committee for disability in the states of Jharkhand and Assam.
7. 4 parent forums/groups identified and trained in the states of Assam, Mizoram, Jharkhand and Kolkata.

Management information System (MIS):

VAANI has developed a robust monitoring system that helps capture both quantitative and qualitative learnings which in turn feeds into our overall strategic plan. Our monitoring and review system tracks both activities and outcomes of programmes operational in the East and Northeast on a regular basis. The review systems comprises of a quarterly exercise that assesses progress being made by a partner in areas of organisational development, programmes and financial management, through a set of process and outcome indicators. This helps in measuring change being brought about in the lives of our children and families and adopting strategies for further improving this. An end term evaluation is conducted for all individual projects and for the impact created by VAANI in its area of operation.

VAANI's work is further strengthened by regular human-interest stories, beneficiary testimonials and beneficiary feedback on services being provided. This ensures involvement of parents and families in planning and monitoring the quality of our programme, thus helping in more meaningful and active participation in what we do.



A mother explaining how to use a hearing aid to another mother at the Kolkata Metro Project



VAANI IN THE EAST

VAANI works in East India in two States – Jharkhand and West Bengal with 5 partners, with a lot of support from Paul Hamlyn Foundation. While VAANI has been active in West Bengal for the past 6 years, Jharkhand is a relatively new State for the team. The challenges of working in the East are very different from those we face in the Northeast, and we at VAANI are realising that there is no one standard methodology of conducting our training and awareness activities that will work everywhere.

In spite of many challenges, VAANI is inspired to work in these States by the response from parents of deaf children, whether in the urban slums of Kolkata or the rural semi-literate or even from non-literate parents in the interior districts of Jharkhand. Parents say they are inspired and motivated by VAANI's efforts, and have understood the value of the support provided by us which is changing the lives of their young children. Many parents who were earlier not able to communicate with their deaf children are now able understand their children a little better.

Sundeep Kothari interacting with deaf children



VAANI in Jharkhand

VAANI is making its presence felt in Jharkhand, with support from Paul Hamlyn Foundation, in the districts of Hazaribagh, Dumka, Khunti and Giridih. The Rania block of Khunti is one of the major backward and remote districts of Jharkhand with a different tribal dialect and customs, and we expect our work in this area to be quite challenging.

In Hazaribagh, VAANI's training workshops have helped us to develop a pool of trained professionals. We look forward to a day when these professionals form a resource group in the district to take VAANI's work forward. In Hazaribagh, we hope that our linkage with the St. Michael's School of Deaf and Dumb will help us to work with a large number of professionals and parents.

In Jharkhand one major achievement this year has been our inclusion as a member of the State Resource Group in the State's Sarva Siksha Mission (SSM). VAANI has been imparting training on early childhood deafness to the Resource Teachers and Master Trainers and this will help us develop a linkage with professionals across the State. VAANI proposes to set up ties with the Social Welfare department to empower the ICDS professionals who work with children in the 0-6 age range.

VAANI initiated a study in four districts of Jharkhand to assess the current status of deaf children and identify gaps in services and facilities offered through various government and private agencies.

Managing partners in technical partnership and inspiring them to be participative has been really challenging. Motivating parents/families is also a continuous challenge that the VAANI team is becoming more adept at managing. VAANI currently has three partners through which it worked with deaf children and families in the state:



Nav Bharat Jagriti Kendra (NBJK)

Established in 1971, NBJK is registered as a society under the Society Registration Act XXI, 1860 at Patna, Bihar. NBJK has worked in multi-faceted and diversified areas for social development. The 6 core program areas are as follows: education, eye care and health, micro-credit and socio-economic development, solid waste management and sanitation, small group support, advocacy, governance, disability, and disaster relief. Its programmes in disability mainly focus on forming advocacy groups i.e. disabled peoples groups at block, district and state levels and ensuring that the DPO members advocate for their rights. VAANI entered into a partnership with NBJK as one of the areas that was seen as a gap in their work was working with deaf children and their families. *"A very small number of deaf adults are even part of our Disabled People's Organisation (DPO) groups. We wish to change this and would like VAANI to help us serve these children and families better."*

Through NBJK and its network partner a total of 100 children have been identified in both Hazaribagh and Dumka. A team of 48 teachers and CBR workers have been trained to help reach these children. Training on skill development on language development, number concept and ISL is being done. Meetings with parents and families in Hazaribagh saw an encouraging response from parents who had expressed their needs to learn more about communicating and managing their deaf children.

Training programme at NBJK, Jharkhand



VAANI - NBJK ACTIVITIES IN HAZARIBAGH

2011 April	Identification of partner: VAANI team visit to NBJK's field area and St. Michael's School, a special school for the deaf children
May	Awareness and Sensitisation for 29 CBR workers in Hazaribagh
June	Training for 23 Parents
	Training for 27 CBR workers
	Training for 24 CBR workers
August	Training for 30 CBR workers
September	Training for 30 CBR workers
	Training for 23 Parents (8 with deaf children)
	Awareness building as part of World Deaf Week with 36 DPO members
October	Parents meeting for awareness and sensitisation
2012 February	Training for 39 parents on speech and communication. A second session was on Government and local facilities

VAANI - NBJK ACTIVITIES IN DUMKA

2011 September	Training for 25 Parents (11 with deaf children)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring visit to chalk out a district action plan in Dumka for NBJK A session with CBR workers on resource mapping and data collection used for data collection
November	Training for 14 Parents and 10 children in Kathikund
	Training for 13 parents and 11 children
	Teachers training for 7 CBR workers in Kathikund
	Teachers training for 10 CBR workers in Kathikund

VAANI extended its area of operation by including two new partners in Jharkhand.

"What matters deafness of the ears when the mind hears? The one true deafness, the incurable deafness, is that of the mind"



Banawasi Vikash Ashram (BVA):

Established in 1990, BVA is registered as a society under the Society Registration Act XXI, 1860. BVA works with female children and women. BVA has 33 CBR workers are working in the entire working area of BVA is Giridih, Kodarma, Hazaribagh and Chatra.

They run non-residential bridge courses for young girls in two blocks under SSA in Bagodar and Deori blocks. After completing this bridge course the girls are mainstreamed to a government residential school called Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya. They impart primary level education till class 5 to those girls of OBC, SC/ ST, a majority belonging to poor Muslim families. Additionally, with SSA in 120 Government Schools of the Bagodar block programme, BVA is running a programme through CBR. While working on bridge course programme, the partner encountered CwSN (Children with Special Needs) enrolling into their school. With no alternative educational facilities available within the block, BVA began enrolling these children. Further the partner organisation is funded by the SSA, it has linkages with about 120 schools and their teachers in the Bagodhar block besides running a home based programme through their 33 strong CBR staff. Additionally their programmes focus on awareness building of Village Education Committee (VEC) and Block level parents association, all contributing towards developing a more enabling environment for CwSN.

Based on the need felt jointly by VAANI and BVA was to build skills of teachers and CBR workers to provide quality services to identified deaf children while attending their bridge course programmes or through home based services.

LISTS OF ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED WITH BVA

2011 November	Organisation visit/meet and field visit
2012 February	Awareness and sensitisation for 8 teachers/CBR workers
	Training for 8 CBR workers

Sindurtola Gramodaya Vikas Vidyalaya (SGVV):

Established in 1978, SGVV is registered as a society under the Society Registration Act XXI, 1860. SGVV works on activities around women empowerment, health, and agriculture promotion. SGVV has been working for People with Disabilities (PWD) for the last 10 years in Raniya & Khunti Block of Khunti District; Jharkhand. SGVV caters to the needs of PWDs in 40 villages of Raniya Block with a plan to extend the program to another 27 villages and other blocks of Khunti District. More specifically the partner has identified 28 deaf children and 56 parents in its area of operation. The organisation has a total of 8 CBR workers, who have been previously trained on issues affecting disabled children.

Both new partners have received technical inputs on identification and screening of deaf children and skills in communicating with deaf children. VAANI will focus on activities with parents in the years ahead.

LISTS OF ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED WITH SGVV

2012 February	Awareness and sensitisation for 9 teachers/CBR workers
	Next level of training for 9 CBR workers

A deaf child in Jharkhand shows off his drawing skills





CASE STORY - Subhas Mirdha

Subhas Mirdha is an 8-year old deaf boy who is part of VAANI's project in Jharkhand. Subhas is the younger of the two children and lives with his parents and sister in Hizla village of the Dumka block in Jharkhand.. His father Manoj Mirdha is illiterate and works as a van puller, earning approximate Rs. 3,000/- per month. His mother Bobby Devi, a 30-year old homemaker, can only sign her name. She usually takes care of him and so does Subhas's elder sister.

His mother complained of weakness and dietary problems when she was pregnant with Subhas. Though she mentions that hers was an institutional delivery, little Subhas developed pneumonia at the age of three months, which continued till he was six months of age. He was shown to a private doctor, who gave him medicines. After taking the course of medicines, the child was diagnosed possibly with Wardenburg syndrome, where he was rushed to a doctor, to treat his eyes. Another set of medicines were administered and though the problems with the child's eyes was cured, he began to lose his sense of hearing.

His parents rushed him to Deen Dayal hospital in Delhi, where the doctors revealed that Subhas was deaf, and would require an operation. Not having sufficient money to treat their son, the distraught parents went back to Jharkhand. They felt the only other option remaining was to get him admitted into the Rajya Deaf and Dumb School, a special school with residential facilities. However since the school felt that Subhas was unable to independently perform daily activities, he was denied admission.

Though little Subhas has two behind the hear hearing aids, he doesn't have the ear mould, and hence finds it frustrating to keep these on for the whole day, therefore developing very little speech. After inputs from VAANI, little Subhas now lip reads and recognizes a few words. After sessions on communication and tactile speech, conducted by VAANI, Subhas's mother sees a marked difference in his ability to communicate with her and his sister.

Subhas with Binota Acharya (External Consultant, VAANI)

VAANI activities with SSM Jharkhand

As a member of the state resource group on disability under SSM, Jharkhand, VAANI was invited to train about 234 Resource Teachers and Master trainers across all 24 districts of the state. The objective was to provide the teacher with the skills required to identify and work with young deaf children. The trainings were held at SSM, JEPC Training centre, Ranchi.

2012 February	48 SSM teachers and 9 deaf children with their deaf teacher from Prakash Kunj School (the special school for the deaf children)
	34 SSM teachers and 4 deaf children from Prakash Kunj School
	18 SSM teachers and 4 deaf children from Prakash Kunj School
	41 Resource Teachers and 3 Master Trainers from SSM, and 4 deaf children from Prakash Kunj School
March	46 Resource Teachers and 3 Master Trainers from SSM, and 5 deaf children from Prakash Kunj School
	44 Resource Teachers and 3 Master Trainers from SSM, and 3 (3 are old) deaf children from Prakash Kunj School

"I am so happy that my son, for the first time, has begun to say a few words....'papa' being one of his favourite words" says Subhas's proud mother



15.09.2011 10:25



VAANI in West Bengal

DIRECT INTERVENTION:

Kolkata Metropolitan Project - Working in the urban slums

VAANI has been working directly with deaf children and their families through our Kolkata Metropolitan Project in the four wards of Kolkata Corporation – ward no 56, 59, 62 and 65. 90% of all our deaf children and families, come from lower socio-economic backgrounds and low literacy levels.

The project is an effort mainly to combine centre-based specialised services with a community based approach, which has led to larger number of beneficiaries being reached. This project, which was initially started with funds from Axis Bank Foundation, has been continued by VAANI with funds generated from donors.



VAANI is constantly looking for funds to support this very special project.

The projects main objectives are to:

- Ensure that all deaf children aged between 0-14 years have access to diagnosis, early stimulation and education
- raise awareness of the issues surrounding the primary education of deaf children
- work towards raising the expectations of parents and the wider community for the deaf child's potential
- help the parents and the wider community to understand the value of educating the deaf child

It has been a challenge convincing parents who are mainly concerned about their child's educational needs to also be involved in his/her emotional and social growth. Our community mobilisers have worked hard to make them understand the need for communication, and to convince reluctant parents to come with their children to the resource centres and to be a part of the VAANI extended family.

As a firm believer in 'informed choice', VAANI has been advocating for rights of children by educating the parents on the rights of their deaf child and the need and modes of communication. Over the year, VAANI has been able to directly impact on the lives of 147 deaf children (78 boys and 69 girls). A series of community based outreach camps has led to screening services being brought to the door step of our beneficiaries.

Special educators have done assessments of the KMP deaf children and we have initiated the preparation of individual education plans (IEP) for 64 children. This has had a direct impact on the number of deaf children prepared to be enrolled into schools and educational institutions as well as retention of all these children.

Screening Camp at the Kolkata Metro Project



These children, with their families, have been attending our training workshops. They have also been visiting our resource centres (that are open 5 days a week) where they get additional support with their studies, and are taught basic life skills that help them in the mainstream schools they attend, as well as in the community.

The remaining 83 mild and moderate children access various other services from the resource centre including parent meetings and information in regard to services for deaf children.

In regard to our work with families, VAANI has been able to motivate parents to accompany children to IEP sessions, attend parents meetings and network with one another. A cumulative impact of this has been that 294 parents have been reached through the project and 13 potential parent leaders selected from amongst them.

Parent leaders currently are involved in assisting in the identification of new children and motivating parents and families of children not attending centre regularly to do so.



Daraksha, one of the deaf children at KMP (left) and team KMP of VAANI (right)

NUMBER OF CHILDREN ACCESSING EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

Level of Deafness	On IEP	School-going Children	Non School-going	Enrolled with ICDS	NGO school / others	Total
Profound	64	47	12	3	2	64
Mild/Moderate	83	58	22	3	0	83
		105	34	6	2	147

Out of a total of 147 children 77% are accessing educational services with about 98% of these children accessing a local government facility.

Out of those who are profoundly deaf children

and access regular IEP supports from VAANI, 29 are female children and 35 are male children. Out of a total of 64 profoundly deaf children, 58 (91%) are in school.



A result of our efforts has led to some of our IEP children excelling in academics.

A FEW OF OUR HIGH ACHIEVERS:		
Ward	Name	Remarks
56	Md. Salim	Did not appear in half yearly exam but in Annual exam scored 68% in Bengali , 88 % in English and 72% in maths He was promoted and got enrolment in normal school
	MD Azhar	Scored 94%- Bengali, 94% in English and 92% in math's and ranked 4th
65	S.K.Danish	Ranked 1st
	Safiur Rehman	Ranked 1st
62	Bushra Bashir	Ranked 1st

OUTCOME OF PARENT MOTIVATION AND ARRANGING PARENT NETWORK MEETINGS

Ward	56	59	65	62	Total
Parent group members	3	2	4	4	13
Parent group Leaders (out of members)	2	2	2	2	8

QUANTITATIVE ACHIEVEMENTS 2011-2012:

Type of Activity	Target	Achieved
Community based awareness programme	4	4
Screening camp	8	8
Skill based training for the teacher	20	16
Skill training for the parents	20	22
Parents networking meeting	12	31
For IEP children's parents (profound and severe)		64
For mild and moderate deaf children's parents		83
Identification of deaf children	147	
Celebration of family day	1	1



"The problem is not that the (deaf) students do not hear. The problem is that the hearing world does not listen." - Rev Jesse L. Jackson (American Civil Rights Activist, Minister)

Subhada Borde (External Consultant, VAANI) training teachers of the deaf and trainers



VAANI PARTNERS

Pandua Pratibandhi Kalayan Samiti

PPKS was established in 2001 primarily with the objective of working with malnourished children. During the course of their work, several children with disabilities were identified. PPKS began to organise intervention programmes for them. PPKS' central office is housed in a building given to them on a minimal rent by a gentleman whose father was deaf. At present it works in 2 Gram Panchayats in Pandua block in the Hooghly District of West Bengal - Pandua and Gram Boinchi.

PPKS seems to be an organisation manned by a sincere team that is eager to work for deaf children and their families. Since VAANI started work with them, they are now working 19 deaf children, 30 parents and 6 teachers in the current period, the focus of activities remained on skill building of teachers in PPKS and on parent activities to improve communication between families and children.

VAANI in collaboration with PPKS was able to successfully train 201 ICDS workers, 21 lady supervisors and 2 Chief Development Officers (CDPOs) during the year. The direct outcome has been an increased number of new deaf children being identified by governmental grassroots level workers, and referred to PPKS for services. A peer-teacher approach has been put into place, where PPKS parents support ICDS and local school teachers within the block to help with managing these children.

VAANI training workshops for providing parents with skills on tactile speech were very successful. Parents were overwhelmed as for the first time in their lives, they heard their children speak!

At the level of the organisation, our efforts for the coming year would remain on strengthening organisational systems and nurturing the formation of parents group within the district.

"My child called me Ma for the first time" says a tearful mother in one of VAANI's session on communication.

LISTS OF ACTIVITIES UNDER PPKS:

2011 April	Training for 13 teachers and 11 deaf children
	Training for 13 parents
May	Training for 10 parents
June	Awareness programme for 44 ICDS workers and supervisors
	Awareness programme for 36 ICDS workers and supervisors
July	Awareness programme for 48 ICDS workers and supervisors
	Awareness programme for 51 ICDS workers and supervisors
August	Awareness programme for 43 ICDS workers
	Needs assessment for 5 teachers
September	Training for 15 parents
	Training for 14 parents
	Celebration of deaf week with over 41 parents, deaf children and teachers from Hooghly
November	Data Collection and District plan
	Visit to Hoogly district officials and Data Collection for District plan
December	World disabled Day celebration organised by PPKS
	Training for 14 parents
	Training for 6 teachers
2012 January	Meeting with 13 parents
	Training (residential) in Kolkata for 6 teachers
	Training for 6 teachers



North Bengal Handicapped Rehabilitation Society (NBHRS), Siliguri:

In North Bengal, VAANI partners with North Bengal Handicapped Rehabilitation Society (NBHRS), Siliguri. NBHRS is registered under the Societies Registration Act, West Bengal, the P.W.D Act, WB, the National Trust, and Government of India. It is recognized by the Mass Education Extension Department, Govt. of WB. It is also the Study Centre of Netaji Open University & IGNOU, New Delhi for B.Ed and Special Education in HI and MR. NBHRS started in 1988 and works with HI, CP, MR and Autistic children.

NBHRS has 10 trained and 2 untrained teachers who are eager to be part of the technical training VAANI has to offer. The staff is well-trained and conducts classes for Prep 4 and standards 1 to 8. There are about 130 deaf children on the rolls. The children continue their higher education through the Open school, from a study centre in Siliguri.

VAANI's activities with NBHRS focused on strengthening skills of teachers to help teach the deaf children in the School. A concerted effort was made to ensure that urban slum parents are involved through regular teacher training programmes. Inputs in the form of parents' meetings and training on communication and socio-emotional needs with children were primarily focused upon.

LISTS OF ACTIVITIES UNDER NBHRS:

2011 April	Training for 13 teachers
	Training for 17 parents and 6 deaf children
May	Training for 13 teachers
July	Training for 6 teachers
August	Training for 11 parents
September	Monitoring visit with 18 teachers and 3 governing body members
2012 March	Training for 46 teachers and students of B.Ed/Diploma course



Training sessions at PPKS, Pandua



A deaf child from NBHRS, Siliguri poses for a photograph



CASE STORY - Sanjeeda Parveen

Sanjeeda Parveen is five years old, and lives with 13 family members including her parents and sibling. The family income is about Rs. 6000 per month. She studies in Standard 1 in Calcutta Deaf and Dumb School. She has her disability certificate and disability identity card. Her mode of communication is non-verbal, where she uses gesture and lip reads. She does use a hearing aid.

Sanjeeda was a normal baby till she got high fever when she was about ten months old and was treated by a local doctor for dengue. While undergoing treatment the parents realised there was something wrong with their daughter. "She wouldn't turn around and look at me, when I called out to her", recollects Sanjeeda's mother. Worried but helpless, with little information on where to go, her parents were finally referred to another doctor when Sanjeeda was about one and half years old. The ENT doctor after examining her, told her parents that she was deaf and that she could be fitted with a hearing aid when she became six years old. The parents, unable to come to terms with their child's disability, took her to Mangalore twice when she turned 4. Here they learnt that the National Institute of Hearing Handicap (NIHH) was a few kilometers away from Kolkata in Bonhooghly. However, they were unable to get the assistance they required anywhere.

Sanjeeda's mother heard about VAANI and the services provided to deaf children from another parent in the Ward. She visited the resource centre with Sanjeeda who became comfortable very quickly at the Centre and enjoyed interacting with the children there. She has been attending the centre for about three and half months and is progressing well. The teacher works on helping little Sanjeeda to concentrate, practicing with her the presence and absence of sound, vocalisation and speech. She has been fitted with a hearing aid and wears this very regularly.



Sanjeeda Parveen with her mother

In West Bengal and Jharkhand, in 2011-12 VAANI programmes have benefitted

8414 deaf children

790 parents of deaf children

604 professionals who work with deaf children

"I am happy to see my daughter progressing, and am so thankful that there is a place like VAANI that helps deaf children like my little Sanjeeda" says the relieved mother.



VAANI IN THE NORTHEAST

In keeping with the vision of advocating for the right of every deaf child to a full and complete life with respect and dignity, VAANI continues to work towards meeting the needs and expectations of deaf children and their families in the three states of Assam, Meghalaya and Mizoram in the Northeast with the support of the Jamshetji Tata Trust.

VAANI's objective has been to reach out to deaf children and their families who are not getting any kind of services, especially in the remote areas of the Northeast, and to build a cadre of parents and professionals trained on 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.

VAANI began activities in the Northeast in October 2007, and since then VAANI has had direct impact on 959 deaf children, 1269 families and 368 professionals in the three States. Our awareness programmes have sensitised over 8245 people to issues around deafness and the importance of communication in the development of language.

In the last three years, the services of our partner organisations in the Northeast have been strengthened and currently our 5 partner organisations are helping deaf children access services which were otherwise absent in their villages. Convergence with governmental services like the ICDS centres, SSA schools and health structures is done to ensure holistic development.

With an effort to strengthen lateral linkage amongst partner organisations, the year 2011-12 witnessed joint activities amongst partner organisations.

World Deaf Week Celebrations in the Northeast:

The World Deaf Week celebrations held in the last week of September 2011 were done jointly amongst partners, deaf children, families and the community in Mizoram. The response was extremely encouraging and the activities received a lot of public support. A parent from Ferrando Integrated Women Development Centre said: *"Few people knew about deafness in Aizawl, but now after the World Deaf Week Celebrations almost whole of Mizoram will be sensitised towards my child's condition. I am very happy that there are people who are thinking for deaf children like my child apart from children with other special needs"*

A talk show by our partners jointly in Mizoram has generated awareness on the crucial issues of deafness and the needs of a deaf child and his/her family. Spastic Society of Mizoram and Ferrando Integrated Women Development Centre, our partners in Mizoram, have had



A deaf child from Assam at a VAANI training



awareness programmes for a wide variety of stakeholders to ensure mainstreaming of deaf children in the society.

Our Assam partner, Swabalambi, has had awareness programmes for the Disabled People's Organisations, members of the panchayats and the teachers in the schools of their block so that the deaf children and their families are also in their agendas. To ensure early and proper identification and also to ensure that deaf children are included in all aspects of life, SAROTHI, our second partner from Assam has also had awareness programmes for community members, doctors and ICDS workers.

VAANI Partners' Meet:

VAANI organised a Partners' Meet in the month of August 2011 that was attended by the Head of each partner organisation and the Project co-ordinators from all five partner organisations. The objective of the workshop, besides communicating VAANI's programme, reporting and communication systems, was to explore ideas on strengthening our strategy of working together and developing a road map to help roll this out. Feedback from partners has helped in guiding VAANI's annual activity plan for the year 2011-2012.

9-11 August 2011	Based on the reviews in July'11, 9 participants from VAANI's partner organisations discussed strategies, shared ideas and developed Plans for the period of July'11 to June'12
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Working with parents of deaf children and professionals:

Inputs provided to parents and professionals for the previous year were reviewed through a technical assessment exercise. For parents, the main input remains on the provision of skills to improve communication with their deaf child. VAANI training programmes suggest that 78.3% children communicate with their parents through an oral mode while the remaining 21.7% children prefer to communicate through Sign language.

The sessions on touch speech for children were useful and motivated parents to be more regular in following up with the training at home as it has helped the child to speak a little as a result of such continued regular sessions. VAANI, while developing its training and capacity building plans, has kept in mind the needs and interests of the parents and families while providing inputs on modes of communication.

A concerted effort was made to identify and select resource persons and parent leaders from amongst those parents whom VAANI has trained. VAANI hopes that the parent leaders in turn would assume responsibility and motivate and train other parents to be more actively involved and to take the initiative further.

Feedback from teachers and community workers from the three States indicates a marked change in their attitude towards, and understanding of, the needs of deaf children and their families, importance of building a parent child relationship and most importantly understanding the role of parents and their own roles in the lives of a deaf child. VAANI's capacity building workshops will continue in enhancing

A student of SCHHC, Meghalaya during the World Deaf Week





technical skills and facilitating exchange of ideas thus contributing towards creating an enabling environment for a deaf child at home and at school. In case of teachers of the deaf and community based rehabilitation workers, the focus remained on the need to provide more skill building supports on issues surrounding early reading, writing and number concepts. Information on how to assess a deaf child and develop an Individual Education Plan (IEP) was reiterated.

VAANI and SSA:

VAANI has supported Sarba Siksha Abhijan Mission in Assam in building up the skills of their Resource Teachers and Community Workers. CBR workers of our partner organisations have shared inputs received from VAANI with the block level volunteers of SSA and they too have been helpful in providing support to our partners in identification and screening activities. In Mizoram and Meghalaya too, the volunteers have been supported through awareness and skills building workshops and the parents have also been reached through the SSA network.

Studies on Status of Deaf Children:

While working with early childhood deafness, we realised there is a lacuna in information surrounding the issue and very little has been documented on the actual needs and priorities of deaf children and their families. As a national level resource centre on deafness, VAANI has made an attempt to bridge the information gap and share/highlight the needs expressed by parents of deaf children across the states with important governmental and non-governmental players. There were individual launches in the three states of the reports of studies on "status of deaf children". During the launch, the findings of the studies which were initiated by external consultants in each of the three states were shared with other stakeholders of the states.

These reports will help develop more sustainable plans, as well as help forge collaborations and partnerships amongst key players, and that would help in addressing issues of early

childhood deafness.

VAANI has been conducting sessions on early identification of deaf children for training Anganwadi workers in Mizoram and Meghalaya at the district level.

With the support of all the stakeholder groups including the State Governments, VAANI hopes to fulfil its mission across the three states of the Northeast.

VAANI and its Partners in the Northeast:

SAROTHI (Assam)

Situated in Nalbari town, on the North bank of the Brahmaputra, 'SAROTHI – a centre for ability development' is an initiative of the Society for Human Development to support differently abled people. The organisation was established in 2007 by a group of local people who were keen to work for society. SAROTHI reaches out to children with special needs by providing day-care and home support. Sarothi is also taking the initiative to form a parents' group of Children with Special Needs (CWSN) in Nalbari district of Assam.

In Nalbari district there are reportedly about 5500 children with special needs (CWSN) in the age group of 6 to 14 years, and about 1500 children are in the category of hearing impaired out of total CWSN. The day care centre at SAROTHI provides support to hearing impaired children along with other CWSN.

Hearing Impairment being an 'invisible disability' and the issues concerning deafness being complex, SAROTHI felt that specific and intensive support is required to find out the ability of the hearing impaired children by involving parents and family members. Since no such support was provided in Nalbari earlier, VAANI partnered with SAROTHI to enable them to extend their services to deaf children and their families through a Community Based Rehabilitation Project Ability for four blocks – TihuBarama, Pub Nalbari, Paschim Nalbari and Baksa of the Nalbari district.



SWABALAMBI (Assam)

Located 35 km away from Guwahati, on the south bank of the Brahmaputra, Swabalambi is a cross-disability organisation working in the Dimoria Block of Kamrup district in Assam since 1997. The organisation covers twelve Gaon Panchayats through Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) programmes focusing on the following:

- Home based education for children with disabilities
- Creating awareness among people with disabilities and the society about issues of disability, prevention and management
- Enhancing the capacities of people with disabilities, their families and the community for development of sustainable approaches for integration
- Networking with other organisations and agencies and Government at all levels for influencing policy, action and legislation for integration
- Mobilising resources for CBR activities
- Empowerment of girls/women with disabilities by skill-training and inclusion in all CBR activities
- Counselling people with disabilities and their parents
- Formation of self-help groups for economic sustainability
- Rehabilitation of adults with disabilities into local trades

Early identification and early stimulation and communication are very essential in the case of deaf children for their overall development. An assessment of Swabalambi's CBR workers through participatory discussions showed that the CBR team had very limited knowledge of working with deaf children. They needed to build on their existing skills to enable them to work effectively with deaf children and their parents. Though Swabalambi involves parents in their programmes, a systematic and sustainable way of empowering parents needed to be developed. With the following objectives, VAANI partnered with Swabalambi to take forward the work with deaf children and their families through the project 'Bodhir Bikas Yojana'.

"Deaf people can do anything, except hear."- I. King Jordan (Former President of Gallaudet University)

ACTIVITIES IN ASSAM

2011 April	Training of 4 Resource Parents on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soft Skills • Issues related to Social and Emotional needs of deaf children
	Sensitisation Workshop for 21 parents and 8 deaf children on the problems and challenges parents go through while dealing with their deaf children
May	Training for 4 Resource Parents on how to conduct a social and emotional needs workshop for other deaf children and their families
	Training for 19 parents and 8 deaf children on Social and Emotional needs of deaf children (Phase 2)
	Workshop for 48 parents and 9 deaf children on <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need for Assessment • The Use and maintenance of Hearing Aids
	Sensitisation & Training Workshop for 38 CBR workers on <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness • Early identification • Communication Assessment of parents of deaf children
June	An orientation on deafness with inputs on screening strategies for 49 Resource Teachers of SSA
July	Training for 49 Resource Teachers of SSA on <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessing a child's Language & Communication Skills • Supporting a deaf child in an inclusive setup through demonstrations, practice exercises and using ISL • ISL
	Training for 14 parents and 10 deaf children on how to improve their communication skills using ISL and visual aids



2011 September	Training for 112 parents, 33 deaf children, 36 teachers and 6 other participants on <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social and Emotional needs of deaf children and their families • Communicating with a deaf child • Rights of children with disabilities
	Training for 71 parents (old and new) and 20 deaf children
	World Deaf Week Celebration in Assam
October	Training evaluation for 17 CBR workers
	Training evaluation for 5 CBR workers
November	Skill building session for 29 parents, 14 deaf children and 8 volunteers on touch speech therapy and developing vocabulary through directed activities
	Skill building session for 10 parents with 6 deaf children and 10 CBR workers on touch speech therapy and developing vocabulary through directed activities
December	District resource mapping exercise with 10 CBR workers
2012 January	Workshop on screening for partner NGO staff with 5 parents, 5 deaf children and 15 professionals
March	Seminar on Status of Deaf Children in Assam with 28 professionals, 57 parents, 21 deaf children, 2 deaf youths and 4 other participants
	Training workshop for 18 parents with 9 deaf children on Teaching and Learning Material

SCHOOL AND CENTRE FOR THE HEARING HANDICAPPED CHILDREN (Meghalaya)

The School and Centre for the Hearing Handicapped Children (SCHHC) was founded by the local citizens, members of a religious faith and businessmen from Shillong. It was registered as a Society in 1990 and is now a unit of the Society for the Welfare of the Disabled (SWD).

The School and Centre for the Hearing Handicapped Children is equipped with 8 Trained Special Educators, a Speech Therapist-cum-Audiologist and an Ear-mould Technician. In SCHHC, special education is imparted to 83 children with Speech and Hearing Impairment of various types and degrees through speech therapy and training in acquisition of language, speech, reading and sign language.

Apart from its main objective of educating the children, the school also aims at their rehabilitation and their integration in the family and society through the teaching of functional communication skills. The school firmly believes that children with speech and hearing impairment can be assets in the society.

Parental cooperation is important for the successful development of the deaf child. SCHHC felt the need to empower the parents of deaf children in their care and became a VAANI partner in December 2009. The project with VAANI is on "Empowerment of Parents & Special Educators of Children with Hearing Impairment (CWHI)" and includes 83 deaf children. Through the VAANI project, the parents of deaf children in SCHHC are being trained to work with their children in their homes, following the systems being followed at school.

The teachers have been given inputs to enhance their teaching skills and also to motivate parents so that they can work together for the development of the deaf children.

"I have always thought it would be a blessing if each person could be blind and deaf for a few days during his early adult life. Darkness would make him appreciate sight; silence would teach him the joys of sound." – Helen Keller



ACTIVITIES IN MEGHALAYA

2011 April	Seminar on Status of Deaf Children in Meghalaya with 27 professionals and government officials, 25 parents, 14 deaf children and 9 deaf youths
May	Awareness & Sensitisation for 20 CBR workers on <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Isolation • Insecurity • lack of communication leading to language deficit
	Sensitisation Workshop for 39 parents with 8 deaf children and 19 teachers
	Awareness Workshop for 19 parents with 6 teachers
	Training of 21 teachers on Text Book Teaching
June	Training Workshop for the 34 Volunteers of SSA on <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orientation on deafness • Identification & Screening Strategies Needs Assessment
	Parents Awareness Workshop
September	World Deaf Week celebrations in Meghalaya with 93 deaf children, 10 parents, 2 deaf youths, 28 teachers and 8 other participants
October	Training needs assessment for 9 teachers of the deaf
2012 January	Training need Assessment for 34 parents with 53 deaf children and 9 professionals
February	Collection of Resource Information with 5 other participants
March	Training workshop for 12 parents with 4 deaf children and 10 professionals

FERRANDO INTEGRATED WOMEN DEVELOPMENT CENTRE (Mizoram)

Ferrando Integrated Women Development Centre - Peace Home was started in the year 2005, to help women and young girls live more

dignified and purposeful lives. It is run by the Missionary Sisters of Mary Help of Christians, a rare initiative of the Sisters in the Northeast. The centre provides services to recovering drug users, alcoholics, and sex workers, those infected with HIV and other vulnerable women and children in society.

The organisation covers the four districts of Mizoram, namely Aizawl, Lawngtlai, Saiha and Champhai, through community based programs on health education, household education, SHG formation and micro enterprises and vocational training for village drop-out girls.

Lack of awareness in the community and amongst parents and families of deaf children in Mizoram has yielded a deep sense of negative feelings towards children with hearing impairment and has not helped positive growth to take place. Mizoram has very limited resources available to help these children avail quality services and there has not yet been any such initiative, while there have been considerable initiatives taken up for blind persons and other disabled persons.

With an initiative to reach the hearing impaired children in the villages of Durtlang, Sihphir and Bawngkawn, a partnership with VAANI was established in November 2009.

Ferrando Integrated Women Development Centre has successfully managed to identify deaf children and to work with the families in the project area. Awareness activities in the community and in the Anganwadi Centres have made an impact in the last two and a half years. The CBR workers of Centre for Peace and Development and ZoramEntu Paul have also been reached through awareness activities and skills workshops in FIWDC. Training aids have been used to help the deaf children improve their communication skills. FIWDC hopes to become a Resource Centre for deaf children and their families in Mizoram.



SPASTIC SOCIETY OF MIZORAM (Mizoram)

Located in Aizawl, Spastics Society of Mizoram was formed by the parents of four handicapped children to support each other and help out other parents as well. On 10 April 1989, the Society for Rehabilitation of Spastic Children was formally instituted and registered under the Societies Registration (Extension to Mizoram) Act, 1976. The Spastics Society of Mizoram has been working for the welfare of disabled children providing care, protection and rehabilitation services to both the individual and the community.

The Gilead Special School was started by the four founder members on 1st February 1990 to meet the needs of the MR (Mentally Challenged) and CP (Cerebral Palsy) children primarily. On request by parents of hearing impaired children, as there were no other services available in Aizawl, the Gilead School began to include the hearing impaired children under their shelter.

Parental involvement is very important for the overall development of a deaf child and to enable him/her reach their full potential. Keeping this in mind, a need was felt to motivate parents, and also to encourage teachers to get parents involved. To provide effective services to deaf children in Mizoram, it was necessary to enhance the existing knowledge and skills of the teachers. The Spastic Society of Mizoram thus partnered with VAANI and took up the 'Malsawm Project for Hearing Impaired' to meet the needs of deaf children and their families and help them be included in mainstream society.

Through Spastic Society of Mizoram (SSOM), 44 children, 88 parents and 4 special teachers of the school have been reached through a school based intervention. The teachers have been getting continuous support through workshops on textbook teaching and reading. SSOM's CBR workers have also been getting inputs from VAANI and are expected to work in the rural areas of Mizoram.

Activities by SSOM supported by VAANI include Awareness of the Community and Follow-up of Parents through Parent Teacher Programmes.

ACTIVITIES IN MIZORAM	
2011 March	Sensitisation workshop with 27 teachers on <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In depth information on deafness Sign language basics
	Workshop for 17 CBR workers with 11 parents on Communication Skills and teaching vocabulary to deaf children
April	Training Workshop for 33 CBR Workers & Link Workers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Screening Strategies Skills on teaching vocabulary to deaf children
	Skills Building Workshop for 7 parents with 3 CBR workers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teaching vocabulary through activity Importance of communication Demonstration of communication skills for developing language
May	Workshop for 28 parents <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Needs of parents A positive role of parents in the development of their deaf children
	Workshop for 15 parents of children with other disability and 2 parents of deaf children to understand "Deafness as an Invisibility Disability"
	Sensitisation Workshop for 49 parents to understand the emotions and difficulties faced by deaf children and their families
	Training of 20 SCERT Teachers on the use of the Teaching and Learning Material Kit for teaching deaf children of different linguistic competencies
July	Follow up & Training Workshop for 30 parents
	Sensitisation Workshop for 25 Anganwadi workers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Importance of Communication Hearing Impairment and its causes Importance of sign language The need for Hearing aid and its right usage Responsibilities of Parents, Neighbours and Peer Group



September	World Deaf Week Celebrations in Mizoram reaching over 5000 people
2012 February	Training Workshop for 4 professionals
	Workshop for 19 parents on Group formation
	Training Workshop for 8 CBR workers of FIWDC.
	Workshop for 10 parents with 4 deaf children on Group formation
	Collection of Aizawl District Resource Information with 5 other participants

Screening camp organised by FIWDC, Mizoram



A student of SCHHC, Meghalaya during the art competition held for World Deaf Week Celebrations

Students of SSOM, Mizoram



In Assam, Meghalaya and Mizoram, in 2011-12
 VAANI programmes have benefitted
 1289 deaf children
 2631 parents of deaf children
 537 professionals who work with deaf children



CASE STORY - Banteibor Riahtam

Little Banteibor Riahtam was born on 6th August 2003 at Saitsohpen village, Cherrapunji East Khasi Hills, Meghalaya. He was diagnosed as hearing impaired when he was 1 year old. He has bilateral profound sensorineural hearing loss with delayed speech and delayed language development. He had high fever which caused him to become deaf. Banteibor is the third son of Mr Diengdoh a driver and Mrs D. Riahtam a housewife, but his parents are separated. His mother runs a small business and supports the entire family.

"When Banteibor was diagnosed as hearing impaired, my whole life was shattered! it was hard to come in terms with reality", his mother said. She was absolutely devastated as no one else in her family had this problem. An ENT specialist who examined him referred him to a special school for deaf children. His mother took him to a special school, but unfortunately the child did not get admission as there was no hostel facility in the school. He was confined to his home and did not mix freely with others as he lacked basic communication skills.

Few months later a team member at the block level directed the resource teacher/special educator to visit his house. Since then intervention and education is carried out at

home. Hearing aids were provided to help Bantei hear better.

He was hyperactive and restless because he couldn't talk and would throw temper tantrums. He was totally dependent on his mother for all his personal needs, and would get very upset when separated from his mother. He quarreled a lot with his siblings. He only communicated with gestures and pointing out at the objects or people he wanted to communicate with.

With the intervention given by the SSA resource teacher/special educators who have received inputs from VAANI it has been observed that there have been improvements in his communication and behaviour. He is fast in picking up finger spellings; he learns the alphabets using finger spellings. Now, he understands and can associate simple words such as book, pencil, bag, house, potato, baby, dog, tree and so on. He now seems to be interested in his studies and tries to be independent; he loves to take care of his younger ones at home. He is a bright and talented child who will become a good student if guided and encourage in a proper way. VAANI is proud to be a part of Banteibor's life.



Banteibor Riahtam busy with his studies

Language inputs can bring change in the behavior of a deaf child.

VAANI TRAINING ACTIVITIES



Brinda Nanavati (External Consultant, VAANI), at a training of trainers (left) and one of our teachers of the deaf takes a class on sign language (right)

VAANI's focus is on early childhood deafness. Early identification and early intervention are the twin pivots that underpin VAANI's professional activities.

The activities include:

1. empowering parents to:

- recognise and understand their child's difficulties in communicating
- accept that their child will need special strategies to acquire early communication and language skills
- decide on the most suitable communication option for their child and facilitate him/her to achieve competence in it
- enable their child to develop age-appropriate literacy skills
- facilitate their child's academic progress in school
- foster social skills, self-confidence and a sense of self-worth in their child

2. empowering special educators through on-going and updated training programmes, workshops, seminars to:

- support parents in carrying out the above

activities

- create an awareness about deafness in regular schools in particular and in the community in general
 - facilitate teacher training programmes conducted by Governmental and Non-governmental organisations
 - train community workers to conduct early intervention programmes in the community and, whenever necessary, in the child's home
 - organise and conduct early identification camps
3. providing skill training to community workers to:
- screen and refer children for audiological assessment
 - carry out basic awareness programmes on the causes and prevention of deafness
 - carry out early intervention activities to enable the child to communicate using the option chosen by the parents and family
 - carry out activities to foster early learning and early literacy depending on the age of the child



*Jaya Mitra (External Consultant, VAANI)
conducting a training of trainers*

The highlights of training in 2011-12:

The year 2011-12 has been a very active one for VAANI's training team, and we have stepped into new arenas to spread awareness and knowledge about issues around childhood deafness. Besides VAANI's usual training workshops with the stakeholders, VAANI has also worked extensively with professionals working in the Government and with SSA workers.

VAANI has equipped a cadre of professionals in the government to foster communication and literacy skills in deaf children and their families. VAANI has successfully conducted training workshops for SSA resource teachers, volunteers and families/parents of deaf children on teaching deaf children, class room management, communication skills, applicability and usage of teaching learning material and the use of assistive devices like hearing aids that are being distributed through the SSA in Assam, Mizoram and Meghalaya in the North East, in Ranchi in Jharkhand and Siliguri in Bengal.

VAANI was the resource organisation for deafness for the regional workshops for the cross disability training of Resource Teachers of SSA that were organised in Aug – Sept 2011. VAANI conducted these Zonal workshops for the SSA in Nashik, Hyderabad, Delhi, Kolkata and Guwahati for the Resource Teachers.

VAANI has been named as member of the State Resource Team on disability for Jharkhand, along with Sight Savers, Sense International, NIHH and Dipshikha.

1. VAANI has developed a bank of highly qualified and experienced teachers of the deaf who work as VAANI Mentors. They provide training as per the modules that have been pre-determined. These Mentors are from Mumbai (Maharashtra), Ahmedabad (Gujarat), Delhi and Kolkata (West Bengal). Training kits for trainers have been developed
2. VAANI is passing on technical skills on



deafness to SSA Assam, Jharkhand, Meghalaya and Mizoram

3. Assessment kit has been developed
4. Besides our training modules for families, CBR workers and professionals, we have developed the list of words for Indian Sign Language which is used for training by our deaf role model as per the requirement of our training contents.

Work with parents:

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's work with parents and the support we give them for their deaf children has paved the way for us to bring them together to form groups and network with other parents and eventually with other parent groups.

Besides imparting technical skills on how to teach deaf children at home VAANI is also working on preparing advocacy groups of parents to become advocates for their children.



VAANI believes that the most basic reasons for forming a group are –

- Providing a common platform to share similar experiences
- Providing support to parents who are going through the challenges of raising a deaf child
- Enabling them to know about, and demand for, services that the deaf child is legally entitled to from public and private agencies
- Becoming an effective advocate on behalf of the child and other deaf children.
- Getting legislation passed to provide the services deaf children need which are not yet provided by law.
- Getting better services from public and private agencies
- Making the public aware of the special needs of deaf children.
- Planning for the future of the deaf children and working to provide him/her with better schools, better work opportunities, better housing, transportation, and recreation facilities.

The purpose of forming a network of parents' groups is to actually organise campaigns and activities for the benefit of deaf children. As a result there will be an increased opportunity for parents to meet, share and learn from each other at a local, district, state and national level. This will also lead to better access to information and services available for their children. The additional advantage of working together as parents' groups is having greater capacity to reach out to influence the government. VAANI has identified resource persons/ leaders among the parents' groups in all the States VAANI is working in.

Parents' Groups and VAANI

Initially when the group is just about getting started VAANI does a little hand holding for about six months and prepares the group to stand on their own. During these initial stages VAANI gives the group inputs on –

- Rules and regulations of a group
- Leadership qualities
- How to form a group/association/society/

rules, with bye laws, vision, and mission.

- Information about the Person with Disability Act
- Child rights
- Government schemes
- Disability certificate
- Job opportunities
- Group dynamics
- How to organise meetings, workshops and seminars

VAANI also,

- Makes the parents aware of the child protection rights, laws and acts
- Provides training, makes the parents aware of the importance of setting up resource centres in their respective States, starting from the early intervention centre which is the most important and most needed in the country
- Imparts basic knowledge on finance and accounts for running an organisation
- Conducts sessions on Life Skills Education

While these inputs are being given to the parents' groups, VAANI provides additional training to the leaders among them by involving them in VAANI training workshops and parents meetings. This is an exposure for the parent-leaders and most importantly it inspires them to take the work forward independently with other parents.

The parents are empowered with all the information and knowledge required to advocate for the rights and needs of their deaf child. They can form Advocacy Groups of parents fighting for the rights of their deaf children. These Advocacy groups can then strive to give deaf children the rights that they are entitled to and go forward to support other parents/families of deaf children. Three such groups are formed in Mizoram and in Assam and more are in the process of forming in all the other States VAANI is working in!

"In all these years this is the first time we have come across a good training where we have learnt about deafness so clearly" – says a Resource Teacher who works with the Sarba Siksha Abhijan (SSA) in Assam on receiving training from VAANI



VAANI and I: Rumi Das, CBR Worker

Rumi Das is a Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) worker working with deaf children for the past five years. She works with Swabalambi, a partner of VAANI – Deaf Children’s Foundation working out of the Dimoria Block in Assam.

Swabalambi is a cross-disability organisation and so, as Rumi puts it very simply, *“Before VAANI’s intervention, a disability was a disability, and I never thought a deaf child needs any kind of special attention among other disabled children.”* As time passed, she realised it was tough to get her message across to the deaf child. She used gestures to communicate, but often ended up frustrated because she did not know what to do. Today, it comes naturally to her to understand that fear, insecurity, isolation and loss of confidence form part of the attitude of a deaf child. She understands that a deaf child is different from other disabled children and needs individual attention.

It is not an easy task to keep at the task at hand day in and day out. A lot of effort in teaching a deaf child yields very little response. A teacher is disheartened when the student does not do well. Though experience has brought down the frustration in Rumi, she keeps thinking of new ways to tackle every problem she faces in communicating with

her students. At the end of the day, a supportive family and an empathetic community goes a long way in restoring her confidence in the cause she is working for.

Rumi has undergone training in Screening Strategies and Identification, Building of Communication Skills, Usage of Teaching and Learning Material for Language Evaluation, Sensitisation and Awareness and Documentation as well, as part of the training by VAANI’s.

Rumi has been working with disability for the past five years. It surprises her today to think that even to her, deafness was invisible once. *“Now I realise the communication gap, with the parents, peer group, community and the world around them. It is my job to bridge this gap.”*

Human beings are social animals. We all know that to be social, one has to communicate. Most of us do not realise that hearing is the stimulus which creates the need in us to communicate. How does a child live a normal life without being social? It is people like Rumi who have understood how isolation affects children who are deaf, and are working hard to bring communication into their lives.

Rumi Das, at a training with Sreela Bose (technical Consultant, VAANI)





VAANI's Internal Capacity Building

Building up the skills of employees is an important component of VAANI's activities, as we believe that training of staff leads to the growth of knowledge and skills, productivity, quality and team spirit. Along with several internal capacity building workshops, VAANI also nominates staff members for suitable training workshops.

VAANI sent two members of the staff to attend a training workshop on 'Project Management for Development Organisations' in July at the Institute of Rural Management, Anand, Gujarat. They returned from the workshop with theoretical skills to match the practical work that they already were doing competently.

"An Appreciation of Qualitative Research and How to Get the Best out of It" – this was a two-day workshop for the entire Programmes Team and was conducted by Nishka Crishna, a senior management consultant in August 2011. It gave the group insights into interacting with parents to get information from them without being intrusive or aggressive.

A workshop on 'Management of NGOs' was conducted at Don Bosco Institute Kharguli, Assam and was attended by a VAANI officer. Her feedback on guidelines to be followed by NGOs was useful to the entire VAANI team.

In January, the entire VAANI team re-visited our goals and vision. Facilitated by a senior consultant, the two-day workshop focused on personal and professional growth, team building and interaction between staff members.

Senior Professionals in the deaf sector – Brinda Nanavati, Shubhada Burde, Binata Acharya and Jaya G Mitra work as VAANI mentors and have been working with VAANI's teachers of the deaf. Our Senior Technical Consultant Sreela Bose is the Chief Mentor and has been providing invaluable support in our programmes.



*Manju Gupta (External Consultant, VAANI) conducting a parents' training (top)
Subhada Borde (External Consultant, VAANI) conducting a speech training (middle)
A team building exercise with the VAANI team (bottom)*



My Experience of Working as a Deaf Role Model and Trainer with VAANI:

- SUNDEEP KOTHARI

I had been associated with VAANI activities since 2005 when I attended the first seminar on Emotional and Social Needs of deaf children that was held in Kolkata. Since then, I accompanied the VAANI team to some schools to spread awareness about deafness and I enjoyed my experience very much. It was a very happy day when I officially joined VAANI Deaf Children Foundation on 1 July, 2011 as a deaf role model, training assistant and ISL Trainer. I also keep records of VAANI publications and update the publications' stock data online through Google Docs. I also help prepare the ISL module and write reports on every workshop that I attend.

During the Awareness / Training Programme for Parents / CBR Workers / IDCS Workers or meeting with parents for the first time, I talk to them about my childhood, my schooling and my experiences as a deaf adult in a hearing world. I am able to give some advice on parents' role in their children's lives, based on how my parents brought me up. As part of the training, I also teach them ISL signs for selected words from a word-list that a VAANI trainer has prepared.

After the workshops, parents come up to talk to me about their deaf child and the problems they face with their child. I think I am able to help them when I share with them that I had similar experiences in my life, and know what their child is going through. I hope communicating with me (through signs, words that I can understand thanks to my hearing aids and lip-reading skills) will encourage these parents to try communicating more with their children.

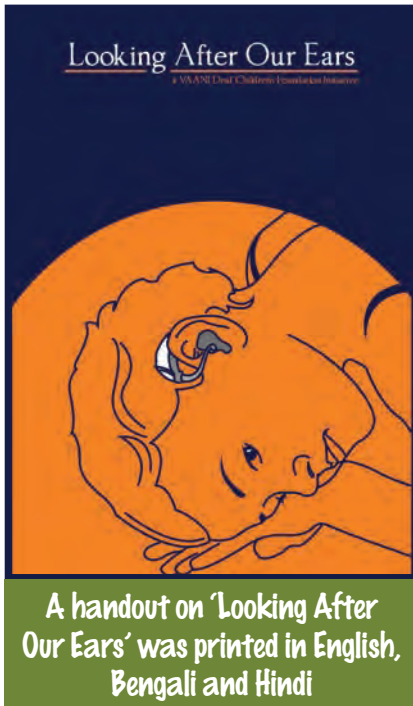
VAANI gives me a wonderful opportunity to make a difference in many people's lives. With VAANI's support, I have come to know what problems parents and professionals like CBR workers face with the deaf child, how to give them support and how to give them training to help their children have a bright and successful future.

Sundeep Kothari is a young deaf adult that VAANI is proud to project as an ideal Deaf Role Model and Training Assistant. His gentle presence in the VAANI office has made a tremendous difference to how the entire team interacts with deaf people. His parents have had a tremendous influence in his upbringing. Earning a living independently, married happily and a father of a young daughter, Sundeep is everything a young person aspires to be, whether deaf or hearing.



"We have received the greatest thing ever from VAANI and that is our confidence to raise our deaf children and the belief that our children also have a future" – says a mother in Mizoram.

Sundeep at a training of resource teachers, SSA, Ranchi

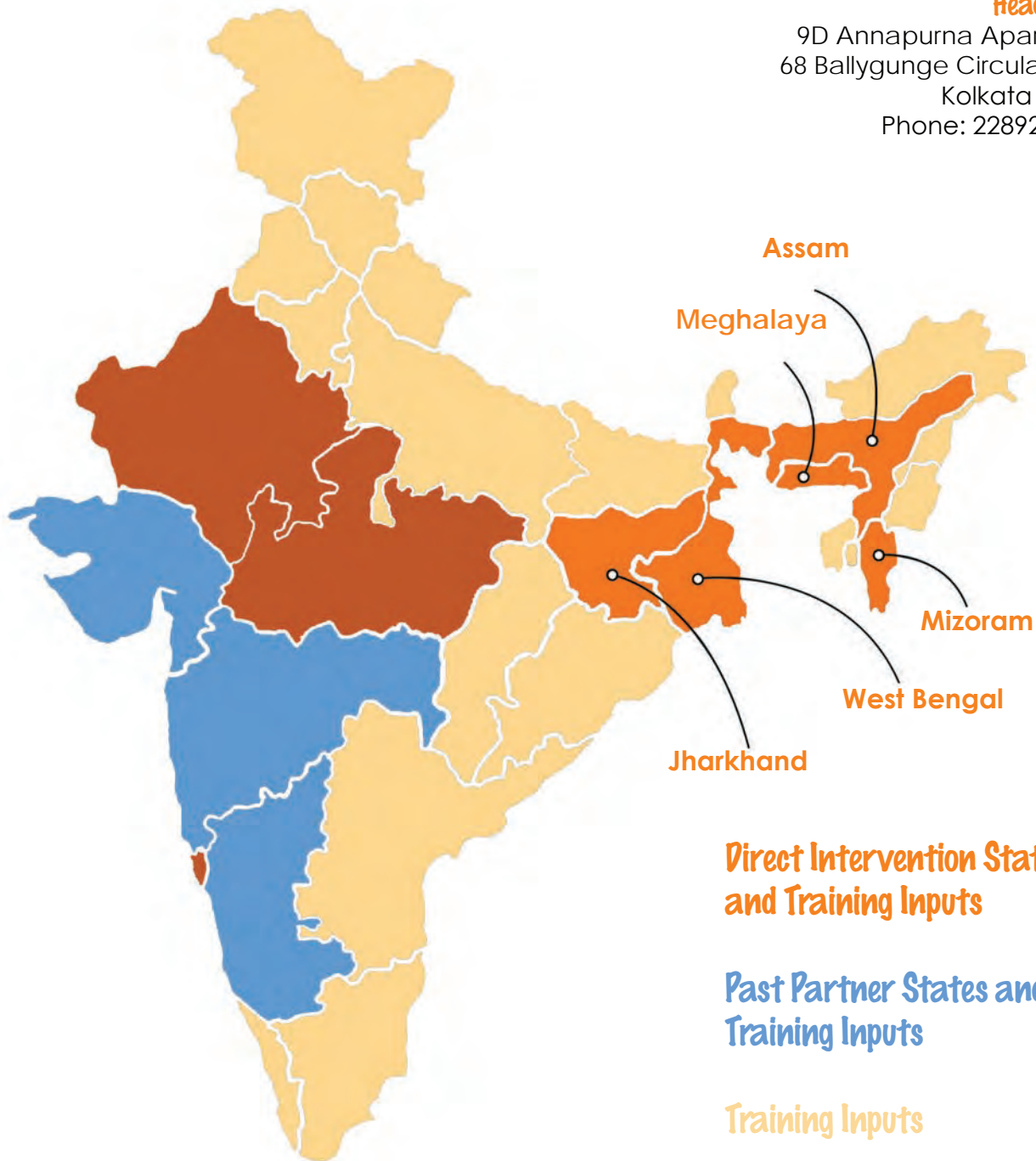




VAANI'S REACH

Head Office:

9D Annapurna Apartments
68 Ballygunge Circular Road
Kolkata 700019
Phone: 22892705/06



Direct Intervention States and Training Inputs

Past Partner States and Training Inputs

Training Inputs

State Office Assam:

House # 27,
2nd Floor, Bye-lane 4
Navagiri Road
Chandmari
PO Silpukhuri
Guwahati 781003
Phone: (91) 361 2666015

VAANI Resource Centres (Kolkata)

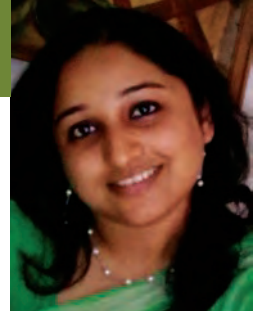
1. Ward 56: Hamara Ghar; 37 Pottery Road; Kolkata 700 015. (CINI Office).
2. Ward 59: Gobra Flying Star Club; 28, Mahendra Ray Lane; Kolkata 700 046.
3. Ward 62: Young Image Society; 21, Alimuddin Street; Kolkata 700 016.
4. Ward 65: Tiljala Sporting Club; 103, Tiljala Road; Kolkata 700 046.

 **TEAM VAANI 2011-12 (in alphabetical order)**



Ajita Gohain
SPO Northeast

Atreyee Kar
Resource Management Officer



Aniruddha Roy
SPO East



Bikram Rajak
Office Assistant

Inky Sen
Manager - Training



Brinda Crishna
Director



Marissa Dunne
Manager - Programmes



Nisikanta Adhikary
Senior Accountant



Niladri S. Chakraborty
APO East



Shahnaz Syeda
APO Northeast



Sandip Naskar
Junior Accountant



Sundeep Kothari
Training Assistant



Sreela Bose
Technical Consultant

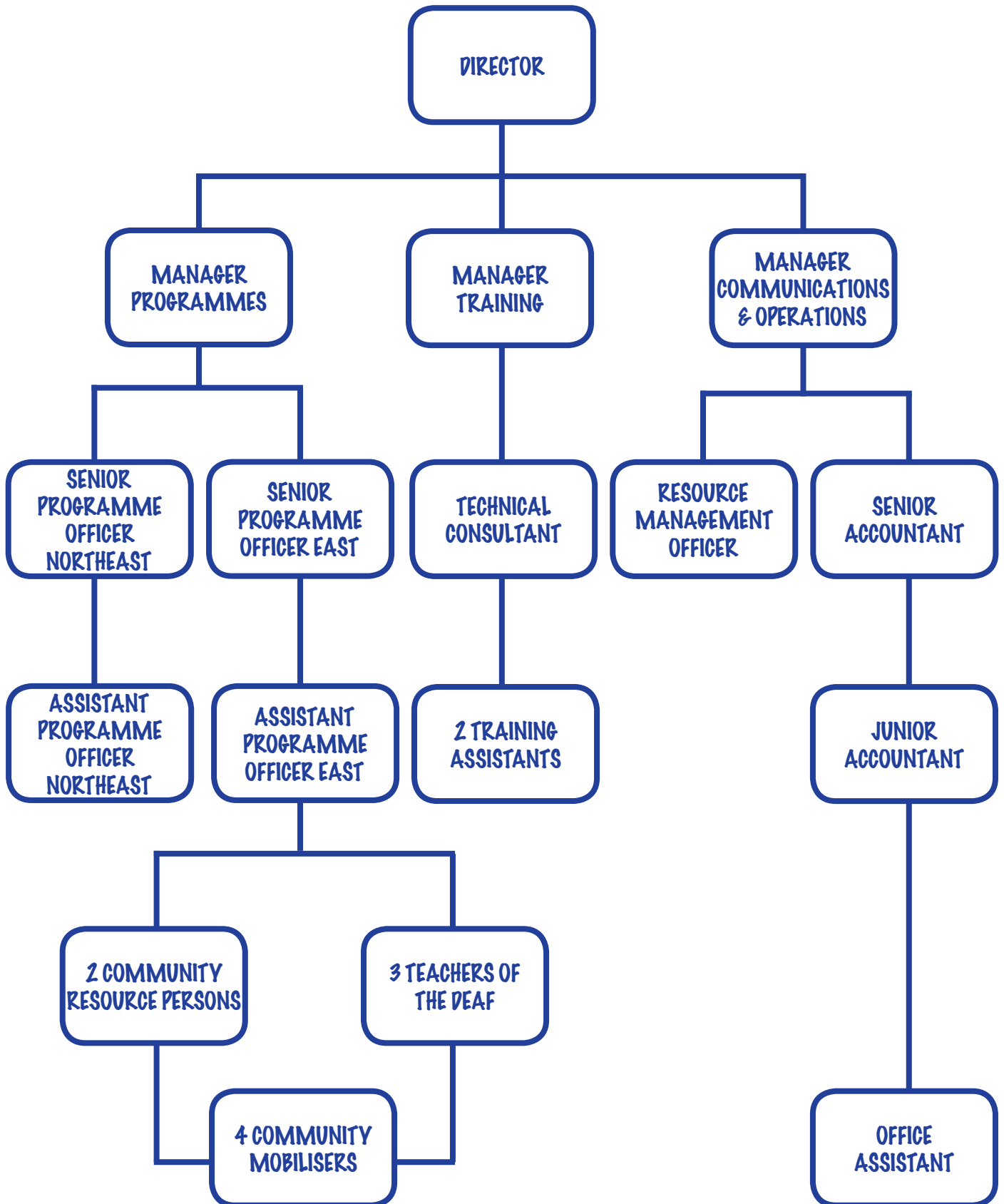


Sandhya Srinivasan
Manager Communications & Operations





VAANI ORGANOGRAM 2011-12





VAANI'S BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Akhil Paul

Chair | 47 years
Founder Director of Sense International (India)
B.Sc | MSW | PG Diploma in Multiple Disabilities (Perkins USA)
Former Vice President of Deafblind International (DBI) | Founder Member of the Board of the National Trust

He adds to VAANI's strengths with his experience in setting up and managing pioneering services for deaf/blind people across India.

Ms. Indrani Roy

Vice Chair | 70 years
Social Development Worker
MA, English, Calcutta University
Secretary to the Indian Institute of Cerebral Palsy (1987 to 2002) | PeaceWorks Coordinator, Seagull Foundation for the Arts (2003 to 2009)
Currently Member of the Governing Body of Tomorrow's Foundation | Independent Director of NDTV since 2004

She brings to VAANI her experience in strategic planning and administration.

Mr C A Mohan

Trustee | 59 years
Managing Director, J Thomas & Company Pvt Ltd
B. Com. | FCA
Expertise in Accounts, Finance, Computers

He contributes to VAANI with his expertise in Financial Management and helps VAANI keep its financial systems updated.

Anand Mandapaka

Trustee | 53 years
BA in Pol Sc (Hons)
Director, Green Cube Infotech Pvt Ltd.

Anand has 30 years' experience in the Information Technology sector and supports VAANI with its infra-structure and information systems.

Dr Arundhati Gupta

Trustee | 45 years
Development Consultant
PhD
Independent consultant with:
The Global Development Network | Ashoka: Innovators for the Public (USA) | Global Fund for Children (USA) | Paul Hamlyn Foundation (UK).

She helps VAANI with her experience of 10 years as evaluator, analyst and impact assessment writer in the field of development and social entrepreneurship.

Krupakaran S David

Trustee | 65 years
Retired Managing Director, Goodricke Group Limited
Trustee, Future Hope | Director, West Bengal Tea Corporation Ltd, Govt. of W.B
B.Sc from University of Nagpur
Member Governing Council, East India Charitable Trust

Krupa brings to VAANI his experience of many years in a corporate organisation as a senior manager, and keeps a strict watch on VAANI's systems and finances.

Brinda Crishna

Secretary | 59 years
Founder/Director - VAANI, Deaf Children's Foundation
M.Ed. (Special Ed.), Manchester University, U.K. | B.Ed. | B.A. (English Honours) | Research Fellowship at University of Newcastle, UK | Counselling Concepts and Communication Skills | PASSING: 'Program Analysis of Service System' Implication of Normalisation Goals

The Founder Secretary of VAANI, her experience of over 30 years of working in the disability/ development sector has directly benefitted VAANI to develop into a national level NGO working for the empowerment of deaf children and their families across India.



FINANCIAL DETAILS - BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Remuneration and reimbursements to Board members

TRUSTEE	REMUNERATION RECEIVED IN 2011-12
Mr. Akhil.S.Paul	Nil
Mr. Krupakaran Satish David	Nil
Ms. Indrani Roy	Nil
Mr. Anand Mandapaka	Nil
Ms. Arundhati Gupta	Nil
Mr. C A Mohan	Nil
Ms Brinda Crishna	₹ 1,00,762

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

International Travel: **Nil**
Domestic travel: ₹ 22,605
Local conveyance: **Nil**
Entertainment Expenses: **Nil**
Others: ₹ 38,725

Amount reimbursed to other Board members:

International Travel: **Nil**
Domestic travel: : ₹ 15,500
Local conveyance: **Nil**
Entertainment Expenses: **Nil**
Others: **Nil**

Trustee Board Meetings Dates

1 - 24 June 2011
2 - 18 November 2011
3 - 23 March 2012



FINANCIAL DETAILS - VAANI STAFF

Remuneration details for staff

VAANI STAFF MEMBER	AMOUNT IN RUPEES
VAANI Director	₹ 8454 (honorarium) per month
Highest paid staff member: Deputy Director	₹ 36,625 per month
Lowest paid staff member: Deaf Role Model	₹ 7000 per month
Remuneration to Board members	Nil

SLAB OF GROSS SALARY PER MONTH (IN ₹) PLUS BENEFITS PAID TO STAFF	MALE STAFF	FEMALE STAFF	TOTAL STAFF
Less than 5000		4	4
5,000 – 10,000	6	3	8
10,000 – 25,000	3	3	6
25,000 – 50,000		4	4
50,000 – 1,00,000			
Greater than 1,00,000			

Total cost of national travel by VAANI staff & Board Members – ₹ 11,76,100

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 CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION, 68, Ballygunge Circular Road Kolkata – 700019 as at 31st March, 2012 and the Income & Expenditure Account and Receipt & Payment Account for the year ended on that date relating to Consolidated Account annexed hereto. These financial accounts are the responsibility of the trust 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 standard generally accepted in India. Those standards require that we plan & perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. 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 accounts so far as appears from our examination of those books.
 - c. The Balance sheet, the Income & Expenditure and the Receipt & Payment Accounts referred to in this report are in agreement with the books of account.
 - d. In our opinion the Balance Sheet, the Income & Expenditure Account and the Receipt & Payment Accounts dealt with by report are in compliance with the Accounting Standards as applicable.
 - e. In our opinion and to the best of information and according to the explanation given to us, read with the notes appearing in Schedule-36, the said Balance Sheet, the Income & 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 2012
 - II. In case of Income and Expenditure Account, of the Surplus on Income over Expenditure for the year ended on that date.
- And
- III. In case of Receipt and Payment Account, of the receipt and payment of the Trust for the year ended on that date.

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



For A. R. MAITI & CO.
Chartered Accountants

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

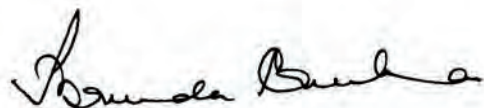
Dated : 11.07.2012

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH 2012

SOURCES OF FUNDS	FIGURES AS ON 31.03.11	FIGURES AS ON 31.03.12
General Fund	13,36,945.27	37,77,043.40
Jamshetji Tata Trust Fund	18,46,016.20	1,77,385.36
Axis Bank Foundation Fund	11,125.00	-
Paul Hamlyn Foundation	5,09,109.00	7,80,755.25
Liabilities for Expenses	-	
Current Liabilities and Provisions	60,007.51	58,590.51
TOTAL	37,63,202.98	47,93,774.52

APPLICATIONS OF FUNDS	FIGURES AS ON 31.03.11	FIGURES AS ON 31.03.12
Fixed Assets	2,81,420.71	2,61,516.57
Paul Hamlyn Foundation	5,09,109.00	7,80,755.25
Jamshetji Tata Trust Fund	18,46,016.20	1,77,385.36
Axis Bank Foundation Fund	11,125.00	-
Loans and Advances	3,79,226.01	12,48,494.39
Cash and Bank Balances	7,36,306.06	23,25,622.95
TOTAL	37,63,202.98	47,93,774.52

For VAANI, Deaf Children's Foundation



Brinda Crishna
Director
Date: 11th July 2012
Place: Kolkata



For A. R. MAITI & CO.
Chartered Accountants



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



INCOME & EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

For the year ended 31st March 2012

Income

PARTICULARS	FIGURES AS ON 31.03.11	FIGURES AS ON 31.03.12
Grants & Donations	69,60,413.16	1,19,04,934.93
Other Income	1,23,944.23	2,01,301.31
Income Total	70,84,357.39	1,21,06,236.24

Expenditure

PARTICULARS	FIGURES AS ON 31.03.11	FIGURES AS ON 31.03.12
Human Resource	11,28,246.86	14,52,417.17
Administrative & other Expenses	5,64,677.05	7,66,019.61
Other Programme Expenses	76,940.00	2,17,565.00
Jamsetji Tata Trust	39,27,356.21	37,54,532.10
Axis Bank Foundation	6,49,287.25	8,75,872.00
Child Care Health & Development	3,04,480.25	2,73,059.00
Paul Hamlyn Foundation	6,20,211.00	21,26,307.33
Information Dissemination & Fundraising	1,32,365.00	1,13,405.00
Depreciation	61048.54	54,940.32
Excess of Income over Expenditure	(3,80,254.77)	24,72,118.71
Expenditure Total	70,84,357.39	1,21,06,236.24

For VAANI, Deaf Children's Foundation

Brinda Crishna
Director
Date: 11th July 2012
Place: Kolkata



For A. R. MAITI & CO.
Chartered Accountants

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

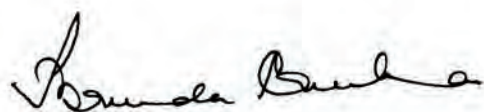
RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS STATEMENT

For the year ended 31st March 2012

RECEIPTS	FIGURES AS ON 31.03.11	FIGURES AS ON 31.03.12
Opening Cash & Bank	74,31,944.44	27,68,618.84
Grants & Donation	28,43,064.30	1,02,59,903.50
Other Income	7,45,100.07	7,03,726.37
Loan	1,63,955.00	6,67,144.00
	1,11,84,063.81	1,43,99,392.71

PAYMENTS	FIGURES AS ON 31.03.11	FIGURES AS ON 31.03.12
Human Resource	11,62,197.36	17,93,635.17
Administrative & other Expenses	7,18,740.77	9,20,958.79
Other Program Expenses	76,940.00	2,17,565.00
Jamsetji Tata Trust	39,82,903.21	34,77,061.10
Axis Bank Foundation	7,81,228.75	7,20,622.00
Child Care Health & Development	3,04,480.25	22,996.00
Paul Hamlyn Foundation	6,20,211.00	21,26,307.33
Information Dissemination & Fundraising	1,63,435.00	1,13,405.00
Fixed Assets	20,500.00	25,910.00
Advance to Partners/Staff	2,33,370.00	3,500.00
Loan	3,66,118.01	-
Other Payment	-	9,61,125.00
Closing Cash & Bank Balance	27,53,939.46	40,16,307.32
	1,11,84,063.81	1,43,99,392.71

For VAANI, Deaf Children's Foundation



Brinda Crishna
Director
Date: 11th July 2012
Place: Kolkata



For A. R. MAITI & CO.
Chartered Accountants



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



FUNDRAISING AND AWARENESS ACTIVITIES



With the Governor at the CTTA Tea Auction (left) and the Awareness Programme at Loreto Sealdah (Right)

The past year has been an interesting mix for VAANI. It has been a year of gaining visibility and spreading awareness about issues around childhood deafness while concentrating on raising funds to consolidate and sustain the work VAANI does. VAANI has always believed in its friends, and their support has propelled the cause forward. This year, VAANI has looked at strengthening its presence over the social media networks. Friends of VAANI have thus grown in number and in strength.

The Calcutta Tea Traders Association Charity Tea Auction for VAANI

On 18th September 2011, the Calcutta Tea Traders Association (CTTA) completed 125 years. The year began on a high for VAANI when CTTA decided to flag off its celebrations by 'the act of giving' on April 18, 2011 and pledged to do its bit by supporting the empowerment of the deaf children and their families in India through a charity tea auction in aid of VAANI.

His Excellency, Shri M K Narayanan, Governor of West Bengal, inaugurated the Charity Tea Auction. 50 lots of new-season teas donated by various tea producers were on offer in the

Charity Tea Auction, to be knocked down to the highest bidder.

The infectious enthusiasm of His Excellency, the Governor of West Bengal, in his role as a first-time auctioneer, caught on with the buyers as lot after lot of the finest tea the country has to offer went under the hammer to change the lives of thousands of deaf children and their families.

VAANI organises Awareness Programmes for the Teachers and Students of Loreto Day School Sealdah

On Thursday, July 21 2011, VAANI organised an awareness programme for 31 teachers at Loreto Day School on childhood deafness and how teachers, as primary caregivers in school, can play an important role in helping a deaf child cope with the education system. VAANI's technical consultant Ms. Sreela Bose spoke to the teachers about why VAANI works with deafness in children and how early intervention can make a lot of difference in a deaf child's life.

The very next Friday, July 29 2011, an awareness and sensitisation programme was organised for 400 students of Loreto Day School Sealdah, to



take them through the journey of discovering the challenges faced by deaf children. After the session one of the participants said, *“it is frustrating to know someone is talking to you and not being able to hear what is being said!”*

The awareness workshop ended in high spirits as Sundeep Kothari who works with VAANI as Training Assistant and Deaf Role Model, performed a mime and taught the students how to finger spell the alphabet. There was a rush among the students to volunteer to finger spell their names.

The students of the school spontaneously raised funds for VAANI from their parents, relatives and neighbourhoods after these workshops.

World Deaf Week Celebrations 2011

World Deaf Week, celebrated worldwide usually in the last week of September, is an opportunity for deaf people to:

- Celebrate their community, language, culture and history
- Make the public aware of their local, state and national communities
- Recognise their achievements

This week also 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 observed World Deaf Week this year from 24th – 30th September with the objective of celebrating the bond between deaf children and their families, spreading awareness about childhood deafness among the wider community and building the capacity of professionals who work in this field.

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

World Deaf Week Celebrations in the Northeast

VAANI celebrated World Deaf Week in the three Northeastern states of Assam, Meghalaya and Mizoram through various programmes –

Art Competition in Assam

The importance of visuals in the world of deaf children cannot be undermined, and they love expressing themselves through art. Therefore, it was felt that the best way for deaf children to celebrate their special day could be by allowing their creativity to flow on paper through drawings and paintings.

On 25 September 2011, VAANI brought together children from various integrated schools covered by Sarba Siksha Abhijan and Bhawri Devi Sarawgi Government Deaf School at Guwahati to share their ideas and creativity and express them through an art competition.

Art Competition in Meghalaya

In Meghalaya, on 30 September 2011, VAANI organised a similar drawing competition with the children from various integrated schools covered by the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and the children from School and Centre for Hearing Handicapped Children SCHHC at Shillong.



A participant at the art competition during World Deaf Week in Assam



A student of SCHHC at the art competition during World Deaf Week in Meghalaya

Around 120 students participated in the art competition in the sub junior, junior and senior groups. The topic for the senior group was Global Warming, for the junior group, Cartoon Characters and the sub junior group could draw anything that made them happy. Deaf children from SCHHC and students from the integrated schools of SSA put all their creativity into action with pencils and colours working in tandem.

The programme was attended by Government Officials like Mrs. I.R Sangma, Commissioner for Persons with Disability; Mrs. Bridget Warshong, Assistant Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities; Mrs. D Syiem, Director, Department of Arts and Culture, Government of Meghalaya and Mrs. C.Z Shiela, Assistant Director, Social Welfare Department, Meghalaya.

How Mizoram Celebrated World Deaf Week 2011

Ferrando Integrated Women Development Centre and Spastic Society of Mizoram jointly observed the World Deaf Week in Mizoram with VAANI's support through a variety of programmes organised throughout the week at different levels to create greater impact and awareness among the general population.

ZONET Television channel organises a talk show

A Talk Show was organised on Zonet TV Channel by FIWDC and Spastic Society of Mizoram highlighting the issues and problems that the deaf children and their families face in their daily lives. It was telecast more than once on the 29th and 30th of September, 2011. Representatives from various Government Departments such as Social Welfare, Transport, SSA, SCERT, NIOH participated in the talk show along with organisations like the City Bus Drivers Association, Taxi drivers association, the Mizoram Journalist Association, Magistrates, Church leaders, CBR staff as well as few parents of deaf children.

Discussion on the All India Radio

A discussion was held at All India Radio on the 29th of September 2011 on deafness and its implications on children and adults on the occasion of the World Deaf week. The participants were Ms. Madini, Principal of Gilead Special School, Mrs Chhingpui of Spastic Society, Sr. Rose Paite, Director, FIWDC and VAANI Coordinators. The discussion highlighted the causes, prevention, diagnosis, treatment and care of deafness, education of the deaf children, importance of communication, role of society in dealing with deafness, services available in the state for deaf persons and the significance of World Deaf Week.

"Deafness has left me acutely aware of both the duplicity that language is capable of and the many expressions the body cannot hide." - Terry Galloway



Poster Displays, Printing and Distribution of IEC Materials

Attractive posters conveying messages on the importance of World Deaf Week and sensitising the general public on their duties and responsibilities towards deaf children were printed and displayed in the 9 hospitals and in the prominent places like markets, highways etc. IEC material depicting the language of the deaf through signs and creating awareness on their issues were printed and distributed in Aizawl city.

Street Show

The conclusion of World Deaf Week was organised as a big event at New Market in Aizawl on 30 September 2011. It was arranged by Ferrando Intergrated Women Development Centre (Peace Home) and Spastic Society of Mizoram in collaboration with the 23rd Sector Assam Rifles, Khatla.

Brigadier S P Rawat, SM, DIG 23rd Sector Assam Rifles, Khatla was the Chief Guest. He was accompanied by a number of high officials of Assam Rifles. The programme began at 2 pm and was well attended by over 4000 people from the beginning till the end in spite of a few spells of rain in between. The programme was interspersed with various cultural programmes and a musical concert that conveyed the message that deaf children if trained properly and given a chance can lead wonderful and normal lives like anyone else.

Workshop for Disabled Persons' Organisations on Account of World Deaf Week in Jharkhand

A workshop was conducted for members of a Disabled Persons' Organisation on September 30, 2011 at Hazaribagh with the objective of spreading awareness about issues around deafness. The participants learnt, among other things, to list the features of 'normal' hearing, identify the parts of the ear on a visual display and describe the basic functions of each part and recount the process of hearing in a simple way. They also learnt about the difficulties caused to an individual by hearing impairment – i.e.

communication (speech) and language, family bonding and socialisation, emotional stability literacy, academic competence, employment and post marital family life.



Various programmes during the World Deaf Week celebrations in Mizoram



VAANI hosts Family Day at Nicco Park

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.

On a bright sunny Monday morning, 26 September 2011, VAANI, Deaf Children's Foundation hosted Family Day for around 100 deaf children and their families. The children's faces broke in to huge grins as soon as the tickets were exchanged for pink wrist bands which would allow them to access the free rides at Kolkata's most loved amusement park.

The day was well spent with the Nicco Park staff going out of their way to make sure that their visitors faced no problems and thoroughly enjoyed their day. Be it the Moonraker, the Cyclone or the Water Chute and Water Slide, the little children from VAANI and their parents livened up the atmosphere of the amusement park on this particular Monday morning. Parents were overheard exchanging notes on how they manage their children, and how proud they were that the children could now read, write, and communicate. A great sense of bonding developed between the parents through the travel, sharing the fun on the rides, and eating at the same table. One look at the noisy group of happy families, and we knew our objective had been achieved.

It was heartening to see the faces of the parents' light up with the sight of happy, naughty, delighted children jumping around the amusement park in unadulterated glee. The mode of communication that dominated the day was the exchange of smiles all around.



Some fun-filled moments captured during Family Day at Nicco Park in Kolkata, West Bengal



Busy hands, thinking minds - The TTIS and VAANI Essay Challenge

Over 75 imaginative essays were penned by students from 14 schools of Kolkata in support of our attempt to make the end of school calendar year a special one. These enthusiasts came from classes VII, VIII and IX to participate in the TTIS and VAANI Essay Challenge 2011. The topic was "Deaf...So What?" and the focus, very clearly on encouraging students to think about childhood and deafness.

Frank Anthony Public School, Kolkata, very generously let VAANI use the school as the venue for the competition.

By the time the essays were sorted and sent off to the Panel of Judges comprising of eminent personalities from the literary field and professionals from the disability sector, it had been discovered that judging was going to be tough. Every participant had come well prepared for the competition. Though the topic had been provided to the schools prior to the competition, it was open to individual interpretation. The only point VAANI emphasised on was - that deafness is a disability, not a handicap. It was heartening to see that research met imagination in the essays that were submitted.

The objective of organising this competition was to encourage children to think about childhood and deafness. With the idea of inclusive schools gaining momentum in our times, it is necessary for children to recognise and understand the effects of being deaf.

The results were declared on 16 January 2012 and the three winning essays are printed here.

JudgeSpeak - Mayurakshi Acharya

"A passionate and well-articulated plea to those who hear to treat their deaf peers as equals."

Mayurakshi Acharya
Apeejay School, Park Street
Class: IX

He was deaf. He was deprived of the unique gift of hearing. People around him wondered how he would go on. They wondered how he would carry on doing what he did. But he did, and did in style. He carved his name in gold in the almanac of human civilization. He was Ludwig van Beethoven. He was deaf...so what?

Beethoven is one of the greatest musicians of all times even though he was deaf. So why can't an average deaf guy live his life the way he wants to? After all he does have the four senses which make his life worth living. Why can't society accept him the way he is? He is a human being; he is like us, isn't he? Maybe a little different but still one of us.

A child may show signs of deafness when he is a few years old. There may also be people who lose their sense of hearing as time passes by. The most important thing is to understand him but without showing too much of compassion. Too much compassion may discourage him. Parents should try to understand the deaf child. They should not be over protective. They should just let him live a normal life and help build his confidence so that he can face life.

Society should also learn to take in these people in its fold. Society should treat him like a normal person, and treat him with respect. They are a bit different but what does it matter? This is what makes each and every individual different and unique. This is what makes our society diverse.

There are also ways by which the deaf can overcome their shortcomings. Medical help should be provided from the time their deafness is detected. Hearing aids help out in this care. There are special schools that teach children to communicate with others. They want to talk, they want to be able to share their thoughts and ideas with us. All they need is a person who listens to them, or rather, a person who is willing to listen to them. And it's not hard to get what they say if we are willing to lend our ears to them. They might not be able to talk but they are no less creative, or imaginative or smart.

The main thing is to treat him like the child next to him - to care for him, to listen to him, to talk to him, to let him live his life the way he wants, to love him. This will make him confident of himself. The next time he looks at his image in the mirror he can look into his own eyes and say "Deaf...So what?"



Ashmita Roy
Modern High School for Girls
Class VIII

Imagine... You wake up to find the alarm clock vibrating madly but hear...nothing. The familiar sounds of the whirring geyser, the cook humming as she prepares your tiffin, grandma softly chanting the morning prayers... You have known them forever but they aren't there. A silent world.

According to the dictionary, deafness is "the condition of being unable to hear."

In mainstream society we tend to look upon deafness as a defect, we applaud those who succeed in the hearing world for overcoming a severe handicap. We have a propensity to assume that all deaf people will try to lip-read, and admire those who use their voices to show us how far they have come from the grips of their disability. Pitying looks, hypocritical 'concerned' eyes and 'understanding' smiles seem the right thing to do.

Well, that's where we are wrong – our role is not to give the deaf a voice, it is to make sure that the voice already present is, not only heard but listened to. To accept them as our fellow men, into our world and to lend a patient ear; of a friend.

Many deaf people have achieved prominence that greatly exceeds others, the most renowned being deaf-blind American author, Helen Keller, others include composer Ludwig van Beethoven and Thomas Edison, inventor. Their's may be an only visual world, but just think, a man unable to hear is responsible for the light shining in our homes today.

They were deaf too, so what?



Drawing by Sahani Parveen, KMP (top) and participants at the TTIS-VAANI Essay Challenge (middle and bottom)



JudgeSpeak - Ashmita Roy

"Well argued essay on attitudes to deafness. I liked especially her pointing out the fallacy on the part of the hearing community to judge as "progress" a deaf person's ability to use their voices or lip read i.e. the traditional tools of communication. Instead, she places the onus on the hearing community to "listen" to them and communicate with them on their terms."

According to Ms. Devi Kar, Principal, Modern High School for Girls, "VAANI's enterprise will encourage young people to think a little deeper about the efforts to be made by society to adjust to those who are differently abled."



Sumaiya Nadeem
Our Lady Queen of the Missions
Class VII

"Deaf...So what?" I asked, "You she can't think she can't dance?"

"No," Draco replied "I think she can't hear." All his friends guffawed loudly.

"Well, I'm going to make her," I challenged. "Really Samantha?" he sneered. "We'll see that."

The subject of our conversation, Bella was looking horrified as we left the room. I guess she had lip-read.

"What have you done? The competition is three weeks from now," she groaned. The enormity of what I had just done dawned upon me. Challenging Draco was no joke and if I lost he won't let me hear the end of it.

"Don't worry, I know what I'm doing," I lied. "Meet me at my house at two," I enacted the words. My friend, Cedric, Tyler and Ashley reluctantly joined my dance group and I started teaching Bella the dance steps from that day itself. She was very passionate about dance and in a few days she knew all the steps.

But the problem that faced us now was how was she to coordinate the steps with the music. While

we were pondering over the solution to the problem, Ashley suddenly gave a cry of joy and rushed to write something on a paper which she showed to Bella. Her face broke into a grin and she walked over to the stage.

Then, even before the music started Ashley started clapping. It wasn't the usual clapping. It was more like she was giving a one second gap between each time, her hands met.

I got the trick. Now we were supposed to show Bella the right steps to go with the beat of our hands.

The day of the competition came. Tyler was backstage with Bella and he escorted her to the stage when her name was called out. Bella looked nervous. And then...

To the surprise of the entire stadium three people sitting at the front row now started clapping. It wasn't the usual clapping. It was more like they were giving a one second gap between each time their hands met.

Bella danced beautifully. I got my reward seeing her ecstatic face and also my satisfaction on seeing Draco's jaw drop.

Three weeks from the competition the results were out. It was then that I found a sense of overwhelming pleasure in Draco's sulky and morose face.

Bella was deaf...so what?



JudgeSpeak - Sumaiya Nadeem

"This is a great piece (and well written too). Through the story of the dance competition, the writer is able to establish the important insight that all it takes is sensitive, imaginative collaboration between the deaf and the hearing for the two to share the same world as peers. I also thought that the Harry Potter association has been used very cleverly: because of the names of the characters one expects magic to be used in the competition. But the writer shows that it's not that supernatural interventions are required - just the willingness to make an effort."

"This is an effort by VAANI to make you think about a different world that exists out there. Not to turn all of you into activists, but to just make you realise that there are children like you, whose experiences are different, children like you, who think differently because of those experiences." – Brinda Crishna, Director, VAANI

Famous Deaf Persons

- **HELEN KELLER** was a renowned American author, activist and lecturer. She was the first deaf-blind person to graduate from college. When she was nineteen months of age, an illness that could be either scarlet fever or meningitis left her deaf and blind.
- **THOMAS ALVA EDISON** was an American inventor most well known for the invention of the light bulb. The cause of Edison's
- **WILHELM VON HUMBOLDT** was a German philosopher, statesman, and linguist. He was the first deaf-blind person to receive a university education.
- **MARLEE MATLIN** is an American actress, the youngest and the only deaf actress to win the Academy Award for Best Actress in a Leading Role, which she won for *Children of a Lesser God*. She has been deaf since she was 18 months old.
- **SATISH GUJRAL**, deaf since the age of eight, is an Indian painter, sculptor, mural
- **Spanish roman** the painter and printmaker regarded best as the last of the Old Masters and the first of the moderns. Goya was a court painter to the Spanish Crown, and through his work was both a commentator on and chronicler of his era. The subversive and imaginative elements in his art, as well as his bold handling of paint, provided a model for the work of later generations of artists, notably Manet, Picasso and Francis Bacon. Modern physicians suspect that the lead in his pigments poisoned him and caused his deafness since 1792.
- **LON CRANEY, SR.** was an American actor, noted for deaf and visible
- **Spanish roman** the painter and printmaker regarded best as the last of the Old Masters and the first of the moderns. Goya was a court painter to the Spanish Crown, and through his work was both a commentator on and chronicler of his era. The subversive and imaginative elements in his art, as well as his bold handling of paint, provided a model for the work of later generations of artists, notably Manet, Picasso and Francis Bacon. Modern physicians suspect that the lead in his pigments poisoned him and caused his deafness since 1792.
- **LON CRANEY, SR.** was an American actor, noted for deaf and visible

The results were published in the April 2, 2012 issue of The Telegraph in Schools along with a cover story on childhood deafness and the winning essays. This enabled us to create awareness on a large scale and VAANI is thankful to The Telegraph in Schools and Mr. Barry O'Brien for taking this initiative.



A participant mulls over his essay



Special Mention:

- Category I: Ahana Sengupta, Our Lady Queen of the Missions School, IX
- Category I: Sritoma Paul, Gokhale Memorial Girls' School, IX
- Category I: Esha Das, La Martiniere for Girls, IX
- Category II Gayatri Dutt, Our Lady Queen of the Missions School, VIII
- Category II Anwasha Biswas, Shri Shikshatayan School, VIII
- Category II Revathy Menon, Our Lady Queen of the Missions School, VIII
- Category III: Manya Verma, Akshar School, VII

Participating Schools:

Akshar School, Apeejay School Park Street, Bhawanipur Gujarati Education Society School, Bhavan's Gangabux Kanoria Vidyamandir, Delhi Public School Megacity, Delhi Public School Newtown, Gokhale Memorial Girls' School, Julien Day School, La Martiniere for Girls, Lakshmipat Singhania Academy, Modern High School for Girls, Our Lady Queen of the Missions School, Shri Shikshatayan School and Sushila Birla Girl's School.

VAANI's Annual Thank You Dinner:

ITC Sonar graciously hosted a dinner on January 4, 2012, organised by VAANI to thank all of its donors and well-wishers who have supported our efforts over the years. Mrs. Brinda Crishna presented an update on the work VAANI has done over the years, the challenges, the achievements and the future objectives. Mr. Zubin Songadwala (MD, ITC Sonar) and the staff at ITC Sonar went out of their way to ensure that every invitee was made to feel special.

Fundraising Partnerships:

One of VAANI's continuous fundraising campaigns has been regular collection of used newspapers from two of the leading hotels in Kolkata, ITC Sonar and Hotel Hindustan International. The proceeds from the sale of these newspapers help us in building our corpus.

VAANI on Social Media:

VAANI has ventured into social networking sites this year and the response has been quite encouraging. This platform has helped VAANI to reach out to a wider audience, to create more awareness, to network with people who share similar views and to build an interactive space for exchange of ideas.

VAANI's Blog:
vaanideafchildrensfoundation.wordpress.com

VAANI's Followers on Facebook: 201

Little Vani's Friends on Facebook: 326

Number of Followers on VAANI's Twitter Profile (@VaaniDCF): 238

Thank YOU...

- Axis Bank Foundation
- Child Care, Health and Development Trust, UK
- Cotton World, Forum Mall, Kolkata
- Hotel Hindustan International Kolkata
- ITC Sonar, Kolkata
- Jamshetji Tata Trust
- Mcleod Russell India Limited
- Paul Hamlyn Foundation



"Just a thought...it is interesting to see that DEAF people can function in the hearing world very well while hearing people cannot function well in the DEAF world." – Gil Eastman

প্রতিদিন

বধির শিশুদের সাহায্যের জন্য নিজেই নিলাম পরিচালনা করলেন রাজ্যপাল

স্বাক্ষরিত: বধির শিশুদের সাহায্যের জন্য 'অকনসিডেন্স'-এর মাধ্যমে নিলাম পরিচালনা করে রাজ্যপাল। এতে নিলামের পর 'হ্যান্ড' বা হস্তান্তর হয়েছে তা সুনিশ্চিত ও করেন রাজ্যপাল। বধির শিশুদের সাহায্যের জন্য বধির নিলাম-এর আয়োজন করল 'কালকটা টি ট্রেডার্স অ্যাসোসিয়েশন'। মোসাব্বির হাফিজ এতে নিলামের উপস্থিতিতে শুরু হই নিলাম প্রক্রিয়া। অনুষ্ঠানে উপস্থিত কোম্পানি নিলামে অংশগ্রহণ করে। অনুষ্ঠান সম্বন্ধে রাজ্যপাল জানান, 'নিলাম নিয়ে অনেক কথা জানলেও আমি নিজে কেনেও নিলাম নিয়ে অংশগ্রহণ করিনি। অনুষ্ঠানে উপস্থিত থেকে জানা লাগবে।' বধির নিলাম অনুষ্ঠান থেকে বধির শিশুদের জন্য মোট ২৫ লক্ষ ৯০ হাজার বিক্রয়, মেসার্স, আড়ম্বর, গুজরার ও কলিকাতা থেকে শ্রমিক পাঠান হয়েছে।



হস্তান্তর করে নিলাম পরিচালনা করলেন রাজ্যপাল। কালকটা টি ট্রেডার্স অ্যাসোসিয়েশন।

'কালকটা টি ট্রেডার্স অ্যাসোসিয়েশন'-এর মাধ্যমে 'সিটিটিএ' ১২৫ বছর পূর্তি উপলক্ষে এই নিলাম অনুষ্ঠানের আয়োজন করা হয়। অনুষ্ঠান থেকে আড়া দশক হলে দেখা যায় 'হ্যান্ড' হিসেবে বিক্রয়ের ফটোগ্রাফের 'হ্যান্ড'। বধির শিশুদের সাহায্যের জন্য বধির নিলাম-এর আয়োজন করা হয়। 'সিটিটিএ'-র তরফে মোট ২৫ লক্ষ ৯০ হাজার ৯০ টন মাল, বিভিন্ন হস্তান্তর করা হয়েছে। বধির শিশুদের সাহায্যের জন্য বধির নিলাম-এর আয়োজন করা হয়। 'সিটিটিএ'-র তরফে মোট ২৫ লক্ষ ৯০ হাজার ৯০ টন মাল, বিভিন্ন হস্তান্তর করা হয়েছে।

বর্তমান

কলকাতা, বুধপত্রিকা ১৩ অক্টোবর ২০১১, ২৬ আশি ১৪১৮

টু ক রো ব র

বাণী ডেফ চিলড্রেন ফাউন্ডেশন-এর উদ্যোগে বধিরতা সপ্তাহ পালিত
সেপ্টেম্বরের শেষ সপ্তাহে দুর্নীতি মুক্ত পল্লিও হই 'বিশ্ব বধির সপ্তাহ' সারা বিশ্বে নানা রঙের সচেতনতার প্রচারণা ও অসামান্য কর্মসূচি পালিত হয়। বধির শিশুদের সাহায্যে বাণী উদ্যোগে ২০১১ সালের বধিরতা সপ্তাহ পালিত হয়। ২৬ সেপ্টেম্বর সারা বিশ্বে বিশ্বব্যাপী বধিরতা সপ্তাহের আয়োজন করা হয়। বধির শিশুদের সাহায্যে বাণী উদ্যোগে ২০১১ সালের বধিরতা সপ্তাহ পালিত হয়। ২৬ সেপ্টেম্বর সারা বিশ্বে বিশ্বব্যাপী বধিরতা সপ্তাহের আয়োজন করা হয়।

SEVEN SISTERS POST

Vaani helping Dimoria's aurally challenged kids



MORE than 50 children of Dimoria block in Kamrup Metro have benefited from a Deaf Children Project launched by Vaani, a Kolkata-based trust. Vaani, the Deaf Children's Foundation, launched the project on the outskirts of the city in the year 2009 and will complete its working period by the end of June this year. Under this project, various training workshop are being organised for identified parents of the children with hearing disabilities in the Dimoria block. Through workshops we try to empower the parents about the identification of deaf children, and so that they can help the newly deaf children identified parents. The workshop aimed at understanding the needs and challenges faced by the parents in that particular area, said programme officer Jita Vaani of Vaani Deaf Children's Foundation (North East branch). The four-year project in Dimoria has been funded by resource mobilisation so that the needs of deaf children are addressed in a professional manner. Under the project, the volunteers also teach sign language to those identified deaf children to overcome the communication gap. face serious problems in growing up in a healthy manner. Subsequent to this initial workshop, visits were also made by the Vaani team with Sarba Siksha Abhiyan (SSA) officials to the various places in the city to create awareness among the general people. Vaani also provides training to volunteers so that the needs of deaf children are addressed in a professional manner. Under the project, the volunteers also teach sign language to those identified deaf children to overcome the communication gap. Further, highlighting the objectives of the training made for the parents, Gohain said that training for parents is most important to understand the social and emotional needs of deaf children and also to understand the need for developing a positive self image in the deaf child. Meanwhile, Gohain informed that the Kamrup block of Kamrup (Metro) has the highest number of children with hearing disabilities in Kamrup (Metro) district, where Vaani is working at present.

The Telegraph

NORTHEAST

Two institutes to come up for better communication Schools for disabled kids

Assam, March 23: Assam is likely to have two more government schools in Lakhimpur and Sibsagar for hearing-impaired children. This was said by communication and activity for social welfare, Hemanta Goswami, Minister, Assam, today at the release of a report on hearing-impaired children in Assam. The report is based on a study initiated by Vaani, a foundation for such children. As of now, there are two government-run schools for hearing-impaired children, Thanebari Bhawan Devi Saranya Government Deaf School at Kakhilguri and School for the Hearing Impaired in Arbur. We are likely to come up with more schools across Assam with more hearing-impaired children that can be used for the hearing-impaired. The training of the Assam-based workers is imperative for an early intervention to identify a deaf child. The schools should include residential courses for their parents so that they can take audiological facilities. According to the report, Lakhimpur district has a large number of deaf children in Assam - in the age group of 6-14 years - but it does not have an ENT specialist in its district hospital. The purpose of conducting the study by the foundation is to gather qualitative data of hearing-impaired children and their lives across the state. It also aims to identify the agencies for it government or NGOs working in this sector. It is a secret area, however, was not restricted to deaf children, but also included hearing-impaired children. The Angul and the Integrated Child Development Services workers in the rural areas are not skilled enough to identify a hearing-impaired child. Brenda Crishna, managing trustee of the foundation said "The findings are important for us. We can get a holistic picture regarding the scenario of hearing-impaired across Assam."

Meghalaya Times

Vaani-mother to the deaf children



Staff Reporter, SHILLONG April 09: An NGO 'Vaani', deaf children's foundation creates an act of motherhood towards the deaf children across the country. It is working to empower the children's those who are deaf and sustain service to both children and their family respectively. At a workshop on the situation of deaf children in Meghalaya, held at Don Bosco Youth Center here on Saturday, Dr Stuti Ahmed was the chief guest along with the Director of Vaani B. Crishna and its member in the presence of deaf children, parents. Ahmed in his speech said, "We live in a society which is disabling in many ways. While the whole country is demanding to stop corruption but it is unfortunate to notice that in the process of so called development we exclude the children's suffering from deafness. One of the major concerns of the Government is that it does not fulfill the dreams of 'deaf people'." Considering himself as a layman, he said, "One of the most neglected part is invisibility, not only the people who are illiterate but also those with proper education, ignore such individual. We live in a society which gives negative vibes and this is the area where the Government, NGOs and parents collectively carry out the program". He asserted that India as a country cannot progress, if the individuals here left others due to their weakness. *Continued on Page 3*

VAANI events covered by various newspapers over the past year

Mawphor Today

Hearing impairment in the State cause for concern
Shillong, Apr 09: The State has 12.2 per cent of hearing impaired out of the 28,803 or 1.2 per cent of the population with disabilities. According to a survey conducted by the VAANI, Deaf Children's Foundation, the village of Masuar in Ri Bhoi district, has a community of 50 persons with hearing impairment including 42 children. According to Sixes Merly Joun of Ferrando Speech and Hearing Centre, Umshukhwan, Ri Bhoi District said, "This appears to be a genetic problem and it is believed that the women in the community are the carriers of the genetic disorder. One woman from the village married a man from another community and lives in a different village. The couple has 8 children, all of whom are deaf." The Ferrando Speech and Hearing Centre screened 10,000 children in regular schools in Ri Bhoi district and 2000 children have found to be suffering from hearing impairments of mild and moderate levels which is a cause for great concern. There are currently 3 schools for deaf children in the State. These are: The School and Centre for the Hearing Impaired Children, Shillong which offers education from nursery to Class XII. Ferrando Speech and Hearing Centre, Umshukhwan, Ri Bhoi District, Nursery to Class XII, vocational training facilities. This school is minority residential though a few students come from Shillong everyday. There are 140 children enrolled in the school of which 90 are profoundly deaf and 35 are moderately deaf. The other children have cerebral palsy with hearing and speech disabilities. 2 children have no hands and one has no legs. Other schools in the State include the Mostford Centre of Education, Dazakre, two hills, and the Hebrary Society led by Carmo Noronha which is the first deaf school initiated by Bethany Society in the State. According to the survey, the Department of Education under which the SSA runs 3623 schools in the state out of which 2101 are Primary Schools of which, 1303 have enrolled children with special needs. According to the SSA State Coordinator, 3496 children with disabilities are enrolled in government and government aided schools. This includes 446 children with hearing impairment. Vaani also recommended that the researchers need to be able to identify the root cause for the high levels of hearing impairment among the children (and adults) in the State. This will help in treatment where possible to reduce the risk to new born babies. However, there are no accurate statistics of deaf children in the State, but it is hoped that the Census will provide clearer information.

The Shillong Times

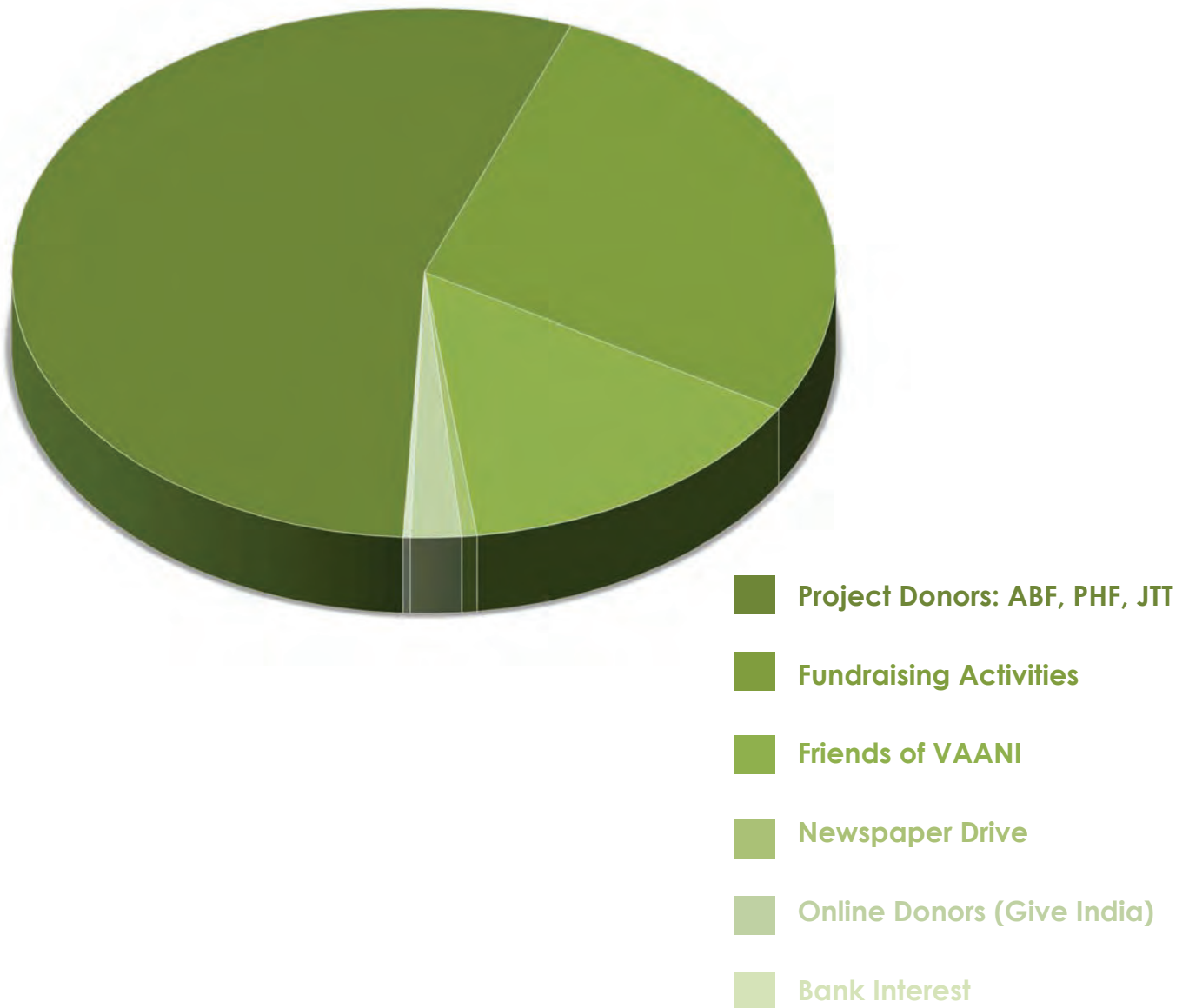
Hearing impaired number high in State

By Our Reporter
SHILLONG: Number of people with hearing disabilities in the State is very high and the number has gone up in recent years, a new study has suggested. The percentage of children with hearing impairment is very high in the State for which one of the main cause is lack of awareness leading to late diagnosis since birth," Brenda Crishna, Director of Vaani, a foundation for such children. The Foundation has conducted a study in this regard in collaboration with the SSA and Social Welfare Department for children aged 0-14 years in Jaintia hills district, nearly 500 out of 1004 children with disabilities were identified were hearing impairment. According to findings during the assessment camp jointly conducted by the SSA and Social Welfare Department for children aged 0-14 years in Jaintia hills district, nearly 500 out of 1004 children with disabilities were identified were hearing impairment. The Ferrando Speech and Hearing Centre last year screened 10,000 children in regular schools in Ri Bhoi district and 2000 children were found to be suffering from hearing impairment ranging from mild to moderate levels.



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Project Donors: ABF, PHF, JTT	₹ 56,81,278.30
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Online Donors (Give India)	₹ 29,500.00
Bank Interest	₹ 2,05,770.45
Total	₹ 1,03,39,547.75





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- Strengthen VAANI
- Sustain our work

- Family Day
- Events during World Deaf Week
- Awareness Programmes
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VAANI, Deaf Children's Foundation
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68 Ballygunge Circular Road
Kolkata - 700019
Phone: 033 22892705/06

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