



TARA FOUNDATION

EMPOWERING THE DIFFERENTLY ABLED

Tara Foundation is registered under the Bombay Public Trust Act 1950:E/2365/Gandhinagar

DOING A YEOMEN SERVICE IN THE HEARING DISABILITY SECTOR



A combination of short term and long term goals enable Tara to carry early detection, with surgical intervention and a novel Hearing Aid Bank with speech therapy and other support. Fully equipped centers in each district to offer diagnosis, plus complete stage-wise surgical intervention where needed, provide TARA's brand of support in speech, mental, occupational and other therapies, to mainstream them into productive citizens of India. Therefore this Tara Initiative to educate, protect, heal and help the needy with sensitization and diagnosis, especially at the newborn stage, offering hearing aids or cochlear implants, followed by speech therapy and assimilation into the mainstream. Tara

VISION OF TARA FOUNDATION:

Identifying Hearing Disability At Birth To Correct Before Age 1.

Foundation is adjudged Best ngo for child donation, Charitable Trust Organisation in Ahmedabad and Mumbai.

BACKGROUND:

Disability is a multi-dimensional and complex construct and there is no single universally accepted, unproblematic definition of disability. Not only do definitions differ across countries but these also differ and change within a country with evolving legal, political and social discourses. It is very difficult to find reliable data about the prevalence of disability in India. In general, the search for a single prevalence rate is an illusion, and the range of estimates, and their varied origins, makes it difficult to say very much with assurance about people with disabilities.





The two main large data-sets are the 2001 Census (Registrar General of India, 2001) and the 2002 National Sample Survey 58th Round (NSSO, 2003). The 2001 Census, covering five types of disabilities, recorded a prevalence rate of 2.13 percent, or 21.91 million people with disabilities out of a total population of 1028 million. The National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) 58th round (July-December 2002) survey reported that 1.8 percent of the population (18.5 million) had a disability. While 18-22 million people with disabilities is a large number, this is still arguably a gross underestimation, especially when one considers that World Health Organisation estimates a global prevalence rate of 10 percent. A leading Indian disability NGO, the National Centre for Promotion of Employment for Disabled People (NCPEDP), argues that 5 to 6 percent of the population has a disability. World Bank (2007:12) notes that “the real prevalence of disability in India could easily be around 40 million people, and perhaps as high as 80-90 million if more inclusive definitions of both mental illness and mental

retardation in particular were used”. The Registrar General of India (2001) agrees that the Indian data on disability are unreliable, due to few well-trained field investigators, and issues of social stigma. Underreporting due to stigma and a range of other socio-cultural variables has also been noted by the World Bank (2007); Current survey methods are unable to minimise and/or account for these factors. They are not only unsuccessful in providing a reliable picture of prevalence rates of disability, but there is also a greater likelihood of the identification and reporting of some easily identifiable impairments, while others remain hidden. Thus, it is difficult to state if differences in estimates provided by various data-sets are 'real' differences in impairments or due to other factors. Moreover, societies where extended kin groups retain significant rights and obligations (as in much of Indian society) the impact of disability will be broader than where kinship groups are smaller and more individuated. This is likely to impact on people's willingness to disclose disability within a family.



THE CURRENT SITUATION OF DISABLED CHILDREN

In rural and urban Gujarat, a child born with a disability is destined for a life of dependency. For the poor this burden can be extreme. Disabled children can be a social, financial, mental and physical burden to their families. Through lack of knowledge and skills of the family, the children do not get the appropriate help they need. The children do not go to school and hardly leave their homes. Therefore, they are not challenged and do not develop mentally or physically. Families will often favour a healthy child over a disabled child, when it comes to food and attention. Medical/ Rehabilitation medical and rehabilitation treatment does not reach the disabled children in every district. Due to the high level of illiteracy in villages, the families do not understand or know what benefits the government provides. In addition, villages are far from medical or rehabilitation centres, therefore transportation cost is another obstacle.

The children who don't have to be carried, can sit up straight and behave in a group can go to a government school. In these schools they will have a place amongst 30-40 other children and if they cannot follow, there will be not much extra attention for them. The children will have a hard time finding friends to play with because they are not understood. Special education is rare but through a so called IED teacher, most schools get weekly support by a special teacher that visits schools that have enrolled disabled children. Very few opportunities exist in the work place for people with disabilities. With the growing population size and the lack of jobs, very few people with disabilities get paid employment. They are often confined in their homes and are dependent on their family for life. Parents of disabled children are often insecure about asking for help. Also, parents feel guilty about having a disabled child due to misbeliefs and fear. Family and neighbours are

likely to encourage that feeling of guilt and a lot of mothers are left alone with the care of their child.

The project of Tara foundation under CSR activity in Bharuch Civil supported by Gujarat CSR Authority is contributing to the specially abled children. The foundation outreach team also visit the villages in the district to assess the community services and villagers. They identify the disabled children and determine what their initial needs are. The foundation vision is to build a deaf free society.

TARA (TARANG EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN WITH HEARING IMPAIRMENT)

Tara has provided habilitation to hearing impaired children and family support since 2006. In 2016, 'TARA foundation' was established, to support habilitation in Gujarat and Mumbai.

WORK DONE:

- o Set up 1 urban center in Ahmedabad, Gandhinagar and Mumbai.
- o Set up 05 rural satellite centers in Godhra, Kutch, Patan and Bharuch, Dahod.
- o New born hearing screening programme in Godhra (along with immunization), Kutch and Ahmedabad, Gandhinagar, Mumbai and Patan & Dahod.
- o Diagnosed over 10000 children in both urban & rural areas for hearing disabilities
- o Assisted over 3000 children with speech therapy
- o Assisted over 521 under-privileged children with maintenance of their cochlear implants
- o Provided & refurbished over 751 hearing aid for children
- o First in Gujarat and in India –Audiological van completely sound treated .Dhwani on wheels (North Gujarat and Kutch).
- o Early intervention school with rehabilitation program and vocational training at Gandhinagar.



PROJECTS IN BHARUCH UNDER CSR ACTIVITY

Rehabilitation (speech therapy): It is the treatment for most kids with speech and/or language disorders. A speech disorder refers to a problem with the actual production of sounds, whereas a language disorder refers to a difficulty understanding or putting words together to communicate ideas. We found a lot of children having the speech disorder associated with other disability such as cerebral palsy or mentally retardation and we also found considerable number of children having hearing impairment. So, to improve the speaking abilities speech therapy is provided to the children.



Behaviour therapy: Assessment; Early Intervention; Behavior modification; Parent Counselling

Music therapy: Stimulation to auditory brain through music; Facilitating supra-segmental aspects of speech; Teach voice modulation; Increases concentration and learning

Parents as care givers/managers: To change the mindset of the parents we organize training program for the parents of the children with disability. In those

campus our trained professionals transfer their knowledge to the parents to enable them to seek the abilities in their child. There is an interactive session after each camp where the parents share their practical problems, they face in day to day life. This session helps the parents to develop methods of their own from their very own experiences. They are able to identify the differential needs of their children and also are able to fulfil those needs in their very own way.

NEW BORN HEARING SCREENING PROJECT (UNDER CSR ACTIVITY OF GUJARAT CSR AUTHORITY)

TARA Foundation starts the identification of hearing loss at an early age, starting from screening of new born children to supporting their rehabilitation. New Born Hearing Screening Centre Center has one Audiologist and OAE technician for Newborn Hearing Screening which conducts approximately 50 OAE screening per day. TARA provides 100% support to the child found with hearing loss. Till now 2000 kids have been screened in Bharuch and 31 kids are found to be hearing impaired undergoing further rehabilitation for mainstreaming them.

PROJECTS SUPPORTED BY:

Gujarat Chemical Port Limited (GCPL)
Project: "New Born Hearing Center at Bharuch Civil Hospital"

Dahej Sez Limited (DSL)
Project: "Setting up Speech Therapy Centre at Bharuch Civil Hospital"