ANNUAL REPORT
OF
THE CENTRE FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION FOR THE
DISABLED CHILDREN
UNDER
DEENDAYAL DISABILITY REHABILITATION SCHEME
FOR THE YEAR 2015-2016

JALPAIGURI WELFARE ORGANIZATION
CLUB ROAD, JALPAIGURI
WEST BENGAL
JALPAIGURI

Jalpaiguri district (Bengali: জলপাইগুড়ি জেলা) is one of the district of North Bengal, covering an area 3386.18 km². It is situated between 26°15′47″ & 26°59′34″ North latitudes and 88°23′2″ & 89°730″ East longitudes.

The district was established in 1869. The headquarters of the district are at Jalpaiguri town, which is also the divisional headquarters of north Bengal and has its special importance in respect of tourism, forest, hills, tea gardens and scenic beauty.

The name Jalpaiguri came from the word "jalpai" means "olive" which grew in the town and were seen even in 1900. The suffix "guri" means a place. The name as well be associated with Jalpesh, the presiding deity (Shiva) of the entire region. The district situated in the northern part of West Bengal has international borders with Bhutan and Bangladesh in the North and South respectively and borders with Assam and Darjeeling hills in the East, West and Northwest.

The district is the gateway to the entire North-Eastern States and Bhutan. Having high percentage of migrated population different cultural groups (Ranjbanshi, Ravas, Totos, Metch, Santhals, Madasia and Oraons) has created a unique cultural harmony which is rarely seen in other districts of West Bengal.

Climate

The average annual rainfall is 3160 mm and the average temperature ranges from 30.9 to 10.8 degrees throughout the year. The average relative humidity is about 82%.

Topography

The entire topography is crisscrossed with rivulets, rivers and hills. Jalpaiguri - this narrow stretch of land lying between the Sikkim - Darjeeling Himalayas and Gangetic West Bengal has more than often evoked a sense of both eerie and romanticism in many a heart since the early British Rule. Veined by mighty rivers like the Teesta, Jaldhaka, Dyna, Neora etc. this piece of land has been aptly named as the land of 'Tea, Timber and Tourism'.
Jalpaiguri Welfare Organization, a voluntary organization, established during 1982 is working in the field of Disability since its inception. It was for the first time that any organization started in the field not only in the district of Jalpaiguri but it was an initiative taken for the first time in the entire Northern region of West Bengal comprising of seven districts of the state viz. Alipurduar, Jalpaiguri, Darjeeling, Uttar Dinazpur, Dakshin Dinazpur, Cooch Behar & Malda.

Earlier the entire work was done on individual case method. The volunteers used to serve the persons with disability on need basis. They used to deal with every other category of disability as there was no specialized centre for the different categories. Home visits were conducted. Discussions were organized with the guardians to support them in bringing up their child with special need. Individual need assessment of every child was done by the volunteers and crotch, special chair etc. made of wood by the volunteers was provided to the guardians as per the need of their children.

With an aim to bring such services under one roof in much more scientific & organized manner Jalpaiguri Welfare Organization started with its Centre for Special Education for the Disabled Children in 1987, first of its kind in the entire Northern region of West Bengal. Children with special need of all categories were provided service from the same centre as there was no other institute to serve them. The centre was started under the supervision of the Indian Institute of Cerebral Palsy (IICP) formerly known as Spastic Society of Eastern India (SSPI).

Started in 1987 with eight Cerebral Palsied children in a rented building on 11th January, 1987 the centre presently has completed its 26th year of service with the support of the entire well-wishers & like-minded organization & the government. 191 children with special needs are enrolled with the centre. The centre serves all the children who are:

1. Mentally Challenged (M.R.)
2. Cerebral Palsy (C.P.)
3. Hearing Impaired (H.I.)
4. Visually Impaired (V.I.)
Mentally Challenged (M.R.)

1. TOTAL NO. OF STUDENT - 68
2. TOTAL NO. OF TEACHERS - 05
3. TEACHER STUDENT RATIO - 1:14

- CLASS
  - EARLY INTERVENTION (0-5)
  - PLAY GROUP (5-10)
  - JUNIOR FUNCTIONAL GROUP (10-15)
  - ACADEMIC (10-15)
  - SPECIAL TEACHING UNIT (10-15)
  - SR. FUNCTIONAL GROUP (15-18)
  - VOACATIONAL GROUP (ABOVE 18)

- SERVICE OFFERED
  - PHYSIOTHERAPY
  - SELF HELP
  - SPECIAL EDUCATION
  - BEHAVIOUR MODIFICATION
  - HOME BASED MANAGEMENT
  - VOCATIONAL TRAINING
  - CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITY

He is Master Kalyan Roy. Son of Sri Dilip Roy born on 28th January, 2008 has 50% severity of disability. He joined the school in 2014 and has completed his 2nd year with Grade A. He resides at Charakdangi under Jalpaiguri Sadar Block which is about 12 kms from the centre.

The need viz. psychological, therapeutic etc. of Kalyan was properly assessed the very day he came to our centre. At the time of admission, he was unable to communicate, clothe, eat and was also without any toilet training.

As on today, he is now able to communicate, inform about his address, and even count the currency. He participates in Sit & Draw Competition, group dance and skit competition. He also participates enthusiastically in the annual sports meet.

The students of this section are placed in groups & grades based on their capacity. Besides managing their behavioural problems they are also imparted special skills, self – help skills. Both the educational & vocational needs are met in the centre.
Cerebral Palsy (C.P.)

1. TOTAL NO. OF STUDENT - 51
2. TOTAL NO. OF TEACHERS - 04
3. TEACHER STUDENT RATIO - 1:13

- CLASS
  - EARLY INTERVENTION (0-5)
  - PLAY GROUP (5-10)
  - JUNIOR FUNCTIONAL GROUP (10-15)
  - ACADEMIC (10-15)
  - SPECIAL TEACHING UNIT (10-15)
  - SR. FUNCTIONAL GROUP (15-18)
  - VOACATIONAL GROUP (ABOVE 18)

- SERVICE OFFERED
  - PHYSIOTHERAPY
  - SELF HELP
  - SPECIAL EDUCATION
  - HOME BASED MANAGEMENT
  - VOCATIONAL TRAINING
  - CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITY

She is Tania Roy. Daughter of Sri Sanjoy Roy and born on 17th May, 2011, Anjali has 80% severity of disability. She joined the school in 2014 and has completed her 2nd year with Grade A. She resides at Bakshipara under Jalpaiguri Sadar Block near about 9 kms from the centre.

At the time of admission, she was unable to communicate, clothe, eat and was also without any toilet training.

As on today, she is now able to communicate, inform about his address, and even count the currency. She participates in Sit & Draw Competition, group dance and skit competition. She also participates enthusiastically in the annual sports meet. She also could identify her belongings without any support and do share her things with her other friends.

The need viz. psychological, therapeutic etc. was properly assessed the very day she came to our centre. After proper assessment she was placed in proper group & grade. Special input is provided for the improvement of the communication skills by using communication board, speech etc.
Hearing Impaired (H.I.)

1. TOTAL NO. OF STUDENT - 53
2. TOTAL NO. OF TEACHERS - 05
3. TEACHER STUDENT RATIO - 1:11

- METHOD OF SERVICE – TOTAL COMMUNICATION
- CLASS
  - PRE-PRIMARY LEVEL
  - CLASS I - VIII
  - VOACATIONAL GROUP (ABOVE 18)
- SERVICE OFFERED
  - GROUP HEARING AID
  - SPEECH CORRECTION
  - VOCATIONAL TRAINING
  - CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITY

He is Master Ram Roy. Son of Sri Kalu Roy born on 12th September, 2006 has 50% severity of disability. He joined the school in 2010 and has completed his 6th year with 69%. He resides at Netaji Subhas Unnayan Palli of Jalpaiguri near about 3 kms from the centre.

During his stay in the centre we are working on facilitating his communication skills through sign language. We also stress on making use of his residual hearing to the maximum possible extent.

For the language development at the primary level Ram is helped to make sentences, daily dairy writing, sentence making according to picture etc. We aim to help him to improve his speech skill. He studies in Class III.

Ram is noted for his art of MIME in Jalpaiguri and has performed in lot many stage shows. He also participates enthusiastically in the annual sports meet.
Visually Impaired (V.I.)

1. TOTAL NO. OF STUDENT - 05
2. TOTAL NO. OF TEACHERS - 02
3. TEACHER STUDENT RATIO - 1:3

- METHOD OF SERVICE – AUDIO & TACTILE
- CLASS
  - PRE-PRIMARY LEVEL
  - CLASS I - VIII
  - VOCATIONAL GROUP (ABOVE 18)
- SERVICE OFFERED
  - BRAILLE TRAINING
  - MOBILITY TRAINING
  - MATHEMATICS CALCULATION WITH TAYLOR FRAME & ABACUS
  - VOCATIONAL TRAINING
  - CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITY

She is Kumari Pani Aich. Daughter of Sri Uttam Aich born on 7th November, 2001 is completely blind. She joined the school in 2012 and has completed her 5th year with 70%. She resides at Rahut Bagan, Ananda Nagar under Kharia Gram Panchayat of Jalpaiguri near about 10 kms from the centre.

Kumari Pani is imparted special training on communication and language skills through use of Braille script. Work is also done to improve his mobility skills and also to give inputs on managing the daily living skills.

Pani is a meritorious student and special measures are being taken to prepare her for the successful integration in regular school.

She sings beautifully and has performed in lot many cultural programs. She participates in Nature Study Camps, sports meet etc. enthusiastically.
SPORTS ACTIVITIES

More than 250 student of almost all the categories of disability participated in the 2\textsuperscript{nd} Block Level Sports for the CWSN, 2015 organized by the Jalpaiguri Welfare Organization in association with the Sarva Siksha Mission (SSM), Jalpaiguri.
One of the flagship programmes of the government to promote education was the Cooked Mid – Day Meal Programme. The programme was started keeping in mind that the children of the rural areas generally suffer from malnutrition. To bring down the same, the programme of Cooked Mid – Day Meal was started wherein the children attending the government schools are served cooked food at the school itself. Besides bringing down the malnutrition the programme also brought down the number of school – drop outs.

With the same rationale, Cooked Mid – Day Programme was introduced at the Centre for Special Education for the Disabled Children. This is for the first time that such programme was started in any Special School.

*Besides the feeding part of the curriculum has also got a new mark after the introduction of the programme.*

The students have their lunch together within the school premises daily.

*eating together*– is a way of celebration in Indian culture. *Our students enjoy this celebration every day.*
**Transport**

Centre for Special Education for the Disabled Children is situated within the Jalpaiguri Municipal area having about 19 km$^2$ of circumference. But most of the students of the centre come from the remote rural areas having poor transport facility. Cycle, Hand Rickshaw, Van are the only medium of transport in most of the areas. Hence the guardians had to face a lot of hardship to bring their children to the school from their place of residence. It was due to this that most of the guardians were reluctant enough to get their child enrolled in the centre.

The following were the barriers to ensure maximum enrollment:

1. Distance of the centre from the place of residence.
2. Un-availability of safe & comfortable medium of transport.
3. Engagement of both the parents in day-to-day work for livelihood earning.

To ensure the enrollment of all possible children with special needs the centre looked for various options. The Guardian Forum of our centre took an initiative and started two school vans. Though this gave a sense of relief to few of the guardians but the need of bus was always felt by the guardians. The management tried its level best for the past many years to get a bus for the school children.

Finally it was the LICI Golden Jubilee Foundation, Jalpaiguri that came forward and donated a School Bus exclusively for the students of the centre. The philanthropic support of the LICI enabled a child staying 15-20 km away from the centre to attend the school regularly. Around 60 students travel during school days regularly and every day the bus covers an onward distance of about 40-50 kms. The guardians are now relieved by sending their children by bus as it provides a safe & comfortable journey in much shorter time.

This school bus is the only bus in the entire district that is dedicated to the students with special needs. A sense of belongingness has developed in our students. The confidence level of students is increasing as they travel together without the help of others. They really enjoy their journey daily.

Besides increasing the figures of enrollment the bus has added up the figures in terms of expenditure. The organization bears the recurring & non – recurring
expenditure that is incurred for the maintenance of the school bus. A dedicated driver & an attendant have been engaged for the smooth running of the bus on payment of a nominal honorarium. Owing to our financial restraints we are not in a comfortable position to run the school bus. But for the sake of our commitment towards students we are forced to run the same. And hence a support is always required for keeping the bus move smoothly in the days to come for the best interest of the students with special needs.

**GUARDIAN’S FORUM**

Involvement of the parents of the child with special need is very much important in the holistic development of the child. To ensure the same the organization went for formation of Guardian’s Forum. The idea behind the same was to ensure participation of the parents in the nurturing of the child in the school and also to sensitize every parent on the different categories of disability & the issues affecting it. Formed in 1996 today the Guardian Forum runs two school vans for the centre. Apart from its active participation in the day to day activity of the school the guardians organize programmes for sensitization & orientation of the society. It goes for advocacy of various issues time to time. The Forum also organizes various programmes on different issues. Representation is there from the Guardian’s Forum in the School Sub-Committee, formed for the proper coordination of the activities in the school.

Today the Guardian Forum works for:

- Capacity building
- Advocacy
- Sensitization & awareness
- Sharing in school management
- Human resource development

**MEDICAL CHECK - UP**

The organization provides free medical check – up facility to all the students of the centre on regular period. During such medical check – ups Child Specialists & General Physicians are involved. Medicines, if prescribed, are also provide free of cost by the organization itself.
Rabindra Jayanti Celebration

The centre celebrates the 25th Baishak every year to mark the birthday of Kaviguru Rabindranath Tagore with full honour & dignity. The students celebrate the entire day in midst of the Rabindra Sangeet & Nritya. Some recites poem while some other participates the way they feel comfortable. The teachers too participate on the occasion.

Saraswati Puja Celebration

The centre celebrates the Saraswati Puja every year with full devotion. The student attends the Puja and gives “Anjali” to the Goddess of Vidya. To mark the occasion various sorts of competitions are also organized amongst the students. The day ends after having the “Khichuri” – the Prasad of the Puja.

Teachers Day Celebration

The centre celebrates the 5th September, birthday of Sarvpally Radhakrishnan as the Teachers Day with full honour & dignity. Some students celebrate the day by reciting poem while some other participates the way they feel comfortable. The teacher too participates on the occasion.
WORLD DISABLED DAY CELEBRATION 2015