

Discussion on
SUNAAD

- ❖ Application received by us on 6/24/99 for funding of hearing aids for the special school for the hearing impaired.
- ❖ Located in Bangalore, they had asked for funding for 27 hearing aids for a period of three years to benefit children of lower socio economic strata who require hearing aids for learning speech, language or any other skill. The hearing aids were to be distributed depending upon the needs of the child, age (younger children are more likely to derive greater benefits) and the 'potential' of the child, along with the involvement of the parents.
- ❖ Due to some problems, the main school was forced to be closed down during my visit to B'lore.
- ❖ Most of the children who require the hearing aids are pre-school children. The pre-school is still functioning and the students and parents are very happy with the pre-school.
- ❖ My view on the preschool, based on visits to other deaf schools, is that the children perform really well. Their high levels of integration into normal schools is also heartening.
- ❖ For long-term goals and self-sustenance (sp?), the institute is considering starting an English medium deaf school. There is no such deaf school currently in B'lore (from what I remember...). They are also planning a fund-raising concert in October by artists to help them through the next year.
- ❖ At my insistence, the amount for hearing aids was increased to Rs.4,000 per aid ensure that the children get the best quality of hearing aids.

For 10 children * Rs.4,000/ =Rs.40,000 ~ \$1,000.

Advantages:

- Good preschool.
- Hearing aids are necessary for every deaf child.
- Although 'one time', this is essential for the development of these children.
- Very motivated staff and interested parents and workers.
- Have been receiving aid from Action Aid for the past many years.

Disadvantages:

- The 'stability' of the school. With the main school just closing down, what are the chances of this happening to this preschool?..but, we are funding hearing aids that the children need, no matter which school or place they are.
- Only preschool available right now.