

**Project Title: Comprehensive special education and rehabilitation
Services for 240 persons with deafblindness and their families (60
children and 180 family members)**

Project Timeline- October 2024- March 2025

Project Report: October 2024 – February 2025



Submitted to:

Mukul Madhav Foundation

Submitted by:

Sense International India

Contents

Introduction.....	3
Specific Objectives of the Project.....	3
Key Achievements	4
Programme plan till March 2025	11
Financial Overview:	11
Sustainability plan.....	11

Introduction:

In Ranchi, Jharkhand, Sense International India, with the support of the Mukul Madhav Foundation, has been dedicated to empowering children and adults with deafblindness and multiple disabilities. This report highlights the **measurable outcomes** and **sustained impact** achieved between 1st October 2024 to 15th February 2025.

Through a combination of centre-based and home-based services, this initiative has not only enhanced the independence of service users but also equipped families with the skills to create a nurturing environment. Advocacy, community engagement and capacity building remain central to the project's long-term sustainability. At its core, the initiative adopts a multi-faceted approach, bringing together communities, rehabilitation professionals and families to create a more accessible and inclusive society. Through centre-based and home-based services, the project provides personalised education, specialised rehabilitation and capacity-building support for families and caregivers. This empowers families to provide effective care and advocate for disability rights within their communities.

The project also strengthens the capacity of stakeholders across education, healthcare and community sectors, enabling persons with disabilities to achieve academic, vocational and social success. This integrated model fosters independence, social inclusion and an improved quality of life for service users, while creating sustainable pathways for inclusion and advocacy.

This initiative demonstrates that inclusion is achievable when diverse sectors collaborate, providing a replicable model for driving systemic change and advancing the vision of a truly inclusive society. During this reporting period, the project achieved significant milestones.

Specific Objectives of the Project:

At the beginning of the project, the following objectives were established to guide the intervention strategies:

- **Early identification and enrolment:** Ensure early screening, identification, and enrolment of children and adults with deafblindness and multiple disabilities.
- **Access to services:** Provide specialized medical, therapeutic, educational, and rehabilitation services through centre-based and home-based programs.
- **Capacity building:** Train caregivers, educators, and other stakeholders to support children with deafblindness.
- **Community engagement and advocacy:** Strengthen community-driven advocacy and awareness initiatives to improve access to government schemes and services.
- **Monitoring and Evaluation:** Regularly assess progress and update Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) for targeted learning and development.

Key Achievements:

A. Specialised Deafblind State Centre

- Provided comprehensive **medical, therapeutic and rehabilitation services** to children and adults with deafblindness and multiple disabilities.
- Ensured **consistent access to intervention services** for 84 individuals (57 males, 27 females).

B. Support for 60+ Children and Adults with deafblindness and multiple disabilities

- **24 new service users enrolled** (14 males, 10 females), increasing total beneficiaries to **84**.
- **14 Anganwadi Kendra visits resulted in 8 new referrals**, ensuring early identification and support, while an additional **8 referrals were received from Deepshikha OPD, mainstream teachers and parents** through the local network and other stakeholders.
- A total of **65 stakeholders were sensitized**, including 42 males and 23 females, comprising **resource teachers, therapists, physiotherapists and nursing students**.
- **12 clinical assessments conducted**, leading to precise updates to Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) for targeted learning and development.



C. Comprehensive medical, early intervention, therapy, education and rehabilitation

- **46 individuals received physiotherapy**, leading to improvements in mobility and posture.
- **34 beneficiaries underwent speech therapy**, enhancing their communication skills.



- **19 children benefited from early intervention activities**, improving motor skills and interaction levels.
- **27 children and adults received medicinal and nutritional support**, ensuring holistic well-being.
- Practical training on basic exercises and activities were shared during home visits and at the centre by the project team, this training enabled parents to conduct the activities with their children at home as well. As a result, caregivers gained confidence to support their children independently and provide consistent care within the home environment.



D. Capacity building of caregivers

- **10 caregivers were trained**, including 9 males and 1 female. Hands-on caregiver training on home-based rehabilitation enabled families to independently support their children, ensuring continuity of care.
- Focused training on **functional assessments, communication strategies and daily living skills** improved caregivers' ability to assist children at home.



E. Capacity building of staff

- **Enhanced expertise of staff members** through specialized training sessions on deafblindness and multiple disabilities. **One staff member successfully completed web education course on deafblindness**, enhancing their knowledge and skills to provide more effective and tailored support to individuals with deafblindness and multiple disabilities. This training strengthened their ability to develop individualized education plans, implement specialized teaching strategies and address complex needs more confidently.



- A mentoring visit provided hands-on guidance and practical strategies for working with children with complex needs. This led to improved intervention techniques, better understanding of child-specific challenges, and enhanced capacity among the staff to design and implement holistic care plans, ultimately improving the quality of services offered to the beneficiaries. **Mentorship and guidance** provided through on-site visits, reinforcing best practices in specialized care and intervention strategies.
- The **East Regional Training on Deafblindness** in Ranchi provided comprehensive knowledge and practical strategies to the entire staff team, enhancing their skills in supporting individuals with deafblindness. The training focused on effective communication techniques, individualized education planning, and strategies for promoting independence, leading to improved intervention approaches and better service delivery.



- The **East Regional Training on Mental Health** empowered 5 adults with deafblindness, 5 siblings and 5 escorts by increasing their awareness of mental health challenges and coping strategies. The training aimed to strengthen emotional well-being, improve support systems within families, and foster a better understanding of mental health needs in individuals with deafblindness.

F. Strengthening networks of families, teachers and adults with deafblindness and multiple disabilities

There were various efforts under the project to strengthen the networks under the project. Some of the activities being executed and their results are follows:

- **4 local network meetings facilitated knowledge-sharing and advocacy** among families, professionals, and policymakers, resulting in increased access to government support schemes. The network meetings held led to significant outcomes, including discussions on the MTC Centre, organizing a medical camp, arranging auto provision for the centre, applying for a bus, and facilitating the admission of Shama and Hamiz



into a government school. Additionally, key issues such as securing bus passes for government buses in Ranchi, improving transportation for children to the centre, obtaining UDID cards, accessing railway concessions, registering the network, and forming Self-Help Groups (SHGs) were addressed. The meetings saw active participation, with 16 participants (4 males and 12 females) in January and 12 parents (3 males and 9 females) in February.

- The **State level network and advocacy meeting** was conducted in Ranchi, focusing on strengthening collaboration, promoting policy advocacy, and addressing key issues related to the rights and inclusion of individuals with deafblindness. The meeting aimed to enhance networking among stakeholders, discuss strategies for improved accessibility to government schemes, and encourage the formation of support groups for sustained community engagement.



The event has supported in:

- **Strengthening community-driven advocacy efforts**, leading to improved accessibility and support for children with disabilities.
- Availing various benefits to the service users from Got. Schemes and project

G. State level training on deafblindness for different stakeholders

Following state trainings were conducted under the project to train various stake holders on deafblindness and multiple disabilities. This effort under the project has aimed creating an eco-system for persons with deafblindness and Multiple Disabilities in the region.

- **Training for Samagra Shiksha educators**

30 teachers from Samagra Shiksha Department were trained on deafblindness equipping them with practical strategies for supporting children with deafblindness.

- **Sensitisation training for disability like minded organisations:**

Deepshika organised various sensitisation programme, focusing on creating awareness about deafblindness and the available support systems for children with complex disabilities. The session highlighted the importance of early **screening, identification** and **referrals** to ensure timely interventions for children with **Deafblindness, Multiple Disabilities (MD)**, and **Multi-Sensory Impairment (MSI)**.

Various discussions emphasized the need for NGOs to play a proactive role in identifying children with disabilities and connecting them to appropriate services. The meet also covered various schemes under the **National Trust**, such as the **Niramaya Health Insurance Scheme**, which offers affordable health coverage for persons with disabilities and the provision of **Legal Guardianship** to safeguard the rights of children with severe disabilities. Additionally, information about other central and state government schemes aimed at supporting children with disabilities and their families was shared. The session concluded by stressing the importance of collaboration between NGOs, government bodies to ensure holistic development and equal opportunities for children with complex disabilities.



Details of service users under the project:

Age Group	Male	Female	Total Beneficiaries Impacted
0-6 years	15	6	21
6-18 years	31	15	46
18+ years	11	6	17
Total	57	27	84

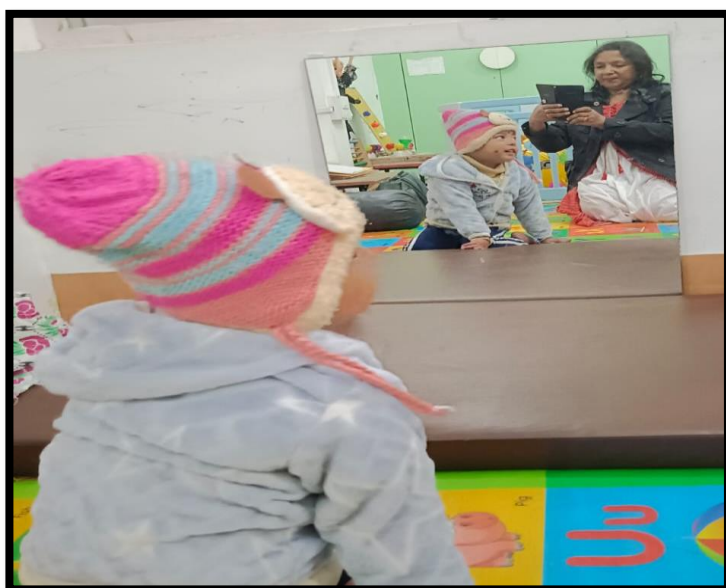
The overall impact of the project on service users has been transformative, fostering independence, enhancing communication skills and improving overall well-being.

Children like Arnav, who once struggled with basic motor control and minimal interaction, have shown remarkable progress through tailored interventions. Arnav's journey highlights the profound change possible with dedicated support—gaining neck control, improving posture, transitioning to semi-liquid food and showing emotional connections through smiles and responses to touch. The project's holistic approach, combining physiotherapy, sensory activities and caregiver training, has empowered not only the children but also their families, enabling them to actively participate in the rehabilitation process.

Through consistent therapy, early interventions and community involvement, service users have experienced improved mobility, communication and emotional well-being, while families have found renewed hope and practical strategies to support their children's development. This collective effort has not only enhanced individual lives but has also strengthened community networks, paving the way for a more inclusive and supportive environment for individuals with deafblindness and multiple disabilities.

Impact Story:

Yug Kumar, fondly known as Tallu, was born on 12th June 2021 and lives with his parents, grandparents and uncle's family in Hatia, Ranchi. His mother, Manisha Lama, works as a Centre Assistant in the Sparsh Project of Sense India at Deepshikha, while his father, Rajat Kumar, is employed in a private job. Yug was diagnosed with low vision, functional hearing loss, Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) with epilepsy at the age of 8 months due to a delayed



birth cry, as identified by Dr. Rajeev Ranjan at Sidharth Hospital, Hinoo, Ranchi. He was referred to Deepshikha OPD for further intervention and was enrolled in the Sparsh Project under centre-based direct services on 24th January 2024.

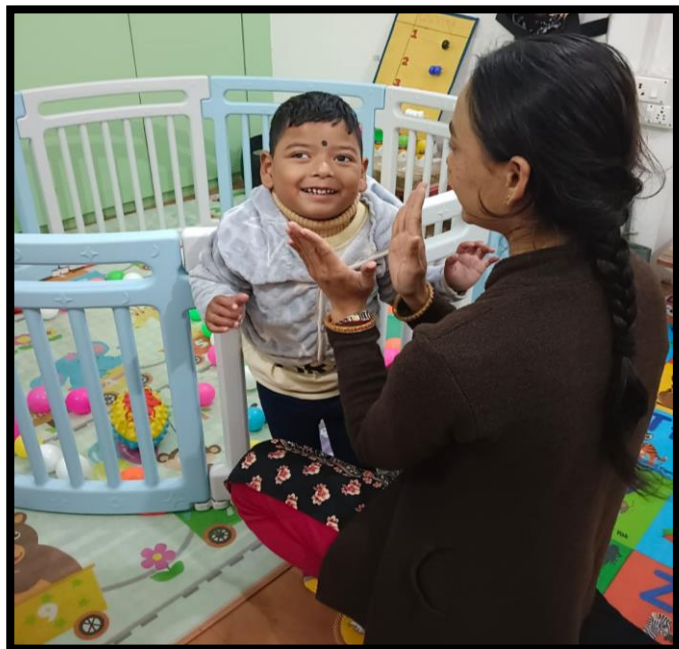
Before joining the programme, Yug had limited motor skills, managing basic neck control and corner sitting for only five minutes. He was unable to turn from supine to prone and showed no eye contact. Since enrolling in

the programme, Yug has made significant progress. He can now sit independently for up to 30 minutes, maintain a crawling position, and stand with support for five minutes. He can also hold a glass and bring it to his mouth without assistance. His verbal skills have improved, as

he can now babble simple sounds like “ka ka ka” and “ba ba ba.” Additionally, he uses gestures such as shaking his head to refuse tasks and clapping when happy. Light reflection is now observed in both his eyes.

Yug’s main achievements include sitting without support, standing without the use of gaiters, holding a glass independently, and expressing refusal through head gestures. He communicates using simple gestures—clapping when happy, placing his fingers in his mouth when hungry, and shaking his head to indicate refusal. Yug enjoys singing songs, participating in action rhymes, playing in groups, and eating spicy food. However, he dislikes noisy environments and criticism. His special educator believes that with continuous effort, Yug can become independent in Activities of Daily Living (ADLs).

His parents are deeply satisfied with his progress. His mother is actively involved in his daily training and activities, while his father consistently picks him up and drops him off at the centre. They are optimistic about Yug’s future and hope he becomes independent and a contributing member of the family. In their own words, “Ham yahan par Yug ke progress se bahut khush hain. Mera bacha sab kaam sikh jayega aisa mujhe vishwas hai, mera pura parivaar khush hai.”



The key workers involved in Yug’s development include special educator, speech therapist and physiotherapists, with additional support from field staff, parents of other children and D.Ed trainees.

In the past three months, Yug’s goals included toilet training to help him express his toilet needs, drinking water independently using a glass, engaging in sensory games, tactile and visual stimulation, participating in group action rhymes, and improving his chewing ability. Moving forward, the action plan aims to build on these skills, with specific focus on toilet training every two hours, drinking water by independently holding and positioning the glass, sensory play using flour, tactile stimulation through soft cloths and scrubs, visual stimulation activities using light reflection, and group action rhymes like body parts songs, number rhymes, and “*Lakdi Ka Kathi*.”

The family has expressed their satisfaction with the Deepshikha team, praising the support and intervention provided. Yug’s journey reflects significant improvement and with continued efforts, he is on the path to greater independence.

Lasting changes and brighter futures

Last two quarter's progress underscores the **tangible, outcome-driven impact** of the programme. Through strategic interventions, enhanced advocacy and direct community engagement, we are building a future where **every child with deafblindness and multiple disabilities has the opportunity to thrive**.

By continuing to scale efforts in healthcare, therapy, education and policy advocacy, Sense International India remains committed to creating lasting change, one child, one family and one community at a time.

Programme plan till March 2025

1. **Scaling up services:** Expand outreach and service delivery to additional districts in Jharkhand.
2. **Clinical assessments:** As more students are identified, clinical/ functional assessment to be undertaken.
3. **National Training and National conclave:** Capacity building of project coordinators, caregivers, special educators and adults with deafblindness and multiple disabilities through theme-based events from 17th-20th March 2025.
4. **Community and family empowerment:** Continue fostering parent networks and self-help groups to provide sustained peer support. Expand mental health and well-being programmes to ensure holistic development.

Financial Overview:

Payment released by MMF during the relevant period	INR 1500000/-
Actual Expenditure Incurred till December 2024	INR 650057/-

Sustainability plan

To ensure the continued impact and benefits of the project beyond the implementation period, the following strategies have been outlined:

1. **Capacity building and knowledge transfer:**
 - Continued training programmes for caregivers, teachers and medical professionals to sustain knowledge and expertise in supporting individuals with deafblindness.

- Strengthening mentorship programmes to empower staff and stakeholders with advanced skills and best practices.

2. Community engagement and advocacy:

- Strengthening the parent network for ongoing peer support.
- Continued lobbying for government policies that enhance service access for individuals with deafblindness.

3. Infrastructure and resource development:

- Expanding partnerships with local organizations and government bodies to secure long-term funding and resource allocation.
- Strengthening referral systems and collaboration with healthcare providers for continuous access to medical and therapeutic interventions.

4. Monitoring and Evaluation:

- Developing a framework for tracking progress and impact through quarterly assessments and feedback sessions.
- Leveraging data collection to refine intervention strategies and enhance service delivery.

By implementing these sustainability measures, Sense International India and its project partners aims to ensure that individuals with deafblindness and multiple disabilities continue to receive the necessary support, even beyond the current project cycle.