



# ASWB NEWSLETTER

Vol: 6 Issue: 1 January to March 2025

#### From the Editorial Board

The first quarter of 2025 saw a flurry of activities viz. Annual Sports; Outreach activities including one to far flung Nazat; celebration of Netaji Jayanti, Republic Day, Saraswati Puja; Holi; participation in Creative Movement Therapy amidst normal classes.

ASWB was glad to participate in the 30th National Parents Meet (NPM), organized by Parivaar – National Confederation of Parents Organizations (NCPO) and hosted by Parivaar Bengal.

January, 2025 saw the start of the new program "EmpowerAbility" at ASWB. Our Adapted Library was a delight for students and trainees who loved books and pictures.

The Aarohan trainees went for a day retreat which was fun, something different from the daily activities.

This quarter we had visitors from different sectors too. Our students and trainees were invited to Hindustan Copper LTD. and the Taj Group of Hotels.

## School Programs

#### Netaji's Birthday Celebration at 23rd January, 2025





#### Netaji's Birthday Celebration at 23rd January, 2025





### Aarohan Retreat on 17th January, 2024



### Aarohan Retreat on 17th January, 2024





#### Republic Day Celebration at Taj Bengal on 26th January, 2025





### YAAR on 25th January, 2025





### YAAR on 25th January, 2025





## Republic Day Celebration at Hindustan Copper Limited on 26th January, 2025





## Republic Day Celebration at ASWB on 26th January, 2025

















# Creative Movement Therapy on 30th January, 2025





### **Annual Sports Day on 1st February, 2025**



### **Annual Sports Day on 1st February, 2025**





### **Annual Sports Day on 1st February, 2025**





### **ASWB Saraswati Puja 2025**





### **ASWB Saraswati Puja 2025**





### **ASWB Adapted Library 2025**

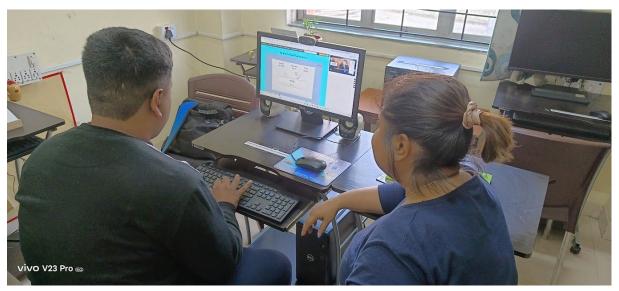




### **ASWB Adapted Library 2025**









## Parivaar GB & NPM from 14th Feb 2025 to 16th Feb 2025



ASWB participated in the 30th National Parents Meet (NPM), a landmark gathering for families, self-advocates, and experts dedicated to the rights and empowerment of individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDDs), concluded successfully at the Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata. Organized by Parivaar – National Confederation of Parents Organizations (NCPO) and hosted by Parivaar Bengal, the event was supported by NIEPID (National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities).



#### **Bhasha Dibos Celebration on 21st February, 2025**





## ASWB participation at the PRPS Sports on 28th February, 2025





## Women's Day Celebration at ASWB on 7th March, 2025 (A day earlier as 8th was a Saturday)





#### Finals of the "Rule Based Games, 2025" at ASWB





#### Finals of the "Rule Based Games, 2025" at ASWB





#### **ASWB Holi Celebration on 13th March, 2025**





#### **ASWB Holi Celebration on 13th March, 2025**





#### **ASWB Holi Celebration on 13th March, 2025**





## **Print Studio Exhibition**

#### Exhibition at HCL on 26th January, 2025





# Workshop / Visits

#### Visit of Priyamvada Birla Institute of Nursing at ASWB from 6th Feb to 8th Feb, 2025



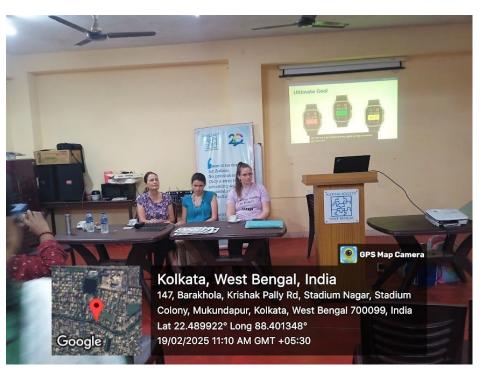


#### Visit of Priyamvada Birla Institute of Nursing at ASWB from 6th Feb to 8th Feb, 2025





### Workshop on Empowerment of Autistic Non Speakers on 19th February, 2025





### Workshop on Empowerment of Autistic Non Speakers on 19th February, 2025





### Workshop on "The Way Ahead" on 25th February, 2025





### Visit at Shishu Sarothi at Guwahati from 20th to 22nd February, 2025





### Visit at Shishu Sarothi at Guwahati from 20th to 22nd February, 2025





### Visit at Shishu Sarothi at Guwahati from 20th to 22nd February, 2025





## Art Workshop at Apeejay House on 26th February, 2025







## Art Workshop at Apeejay House on 26th February, 2025



#### Visit of Taaj Hotel at ASWB on 3rd March, 2025





#### Visit of Taaj Hotel at ASWB on 3rd March, 2025





#### Workshop on "National Educational Policy 2020" on 8th March, 2025





#### Workshop on "National Educational Policy 2020" on 8th March, 2025





# Outreach Program

#### Enrichment Program at Sheyal Para ICDS Centre on 11th February, 2025





#### Enrichment Program at Sheyal Para ICDS Centre on 11th February, 2025





### Orientation and Awareness Program at Nazat on 25th & 26th Feb, 2025





### Orientation and Awareness Program at Nazat on 25th & 26th Feb, 2025





#### Enrichment Program at Mondal para Sabuj Sangha ICDS Centre on 5th March, 2025





#### Enrichment Program at Mondal para Sabuj Sangha ICDS Centre on 5th March, 2025





#### Enrichment Program at Atghora Kheyadaha ICDS Centre on 12th March, 2025





#### Enrichment Program at Atghora Kheyadaha ICDS Centre on 12th March, 2025





#### Orientation Program at Jagadipota ICDS Centre on 19th March, 2025





#### Orientation Program at Jagadipota ICDS Centre on 19th March, 2025





#### **ASWB Annual Staff Appraisal, 2025**





#### **New Publication**

Harvest (Online); Bi-Annual Autism Support Volume 10(1); 2025

#### EXPANDING AUTISM SUPPORT: THE IMPERATIVE OF COMMUNITY OUTREACH IN RURAL AND SUBURBAN WEST BENGAL FOR SOCIAL INCLUSION

Mitu De<sup>1, 2\*</sup>, <sup>3</sup>Anamika Dhara, <sup>3</sup>Arpita Chatterjee and Indrani Basu<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Associate Professor, Department of Botany, Gurudas College, Kolkata, India 700 054.

<sup>2</sup>President & Head of Research and Academic Studies Unit (Hony),

Autism Society West Bengal (ASWB), 29/1 Stadium Colony, Mukundapur,

Kolkata, India 700099

<sup>3</sup>Project Coordinator, Autism Society West Bengal (ASWB), 29/1 Stadium Colony, Mukundapur, Kolkata, India 700099

<sup>3</sup>Founder- Director, Autism Society West Bengal (ASWB), 29/1 Stadium Colony, Mukundapur, Kolkata, India 700099

("Corresponding author e-mail: mituaswb@gmail.com, mitu.botany@gurudas.education).

#### Abstract

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) services in India are predominantly urban-centric, leaving rural and suburban populations unreached. This paper examines the outreach initiatives by the Autism Society West Bengal (ASWB) in rural and suburban areas of mainly district 24 Parganas, (South), highlighting the challenges faced and the insights gained. This article highlights the unexpected absence of autism services in peri-urban zones near Kolkata, such as Nayabad, Garia, Kamalgazi, and Mahamayatala. Drawing from recent studies and field data, it underscores the necessity of community-based interventions to bridge the service gap. This paper underscores the importance of inclusive, decentralized models. It advocates for culturally sensitive, locally embedded approaches to ensure that children and adults with autism are not excluded from essential services and community life.

Keywords: Outreach, social inclusion, ASD, community-based intervention services, ASWB.

#### 1. Introduction

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) affects an estimated 1–1.5% of children in India, yet structured support systems are largely limited to urban centres [1]. Autism support services in India have largely remained concentrated in urban centres, leaving significant gaps in awareness, diagnosis, and intervention in rural and suburban regions. In West Bengal, this urban-rural divide is particularly pronounced, where children and adults with autism living outside metropolitan areas often remain undiagnosed or unsupported due to a lack of resources, trained professionals, and community understanding. In West Bengal, the majority of available ASD services are situated in central Kolkata, bypassing both remote rural communities and the rapidly urbanizing peripheries of the city. The lack of services in such

ISSN 2456-6551 Page 13

#### How you may help:

As Autism Society West Bengal is a not for profit organization there are several occasions when upgradation of our units are done using gifts in cash and kind from our well wishers. You may help ASWB in many ways. You could help in our fundraising efforts; some of the ways funds may be used are listed below.

- 1. For procuring Teaching and Learning materials
- **2.** For purchasing Furniture
- **3.** For Sponsorship of 10 days one to one intervention for families who might need your help.
- 4. Sponsorship of Parent Training for families.
- 5. For construction of Building
- **6.** For procuring and maintenance of Infrastructure
- 7. For Equipment purchase and installation

#### Apart from the above there are others ways to lend a helping hand.

- You could help in our various extracurricular programs.
  - You could also be a buddy with our some of our students.
- You could buy some of the products that our students make
- You could network for us to get CSR funds
- You could organize exhibitions of the handcrafted products our students make.
  - You could help in our autism awareness programs in educational institutions, hospitals, police stations, airports and railway stations.
- You could pave the way for social inclusion.
- You could also give us some of your time and get to know people with autism
- You could give information about job opportunities in open/sheltered employment.

Acknowledgement: The pictures that have been used in this Newsletter have been taken by several persons viz. ASWB staff.

#### **Editorial Team:**

Ms. Indrani Basu, Dr. Mitu De, Ms. Shreya Bhattacharjee,

Ms. Arpita Chatterjee, Autism Society West Bengal