



**VAANI, Deaf Children's Foundation**

**SUPPORT US**

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# VISION

Our Vision is to advocate for the right of every deaf child to a full and meaningful life with respect and dignity.

# MISSION

Our Mission is to bring language and communication into the lives of deaf children and their families and thus enabling them to have meaningful communication between themselves and the world around them.

# WHAT WE DO

**We** work on the **crucial issue** of **early childhood deafness**. The most **unique aspect about our work** is that we not only **teach deaf children** but also **their parents**- thus **ensuring that the training is sustainable** and that **parents are equipped** to handle the child's needs of communication, learning and comprehension. Further, **VAANI works with teachers** in government schools, **gram panchayat** level officials, and the general public, to **raise awareness** about the **issues of childhood deafness**, and also has a presence on **high-level decision making bodies** to **effect changes in policy towards deaf education**. With this **holistic approach** to the issue of childhood deafness, **VAANI ensures that every aspect of the deaf child's ecosystem is sensitised, trained and impacted**.





## WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO

Deafness is an invisible disability. It is not immediately apparent that a person has hearing impairment by just looking at them, hence most symptoms are invisible.

Annually **8,00,000 babies** are born with hearing impairment with 90% belonging to developing countries. In India, **1,00,000 babies** with hearing loss are born every year. Out of which less than 1% receive a quality education. Deafness in itself is not a learning disability. Learning difficulty arises because deaf children cannot communicate. An undiagnosed three-year-old deaf child will only know about 25 spoken words, compared to 700 words for a hearing child of the same age. Pre-lingual hearing impairment impacts speech, cognitive development and further destroy chances of education and employment.

Majority of hearing-impaired children grow up in hearing families with no experience and understanding of deafness. Many parents never learn to fully communicate with their children resulting in wide communication gaps which tend to have hugely negative impacts on children's individual development. Parents often feel helpless and give up on their hearing-impaired child.

# HOW WE DO WHAT WE DO (PROGRAMME VERTICALS)

**Early Identification (0-2 years)**-This program involves early screening of hearing loss in new-born and infants up to 2 years and related parent counselling on the resource available, school enrolment, support with attending requisite certificates and welfare benefits etc.



**Early Intervention (2-14 years)**-This programme involves the provision of Individualised Educational Training to children with hearing impairment/deafness as appropriate for different age groups to help them develop language, communication, and life skills. Our trained teachers in our Sadhan Centers and through home visits execute this. Parents and caregivers play a very significant part in the program who are given emotional support and their capacity is built so that the communication gap between the parent and children is bridged.



**Youth Transition And Skill Building (8-18 years)**-This programme involves providing career counselling, prevocational training, vocational training, soft skills development, and advanced life skills for an effective transition that will equip each student with the tools and confidence to assume responsibility for their education and career decisions as they move into adulthood. This is done through hiring external resources and partnering with organisations working in this space.

**Training And Capacity Building**-This programme involves providing technical training to partners such as local NGO's, Community & Health Workers, Medical Professionals, Mainstream School Teachers etc, thereby catering to a larger network of children in need, promoting better diagnostic & living standards and inclusivity among the mainstream set up.

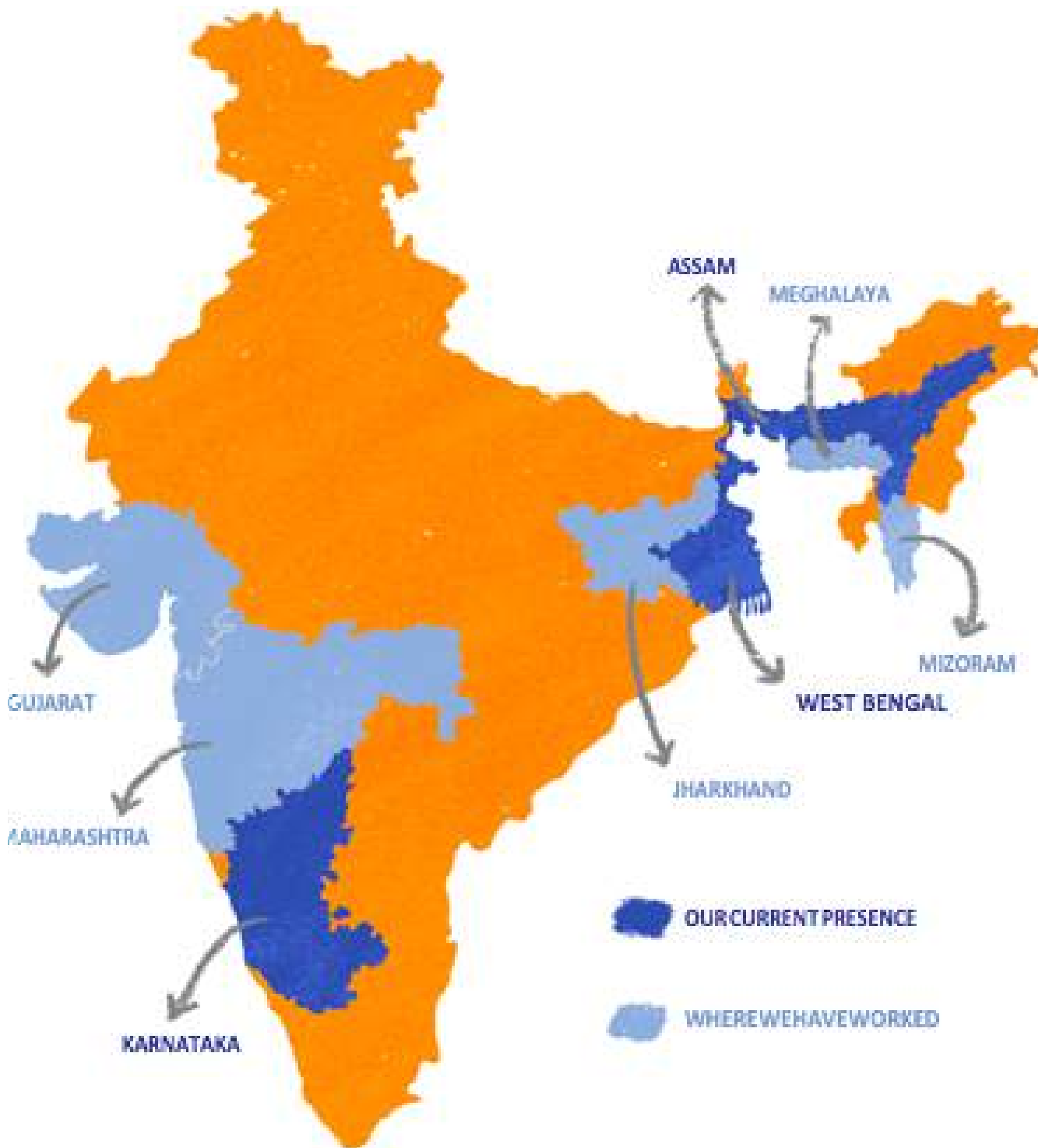
**Research And Advocacy**-This part of the programme focuses on finding out the various intervention tools, methods, and communication modes that help the deaf child reach his/her true potential and further work towards it in formulating policies that become government mandates in the long run. The segment also includes giving an academic angle to the work in terms of conducting research, training modules, surveys, analysing data, paper presentations etc. Advocacy programmes include networking and interaction with government officials, health, educational & other disability welfare-related departments, local NGO's etc. Linking our programmes to available government schemes, suggesting modifications in existing schemes and engaging them actively in our programmes.

**Community Outreach**-This programme involves sensitizing the masses about the issue of deafness, its causes, prevention and importance of early identification through Radio programmes, Walkathons, Auto drives, training workshops for Anganwadi and ASHA workers, Block functionaries of SSA (Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan), Teachers from mainstream schools, Doctors, Corporate volunteers and the General public.



# IMPACT SO FAR

Over the last **15 years**, VAANI has worked with **76,000** direct and indirect stakeholders, comprising **12,000** deaf children, **24,000** parents, **10,000** professionals and **30,000** members of the general public.





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