AANCHAL Foundation



Association for Awareness of Nutrition, Child Health and Learning

... Every child is born special

About AANCHAL

AANCHAL Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to special needs children and their parents and families. AANCHAL means Association for Awareness of Nutrition, Child Health and Learning.

Every child is born special...and at AANCHAL we would like to see that every child grows into something special as well. Not all babies are born healthy, there are some that develop health issues due to known and unknown reasons as they progress through infancy. Through AANCHAL, we would like to see special needs kids laugh and play, grow and develop just like other kids. We would like for these children to smile again. Our vision for AANCHAL is to:

- Provide a holistic integrated family-centred approach to child development
- Create awareness about child nutrition and health among families, paediatricians, and teachers
- Improve understanding of issues and illness that may affect child development
- Facilitate early intervention programs to improve child development and help special needs children meet their developmental milestones
- Provide financial help to parents of sick kids for medication, treatment, and specialist fees.

AANCHAL Aanganwadi Project

In May 2012, AANCHAL Foundation collaborated with Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation to launch AANCHAL Aanganwadi Project. Through this project, AANCHAL has identified, assessed and referred 299 children with potential developmental problems in 715 Aanganwadis in Ahmedabad South zone, west zone and middle zone covering Maninagar, Kankaria, Khokhara, Isanpur, Vatva and Lambha, Sabarmati, Juna Vadaj, Nava Vadaj, Chandkheda, Shahpur, Dariyapur, Kalupur, Madhupur, Girdharnagar, and Sardarnagar Of these 191 children have received help from AANCHAL Foundation and 41 children are currently receiving therapy at various centres that AANCHAL has collaborated within Ahmedabad.

Teacher's Workshop

In December 2013, AANCHAL organised the 1st of a series of "Early Intervention Sensitization Workshop for Educators". The workshop was attended by 26 pre-primary school teachers from 12 schools in Ahmedabad. Smt. Minaxiben Patel, Mayor of Ahmedabad inaugurated the workshop and extended her support to the organization.

The second workshop is organized on 25th of June 2014 for pre-primary teachers of Gujarati medium schools of Ahmedabad.

23 teachers attended the workshop from 12 schools of Ahmedabad. Eight well-known doctors talked about development delay and importance of early intervention.

The third workshop organized on 18th April 2015 for Anandniketan, Shilaj pre-primary teachers. 51 teachers participated in the workshop.

Inclusion Project

Since 2015, AANCHAL started a new program to include children with special educational needs in the mainstream

(Regular) schools. The project initiated at AnandNiketan, Shilaj Ahmedabad with a small seed funding from the San Francisco Rotary Foundation, USA and other national donors.

12 children with special needs received support in 2017-18 and 9 children with special needs are getting support in 2018-19.

The program aims to:

- Provide an opportunity for children with special educational needs to learn alongside "normal"
- Provide a 1:1 support teacher to assist the child in the classroom and within the school
- Train the 1:1 support teacher based on the child's individual education needs
- Include therapy as an integral part of the child's learning, behaviour and school life to improve the child's independence and academic achievement.

Other Activities

AANCHAL is registered under Government of Gujarat, Social Defence Certificate of Registration Under Section 52 of the Persons with disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act 1995 to make available free bus passes, wheel chairs, pension schemes and health insurance among other facilities to children with special needs and/or their families.

AANCHAL is also registered under the National Trust, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

People at AANCHAL

- Dr. Binod C. Agrawal, Director, TALEEM Research Foundation
- Dr. Brajesh Singh, Editor, ABP New
- Mr. Nitin S. Parikh, CA, Nitin S. Parikh and Company
- Mrs. Priya Kale, Special needs educator
- Prof.Prerana Mohite, Professor and Former Dean, M.S. University,
 Baroda
- Dr. Shruti Agrawal, Director and Co-Founder, AANCHAL Foundation
- Smt. Shashi D. Bhatt, Principal, Sri Ram Vidyalaya
- Mr.Utpal Shah, Director, Shah Investors Home Limited

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