



Resource Centre Proposal (2020-21)

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6. Ms. Gopi Devdutt Tripathy, Professor, Sociology Dept., Maitreyi College
7. Ms. Shabnam Aggarwal, Founder & Director - Anandini
8. Mr. Rajive Raturi, Head-Law & Policy, NCPEDP

Organization is registered under **TRUST Act**, in the name of **ASTHA**, vide registration number **1804 dated 12th April 1993**. Organization also registered under the following:

1. 80 G
2. FCRA –Foreign Contribution Regulation Act 2010
3. 12 A – Income Tax
4. Persons with Disabilities Act
5. National Trust Act

27 years of ASTHA

ASTHA is an NGO started in 1993 as a registered charitable trust. It is one of the few cross-disability organizations working with children and persons with disabilities irrespective of the type and severity of disability.

Vision

- To work towards a society where children and people with disabilities are respected and valued

Mission

- To work in partnership with children and persons with disabilities and their families
- To uphold rights and work with all stakeholders to build an inclusive society

Our Beliefs

- Each and every person in society, however severely disabled has the right to equal opportunity in every institution of society and has the right to develop their full potential
- Working with people/children with special needs is not an act of charity but a profession where people learn to care for each other
- Each person disabled or non-disabled, has his or her own unique contribution to make and this contribution must be recognized by society
- Children with disabling conditions should not be isolated from other children and that both sets of children benefit a great deal from interacting with each other

Our Programmes

- Early Childhood Care and Development
- Inclusive Education
- Resource Centre
- National Disability Helpline
- Advocacy, Research and Outreach

Strategies

- Advocacy
- Habilitation and rehabilitation
- Capacity building
- Information and knowledge exchange
- Participation of persons with disabilities
- Research and critiquing of policies
- Raising awareness of the value of persons with disabilities to society and the economy
- Community mobilization

Resource Centre

The Resource Centre was started in 2011 as an extension of ASTHA's commitment to strive for equal opportunities for children with disabilities just like all other children.

Resource centre provides in-house services where children with disabilities and their families access information and services and collectively develop resources. Resource centre aims to prepare the child/young adult with disability in terms of creating a resource, technical intervention to develop cognitive, social, communication skills, working with parents, working with schools, working with hospitals and to access education, preparation measures for getting admission in a mainstream school and preventing the children from dropping out.

As our years of experience have pointed out, lack of information remains a barrier for persons with disabilities and their families in accessing various essential services. ASTHA believes that information is the crux of empowerment and through the helpline we gather, collate and disseminate information. This is the second major outlook of the Resource Centre. The helpline complements the work of the Resource centre by providing relevant and authentic information, referral service and counselling according to the needs of children/persons with disabilities and their families. ASTHA's National Disability Helpline is the tool to reach out to thousands of people, various institutions and organisations. The two people who run the organisation are persons with disabilities and have been associated with the organisation since long. They were part of a youth advocacy disability group and have gained skills over the years to work in a professional environment.

The third focus of the centre is reached out to diverse sections of disabled populations. Last year, we worked with children with disabilities living on railway stations, homeless disabled populations, children with disabilities living in shelter homes etc. In the past, ASTHA's Resource Centre has reached out to neighbouring states to work with children and persons with disabilities in rural areas. ASTHA believes that children and persons with disabilities, when at the intersections, of poverty and vulnerabilities are further marginalised.

Aim

Interventions for holistic growth of a child/person need to be at multiple levels. Following a multi dimensional approach the child is at the epicentre of ASTHA's work, followed by intensive work with family, community, support systems and finally linking grassroots evidence to policy level platforms. The Resource centre, in addition to providing direct services to the child, works with institutions and collates and dissipates information and knowledge.

The Resource Centre is a unique centre in ASTHA. This centre reaches out to children with disabilities in urban slums through direct centre based work, reaches out to diverse disabled populations as well as has a very important component of information sharing. The focus of the Resource Centre is to make sure the work on ground reaches diverse stakeholders through research and helpline.

The beneficiaries of this programme are:

- Children with disabilities (0-18) years and their families in urban slums of Delhi
- Children with disabilities (0-18) years and their families in rural villages of Gorakhpur
- Persons with disabilities across the country those reach us through the helpline
- Grassroots disability and allied organisations, their community staff and children with disabilities associated with them
- Official systems of development like ICDS, Education system, Healthcare system, Protection system etc.

Impact of our work with children with disabilities through the Resource Centre in 2019-20 (July to April; 9 months)



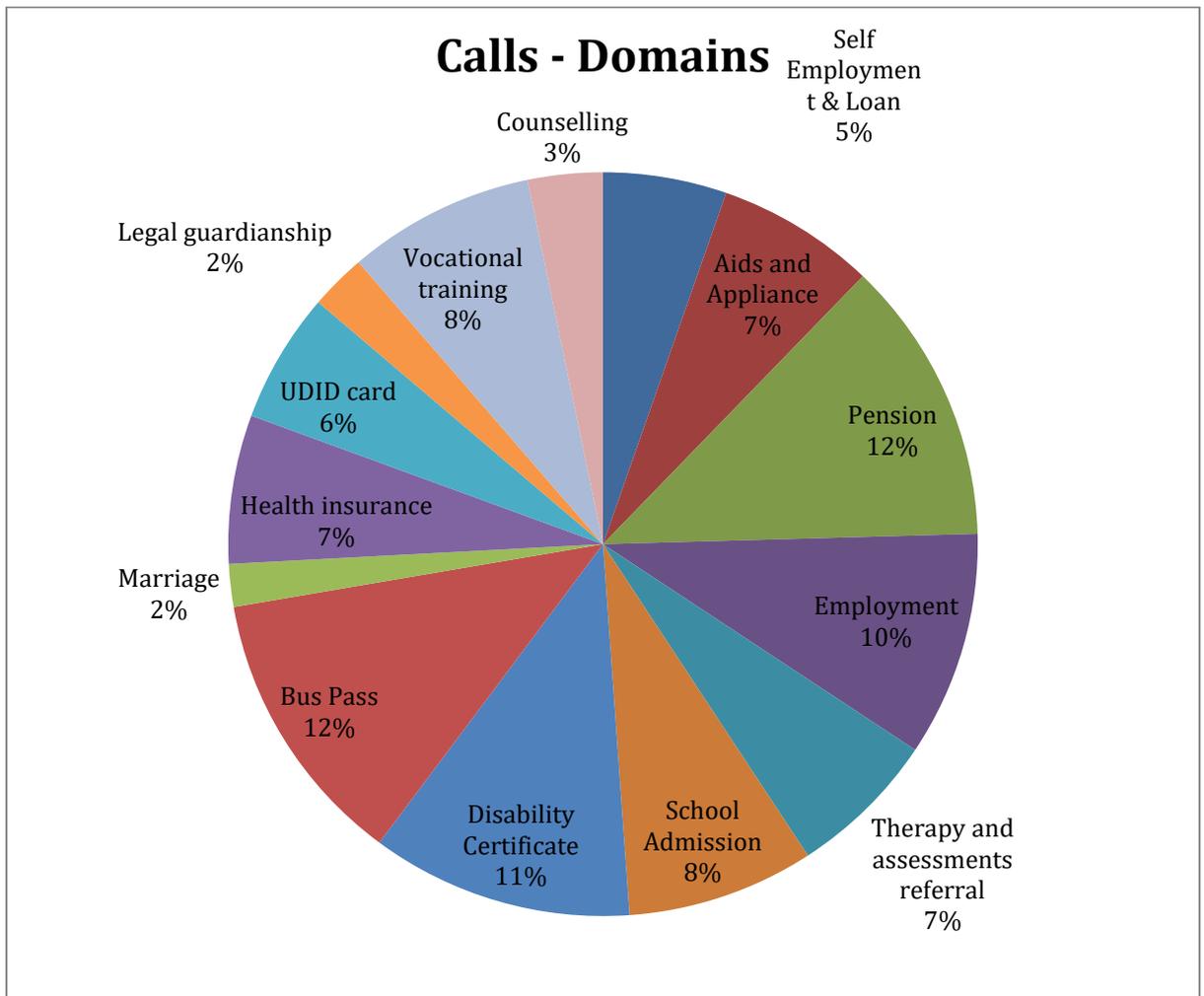
Reached out to more than 100 children with disabilities

- **Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) (0-8 years)**
Working with children with disabilities across age groups and across disabilities has been the hallmark of the Resource Centre. This year too, the centre worked with very young children (0-8 years) as well as young adults with disabilities. The centre reached out to around **20 children** in this age group
- **Ensuring Anganwadi Centres (AWC) becomes disability inclusive**
AWC is a part of the flagship Government of India's scheme called Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS). This is the only service for children (0-8 years) but has historically failed to include children with disabilities. This project has reached out to **30 AWCs** in its vicinity to include children with disabilities and have received referrals from there
- **Ensuring education for children with disabilities (8-14 years)**
There was a focus on ensuring that many children who have dropped out of their schools for some reasons should have access to education. Many such children got enrolled in open schooling (National Institute of Open Schooling - NIOS) and the resource centre taught these children, considering their individual needs

- **Use of National Disability Helpline for education of children with disabilities**
The helpline has played an instrumental role in spreading information about enrolments of children with disabilities in mainstream public schools as well as private schools; thus supporting the Delhi government whenever there is a drive by them. This year, we spread out the information and helped many families of children with disabilities to apply in mainstream schools of their choice
- **Opening pathways for drop out children (14-18 years)**
In this year we focused life skills program as achievement we worked with **15 to 20 children**
- **Rehabilitation for children and families**
Schemes, rights and entitlements play a major role in rehabilitation of families of children with disabilities. We connected at least **20 families** to basic fundamental entitlements as Adhaar card, IQ, Disability certificate, Disability pensions etc.
- **Medical interventions**
This year we focused on medical interventions as well. Children who are not able to get their medicine due to family conditions we support them to get their medicine under this we reached around 10 to 12 children
- **Partnership with parents**
The project has functioned on the belief that the parents and families are extremely important to bring about a change in the child. The families were reached out through parents meetings, training, and exposure visits etc.

More than 1500 calls in National Disability Helpline

The Helpline during last 9 month received around 1510 calls from 19 Indian states. The calls are for school admissions, employment, disability certification process and entitlements, aids and appliances etc.



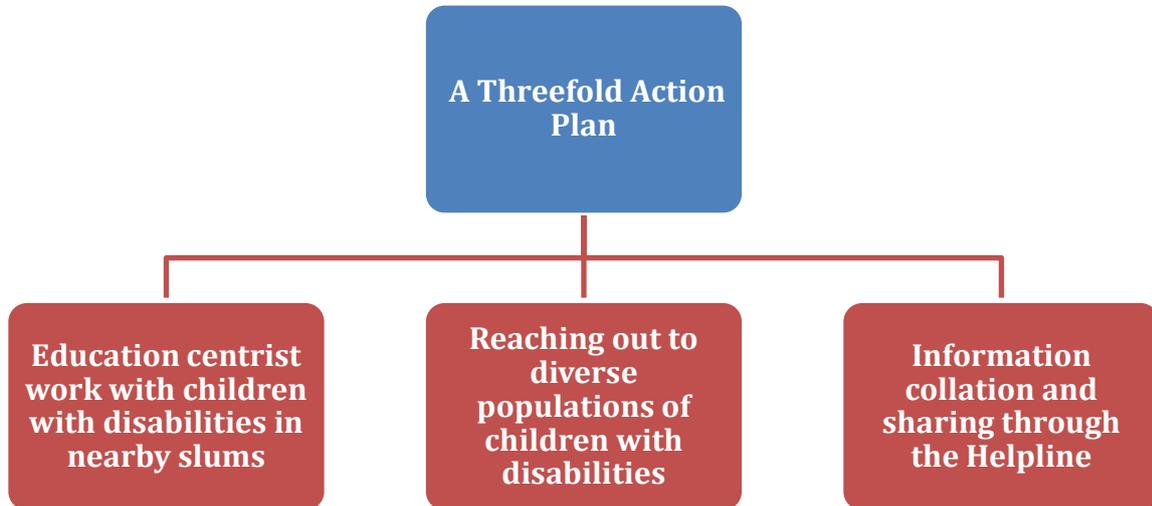
Reached out to diverse populations in Uttar Pradesh and Haryana

The project reached out to a shelter home in Delhi for assessments and rehabilitation for children with disabilities in their setup and a grassroots organisation in Karnal for ensuring inclusive education for children there. This way, there was an outreach to another 40 children and moreover, staff members of various organisations became sensitive to disability concerns and education for children with disabilities

Karnal is a district in the Indian state of Haryana. Majority of the people face extreme poverty and are not favored by neighboring villages. These rural communities are struggling with low representation, low level of parents education, low participation due to awareness level, negative perception towards government schools and inclination towards private education despite non-affordability.

The organisation continues to work in Gorakhpur, which is known as the encephalitis capital of the world.

Action Plan for 2020-21



A brief summary

The action plan for the upcoming year has been divided into three main themes. First, the centre will continue its direct intensive work with children with disabilities and their families. This work will encompass age group 0-18; however there will be a focus on early childhood care this year. This focus is keeping in mind the number of children in the age group of 0-8 years have considerably increased in last some months. This year the project will also reach out to children and persons with disabilities in Northeast Delhi. The resource centre has always reached out to diverse populations and hence tried to understand the intersections of poverty, disability and vulnerability. The Northeast Delhi witnessed communal violence this year and children are bereft of books, schools and are under acute mental trauma. As an organisation working on education of children in the same city, it is the responsibility to support children in times of these crisis situations. The helpline will play a major role in outreach. Through the helpline, we will establish first contacts with multi level stakeholders and dissipate and collect information.

Education centrist work with children with disabilities in nearby slums

The Resource Centre in the last 9 months (July, 2019 to March, 2020) has intensively worked with children in the age group 0-18. During this time, there was a concentrated effort to push for open schooling admissions for young adults with disabilities. It was also the time when the Resource Centre received many young children with disabilities (0-8 years). The Asha for Education supported ECCD program at Noor Nagar helped us to reach out to many young children with disabilities and the new community and parents of young children started to see ASTHA as an organisation that can support them. It was a project which built the organisation's capabilities to work with very young children and put systems into place.

- **Cross disability and across age group nature of the work** – The Resource Centre will continue working with children in age group from 0-18 years. With its work the project will try and have some extra push in the domain of ECCD as there have been many children coming in this age group to the Resource Centre
- **Early Childhood Care and Development** – Although the Resource Centre works across the age group (0-8) years, there will be a focus on ensuring that young children with disabilities get a 'headstart' in their lives.

Interventions with children will follow a twin track approach with children – at individual level and in groups.

- *Home based work: Home based work will be majorly done with very young children (0-3 years) at individual level and very small groups*
- *Centre based and community based work: These sessions will be done in small and large groups as per planning and will include children without disabilities as well. The focus of these sessions would remain with children above 3 years. These will be done at the centre as well as in the communities. These sessions will be planned in such a way that they learn in various domains (including preschool skills and school preparedness) in groups through various activities.*

ASTHA has long aspired to do quality work with children. During last year, we have brought in standardised evidence driven tools to work with children, especially on early childhood care.

- **Age appropriate school admissions and education** – ASTHA's experience has shown that children with disabilities often remain left out of the mainstream education system. Even if they do get enrolled, it is often at very late ages unlike all other children who go to school at the age of 4-6. The project aims to work towards ensuring young children get

enrolled at the right age and retain in schools. The project will keep working with children who are enrolled to ensure retentions

- NIOS (National Institute of Open Schooling) admissions of age appropriate children – The project had initiated admissions in open schooling last year, it will continue to ensure children with disabilities who got enrolled don't drop out through constant educational support by ASTHA
- Regular exposure visits, celebration of festivals, organizing events as ways of enriching children's learning experiences and facilitating interaction with the non-disabled peers.
- Home visits to understand the learning environment and the available resources at home. Need based support will be provided to facilitate learning. Within the communities of south Delhi the visits will be conducted by the Resource centre's team to conduct home visits to either do assessments or follow-up visits once every week. Once every 2 months all the staff members in the resource would sit together to discuss the cases of children in detail in order to make a better individualized as well as group plans.

Working with Parents

- Regular meeting of parents of children with disabilities to discuss their issues and concerns and share children's learning
- Supporting parents to get required medical intervention, aids & appliances, disability certificates through key workers. Parents of children will be provided visuals of intervention plan in the form of printed and electronic medium (small video clippings through whatsapp group, sharing through mobiles)
- Fellowships to mothers or siblings of children with disabilities

Reaching out to diverse populations of children with disabilities

The Resource Centre has consistently reached out to children and persons with disabilities. There is always an attempt to reach out and serve the most vulnerable and marginalised of such populations. One of the mandates of the centre is to bring out information and knowledge to support persons and children with disabilities. The Resource Centre has also been able to support many children, families, organisations, civil society groups for the purposes of rehabilitation. It was only last year that many diverse groups of populations were supported like children with disabilities living in shelter homes and railway stations. This year, the resource centre aspires to reach out to children with disabilities affected with riots in Delhi. The city of Delhi witnessed violence in the month of February 2020. Amongst the

worst affected were children who lost their schools, textbooks etc. ASTHA and other disability organisations in Delhi found out that there are many children who have acquired

The Resource centre, during last year, initiated work in Gorakhpur with children who have had Japanese Encephalitis. Gorakhpur, along with many adjoining districts has been under the grip of the deadly disease. 30-50% of the children acquire disabilities after the onset of the disease, thus seriously hindering their education. The Resource centre worked in around 40 villages of a block and reached out to more than 40 children and their families

The resource centre has worked with many organisations during last year. One of the prominent networks is Delhi Neenv Forces – a network of more than 40 grassroots organisations working on child rights. The Resource Centre will continue working with these networks and integrate disability concerns in their agenda. The networking helps in training the workers of these organisations and making them disability sensitive, thus enabling us to reach out to many fold children indirectly.

Information collation and sharing through the Helpline

Helpline has been running for a little over 17 years now. During this time we have received several calls from people of all age groups across India. The caller might be an individual with various concerns however their concerns are reflected by that of many who do not have or get the opportunity to voice them. We would like to be able to make this happen through the analysis of the calls documented over the years during which the helpline has been operating.

The helpline will play a major role this coming year in reaching out to Northeast Delhi.

The Resource Centre has taken a study titled "exploring right to education of children with disabilities and children that requires a constant long term medical intervention." This study looks at the commonalities and the differences in the issues and challenges that children with disabilities, blood disorders, encephalitis and cancer face in their right to education. The study tries to explore the common and individualised support and accommodation that the children with condition require in their education. It further try to explore how the systems i.e. the education system as well as the medical system have been catering to the educational needs of these group of children. The study is being conducted in neighbouring state of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, as well as states in North East India. With the help of this study we endeavour to broaden our spectrum, revisit and relook the whole concept of inclusive education, bring about policy reforms that would cater to the right of education of large of number of children having these conditions.