

Advocating for the right of every deaf child and giving them the childhood they deserve

Progress Update: April-October 2019

The document is a narration of VAANI, Deaf Children's Foundation programs & activities implemented for the period April-October 2019



At VAANI, our mission is to bring language into the lives of deaf children and their families and thus enabling them to have meaningful conversations between themselves and the world around them.

We work towards entitlement of every deaf child to total and complete access to communication, education, protection, and personal safety, equality in all spheres and information and knowledge to reach his or her full potential as an individual and as a member of society.

During the 14 years of our activity in India, mainly in Northeast, East & Karnataka, we have worked with 76,000 direct and indirect beneficiaries, comprising of around 12000 deaf children, 24000 parents, 10000 professionals and 30,000 general public.

Our core area of work is in the disability sector, with focus on deafness and working intensively on the issue of Childhood Deafness.

We wanted to share with you a snapshot of the most exciting work VAANI Deaf Children's Foundation in India has been doing from April-October 2019.

Anganwadi and ASHA worker Trainings

Through these trainings the community workers are sensitised on the issue of childhood deafness and learn how to identify deaf children, techniques on counselling parents and if they find any Hearing impaired child where to refer for intervention. During the period we conducted total 8 trainings for 264 Anganwadi and Asha workers across West Bengal and Karnataka.





Awareness Programme at Sri. Basaveshwara College of Social Work

An awareness programme was organised for the 1st year students of MSW college. VAANI, has signed a 2 years MOU with the college to enable us to get volunteers who would be assisting us in our community work of identifying hearing impaired children, spreading awareness about the issue of childhood deafness through street plays, conducting awareness and training programmes for Anganwadi & ASHA workers and SSA teachers. 20 Students participated in the programme.



Community Awareness Programmes:

Community awareness and training programme were conducted at Pavagada taluk, Gubbi Taluk and few other villages in Tumkur District. These programmes were organised to sensitize the community on the issue of hearing impairment and necessary preventive measures.

We were also invited on a Radio programme by Radio Siddhartha 90.8 fm at Tumkur, Karnataka to talk on the importance of Early identification of hearing loss in children. We reached 713 beneficiaries through 13 community awareness programmes during this period.



Corporate Engagements

Employee engagement activities were conducted in various corporates to spread awareness and sensitise them on the issue of deafness. These activities included experiential learning games, preparing and demonstrating Teaching learning material to the children, Sports activity and Sign language sessions both in American Sign Language (ASL) and Indian Sign Language (ISL). We reached 240 employees through these activities.





Deaf Awareness Week Activities:

In the month of September'19, on the occasion of Deaf awareness week different activities such as Walkathons, Awareness through Auto drives and Cultural Programmes were conducted across our centres. Through these activities we mobilised the general public on the issue of deafness and the importance of early identification. Through this programme we reached 330 Children & Parents and 4487 general public across Assam, West Bengal and Karnataka.

These programmes also saw presence of different Government officials and Senior personnel from Educational Institutes, such as Tumkur District MLA, Chairperson Indian Red Cross Karnataka, District Health & Family Welfare Officer, District Disability Welfare Officer, ENT Surgeon Tumkur District Hospital, Vice-chancellor Tumkur University, Senior Rotary Members, College Principals, Youth Red Cross Karnataka, Volunteers of MSW, Communication & Media and other colleges. We also saw presence of Disability Commissioner, Assam who graced the occasion by joining the Deaf awareness week celebration.





Parent Meetings and Workshops:

Parents meetings and Workshops at VAANI, mainly focus on developing the capacity of parents and immediate caregivers with the necessary skills and techniques that would enable them to work with their hearing impaired child at home environment. These workshops help parents to learn about making different Teaching Learning Material (TLM), Different modes of communication and techniques, Developing natural language in natural home surroundings, Providing social and emotional support, Parent to parent interaction and discuss their challenges and solutions. During this period we conducted 20 meetings and 21 workshops for parents in North East, East and Karnataka.





IEP sessions at Sadhan Centre

Regular Individualised Education Programme (IEP) sessions were conducted across our centres to improve on children's Language, Mathematics and Communication skills. There were theme based sessions organised which focused on Seasons and Seasonal fruits such as Mango, the King of Fruits. Total 7265 IEPs were conducted and 681 children were reached through the IEP Sessions across our centres at Assam, West Bengal and Karnataka.





Speech and Tactile therapy sessions

Regular Speech therapies are conducted across all our Sadhan Centres which helps in improving speech sounds, pronunciations and communication in Children With Hearing Impairment (CWHI). Different Tactile Activities were conducted for improving problem solving & Language Processing.





Life Skill Trainings

Life skill trainings were organised across our centres in West Bengal and Assam on topics such as Health & Hygiene, Food & Nutrition, Need & Wants, Know your body, Savings Money plan etc. These workshops help Parents and children to understand the importance of keeping yourself and surroundings clean, eating healthy food, what is good touch bad touch etc. During this period we conducted 8 trainings and reached 401 beneficiaries across West Bengal and Assam.





Setting up new Sadhan Centre At Chiknayakanhalli, Tumkur District, Karnataka

We have expanded our services to Chiknayakanhalli taluk of Tumkur district by setting up our Sadhan Centre in the Siddarameshwara school for hearing impaired children. There are 18 children enrolled here who are receiving regular IEPs and we are in the process of identifying more HI children from the surrounding area.



Celebrations at our Centres

Different activities were organised on the occasion of Independence Day, Rakshabandhan, Eid, Gandhi Jayanti, Durga Puja, Diwali etc. These activities help children learn about different cultures, values, develops team bonding and at last have lots of fun. Below are few glimpses of the activities.





Sohum Launch

June 18th was a big day for all of us at VAANI, as we set up 'SOHUM' device at Tumkur District Hospital Karnataka. 'SOHUM' is a non invasive Early Screening device for testing hearing loss in newborn babies. Early screening helps in taking appropriate remedial measures and increases the probability of including our hearing-impaired children into mainstream life. We have successfully screened 400 babies till date.





Programme Activities	Number of Trainings	Beneficiaries Reached
Asha and Anganwadi worker Trainings	8	264
Community Awareness Programmes	13	713
Parents Meetings & Workshops	41	1125
Deaf Awareness Week Activities	3	4817
Corporate Engagements	7	240
Life Skill Trainings	8	401

BIG THANK YOU!

We would like to thank all our Corporate Funding partners & Foundations, Individual Supporters and NGO partners for their support, trust and motivation. Our need and potential for our work is growing every day and we believe that together we could work towards protecting the rights of deaf children leading to their empowerment and ensuring a life of dignity.

