

Akshar Trust, Vadodara

Akshar Trust, Vadodara, was established in 1988 to:

- a. Provide education and care to hearing impaired children and guidance to their families
- b. Conduct research, investigation and experiments in education of hearing impaired children
- c. Train teachers of the hearing impaired.



Akshar Trust has been involved with the education of children with deafness since 1988. It began with 5 children and completed 29 years on July 18, 2017. The Inauguration of the new campus was held on April 29th, 2016, by the Chief Guest, Dr. J. N. Singh, now Chief Secretary, Govt. of Gujarat. Mrs. Avantika Singh, IAS, Collector & District Magistrate, Vadodara, came to grace the function.



The new Centre, designed in an honorary capacity by architects, Karan Grover & Associates, is a 'Green' building made of compacted mud bricks and in keeping with the terrain, covered with thatch. Though costs kept escalating due to the quality of soil and the need for retaining walls, the help received from well-wishers, along with fund raising activities, ensured that this unique building is complete.

112 students have completed Std. X &, or, XII school leaving exams. In March, 2018, **10 students** will be appearing for the same. Many students have graduated from M. S. University, Gujarat University & Sardar Patel University, in Commerce, Arts and Family Studies. 5 have completed M.Com. Some students have joined ITI courses and many are gainfully employed. Dhara Panchamiya, Shrenik Shah and Vishal Badgujar, former students, are working at DCB

Bank in Executive positions. Pratik Shah, 4th entrant at Paul Mason Consulting, a U.K. based software company, is a Test Analyst Trainee. Manushi Gandhi is studying Architecture at M. S. University. Akshar provides help to all the alumni for employment related matters.



Acquisition of Language and competence in Communication skills are at the core of Akshar's programmes. These include Early Intervention, Mainstreaming, Choice of two mediums - Gujarati and Hindi, Classes from Nursery to Std.12, Working with Amplification Devices, Adaptation of Textbooks and Teacher Training. Akshar, besides integrating 67 children since 1988, has been interacting with Regular schools for visits, lectures and conferences. The Teacher Training faculty is conducting Capacity Building programmes for other Special Schools for the deaf and Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan in Gujarat.

Mrs. N. Grover, having been President of National Convention of Educators of the Deaf-India for past 6 years, has stepped down after 2 terms in 2016.

Since 1996 transport has been provided at a 75% subsidized cost. 3 new buses have been donated since 2014, by ONGC, by Koch-Glitsch and by State Bank of India. United Way of Baroda has funded the Playground for seniors & Gujarat CSR, the playground equipment for the students. GACL, Vadodara has funded other infrastructure.



The Centre is a **non-profit, voluntary and secular organization**. **No hearing-impaired child is refused admission** and children with problems additional to deafness are also admitted.



Asifa Sheikh received a **pair of Alimco BTE hearing aids from Prime Minister, Mr. Narendra Modi**, on October 22, 2016. Hearing Aids are worn by all students. Rs.14 lakhs was raised to provide digital hearing aids to 32 students a few years ago.

Akshar Trust received an **‘Award for Excellence 2011 for Social Welfare by Institution’** from the **Federation of Gujarat Industries** September, 2012. It has also been **empanelled with the National CSR Hub** of the **Tata Institute of Social Sciences**. Akshar is recognized by the **Gujarat Government**. **The Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI)** has given **‘Permanent Recognition’** to the Teacher Training and the Trust was given **Accredited Status by RCI** for **‘Very Good Performance’** in 2009. **Akshar Trust has been accredited by Credibility Alliance in February, 2016**. Akshar Trust has just been given the **True Impact Awards of Jury Recognition, 2016 in the NGO Category** by the **District CSR Cell of Vadodara** under the **Chairperson of Mrs. Avantika Singh, IAS, District Collector, Vadodara**.

Donations to the Trust are IT exempted under Section 80-G.