

Impact Stories from Deafblind Project in East India

Impact Story

I was excited to see my son winning a prize for the first time.....!

Ratan Kumar, a 12 years old child with deafblindness is residing at Hajiganj, Patna. He lost his father at the age of two and lives with his mother who is a housewife, elder brother and a younger sister.

He is totally blind and has severe hearing loss. The project staff identified him in a survey conducted to identify children with deafblindness and enrolled him into the project in July 2014.



Ratan gets training from his mother

Before joining in the programme:

He was identified with severe developmental issues and

- was unable to sit
- used to lay every time on the bed
- was totally dependent on his mother for his daily living activities including drinking, eating, toileting, brushing, bathing etc.

Ratan's mother was very much disturbed by his behaviour and as she said she had miserable results even after taking various treatments.

Our Intervention:

The disability rehabilitation team from Ashadeep, the partner organisation, after completing the assessments found that he had severe developmental delays along with deafblindness. Understanding the ignorance of his mother, project staff counselled Ratan's mother and helped her to understand the condition of the child and nurtured a ray of hope in her mind.



Ratan, tries to eat by himself

The project staff initiated training activities, focused on developing his daily living activities including drinking, eating, toileting, brushing, bathing etc. Annual goals have been planned for each year based on his further developments. Training activities were implemented based on the intervention plan prepared.

Progress after the intervention:

After 5 years of intervention, Ratan has improved his skills on daily living activities. He follows simple instructions like - come, go to the toilet, sit, eat, take, stand up, remove your pants, pull your pants and hold. With little instructions he is independent in most of the daily living activities. He goes to the toilet by himself, holds a mug and tries to remove his clothes.... etc. He eats by himself and is aware of his bedroom and places inside his house.

Looking at his current situation, his mother is so pleased. She is now very much happy and enjoys traveling with him. Ratan has begun to play with his brother and sister. He used to come two days to the center prior to Lock down and receives home based services as well. He loves to listen to music and started to participate in cultural activities, being organised at the resource centre.

Feedback from parent:

Baby Devi, his mother says; "I was so excited, when my son received a prize from his school for the first time in his life. I never thought that he could do anything in life. Thanks to his teachers who trained him."

At present, the rehabilitation team looks forward to making him more independent in this daily living activities and enabling him to perform all tasks without giving him much instructions and planning to introduce him pre-braille skills.