



# Annual Report

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2020-2021

SHISHU  
SAROTHI



Centre for Rehabilitation and  
Training for Multiple Disability

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*Responsive, Resilient, Resurgent*



**Shishu Sarothi Centre for Rehabilitation & Training for Multiple Disability** is a non-profit organization working in North East India since 1987 towards enabling and empowering children and persons with disabilities through a range of services that ensure their rights to equal opportunities, and full participation in society.

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## Vision

An inclusive world where all people with disabilities-children, women and men-live on equal terms with respect and dignity, enjoy their rights and fundamental freedoms and are valued as a part of the human diversity and humanity.

## Mission

To uphold and advocate for the rights of children and persons with disabilities, ensure equal opportunities, promote their inclusion and full participation in a non-discriminating barrier free society.

## Values

Shishu Sarothi holds and believes in the values of equality, sensitivity, accountability and commitment.



Mrs. Ketaki Bardalai

**2020-21** will forever be remembered as one of the most challenging years for humanity, with the deadly and disruptive pandemic. Life as we knew it underwent a dramatic change as we learnt to shift gears and adapt to the changed scenario and keep ourselves and our loved ones safe. Shishu Sarothi felt the trauma deeply as we had barely begun to emerge from earlier disruptions in December 2019 and January 2020 to complete unfinished work. The paralyzing nationwide lockdown from late March affected each one of us, as we were trapped at home, unable to go about our usual daily routines. Children with disabilities and their families couldn't avail of rehabilitation services and many families dependent on daily work, found themselves in dire situations. Our constant contact with families indicated an urgent need for initiating relief work and we distributed ration kits to 500+ families of children with disabilities and people in distress in our neighborhood with the generosity of donors, cooperation of likeminded organization and officials whom we reached out to.

We invested in training to use technology and ensure minimal disruption for the children enrolled in our services. We began online sessions both for therapy and education, and disbursed small grants to some families to help them restart their livelihoods and also distributed android devices to bridge the digital divide. These initiatives paid rich dividends with increased involvement of parents in the 'online' sessions that empowered them with knowledge and reinforced our efforts and many children achieved their term goals a lot earlier than planned. This unexpected but encouraging positive flip side to the otherwise grim situation was a great shot in the arm for us.

Although we worked from home for much of the year we ensured continuous delivery of our services. Parents and many children learnt to use zoom and other software, and together we organized online events with enthusiastic participation. Gradual easing of restrictions allowed us to resume in-person services from October while maintaining strict COVID protocols. We held programs and events in a hybrid mode – virtual and physical. We launched Phase 2 of the Indus Towers Scholarship program after considerable groundwork. The Disability Law Unit team completed a herculean task of Awareness Generation on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act on behalf of the Social Welfare Dept. of Gov of Assam by conducting district level meetings across all districts, producing IEC materials, video films, and a comprehensive one-stop-mini-website on the RPwD Act. The Early Intervention team initiated services in Dibrugarh in addition to ongoing outreach programs. We received some new funding for different projects and programs and complied with new amendments to laws relating foreign funding.

I applaud the resilience of all my colleagues, our families and friends and well-wishers who helped us build back better.

*Assessment, screening, early detection, appropriate physiotherapy, speech therapy, counselling and home management programs for infants, high risk babies and young children with delayed development milestones and disabilities.*



Early Intervention is an outdoor service offered at different locations in Guwahati and other districts of Assam, by a team of therapists and other professionals. Although the pandemic-imposed restrictions prevented physical services for much of the year we kept in constant touch with the families of enrolled children, distributed relief rations and medicines to some families and shifted to tele-rehabilitation, as therapists called and demonstrated individual therapies and counselled families over video and audio calls and zoom meetings.

2000+ Early Intervention sessions conducted across 5 locations

403 new children enrolled and 431 previously enrolled children followed up with

8 fortnightly outreach visits to Golaghat DEIC

10 weekly outreach visits were made to Goalpara Outreach Centre

1 new service initiated at Paed Dept, Assam Medical College Hospital, Dibrugarh from mid March 2021

10 children referred to Centre for Inclusive Education (CIE) in new academic term in January 2021

EI team members attended 40 webinars on different topics

2 therapists underwent trainings on Narrative Therapy and Child Development

1 Therapist is participating in creating a 'community of practice' with Umeed on Pathways and Resources for Engagement and Participation (PREP)



*Ananya, (name changed) came to the EIU at 7 months with a history of low birth weight (1.4 kg), postnatal meningitis and NICU admission, partial head control and could try to sit with hand support for few seconds. After continuous inputs and follow up by EI team, she can now walk independently, imitates simple words (“bye-bye”) and uses gestures and sounds to express herself. Now the team is focusing on improving her language and communication skills.*



*Diyan Das, came to the EIU at 3 years with a birth history of asphyxia, neonatal jaundice, low birth weight and NICU admission. He had generalized hypotonia, difficulty with fine motor activities and delayed language & communication skills. He had poor attention span and was communicating by pointing, gesticulating, and using facial expression. The team worked on his muscle tone, expressive vocabulary, tongue movement and developing his attention span and concentration. After 4 months of continuous therapy and home management, he can now hold pencils, sit in one place for 30 minutes to complete an activity for 30 minutes; has a vocabulary of 10 words and communicates with single words.*



*Harshit, had started coming to us at 7 months in 2019, with a history of preterm CS delivery, neonatal jaundice and low birth weight. Diagnosed with Down’s Syndrome, his gross motor milestones were delayed with no neck and head control, hypotonic muscle tone. He was aware of his surroundings and able to babble. With intensive therapy and stimulation inputs by us at the EIU and at home, he is now able to sit without any support and creep on his belly. He gestures to express himself – waves to say bye-bye and points to toys. He is little over 2 years old and we are working to improve his speech and language skills as well as his gross and fine motor abilities.*

*School readiness programs with all-round education to children with and without disabilities, special education for children with high support needs and vocational skill training for young adults with developmental disabilities. Promotion of inclusive education in mainstream schools, scholarship programs to facilitate access to higher education. Training programs (recognised and customised) for different stakeholders.*



500+ online sessions were held across the Centre's units during the year.

40 regular Parents Support Group sessions held for all (CIE) parents on building better resilience and tolerance to cope in Covid times. Individual and Group Counselling sessions also held.

32 new students enrolled in different units of the Centre for Education.  
 Playgroup - 20  
 Functional Unit - 5  
 Functional Academic - 2  
 Autism & ADHD - 5

Webinars were organised with IACP on Gross Motor Functioning Classification and Vision problems in CP.

26 short and long term trainings were conducted for the internal team.

15 persons given individualized tele and face to face counselling.

# Education

Despite the disruptive and paralyzing pandemic and lockdown situation the Centre for Inclusive Education (CIE) team responded with alacrity by providing rations and relief and small grants to families in dire need, to restart livelihood activities. We invest in internal training programs enabled special educators to use IT enabled platforms such as Zoom, Google Meet to conduct online sessions. Trainings on Nearpod helped them design appropriate lesson plans. Regular online classes and sessions were conducted from August 2020 and saw 70-80% attendance in sessions that covered education, therapy (physio, speech and occupational), yoga, sports, counselling, art and craft work and soft skills training. Android devices were distributed to some families to enable regular participation in online sessions. Active parent involvement resulted in marked improvement in many children's abilities and achievement of term goals. The team attended numerous long- and short-term trainings on different issues and topics. We resumed some of our face-to-face contact-based services in a staggered manner from October 2020 while maintaining strict safety protocols. We also organized events and programs, later in the year, much to the delight of the children and families. and shifted to a hybrid model of service delivery with a combination of online and physical sessions for the students from February 2021.







While many events such as Foundation Day, Teachers Day, Independence Day, Children’s Day were organized virtually and with great enthusiasm by the children, staff and families with the gradual easing of restrictions, we began to organize events and programs at the Centre while maintaining safety protocols. These included celebrating International Day for Persons with Disabilities 2020, Republic Day with the traditional flag hoisting. The children and staff played games and enjoyed their visit to the Centre after a long spell of being locked down indoors. We also organized Saraswati Puja, that was attended by many happy students and families.



Later, the Annual Inclusive Sports Day was held at the ITI field, Guwahati with the keen and eager participation of students from Shishu Sarothi and SSA schools in the neighborhood. Sri Debeswar Bora, ACS, State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities and Mrs. Malabika Das, S.C. Johnson Pvt. Ltd inaugurated the event and Sri Prasanna Bora, Inspector of Schools, Kamrup Metro and Mrs. Pearly Fariza, State Program Officer IE, SSA, Assam graced the closing ceremonies. Subsequently in March, 2021 our Sports Coaches, Kandarpa Nath and Mohan Ghosh, were invited to help conduct a series of similar inclusive sports programs at SSA schools in Kamrup (Metro) and Kamrup districts.

With the reopening of physical services, Bikiron Deka and Souvik Bhattacharjee students of our ICT Lab slowly mastered skills of working on Excel and Power point and Bikiron Deka’s unique and inspiring story of celebrating Durga Puja during the pandemic that he wrote up was featured on the International Disability Alliance website.

The Training Department had a busy year as they continued classes for the D.Ed Sp Ed (CP) students in the offline mode for part of the year and later resumed physical face to face sessions and were involved in conducting a series of online trainings for in-house teams revisiting a range of special education related topics.



# Education

The Indus Towers (formerly Bharti Infratel) Scholarship Program (ITSP) supporting higher education of students with disabilities from all the 8 North Eastern states with CSR support from Indus Towers Limited disbursed Rs. 1,76,799/- towards the scholarship fees of the 33 students still pursuing their studies from Phase I (2016-2022) that covered a total of 196 students taking the total Phase I scholarship disbursement to Rs. 87.7 lakhs. Phase II of the ITSP was launched in July 2020, after considerable groundwork involving creation of an online portal for ease of application and streamlining selection and fund disbursement processes for the 600 students with disabilities from NE India and beyond over 5 years (120 student annually), to follow their dreams of higher education. 120 scholars were selected through a transparent point-based system from a resounding 453 applications and they were formally awarded scholarships amounting to Rs. 13.46 lakhs at Award and Induction programs held in all states in collaboration with State Partner Organisations (SPOs) who facilitated the process of soliciting local applications and mentoring the monitoring the scholars.



Students from partner SSA schools participated in virtual events - Talent Hunt, Earth Day, Sign Language National Anthem video creation.

Teachers and SMC members marked World Environment Day by planting trees.

IDPD was celebrated with great enthusiasm in Dec 2020 in Karbi Anglong along with SSA, DIET and DSWO officials at Jirsong Asong.

Although the programs on Inclusive Education - Regional Action on Inclusive Education Assam - (RAISE-NE) and the expanded project for improving the quality of Inclusive Education in SSA school clusters in Kamrup (M) and Karbi Anglong, were adversely impacted by the pandemic as schools were shut down, sincere efforts were made to find alternative ways to work with children. Considerable work was done in the communities in Karbi Anglong by the Key Teachers (KT) there in collaboration with schoolteachers and community members to ensure that children's education was not disrupted. The KT's made home visits, wherever possible, to help students with their studies. They also sensitized communities on safety protocol to be followed during the pandemic. Online trainings of teachers and resource persons were also conducted in collaboration with SSA. The key teachers worked in collaboration with local teachers and community leaders to set up:

- > Training programs on Child Rights, Child Protection and Disability Rights, Disaster Management were held for all stakeholders with help of our own and invited experts.
- > Relief work was undertaken to respond to Covid crisis by team members who distributed dry rations, hygiene kits and stationery to families and children with disabilities in Kamrup (M) and Karbi Anglong districts.



Health camps, Inclusive Indigenous sports events, International Day for Persons with Disabilities (IDPD) celebrations were organized for the school children with the help of local authorities.

Children from the Karbi Anglong schools were taken on an exposure trip to recreational park to learn about medicinal plants, animals and endangered birds and refresh their minds from the stress of the pandemic.

Team members were regularly invited by SSA, Assam as Resource Persons for training of IE functionaries, Parents Associations, Teachers and Heads of schools.

# Education

With support from Sense International India, the Deafblind Resource Centre for NE (DbRC) and the SPARSH program provided comprehensive centre, home and community-based services across the life span of persons with Deafblindness and Multisensory Impairment. Apart from intensive relief distribution and follow up with the families, every effort was made to ensure minimal disruption of services during the pandemic related lockdown and numerous activities & programs were held for students and families, both online and physically. The team held bi-monthly meetings with families and held regular video classes with the children/students.



14 families received INR 5000/- each and 1 adult got INR 6000/- for medicinal support too.

10 students were provided Medical and Nutrition assistance.

146 Dry Ration kits were provided to all the families in successive rounds of relief distribution.

4 of 12 children completed clinical assessments.

13 families availed a Mushroom Cultivation Training program.

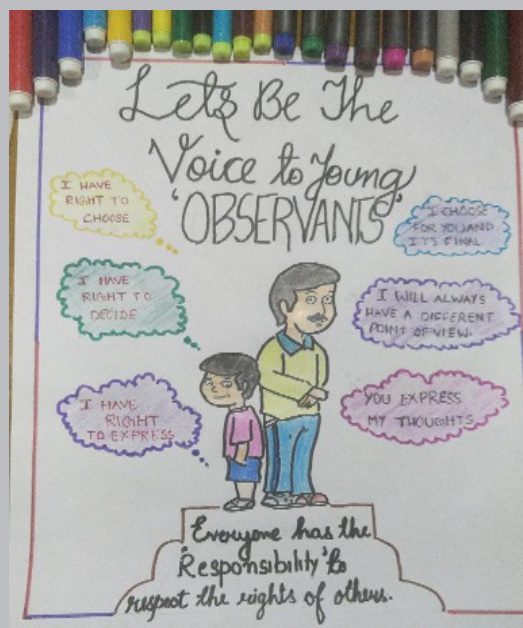
6 students were given assistive devices – smart canes, magnifiers and glasses.

The team attended more than 20 webinars conducted by SII and other NGOs.

In January, 2021 renowned photographer Vicky Roy visited and took photographs of Gobindo Majumdar to showcase abilities rather than disabilities for the India Inclusion Summit campaign #EveryoneisGoodatSomething

The English Access Micro-scholarship Program is a unique program to teach English language skills to an inclusive group of 30+ bright young adolescents from difficult and disadvantaged backgrounds in innovative hands-on ways over weekend sessions. During the year this program also shifted to online activities and gave the students wide ranging opportunities to learn, meet and interact with other Access scholars from different countries and win many accolades and recognition for their efforts and participation.

The students represented world diplomats and tried solving real world issues during an academic simulation of the United Nations Sessions in February. Sanghamitra Nandi Mazumdar an Access Guwahati student along with others participated in the Puttalam Youth Model United Nation 2020. Although the youngest participant she successfully represented Mexico as a delegate in a Commission on the Status of Women!



The students marked World Human Rights Day in 2020 with designing of posters and infographics.

The students surprised their teachers by creating a beautiful and informative video on the Harvest festival of India (Pongal, Lohri, Bihu, Sankranti) on their own.

Christmas celebrations were held with great enthusiasm.

*Awareness and advocacy to uphold and protect rights of persons with disabilities through legal literacy, legal counsel and litigation support to redress grievances*

The Disability Law Unit - North East (DLU-NE) implements this thematic area through a range of programs and activities. A major part of the work during the year included implementing a Govt of Assam sponsored Awareness Generation Program for rights holders and duty bearers across the entire state. Due to the pandemic related restrictions planned meetings had to be rescheduled to the later part of the year. 19 District Level Awareness Programmes in collaboration with the Social Welfare Dept, Govt of Assam, on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 were conducted at, Nalbari, Darrang, Bongaigaon, Barpeta, Morigaon, Biswanath, Dibrugarh, Tinsukia, Sivasagar, Kamrup, Dhubri, Karbi Anglong, Karimganj, Cachar, Udalguri, Baksa, Kokrajhar, Chirang and Kamrup (Metro) districts, to create awareness among district administration officials and NGOs, persons with disabilities and their families.

IEC materials were printed on a range of topics including the Harmonised Guidelines - Standard of Accessibility for Built- Environment, Disability Certificate and UDID Card processes, Early Intervention, different disabilities (Cerebral Palsy, Intellectual Disability, Autism and Deafblindness) in English.

A series of short videos and radio jingles on Accessibility and Attitudinal barriers, were produced featuring renowned actor Adil Hussain, and these were broadcast over radio, television and social media to create public awareness.



The DLU team facilitated dissemination of critical information relating to the pandemic, redressed legal issues of people with disabilities, supported the ASDMA and distributed relief materials to 52 families of persons with disabilities facing economic distress during the lockdown.

180 State disabled People's Organization (DPO) leaders of Meghalaya, Mizoram and Assam and Women with Disabilities (WwDs) participated in online capacity building trainings and focused group discussions (FGDs) of rights and challenges of PwDs.



4427 stakeholders were reached through awareness programs on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 conducted across 19 districts of Assam.

DLU team conducted and participated in over 20 webinars on different aspects of rights of persons with disabilities, trainings and focused group discussions (FGDs) of rights and challenges of PwDs.

313 voters with disabilities participated in awareness meetings on Systematic Voters Education and Electoral Participation in Tinsukia and Kamrup district, conducted in collaboration with District Election Offices.

The Retail Management Training program carried out online training for a 3rd batch from 14th December, 2020, followed by an Induction Program for 13 Students and Parents. This training program follows a curriculum drawn up by TRRAIN and includes theory sessions as well as practical exposure to store management work. On the job training certificates were provided to the 1st batch of trainees by Big Bazar.



Horeram Deka a student of 2nd batch got a part time job as a Swiggy delivery boy and is hopeful of getting better job opportunities with his retail management training.

During the year our **communication** efforts kept up the momentum of creating awareness through press releases, web blogs and social media posts to regularly announce, report and reflect on ongoing work, events and programs. We updated our social media sites regularly and included impact stories and other issues relating to the effect of the pandemic on the lives of children with disabilities and our responses to the situation.

Our **Fundraising** activities involved preparing donation appeal posters, approaching donors and well-wishers for untied donations and sponsorships. We wrote and submitted numerous reports and proposals to seek support and renew grants for our work in Early Intervention and Education. Some proposals were successfully converted into new grants, while some grants were renewed and extended.



Momi Devi another trainee of 2nd batch got placement at Vishal MegaMart in Paltan Bazar, Guwahati, where she is a Retail Associate working in the Ladies Garments section.





# What visitors had to say

# 07

*“It was a pleasurable experience at Shishu Sarothi. The work done here is commendable and inspiring. I hope I can contribute as much as possible to the betterment of these souls. Keep up the zeal!”*

Dr. Chayanika Choudhury from Guwahati Medical College & Hospital.

*“It was an unforgettable experience being here. Hoping to visit Shishu Sarothi soon in near future. Keep up with the good work!”*

Dr Priyam Sharma, FAAMCH, Barpeta.

*“Honoured to see and understand the valuable work of Shishu Sarothi, to attend the community across the Northeast, supporting advocacy and rights of the disabled. Best wishes to all the staff and partners.”*

Daniel Sim, Deputy Consultant General, Australian Consulate General, Kolkata.

*“Being here was really a great experience for all of us. Thankyou for allowing us to organise a workshop for the adorable children here. Thankyou!”*

Imaginary Canvas, Maligaon Guwahati.

*“It was an experience that we all cherish and remember for a long time. The team is doing such wonderful things. We are honoured to be in some way contributing to the effort. We wish you all the best and hope to be associated with the organization in coming years.”*

Geetima Das Krishna, President, Prerana Club, IAS Colony.

*“On a familiarization visit to Shishu Sarothi. A very professional intervention. I am impressed with your work! Please keep up the good work. Many Happy Landings!”*

Air Marshal AK Gogoi, Member NEC, Shillong.



# What parents had to say 08

Respected Teachers,

First, we would like to show our gratitude for doing the online classes. To be honest, I wasn't ready for online classes. As far as I knew, the online class for the primary school students were not successful, I was having doubts on how successful the online class would be for a child with disabilities. However, today I, feel very happy as I'm getting more than what I expected from the teachers. You all have used different techniques and strategies through online class and have improve our children. For this I am so thankful, and I owe you all for this. It is worth mentioning that the techniques and strategies which you have adopted to teach our children have not only made us strong but it has also inculcated confidence and determination in us that our child will succeed in all round development.

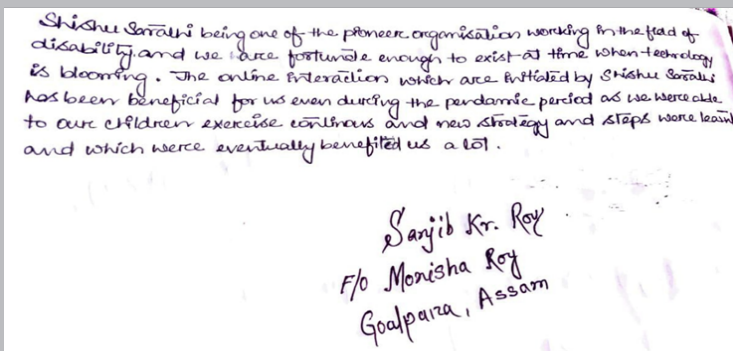
Ajit Karmakar father of Urvi Karmakar, student of the ASD Unit

Ruhina didn't have the chance to come to the Centre, as lockdown began right after taking admission. However, while taking online classes we find that, she has improved a lot. Now Ruhina has started to respond and follow instructions. If regular online classes continues then we are hopeful that Ruhina will improved a lot. Thank You.

Sajida Akhtar, mother of Ruhina, student of ASD Unit

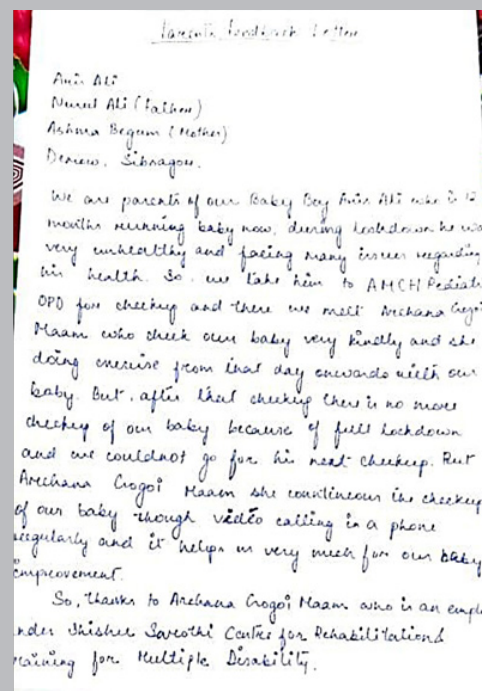
Riya has enrolled in the Early Intervention Unit of Dibrugarh AMCH under Shishu Sarothi for continued therapy for 1 month. Due to pandemic situation, they have initiated online classes with Riya where she learnt how to sit and stand properly, and also carry out her basic necessities like dressing, playing etc. Along with the Physiotherapy service we have also been continuing with the Speech therapy and special education sessions in online mode. Before going to AMCH, we have visited many places for therapy, but it is much satisfying being enrolled to Shishu Sarothi. Now, Riya has been enrolled to Shishu Sarothi's Play Group Unit with distance mode education and is continuing her classes.

Ghana Shyam Phukan (Parent)



Shishu Sarothi being one of the pioneer organisation working in the field of disability and we are fortunate enough to exist at time when technology is blooming. The online interaction which are initiated by Shishu Sarothi has been beneficial for us even during the pandemic period as we were able to our children exercise consistently and new strategy and steps were learnt and which were eventually benefited us a lot.

Sarajib Kr. Roy  
F/o Monisha Roy  
Goalpara, Assam



Parents Feedback Letter

Anis Ali  
Nurul Ali (Father)  
Ashma Begum (Mother)  
Dumrao, Sibsagar.

We are parents of our baby boy Anis Ali who is 12 months running baby now. During lockdown he was very unhealthily and facing many issues regarding his health. So, we take him to AMCH Pediatric OPD for checkup and there we meet Archana Gogoi Maam who check our baby very kindly and she doing exercise from that day onwards with our baby. But, after that checkup there is no more checkup of our baby because of full lockdown and we couldn't go for his next checkup. But Archana Gogoi Maam she continues her checkup of our baby through video calling in a phone regularly and it helps us very much for our baby improvement.

So, thanks to Archana Gogoi Maam who is an employee under Shishu Sarothi Center for Rehabilitation and training for Multiple Disability.

Thank you Donors!!!

We are ever grateful to all the donors and funders who supported us in our work

## Individuals

Gitali Rabha	Karishma Kashyap	Shibani M Menezes
Ranjit Kumar Dutta	Banani Saikia	Bijoy Kr Baruah
Ashim Baruah	Basudev Giri	Dr Nerupa Jodhani
Abhayananda Medhi	Bidyut Baniya	Venkat Tadanki
Nabin Pradhan	Subham Bhartia	Anju Maheswari
Abhijeet Hazarika	Ankit Agarwal	Anahita Kunwar
Abida Rehman	Ramphal Choudhury	Sriram Srinivasan
Suchinata Hazarika	Rini Jangid	Sanjiv Chadha
Arati Devi	Lakhyajit Gogoi	Reena Banerji
Arabinda Das	Ankit Arora	Pauzagin Tonsing
Ashif Lyngdoh	Kavita Patwary	Simi Arun Pandeya
Bharati Dhakal	Radha Kalyan Sunda	Dr. Janarkan Medhi
Bharat Gini	Susnigdha Bhowmick	Priyanka Chetri
Debraj Bonora	Somdipan Chanda	Uma Shankar Agarwalla
Dipankar Kalita	Bikash Karmakar	Sarat Barkakati
Hrishikesh Baishya	Vishwanath M Sowani	Kukil Barkakati
Kabita Puri	Mona Mehra	Sarla Jain

## Institutions, Corporates, Trusts and Foundations:

MK Enterprise	Women's Fund Asia
Kasturi Sweets	Assam Hospitals Limited
Sohum Emporia	Azim Premji Philanthropic Initiative
Raja Mircha	Numaligarh Refinery Ltd
Rasa	Sense International India
Dulal Art Press	Light for the World International
Chetna Ladies Club	US Consulate
Nezone Foundation	Human Capability Foundation
Nasscom Foundation	Paul Hamlyn Foundation
SC Johnson Ltd	Late Sarat Chandra Kagti Trust
Perfect Polymers	Seth Biswanath Goenka Charitable Trust
Indus Towers Limited	Society for Empowerment and Service Australia (SESTAA)
Omidyar Network India	

## Institutes deputing students for internship

Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences, Germany  
NERIM Group of Institutions  
Assam Women's University, Jorhat  
Royal Global University, Guwahati  
Assam Don Bosco University, Guwahati  
Delhi University  
Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai

## Awareness programme on RPWD Act held

CITY CORRESPONDENT

GUWAHATI, March 9: A district-level awareness programme on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 (RPWD Act) for Kamrup (Metro) district was organised today by the Social Welfare Department, Government of Assam in collaboration with Shishu Sarothi and the office of the Deputy Commissioner, Kamrup (Metro) at the Sri Sri Madhobdev International Auditorium, Srimanta Sankaradeva Kalakshetra here.

The programme, attended by over 200 participants, was the culmination of the 'Awareness Generation Programme on Disability and the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016' – an awareness initiative of the Social Welfare Department as a mandate

under Section 39 of the RPWD Act to create awareness among duty bearers, persons with disabilities and other stakeholders.

The awareness programme began back in August, 2019 with a State-level meeting with the highest officials of the relevant departments and was followed by a series of five zonal and 25 district-level programmes.

Mukesh Sahu, Principal Secretary and Commissioner, Social Welfare Department, Debeswar Borah, Assam State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities; Madhusudan Nath, Additional Director, Social Welfare and Debojyoti Borah, District Social Welfare Officer, Kamrup (Metro) were the officials present on the occasion.

Kezaki Bardoi, Executive Director, Shishu Sarothi said

that the RPWD Act is a game changing law ushering in a paradigm shift to the rights perspective and that while the Social Welfare Department plays a crucial role in taking affirmative action, the onus lies with other key departments of the government to enable and empower persons with disabilities by ensuring access to various rights including health, education and employment.

Some major concerns and challenges faced by people with disabilities were also shared by Niranjani Kalita, working president of All Assam Disabled Persons' Association and Nripen Malakar, secretary, Pratilambini Saraksha Sangstha, Assam. They highlighted the concerns and the unmet problems faced by people with disabilities in getting their

disability certificates and pensions, how there is negligible reservations for them in major poverty alleviation programmes, like Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana and how access to basic education was still a distant dream for most children with disabilities.

Mukesh Sahu called upon government officials to diligently implement their duties as envisaged under the RPWD Act. He also mentioned that there is the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities who is dedicatedly in charge of supervision of the implementation of the Act and encouraged everyone to file complaints and grievances with his office, so that action can be taken as per the provisions of the law. He launched the website <https://ipwds.shishusarothi.org/> developed by Shishu Sarothi

on the RPWD Act as a part of the awareness generation programme.

The website provides information on the Act, its rules, notifications and circulars and also contains a host of IEC materials, awareness videos and so on developed under the programme. He urged all about the need for increasing registrations under the UDID programme so that proper data is generated on disability in the state and appropriate interventions can be taken up.

Amvalika Senapati, Deputy Director, Advocacy, Shishu Sarothi mentioned a key challenge faced by disabled people across different districts of the state, in their Aadhaar enrolment and/or UDID (Unique Disability ID Card) registration with regard to recording of biometrics data due to their disabilities.

## Awareness on Disabilities and the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 held

Diphu, January 22: A district level awareness programme on Disabilities and the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 for representatives of ASHA, ANM, CDPOs, AWWs was held at Arboretum and Craft Center, Matipung, Diphu on Thursday. A day long awareness programme was organised by Social Welfare Department, Govt. of Assam in collaboration with Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council (KAAC) and Shishu Sarothi, Guwahati. The programme started with a welcome address by District Social Welfare Officer Helen Terangi and the inaugural speech was delivered by KAAC, Secretary



Si-im Taro. In his inaugural speech Taro mentioned that there are 20 thousand disabilities persons in the District. He also stressed on the importance of UDID cards and disability certificates. He also appreciated the District Social Welfare Department (DSWD) for organising the programme. Meanwhile, Amvalika

Senapati, Deputy Director Advocacy, Disabilities Law Unit, Shishu Sarothi has explained the rights of persons with disabilities Act, 2016. She further urged all the line departments of Karbi Anglong to educate and awareness on disabilities and the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 amongst

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## Shishu Sarothi scholarships for 120 special students announced

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Aug 11: Shishu Sarothi in partnership with Bharti Infratel Ltd, has announced the 2020-21 BISP scholarships to be awarded to 120 deserving students with disabilities.

This programme is available for students from North East India who wish to pursue higher education in academic and professional courses at levels ranging from higher secondary to post-graduation. The scholarship is also offered to students with disabilities from other states of India studying in colleges/educational institutions/universities located in the North East. The scholarship programme provides financial support to the scholars to cover educational expenses/fees paid till the completion of their

courses, a press release said. Additionally, some deserving students will be provided support for specific requirements of study materials, assistive equipment and devices, conveyance allowance and hostel fees to facilitate and motivate them to complete the course of study.

A total of 120 students will be selected in 2020-21 and supported till completion of their course. Shishu Sarothi has partnered with local organisations across the eight north-eastern states for dissemination, application of support to candidates and monitoring and mentoring of selected students locally.

Bharti Infratel Scholarship Programme (BISP) is a CSR initiative of Bharti Infratel Ltd launched in 2016 with the objective of promoting inclusion in the education and pro-

fessional mainstream. Commencing in 2020-21, Phase II of the programme aims to reach 600 students over a period of five years. Phase I of this programme has already helped 196 students from across the North East to pursue higher education with the funding support amounting to more than Rs 50 lakh in five years.

Additionally, career counselling sessions, job preparedness, internship and rights awareness programmes are conducted for the scholars in each state, to motivate and inspire them in their educational pursuits and journey of economic empowerment.

Online and offline applications for the 2020-21 session commenced on August 10. The details about the scholarship are available at [bisp.shishusarothi.org/](https://bisp.shishusarothi.org/).

## Online content launched to raise awareness on disability rights

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Sept 11: Social Welfare Minister Pramila Rani Brahma today launched an online content to spread awareness about the rights of the differently able persons.

The digital content has been developed by Shishu Sarothi for wider dissemination on online platforms.

The State Social Welfare Department, in collaboration with Shishu Sarothi, has taken up a programme for awareness generation on disability and the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPWD) Act, 2016, as mandated by Section 39 of the Act.

The Act mandates the State to encourage, support

and promote awareness campaigns and sensitization programmes to ensure the rights of persons with disabilities as provided under the Act.

Since the enactment of the RPWD Act, this is the first such awareness initiative taken up by any state government on such a large scale. The short videos developed by the disability rights organisation lucidly explain the rights of persons with disabilities and the means to secure the same.

Talking to *The Assam Tribune*, the Minister said that due to its fast dissemination as well as wider reach among the masses, digital content on disability rights is the need of the

hour. "Both differently able members of society as well as others need to know about the rights of persons with disabilities, to stop any rights violation. Digital media, micro blogging sites, etc, would ensure that the short messages reach a large number of people within a short time. We would take similar initiatives in the future to sensitize government departments, private organisations, etc, so that the entire society develops a sensitive approach towards *divyangyan*," she said.

On the issue of backlog of posts meant for the differently able persons, she said there was a backlog of almost 4,400 such posts. "Recently, we have filled up some of the

grade III posts and we are planning to fill up the grade IV posts towards the end of this month," she added.

The awareness videos highlighted two key provisions in the Act – the need for accessible and barrier-free environment for persons with disabilities and the right to non-discrimination on the ground of disability. Maintaining the social distancing protocol, the videos were launched on an online platform and also shared through Facebook.

The RPWD Act is a powerful tool to protect and uphold the rights of persons with disabilities. These awareness videos endeavour to spread the message of the law far and wide at the grassroots.

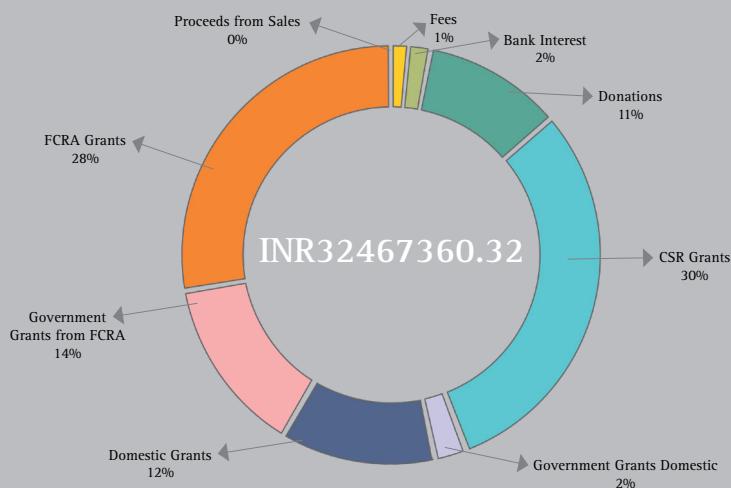
# Financial Report



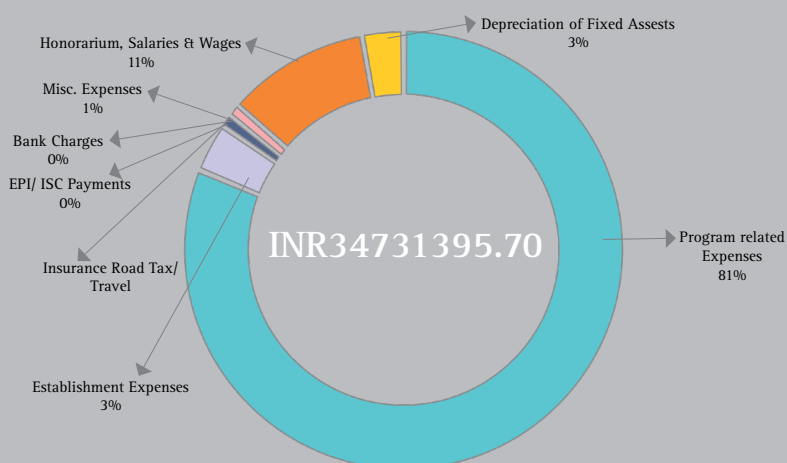
Balance Sheet	As on 31st March 2021	%
Source of Funds		
General Funds	31958017	87
Current Liabilities	4846392	13
<b>Total</b>	<b>36804409</b>	
Application of Funds		
Fixed Assets	8991862	24
Investments	13207564	36
Cash and bank balances	14604983	40
<b>Total</b>	<b>36804409</b>	

Income and Expenditure	As on 31st March 2021	%
Income		
Fees	388603.79	1
General Donations	3523765	11
Sales Proceeds	52771	0
Interest	547366	2
CSR Grants	9832568	30
Govt. Grants	5178335	16
Grants from Foundations INGOs	12943951.53	40
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>32467360.32</b>	
Excess of Expenditure over Income	<b>2264035.35</b>	
Expenditure		
Program Expenses	28166657.40	81
Administrative Expenses	1268411	4
Insurance/ Road Taxes/ Travel	271539	1
Bank Charges	20753.46	0
Statutory contributions EPF/ ESIC	65155	0
Miscellaneous	263528.38	1
Honrm + Salaries/ Wages	3737549	11
Depriciation of Fixed Assets	937802.33	3
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>34731395.70</b>	

Funds received in year 2020 - 2021



Funds spent in year 2020 - 2021



\* Detailed Audited Accounts available on request.

# Governing Body Members

# 12

	Name	Designation	Occupation	Address	Contact
1	Dr Aswini Kumar Baruwa	Chairperson	Academic Council Member, Assam Science & Technology University, Guwahati	Geetali Path, Zoo Narengi Road, Noonmati, Guwahati - 20	9954862236
2	Mr. Satyamrit Kagti	Vice-Chairperson	Director, Luit Valley Company (P) Ltd., Assam Hospitals Ltd., Goodwill Tea Warehouse	C K Agarwala Road, Ambari, Guwahati - 1	9864039965
3	Mrs. Kavita Patwari	Joint Treasurer	Parent / Home Maker	Patson Travels, Ganeshguri, Guwahati - 5	9435022286
4	Mrs. Mira Kagti	Joint Treasurer	Founder Member & Former Director Shishu Sarothi	Hem Chandra Road, Uzan Bazaar, Guwahati - 1	9864013192
5	Dr. Harsha Bhattacharjee	Member	Ophthalmologist & Medical Director- Shankardev Netralaya Guwahati	Director, Shankardev Netralaya, Beltola, Near Lakshmi Mandir, Guwahati	9435140999
6	Mr. Subhash Das, Retd. IAS	Member	Governing Council Member, Assam Don Bosco University	25 Jyoti Path, (11th Bye Lane), Lakhinagar, Hatigoan, Guwahati - 38	9954944044
7	Mrs. Urmila Barua	Member	HR Consultant	1A5 Roodali Apartments Hatigarh Chariali, Mother Teresa Road, Guwahati - 24	8876536439
8	Mrs. Madhu Goenka	Member	Director-Industrial Farm & Equipments	C/O Goenka Automobiles G.S. Road, Guwhati - 6	9954099949
9	Mr. Arman Ali	Member	Executive Director NCEPDP, Former Executive Director, Shishu Sarothi	House No-4, 3rd Bye Lane, Natun Sarania, Gandhibasti Guwahati - 3	9864102555

Name of the Organization	Shishu Sarothi Centre for Rehabilitation & Training for Multiple Disability
Official Address	Off. Ramkrishna Mission Road, Birubari, Guwahati-781016, Kamrup, Assam
Date of Establishment	1st of May, 1987
Executive Director	Mrs. Ketaki Bardalai
Chairman of the Board	Dr. Ashwini Kumar Baruwa
Telephone (Mobile)	9207049810, 6000625669
Email	shishusarothi@gmail.com; contactus@shishusarothi.org
Social Media	www.facebook.com/shishusarothi; www.twitter.com/shishusarothi

## Legal Compliance information

3469 of 1987-1988 dated 09.03.1988 under the Societies Registration Act, 1860

U/S 50 of The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2016.

Registration number for 12A, date & validity: - 708/12A/CA/87-88 dated 17.10.1988

Organization's IT PAN number: - AALAS0979G

TAN (Tax Deduction at Source Account Number): - SHLS02682B

FCRA registration number and date: - 020780030 dated 26.03.1992



SHISHU  
SAROTHI



## Centre for Rehabilitation and Training for Multiple Disability

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Off Ramkrishna Mission Road, Birubari  
Guwahati - 781016 | Assam  
🌐 [www.shishusarothi.org](http://www.shishusarothi.org)  
✉ [shishusarothi@gmail.com](mailto:shishusarothi@gmail.com)