

**People with Hearing Impaired Network
Hyderabad**

Annual Report

2011-2012

Supported by

Network of person with disabilities organization (NPdO)

Hyderabad-36

People with Hearing Impaired Network (PHIN) is a voluntary organization working in Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra. In the area of Hearing Impaired welfare. The PHIN came into existence 4 years welfare. The PHIN came into existence 4 years back with the sole aim of reaching out to the millions of Hearing of AP whose call for help goes unheard. We since then have been working towards educating and empowering our Hearing Impaired youth so that they lead happy and meaningful lives. We provide a wide array of services from Education, Vocational Training, Job placements, Interpreting, Matrimonial services, Counseling for Youth and also for the Parents of Hearing Impaired Children, Leadership Training and seminars for HI Schools and more. These are just a few ways we can reach out to this needy community for which we plan to expand our areas of operation. We conduct programs beneficial to the HI in various parts of Andhra Pradesh. Including; Hyderabad and Maharashtra.

Education is extremely important in shaping up ones personality and enhancing ones overall growth and development, it is something which opens up a wide array of opportunities in our lives. We at PHIN realize this and have always stresses on educating the Deaf youth so that they can face the challenges of life with confidence. We at present run technical educational centers in Hyderabad. Here quality education is impaired to all. We not only teach computers and English at basic and Advance level but also teach Personality Development, Life Skills, General Knowledge and Indian Sign Language. All these subjects are taught for the purpose of all round Development for our HI. Our entire teaching staff is HI and they interact with the students using Sign Language.

PHIN is the produce sign language wall poster with the support of govt. it can be used by parents, professionals and social workers working with Hearing Impaired. This poster fulfills this need by providing essential information to schools, institutions and also parents of the Hearing Impaired. PHIN is distributed free of charge to all institutions of all government officers, private, corporate offices.

Seminar/ Awareness/ workshops on Rights and entitlements on the rights of PWD act and UNCRPD.

The process of creating awareness on Human rights, people with Hearing network team started in systematically. The identified Hearing Impaired person were oriented on the present situations of HI and concept of PHIN and the need take up work in rights mode. They were oriented on the rights perspective in reaching out the vision of the PHIN, the volunteers spent time along with the state thematic management planned for this intervention. The primary task of identifying the Hearing Impaired living in the different locations of the villages of their working mandals was daunting task.

The initial phase of the district volunteers and the thematic management members struggled a organizing the identified Hearing Impaired. The initial interaction with the Hearing Impaired members thrown up their basic lack of knowledge and attitude to access their needs and utilizing existing govt. measures. PHIN prepared itself first and then the members were given the orientation about the various Act and laws and govt. schemes, and the ways to access them.

After going through a phase of interaction with block level Hearing Impaired members from different villages were oriented on Human rights and laws and Importance of having their own institution to raise their voice and access their right were discussed. This discussion further led to holding block level

meeting of HI. The state thematic management officers along with the NPdO team members attended these seminars. The presence of the state members attending these meeting gave an understanding and the status of the block level of Hearing Impaired organizing the conducting these meetings was major challenge faced by the team members in the initial phase.

The orientation and strengthening of members at block level has improved the follow up system of the memorandums given to the government officials by the Hearing Impaired members.

Block level seminars were organized to sensitize the members of HI and the following agenda points were discussed in these seminars.

- a) Gathering the HI membership
- b) Extending the working Area
- c) Collecting the local resources
- d) Developing rapport with the govt. officials.
- e) Providing awareness on govt. schemes
- f) Accessing the HI to avail the employment opportunities.
- g) Increasing the women HI participation
- h) Developing network relations with likeminded organizations

This way of organizing the block level seminars at one location and discussing their issues increased capacity of the members in Hearing Impaired about 1000 to 1500 members participated in these seminars along with supporters.

Seminar availed at a glance:

District Name	SI.No	Mandal Name	Participants	Covered topics
Mahaboobnagar	1	Amangal	50	1. Person with disabilities Act 1995
	2	Balangar	50	2. GOs (disable related)
	3	Dhanwada	50	3. Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities
	4	Farooqnagar	50	4. Human rights.
	5	Jadcherla	50	5. Women with disabilities Rights
	6	Kothur	50	6. Rights entitlements
	7	Narayanpet	50	
Nalgonda	8	Yadagirgutta	50	
	9	Thipparthi	50	
	10	Bhongir	50	
Ranga Reddy	11	Rajendranagar	50	
	12	Hayatnagar	50	
	13	L B Nagar	50	
	14	Malajgiri	50	
	15	Saroornagar	50	
Total covered				

Participants				
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Campaign on RIA (Right to information Act) and PWD 1995 (person with disabilities Organization)

The Right to information Act initially came to force in Rajasthan and Delhi under the pressure of some people organizations and social workers. It was later enforced as law in the entire country (except Jammu & Kashmir) on October 13, 2005. This law capable of bringing transparency and accountability in working of the government has proved to be the most effective tool for the general public since Independence.

For many years, activists of PHIN with the support of NPDO and other organizations were active in seeking information on corruption by demanding income and expenditure of panchayats, disseminating the information to general public, lodging complaint, and demonstrations before the senior administrative officers and thereby getting solutions for the problems and complaints. Right to information Act came as a definite weapon in the hands of these activists which facilitates reaching the roots of the problems of general public and finding their solution easily.

After the enforcement of law the biggest problem was to contact the information officers appointed in different departments because the bureaucracy was still not serious about this law and it was not easy to get the RTI application accepted in any department. This campaign was launched successfully by NPdO in 14 districts of AP with the help of other associated organizations. After the initial campaign, RTI camps were organized in many stages at the headquarters of other tehsils and block headquarters and are now organized regularly.

Yadagirgutta, Thipparthi of Nalgonda; Shadnagar, Kothuru of Mahaboobnagar: RTI camps are organized from the time of start of the campaign in various tehsils and blocks and through them more than 500 Hearing Impaired peoples have become aware of this law and more than 1000 applications have been filed to different departments.

Campaigns availed at a glance:

District Name	Sl.No	Mandal Name	Participants
Mahaboobnagar	1	Kothur	100
	2	Shadnagar	100
Nalgonda	3	Yadagirgutta	100
	4	Thipparthi	100
Ranga Reddy	5	Rajendra Nagar	50
	6	Hayatnagar	50
Total covered participants:			

Workshop on HIV and Disability:

The intervention empowers Hearing Impaired person women by increasing knowledge and awareness about sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and HIV/AIDS; improves the women's negotiation skills to counter their vulnerability to STIs and HIV/AIDS; and enables the women to become peer educators. PHIN worked directly with SHG women for two years. In year three PHIN now provide technical assistance to mainstream the HIV/AIDS prevention actives into the block levels. PHIN is collaborating with APSACS prevention partner NGOs to roll out follow-up counseling in two mandals of mahaboobnagar and two mandals of Nalgonda. Each disability has different needs since there are major physical and mental variations in different disabilities. Through their needs are different, people with disability when considered as a cohesive group faces the same discrimination whether in the fields of employment, education, healthcare or participation in society. Despite the fact that the physical or mental impairment of People living with HIV/Aids is not apparent, they are not regarded as able-bodied individuals. The stigma associated with their condition is so immense that, they are most often denied access to treatment and discriminated in the workplace, at times resulting in termination of employment and prevented from participating in mainstream society.

Although the interests of people with disability are protected under the PDA to a limited extent, people living with HIV/AIDS are not provided any statutory legal protection against discrimination. The common law and the Indian constitution. If discrimination is to be accountable either through creation of anti-discrimination legislation or amendments to the PDA so as to expand its scope to include HIV/AIDS and the private sector.

Mass events:

On the occasion international Disable Day which falls on December 3rd PHIN took up this day as a major activity to be organized in block levels and district and state, A state level gathering of members of Hearing Impaired along with other mass movements and prominent leaders addressing the gathering had a major impact on the meeting were held at village, mandal level by the volunteers in bringing awareness about the importance of the December 3rd IEC materials were prepared and circulated widely among the members in different villages. Members of PHIN used to gather in large numbers for these meetings. Local resource was mobilized for conducting such meetings. It used be a festive day facilitated for their contribution and recognition in the society at their level.

Helen Keller Birthday Celebration: this is an occasion for Helen Keller Birthday Celebration to came together to celebrate and remember the great ideals who fought for Hearing Impaired person freedom. PHIN organized meeting with 150 members on 26th July, on participate in the programmers organized issues of Hearing Impaired. This is one of the occasions for PHIN to sensitize Hearing Impaired Issues.

Mr. Ahmed Bin Abdul Balala, MLA R.Venkat Reddy AICB have been participated for the celebration. 150 Hearing Impaired participated. PHIN organized Sports for Hearing Impaired children and distributed the Prize and Certificates. **International women day Celebration:**

On 20th, March, 2012 People with Hearing Impaired Network (PHIN) celebrated international Women Day with the support of NPdO and IKP (disability) 200 Hearing Impaired Women were participated and addressed their issued to by the print and electronic media. The issue are:

1. Women with Hearing Impaired discrimination by the society.
2. The issues of language (Could not understand of Sign Language)
3. proper understand of their expressions.
4. Marriages issue. Grass roots women Hearing issues (Marriage, family, and emotional feelings)
5. Employment opportunities
6. Distribution of aids and appliances

At this occasion of international Women's Day, I believe these women can bring a positive change in our society and they can play an imperative role to bring healing and reconciliation in much disturbed nation...

Sensitization and Awareness Programs

PHIN reached out through various platforms to raise awareness about the Hearing Impaired Community on rights and entitlements. Workshops were organized and mass dharns organized on various Hearing Impaired issues.

Sign Language are natural language that use different means of expression for communication in everyday life. more particularly, it is the only means of communication for the Hearing Impaired. Thus, it offers enhancement of communication capabilities among normal beings and provides replacement for speech among Deaf and Mute people. Because of these, automatic sign language recognition has attracted vision research works are going on sign language in order to make the communication between a Deaf person and a normal person easy. In a sign language, the signs are generated by combinations of hand motions and finger gestures, frequently augmented with mouth movements according to the spoken language. Hand motions are distributed from one sign to another by the spatial motion pattern the body parts that the signer touches at the beginning, during or at the end of a sign. In addition to the hand movement, the finger configuration during the slower parts of the hand movements also provides signification meaning to a gesture.

Sign Language

Its key activities of PHIN in circulating and posted in the all government public, private corporate offices wider levels across the state of Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra states.

PHIN Matrimonial Services, Marriage and Family Counseling:

Being a Deaf married couple brings with it its own set of challenges. The family of PHIN members provides marriage and family counseling to young Hearing Impaired couples. These couples often have

Hearing Children. PHIN a organizes “Swayamvar” programmers whereby prospective young Deaf adults can find their life partners in the presence of their partners.

Vocational training and job placements:

A major focus of our work with the Deaf is integrating them into the workforce of mainstream society. One vocational training centers in, Hyderabad, provide vocational training to the Hearing Impaired and help them to become proficient in areas like computer literacy and secretarial skills, thus greatly improving their chances of getting good jobs.

Advocacy Programmers:

PHIN working hand in hand with other local and national advocacy groups, our Deaf members take part in advocacy programmers and campaigns which promote the cause of the Hearing Impaired and focus on issues such as Human rights, inclusion and accessibility.

Educational support:

Karimnagar and Shadnagar starts educational support for Hearing Impaired school children the children receive quality pre-primary as well as primary school education here free of cost with the support of local donors and business man. The children are taught elementary educational skills such as sight reading, mathematics and writing. In extracurricular activities such as arts & crafts, and receive training on topic such as manners & performing arts and many other subjects.

The aim of the programmer is to prepare the children to be able to get admission in good schools by the age of 6. Since the apartments are not able to afford the fees, we find sponsors for all the children that pass out of our school so their schooling is secured until finish high school.

SHG Formation and trainings:

It is tremendous efforts by the PHIN we bough awareness to Hearing Impaired and disabled people about the concept of self-help groups and encourage them to form a self-help group in their community. Once discussions have taken place, and all concerned have decided to form a self-help group, the group, the group should approach the community executives are further action. Elected executives are the key people of the community; therefore they should be contacted from the beginning.

After formation of the group, all group members should partipate in identifying of the target group. There different types of disabilities, that can be categorized into 5 main types, namely,

- 1) Blind people
- 2) Deaf people
- 3) People with learning disabilities (here the parents must be involved)
- 4) Physically disabled people and

5) people with multiple disabilities.

Normally there should be many interactions, discussion (both positive and negative), and a conclusion made during the meeting. Formal meetings are usually held once a month to formalize decisions by passing the minutes of the meetings. Sometimes, self-help groups can meet in informal ways too. To account at all times, and therefore all members should be called for all meetings.

Meeting procedure

Self-help group activities

After formation of the group, all group members should participate in the following tasks/activities.

- Awareness raising
- Needs assessment
- Confidence building
- Training
- Motivation
- Developing group Rules, policies and principles
- Establishment of savings and credit scheme

Free distribution Hearing Aids:

PHIN distributed free of cost to Hearing Impaired children at the Hyderabad and Karimnagar and Nalgonda. The initiative was part of NPdO and PHIN effort to reach out to Hearing Impaired children as a philanthropic measure. It has distributed free Hearing aids about 100 with the support of NIMH and disabled welfare dep. During distribution aids on our guest said 'said Hearing and speech are essential tools of learning, playing and developing social skills. Children learn to communicate by imitating the sounds they hear. Hearing impaired children develop speech and language late, which impedes their academic progress, pointed out that Hearing loss in varying degrees affects two children out of 100 under the age of 18.

Success stories;

Mr. Vishnu Prasad dropped out of school in class 8th. He then started working with his father in private company where he was getting rs. 500 per month. The business failed and the factory was closed down leaving Vishnu Prasad unemployed. Vishnu Prasad however did not give up. He joined another factory where he worked as a book binding. He started earning rs. 1000 per month. But somehow deep in his heart Vishnu Prasad wasn't satisfied as he knew he was capable of much more.

One day he saw some Deaf youngsters signing on the road. He approached them and they told him about PHIN, he joined PHIN and started learning. However at the same time there was a lot of pressure from home and his father wanted him to join a job. Vishnu Prasad however felt that if he wanted to do something with his life, he first needed to develop the right skills and so he continued to learn.

After one and half years, Vishnu Prasad was now ready to step into the big world again. He was elated when PHIN offered him a training opportunity with 'lemon tree hotel at HI-tech City, a leading Hotel in Hyderabad. He underwent an in House Keeping

Today Vishnu Prasad is a proud member of the lemon tree team and is earning rs. 4500 per month. His hardworking nature is clearly reflected in the fact that the one weekly off that he gets, he comes to PHIN and is continuing to learn here. He is truly someone who does not stop and continues to dream big and make efforts to get there!! Vishnu Prasad signs, "I thank PHIN for helping me find a job of my choice and I am happy and satisfied"

C.Seetha Madhavi- office assistant in Government officer as on contract basic: was an eager learner who always wanted to find a place for herself in the society. A place where she can be proud of her achievements and herself. The highest education offered by her school was senior secondary, so she completed that but after that she was clueless about what to do next. She knew where she wanted to be but had no idea how and what to do achieve it. Through her fellow students at school she learned about PHIN and the vocational training provided by them. She asked and convinced her family to take her to PHIN eventually she joined PHIN.

After that her life completely changed. She learned sign language, English skills at PHIN. During that time she got to know that many of the students from PHIN were getting place in hostels and offices and industry. When she explored and questioned her fellow students who got placed with different hotels about the work culture, she felt that she had found her calling. She then discussed her aspiration of working in hospitality industry with her teachers and parents. After seeing the motivation and eagerness she had, they decided to support her. She was placed in government office on contract basis.

Since she comes from a middle class family with limited income, she feels proud to be able to contribute in her family's income. In words of her father "she is living a respectable life which I never ever believed that a Deaf person is capable of PHIN showed her a new way to life, a drive to her dreams. We are proud of her. " seethe madhavi on other hand only has thing to say that "I am what I am only because of the training and opportunities PHIN gave me."

Vijayalakshmi- House Keeping Team, Golkonda Hotel: Vijaylakshmi was always interested in learning new things. She joined PHIN after completing her 10th class to primarily build her communication skills. She comes from a big family of six people. At the time she joined PHIN. Her father and sister were only earning member in the family. Even though they managed well enough, Vijaylakshmi always wanted to help and contribute to her family and create her own identity. Today she is doing exactly that. In a way she is living one of her many dreams.

She is now working with Golkonda Hotel in their House Keeping Team. To be on time for her job she leaves at round 5.30 in the morning, but she is never late for the job no matter what. Her father thinks she the most responsible of all her siblings. The commitment level shown by her is commendable. Today not only is she happy but satisfied with herself and life at large. She knows and values the opportunity and support provided to her by her family and PHIN