

**Annual  
Activity  
Report**

**2021  
2022**

**SHISHU  
SAROTHI**



**Centre for Rehabilitation &  
Training for Multiple Disability**

***Remaining  
Resilient  
and  
Responsive***





# About Us

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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.

## 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.



As I look back over yet another eventful year of 2021-2022, it would be important to mention that we steered our course through the successive waves of the pandemic and remained resilient through all the challenges that came our way in the year.

The 2nd wave of the pandemic hit us just as we were beginning to resume regular services. We responded by launching a helpline to answer questions and queries from different callers as well as our parents. We distributed health and hygiene kits to the children and were able to swiftly switch to online delivery of education and therapy related services. Our efforts were rewarded with enthusiasm from the families and children availing our services, many went out of their way to ensure they did not miss their sessions, sometimes borrowing data packs and android phones from friends and neighbours. We conducted a series of webinars on a range of issues and topics ourselves and also built our own understanding of issues by attending a series of relevant trainings.

During the year, our Early Intervention services initiated at the Paediatrics Department OPD of AMCH Dibrugarh, picked up pace and we were also able to start a monthly outreach program at the District Early Intervention Centre premises in Sibsagar with active encouragement of the Civil Hospital's Superintendent. This along with our ongoing fortnightly visits to Golaghat, helped us to establish a footprint in Upper Assam. Despite the difficulties imposed by the pandemic, we enrolled 760 children and followed up actively with over 1000+ previously enrolled children at all the different locations. Efforts were made to converge with NHM's RBSK programs through block level awareness programs.

The Education related activities saw a renewed vigour with a focus on children with high support needs and enhancing inhouse inclusive education activities as well as the deepening the ongoing engagement with SSA schools in Kamrup (M) and Karbi Anglong districts. This was also documented in a moving video film - My Walk to School. The Scholarship program supported a second cohort of 147 students with disabilities from across NE India. The Deafblind Resource Centre and Sparsh program for the Deafblind had an intense year with several online and offline activities, visits to other organisations, networking meetings and sensitisation programs to create a cadre of self advocates among adults and parents.

Numerous awareness and training programs were conducted, attended and resourced by the Disability Law Unit team. A regional consultation in collaboration with NCPEDP considered the VNR Report from the perspective of disability rights. A research study was also initiated by the team to assess the reach of schemes for persons with disabilities.

All in all, it was a hectic and eventful year that kept the teams constantly on their toes as we navigated our way through the challenges of the times and demonstrated our resilience and responsiveness to emerging ground realities. Needless to say it would not have been possible without the generous support from our funders and wellwishers, the enthusiasm of colleagues and engagement of families, persons with disabilities and other stakeholders.

Thank you.  
Ketaki Bardalai

**Early Intervention** services are provided by Shishu Sarothi across several locations through direct and outreach programs. This outdoor mode of service involves screening and assessment, counselling and providing therapy inputs across all developmental domains along with a home management program, to families of children with disabilities, who are tracked and monitored and followed up over subsequent visits.

## During the year

- ▶ **1642 calls** were made by the Early Intervention team to follow up with families of enrolled children for therapeutic inputs during the pandemic times when physical sessions were not possible
- ▶ **3404 online + offline telerehabilitation sessions** were held to continue the individualized support for physio, speech therapy, counselling, and special education.
- ▶ **760** new children were enrolled at the Early Intervention centers across different locations and **593** previously enrolled **children were followed up** with over **2425 sessions**.
- ▶ **EI services** at Paediatrics OPD of Assam Medical College Hospital, **Dibrugarh** picked up momentum from October 2021 to **enrol 200+ children**. Outreach services were **initiated at Sibsagar** at the District Early Intervention Centre in February 2022.
- ▶ **An online program for Parents** was held on Zoom to discuss “Disability certification and the UDID process” with resource support from the DLU in October 2021 and later in February in person meetings discussed issues of concern from the COVID imposed isolation of children, specifically relating to communication problems.
- ▶ **A Free Play and Stimulation Program** was held in March 2022 for the children enrolled in the EI services.
- ▶ The Early Intervention team coordinated the first-ever workshop in NE India on **ARISE Standing Wheelchair** conducted by TTK Center for Rehabilitation Research and Device Development (R2D2) of IIT Madras in November 2022.
- ▶ **Awareness programs on Early Intervention** were conducted in collaboration with RBSK at **Lahowal Block** in February '22 for **117 ASHA workers** and in March at **Panitola Block for 29 CHO and ANMs**.





**Education Services** include a wide range of programs - from school readiness, to inclusive education, to special education to vocational education to scholarships + training of human resources.

### CENTRE FOR INCLUSIVE EDUCATION (CIE)

Supported by a grant from Azim Premji Foundation, the Centre for Inclusive Education is aimed to

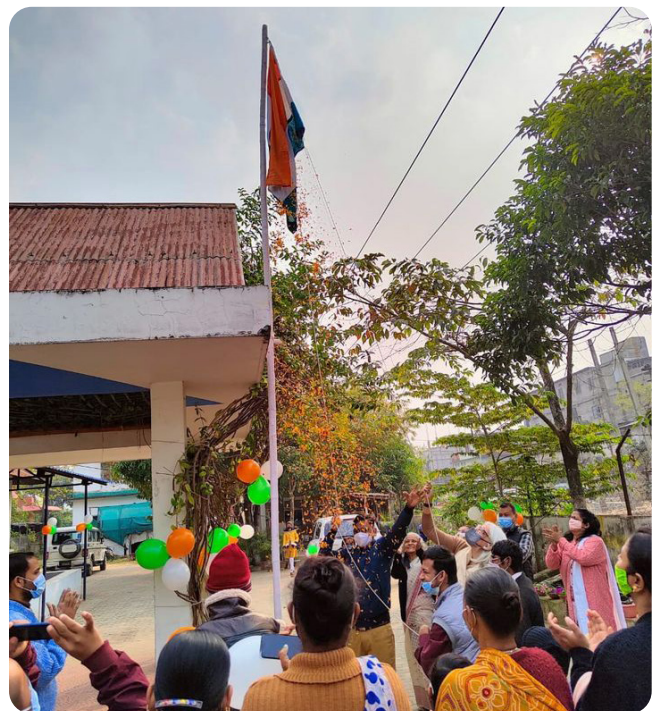
- ▶ Promote inclusive education in-house by strengthening the reverse inclusive playgroup and extending it to pre-primary kindergarten classes; Sensitising mainstream schools and providing follow-up support
- ▶ Empower and support parents through trainings, meetings, and information dissemination activities
- ▶ Provide holistic centre and home-based services for students with high support needs
- ▶ Document and study the impact and effect of initiatives on learning

During the year **1647 online + offline teaching sessions** were held by the teachers and special educators to ensure minimal disruption of learning during the difficult days of the pandemic that included curricular and co-curricular activities as well as assessments, and **202 therapy sessions** by the therapists and **57 counselling sessions** were held for parents **108 visits** were made to the homes of children with high support needs.



## EVENTS AND PROGRAMS:

- ▶ **Independence Day** was celebrated in August with flag hoisting and distribution of **6 wheelchairs** to students along with a virtual function for **80 participants** including family, alumni, and colleagues.
- ▶ **20** of our alumni came along to meet and get together at an **Alumni meet** in September
- ▶ **World Cerebral Palsy Day** was celebrated in October, both virtually and physically with games and a quiz competition with our students.
- ▶ **Children's Day** was also celebrated both physically and virtually in November
- ▶ **A Community Sensitization Program** in Birubari was held among local community members to reiterate the importance of inclusion of persons with disabilities in the community
- ▶ **International Day for Persons with Disabilities** (IDPD) was celebrated on 3rd December with an inclusive sports program in collaboration with Samagra Shiksha Abhijan and a Radio Talk (Radio Mirchi) by our alumni who spoke on the theme of 'Leadership and participation of persons with disabilities' towards an inclusive, accessible and sustainable post Covid-19 world
- ▶ **6** students along with staff went to North Bengal in December, for a **4-day Nature and Adventure Camp** organised by the Siliguri Himalayan Nature and Adventure Foundation
- ▶ The **Annual Inclusive Sports program** was held in collaboration with SSA in March





## TRAINING

The Training wing of Shishu Sarothi conducts formal RCI approved training courses as well as customised training programs on different aspects of disability rehabilitation.

### During the year the following activities were carried out

- ▶ Launch of the 1st batch of the **Community Based Inclusive Development (CBID)** course in October with **29 students**
- ▶ **12 webinars** were conducted by inhouse resource persons on a range of topics and attended by **1290 participants. The Webinar Topics were as under :**  
Child Rights & Principles | Infant Stimulation | Self Care | Education Rights of Children with Disabilities | Play – an integral part of a child’s development | Management of Adolescence | Disaster and Persons with Disabilities | Early Intervention and Early Identification | Teaching children with disabilities in pandemic times | Understanding the basics of accessibility per persons with disabilities | Activities of Daily Living | A Practical Approach to the Management of Sensory Issues
- ▶ **4-day online training on Universal Design of Learning (UDL)** for teachers from Swabhimaan, an NGO based in Odisha
- ▶ An intensive and rigorous day-long training on **Social Role Valorization (SRV)**, conducted by Keystone Institute India in March for 25 colleagues, students from TISS Guwahati campus, and staff members from Bethany Society.

## SCHOLARSHIP

The **Indus Towers** (formerly Bharti Infratel Ltd) Scholarship Program launched in 2016, in collaboration with Shishu Sarothi and Indus Towers Limited has supported **464 scholars** with disabilities so far to pursue higher education ([www.ssscholarship.org](http://www.ssscholarship.org)).

### During the year

- ▶ **148 scholars (Students with Disabilities)** were selected from 8 North-East States (Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura) for the 21-22 academic session and Scholarship Award Ceremonies and Induction sessions were held in all eight states to felicitate the scholars with scholarship certificates
- ▶ **Scholarships** amounting to **Rs. 40,86,197.67/-** were distributed to the scholars
- ▶ **45+ students** were also provided **additional assistance** worth **Rs.17,18,557/-** for Assistive Devices/ Conveyance/ Hostel and Study Materials, based on specific individual needs.





## INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

The RAISE project to promote and improve the quality of inclusive education in select SSA schools in Birubari Area, Guwahati (Kamrup - M) and Diphu (Lumbajong Block, Karbi Anglong) was completed during the year and follow up programs were subsequently initiated with a new grant from Light for the World International and Wipro Foundation. A film **“My Walk to School”** was made to document the work done as part of the RAISE project that was well received by everyone.

### Teachers’ training programs and workshops

- ▶ **200 SSA school teachers** in Karbi Anglong attended workshops on *Inclusive Education, Pre-reading, writing, and number skills; Mental Health; Universal Design of Learning (UDL)*
- ▶ **30 SSA school teachers** in Kamrup (M) attended workshops on Inclusive Education; **75 Kashreni teachers** were sensitised about Gender-Based Violence, Child Safeguarding Mental Health, POCSO Act
- ▶ Parent sensitization programs on inclusive education were also held

### Community engagement

- ▶ **4 community schools** were set up in villages in Lumbajong Block of Karbi Anglong district on the initiative of 2 School Heads, to enable students to continue learning despite school closure due to the pandemic, by engaging local youth volunteers from the community
- ▶ Students were helped to open Bank Accounts to enable them to avail of schemes & facilities.

### Engagements with SSA

- ▶ Field workers facilitated the distribution of Hearing aids for students with Hearing impairment in Karbi Anglong.
- ▶ International Day for Persons with Disabilities was held at Kamrup in collaboration with SSA
- ▶ Our Sports coaches helped conduct Inclusive Sports events at SSA schools in different locations
- ▶ A 4-day training was held for SSA Kamrup (M) staff on ***Inclusive Education, Legal Framework for education; Inclusive Sports; UDL***
- ▶ Partner schools in Kamrup (M) were provided with TLMs and given awards and recognition
- ▶ Students from SSA schools participated in the Annual Inclusive Sports event at Shishu Sarothi
- ▶ Louis Braille Day celebrations were attended by the team.

### Team capacity building

- ▶ Teams attended sessions on different topics during the Light for the World Virtual Partner Meeting
- ▶ Participation in the National Consultation organised by HRLN and Aastha on ***Impact of Covid on the education of children with disabilities.***
- ▶ A paper on Inclusive Education was presented and published at the Global Inclusive Education Network (GIEN) national conference.



## RAISE Phase -2

- ▶ Baseline assessment of **10 partner schools** in Kamrup & **11 schools** in Karbi Anglong carried out.
- ▶ Focus group discussions with SSA officials on project work and proposed research study conducted.
- ▶ Home visits made to meet families of children with disabilities.
- ▶ Monitoring visits undertaken to project locations in Kamrup & Karbi Anglong.
- ▶ Orientation programs on **School Safety & Gender-based Violence** for heads of schools, teachers, and Inclusive Education functionaries



**Deafblind Regional Centre (DbRC) and SPARSH** program works with and for persons with Deafblindness and Multi-Sensory Impairment, through a series of centre, home and community-based services to build capacities of persons with Db and MSI and their families.

During the year the SPARSH team

- ▶ Distributed over **50 dry ration kits** during the lockdown
- ▶ Conducted **1232 regular online classes**, sign-language training sessions and clinical assessments
- ▶ Identified **28 new children** and adults with Deafblindness/ MSI/ MD
- ▶ Distributed **20+ Assistive devices** - spectacles, CP walker, White cane, Smartphones, Magnifier, and Braille kits among the children and adults and **40+ nutrition and medicine support kits** to needy children.
- ▶ Held **5 Regional** and **4 State level** training and sensitization events;
- ▶ Conducted monthly **Parent network meetings and Weekly in-service sessions on Sign Language and Braille** in addition to other capacity-building sessions for project staff and parents.
- ▶ Sensitised **9 civil society organizations** through online programs. Visited **5 NGOs** in Manipur and **2 partner NGOs** - Abhoy Mission in Tripura & Bethany Society in Meghalaya
- ▶ Organized a **Media Engagement workshop** on *Understanding the effect of COVID-19 pandemic on People with Deafblindness*.
- ▶ Celebrated **International Day of Sign Languages** on September 23 to create awareness about 'signing' among our children and their families as well as colleagues.
- ▶ Held a 2-Day **State level Network and Advocacy meeting** (in online and offline modes) with resource support from Sense (International) India for 30 family members and adults with deafblindness from Assam.
- ▶ Brought **40 adults** with deafblindness along with family members and special educators from **Assam, Meghalaya, Sikkim, and Tripura** together for the first time in 2 years to attend a **3-day Northeast Regional Networks Meeting** with support from Sense International (India).
- ▶ Conducted a **2-Day Online State level training program on Deafblindness for 300 SSA teachers**
- ▶ Visited the **State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities** Assam's office along with parents and adult network members, project staff, and colleagues from the Disability Law Unit to advocate on rights and concerns related to issuance of Disability Certificate. They also visited Social Welfare Dept officials, Government Braille Press, Assam State Disaster Management Authority, the National Career Service Centre for Differently Abled (NCSC-DA), Director of Health Services, Govt of Assam.





### Disability Law Unit - North East

**Capacity building and awareness programs** reached around **3,500 stakeholders** through sessions focussed on equipping ‘rights-holders’ with knowledge of their rights and informing ‘duty-bearers’ with their roles and responsibilities in ensuring and implementing these rights.

#### On What

- ▶ RPwD Act, rights of persons with disabilities and UNCRPD
- ▶ UNCRC, child rights, child protection and child safeguarding
- ▶ Right to education and inclusive education
- ▶ Accessibility and the Harmonized Guidelines for Barrier-Free Environment
- ▶ Disaster and persons with disabilities
- ▶ Gender inclusion, gender-based violence, and rights of women with disabilities
- ▶ Inclusive policies and legislations, schemes, and services for PwDs
- ▶ Health care facilities for PwDs
- ▶ Disability Certification & UDID Card

#### For Whom

- ▶ Persons with disabilities
- ▶ Women with disabilities
- ▶ Parents and families of Pwds
- ▶ School teachers, special educators, SSA teachers
- ▶ Counsellors and psychologists
- ▶ Architects
- ▶ Corporate staff
- ▶ Government officials and ACS officers
- ▶ Representatives of NGOs and CSOs
- ▶ Community based workers
- ▶ Students and teaching faculties of colleges and universities
- ▶ Shishu Sarothi staff

#### Where

- ▶ **Assam**  
Kamrup  
Kamrup (Metro)  
Bongaigaon  
Darrang  
Nagaon  
Hojai
- ▶ **Meghalaya**  
Ri Bhoi  
West Khasi Hills
- ▶ **Nagaland**  
Mokukchung
- ▶ **Others**  
through online platforms

**Legal-aid support** was extended to **215 economically vulnerable persons** with disabilities. **Advocacy for disability inclusion** activities reached different stakeholders as the team gave inputs on various policies and guidelines including

- ▶ promotion of **accessible elections**
- ▶ procurement of **accessible city buses** by the state,
- ▶ **disability-inclusive budget**
- ▶ issuance of **Disability Certificates for people with Deaf-Blindness**
- ▶ **rights of air travellers** with disabilities during security checks at airports





*“The awareness session on Disability with Shishu Sarothi was a move in the right direction to spread awareness in the workplace. Understanding the rights of persons with disabilities, principles of equality and non-discrimination, and what positive terminologies to use while addressing disability were some of the topics of which employees were made aware. The session was truly informative, and it benefited Indus employees.”*

*Pritpal S. Kular, Chief HR Officer,  
Indus Towers Limited Gurugram, Haryana*

- ▶ A **Regional Consultation on Voluntary National Review and Covid-19** for the NE region was organised in collaboration with NCPEDP, to provide stakeholders with a platform to reflect and deliberate upon the status of disability inclusion in implementation of SDGs and suggest the way forward.
- ▶ **Translation of 4 In-Service Training Modules** (Introductory, Grassroot Level Functionaries, Education Functionaries, and Health & Allied Professionals) **of the Rehabilitation Council of India** (RCI) into Assamese for the Govt. of Assam.
- ▶ A **Vaccination camp** was organised with help from the Directorate of Health Services of the Govt of Assam, for Persons with Disabilities for 130 young adults with disabilities, parents and caregivers for their first dose of vaccination.
- ▶ A **research study**, titled *“Reach and Implementation of Government Schemes for Persons with Disabilities in Assam”* has been initiated to capture data and experiences of people and families of children with disabilities in accessing government services and programmes by them across Assam.
- ▶ Mentoring of 3 NCPEDP - Javed Abidi Youth Fellows from NE India for 3 years to become leaders promoting the rights of persons with disabilities at the grassroots.

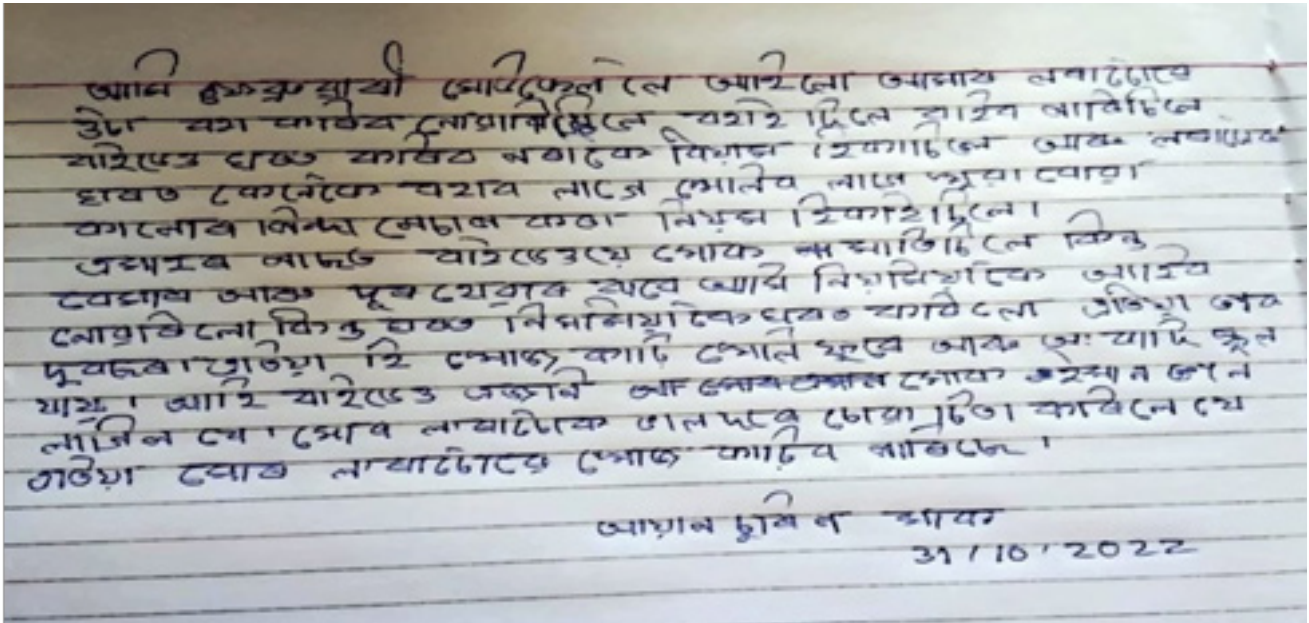
- ▶ **168 relief and ration kits, 150 health and hygiene kits, and 107 mobile recharge packs** were distributed to children with disabilities, families, and staff members during the pandemic.
- ▶ A **Helpline** was launched during the 2nd wave of the pandemic and **50 callers were provided relief**, counsel, and vaccination-related information
- ▶ **15 participants** attended our first online fundraising workshop on “Power of Pranayama” with our in-house certified Yoga instructor Saswati Barman
- ▶ **Abhiruchi Sports Day** was marked by participating in a virtual discussion on sports titled Sangati to create awareness about Sports and para-sports, in collaboration with the Cerebral Palsy Sports Federation of India.
- ▶ **International Women’s Day** was celebrated with Chetna Ladies Club to felicitate two of our oldest women caregivers for their 30+ years of dedicated and diligent work to the children of Shishu Sarothi. Later Rituparna Neog, a transgender activist spoke about gender, equity, patriarchy, and discrimination faced by women and other genders.
- ▶ **An Open Day** was held in March, for several friends and well-wishers to “*come and see what we do*” as the children showcased their Holi-themed activities.



# Significant Milestones

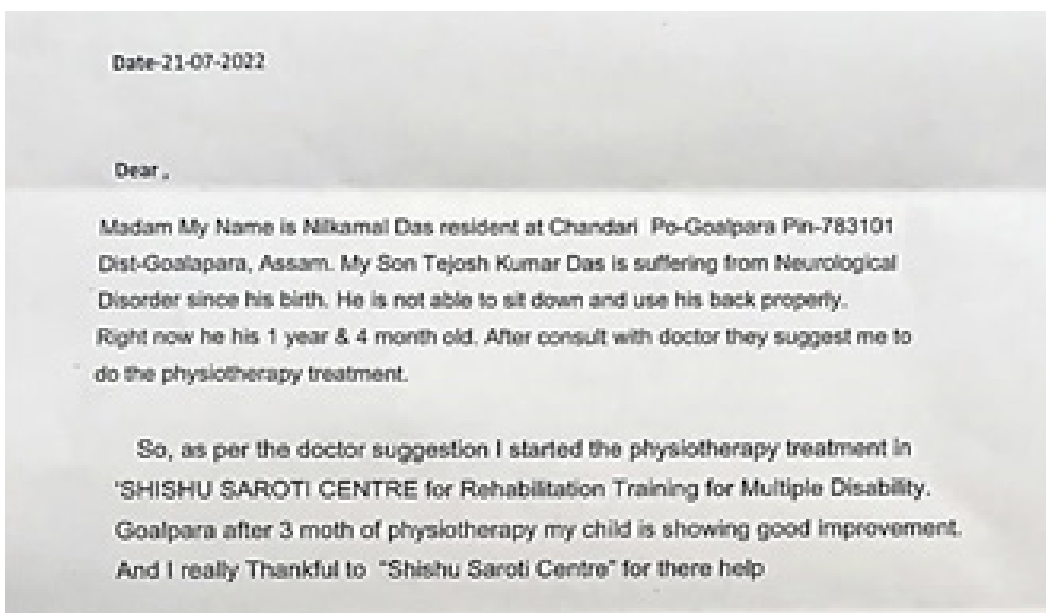
07

- ▶ Stories of Gobinda Majumdar from our Sparsh program for the Deafblind and of Silsila Das, Runu Medhi and Simi Kalita, three friends and alumni of ShishuSarothe, were featured in the **India Inclusion Summit campaign** to showcase abilities rather than disabilities <https://www.everyoneisgoodatsomething.com/inclusive-stories/gobinda-majumdar> and <https://www.everyoneisgoodatsomething.com/inclusive-stories/silsila-das/>. A lovely photo story was also published in **The Guardian** <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2021/jun/17/disability-is-possibility-a-mission-to-bust-myths-in-india-photo-essay>
- ▶ **20+ of our alumni** made their #votescount in the **Assam Elections, year 2021**. Silsila Das, an alumni of ShishuSarothe and coordinator at “Bijoyini: A network of women with disabilities” was featured at **Red FM #VotetheHaq**, she made her #votescount for the 3rd time amidst all the existing barriers at #AssamElections2021.
- ▶ Former ICT Lab trainee Bikiron aka Juju ‘s unique and amazing story of celebrating Durga Puja during the pandemic had been featured on the **International Disability Alliance** website <https://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/festival-covid19-pandemic-india> [https://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/sites/default/files/story\\_juju\\_ne-india\\_tv\\_spot.mp4](https://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/sites/default/files/story_juju_ne-india_tv_spot.mp4)
- ▶ **Pulse by Headline 8** featured ShishuSarothe as one of the 4 NGOs working extensively on child rights.
- ▶ Amvalika Senapati, Deputy Director at the Disability Law Unit of Shishu Sarothe was featured by the **U.S. Consulate General Kolkata** as the torch-bearer of Disability Rights, who has been working for the rights and dignity of the Persons with disabilities.
- ▶ **Vanrammawii Colney** a Scholar of the Indus Towers Scholarship Program Phase 1 from Aizwal cleared her Bachelor’s in Law with flying colours.



#### Translation:

We came to ShishuSarothi in the month of February. Our son wasn't able to sit and stand initially. The therapists helped us to prepare a home management plan in order to perform exercises with our son at home, on how to sit, play, feed, wear clothes, and do the toilet. We couldn't go for a follow-up after a month as per the routine because of various health issues and distance problems but meanwhile, at home, we carried on with the exercises. Our son is 2 years old now, and he can walk and play around and has also enrolled in a nearby Anganwadi school. We would like to thank the efforts of the therapists, our child has reached this stage of development only because of their efforts.



# Our visitor's had to say

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- ▶ *"Honoured to see and understand the valuable work of Shishu Sarothi to assist the community across the Northeast, and supporting advocacy & rights of the disabled. Best wishes to all the staff and partners."*  
– **Daniel SIM, Deputy Consultant General, Australian Consulate General Kolkata**
- ▶ *"It was an unique experience to have visited ShishuSarothi. Fanatastic efforts, would like to visit again."*  
– **Justice Biplab Ch. Sharma, Former Judge, Gauhati High Court**
- ▶ *"I am extremely happy visiting ShishuSarothi and to see the good work here. We join hands to work together."*  
– **Ranoj Pegu, Minister of Education, Government of Assam**
- ▶ *"I am humbled by the hard-work and diversity in inclusive education. Keep up the good work."*  
– **B Kalyan Chakravarthy, Principal Secretary Education, Govt. of Assam**
- ▶ *"Delighted to see the initiative to bring a change."*  
– **Seema R Dutta**
- ▶ *"Very happy to see everything and wishing all the best for the little ones here."*  
– **Dubori Barooah**
- ▶ *"Wonderful & overwhelming work. God bless Shishu Sarothi."*  
– **Rashmi Barua & Priyam Krishna, Prerana, IASOWA Assam.**
- ▶ *"Always lovely to be here..."*  
– **Rita Banerji and team, Founder and Project Director, Green Hub, Tezpur**
- ▶ *"Please carry on with good work."*  
– **Prasanna Bora, Former Deputy Director of Secondary Education, Assam**
- ▶ *"Really good initiative! All the best!"*  
– **Sarvadnya Thakare, Assistant Director, Sports Authority of India, Regional Centre, Guwahati**
- ▶ *"Very very holistic work, all the best. Keep up the good work."*  
– **TV Kusuma, Deputy Head, VAANI Deaf Children's Foundation, Bangalore.**
- ▶ *"It has been a wonderful experience and real step towards inclusion. Big hug to all!"*  
– **Sumedha Vijaylaxmi Joglekar, Executive Director, VAANI Deaf Children's Foundation, Bangalore**



**We are ever grateful to all the donors and funders who support our work**

### **Institutional Donors**

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Alcare Diagnostics  
Nezone Foundation  
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### **Individual Donors**

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Dr. Kamal Jain  
Mrs Neelam Devi Jain  
Meena More

### **Institutes deputing students for internship**

Mahapurusha Srimanta Sankardeva Viswavidyalaya, Sanskriti The Gurukul

## 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, CPOs, 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 Terangpi 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 UDD 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

Contd... Page 6

## 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 Madhabdev International Auditorium, Srinama Sankaradeva Kakshetra 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 Saha, Principal Secretary and Commissioner, Social Welfare Department; Debeshwar 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.

Ketaki Bardalai, 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 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 Niranjan Kalita, working president of All Assam Disabled Persons' Association and Nripen Malakar, secretary, Pratikashini Sarathi 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 Saha 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://pwl.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 UDD 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 Aadhar enrolment and/or UDD (Unique Disability ID Card) registration with regard to recording of biometrics data due to their disabilities.

## Issues of deafblind persons discussed

STAFF REPORTER

**GUWAHATI, Sept. 30:** A three-day regional network meeting organised by the Deafblind Regional Centre (DBRC), Shishu Sarothi with support from Sense International India, concluded on Wednesday.

The meeting was attended by persons with deafblindness, parents and special educators from the states of Assam, Meghalaya, Sikkim and Tripura. They discussed issues related to empowerment of persons with deafblindness.

Around 50 participants comprising members from the Udaan Network of Adults with Deafblindness, members of Prayasa Network of Parents, AbhiPrerna Network of Special Educators and families of children with deafblindness attended the regional meet. Adults with deafblindness

discussed the challenges they faced during the Covid-19 pandemic, ranging from issues related to healthcare, difficulties in communication, lack of accessible information about the corona virus, financial constraints, barriers in accessing online education, etc.

"Shishu Sarothi has been working extensively in awareness raising, legal counselling and litigation services and we need to raise our voice at different levels and look for opportunities to strengthen the network of Young Adults with Deafblindness, Parents Network and AbhiPrerna Network of Professionals and Educators," Ketaki Bardalai, executive director of Shishu Sarothi said.

Bardalai added that Shishu Sarothi has been building the capacity of the region and increasing its reach through the training programmes conducted

by the Sparsh Programme of Deafblind Resource Centre which started in 2015.

Akhil Paul, founder and director of Sense International India in his speech said, "We need to work towards building a future for children with deafblindness and have to be aware about all the policies and strategies for supporting them."

At the North East Regional Network Meeting-cum-Training for Adults with Deafblindness, government officials from various departments including Debeshwar Borah, State Commissioner for the Persons with Disabilities and Ram Kisibee Sharma, Assistant Director, Employment of the National Career Service Centre for Differently Abled, were present.

"All the challenges faced by the persons with disabilities need to be viewed and by es-

tablishing a joint venture by the institution with other organisations, the capacity of all the members can be enhanced," Borah said.

Sharma said that it is important to build a stronger network, particularly for the persons with deafblindness. "Our team at National Career Service Centre for Differently Abled, Guwahati provide support through scholarships and certificates and develop their expertise and train them in specific areas based on their skill sets," he added.

Adults with deafblindness gained hands-on experience through an exposure visit to the Vocational Rehabilitation Centre, Guwahati.

No. PWE/O-SRRDA/PMG

## THE MISSING MILLIONS

## International Day of PwDs observed by Shishu Sarothi

**GUWAHATI, Dec 2:** The 'Shishu Sarothi' observed the International Day of Persons with Disabilities across different parts of the region. It was observed in collaboration with various Government and Non-Government organisations on Friday.

The programme started on December 2 with an 'Inclusive Sports' event which was held with the Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan, Assam at the premises of the Latana Prathamik Vidyalaya. On December 3, the prize distribution ceremony of the sports programme along with other cultural programmes was held at the premises of Shishu Sarothi. A sensitization and awareness programme was organised in association with 'Radio Mirchi, Guwahati'. On the occasion, the alumni of Shishu Sarothi and students from Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan spoke about the theme and various issues faced by the persons with disabilities (PwDs) in their daily lives.

Alongwith 10 students with disabilities from the Indus Towers Scholarship Program were awarded scholarships at a ceremony organized at Gangtok by the 'Women and Child Development Department', Government of Sikkim.

The Shishu Sarothi also partnered with the NCFEDIP (National Centre

for Promotion of Employment for Disabled People) to launch the 'Missing Million Campaign' in Assam, to amplify the voices of millions of persons with disabilities, missing from the mainstream, to seek their active participation in all walks of life.

This campaign was launched in Delhi by Justice Sripathi Ravindra Bhat, Judge of the Supreme Court of India with a video. He emphasised, "What is not counted doesn't count" and also highlighted how not having accurate data on disability has excluded people with disabilities from the mainstream.

The launch included a panel discussion and release of the book, 'Invisible Majority' by V.R. Perera, Member of Parliament Gaurav Gogoi. The Shishu Sarothi endorses the 10-point Charter presented after the panel discussion

which includes implementation of the RPWD Act-2016. Dis-aggregated data on Disability; Disability representation in all Ministries, Departments and Committees; accessible and affordable healthcare services for all persons with disabilities; tax incentives and improved returns on investment options; quality-inclusive education for students with disabilities; digital inclusion; cities and

towns must be made accessible; accessible transport and tourism; political participation of PwDs across all levels of governance; Disability Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction.

The situation of PwDs in Assam is no different from rest of the country. It is almost 5 years now that the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act-2016 has been in force but there are thousands without disability certificate, online process for UDD is still not accessible, many face hurdles in even getting their Aadhar Cards, stated a press release.

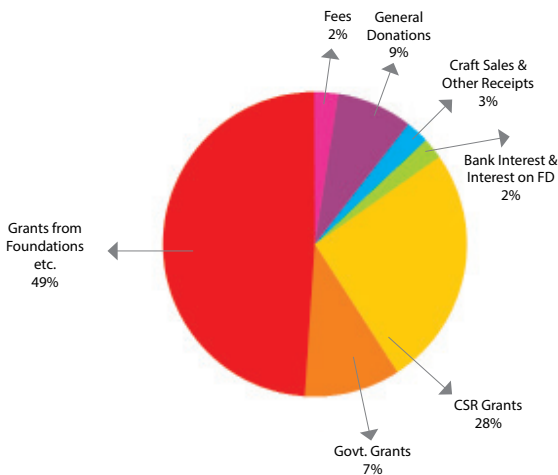
Access to quality education, so livelihood opportunities, to equality and non-discrimination on the ground of disability, is still not a reality for people with disabilities.

With the pandemic, their situation has been more acutely marginalised, setting them far back. Beneficial schemes of the government are a welcome measure to provide some support to people with disabilities.

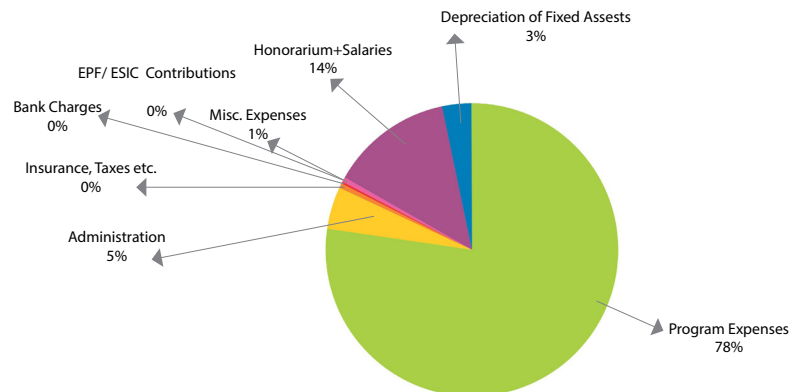
It is observed that as long as our infrastructure, facilities, services and development initiatives and programs are not consciously tailored to include people with disabilities, they will continue to be the missing population, who are denied access to their basic human rights.

Balance Sheet	As on 31st March 2022	%
<b>Source of Funds</b>		
General Funds	27068000.99	97
Current Liabilities & Provisions	922826.29	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>28044129.28</b>	
<b>Application of Funds</b>		
Fixed Assets	9217717.32	33
Investments	0	0
Current Assests, Loans & Advances	5504340.70	20
Cash and bank balances	13268769.26	47
<b>Total</b>	<b>27990827.28</b>	

Income and Expenditure	As on 31st March 2022	%
<b>Income</b>		
Fees	596740	2
General Donations	2681080	9
Craft sales & other receipts	878556	3
Bank Interest & Interest on FD	726288	2
CSR Grants	8876848	28
Govt Grants	2237214	7
Grants from Foundations etc.	15477418	49
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>31474144</b>	
Excess of Expenditure over Income	4914542	
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Program Expenses	28249343	78
Administration	1772606	5
Insurance, Taxes etc.	143615	0
Bank charges	15004	0
EPF/ESIC contributions	54780	0
Miscellaneous	185148	1
Honorarium + Salaries	4965832	14
Depreciation of Fixed Assets	1002358	3
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>36388686</b>	



**Funds Received in Year 2021-2022**



**Funds Spent in Year 2021-2022**

\* Detailed Audited Accounts available on request.



# Governing Council

# 13

Name	Designation	Occupation	Address	Contact
1 <b>Aswini Kumar Baruwa</b>	Chairperson	Academic Council Member, Assam Science & Technology University, Guwahati	Geetali Path, Zoo Narengi Road, Noonmati, Guwahati - 20	9954862236
2 <b>Mr. Satyamrit Kagti</b>	Vice- Chairperson	Director, Luit Valley Company (P) Ltd., Assam Hospitals Ltd., Goodwill Tea Warehouse	C K Agarwala Road, Ambari, Guwahati - 1	9864039965
3 <b>Mrs. Kavita Patwari</b>	Joint Treasurer	Parent / Home Maker	Patson Travels, Ganeshguri, Guwahati - 5	9435022286
4 <b>Mrs. Mira Kagti</b>	Joint Treasurer	Founder Member & Former Director Shishu Sarothi	Hem Chandra Road, Uzan Bazaar, Guwahati - 1	9864013192
5 <b>Dr. Harsha Bhattacharjee</b>	Member	Ophthalmologist & Medical Director- Shankardev Netralaya Guwahati	Director, Shankardev Netralaya, Beltola, Near Lakshmi Mandir, Guwahati	9435140999
6 <b>Mr. Subhash Das, Retd. IAS</b>	Member	Governing Council Member, Assam Don Bosco University	25 Jyoti Path, (11th Bye Lane), Lakhinagar, Hatigoan, Guwahati - 38	9954944044
7 <b>Mrs. Urmila Barua</b>	Member	HR Consultant	1A5 Roodali Apartments Hatigarh Chariali, Mother Teresa Road, Guwahati - 24	8876536439
8 <b>Mrs. Madhu Goenka</b>	Member	Director-Industrial Farm & Equipments	C/O Goenka Automobiles G.S. Road, Guwhati - 6	9954099949
9 <b>Mr. Arman Ali</b>	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. Aswini Kumar Baruwa
Telephone (Mobile)	9207049810, 6000625669
Email	shishusarothi@gmail.com
Social Media	<a href="http://www.facebook.com/shishusarothi">www.facebook.com/shishusarothi</a> ; <a href="http://www.twitter.com/shishusarothi">www.twitter.com/shishusarothi</a> ; <a href="https://instagram.com/shishusarothi">https://instagram.com/shishusarothi</a>

### 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 for 10AC: AALAS0979GE20027

Organization's IT PAN number: AALAS0979G

Registration under Section 80G: AALAS0979GF20082

TAN (Tax Deduction Account Number): SHLS02682B

Registration under MCA: CSR00001148

Registration under NITI Aayog: AS/2010/0024833







SHISHU  
SAROTHI

## Centre for Rehabilitation & Training for Multiple Disability

Off Ramkrishna Mission Road, Birubari  
Guwahati - 781016 | Assam

🌐 [www.shishusarothi.org](http://www.shishusarothi.org)

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