

SUNDAY MAY 31, 2015

Sakal Times

25 hearing impaired kids get 'graduation' certificates

ST CORRESPONDENT

reporters@sakaaltimes.com

Parag Jadhav

Pune: The lives of around 25 hearing impaired children changed on Saturday, as they were presented with 'graduation' certificates from Big Ears, KEM Hospital. Prakash Chhabria, Trustee, Mukul Madhav Foundation and Executive Finolex Industries Ltd had handed over these certificates to the children graduates. These children, who were suffering from hearing loss, had received Cochlear implants between 2010 and 2011.

Their parents and the entire team of KEM Hospital helped them to adjust to this new change in their life and to adapt to mainstream society. "We believe in putting the patient first, before anything else. Our main aim is to ensure that any hearing impaired child will get the same opportunities as any other normal child would. And our assistance post-surgery enables the children to



ENABLED: Children dance at Big Ears graduation ceremony in city on Saturday.

lead a regular life and interact with normal children," said Dr Neelam Vaid,

Direction and Implanting Surgeon of Big Ears. According to Vaid, most of these children with hearing impairment have been because of inter-family marriages and there are an es-

timated 12 million children suffering from such problems. She also added that treating such problems is a financial burden.

"Ninety eight per cent of their patients come from families that could not afford expensive technologies for treatment

and over 275 children have been treated in the past nine years," she said. Big Ears, founded in 2006 by Dr Neelam Vaid, is a clinic for early detection and prevention of hearing impairment. They are committed to giving hearing impaired children a normal life.