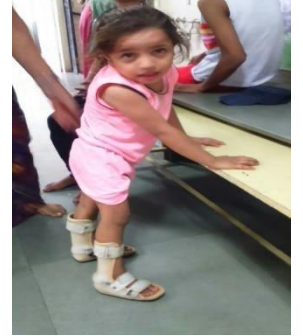




**Association for Awareness of Nutrition,  
Child Health and Learning**



## Progress Report (Year 2015- 2016)



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## **Progress Report**

Each child develops at his/her own pace. While a variation is acceptable, for example, one child might walk at 12 months and the other at 15-16 months, some children go beyond this range. Special needs children are those that do not do the things they should at an appropriate age. There are warning signs which can give an indication of developmental delays in a child. Most parents do not know what child development milestones are and may not notice a delay in their child's development. Many others ignore their child's developmental delays and believe their children will soon start behaving like other children of their age. On the contrary if a child which such difficulties is identified early and appropriate intervention provided, it will benefit the child and increase the chances that he/she will begin to talk, walk, play like over children of his/her age.

AANCHAL Foundation in collaboration with Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC) initiated its first ongoing *Aanganwadi* Project in May 2012. The aim of the *Aanganwadi* project is to identify young children below five years of age and their families who are enrolled in *Aanganwadi* within limits of Municipal Corporation of Ahmedabad. In each *Aanganwadi*, all children who may have significant concerns in one or more areas of development are first identified. For this purpose a team of two social workers having MSW visit each *Aanganwadi* for three days after appropriate consent of the concerned *Aanganwadi* worker.

Three activities are being carried during three day *Aanganwadi* visit. These are (a) provide returnable special toys to the children and play with them, (b) observed children gross motor skills, fine motor skills, speech and language skills, social skills and their participation in play and interaction between children, teacher and social workers, and (c) record the details of each child on a Gujarati printed paper instrument adapted from an American educational service for children below five years of age. After analysis of individual developmental concerns the social work team, in consultation with other team members identify these children who might need intervention. For this purpose, social workers conduct home visit with the help of *Aanganwadi* workers who are familiar with the local areas and the families together more information about the child having potential developmental delays.

The suspected child is then referred to multi-disciplinary team of doctors and therapists who recommend further test, medical treatment or therapy. Field observations indicate that expenses in most cases for this purpose are met by AANCHAL Foundation. It is because the families of the suspected children are very poor and in no way can meet the cost leave aside any therapy or treatment who as even lack of transportation cost to take children to clinic/hospital/doctor. Hence, AANCHAL Foundation supports these children and their families in following ways:

**Clearing House of Information** into which parents can tap in for all sorts of information including: local therapy centers, schools, education options, therapists and specialist doctors

### Child Assessments

**Support** by accompanying parents to multi-disciplinary assessments, tests, and initial visits to therapy centers

**Financial Help** to parents who cannot afford tests, treatment or therapy for their child:

- Medication
- Speech and language therapy, physical therapy, occupational therapy
- Hearing tests, EEG, MRI, BERA, IQ levels, D.Q., Thyroid, 2-D Echo etc
- Operation of eye, leg, hand to mention few
- Hearing aids
- Calipers

Detail of Assessed/helped children in South zone and West zone Anganwadies of Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation by AANCHAL Foundation

Area	Total Anganwadi	Year	Selected children	Helped children
Maninagar	37	2012	30	22
Baherampura	92	2013	22	12
Kankariya	40	2013	10	09
Khokhra	09	2013	05	03
Vatava	62	November '2013 to July'2014	20	20
Lambha	36	August'2014	10	10
Sabarmati	33	2015-16	18	17
Junavadaj	46	2015-16	21	21
<b>Total</b>	<b>276</b>		<b>136</b>	<b>114</b>

- ❖ 11910 children assessed from 276 aanganwadis in Ahmedabad
- ❖ 136 children identified with potential developmental delays
- ❖ 114 children received help
- ❖ 60 currently receiving, medicine, diagnostic test, follow-up visits to Polio Foundation, Asian Speech and hearing institute, B.M Institute and other clinics(22 are included in 60)
- ❖ 22 children are receiving therapy in five Private therapy centres.

### Medical Aid

- ❖ *Callipers provided to 07 children-*
- ❖ *Hearing aids provided to 07 children*
- ❖ *Operation: 04 children*
- ❖ *Disability Certificates 10 Children*
  - ❖ *Niramaya Coverage 05 Children, Claim pass for 03 children*
  - ❖ *Walker for 02 children*
  - ❖ *Wheel chair for 01 child*
  - ❖ *Scholl admission for 11 children*

## **Teacher's Workshop**

AANCHAL organizes early intervention Sensitization workshop for heads of schools, teachers, and coordinators of pre-primary schools in Ahmedabad. The workshop focuses on early intervention therapy and its advantages, role of parents and teachers in identifying and helping children with developmental delays, discussions with experienced pediatric therapists and case studies. The workshop provides a platform to address some concerns and help children achieve their full potential.

Objectives of the Workshop:

1. To develop Understanding of and compassion for children with special needs.
2. To introduce concept of Early Intervention to teachers
3. To create awareness of warning signs of developmental delays in young children 2-5 years.
4. Guide teachers about how to work with children with development delay and learning disabilities.
5. Provide practical suggestions on how to encourage parents of children with potential developmental delays to accept that their child needs assessment and help from therapists and/or doctors.

The third “Early Intervention Sensitization Workshop for Educators”. organized on **18<sup>th</sup> April 2015** for Anandniketan, Shilaj, Ahmedabad. **51 teachers** from pre-primary section attended the workshop. Thus, more than **100** teachers are trained by AANCHAL Foundation till 2015.

## **Inclusion of Children with Special Education Needs in “Mainstream” Schools**

AANCHAL Foundation believes that all children including those identified as having special educational needs are entitled to a broad and balanced curriculum and a chance to be integrated within the mainstream education system and society. Special provisions created within the school can affect the way these children learn and achieve.

AANCHAL Foundation initiated a pilot project to include pre-primary children with special educational needs in the mainstream private schools (one English medium and one Gujarati medium) in city of Ahmedabad in Gujarat, India.

The objectives of the project are to:

- Provide an opportunity for children with special educational needs to learn alongside “normal” peers
- Provide a 1:1 support teacher to assist the child in the classroom and within the school
- Include therapy as an integral part of the child’s learning, behaviour and school life to improve the child’s independence and academic achievement.

### **Proposed Process:**

**Assessment:** A child with special education needs will be assessed for her support need in the classroom, with behaviour and within the school. The level of support provided to each child will be assessed jointly by professionals, therapists and school administration and this will be reviewed annually for continuation. Professionals and therapists that may be involved with assessment and/or providing support and advice include but not limited to: physical therapist, speech and language therapist, occupational therapist, education psychologist, developmental paediatrician, social worker and teachers supporting those with sensory impairments.

**Integration:** Based on the needs the child will have access to a 1:1 support teacher who will assist her/him to access the curriculum and learning in a classroom environment, provide safety, help gain independence and be a part of the school.

**Support:** Based on the child’s assessment and needs, appropriate therapists will work with the 1:1 support teacher to provide strategies to help the child within the school and classroom setting.

**Evaluation:** These support strategies will be reviewed every 3-4 weeks initially and then 4-6 weeks or as required. The project will be evaluated every 6 months.

**Support Teacher:** The teacher will be hired based on appropriate qualifications. She will be given basic training to work with the child, about inclusion of children with special education needs, the project and the processes involved for successful inclusion of child in the classroom and within the school. The teacher will be part of the school and on a day-to-day basis work according to the norms of the school. The performance of the teacher will be evaluated jointly by the school and AANCHAL Foundation.

**Role of AANCHAL Foundation:** AANCHAL’s role in this project will be providing the support teacher, training the support teacher, coordinating initial and ongoing assessment of child and teacher, coordinating between school, teacher and therapists for teaching strategies, ongoing feedback and planning, and evaluation of the project.

**Role of Participating School:** The school will be responsible for providing a supportive and enriching environment for inclusion, facilities for education and learning based on the curriculum, communicating with parents about their child’s achievements, concerns and progress, and support AANCHAL Foundation for successful implementation of the project.

With this reference we have initiated a pilot project with Anandniketan, Shilaj school to include pre-primary children with special educational needs in the mainstream private schools in city of Ahmedabad in Gujarat. Below mentioned three children with special needs were being supported by AANCHAL Foundation during the year 2015-16.

School	Children	Class	Birthdate
Anandniketan	Manav Naik (Learning Disability)	K2 (Sr. KG)	<sup>th</sup> 27 June 2009
	Kush Patel (ADHD)	<sup>nd</sup> 2 standard	<sup>st</sup> 1 December 2008
	Tejshvi (Autism)	K2(Sr. KG)	<sup>th</sup> 4 October 2007