



# AWMH TIMES

April 2022 – June 2022



**Association for the Welfare of Persons with a  
Mental Handicap in Maharashtra**

**AWMH-Maharashtra**

## *Reaching out to that child with delayed milestones....*

*At AWMH we have the distinction of operating early intervention centres in Mumbai when there was little awareness about it. Over the years we have learnt many new techniques, added new therapies and started stressing on building potential of children for inclusion & social adaptation. The COVID pandemic time forced us to adopt digital mode of therapy where trained parents proved their worth. We also used the pandemic time to train our teachers and therapists on many new activities that help the children to do better. So today AWMH is well placed for expanding its operation and reach out to more children.*

*We can reach out to more beneficiaries by either opening new centres or expanding the scope and volume of services. The later option seems to be more feasible in the short-run. This option entails strong networking of parents and reaching out to the affected families thru digital social media.*

*We intend to embark on this journey with full confidence and expertise. AWMH will avail services of experienced and dedicated graphic designer and digital marketing professional. We would like to use full potential of social media – fb, twitter, Instagram. I am told the initial push is very important. Besides we would require support from all parents, our esteemed members and benefactors to multiply our efforts, by adding to the number of visitors who see AWMH messages and spread it in their respective groups.*

*So say a silent prayer for that child with delayed milestone...*

*Be his/ her benefactor by spreading AWMH messages/ visuals/ success stories on social media to your groups for continuing the chain. It must reach & catch attention of that child's family. When they bring the child to AWMH early intervention centre, our dedicated teachers and therapists will put in their best efforts.*

*.....and our prayer would have been answered.*

*Shrirang Bijur*

## EARLY INTERVENTION & PRE-SCHOOLING

### A: Case Load

Center Name	April 2022	May2022	June 2022
Mulund center	32	31	31
Dombivli center	39	42	42
Ghatkopar Center	36	37	37
Khetwadi Center	18	19	21
Mankhurd Center	32	32	30
<b>Total</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>161</b>

### Special Education and Preschool Stimulation Session in EIRP centre





### Speech therapy Session in EIRP centre



### Occupational Therapy Session in EIRP centre



### IQ and Developmental Assessment by Cl. Psychologist in EIRP centre



### Group therapy sessions in center





#### A. EIRP General Activities:

- 1. Provision of Orthotics :** In May 2022, AWMH Children received orthotics and Hearing aids from Vatsalya Trust, Kanjurmarg. Total 15 children were provided with orthotics and 2 Hearing aids.



- 2. Sponsoring Medical Intervention:** AWMH sponsored a child for orthopaedic surgical Intervention for correction of Foot deformity.

AWMH trustee Ms. Swaroopa Modi Sponsored a child for a child from Mulund centre for her Foot deformity Correction surgery costing Rs.40000/-.

Megha Pawar is diagnosed with Club foot deformity and unable to walk. following Surgery by Dr. Mudit Shah, paediatric Orthopaedic Surgeon in Chembur, she is now able to maintain standing and initiated walking with min support.





**Before Surgery**



**After Surgery**

- 3. Staff Learning and training:** Every month in EIRP staff meeting, a topic and case study is discussed among staff.

The therapists, teachers and psychologists upgrade their skills by case studies, this allowed us to access more expertise to meet the challenges of difficult child- cases, and provide better EI service to the beneficiaries.

Discussion on topics related to Early Intervention during monthly EIRP Staff meeting were conducted regularly.

- a. Speech therapy Intervention in Cleft Lip and Palate, Presentation by Ms. Shraddha Shanivare (Speech and language Pathologist).
- b. Developmental Coordination Disorder, presentation by Ms. Sheetal Aidale (OT).
- c. Use of Audiometry in Speech Therapy, presentation by Ms. Shraddha Shanivare.



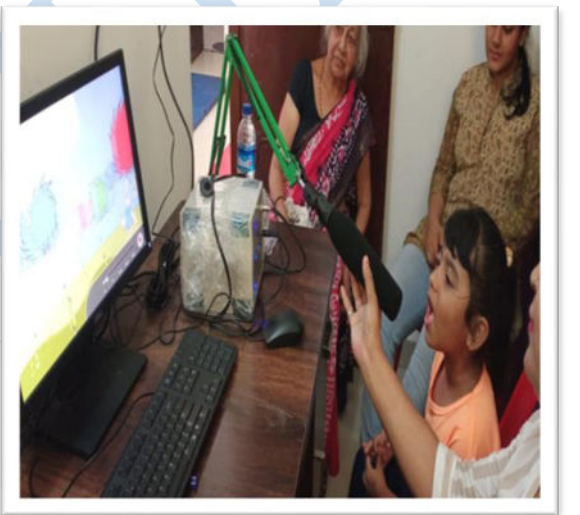
#### **4. Operation of New equipment:**

WIPRO Foundation provided one time grant of Rs.23.3 lakhs, under their CSR program to equip our 5 EIRP centres.

AWMH EIRP centre were equipped with new therapeutic devices and teaching and learning activities, including evaluation and Intervention tools. The equipment is being used in the centres with very good response from the children.

- a. Sensory Integration Therapy: Tactile Stimulation equipment
- b. Vestibular and Proprioceptive Stimulation equipment
- c. Physical Exercises and Positioning Equipment
- d. Visual Perceptual Activities (Problem solving puzzles and games)
- e. Special Education Teaching Aids
- f. Speech therapy Assessment and Intervention tool

Children empowered with the tools and equipment help them through their developmental challenges, so that they may reach their full potential. Therapeutic devices and equipment are used to increase, maintain, or improve the functional capabilities of children with disabilities. The kits will enable the children's learning through play. The end objective is to make the child develop potential for increased academic readiness and social adaptability for interaction with their peers. The computer aided speech and language therapy assessment and intervention tools provide diagnostic and treatment for speech and language disorders. Interactive application of audiometry and special support system help to develop different phonatory skills including voicing, speech intensity, breathing, voice tone and pronunciation of the set of sounds.



**5. 17<sup>th</sup> May 2022- Meeting with Dalal Family Foundation (DFF), through Zoom Conference call.**

Ms. Meena Parekh, Cdr. Shrirang Bijur, Mr. Durgesh Koppikar and Dr. Shital Fulzele attended the meeting.

**Following points were discussed during the meeting-**

- a. Case Load -Average of 56 registered children from Ghatkopar (ASD/CP/Speech and Hearing / Developmental Delays / Down's Syndrome) and Khetwadi centre (ADHD / CP / Learning Disability / ASD) EIRP centre are receiving Early Intervention in a month supported by



DFF. There are few new referrals from neighbouring hospitals / clinics for admission to EIRP centre in AWMH after lockdown when centres reopened.

- b. AWMH EIRP centre were equipped with new therapeutic devices and teaching and learning activities, including evaluation and Intervention tools.
    - i. Sensory Integration Therapy: Tactile Stimulation equipment.
    - ii. Vestibular and Proprioceptive Stimulation equipment.
    - iii. Physical Exercises and Positioning Equipment.
    - iv. Visual Perceptual Activities (Problem solving puzzles and games).
    - v. Special Education Teaching Aids.
    - vi. Speech therapy Assessment and Intervention tool.
  - c. Children empowered with the tools and equipment help them through their developmental challenges, so that they may reach their full potential. Therapeutic devices and equipment are used to increase, maintain, or improve the functional capabilities of children with disabilities.
  - d. Request for sponsorship of EIRP center in Mankhurd - AWMH Mankhurd center is currently located in PMGP colony (Case load - 32 registered children), Mankhurd west in a residential flat. It is very compacted area of around 200sq.feet which is not suitable for performing some therapeutic exercises including Sensory Integration therapy and gait training in children with physical disabilities due to space constraint. AWMH requested DFF to sponsor Mankhurd center, so we can shift the center to bigger and spacious rooms for individual therapy (occupational and sensory integration therapy, Speech and language therapy, Special education and preschool stimulation)
  - e. Improving Early Intervention services through staff increase, so AWMH can provide services to a greater number of beneficiaries- Average of 160 children are receiving early Intervention including Occupational therapy, Speech and Language therapy and Special education in 5 EIRP centres located in Khetwadi, Ghatkopar, Mulund, Dombivali and Mankhurd. Each centre has one Special educator as centre head, Occupational therapist coming thrice a week and Speech therapist coming twice a week. If we increase staff (2 special Educator in 1 centre), we can improve quality of services through increased number of regular sessions, also will be able to increase number of children through new admissions every month.
6. **WIPRO quarterly Meeting - 8<sup>th</sup> June 2022**, on Zoom Conference call. EIRP activities explained by Ms. Dr. Shital Fulzele, which includes-

- a. EIRP Staff training
  - b. Procurement of Equipment
  - c. Collaboration with Other NGO's-
  - d. Update on Renovation of Mulund and Dombivli center rooms.
7. **Home Visits** : TISS Interns, students of social science conducted home visits of 30 children from EIRP centre in April and May 2022. During their visit they observed environment of child's Home, they also interview family to understand parent difficulties and challenges for receiving regular therapies during lockdown.



## FROM SPORTS DESK

We started offline Sports Centre on 20th February 2022. To begin with there were only five students who joined for offline session. Currently there are more than fifteen students coming offline and eight to ten are joining virtually. The students report by 11:15 a.m. and the session starts at 11:30 a.m. to 1:15 p.m.

Competition schedule for AWMH Sports events that are lined up are mentioned below:

- 1) World Disable Day Annual Athletic Meet on 3rd December 2022 at Goregaon Sport Club.
- 2) Jamnabai Narsee School Annual Athletic Meet for Special Schools on 20th December 2022.
- 3) AWMH Maharashtra State Cricket Tournament will be held in the 1st week of February 2023 at Goregaon Sports Club and Prabodhan Krida Bhavan.

We had discussion about AWMH Maharashtra State Table Tennis Tournament. The competition date for Table Tennis Tournament was initially to be held on 10 th September 2022 at Goregaon Sports Club Malad, but due to Ganapati festival vacation date has been revised to 24<sup>th</sup> September 2022. The booking of the hall

with revised date has been mailed to Mr. Farzan, the Manager of Goregaon Sports Club Our Admin Office has sent a request letter to Mr.Sanjay Maloo, Hon.General Secretary and Mr. Karan Singh Walia, Outdoor Sports Chairperson of Goregaon Sports Club for booking of Table Tennis Hall as per revised dates. We have spoken with Mr. Kedia of Rotary Club of Mumbai Versova for the sponsorship of Table Tennis Tournament as they are sponsoring this tournament since last 12 years. Mr Kedia has also been apprised of the change of date of event.

The circular for AWMH Maharashtra State Table Tennis Tournament has been mailed to all the schools in 3rd week of June 2022. The ability grouping for Table Tennis tournament will start from 3rd week of July at Sports Recreation Centre, Malad Preparation for Table Tennis tournament will start from July 1<sup>st</sup> week We have twenty students coming for offline at Sports Recreation Centre, Malad and nine coming virtually for sports training. The number of students is expected to increase when school restarts.

Accommodation for outstation schools will done at Punarvas Special School. The ability grouping test for Mumbai, Thane and Navi Mumbai will be conducted on 20th,21st 27th and 28th August 2022.

The ability grouping test for outstation schools will be done one day prior to the competition i.e. on 23rd September 2022.

Last date for submission of entry for all the schools will be 27th July 2022. The advance training of match practice (variation in service, smash etc.) has been started with the students with higher ability.

#### **FROM RAC DESK**

Online dance classes were held twice on weekends under the able guidance of Mr. Arindam Dey, a professional dance teacher who is a part of Hema Malini's dance troupe.

RAC family had its first meeting of the year 2022 at Villa Theresa School celebrating Hitesh's birthday.

7 SAs and 14 volunteers & well-wishers looked visibly happy & excited to meet in person after a long period. After doing exercises and playing games, it was time to cut the cake & sing the birthday song with full gusto! This was followed by sumptuous snacks. On behalf of AWMH, Hitesh was given birthday gift of Rs. 500/- that included Rs. 200/- added by Mrs. Swarupa Modi..

Since a good number of parents were present, the issue of meeting regularly at Villa Theresa School was discussed. Due to difficulty in commuting these days, it was felt that meetings should be held every alternate week i.e. 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month.



Regarding membership fee for SAs, it was decided that to keep a record of our members,

SAs will submit their membership forms along with a nominal fee of Rs.100/- annually. Next meeting was held on the 30th of April

On 30th April, Rotaract Club of Wilson College, Chowpatty, organised a fun filled party for RAC family.

It must have been a new experience for the young Rotaracts to interact with PwIDs. They picked up the nuances fast and entertained the SAs with indoor games and were thrilled to see the cheerful response they received for their invitation to dance to Bollywood numbers As usual, volunteers and well-wishers too joined in.

In all 9 SAs which included 2 members from SRCC who came with their Yoga teacher and 12 volunteers/well-wishers attended the session. Our members got a good opportunity to make friends with SRCC boys and the young hosts. Snacks served in snack boxes were enjoyed by all.

We thank Ms. Swarupa Modi for arranging this get together on the last day of the year 2021- 22. RAC sessions will resume on the 4th of June after May vacation.

Online dance classes organised by Mr. Ravi Bagdi have been going on once a week. We hope to see a better response from RAC members to these classes after the vacation.

On 4th June, seven RAC members and 8 volunteers/well-wishers were joined by four SAs from SVRR along with their teacher, Mr. Dave. All the four SVRR youngsters have also joined RAC and plan to attend RAC meetings regularly.

Ms. Tejal Purohit along with two young enthusiastic volunteers very ably took charge of the gathering. They conducted three interesting games. The highlight of the day was dancing session which was thoroughly enjoyed by one and all. We thank Ms. Tejal for sponsoring snacks boxes for all those who were present.

On the 18th June RAC member, Jigesh Shah celebrated his birthday with 9 members and 10 Volunteers / well-wishers. After some exercises, games and chit-chat and cake cutting ceremony, snacks were served. On behalf of AWMH, Jigesh was given as birthday gift an envelope with Rs.500/-cash. This amount includes Rs.200/ contributed by Ms Swarupa Modi

-----X-----X-----