

Impact Stories from Deafblind Project in East India

Story of Change

Before joining the programme:

9 year old Shipra aspires to become a singer as she grows up. It was not the same when she was growing up. Shipra belongs to a small town called Ranchi and was born to Chandrashikha, who is a homemaker, and Nagendra, a government employee. She has total blindness with functional hearing loss since birth due to asphyxia. Shipra's parents never thought that she would be able to learn anything as they didn't understand the disability and it was also highly stigmatized in the community around them. Since the parents did not understand the disability, they blamed each other for the disability of their child.



As the parents didn't understand the support that she needed as a deafblind child, her development was delayed and she couldn't even walk or express her needs. It was then identified by the project staff from the partner organization as they identified her through a sensitized community member 2 years ago. She was then taken for functional and clinical assessments and based on the assessment, she got enrolled in the project.

Our Intervention:

When she joined the programme, the project staff identified her needs based on the assessments and provided her training on;

- orientation and mobility
- Communication skills and for that the sign language to be taught to her
- Socialization
- Activities of Daily Living (ADL)



Progress during the intervention:

After a few months training she started responding to the training. She liked the atmosphere in the resource center and was cooperative while training. Gradually, she began to;

- walk with very little support
- communicate for her needs through making noise and gestures
- to be calm when she was listening to music

- to hum the songs she likes.

She is now able to walk with minimal support and communicates for her needs with various gestures or actions. Her socialization has improved and mingles with the people around her.

“सेंटर आने के बाद से मेरी और मेरे परिवार की ज़िंदगी बदल गई है।” (Our lives have changed since we started coming to the centre) says Nagendra her father.

After understanding the disability of their child, Nagendra and Chandrashikha have now become very active parents and bring Shipra to the center every day for the services. The bond between the family members have become better since they started noticing her progress.

“बहुत गाना गाती है। बड़ी होकर सिंगर बन्ना चाहती है।” (She sings a lot. She wants to become a singer when she grows up) says Chandrashikha her mother with a smile on her face.

The project staff have now started giving her Pre-braille training as well. Her special educator wants Shipra to have progress in academics along with ADL, orientation and mobility, and communication.