



ASHRAY-AKRUTI

Break the Walls of Silence

(A voluntary Organisation working for Ear, Hearing Care and Persons with Disabilities since 1996)

Project **Early Intervention Program for Children with Hearing Loss- 2019-20**



Executive Summary

The project aims to provide early intervention services to children aged 0 - 3 years, diagnosed with hearing loss mainly focussing on developing their communication and language skills and mainstreaming them. The project aims to improve the reach of early intervention services among a large group of poor and lower middle class sections of society. Research on brain development indicates that the critical time for learning language is from birth to three years of age. Without early identification of hearing loss and subsequent intervention, children are at risk of missing the opportunity for communication and socialization development during early life.

It is estimated that two in every 1,000 children born in India are deaf. In the states of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, the estimated figures are six out of every 1,000 children are born with profound deafness which means it is three times the national average and six times the global average. India has one of the highest deaf populations in the world with approximately 6% of the population suffering some kind of hearing loss.

Though the states of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh have a large number of children with hearing loss, facilities for these children are really scarce. Responding to the needs for early intervention services for children with hearing loss in the community , Ashray Akruti started the facility at in the year 2015.

The centre provides early intervention services for children from the age of six months. Our special educators and speech therapists provide individual attention to every child to develop speech and language among them. Parents from an integral part of their children's development process. The children participate in specially planned activities, which aim to develop attention, listening and speech skills among them.

Parents are encouraged to participate and observe their child's sessions with the therapist and the educators. This enables the parents to observe strategies, gain information about the language objectives, and reinforce the same at home.

The center also supports parents with information sessions, which cover topics such as audiograms and hearing loss, management of hearing aids, listening and language development.

Project Area:

Hyderabad, Telangana

Number of Beneficiaries

15 Children with Hearing Loss

Goal of the Project

To Develop expressive speech among children with hearing loss and mainstream them into formal schools

Project Objectives

- To provide suitable amplification
- To develop Auditory skills among hearing impaired babies
- To develop Speech-language skills among hearing impaired babies
- To provide family support and education
- To identify and refer children for Cochlear Implant
- To mainstream children with hearing impairment into formal schools

Scope of the Project

The facility is available to children identified with hearing loss from underprivileged sections of the society. A detailed understanding of the child and family is done prior to any therapy being initiated. An individualized early intervention plan is identified and developed keeping in view of the baby and the family.

Services at the centre Include

Provide appropriate hearing devices

The first step towards intervention program is to provide suitable hearing aid for child diagnosed with hearing loss. Ashray Akruiti's early intervention services provides quality hearing aids after a detailed evaluation by our qualified Audiologists. Ashray Akruiti has a full fledged hearing clinic with state of the art facilities where services such as OAE,BERA,Pure Tone Audiometry are available.

Families are counselled regarding the need for audiologic follow-up to monitor the function, use, and appropriateness of amplification.

Auditory Skills Development

Young children who are deaf or hard of hearing need to learn to use their amplified residual hearing with the help of a hearing aid to gain meaning from the world of sound. The auditory program focuses on the development of the hierarchy of listening skills among children.

Our qualified Audiologists work with the children to develop listening skills among them.

Speech and Language Development

Hearing loss affects a child's development of speech and language skills. When a child has difficulty hearing, the areas of the brain used for communication does

not develop appropriately. This makes understanding and talking very difficult for a child with hearing disability.

Our qualified speech and language therapists help children develop speech and language. The training is imparted through activities, storytelling and guided play.

The professionals work along with parents to improve children's receptive and expressive language.

Every child is provided one on session to develop speech and language.

Family Support and Counseling Services

Group meetings are held for parents on a regular basis on variety of subjects . The sessions for the parents include

- Management of hearing aids and other assistive devices
- Management of children with Disability
- Cochlear Implant
- How to access government schemes and benefits for persons with disability

Project Team

- Audiologist
- Speech Therapist
- Special Educator
- Project Coordinator
- Support Staff

Consultant Specialist:

- ENT Doctor
- Pediatrician

Measurable Outcomes:

- 15 children with hearing loss fitted with amplification
- 15 children with hearing loss with improved listening skills
- 15 children with hearing loss with improved speech and language skills
- Families counseled and educated

Support Sought towards Early Intervention Center

Number of beneficiaries 15

| Support sought from Asha for Education | | | | |
|--|------------------------------|------------------------|--------|----------------------|
| S.No | Particulars | Cost per month(in INR) | Months | Total amount(in INR) |
| 1 | Salaries - Special Educators | 20,000 | 12 | 2,40,000 |
| 3 | Salary -Accountant | 10,000 | 12 | 1,20,000 |
| 5 | Salary – Non Teaching Staff | 6,000 | 12 | 72,000 |
| 6 | Building Rent | 12,000 | 12 | 1,44,000 |
| 7 | Teaching Aids /Stationary | 2,000 | 12 | 24,000 |
| | Total Cost | | | 6,00,000 |