

SHISHU SAROTHI
Centre for Rehabilitation & Training For Multiple Disabilities

ANNUAL REPORT 2009-10

WE SHALL OVERCOMESOMEDAY

“A complete life for every child “

Regn: 9 March 1988 (Regn No. 3469)

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ANNUAL REPORT OF ACTIVITIES FOR 2009-10

ORGANIZATION

Shishu Sarothi, a premier Centre for Rehabilitation and Training for Multiple Disability, is a registered non profit voluntary organization working in the Northeast region of India since 1987. We have been serving the cause of disability and catering to the many special needs of persons with disabilities for over twenty years. From education and rehabilitation, to training and employment, to the protection of rights – we are dedicated and equipped to meet all the needs and concerns of persons with disabilities.

The main services of Shishu Sarothi are:

- A Day Care Centre for Special education (CSE), which is run for Guwahati based children to provide child specific programmes through all-round educational and therapeutic inputs. At present our Centre for Special Education is providing education and therapeutical inputs to over 100 children with disabilities through a regular curriculum.
- A Diagnostic Clinic and Outdoor Service Department (OSD), attended by children from all over the North East region, to screen children and provide Home Management Programmes, Early Intervention, Counselling and Demonstration of Physiotherapy. Every year, our Outdoor Service Department provides these services to over 800 children, including infants, from all over the North East.
- A Training / Human Resource Development Division (HRD) where we run training programmes, approved by Rehabilitation Council of India, Govt. of India (RCI), with the aim to create a pool of trained rehabilitation professionals in the region. During the year 2007-08, our Human Resources Department has trained over 5000 teachers, special educators, doctors and other professionals.
- Disability Law Unit advocates the rights of persons with disabilities through litigation, policy change & sensitization programmes. It provides legal assistance & information to people from all over the Northeast region.
- Vocational Training for Disabled Youth: training young persons with disabilities to secure employment. Training is imparted in catering and hospitalities related services in association with the Institute of Hotel Management.
- Disability Employment Initiative: project to secure the economic empowerment for people with disabilities through employment opportunities, self employment activities and livelihood both in public and private sector.
- State Nodal Agency Centre (SNAC) for the National Trust, a statutory Body under the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment.
- Zonal Coordination Committee – North Eastern Zone for the Rehabilitation Council of India (a statutory Body under the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment)

List of governing body members:

Name/Designation	Occupation	Address
Satyamrit Kagti, MBA Chairperson	Businessman Director Luit Valley Company (P) Ltd. Assam Hospitals Ltd. Partner Blueflame Agencies Goodwill Tea Warehouse	C K Agarwala Road, Ambari Guwahati-781001
Dr. Santwana Bordoloi, M.D (Pediatrician), Vice Chairperson	Pediatrician Dispur Hospitals	Dispur Hospitals, Dispur Guwahati-781006
Angira Mimani MBA Secretary	Entrepreneur Partner Royal Business School	K R Choudhary Road, Bharalumukh Guwahati-781009
Arman Ali BIT Executive Director	Executive Director Shishu Sarothi	House No-4, 3 rd Bye Lane, Natun Sarania, Gandhibasti Guwahati-781003
Kavita Patwari BA Joint Treasurer	Parent	Patson Travels, Near Dispur College, Ganeshguri Guwahati-781005
Mira Kagti BA Member	Founder Member Ex Executive Director Shishu Sarothi	Hem Chandra Road, Uzanbazaar Guwahati-781001
Maya Choudhury B.Ed. Member	Educationist and School Principal Maria's Public School	Ganesh Mandir Road, Noonmati Guwahati-781020
Anju Talukdar LL.M Member	Executive Director, MARG Delhi	House No-40, Mandir Path Geeta Nagar Guwahati-781024
Tajkur Rahman Member	Entrepreneur Allied Services Ganeshguri Chariali	IV Floor, Block B, Bharalu Apartment, D K Chakraborty Path, Zoo Road Guwahati-781005

CSE-ACTIVITY REPORT 2009-10

April- 2009

- Celebrated pre-Bihu function in the school.
- A group of teachers from U.K visited the school.

May –2009

- A thematic exhibition on crops organized by students and teachers marked the foundation day of the centre on May 1st.
- Distributed wheel chairs to the needy students of the school.

June – 2009

- 1st term assessment and report giving.
- Screened the movie “Bhootnath” for the children in school.
- Students with parents sent to medical hospital for free dental check-up.

July – 2009

- Meeting and discussion with parents of senior students about the formation of self-help group.
- Four new students took admission in the different classes of C.S.E.

August -2009

- Art competition organized by Social Welfare Society for the students of C.S.E
- Cultural program organized by Aradhana a cultural group.
- Celebrated Raksha Bandhan
- A group of 5 students took coaching in cricket in Nehru Stadium organized by coach of Special Olympic
- M.L.A Robin Bordoloi Felicitated Vishal, Victor and Silsila at B.Borua College, Guwahati.
- The T.V. channel DY365 made a T.V. program with the children of C.S.E.
- Free Health Camp Organized by NIMH was attended by the children of C.S.E.

September – 2009

- Students celebrated teacher’s day with variety of cultural programs and light refreshments.
- Two teachers attended the program run by NIMH at Vivekananda Kendra Guwahati.
- Practice started for Concert.
- Students of Assam Management Institute performed different activities such as Cartoon Film Show, Plantation, Discussion about uses of plants, Cultural program etc with the students.
- People from ‘All-out’ visited the school.

October – 2009

- Celebrated Diwali sponsored by All-out.
- Shooting on Diwali celebration by the T.V. Channel News Live.
- A group from Social Welfare Dept. visited the school.
- Students from the dept. of psychology, Guwahati University visited the school for their academic purpose.
- Senior Students of the school are felicitated at B.Barooah Collrge for their good performance in music.

November - 2009

- Annual concert on 2nd November.
- Students Participated in the talent hunt competition organized by the T.V. Channel Rang.
- The members of the IAS ladies club “Prerona” organized Children’s day
- Students won state level prizes in art competition organized by Social Welfare. celebration with Magic Show and light refreshments.
- Central team from Delhi visited C.S.E.
- Members from Hotel Management Institute came and took interview of selected students to run the kitchen project.
- Members of Lion’s club came to school and donated stationary items on the eve of children’s day.

December – 2009

- Celebrated World Disable Day.
- 2nd terms assessments are done and reports are given.
- Celebrated Pre-Christmas party with Sarala Birla School.

January -2010

- The school celebrated Sarswati Puja.

February – 2010

- Clebrated Holi
- Played cricket match with Assam Valley School

March -2010

- New generator installed in the school donated by parents of a student.

April – 2010

- Students participated in pre-Bihu function with famous singer of Assam organized by Big Bazaar.

- Celebrated Bohag Bihu in school.
- Children participated in mass Bihu Function at Chandmari Bihu Function.

DLU - NE

The Disability Law Unit (DLU)-NE is a project of Shishu Sarothi which, broadly speaking, aims to narrow down the gap between the society at large and the persons with disabilities who face discrimination and abuse at various levels e.g. societal prejudice, denial of appropriate education, discrimination in employment, physical barriers in the built environment, etc. Towards achieving this end, DLU aims at:-

- advocating rights of persons with disabilities in the North Eastern region of the country and securing their interests and empowerment by proactively following a rights-based approach;
- increasing awareness about relevant laws among stakeholders, including persons with disabilities, their families, organizations working for disabled people and lawyers;
- increasing availability of specialized legal aid to disabled people in the region; and
- advocating for introduction of disabled friendly policies at the central and state level.

BRIEF HIGHLIGHTS OF DLU – NE ACTIVITIES

OBJECTIVE I:- CREATING AWARENESS ABOUT THE LAWS AMONG STAKE HOLDERS AND THE SOCIETY AT LARGE

Means proposed: Organizing Sensitization Programmes for Judicial Officials, Bank Officials, Govt. Officials etc and holding District and Sub-District level Workshops for the community to remove social prejudices

Activities:

- Workshop conducted at Dimapur, Nagaland by DLU-NE in association with the Prodigals Home, a spastic society on the empowerment of Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
- Similar workshop conducted at Aizwal, Manipur by DLU-NE in association with the Spastic Society of Mizoram on the empowerment of Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
- A community Level Workshop was held by DLU – NE at Shillong, Meghalaya on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in association with Bethany Society of Shillong.
- A workshop organized by DLU-NE at Guwahati for spreading awareness on disability rights and other related disability issues.
- Members of DLU-NE participated in the State-Level Consultation on review of National Policy on Children, 1974.
- A Workshop was conducted in Nalbari District of Assam by the DLU-NE in association with National Trust regarding legislations related to pwds.

- A Workshop on the National Trust Act was conducted in Tapatoli by National Trust and the same was attended by members of DLU-NE.
- Project Officer, DLU-NE conducted training session for Assam Civil Servant Officers on the rights of persons with disabilities.
- A Workshop organized at Nagaon District of Assam was attended by Assistant Coordinator of DLU-NE as resource person.
- Project Coordinator, DLU-NE and Project Officer participated in two-day workshop on child rights organized by UNICEF and National Law School at Guwahati.
- Project Officer, DLU-NE was invited as a resource person and she spoke on early detection, intervention and prevention of disabilities organized by the Directorate of social Welfare, Government of Assam.
- Project Coordinator, DLU-NE participated as a resource person in the training programme of Assam Civil Service Officers (above 18 years) on the topic “*Our responsibilities towards Persons with Disabilities*”.
- DLU-NE along with Adviser, Shishu Sarothi, Ms. K. Bordoloi were resource persons in the training programme of Assam civil Service Officers on “*Human Rights in relation to Mentally Challenged and Physically Handicapped and Role of NGOs in Assam*”.

OBJECTIVE II :-

PROVIDING LEGAL AID TO PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN THE REGION

Means proposed: Providing legal assistance to persons with disabilities whose rights have been violated

Activities:-

DLU-NE is actively involved in filing various Public Interest Litigations in the Gauhati High Court and also conducting other cases on behalf of persons with disabilities on a pro-bono basis.. During this period, some of these were listed for final hearing and disposed of by the Court. In the said PILs and other writs, favourable orders have been passed thus ensuring, protecting and upholding the rights of persons with disabilities.

OBJECTIVE III:-

ADVOCACY FOR POLICY CHANGE AND LEGISLATIONS

Means proposed: Ensuring that the Indian Disability Laws are brought into conformity with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), of which India is a signatory and taking due steps as and when required.

Activities:-

- Project officer, DLU – NE, Ms E Dey has been nominated by the Nodal Officer, Country Report, Prof Amita Dhanda, NALSAR University as a member of the Country Report Team to work in collaboration with various departments to assist in

the collection of data and relevant statistics required for preparation of the Country Report on UNCRPD. The project Officer, DLU-NE is assisting the State officials in gathering information on:-

- number of disabled persons in the north-east region on a gender-wise basis from the Census Department
- number of disabled persons registered with the Employment Exchange
- Various Schemes etc. available for persons with disabilities under the Department of Social Welfare
- Various education policies available for persons with disabilities and scholarship schemes in force for the benefit of such people.
- Government of India is working on bringing about a comprehensive law in consonance with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) and towards this end has formed various Committees and Sub-Committees for framing of the same. Mr. Arman Ali, Executive Director, Shishu Sarothi has recently attended the meeting of the Committee on drafting new legislation for Persons with disabilities as an observer. Pursuant thereto, the DLU-NE is in the process of putting forward its suggestions and effectively contributing towards the formulation of an effective legislation.
- DLU-NE team recently approached the Director of Census Operations, Assam requesting him to provide for and ensure effective training to enumerators for the second phase of census operations which is to commence from February, 2011 so that they can sensitively approach the issue and ensure collection of accurate and adequate data in respect of person with disabilities present in the State, which information is of utmost necessity in formulating any policy in this field. DLU-NE further extended its co-operation in providing training to enumerators, if so required.

OBJECTIVE IV

CENTRE FOR INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE TO STAKEHOLDERS

Means proposed: Providing information and assistance to the community on disability matters and to act as a focal point between primary stakeholders and various Govt and Non Govt authorities

Activities:

The following queries were received from various sources which were promptly dealt with and answered by the DLU-NE team.

- Information sought by one Pranjeet Chakraborty regarding bank loans available and any concessional rates applicable for persons with disabilities.
- Diganta Dutta of Guwahati wanted to know what can be done in case appointment has been denied to a person with disabilities and also whether there is any relaxation of age for pwds.
- George Abraham called from Tinsukia District in connection with provision for inheritance of immovable property on behalf of a blind man, Prabhakar, whose brothers were trying to oust him from their ancestral property. The man was advised to file a suit

in the District Civil Court and we offered him assistance of local Legal Aid Cell contact number to help him get proper aid in conducting his case in court.

- Piarun Nessa of Sonapur under Kamrup District visited DLU with a similar query regarding inheritance of her Late husband's property by her daughter who is a mentally retarded person. We have specified the relevant documents which she needs before we can proceed with litigation against her brother-in-laws who are thwarting the process of inheritance.
- Bondita Acharya of Guwahati sought information as to whether a mentally retarded son of a deceased Government employee is entitled to pension.
- Kishore Kakoti of Guwahati, who is orthopaedically disabled and who was allowed access through the office premises of an office near his residence so as to enable him to have convenient access through a shorter and better road way back in 2006 after DLU's representation, was recently stopped from plying through the said road through the office premises. Mr. Kakoti again approached us with his problem and due steps are being taken in this regard.
- Pranabjyoti Gogoi of Guwahati sought information as to whether he can claim 3% reservation under the Persons with Disabilities Act for the post of clerk-cum-record keeper in the Jorhat Medical College, Assam.

DISABILITY LAW FORUM: This is another initiative of DLU-NE consisting of persons from various fields including activists, lawyers, persons with disabilities etc. wherein the members meet periodically to discuss various issues, take concrete steps and collectively work towards achieving our common goal.

EVALUATION: Meetings are held on a monthly basis with the Executive Director of Shishu Sarothi and also on a weekly basis among the members of DLU-NE to keep a tab on targets fulfilled and works which are ear-marked to be done.

MONITORING: Six-monthly reports with detailed attachments of all relevant documents are sent to our funder, Light for the World, Austria. The Reports highlight the goals achieved in the past 6 months and those that are aimed to be fulfilled in the subsequent 6-month period. The next 6 monthly report is due in end of September, 2010.

**Diploma in Special Education – (D
SE – CP)**

The Diploma in Special Education – CP started in August 2009. This year the total no of enrolment was eleven.

The DSE-CP course (as approved by RCI) was completed within the stipulated time and the term end practical and theory exams were held in May 2010 under Manipal University, Karnataka. Mostly, students were placed in the classrooms during the morning hours where they got first hand experience in working with children with disability. In the after noon sessions, the theory classes were held.

The students were practically demonstrated how to assess children with Cerebral Palsy and identify their needs and strengths.

They have learnt to select appropriate goals and write behavioural objectives and Individual Educational Programme. Besides this, the students learnt about different types of disabilities, classroom management, activities of daily living skills, speech and language disorders and many more.

Most of the classes were conducted by the internal faculty members. External faculties were invited from I.I.C.P. and other local organizations to cover some of the topics in the syllabus.

Exposure Visit:- The students were taken to Shillong to visit some reputed institution which gave them exposure to management of different disabilities.

FC SEDE :- During 2009 – 10, the FC SEDE programmes under NEHU and RCI were held twice a year. The theory classes and practical classes were held at Shishu Sarothi as shown below :-

1 st Contact Sessions	Batch	No. of Candidates	Exams held
1 st Contact Session 10.02.09 to 19.02.09 24.02.09-05.03.09	Batch – 1 Group - A Group-B	73 candidates 14 private 40 SSA Assam 19 SSA Arunchal Pradesh	24 th May 2009
2 ND Contact Session 14.05.09-24.05.09	Group-A Group-B	73 candidates 14 private 40 SSA Assam 19 SSA Arunchal	24 th May 2009

		Pradesh	
1 st Contact Session 16.09.09-25.09.10 06.10.09-16.10.09	Batch-2 Group-A Group-B	11 SSA Assam 18 Nagaland	1 st Dec 2009
2 nd Contact Session 21.11.09-01.12.09	Group-A Group- B	11 SSA Assam 18 Nagaland	1 st Dec 2009

Most of the topics in the syllabus were covered by the internal faculty members. For some topics, external faculty members were invited from Composite Regional Centre. The candidates were I.E.D. volunteers (SSA), Resource Teacher of SSA and Elementary School Teachers from govt. as well as private schools.

B.Ed SEDE (under NEHU) :-

Only six candidate was selected for the B.Ed Course in 2009– 10.

The 1st year term end examination of this batch was held in the month of July 2010.

The 1st and the 2nd contact session was held in December 2009 and May 2009.

Previous Batch:- The students from the earlier two batches have already appeared in the 2nd year term examination and waiting for their results. The contact sessions were held thrice a year and resource persons from reputed institutions are invited to take sessions on various topics . The practical sessions are conducted at Shishu Sarothi .

New Admission:- The entrance test for the present batch is already conducted by NEHU. The results are declared and 20 students have been selected.

ZONAL COORDINATION COMMITTEE OF THE REHABILITATION COUNCIL OF INDIA

Shishu Sarothi is the Rehabilitation Council of India's Zonal Coordination Committee, a statutory body under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India, for the North East.

FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMITTEE:

- To create awareness of the activities of the RCI.
- To help and conduct where necessary inspection of recognized institutions.
- To monitor the programme of training of that state.
- To consider grievances and forward their decisions to RCI for ratification.
- To facilitate in improving the quality of training imparted to professionals in that Zone by taking some measures as approved by RCI.
- Programme Audit.
- Any other function that RCI may allocate to Committee from time to time.
- To establish liaison between state government of the Zone and RCI.
- To translate and write appropriate literature relevant to the region and to prepare such reports as RCI may request the committee to do.
- To convene seminars/symposium / workshop at different places in their zone on technical issues pertaining to the region with approval of RCI.

Outdoor Service Department

The objectives of the Outdoor Service Department (OSD) broadly are :-

- (a) Screening of children with different type of disabilities to formulate and provide suitable Home Management Programmes.**
- (b) Early Intervention in the case of High Risk Babies.**
- (c) Counseling of parents to ensure required change in their outlook and attitude towards disability and their affected children.**
- (d) Demonstration of physiotherapy techniques to facilitate proper follow up at home.**
- (e) Guidance to parents in refashioning their daily living to appropriately accommodate their affected children.**

The O.S.D. during the year 2009 – 2010 continued to receive streams of Children from different parts of the North East region. The noticeable difference has been that the children this year included a more of lower age than in previous years. This was indicative of growing popular awareness about the early intervention activities.

The total number of visitors has also increased to **686** in the previous year as compared to last years **647**. Compared to last years **647** number of visitors to the **OSD**, this year registered an increase of **39** only but the increasing trend was visible all through 365 days of the year. Out of **686** visits, **65** were aged less than a year, **169** were below 2 years. **12** children came from normal school for physiotherapy here, while **10** from the **OSD** went to special school and **11** to the mainstream school. OSD matched up to the enormity of the task as is evident from the increase of the counseling and exercise sessions by 584 from 11,923 in the previous year to **12,507**. Wider awareness among the people is borne out by reference of several cases below 1 month to the OSD. Another point which merits special mention is that as many as **142** children have become able to walk after our intervention during the year.

Our routine activities also include constant monitoring of the feeding, dressing, undressing toileting etc. of the children. Regular speech therapy and other workshops are also organized, the results of which appear quite encouraging. Doctors attend to their general medical problems regularly.

**INFORMATION CENTRE & STATE NODAL AGENCY CENTRE(SNAC) of
NATIONAL TRUST for the Welfare of persons with Autism , Cerebral Palsy,
Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities, Government of India.**

Objectives

- To give information and guidance on National Trust to all concerned stakeholders
- To carry out various prescribed programmes of the National Trust as a SNAC
 - Information and Knowledge dissemination
 - Mentoring of Projects (on request)
 - Training of Professionals to upgrade their baseline of knowledge etc.
 - Networking with other “ registered” NGOs
 - Training of Partners and Siblings about various issues including guardianship
 - Rural Awareness Programmes for activation of LLCs

SNAC activities undertaken during 1.4.2009 to 31.3.2010 are:

Sl. no	Name of the programme	Venue	Date	Beneficial
1	SNAC & SNAP meeting	Prerona, Jorhat	19-5-09	NA
2	Judicial Officer Awareness Programme*	ShishuSarothe, Guahati	30-8-09	41
3	Awareness Programme(VL)	Sarupathar, Golaghat	19-9-09	84
4	SNAC & SNAP meeting	Prerona, Jorhat	30-9-09	NA
5	Volunteer Management Training Programme*	ShishuSarothe, Guwahati	11 th to 13 th Dec'09	41
6	Awareness Programme(VL)	Beharabazaar, Silchar	5-01-10	61
7	Do	Chandrapur, Kamrup	8-01-10	61
8	Do*	Press club, Nagaon	9-01-10	39
9	Do*	Balipara, Sonitpur	27-01-10	87
10	Do*	Barpeta	8-02-10	60
11	Meeting with LLC	Prerona, Jorhat	10-02-10	18
12	SNAC & SNAP Meeting	Do	11-02-10	NA
13	Awareness Programme(VL)*	Nalbari	25-3-10	30
14	Meeting of SNAC+SNAP+ROs*	Shishu sarothi, Guwahati	27-3-10	17
15	Awareness Programme(VL)*	Topatoli, Jagiroad	30-02-10	35
16	Special School Teachers Training Programme*	Shishu Sarothi, Guwahati	29 th -31 st March'10	35

*VL- Village Level

SNAC activities undertaken during 1.4.2009 to 31.3.2010

Name of the programme	Objectives	Venue	Date	Beneficiaries
Judicial Officers Sensitization Programme	The aim of the seminar is to sensitize the District Judicial Magistrates about the various laws for Persons with Disabilities	Shishu Sarothi	30.08.09	41
Volunteer Management Training Programme	The aim of the workshop is to discuss the best practice in recruiting, managing and retaining volunteers.	Shishu Sarothi	11th to 13th December 2010	41
Meeting with LLC	To know present status of each LLC. To solve various problems faced by LLCs. Proper utilization of funds. To increase number of legal guardianship in the state.	Prerona, Jorhat	10.02.2010	18
Meeting of SNAC,SNAP and ROs	To use Samarth & Aspiration Calculators. To build network. To prepared route & selection of volunteers for BK II.	Shishu Sarothi	27.03.10	17
Special School Teachers Training Progame	To build capacity of the special school teachers in terms of assessment, functional academics, positioning.	Shishu Sarothi	29 th to 31 st March 2010	35
Awareness Programme(VL)	To sharing the information through alignment workshop. To knowing the situation, identifying the gaps n policy/ services with the solutions. To remove myths.	Golaghat, Cachar, Cahndrapur, Nagaon, Sonitpur, Barpeta, Nalbari & Topatoli	19.9.09 5.1.10 8.1.10 9.1.10 27.1.10 8.2.10 25.3.10 30.3.10	84 61 61 39 87 60 30 35