



ANNUAL
REPORT
SAMADHAN | 2020 - 2021



Contents

Founder's Message	1
From the Executive Director's Desk	2
About Us	3
Our Programs & Projects	7
Our Response to the Global Pandemic	12
Workshops & Training Programs	14
Government Schemes & Regulatory Compliances	16
Partnerships & MoUs	17
Our Donors	18
Going Forward	20
Get Involved	21



Founder's Message

Greetings to all!

Forty years ago, SAMADHAN was just an idea that envisioned the organization to be more than just a service provider, in an area where not much was available. We wanted to reach out to the vulnerable sections of society – those living in poverty with a child with Intellectual Disability. The question we were most often asked was, “Is it my karma?” The answer, of course, was that it was no one’s karma. It was a challenge, but we worked hard each day to make the families understand a child with an intellectual disability can be born to any family, rich or poor, irrespective of the deeds of their past lives or any sins committed by them in their childhood.

On 9 December 1981, the seed was sown. Like all seeds, it has taken years to grow and become fruit-bearing, reaching out to thousands of children and their families, along with the community members. Funds and donations of various forms have, indeed, provided this seed with the much-needed care, and even today, amidst the global pandemic, SAMADHAN is able to serve the children through virtual therapy and counselling sessions. My thanks and acknowledgement to all our dedicated staff and professionals.

Entering into our 40th year, we are happy to share that we have reached out to more than 50,000 families through our early intervention, special education, counselling and women’s empowerment programmes. These we were able to achieve thanks to the generous support of our many donors and well-wishers. I take this opportunity to acknowledge your wishes and financial support in helping us reach out to this marginalized group of children and their families.

Prameela Balasundaram
Founder



From the Executive Director's Desk

Dear Friends,

We are happy to present to you the Annual Report for the financial year 2020-2021.

The past year has been a challenging one for the entire world. Heart-wrenching narratives of despair, panic, anxiety and loss still loom with a constant sense of uncertainty about the future. Many of our staff and families of the children we serve have lost their loved ones or are yet to rise out of the financial crisis due to the pandemic. Yet, the will to serve our children has kept us going even in these challenging times.

We strived to ensure that the progress that the children had made all these years did not get reversed. Through the tireless efforts of our staff and consultants, we decided to adapt ourselves to new normal by channelling our focus on engaging parents and guardians to actively participate in virtual classroom and counselling sessions to teach, assist and guide their children at home using locally available resources for educational and therapeutic activities.

The constant backing from our donors has been instrumental in ensuring the continuity of these sessions for the children. Furthermore, with the help of different funding organizations, we were able to initiate new projects that will provide livelihood options for children with disability and women living below the poverty line. A special thanks to all our donors and corporate sponsors who have kept the hope alive for us through their continued and consistent support. I would like to acknowledge all the staff members, professionals and the families of the children for coming together in harmony to work for the benefit of our children. I would like to express my gratitude to the members of the Executive Board for their support in these changing times.

A lot more needs to be done. The work is far from finished. Although we do not know what the future holds for us, we would like to reaffirm our commitment to the children we serve by giving them the assurance that even during a pandemic like this, we will continue to adapt ourselves to make sure that they reach their full potential.



Sumathi Morgan
Executive Director

About Us

SAMADHAN is a non-profit, community-based registered organization started in 1981, with a mission towards establishing an infrastructure of accessible and affordable services for children with intellectual disabilities. A pioneer in the field of intellectual disability with a primary focus on early intervention, the centre is within the community in Dakshinpuri in South Delhi, which has a population of over 300,000 comprising over 50,000 families.

SAMADHAN extends its services to children with Intellectual disabilities such as Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation, Multiple Disabilities, Down Syndrome, Learning disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder and Developmental Delays. The primary activity of SAMADHAN is identifying and providing services for children who are either born with an intellectual disability or at risk for developmental delay leading to disability if relevant services are not available and who are also impacted by poverty. The age group served is 0 to 16 years. The medical team of multidisciplinary professionals consists of a pediatrician, occupational therapist, speech therapist, psychologist and special educators. In addition, Creative Movement Therapy, Drama Therapy, Music Therapy and Art Therapy form part of the curriculum to train the children.



Our centres at Dwarka (left) and Dakshinpuri (right)



OUR MISSION

To establish an infrastructure of accessible service for persons with intellectual disability living in low socio-economic areas and primarily for infants and pre-school children, using as far as possible human resources available within the target communities with active community participation leading towards an inclusive society.



MEMBERSHIP

- Registered under subsection (2) of Section 51 of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016
- Member of the National Trust, a statutory body of the Government of India
- Member of the Local Level Committee for Guardianship Issues of The National Trust
- Affiliate members of Inclusion International, a world body advocating for persons with intellectual disability
- A full member of the Asian Federation for the Intellectually Disabled (AFID)
- An institutional member of the Asian Resource Centre (ARC), located presently in Tokyo, Japan
- Member of the International Association for the Scientific Study of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IASSIDD)



AWARDS

- Award of Recognition as a leader in the Collective of Leaders for Persons with Disabilities - PVRNest and Ummeed – Ray of Hope, 2020
- The Most Promising Social Programme complementing the Sustainable Development Goals Award - Coffee Because, Delhi, 2018
- The Good Practice Award - Dubai International Awards for Best Practices to Improve the Living Environment (DIABP), 2005
- Innovation for successful interlinking of the three issues of disability, poverty and women's empowerment Award - World Bank, 2001
- Award of Recognition - Inclusion International (the world body advocating for persons with intellectual disabilities), Hague, 1998



LEGAL STATUS

- SAMADHAN is a registered society under the Societies Registration Act of 1981 with Registration No. 12183
- Registered under section 80G of Income Tax Act of 1961
- Registered under the FCRA with the Ministry of Home Affairs with Registration No. 231650031
- Obtained Equivalency Determination Certificate, making SAMADHAN equivalent to a U.S. Public Charity.



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

PRESIDENT	Ratan Kumar Gurtoo
TREASURER	George Koshi
MEMBERS	Janak Kumari Gandhi
	Sanyam Maratha
	Uday Balasundaram
	Prabodh Bhambal
FOUNDER-MEMBER	Prameela Balasundaram
EX-OFFICIO MEMBER	Sumathi Morgan



44 children benefitted from the Early Intervention programme



22 children enrolled in the Special Education Unit



06 children joined the Pre-vocational Skill Training programme

06 children joined mainstream schools



35 children with disabilities enrolled into the Niramaya Scheme



03 women trained in spice production and kitchen gardening



Our Programs & Projects

EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAM

In March 2020, the Early Intervention Unit at SAMADHAN's Dakshinpuri centre had to be temporarily closed down because of the government order related to the nationwide lockdown. Adapting to the changing times, the Early Intervention Team added each child's caregiver to a specific group based on their needs and demonstrative videos of exercises using simple resources at home were shared with them through WhatsApp. The team, including our therapy professionals, also engaged with the caregivers regularly over collective and individual phone calls or video calls to discuss the challenges and suggest improvisation techniques. We also provided counselling sessions for the families on the management of children during the lockdown. Appropriate therapy techniques are selected based on a child's progress, parents' feedback and weekly case conferences between the professionals and early intervention team.



"My daughter, Navya, has been diagnosed with Autism so she needs regular therapy sessions. Due to the lockdown, we could not take her anywhere. Thanks to SAMADHAN, we were able to give her exercises at home after getting instructions from the doctors and teachers."

Asha, Navya's mother

SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

SAMADHAN's Special Education Unit at Dakshinpuri has 22 children enrolled in its admission list. The unit has been successfully transforming the lives of its students by enabling them to reach their maximum potential through play-way educational methods. The combined efforts of the special educators, counsellors, and the families of the children ensured the continuity of learning through pre-recorded instructional videos of the activities and lessons that could be easily practised at home. The family members of the children played an instrumental role in supporting their child to learn the lessons taught. We observed that the children with siblings were more enthusiastically engaged in their "activity time" since their siblings too participated along with them. Although the progress has slowed down a bit for them, the continuity in activity-based learning has not been broken. Appropriate educational and skill-development techniques are selected based on a child's progress, parents' feedback and weekly case conferences between the professionals and special educators.



"My son has Cerebral Palsy. Even during the lockdown, the teachers from SAMADHAN took online classes and we also got assistive devices for Prince for home-use."

Hema, Prince's mother

PRE-VOCATIONAL SKILLS TRAINING UNIT

As we look forward to expand our reach to include children between the ages of 12 and 16, we have successfully set up a pre-vocational skills training unit in each of our centres. The objective of the unit is to provide training to each child, according to her/his abilities, on various vocational skills - such as block printing, card making, bookbinding, digital lamination, gardening and housekeeping - to prepare them for skill-based employment in shops, hotels, printing centres, etc. that will generate sources of income for them. Both units are well-equipped with a variety of training materials and a functional computer lab. This year, six children have been admitted into the program.



"The teachers from SAMADHAN were in constant touch with us during the lockdown to provide instructions on how to keep our children engaged. Aspak has Down's Syndrome and he is very active and creative. Special counselling was given to us on how to handle his behavioural issues at home."

Nazeema, Aspak's mother

WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT PROJECT

The project aims to reach out to women from low-income communities, focusing primarily on mothers with intellectually disabled children living in and around Dwarka in South West Delhi. The project was established to break the still existing traditional perceptions of women, especially in the low-income communities where women are looked upon as mere “wives and mothers.” With limited educational qualification and skills, it seemed impossible to pursue their dreams. SAMADHAN has trained a group of women in the complete processing of spices, preparation of nutritious laddoos, papier-mache handicrafts and kitchen gardening. Once they started coming out of their homes and got exposed to a world of opportunities by learning about the variety of employment avenues, the women became empowered and ensured that their children got better educational inputs. We are also giving employment for these women to enable them to have some financial independence in their lives.



THE SPICE UNIT

The spice unit of SAMADHAN has patrons who regularly support and corporates who have always encouraged the sale of spices. After the procurement of raw materials, the spices are produced in-house using hygienic methods by the women's group. In 2020, with financial support from one of our donors, the women produced 50 kilograms of Nutri-mix, a highly nutritious health mix that was distributed to the families of our children in Dakshinpuri. Though the general sales have come down during this period, there is hope that it will pick up once the situation improves.

THE GARDEN PROJECT

Initiated in April 2020 at our Dwarka centre, this project aimed to train women from low-income groups, especially mothers of intellectually disabled children, on additional livelihood skills such as kitchen gardening, mushroom culture, and hydroponics. Within these few months, the women have successfully managed to grow a variety of vegetables such as brinjal, spinach, cabbage, coriander, mushroom, spring onions, okra, tomato and pumpkin. These home-grown vegetables are organic and provide a healthy alternative to the commercially grown produce as they are chemical-free and grown using natural fertilizers. The harvested vegetables are currently sold to our patrons at nominal prices. In the months to come, we hope to enable these women to train persons with intellectual disability as a vocational skill-training program at the centre. With continued support, the project can be scaled up as a self-sustaining activity.

"When I joined SAMADHAN 10 years ago, I was not very confident about myself. Today, I have made sure that both my daughters are well educated and I feel more in control of my life. The training at SAMADHAN has helped me a lot."

Renu Gupta



Our Response to the Global Pandemic

NUTRIMIX - A NUTRITIOUS BOOST

A dietary package including Nutrimix (a nutritional health mix powder made of 100% pure and high protein traditional ingredients), ghee and sugar was distributed to all the children to boost their nutritional intake during the months of October and November with funding support from The Ford Foundation. The health mix was made by the women's group of SAMADHAN.



PPE KIT DISTRIBUTION



PPE kits and protective masks, sponsored by The Leprosy Mission and Mr. Onkar Singh, Member of Delhi Sikh Gurudwara Management Committee, were distributed to our essential services workforce - our security personnel and the community workers - for their safety and protection against the transmission of the COVID-19 virus.

ASSISTIVE DEVICES DISTRIBUTION

Orthotic and prosthetic devices were given to 15 of our children belonging to families with meagre monthly income. As these assistive devices are expensive to be purchased for home use, a group of donors from the United Kingdom, mobilized by Jackie and Tony Nelson, enabled the organization to arrange these essential devices for the children to continue the vital therapy sessions at home.



SALUTING THE FRONTLINE WORKERS OF SAMADHAN



The number of active cases of COVID-19 has been high in the areas around our Dakshinpuri centre ever since the start of the pandemic. Some of our staff members are also Accredited Social Health Activists, or ASHA workers*, who have been continuously assisting the government in various teams to help the families in the community affected by the virus. SAMADHAN provided special PPE kits and financial assistance to these brave women who continue to put themselves at risk as frontline workers for the safety of others.

**ASHA - An accredited social health activist is a community health worker instituted by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare as a part of India's National Rural Health Mission.*

MOMENTS OF JOY AMIDST THE CHALLENGES

On the occasions of Diwali and Christmas, we at SAMADHAN organized a low-key celebration at our Dwarka centre, following all safety protocols, to cheer and encourage our staff during these trying times. The Friends of SAMADHAN group from Australia decided to make the moment more special for us by sponsoring little gifts of joy for the staff members and all the children. Every child enrolled with us was given a vibrantly wrapped present, bringing a bright smile to their face. The staff members, too, had a wonderful time when they got to meet each other after a long gap. On Diwali, colourful rangolis were created, and sparkling diyas were lit with the hope that things would go back to the way they were.



Workshops & Training Programs

DRAMA THERAPY

A three-day online workshop on Drama Therapy was organized as a part of the capability building activities for the teachers and professionals of SAMADHAN. The workshop was conducted by Kriti Sharma, a drama educator and founder of Oceanaris, who taught the participants to use physical expression and creative movement as a medium of communication with children. In addition, she encouraged the participants to embed elements of drama into the curriculum and day-to-day activities of the children to enhance and stimulate emotion. This is especially crucial for those children who struggle to emote. The culmination of each session focused on discussing classroom scenarios and the appropriate interventions that could be adopted.

MUSHROOM CULTURE

An online workshop on Mushroom Culture was attended by the women of our women's empowerment project in the month of April. The session was conducted by Geetha Arunachalam who gave the participants detailed information on growing different types of mushrooms and the basics of mushroom culture. The interactive session provided an opportunity for the participants to ask questions and gain more knowledge in this area.

EDUCATION THROUGH ART

SAMADHAN, in collaboration with Art for Change Foundation (AFC), conducted an interactive and engaging virtual workshop with parents, students, staff and interns. This was the orientation session of a three-part art workshop series planned to focus on creating a learning environment for

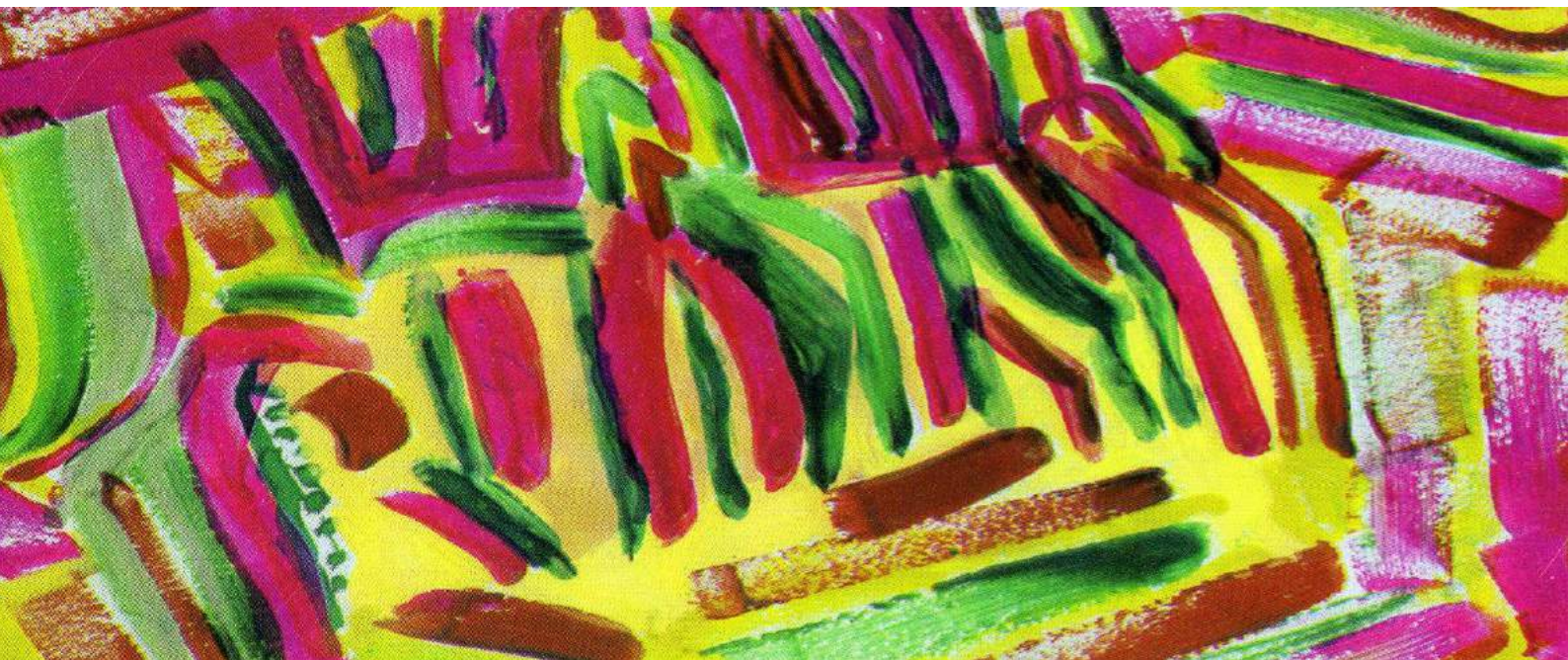


children with intellectual disabilities in their day-to-day lives through art and art-related projects. The resource person for the session, Mr Isaac Gergan - Director of AFC, shared a

thought-provoking and insightful presentation on basic and complex emotions, theories of basic emotions and the six basic emotions, and the categories of theories of emotions. The session gave the participants a meaningful insight into the human psyche's complex emotions with apposite examples.

LEGAL RIGHTS AWARENESS PROGRAM

The Delhi Legal Services Authorities, along with SAMADHAN, organized an awareness programme at the organization's Dakshinpuri centre on 3 December 2020, which is also the World Disability Day. The resource person, Ms. Nabeela Wali - Judge, Delhi Judicial Service / Secretary, DLSA (South) - distributed learning materials to the parents/caregivers and informed them about the legal aids available for their children. Around 25 participants, including parents, community members and our staff, attended the programme, which was followed by an interactive session to clarify any doubts and questions that were raised.



Government Schemes & Regulatory Compliances



NIRAMAYA HEALTH INSURANCE SCHEME

This scheme of the National Trust, a statutory body of the Government of India, provides affordable health to all persons with disabilities holding a valid Disability Certificate. It provides an annual insurance cover of up to ₹1,00,000 to the beneficiaries for various health-related treatments in any hospital, including reimbursement of transportation costs up to a prescribed limit. With the support of the Ford Foundation, we were able to pay the premium amount for 35 children from the community and enroll them under this scheme.



DISHA - EARLY INTERVENTION AND SCHOOL READINESS SCHEME

The Disha scheme aims at setting up early intervention centres for persons with disability between the ages of 0 and 10 years under the National Trust Act. On meeting all the requirements, the National Trust funds the therapies, training and support availed by the beneficiary through registered organizations. A total of 10 children from SAMADHAN are availing this scheme.



REGULATORY COMPLIANCE

Following the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Act, 2020 that came into force on 29 September 2020, we are pleased to share that we have opened a new FCRA account with the State Bank of India, as per the revised rules prescribed by the Government of India concerning foreign funds, and is now functional.

Partnerships & MoUs

ART FOR CHANGE

We have initiated a collaboration with the Art for Change organization to jointly conduct programmes on the empowerment of women, including mothers of the disabled, and using art as a medium for therapy for the children. A series of art workshops, skill-building workshops and a mini-residency programme have been planned to raise funds to support women, children with disabilities and their families impacted by poverty.

FRIENDS OF SAMADHAN

Friends of SAMADHAN, an Australian-based funding partner exclusively formed to support our programmes, joined hands with us to cooperatively raise funds for programmes that would result in the advancement of health and education for children with intellectual disabilities belonging to families from low-income groups, creation of awareness and sensitization on intellectual disability and promotion of empowerment of women impacted by poverty. The group will be actively involved in promoting child sponsorships, setting up volunteer programmes and organizing various fundraiser events to raise resources for SAMADHAN.



Our Donors



**Japanese
Volunteers
Group**

**Danielle
Maree**

**Pradeep
Nair**

**UK
Volunteers
Group**

**Uday
Balasundaram
&
Team**

**Individual
Donors**

**Iskander A
Lalljee**

Mahesh

**Alex
Jacob**

Ramamurthi

Sanjay Lal

**Col. PK
Sharma**

Going Forward



Increase one-to-one sessions with safety protocols



Strengthen Pre-vocational Skills Training Unit



Ensure sustainability of women's empowerment projects

Get Involved

ALL IT TOOK WAS ONE VISIT

My very first visit to SAMADHAN was in March 2019. I was introduced to the NGO when a tour I was on visited as part of their itinerary. We arrived on a day when the students were performing a concert for parents and local community members.

Being a mother of four children, I believe that every child deserves the opportunity to fulfil their potential and feel good about themselves, regardless of their capabilities or their place in society. I also believe education and understanding are an essential part of breaking down barriers and ignorance in almost every aspect of life, especially when it comes to disabilities. As SAMADHAN addresses both these areas, I felt I would like to contribute financially in some small way to their work. Through sales of a photo book I created, I managed to raise some funds to send to SAMADHAN.



Along the way, I created a bit of a connection with some staff members. I decided to visit again in October 2019 to see what went on at SAMADHAN and ask lots of questions about their work with the children, how their NGO operated, and see what other ways I might be able to help. What I found during my visit was a group of people working hard to help the children both academically and physically through various therapies and offering support and education to their parents while reaching out to the broader community to raise awareness about the plight of children with disabilities.

My visit to SAMADHAN made me realise that while financial support is critical, support comes in many other forms. Emotional, social and practical support are as equally important now more than ever before, in a time where many of us feel isolated. I believe that as individuals, we can make a difference in the world, and collectively we can make a bigger difference. I have seen the difference our support makes first-hand and the joy it can bring to the lives of the SAMADHAN families, knowing that people care about them.

One day, when the world returns to its new “normal”, and we can travel again, I hope to spend more time with the staff and students of SAMADHAN.

Danielle Maree
Fundraising Volunteer & Donor | Australia

KNOW OUR WORK

At SAMADHAN, we strive to provide the best services at affordable costs for the families.

It is our dream to enable every child who enters our gates to lead an independent life, according to their capabilities, and live it to the fullest. To make a difference in their lives

life, there is always something that you can do. Through donations and child sponsorships, you can help in transforming the lives of these children with your support.

Continued support will also help us in making our services more accessible and affordable for those in need.

Visit samadhanindia.org for more details

Follow us on [Facebook](#) for latest updates

CONTACT US

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