

Autism Society West Bengal

Annual Report 2015 - 2016



Registration Details

Under the societies Act - (Registration No S/IL/13372 of 2002)
Department of Social Justice and Empowerment - NO. 312(com)
National Trust. NO.051015391777021/MR/CP/AUTISM/MD

Contact Details

Registered Office - 22 Anjuman Ara Begum Row, Kolkata 700033
Mailing Address - D/1 /A Katjunagar Jadavpur ,Kolkata 700032
Contact Details – Tel-033 64581576, Mobile-9830139173

Email autismsocietywb@gmail.com

Website – www.autismsocietywb.org

ASWB Vision

A supportive, social environment where persons with Autism are understood and their right to participation upheld.

ASWB Mission

To enable individuals with Autism and their families to participate in developing strategies to improve their quality of life; optimize their strength through education, advocacy and support.

Message from Ms. Indrani Basu (Founder & Director)

2015- 2016 was an eventful year. In the month of April, Nehru Children Museum displayed drawings, colourings, paintings and sketches by children with Autism. A solo art exhibition of Abhishek Sarkar, a student of the pre vocational unit of Dikshan, a young man with Autism was organized by Autism Society West Bengal (ASWB) in association with ITC Sonar on World Autism Awareness Day (WAAD) in April, 2015. The Art Exhibition was aptly titled “**অ-সদ্বাহন**”; which means exceptional on Bengali.

In September ASWB in collaboration with Ministry of State for Women and Child Development and Social Welfare Government of West Bengal together with High Level Task Force on IM &MMR, Government of West Bengal organized a 2 day workshop on “Identifying, Understanding and Supporting individuals with Autism and Cerebral Palsy” at Nilratan Sarkar Medical College and Hospital. It is indeed reassuring to notice the government organizing such workshops.

This year several Senior therapists Ms.Chandrani Chakraborty, Ms. Dolon Paul, Mr. Pranabesh Bhunia, clinical psychologist Ms Manisha Bhattacharya were invited as resource persons to different workshops outside West Bengal, some as far off as Bangladesh.

Students of Dikshan participated in the annual cultural program-‘Rainbow’ organized by the Rotaract Club of Heritage Institute of Technology in August, 2015. In October, 2015 some Dikshan students participated in the Cultural Programme- ‘Amra Korbo Joy’ organized by Association of Scouters –Famochi at Gyan Mancha. Rotaract Club of Heritage Institute of Technology also organized “Enthusia” Annual Sports meet for specially challenged Individuals in the month of January, 2016 where some of our students participated. It was heartening to see our students participating in so many socials and cultural events along with the other ‘neuro – typical’ persons.

In February 2016, it was a proud moment for Autism Society West Bengal to participate in Kolkata Gives Exhibition. Autism Society West Bengal was honoured to get selected as one of the 30 genuine NGOs to be working in the field of disability.

In March 2016 individuals with Autism from ASWB participated in the Kolkata marathon organized by IDBI bank and Federal Life Insurance supported by Kolkata Gives Foundation. Students of Dikshan and their parents took part in the 'Anando Run' category of Kolkata marathon.

Participation & acceptance are the faces of a coin. None can exist without the other. ASWB carries on its commitment for optimizing the strength of individuals with ASD through advocacy, education and support.

About Autism Society West Bengal (ASWB)

Autism Society West Bengal (ASWB) is a parent initiated non-profit organization that champions the right of individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) to participation in areas of education, employment, and social events. We have been involved in providing evidence based autism specific services.

Some milestones of ASWB

2003 – DIKSHAN, A Special School for students with ASD founded.

2004 - DIKSHAN Therapy unit started which provided Hourly Intervention to children with ASWB who were not enrolled in Dikshan.

2005 – The Telegraph Award for the “School thatCares”.

2006- Started Summer School during the summer vacation. (During summer school we accommodate families who cannot avail of our services at other times.)

2008 – ASPIRES, Parent training with child commenced.

2009 – Invited by Organizations in Bangladesh to train teachers & parents.

2009 – Heart springs Award (USA) for innovation in Special Education given to founder Ms. Indrani Basu

2011 – Usha Uthup sings for Autism.

2011 – Website launched by Governor of West Bengal His Excellency M. K Naryanan

2012 – Self Advocacy by three individuals with Autism for World Autism Awareness Day

2013 - The popular regional news channel 24 Ghanta telecast an interview of Indrani Basu, Director, Autism Society West Bengal (ASWB).

2014 - A new project Young Adult with Autism Reach out (YAAR) was launched at ASWB.

2015 - Computer and iPad training for the young children with ASD introduced in summer camp.

Networking with other organizations

Autism Society Works closely with other organization not only in exchanging and sharing information but also in training and setting up services for individuals with autism. We have conducted lectures and hands on training with following organizations:-

- 1) Action For Autism , New Delhi
- 2) Autistic Children's Welfare foundation, Chittagong, Bangladesh.
- 3) Dwar Jinkerman, a school for students with special needs, Shillong, Meghalaya
- 4) Goodrike School , Siliguri , West Bengal
- 5) Indian Institute of Cerebral Palsy , Kolkata, West Bengal
- 6) Mary Rice Centre , Shillong , Meghalaya
- 7) Supportive Learning Centre, Hyderabad
- 8) Spectra School of Autism, Bangladesh
- 9) Institute for Pediatric Neurodisorder and Autism in Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University, Bangladesh
- 10) National Institute for empowerment of Persons with Multiple Disabilities (NIEPMD)

This year ASWB organized several workshops. Resource persons Ms. Merry Barua, Ms. Parul Kumtha, Dr. Animita Chowdhury Saha (via Skype), Ms. Kavita Sharma, Ms. Indrani Basu (of AFA) & Ms. Sushma Nagarkar and our own Founder Director Ms. Indrani Basu (of ASWB) are distinguished speakers in their own right and they are all mothers to individuals with ASD. There are lifelong challenges for the parents of children with autism – and that's especially true when there are limited services and programs available to them. But with formidable courage in the face of overwhelming obstacles these women have created courage in the face of overwhelming obstacles facilities not only for their own child but for others too. Inspiring and transformative they showed us about the power of belief, love and, and the dazzling possibilities that can occur

when we learn how to tap the true optimum potential that lies within every child, and in all of us.

Services run by Autism Society West Bengal (ASWB)

Therapy Unit provides comprehensive assessment, evaluation and intervention for individuals' with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) from professionals specifically trained in autism management.

Early Intervention Unit: This unit meets the educational and social-emotional needs of young children diagnosed with Autism through structured preschool classrooms, Behavioral Services, Individualized Program Plans (IEP) and Yoga.

Parent Training Unit: Research based teaching methods *viz.* **ABA/VBA and TEACCH** are used in this program. ASWB conducts both short parents training for 10 days, advanced Parents Training for 3 months and 1 year.

Dikshan – A school for students with autism.

Young Adult with Autism Reach out (YAAR)- This enables our young adults with autism in the prevocational unit to make friends and connect better with the society.

Autism awareness programs: Our aim is empowerment with knowledge.

Various events and activities that took place at ASWB 2015-16

Observance of 2nd April World Autism Awareness Day (WAAD) - Art Exhibition at Nehru Children's Museum

1ST April – Inauguration of Art Exhibition- 'Colours Of The Spectrum' at Nehru Children Museum. The Museum displayed drawings, colourings, paintings and sketches by children with Autism. The exhibition was open for public for 2 days (1st and 2nd of April). Artwork of several students of Dikshan were displayed.

Walk For Autism

Walk for Autism organized by Office of the Commissioner of Disabilities, Government of West Bengal on 1st April, from 5:00- 6:00 p.m. The walk started at the Press Club of Kolkata. Minister for child development, social welfare and women empowerment, Dr. Shashi Panja was also present on the occasion and took part in the walk along with Commissioner of Disabilities, Government of West Bengal, Ms Mita Bandhopadhyay. From ASWB there was participation by

the special educators, staff, students along with their parents and friends. It ended at Metro channel with a speech by Ms Mita Bandhopadhyay on Autism.

‘~~অ~~Sadharon’ – Showcasing art work of a student of Dikshan, a young adult with Autism at ITC Sonar

2nd April

On World Autism Awareness Day, Autism Society West Bengal in association with ITC Sonar presented an Art Exhibition ‘~~অ~~Sadharon’; showcasing art work of Abhishek Sarkar, a student of ‘Aarohan’ vocational unit of Dikshan, a young man with Autism. Shri Waseem Kapoor, eminent painter inaugurated the exhibition and praised Abhishek’s artistic skills. He also lauded the role of ASWB in identifying his skill and giving him proper guidance to be an artist. Other eminent guests present there were tabla maestro, Tanmoy Bose, Acting Consul General of Germany Ms Rosemarie. E. Hille, famous radio jockey and reality show host Mir Afsar Ali (popularly known as Rj Mir to all), Smt Dipali Bhattacharya, ex-principal, Government Art College, Mr. Atul Bhalla, GM ITC Sonar. ASWB also relaunched its website. Aditi Bandhopadhyay, a parent and a governing body member took up the responsibility to introduce Abhishek Sarkar to each and everyone present at the exhibition. Mr. Amitava Basu, a young man with autism and an employee of ASWB, sang the ‘Mind Blind’ song with members of Rotaract Club of Heritage Institute Of Technology. Other guests also spoke about Autism and how we should encourage more and more individuals with Autism to be a part of mainstream society. Ms Tapati Ghosh, president, ASWB gave vote of thanks to all the guests present at the exhibition.

Cultural Program by Office Of The Commissioner, Disabilities, Government Of West Bengal

2nd, April

Cultural Program organized by Office Of The Commissioner, Disabilities, Government Of West Bengal at Rabindra Sadan from 4:00 p.m. Dr. Shashi Panja, Minister for Child Development, Social Welfare and Women Empowerment inaugurated the program. Different organizations performed dance and song which mesmerized audiences. Children of Dikshan performed on the song ‘Gublu Chandera khamar bari’.

Monthly YAAR Celebrations

11th April

On 11th April, the social interactive session of YAAR (Young Adults with Autism Reachout) celebrated Bengali New Year –‘Poila Baisakh’ in advance. Volunteers from Rotaract club along with young adults from Dikshan discussed about ways of celebrating the Bengali New Year day. They shared their plans of how they are going to celebrate this year. Everyone enjoyed the two hour session which ended with a song and dance ritual.

Workshop – Sharing experience of parenting a child with Autism

11th- 12th April

‘Parent Speaks’ – An interactive session where parents shared their unique experience of parenting a child with Autism was organized. Ms. Parul Kumtha, mother of a young man with Autism, also a volunteer with Ummeed(a Mumbai based organization working for individuals with disabilities),shared her experience. Later she enthralled us with self composed poems, which were written from the perspective of a person with ASD. Dr. Animita Chowdhury Saha, of USA and Ms. Kalyani Saha, of Abu Dhabi interacted with the participants via Skype. Both of them are mothers to a young person with ASD. Other mothers who spoke about their experiences were Ms. Madhumita Debnath and Ms. Mitosree Biswas. Parents, volunteers and teachers from ASWB got answers to most of their queries regarding parenting and managing a child with Autism as they listened to some of the unique experiences which they shared with the people attending the workshop.

Visit by Inner Wheel Club of Lansdowne

17th April

Members of Inner Wheel Club of Lansdowne visited our organization. They took a little tour of our organization, interacted with the special educators, coordinators and staffs, wanted to know about how we started out, how we are managing now etc. They said that such organizations inspire them to get engaged with volunteering work.

Participation in a Workshop on Rapid Prompting Method (RPM)

23rd -25th April

A Workshop on ‘Autism Education and Communication- Rapid Prompting Method’ was organized by Akhil Autism Foundation in association with the NGO, Udaan for the Disabled at Jamia Hamdard Convention Center, New Delhi. Dr. Mitu De, one of our governing body members and head of our Research and Academic Studies (Hony.) attended the workshop.

Rapid Prompting Method (RPM) is an instructional technique designed to develop academic and communication skills in individuals with severe autism. This workshop gave the participants information, exposure, instruction and training in Rapid Prompting Method. The trainer was

Jackie Dorshorst, who is a Speech/Language Pathologist. She is certified in Soma® Rapid Prompting Method of HALO.

National Trust – Reviewing of schemes

8th May

National Trust organized a meeting at State level with State Nodal Agency Committee to review various schemes of National Trust at IICP, Taratala. Mr. Prabir Kundu, treasurer Autism Society West Bengal and Arpita Chatterjee, Project Coordinator Autism Society West Bengal attended the day long meet where advantages and disadvantages of various schemes were discussed.. The house was open for discussion on the rules and regulations laid down by National trust on various schemes. Representatives from different NGOs were present and asked to suggest changes, which were noted down by the representatives of National Trust to include in the revising of the schemes.

Workshop – Bangladesh

27th – 29th June

Ms Indrani Basu and Ms Manisha Bhattacharya, clinical psychologist were invited by Institute for Pediatric Neurodisorder and Autism in Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University, Bangladesh to speak at a three day Workshop on including children with Autism in a mainstream school as specialists. The workshop highlighted various problem areas that an individual faces in a mainstream school and classroom. They also suggested methods and strategies to overcome such problems. Parents, therapists, volunteers and staff from different organizations working with Autistic individuals attended the workshop.

Annual Day Celebration at ASWB

16th May

Autism Society West Bengal celebrated its Annual Day at Nari Seva Sangha. Kids from parent training units and early intervention units performed on songs of Rabindranath Tagore. Pre vocational adult unit students staged a drama ‘Machi’- based on ‘Gopal Bhad’s Bhola Moira’. Individuals with Autism who take up hourly intervention support as well as their parents participated in Annual Day. The teaching and non teaching staffs also performed a group song. Amitava Basu along with our special educator Buddhadev Kar performed a Rabindra Sangeet and a Bengali folk song. Volunteers and supporters attended the Annual Day function to make it a grand success.

Conference on CME – 10th May

A workshop was organised by Paediatrics chapter of IAP at Peerless Hospital on Midterm CME growth, Development and Behavioural Paediatrics. Special educators Ms. Chandrani Chakraborty and Ms. Nilanjana Ghosh as well as Dr. Mitu De, governing body member participated in this workshop.

Summer camp – 25th May to 5th June

Like all other years summer camp was organized by ASWB. Many children participated. In addition to events held every year, new training event was introduced this year, computer and iPad training for the young children with ASD who were interested in gadgets like smart phones, laptops and tablets. There were several levels depending on the skill and interest of the child.

Celebrating Doctor's Day – by organizing charity dinner

1st July

Bengal Chambers of Commerce and Industries in association with Medica Super Speciality Hospital on occasion of Doctor's Day organized 'Clash of Titan'- a medical quiz show for doctors along with charity dinner. Autism Society West Bengal was the beneficiary of this event as proceedings from the amount paid for dinner by the doctors was contributed towards Autism Society West Bengal's fund.

In – House teacher training

7th-10th July

Autism Society West Bengal organized an In-house teacher training. This training provided new teachers an opportunity to learn about the philosophy upon which our work at ASWB is based on. A non judgmental approach towards the individuals with Autism and their family was emphasized upon. This was also like a refresher course for the more experienced teachers to update their knowledge. The training also focused on updating our staff on teaching and management methods.

Monthly YAAR Celebration

11th July

July YAAR saw individuals discussing about their ideas about rainy season, what they like to do and the mouth watering lip smacking snacks that one can have in rainy season.

Workshop – Socially Significant Behaviour

26th July

A one day workshop was organized by Autism Society West Bengal on introduction to 'Socially Significant behavior using ABA & VBA'. The resource person was Ms. Kalyani Saha from Abu Dhabi, with 19 years of experience as a teacher. She is also on the advisory board of Autism Society West Bengal. Ms Saha is presently doing her course work from University of Texas, USA.

In-house training by Kalyani Saha

27th July

Autism Society West Bengal also arranged for an in house session for teachers with Ms. Kalyani Saha. It was an update program for teachers to learn newer techniques and strategies to manage individuals with Autism.

Workshop at Agartala

29th July

A workshop on strategies of teaching children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) at Agartala was organized by NIPMED on 29th July, 2015. Senior therapists Mr. Pranabesh Bhunia and Ms. Chandrani Chakraborty were the resource persons at the workshop. They discussed about various strategies through which therapists can teach individuals with Autism.

Wish Tree – Daan Utsav

8th August

Autism Society West Bengal started celebrating India's national festival of giving 'Daan Utsav 2015' by putting up a Wish Tree and handicraft stall at Apeejay School (both Park Street and Salt Lake campus). Therapists Ms. Chandrani Chakraborty, Mr. Buddhadeb Kar along with governing body members and project coordinator Ms. Arpita chatterjee were present at both the campuses. The prime goal was to create awareness about Autism and also to showcase our work. The items made by students of our pre vocational unit, Aarohan, of our school were displayed. We were also joined by volunteers Luv Mehta and Arisha Arora of Rotaract Club of Heritage Institute of Technology.

Monthly YAAR

8th August

YAAR Celebrated-Friendship Day and Independence Day with videos, songs and dance. All the participants, volunteers and staff enjoyed the session where everyone discussed about how they celebrated friendship day and Independence day. They also expressed their opinion about friendship and independence.

Rainbow – Cultural Event by Rotaract Club of Heritage Institute of Technology

23rd August

Rotaract Club of Heritage Institute of Technology organized their annual cultural program- 'Rainbow'. Autism Society West Bengal participated in this program and performed 'Yoga Song.' The students of 'Aarohan'- unit for young adults with Yoga teacher and other teaching staffs took part in this event.

Workshop at Bangladesh on Behaviour Management

23rd-30th August

Spectra School of Autism, Bangladesh organized a workshop on – 'Training on Behaviour Management with teachers and students.' They invited Ms Indrani Basu (founder-director of ASWB), Ms. Chandrani Chakraborty (Coordinator, Parent Training Unit-1, Autism Society West Bengal) and Ms. Dolon Paul (Coordinator, Parent Training Unit-2, Autism Society West Bengal) as resource persons for the workshop. The workshop dealt with various ways and methods to manage behavioural issues of individuals with Autism. There was a question answer session for all teachers and parents where they got a chance clear all their doubts regarding behavior management of individuals with Autism.

Lecture for care giver course- 26th August

Nilanjana Ghosh, one of the senior therapist at Autism Society West Bengal was invited as Guest Faculty for Care Giver's course, Indian Institute of Cerebral Palsy.

Workshop organized by Howrah Autism Society

12th September

Howrah Autism Society (HAS) organized an interactive session with Parents on 'Understanding Autism and Managing Behaviours.' Ms Indrani Basu, founder- director of Autism Society West Bengal was the resource person who interacted with parents and therapists on ways to manage behaviours of individuals with Autism and also to understand more about Autism spectrum Disorder (ASD). Ms Indrani Basu was felicitated by Howrah Autism Society with a memento for the work she is doing for individuals with Autism.

Workshop on Life beyond diagnosis of Autism by Merry Barua

17th September

A Workshop was organized by Autism Society West Bengal on 'Life beyond diagnosis of Autism - choose to be happy' where Ms. Merry Barua, founder- director Action for Autism

(AFA) as well as a mother to young adult with Autism shared her experience to lead a life of happiness and also to think beyond Autism.

Workshop organized by Ministry of State for Women and Child Development and Social Welfare Government of West Bengal together with High Level Task Force on IM &MMR, Government of West Bengal in collaboration with Autism Society West Bengal at Nilratan Sarkar Medical College and Hospital

18th & 19th September

A Two day workshop on “Identifying, Understanding and Supporting individuals with Autism and Cerebral Palsy” was held at NRS medical college and hospital Kolkata on 18th and 19th of September, 2015 organized by Ministry of State for Women and Child Development and Social Welfare Government of West Bengal together with High Level Task Force on IM &MMR, Government of West Bengal in collaboration with Autism Society West Bengal.

The workshop was inaugurated by **Dr. Shashi Panja, Hon’ble Minister Department of Child Development**, Department of Women Development and Social Welfare, Govt of West Bengal. The Hon’ble Guests were Mr. Malay Kr De, Addl Principal Secretary, Department of Health and Family Welfare , Govt of West Bengal, Prof Susanta Bandhopadhyay, Director of Medical Education & Ex- Officio Secretary, Department of Health & Family Welfare, Govt of West Bengal, Mrs Sanghamitra Ghosh, Mission Director, Department of National Health Mission. Also present at the workshop were Prof Debasis Bhattacharya, Principal N.R.S Medical College, Dr Tridib Banerjee, Chairman, high Level Medical Task Force on IM & MMR, Dr Tapas Kr Sabui, Professor Pediatric Medicine, Medical College, Kolkata, Ms Ranu Bhattacharya, Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, Govt of West Bengal and Mr Shyam Sundar Vinayak, Asst Commissioner, Person with Disabilities, Govt of West Bengal.

Dr. Jayranjan Ram, an eminent psychiatrist, presented a paper on ‘Brain Development in Autism- Trying to connect the dots.’ **Dr. Reena Sen**, executive director Indian Institute of Cerebral Palsy (IICP) presented a paper on ‘Multidisciplinary Collaboration in the management of Cerebral Palsy: The IICP model of services’. This session was followed by a presentation on

‘Understanding and Overview of Autism’ by **Dr. Pradeep Saha**. The founder director of Action for Autism (AFA), New Delhi, **Merry Barua**—discussed about ‘Best practices – Intervention and Support.’ She highlighted the need to identify the appropriate intervention required for an individual with Autism.

The post lunch session dealt with ‘Therapies in Autism – how effective they are and the best approaches’ by **Dr. Ashok M.V.** Occupational therapist, **Dr. Sheeba Abraham**, presented a paper which depicted Sensory Integration and therapies in Autism with practical demonstration. **Dr. Monideepa Banerjee**, a renowned pediatrician discussed about ‘An Autistic child – A pediatrician’s role.’ The last but not least presentation of the day was about Parent Mediated Intervention by **Ms Indrani Basu**, Director Autism Society West Bengal (ASWB). The paper discussed in details about how parents of a autistic child can facilitate child’s intervention. The **second day** workshop saw various informative and interesting sessions on **Cerebral Palsy and Epilepsy**. **Dr. Suchandra Mukherjee** through her presentation ‘Early Intervention in Cerebral Palsy’ showcased various problem areas that we need to look out for in a person with Cerebral Palsy and the role early intervention plays in identifying the problem areas. This presentation was followed up by **Dr. Pratibha Singhi’s** presentation on ‘When and how to diagnose CP and counsel parents’. **Dr. Pratibha Singhi** also discussed on ‘How one should Approach to a child with the onset of Epilepsy.’ In his presentation at the workshop, **Dr. Arijit Chattopadhyay** discussed about anti epileptic drugs, its advantages, disadvantages, the right time to administer the right dose and the old epileptic drugs versus new ones. The last session at the workshop saw two presentations – **Dr. Amalan Mondal’s** presentation on ‘Epileptic Encephalopathy’ and **Dr. Amalan Mondal and Dr. Haseeb Hassan’s** ‘Hands on training –the basics of EEG.’ **Dr. Haseeb Hassan**, as the speaker, conducted a wonderful interactive session for all the doctors to learn, understand and clear all their doubts about EEG. The workshop was concluded by a valedictory speech by **Dr. Sabui**.

Workshop by APPA- A Parent organization

26th September

Association of Parents of Persons with Autism Spectrum Disorder (APPA), organized a workshop – ‘Managing sensory issues in children with Autism’ and “Functional Skills” for

parents of the persons with ASD. The well known occupational therapist Ms. Anjali Joshi from Ummeed Child Development Centre, Mumbai was the speaker. Therapists Ms. Swati Dasgupta, Soma Sarker and member Dr. Mitu De attended this workshop.

Daan Utsav Mela

2nd October

Birla Industrial and Technological Museum (BITM) organized Daan Utsav Mela which continued for 2 days. There were different activities and workshops for NGO representatives and beneficiaries of different NGOs.

Bottle painting workshop - Abhi Sarkar, Soumitra Pandey, Soma Sarker, Sunita Chauhan of Aarohan unit participated in this workshop.

Workshop ‘Cause Marketing’- Arpita Chatterjee, Project Coordinator – Autism Society West Bengal and Ranjana Chakraborty, Governing body member & also member of resource mobilization team - ASWB attended a workshop on Cause Marketing. The main speaker was Mr. Ramesh Krishnan who works as marketing manager with Tata Steel and also volunteer for ivolunteer- a platform which helps NGOs in marketing through social media by organizing different ‘gyaan’ sessions. The session was useful in learning ways to use social media to highlight the work, cause and also the way and methods of doing it.

A **workshop** was organized by Daan Utsav Kolkata team on ‘**Effective Information, Education and Communication**’ for NGOs. Debashish Das, director at Ebong Advertising Solutions private limited was the speaker. Ms. Shrabani Chakraborty, one of our parent volunteer who looks after our social media and Dr. Mitu De, who heads our research wing attended the workshop on behalf of Autism Society West Bengal.

Daan Utsav Kolkata team also invited Ms Indrani Basu, founder-director Autism Society West Bengal, Ms Tapati.Ghosh, President Autism Society West Bengal, Ms Roma Basu, Joint Secretary Autism Society West Bengal to attend the inaugural ceremony of Daan Utsav, 2016. The inaugural ceremony saw dance performance by children of ‘Anando’- ngo working to provide better educational facilities to underprivileged children.

3rd October

Another **workshop** on **Digital Resources** for NGO was also organized by Daan Utsav Kolkata team where speaker Shib Shankar Sharma, one of the members of Daan Utsav Kolkata team discussed about different digital platforms ngo can use to get funds and also to create awareness about the work. Project Coordinator, Autism Society West Bengal Ms Arpita Chatterjee attended the workshop.

Wish Tree at Starmark, Quest Mall

2nd -4th October, 2016

A wish tree was set up as part of Daan Utsav at Starmark, Quest Mall from 2nd -4th October, 2016. The tree was full of wishes of individuals with Autism. Volunteers from Rotaract,- Anwasha Lahiri, Mrinmoy Saha and others from Heritage Institute of Technology, along with the therapists Ms Chandrani Chakraborty and Mr Buddhadev Kar of Autism Society West Bengal, Ms Tapati Ghosh President Autism Society West Bengal and Mr Sudip Ghosh, member Autism Society West Bengal manned the tree. Parent volunteer Ms Argha Sur was also present to create awareness about Autism and also to fulfill the wishes.

Cultural Programme organized by Association of Scouters –Famochi

4th October

Autism Society West Bengal participated in the Cultural Programme- ‘Amra Korbo Joy’ organized by Association of Scouters –Famochi at Gyan Mancha. Students – Parthiv Ghosh, Arinjoy Kar, Joyjyoti Pal, Debdeep Das, Ayushman Paul, Swastik Nath of Junior class 1 &2 performed on a musical song ‘Gublu Chand er Khamar Bari.’. They also got certificates and trophy for their excellence. The performers were accompanied by therapist Ms Soma Sarker, Ms Sathi Dasgupta, and Mr Manoj Mahato. Anurag Chowdhury who volunteers for us from Heritage Institute of Technology played the musical instrument which helped the performers to take it to a notch higher. Parent volunteers – Ms Smriti Ghosh, Ms Ashoka Pal, Ms Mou Das, Ms Ratna Das, Ms Sushmita Nath were also present to provide encouragement to these wonderful talented children who are special in their own way. Mr Babu Patra and Ms Lalmoni Barik, caregivers were there to take extra care of the children while they perform.

Fun with Waters- A visit to water park-‘Aquatica’

5th October

Students from Junior section 1&2 went for a trip to ‘Aquatica,’ the water park along with the therapists and parent volunteers.

Wish Tree at ITC

7th October

ITC celebrated Daan Utsav, India’s national festival of Giving by putting up a wish tree which contained wishes of children from Autism Society West Bengal. The wishes consist of stationery

items such as drawing copies, pencils, colour pastels as well as food items like biscuits, chocolates, juice etc.

Workshop by United Way Kolkata for TSK 2SK

9th October

United Way Kolkata organized a workshop on TSK 2SK marathon at International Club. Corporates from Tata Steel and management team of United Way Kolkata discussed the aim or reason behind organizing the marathon and how NGOs should enroll in this marathon. Project coordinator of Autism Society West Bengal, Miss Arpita Chatterjee attended this workshop which highlighted the cause and philosophy behind marathon.

Farewell Time

15th October

Ms. Anjali Ghosh, yoga teacher of Autism Society West Bengal was bid farewell by all the staff, therapists, students and governing body members. Students of different section performed song and dance and some of them also recited poems.

YAAR –October

16th October

YAAR for the month of October was organized at Ballygunge Culture Association Puja Pandal, where participants, volunteers and staff of Autism Society West Bengal discussed about their idea of Puja and how they would like to enjoy during the Puja days.

Navy Day – Film Show

6th November

Students from Autism Society West Bengal were invited to a film show on Navy day at Fort William. Students enjoyed the action packed movie 'Bahubali'.

IICP Foundation Day

20th November

Indian Institute of Cerebral Palsy (IICP) invited Autism Society West Bengal to celebrate the occasion of their Foundation Day. Students from different sections and therapists visited

exhibition stalls that were put up to showcase talents of the individuals with different physical disability.

YAAR –November

21st November

YAAR for the month of November witnessed an exciting and engrossed session on Diwali.

Two days workshop at BITM

28th November- Day 1

A two day workshop was organized by Autism Society West Bengal. The workshop dealt with Academics for Individuals with Autism. Day 1 saw speakers Ms. Indrani Basu, founder-director Autism Society West Bengal, Dr. Mitu De one of the members of Governing body, Ms. Manisha Bhattacharya, Clinical Psychologist and Ms Ranjana Chakraborty one of the Governing body members who spoke about ‘Inclusion of students with Autism at Mainstream Schools: Supporting & facilitating inclusion’. Parents, Governing body members, professionals from different organizations and mainstream schools attended the workshop to learn how they can facilitate the inclusion of individuals with Autism in mainstream classrooms and schools.

29th November – Day 2

Day two was about ‘Learning and Enjoying Academics’ where speakers Ms. Indrani Basu, Ms Ranjana Chakraborty, Ms. Nilanjana Ghosh & Ms. Manisha Bhattacharya discussed about how to support individuals with Autism to make their learning experience a better and happy one.

An important session of the second day was about Occupational therapy- how to start, what are the benefits and discussed in details about the therapy. The resource person in this session was Dr. Sheba Abraham, a Senior Consultant Occupational Therapist and Counsellor, with over 15 years of clinical experience.

Workshop at Manovikas Kendra

30th November

Founder – director of Autism Society West Bengal, Ms. Indrani Basu was invited as Guest Speaker to speak about ‘Behavioral Management of Individuals with Autism’ at Manovikas Kendra.

Paper presentation at Jadavpur University

2nd December

Two papers were presented at the UGC Sponsored National Seminar on ‘Behaviour Modification of Children with Special Needs’ organized by the Department of Education, Jadavpur University, in collaboration with Arogya Sandhan Charitable Trust. A paper on visual supports was presented by Dr. Mitu De, Head of Research and Academic Studies. The second paper was on brain plasticity which was presented by Dr. Santi Ranjan Dey, member ASWB.

Observance of World Disability Day -3rd & 4th December

Office of the Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities organized programmes to observe ‘World Disability Day’. The programmes were spread over two days.

Day 1 – 3rd December

‘Walk for Disability’ to create awareness and acceptance in society was organized as part of World Disability Day. Therapists Ms Shampa Rani Sau and Mr Manoj Mahato with students from Dikshan took part in the walk. The starting & ending point of the walk was Rabindra Sadan.

Day 2 – 4th December

Day two saw songs, dance and plays performed by participants of different organizations. Young adults from ‘Aarohan’ unit - Kaustav Basu, Abhishek Sarker, Abhishek Bhattacharya, Boney Paul, Subhadeep Biswas, Trisha Deb, Pinak Kundu, Soumitra Pandey and Amitava Basu of Autism Society West Bengal staged a drama ‘21e Ain’. The participants were supported by therapists Mr. Pranabesh Bhunia, Mr Budhadeb Kar, Ms Anupama Bhaduri and Mr Babu Patra for the event.

Two days workshop on Proposal writing at IICP

14th & 15th December

Indian Institute of Cerebral Palsy (IICP) organized a two day workshop on Community Based Rehabilitation, Fund Raising and Proposal Writing. Mr. Bhusan Purnani, President Blind

People's Association Ahmadabad was the eminent speaker at the workshop. The sessions were very interactive and it covered all the aspects of fund raising and proposal writing. Ms Ranjana Chakraborty one of our governing body members and also one of our team members of resource mobilization team attended this workshop with our project coordinator Ms. Arpita Chatterjee. They had an enriching experience.

Visit to IICP's Respite Care

16th December

Ms Indrani Basu, founder – director of Autism Society West Bengal was invited by Indian Institute of Cerebral Palsy (IICP) to observe their respite care unit and also to provide suggestion to improve services.

Entertainment program for students of the 'Aarohan' unit of Dikshan

6th Jan, 2016

Young adults of 'Aarohan,' the pre- vocational unit of Dikshan, went to watch 'Dilwale'- a romantic comedy movie. Every one enjoyed the movie as it contained beautiful songs, locations and right dose of laughter to make them glued to theater seats.

Enthusia- Sports for Special Children

10th Jan,2016

Rotaract Club of Heritage Institute of Technology organized "Enthusia" Annual Sports meet for specially challenged Individuals. Agneev Das and Ayushman Paul of our Junior class 1 and Aditi Chauhan of our Afternoon Bridge section participated in Sorting and Running events. Agneev Das stood second in Sorting event.

Workshop at IICP

11th Jan, 2016

Therapist Ms Swati Dasgupta of Autism Society West attended a workshop about 'Assistive devices for Persons with Cerebral Palsy'.

YAAR – January

16TH Jan

The January session was about 'New Year Celebration, Netaji Birthday and Republic day.' Each participant shared how they celebrated New Year with their family and friends. There were videos of ushering New Year in different parts of the world. They also discussed about Republic day and Netaji Birthday Celebrations and the importance of these two days for us.

Fun Times – Picnic

17th Jan, 2016

It was time fun time for all the therapists, staff, students with their families, volunteers and governing body members of Autism Society West Bengal to enjoy at the school picnic at Sodepur, Behala. A well spent day with fun, frolic, food, games and music.

Workshop on Transitioning to Adulthood

22nd January

Autism Society West Bengal organized a workshop on ‘Transitioning to Adulthood’ where speaker Ms Indrani Basu from Action For Autism, New Delhi discussed about problems and behavioural issues an individual with Autism can face during his transition years from teen to adulthood. She also shared strategies and provided an account of her experience of being a mother of a young adult with Autism.

Exhibition cum Sale

24th January

Autism Society West Bengal took part in the exhibition cum sale of handicrafts organized by Aprajita NGO. The handicrafts including bags, jewellery, greetings cards and wall hangings which were prepared by students of AAROHAN. The event was attended by Ms. Sarmistha Debnath and Jaya di to create awareness about Autism as well as to sell these products.

Workshop on Pre Teens by Sushma Naggarkar

6th Feb, 2016

Workshop on "Pre teens and beyond - Thoughtful planning starts now" was organized by Department of Child Development, Women Development & Social Welfare, Government of West Bengal in collaboration with ASWB at Nari Seba Sangha. The speaker was Ms. Sushma Naggarkar, a registered Rehabilitation Psychologist (RCI) who works part-time with Morris Foundation, Pune. She also works with other educational entities such as the Gateway School, Mumbai and Bubbles Center for Autism in Bangalore. Sushma is also the mother of a young woman with ASD. The workshop provided with new ideas about how we can plan for teenagers and young adults with Autism. All the teaching staff, parents, professionals from other organizations, governing body members of Autism Society West Bengal attended in this workshop.

Workshop by APPA

7th Feb

Workshop organized by APPA as part of their Annual Day program on ‘Challenges of Adolescence: Behaviours, Sexuality & Learning Strategies that Work’ at Manovikas Kendra

which was attended by Shrabani Chakraborty and Smriti Ghosh. The workshop was very useful for all individuals as it discussed various problems and challenges faced by Young adults with Autism.

Exhibition – Kolkata Gives Foundation

7th Feb

It was a proud moment for Autism Society West Bengal to participate in Kolkata Gives Exhibition. Autism Society West Bengal was honoured to get selected as one of the 30 genuine NGOs to be working in the field of disability. The exhibition provided a good platform to connect, interact and showcase our work to donors, corporate and to all those who were present at the exhibition. Mr.Sudip Ghosh, member of Resource Mobilization team, Ms. Arpita Chatterjee Project Coordinator, Ms.Chandrani Chakraborty Senior Therapist, Mr. Prabir Kundu Treasurer, Ms. Roma Basu Joint Secretary, Ms. Indrani Basu Secretary and Ms. Ranjana Chakraborty member Resource Mobilization team were present to speak about Autism and also about our organization.

Saraswati Puja Celebration

13th Feb

Autism Society West Bengal celebrated Saraswati Puja at the school premise with students, their parents, teachers and members.

Zumba Carnival

14th Feb,2016

Autism Society West Bengal participated in ‘Maha Zumba Carnival’ at Rabindra Sarobar Stadium. It was a new experience for all teachers, staffs and members who enthusiastically matched steps with the instructor. The event also helped in creating awareness about Autism.

Fun with Colours – Apeejay Art Mela

26th Feb,2016.

Students of Dikshan participated in Apeejay Anand Library Art Mela at Apeejay House. Agneev Das, Utsav Chakraborty, Aryan Mallick, Avas Sarkar from Junior section and Aditi Chauhan of bridge group took part and painted according to the theme.

Celebrating Happiness on Happy Street

28th Feb,2016

Happiness on the streets of Kolkata by making it free of traffic and vehicles so that pedestrians can enjoy being on the street for two hours on Sunday mornings. Members from Autism Society West Bengal joined in this celebration.

Workshop on Assistive Technology

3rd-4th March,2016

Debashish Chakraborty,one of the governing body members of Autism Society West Bengal participated as a resource person at Techshare,2016- Towards Assistive Technology in New Delhi. The workshop witnessed exchange of ideas about how we can use technology to teach individuals with Autism.

IDBI Federal Life Insurance Kolkata Marathon

6th March

Individuals with Autism from Autism Society West Bengal participated in the Kolkata marathon organized by IDBI bank and Federal Life Insurance supported by Kolkata Gives Foundation. Students of Dikshan and their parents took part in the 'Anando Run' category of Kolkata marathon. The marathon started from Red Road covering 5 kms also ended at Red Road.

Dental Camp and Awareness

10th March

Autism Society West Bengal organized a dental check up and awareness camp for individuals with Autism at the school premise. Prof. (Dr.) Shabnam Zahir with her team from Guru Nanak Institute of Dental Education & Science, Panihati conducted an awareness program on dental hygiene especially for children with ASD. They also suggested measures to look after dental health. Later they performed a thorough dental check up of all students of Dikshan.

Monthly YAAR Session

26th March

Participants and volunteers for YAAR session bonded over 'Holi.' They all discussed about how each one celebrated holi this year as well as the traditional way of celebrating holi. It was an enjoyable session as all shared their experience of most memorable holi till now. Participants enjoyed their time with music, dance and refreshments.

Publications during 2015-2016

3 (three) full length papers were published viz.

1. De, Mitu. 2015. Assessing attitudes of undergraduate college students towards differently abled students. The Beats of Natural Sciences. (ISSN-2348-7615) Vol. 2, Issue 4 (December), Article No. 6. 1-7.
2. De, Mitu. 2015. Visual supports for modifying challenging behaviors in individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Proceedings of the UGC Sponsored National Seminar on 'Behaviour Modification of Children with Special Needs' (ISBN: 978-93-83660-16-2) on 2nd December, 2015 organized by the Department of Education, Jadavpur University, in collaboration with Arogya Sandhan Charitable Trust. 68-75pp.
3. Dey, Santi Ranjan. 2015. Brain plasticity and behavior modification in individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Proceedings of the UGC Sponsored National Seminar on 'Behaviour Modification of Children with Special Needs' (ISBN: 978-93-83660-16-2) on 2nd December, 2015 organized by the Department of Education, Jadavpur University, in collaboration with Arogya Sandhan Charitable Trust. 46-53pp.

Team of teaching and non teaching staffs for the year 2015-16

List of Therapists	Class Assistants	Clinical Psychologists
Chandrani Chakraborty	Banani Saha	Ms Manisha Bhattacharya
Shivani Biswas	Jhuma Choudhury	Ms Fatma Warsia (Consultant)
Nilanjana Ghosh	Babu Patra	
Dolon Paul		Administrative Staff
Pranabesh Bhunia	Care Givers/classroom helpers	Sarmistha Das
Manoj Kumar Mahato	Sefali Naskar	Madhumita Dhar
Binay Samanta	Bishaya Bayen	Amitesh Das
Rasbihari Sahoo	Lalmoni Barik	Arpita Chatterjee
Buddhadeb kar	Mina Bibi	Nababrata Guha Roy
Rajkumar Bera	Nazma Bibi	Sarmistha Debnath
Chhabi Das	Poornima Bibi	
Soma Sarker	Sabina Bibi	
Amrita Bhawal	Anita Naskar	
Piyali Chakraborty	Deepali Mondal	
Kaberi Ghosh		
Priyanka Saha	Gate keepers	
Shampa Rani Sahoo	Lakshman Mondal	
Swati Dsagupta	Joydeep Sarkar	

Workshops Organized By Autism Society West Bengal

Name of the Workshop	Date	Venue	Resource Person	Participants
'Parent Speaks'	11 th & 12 th April, 2015	Briddhi Hall	Ms.Parul Kumtha	All parents,volunteers & professionals working with Autism.
In house teachers training	7 th -10 th July,2015	ASWB Office premise	Ms Indrani Basu	All therapists of ASWB.
Introduction to Socially Significant Behaviour using ABA &VBA. Along with in house training	26 th – 27 th	ASWB Office premise	Ms Kalyani Saha	All therapists of ASWB.
Life beyond diagnosis of Autism	17 th September	Rotary Sadan,Lake Gardens	Ms Merry Barua,founder-director Action For Autism(New Delhi)	All therapists of ASWB,volunteers and parents.
Learning Academics & Importance of Occupational therapy	28 th & 29 th November, 2015	BirlaIndustrial&Technological Museum, Kolkata	Ms Indrani Basu, Dr. Mitu De, Ms Manisha Bhattacharya,Ms Ranjana Chakraborty & Dr Sheba Abraham,occupational therapist	All therapists of ASWB,volunteers, parents and professionals from other organizations.
Transitioning to Adulthood	22 nd Jan,2016	Rotary Sadan	Ms Indrani Basu,Action For Autism	All therapists of ASWB,volunteers, parents and professionals working with individuals with Autism.

Workshops attended by ASWB personnel as Resource Person as well as participants

Name of the Workshop	Date	Organized by	Resource Person	Participants
Autism Education and Communication-Rapid Prompting Method'	23 rd -25 th April, 2015	Akhil Autism Foundation in association with the NGO, Udaan for the disabled	Jackie Dorshorst,speech and language pathologist	Dr. Mitu De
Inclusion of Individuals with	27 th – 29 th June, 2015	Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical	Ms. Indrani Basu & Ms Manisha	Parents & professionals

Autism in mainstream schools		University,Bangladesh	Bhattacharya	working for individuals with Autism.
Strategies of teaching children with Autism Spectrum Disorder	29 th July,2015	NIPMED	Ms Chandrani Chakraborty & Mr Pranabesh Bhunia	Parents & professionals working for individuals with Autism.
‘Training on Behaviour Management with teachers and students.’	23 rd -30 th August	Spectra School of Autism, Bangladesh	Ms Indrani Basu,Ms Chandrani Chakraborty & Ms Dolon Paul	Parents & professionals working for individuals with Autism.
‘Understanding Autism and Managing Behaviours.’	12 th September, 2015	Howrah Autism Society	Ms Indrani Basu	Parents & professionals working for individuals with Autism.
“Identifying, Understanding & Supporting Individuals with Autism”	18 th & 19 th Sept, 2015	Ministry of Social Welfare, Child and Women development, High level Medical task force in collaboration with Autism Society West Bengal & organized by N.R.S medical college and hospital	Dr. Jayranjan Ram,Dr Reena Sen,Dr Pratibha Singhi,Dr Pradeep Saha,Dr Monideepa Banerjee, Dr Suchandra Mukherjee, Ms Indrani Basu,Dr Amaalan Mondal, Dr Arijit Chattopadhyay	All therapists of ASWB,volunteers, parents and professionals from other organizations and medical practioners from different hospitals across West Bengal
‘Managing sensory issues in children with Autism’ and “Functional Skills for parents of individuals with ASD	26 th Sept,2015	Association of Parents of Persons with Autism Spectrum Disorder	Dr Anjali Joshi	Therapists Swathi Dasgupta, Soma Sarker & Dr Mitu De
Cause Marketing	2 nd Oct,2015	Daan Utsav Kolkata Core Group in association with ivolunteer	Mr Ramesh Krishnan,manager Tata Steel & a volunteer for ivolunteer gyan sessions	Ms Ranjana Chakraborty & Arpita Chatterjee
Effective,Information, Education and Communication	2 nd Oct,2015	Daan Utsav Kolkata Core Group	Debashish Das, director Ebong Advertising Solutions private limited	Shrabani Chakraborty & Dr. Mitu De
Digital Resources for NGO	3 rd Oct,2015	Daan Utsav Kolkata Core Group	Shib Shankar Sharma, one of the members of Daan Utsav Kolkata team	Ms Arpita Chatterjee
TSK 2SK marathon	9 th Oct,2015	United Way Kolkata in association with	Tata Steel and management team	Ms Arpita Chatterjee

		Tata Steel	& United Way Kolkata management team	
Behavioral Management of Individuals with Autism	30 th Nov, 2015	Manovikas Kendra	Ms Indrani Basu	Parents & professionals working for individuals with Autism.
Community Based Rehabilitation, Fund Raising and Proposal Writing	14 th &15 th Dec, 2015	Indian Institute of Cerebral Palsy	Dr Bhusan Purnani,President Blind People's Association (Ahmedabad)	Ms Arpita Chatterjee & Ms Ranjana Chakraborty
Assistive devices for Persons with Cerebral Palsy	11 th Jan, 2016	Indian Institute of Cerebral Palsy		Ms Swati Dasgupta
Pre teens and beyond - Thoughtful planning starts now	6 th Feb,2016	Ministry of Social Welfare, Child and Women development, High level Medical task force in collaboration with Autism Society West Bengal	Ms Sushma, a registered Rehabilitation Psychologist (RCI) who works part-time with Morris Foundation, Pune	All therapists of ASWB,volunteers, parents and professionals working in the field of disability (Autism)
Challenges of Adolescence: Behaviours,Sexuality & Learning Strategies that Work	7 th Feb,2016	Association of Parents of Persons with Autism Spectrum Disorder	Merry Barua, founder-director of Action For Autism, New Delhi	Shrabani Chakraborty and Smriti Ghosh
Techshare 2016- Towards Assistive Technology	3rd & 4 th March,2016		Debashish Chakraborty,one of our parent volunteer and member of Autism Society West Bengal.	

Governing Body Members 2015-16

	Name & Address	Occupation	Designation	Pan No.
1	Mrs. Tapoti Ghosh Flat no. 1B,1st Floor 297 Jodhpur Park , Kolkata 7000678	House Wife	President	AICPGO689H

2	Dr. Suparna Deb 4A/70 Dharmatal Road , Kashba , Kolkata 700042	Medical practionoer	Vice President	AEXPD1671D
3	Mrs. Indrani Basu 22 Anjuman Ara Begum Row Kolkata 700033	Special Educator	Secretary	ATAPB2666G
4	Ms. Roma Basu 5C Wedderburn Road , Kolkata 700033	Retired	Joint Secretary	AEEPB5717K
5	Mr. Prabir Kundu 8 Purbalchal main Road , Kolkata 700078	Service	Treasurer	AFLPK2565G
6	Dr. Aditi Bandopadhyay 113-DGarfa Main Road,Kolkata 700075	Medical practionoer	Member	AIYPB1415A
7	Dr. Mitu De A 7/5 Purbasha Housing Estate 160 Mainktala Main Road. Kolkata – 700054.	Service	Member	AFFPD0435E
8	Mrs Ranjana Chakraborty 52A,,Jubilee Park. Tallyganj Kolkata – 700 033.	House wife	Member.	ALWPC5612M

9	Mr. Ashoke Kumar Basu 22 Anjuman Ara Begum Row kolkata 700033	Retired	Member	ADDPB4864H
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*****Please note none of the Governing Body members receive any monetary benefit.**