



WELCOME TO OUR

Maitree- Newsletter

"From First Signs to Strong Futures"



"Building Belonging"

A Journey That Connects Every Stage

Impact is rarely a single moment—it is built quietly through consistent support, timely interventions, and systems that work together.

Over the past quarter, our work has focused on strengthening this continuum—from early detection and parent empowerment to inclusive education, digital learning, and community engagement. Each effort connects, ensuring that deaf children and their families are supported not just once but throughout their journey.

This quarter reflects a deeper commitment to building confidence, enabling access, and creating spaces where children are not just included—but truly belong.



EARLY DETECTION & AWARENESS

Early identification is often the first step toward a stronger future.



Coming Up

Our newborn screening will start shortly in Pune at PCMC. PGI Yashwantrao Chavan Memorial Hospital from May '26 onwards

When Awareness Comes at the Right Time, it changes everything

This quarter, thousands of children benefited from early identification and timely intervention through the provision of hearing aids, enabling better access to sound and communication.

At the same time, awareness efforts expanded into hospitals and community spaces through multilingual information materials—ensuring families receive the right guidance at the right moment.

Through screening camps conducted across regions, including a focused camp at New Sonaribali LP School in Nagaon, Assam, 106 individuals were screened, and 39 cases were identified for follow-up care.



More than 15 babies were fitted with hearing aids in the districts of Satara and Kolhapur. Further extended the service to speech therapy sessions, ensuring continued support for their language and communication development.



INDIVIDUALISED EDUCATION PROGRAM

Learning That Adapts, Supports, and Sustains



For deaf children, education begins with access to language, communication, and confidence. This quarter, children were supported across a structured education continuum—from early childhood to higher education—ensuring that learning evolves with their needs and stage of development.

At the early levels, the focus remained on language development through play, visual engagement, and interaction, helping children build a strong foundation before entering formal learning.

Efforts also extended into inclusive subject learning, where children explored concepts like science through visual and hands-on methods. A STEM workshop brought together 42 children and 42 parents, reinforcing learning as a shared and confident experience at Red Cross School, Belagumba, Tumakuru.



As children progressed, Individualised Education Plans (IEPs) ensured that teaching adapted to each child's pace, using creative, visual, and sensory approaches that made learning engaging and accessible.



This continuum-based approach ensures that children are not only enrolled in education but are also able to actively participate, progress, and thrive.



In parallel, focused exam preparation support was provided to help children build academic readiness and confidence. This included structured revision sessions, concept reinforcement, and tailored guidance to ensure children could effectively engage with assessments and perform to their potential.

At advanced stages, continued support enabled children and youth to move toward higher education, independence, and future opportunities.

CAPACITY BUILDING

EMPOWERING PARENTS, FAMILIES, COMMUNITIES, AND ENABLING PARTICIPATION



Over 80 parents across regions were trained this quarter through focused workshops aimed at strengthening their role in supporting their children's development. The sessions addressed key themes such as positive parenting, including health, education, emotional well-being, and leadership.

In Kolkata, a life skills workshop was held through practical demonstrations, while a session at the Youth Training Centre Kolkata guided parents of older children on remedial learning and navigating adolescence. At Pamalhat Sadhan Centre in Uttar Dinajpur, 14 parents participated in a workshop on positive parenting, mental health, and communication. And in Karnataka, more than 50 parents were trained.



As part of VAANI's Parent Care Learning Model, the session addresses key themes such as positive parenting, mental health, self-care, coping strategies, and the importance of communication and social support.

The program also introduces parents to Module 2 – Empowerment, where our parent leaders encourage them to take a more active role in supporting their children's development and in guiding new parents. These efforts build a strong parent network, enabling experienced families to support others and strengthen ongoing work within the community.

STRENGTHENING EDUCATORS AND PROFESSIONALS TO DRIVE INCLUSIVE AND ACCESSIBLE LEARNING

As technology continues to evolve rapidly at VAANI, we shape the way we learn and communicate. Building digital confidence among educators has become essential. VAANI partnered with WinVinaya InfoSystems India Private Limited to conduct a digital skills training, designed as a Training of Trainers (ToT) model.



The workshop created a hands-on learning space where educators explored how tools like ChatGPT and Canva can strengthen educational planning and classroom engagement for deaf children.

Participants developed practical materials—posters, presentations, flashcards, storybooks, and planners—that support visual learning and accessible communication, making lessons more inclusive and structured.

The training also highlighted how technology can enable interactive and visually engaging teaching approaches, helping educators adapt to diverse communication needs and enhance participation among deaf learners.



COMMUNITY AWARENESS



VAANI's training and capacity building reach far beyond classrooms—they extend into rural communities, where we lay the groundwork for early identification and inclusion. Recently, we held a three-day community awareness program across the Pune district, reaching over 100 Anganwadi supervisors in three locations—Manchar, Baramati, and Haveli. All of them shared one powerful goal—recognising hearing challenges early and ensuring every child is included.

Sessions focused on how hearing loss affects a child's future, covering ear hygiene, developmental milestones, and simple daily steps ASHA supervisors can take. What moved everyone most was the hands-on approach—through role-plays, they felt what it might be like to live without hearing, turning abstract knowledge into deep empathy.



National Conference: Limitless Horizons

The **National Conference – Limitless Horizons** was held on 21 February 2026 at Novotel, Guwahati, bringing together parents, educators, health professionals, government representatives, and partners to reflect on building stronger pathways for deaf children and their families.

Supported by Thomson Reuters, the conference saw the participation of key government officials and experts, including representatives from the Departments of Education and Health, alongside specialists in inclusive education, early intervention, and youth development. Their insights, along with powerful voices of parents and deaf youth, brought depth and real-life perspective to the discussions.

Key sessions focused on early identification, inclusive education, parent empowerment, and pathways to higher education and livelihoods. A special highlight was the sharing of lived experiences by parents, reinforcing their role as changemakers and advocates. The event also featured a cultural performance by deaf children, celebrating expression, confidence, and inclusion. The conference reinforced a simple but powerful message—when families, systems, and communities come together, inclusion becomes a shared and achievable reality.

