

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

Progress Update- April 17-March 18



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.

Vaani has worked with 29500 direct and indirect beneficiaries over 12 years, around 7000 deaf children, 12000 parents, 7000 professionals and 3500 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.

Currently we are operating in North east, West Bengal and Karnataka.

**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 17-March 18.**

## **Disaster Preparedness In Assam**



Disaster Preparedness programme of Vaani mainly focuses on collaborating with partners who are already working on Disaster Management and sensitizing them on different rehabilitation techniques and ways that can be adopted to work with hearing impaired children who are rescued during a disaster.

Last year we worked in North East part of India which are heavily prone to floods and earthquakes. There has been records of a lot of cases where deaf children are exploited and often become victims of abuse and trafficking during such disasters.. Keeping this in mind , the work was initiated and posters and a video on Signs related to disaster was developed and workshops with parents and professionals were conducted.

## Parents Training Workshops



Parents Training Workshops at VAANI mainly focus on empowering parents and immediate caregivers of the child with necessary skills and techniques that would help them to work with their hearing impaired child at home and support to develop language and communication. The emphasis is laid on building up a cadre of parents trained on issues around deafness.



From April 2017 to March 2018 , 64 parents workshops were conducted across Assam , West Bengal and Karnataka covering 706 parents.

VAANI	No of parents workshops	Parents covered
East	31	297
North East	28	336
South	5	73

## Training and Awareness Workshops for professionals



VAANI's beliefs in collaborating local organizations and government. We worked with the following partners last year - Pandua Pratibandhi Kalyan Samiti from Hooghly district in West Bengal , Abhivruddi Society for Development in Tumkur district and Shatha Shrunga in Bangalore – both from Karnataka and with the Social Welfare , NRHM and SSA departments of the government of Assam .

The workshops aimed at enhancing the knowledge and strengthening the skills of professionals working in the field of Children with Hearing Impairment. A total of 221 professionals including anganwadi workers , supervisors and district coordinators from the Social Welfare department, Block and district functionaries from NRHM and SSA in Assam , partner staff and community level workers in West Bengal and Karnataka received inputs through 12 Training and Awareness workshops during the period.

The training and Awareness workshops helped

- To sensitise the participants on Childhood Deafness
- State the importance of Early Identification and Early Intervention.
- Explain the causes and prevention of hearing loss
- Identify the Human Ear parts
- Explain the mechanism of hearing
- Identify the different types of hearing aids
- Perform the auditory training
- To make them aware of the indicators for identifying children with hearing problems
- To explain about the communication options available in India

## Parents Networking Meeting



The meetings are conducted to provide a platform for parents of hearing impaired children to put forward their concerns and share experiences. Our main focus is to build parent network groups who would be their own facilitators and solution providers.

Last year 42 parent meetings were conducted across VAANI with the following agenda:

- The importance of their role in the lives of deaf children and being their support to cater to social and emotional needs, developing communication (Natural Language) skills during their day to day study sessions and other household activities.
- The importance and benefits of receiving skill training.
- The importance of being in a group
- The psychological problems which children with hearing impairment have to face
- Being patient and understanding the needs of the child

## Working with Community Mobilisers



Different training and exposure was provided to community workers to build their capacity on supporting parents of Hearing Impairment, developing communication skills among hearing impaired children, collecting authentic data in the community children who are deaf between 0-14 years, training on early intervention services, creating teaching learning material along with parents.

## Steering Committee Meeting



There was meeting held in the presence of state representatives of the Social welfare department, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and VAANI members . The objective of the meeting was to share learnings and exchange solutions amongst all satellite centers to address problems being

faced by deaf children and their families during the period from the districts – Kamrup, Nalbari and Nagaon of Assam. A detailed report was given of the project funded by the TATA TRUSTS taken forward primarily in partnership with the Department of Social Welfare, Assam. The meeting gave a clarity on the way forward for sustainability of the work initiated in the 26 centres through the project.

## Individual Education Plan (IEP)



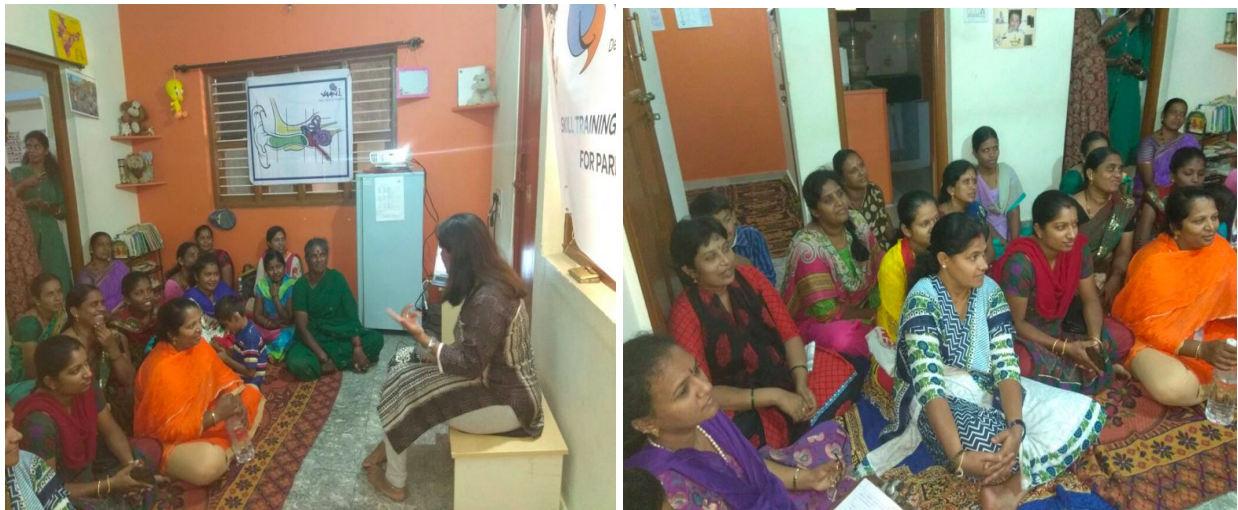
IEP sessions form an integral part of VAANI Sadhan Resource Centres and focus on providing individualised attention to our children, specific to their needs.

IEP is done by our teachers to meet communication , language , social and emotional needs of each deaf child. The staff at VAANI is trained to cater to the specific needs of hearing impaired children.

This year based on individual assessments , individualised plans were made on a quarterly basis and intervention was done accordingly for every child.

Parents and caregivers who accompany children were also provided with counselling and demonstration of different teaching techniques that can be replicated.

## **Workshop on Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse - Training Sessions for Parents and Teachers**



The workshop of bringing awareness among parents, teachers and caregivers was organised by VAANI and ENFOLD at our Dasarahalli Sadhan centre on 12th September 2017. The main focus was to bring awareness on child sexual abuse and its preventive measures. The facilitator explained how our children are being vulnerable to such issues and the safety needs to be taught at the very early age of 2 years. She also explained how to break the barriers of discussing such delicate topics to our children and build trust among our children so that they can freely communicate without any fear or hesitate if the child has gone through any abuse.

The different topics that were covered were on good touch and bad touch, psychology of the child, legal procedures and inculcating values in our children to be sensible responsible human beings.



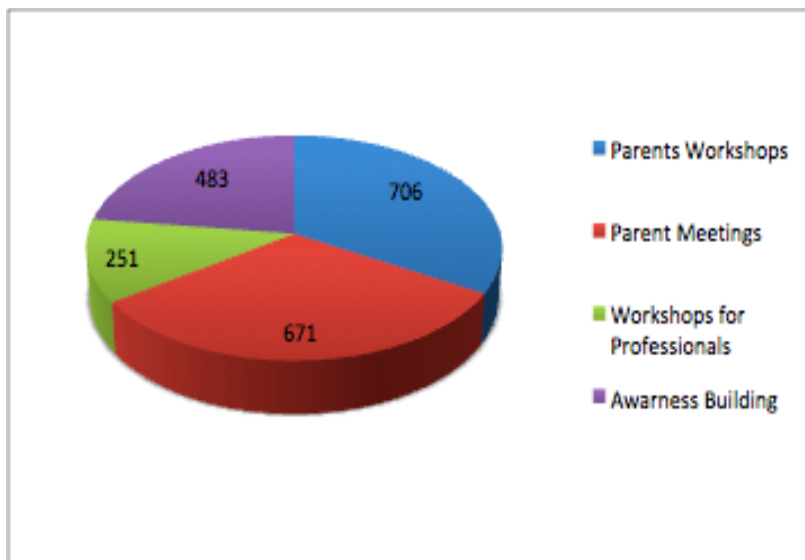


**VAANI's work in the slums of Kolkata were appreciated and the Team was felicitated by TMF ( Tech Mahindra Foundation) during their 10 Years Celebration in Kolkata on 17 April'17**

## Beneficiaries Reached

In total we were able to reach 2111 beneficiaries.

ACTIVITIES	
Parent Workshops	64
Parents Meetings	51
Workshop For Professionals	13
Awareness Programmes	10
Steering Committee Meeting	1



## New Programs & Future Plans

VAANI has completed more than 12 years in India and the scope and need for working on the issue of childhood deafness is huge. In next three years we aim to reach 30,000 hearing impaired children.

Our plan for the next year will be supporting more parents, collaborating with local NGO's & government agencies, working in remote locations, early identification & intervention, working with educational & medical institutes, putting stringent processes in place for measuring impact and having a strong learning agenda in place.

Some of the programs we would expand are as follows:

- **Capacity Building**-Exposing our existing team to new techniques and upgrading their skills, which would directly benefit our Hearing Impaired Children.
- **Sadhan Centre**-Upgrading our existing Sadhan Centers with latest educational material and new types of equipment and developing the capacity of the teachers of the deaf.
- **Setting an academy** for training professionals in Hearing Impaired education.
- **Early Identification & Intervention**-Working with district hospitals
- **Life skill Program**-For social and emotional development of hearing impaired children
- **Disaster Management**-Collaborating with partners who are working on Disaster management and sensitizing them on different techniques to deal with children with hearing impairment, also post rehabilitation process.
- **Teach for the deaf program**
- **Setting up a Research & Policy Advocacy unit**
- **Setting a Public Engagement unit**-Running pan India awareness campaigns to sensitize people on the issue of childhood deafness and how to prevent it.