



THE IMPACT REPORT

The Stephen High School for Deaf and Aphasic has been assisting children with profound hearing impairment for past 62 years imparting formal education affiliated through SSC Board, Maharashtra in the English medium. We have prepared a holistic program, wherein we could help build awareness, provide screening and assist therapy to the hearing imparted children. Our focus was to build early learning patterns and subsequently assist them to lead a normal life. To bring in the required changes, in 2018 Early Intervention Centre started.

In 2017, we visited all Early Intervention Centers across Mumbai, Nanded, Aurangabad, Hyderabad, Bangalore & Chennai to understand the impact it makes in the lives of the children. On the feedback, suggestions, and our understanding Early Intervention and timely therapy, medical linkages, education would eventually ensure “Effective integration” of the children. Since then, we have made tremendous in roads in our work, our promise and our delivery.

OUR LEARNINGS SINCE YEAR 2018-19

- To use social media for better Awareness outreach
- To Increase admission of below 6yrs children for Therapy and School enrollment.
- To Provide Hearing Aids, as it helps child to performance better socially as well educationally
- To screen more children as our Screening Experience showed 18% of the normal kids having some degree of Hearing Loss.
- To Involve Volunteers for capacity building and program enhancement.

NEED FOR EIC (2017-18)

- Lack of awareness on the advantages of Early Intervention
- Approx. 70% HI Children untraceable on Education front
- 60% of children coming to our school at age of 10-14 years with conditioned communication pattern
- Challenged learning patterns and difficulty to cope up with formal education system
- Much focus only on Therapy

EVOLUTION (Post SBI support)

SBI partnership gave this journey a promise, a direction and a commitment to expand our vision and create an outreach never attempted before. With the support of SBI and our perseverance gave us phenomenal growth and set the firm foundation for Early Intervention Centres Montfort Care. We not only reached out to people for Awareness, Screening, Therapy but also on Providing support for Medical and rehab references. We Worked as a team on researches, Digital Outreach and many other innovations which would help us in the cause.

1. Post SBI Support we can notice significant surge in our Outreach numbers. Due to uncertainty (Covid) the outreach numbers dropped. We utilised that time (FY 20-21) to innovate something useful and enduring for deaf children of India. Our Team worked on Care Manual for counselling guidance for professionals working for disabled and Mobile App for providing speech therapy remotely.

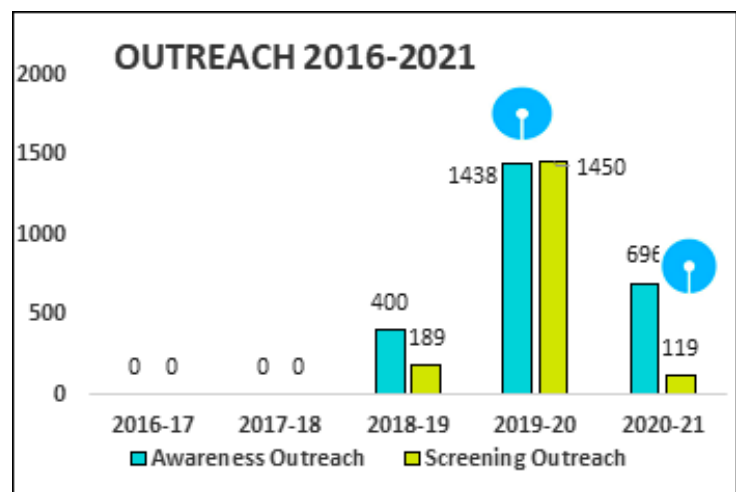


Chart 1

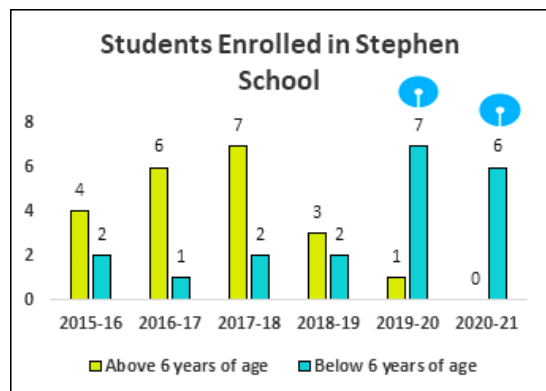


Chart 2

2. Establishing EIC, we see a rise in Number of Children below 6 yrs taking admission in the school. Earlier 70% of its students enrolling were of age (10-14)years but after EIC and SBI Life support we see younger children getting enrolled in the school. Younger students generally cope well in academics.

3. Earlier the school enrolled 5 students, on an average, in a year. Post SBI support we notice increase in numbers. Within two years we have 41 enrolled students. Out of which 8 got admitted in Mainstream schools and 8 dropped out. 25 children are continuing Therapy At EIC

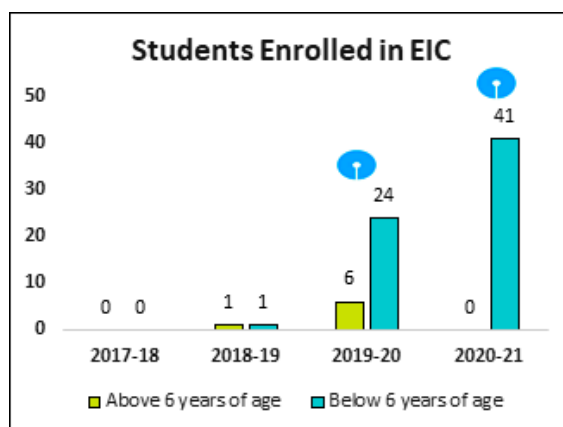


Chart 3

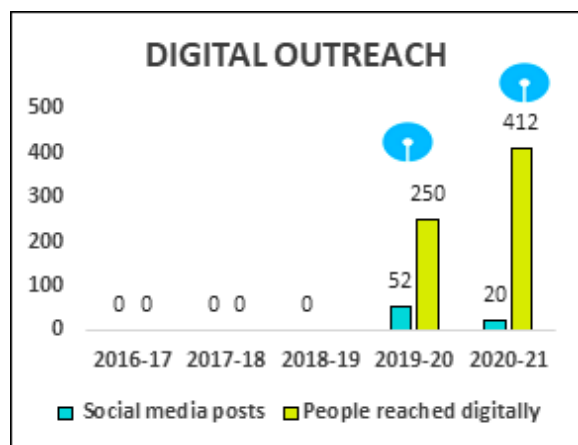


Chart 4

4. Earlier The Stephen School and EIC both did not have digital presence. Even our website was down. Now we have one of best designed website, YouTube channel, Insta page, Facebook and Mobile app. We have media plan in place. We see a steady rise in reach too.

5. Before SBI Life support the school never gave any hearing aids due to want of funds. We can see a significant rise in numbers of students using hearing aids.

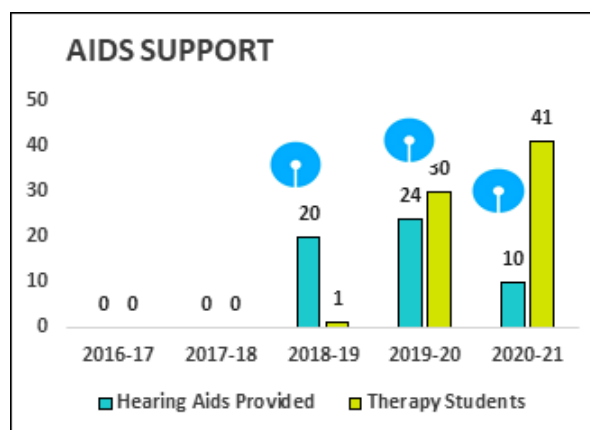


Chart 5

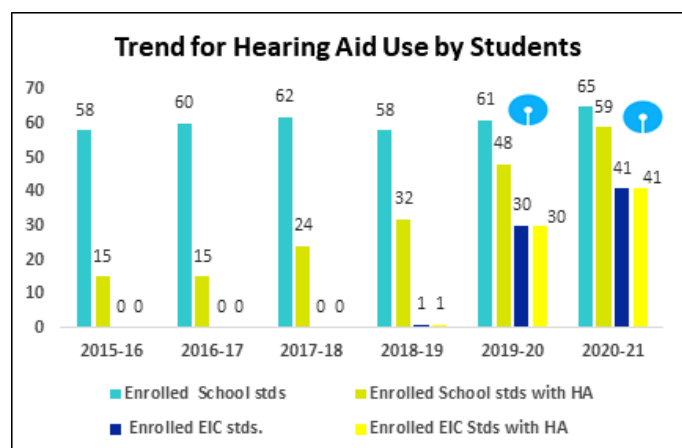


Chart 6

6. Only 24 of 62 students were using hearing aids in 2017-18, SBI Life started supporting us with hearing aids since 2018. In FY 2020-21, 90 % student were wearing working hearing aids, because of this the students attention level, performance in academics and social life has significantly improved.



Apart from external initiatives like Creating Awareness, Hearing Screening, Therapy, Social Media outreach etc we have also focused inwards in building organizational structure, HR policies and manuals, process standardization, skill and competency development and other initiatives.

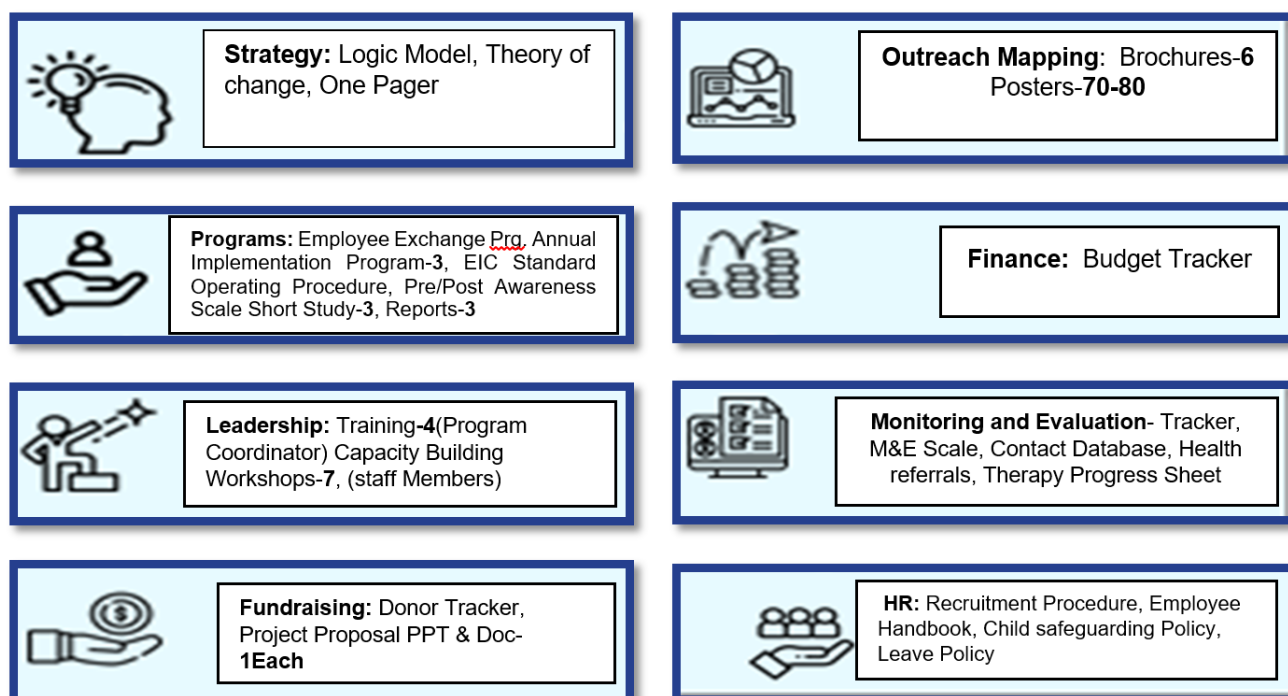


Chart 7

During the SBI's association, there has been a significant qualitative improvement in every aspect of life, aimed to start an early intervention center for children with hearing impairment. The enrollments of children with hearing impairment had significantly improved in the year 2019-20. In rehabilitation, two aspects play a crucial role: hearing aid and speech therapy. One does not work without the other. Children have been receiving speech-language therapy as weekly sessions from the moment they are equipped with hearing aids. We have enrolled children with limited or no verbal communication and later progressing to age-appropriate speech development after receiving hearing aids and intensive speech-language therapy.

A child named Daksh Kanagal was enrolled in 2019 with limited speech-language skills (3-word phrases). The child now has a unilateral cochlear implant and a hearing aid in the other ear. Daksh is six years old now and has an age appropriate speech. He is now admitted to a mainstream school. We have assisted 8 such children with different levels of speech-language -skills into mainstream school.

IMPORTANT IMPACT DATA AFTER SBI LIFE SUPPORT (FY 2019 – FY 2021)

• Increased Outreach (No of people)	87.4 %
• Increased Awareness (Knowledge)	80 %
• Increased Screening (Children)	89.2 %
• Increased Enrollment/Yr in School(<6yrs.)	68.4 %
• Increased Enrollment /Yr in EIC (< 6yrs.)	97 %
• HA Distribution	100 %
• Pass Percentage in class X for past 10 yrs	100 %
• Percentage of dropout despite Covid	0 %
• 85% Decrease in the electricity bill due to solar plant helped us in recruiting special teachers in past 4 years	2



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In India, the 2nd most common disability at birth is deafness with 60 children born with hearing impairment every day. Hearing-impairment in children impedes language and speech acquisition and has severe consequences on a child's development. It not only restricts their ability to communicate but also inhibits their cognitive development, their ability to build social relationships and pursue mainstream education. Lack of early detection and timely intervention services adversely affects the hearing, speaking and learning abilities of hearing impaired children creating barrier to language acquisition, education and integration.



Research has shown that following a protocol of early screening for hearing impairment, prompt assessment, and intervention beginning by 6 months of age gives children the best chance to succeed.

The Stephen School has leveraged its experience of over six decades in working for the cause of education for children with hearing impairment, to implement the Early Intervention Programme. The Montfort Care Early Intervention Programme focuses on identifying hearing impaired children within first 3 years of their life and then offering timely therapy, medical linkages, education & eventually ensuring “Effective integration” to the society both on the academic and social fronts before the age of 6.

The Stephen School has always managed the salary of the staff & basic operating expenses by renting out its premises for social & cultural engagements. During lockdown, the school could not generate required funds to pay the salaries of the staff. SBI Life's support, in this hour of crisis was thoughtful, well timed and our staff compensation was duly paid.