Khushboo Welfare Society

**Project Steward:**
Rangakrishnan Srinivasan

**Project Partner(s):**
Rakesh Jhinsi, Vijay Pal

**Project Type:**
Disabilities

**Primary Focus:**
Children with Disabilities

**Secondary Focus:**
Vocational Training

**Area:**
Urban

**Projects Site:**
http://new.ashanet.org/project/?pid=972

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Asha Austin is a non-profit organization. It is a completely volunteer driven organization, comprising of dedicated individuals from Austin, striving to make a difference to the society. We believe that education is one of the primary factors in shaping a child’s future and by extension, future of the entire country.

Asha Austin works towards promoting the education of underprivileged children in India by providing financial assistance and support to the NGOs focused on education projects. Volunteers of Asha work closely with the project partners in India, while locally organizing fundraisers and community awareness events.

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**LEARN MORE BY JOINING US AT OUR MEETINGS**

**Time:** 2pm, alternate Sundays

**Venue:** Conference call only

**Dial-in #:** 605-475-6333

(Access code – 6195415)

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Asha For Education - Austin

Email: austin@ashanet.org
Khushboo Welfare Society has four main divisions: Sparsh (early intervention program for children from 0-6 years), Blessings (the school for children from 6-17 years), Samarth (vocational training program for adolescents and adults from 17-30+ years), and Samvedan (for children with profound disabilities and integrated with the Blessings program). Currently, they have a student: teacher ratio of 10:1 with an assistant in a classroom for mixed group of children with different disabilities. Further, the ratio is 5:1 for children with severe and profound mental disabilities with a committed attendant for looking after feeding and toilet needs of children with disabilities. The teachers have degrees/diploma/training in special education, and have years of experience.

Khushboo Welfare Society recently underwent a significant infrastructure expansion, that lead to addition of more classrooms for therapy and arts. Their new initiatives program include imparting lessons in arts, music, dance, yoga and computers, while integrating therapy into the main school curriculum. Therapy includes occupational therapy, speech therapy, physiotherapy and clay therapy. It is seen that the children enjoy all of these new activities which are highly therapeutic in nature. This year, Khushboo plans to open a state-of-the-art Audiometry lab.

Khushboo Welfare Society also works closely with the leading hospitals in the Gurgaon region to provide their beneficiaries access to health care. They have helped obtain the health insurance and disability certificate for most of their beneficiaries. They conduct medical camps regularly on their campus for their students. They are also engaged in community based rehabilitation programs, for children with multiple disabilities in communities who do not have accessibility to the direct services of Khushboo.

Asha-Austin has been supporting the salaries for new initiative teachers and therapists since 2016. It used to support salaries for special educators from 2008-12.

Total funds disbursed till date: $63901.95
Funds disbursed in 2015: $10256.95

In India’s map, Gurgaon is one of the most progressive cities in the National Capital Region in the periphery of Delhi. However, there has been an evident lack of specialized services, in the region, especially for persons with mental and multiple disabilities. Moreover, a daily commute to New Delhi, from Gurgaon, for these differently-abled children, is neither pragmatic nor conducive to their environment. About 21 years back, this core problem was identified by a few spirited individuals who were touched by such crisis in some form or the other. They came together to provide a professionally equipped facility for care, development and education, for children with mental and multiple disabilities, in particular for those with acute impairment within Gurgaon.

Pioneers in Gurgaon, Khushboo Welfare Society caters to all segments of the society be it poor or rich with quality services. Though today there are other similar private centers or regular schools with special wings, Khushboo still remains the only centre which provides multiple services (both therapeutic and educational/vocational) to cater to all kinds of patients and students. Regular schools with special wings take mostly ‘trainable’ children while most of Khushboo children are severely challenged. Khushboo is also well known for its rural intervention programs where it conducts workshops at village level on various subjects related to disability to equip rural caregivers with knowledge and information.

GOALS
To provide early intervention to children who are mentally challenged.
To identify the educational needs of such children
To impart relevant training to beneficiaries to make them self reliant
To promote individual abilities for rehabilitation and vocational training
To educate the parents, caregivers and community members on various aspects of mental retardation and means of coping with a mentally challenged child at home
To aid integration of such children within the community
To provide spiritual support to concerned families
To aid legal interest of such persons

Khushboo Welfare Society - A center for children with mental and multiple disabilities, provides special education, vocational training, therapeutic assistance, and early intervention programs.