



MontfortCare

**Montfort Care Early Intervention Centre**  
**Annual Report**  
**2019-20**

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MontfortCare

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## Message from the Programme Coordinator

2019-20 has been an eventful year for all of us. This is our second year of operation. In year one, with the support of Atma Education, we spent most of the time designing and planning the Montfort Care programme. *"The first step towards getting somewhere is to decide you're not going to stay where you are."* -- John Pierpont, J.P. Morgan. Although many things seemed unsure and path too far, we put our first step courageously and started the journey.

In year two, many unbelievable things happened - we were able to support many children along this journey. Cognisant of our commitment, there were excellent collaborative efforts amongst the Montfort Care teams that brought impactful results to all our beneficiaries.

The programme Montfort Care Early Intervention Centre was designed to enhance the ability to communicate orally which is compromised severely if not intervened at early stages. More than 90% of children who are with pure hearing disability can actually lead near to normal life if they are well taken care of. Unfortunately, many children suffer from delayed diagnosis and lack of timely support resulting which leads to mixed disabilities of hearing, learning and speech for life. With the recent advancement in the area of audiology, the impairment is reversible for 95% of the population. **We strongly believe and advocate that the child with profound hearing loss can learn to speak and converse like any other child.** Hence, we want to ensure every child with hearing loss receives the gift of speech.

Although our work primarily is for children with profound impairment, we consider parents and caretakers as our key supporter to achieve this goal.

In 2019-20, we conducted 23 awareness camps to create awareness about the importance of early hearing screening, best practices around infant and early child care, signs of hearing loss, and to address stigma and misconceptions. We reached out to 1438 people through these camps.

We conducted 35 hearing screening camps for children in the age group of 0 – 6 years to check for hearing ability and reached out to 1450 children. Reports and results are used to plan for the necessary medical and audiological intervention. We provide counseling for parents of children with hearing impairments to help them accept the diagnosis, recognise their child's potential and support the child through therapy and education. Therapy to expose children to environment and speech sounds, helping them to imitate and produce recognisable sounds that are precursors of speech so that eventually, the children will be able to communicate orally. We have 38 children currently enrolled in the speech therapy programme. We happily note that with the support SBI Life Insurance we were able to provide 40 pairs of hearing aids very economically backward children. **People will always be more important than the problems they face, communities more vital than the issues they struggle to solve.** Even when there are numbers to reach and evaluations to turn out, let us remember that **behind each of these numbers is a life we have touched, a person or family we have bonded with, someone that we have engaged - and that's what matters most of all.**

I would like to thank our dedicated staff, volunteers, donors, government agencies and stakeholders for their contributions, without which we would never have been able to come so far. Together, let us continue to empower lives through hard work and heart work.

Sustaining positive social change is an uphill task. It requires us to continually gather feedback and re-evaluate the approach to achieve a genuine social impact. As we continue the journey, we hope to remain courageous and intentional in co-creating more resilient parents and communities. It is also imperative to remember our roots and draw inspiration from St. Louis de Montfort and people who contributed to the education of the deaf.

-- **Ranjith Moovarasu SG**

## Our Team



**Brother Ranjith Moovarasu SG**

*Programme Coordinator*

Founder and Programme Coordinator of Montfort Care Early Intervention Centre, Ranjith Moovarasu SG is a special educator and administrator who has devoted his career to work for child with disabilities. He is passionate about Early Childhood Education as he strongly believes that early identification and intervention are the key to better future for special needs children. He says, "if you commit yourself, luck and fortune follows".

**Prajakta P. Patil**

*Lead Audiologist*

Prajakta has been a part of Montfort Care since its inception. Her role at Montfort Care is to set up evaluation, diagnosis of speech and language, conduct audiological assessments and manage early identification and intervention of hearing disorders through screening at different organisations, hospitals, etc. She feels inspired to be a part of the Montfort team working towards a common vision. She says, "Nothing is as rewarding as seeing our patients becoming confident in their own voice."



**Akash Shekapure**

*Lead Social Worker*

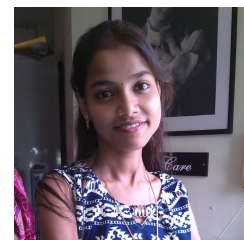
Akash is the go-to person for everything at Montfort Care. He manages the social media, scheduling the appointments, organising the camps, creating and distribution of reports, building and maintaining relationship with the hospitals, NGOs and all our key stakeholders. He has worked sincerely and does complete justice to whatever work he takes up. He believes that Montfort Care has taught him a lot of skills like communication, teamwork, problem-solving, interpersonal skills, and time management. He says, "This experience of one year helped me to boost my confidence. The work environment always helped and motivated me to take lead and make decisions"



**Rohini S. Lamture**

*Lead Auditory Verbal Therapist*

Rohini has 4 years of experience in school set up and 6 years of experience as a Auditory Verbal Therapist. She works closely with children and their parents. She conducts Parent Counselling Sessions which are also a core activity that we do. She is the newest member of Montfort Care but she feels that she has adapted to all the work very smoothly.



**Noorafshan Ansari**

*Audiologist*

I have completed BASLP from Ali Yavar Jung National Institute, Bandra and has 9 years of experience. *It was very great experience working Montfort Care. I met were really wonderful and committed people here. They encouraged me at all times. I was able to practice my passion hearing screening as well as speech therapy. This was by far the best experience I've had as an audiologist."*

## About The Stephen School for the Deaf and the Aphasic

The Stephen School for the Deaf and Aphasic was founded in Mumbai in 1957 with a single teacher offering speech training for only a handful of deaf students. Under the management of The Montfort Society, the school has expanded to 12 classrooms serving 70 children annually and their families, providing a comprehensive special education for children with hearing impairment. Targeted curriculum and speech training offer a way for hearing impaired children to participate in a hearing world and prepare them for the Secondary School Certificate (S.S.C) examination of Maharashtra State Board.

In 2015, The Stephen School, started an integrated junior college catering to students with and without hearing impairment. Currently there are 120 students enrolled in the junior college. In 2016, with a focus on employability, the school partnered with a skill training organisation to provide vocational training and employment opportunities to youth with hearing impairment. Till date, 460 youth have completed the training programme and got jobs.

The Stephen School envisions a future where hearing impairment ceases to restrict a child's opportunity for success. With the focus on giving children the tools they need to overcome barriers created by their disability, they have started an early intervention centre in 2018. The Montfort Care Early Intervention Centre is a programme under the umbrella of The Stephen School for the Deaf and Aphasic. Montfort Care Early Intervention Centre (Montfort Care) focuses on creating awareness, timely screening, assessment, therapy, and foundational education for children below the age of 6 years with hearing impairment.

## About the Montfort Care Early Intervention Centre

The Montfort Care Early Intervention Programme focuses on identifying hearing impairment in children within their 1<sup>st</sup> year of life and then offering timely therapy, medical linkages, education & eventually ensuring "Effective integration" to the society both on the academic and social fronts. Acting as a nodal guidance centre in the area of operations, the direct role of Montfort Care is to create awareness among general public and medical fraternity, conduct early hearing screening of children, enhance access to therapy, medical treatment, hearing aids, speech therapy and parent infant training activities directly as well as in partnership with other stakeholders. Our intervention is unique as it is the only programme in Mumbai focusing on all aspect of early intervention and addressing the barriers to identification and intervention. Additionally, it is reaching out to the needy within their communities and providing the services at very nominal costs to make them affordable to the economically weaker sections of society.

### **The key objectives of the programme are:**

- To create awareness among the communities and medical fraternity about hearing impairment and the need for timely screening and intervention.
- To provide needy children with hearing impairment access to timely and proper hearing screening and diagnosis.
- To provide necessary therapy and education support, linkages and needed resources to children with hearing impairment to enable them to overcome the challenges associated with hearing impairment and integrate them into the mainstream/ special education system as desired.

## Awareness and sensitisation Program

### About Awareness and sensitisation camps:

The Montfort Care team undertakes awareness and sensitisation campaigns aimed at mid and low-income residential communities as well as service providers like government hospitals, clinics, and other NGOs located in and around Mumbai. The campaign includes:

- I. workshops in high-risk communities and schools to create awareness among parents, teachers, and other stakeholders regarding hearing-impairment and the need for screening of newborns and infants.
- II. visits and tie-ups with government hospitals, clinics, and NGOs for partnerships, awareness, and referrals, working to expand their network of collaborators to facilitate awareness and the need for screenings.
- III. publishing relevant information edited for both print and digital formats to be and distributed to partners and contacting media outlets for Public Service Announcement.



**Awareness workshop for 150 pregnant women police at Naigaon, Mumbai**

### Impact of Awareness and sensitisation camps:

#### Awareness Camps

Current Year Total

**23**

↓-7 Target Camps

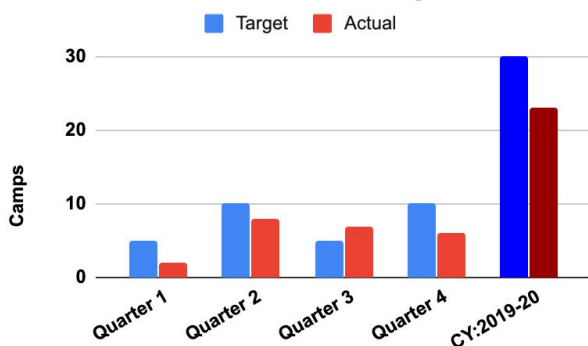
#### Beneficiaries

Current Year Total

**1438**

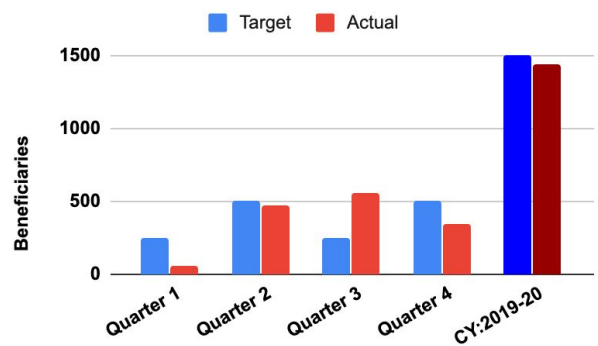
↓-62 Target Beneficiaries

#### Number of Awareness Camps



**Chart 1: Number of awareness camps planned versus conducted in the FY 2019-20**

#### Number of Beneficiaries

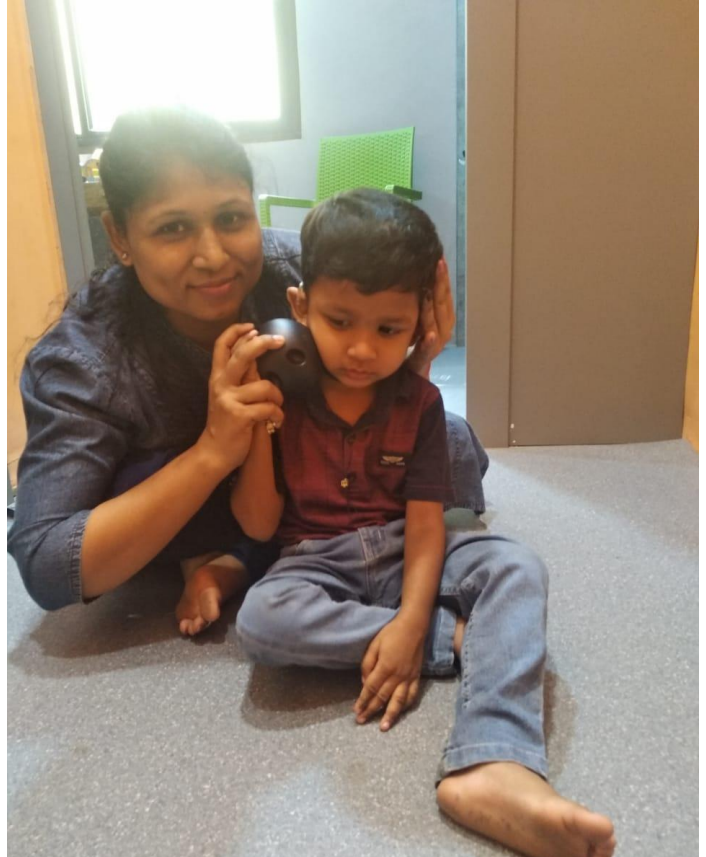


**Chart 2: Number of beneficiaries targeted through the awareness camps versus actuals from the FY 2019-20**

## Subodh's story

On the third day of Subodh's birth we did a primary hearing test of him. Through test I got to know that there was some issue in his hearing. The hospital referred us to the Ali Yavar Jung hospital for the brainstem evoked response audiometry (BERA) test. The result of the test clearly indicated and confirmed that my son has hearing loss.

At this time he was one month old and we immediately started searching for a hearing aid machine. This took us about three to four months to buy new machine as it cost around eighty thousand rupees. After buying the machine from one of the clinic near shivaji park, we started therapy at their center. After receiving therapy for a few days they found that the machine is not benefitting him much and the clinic recommended us for a Cochlear implant. Dr.Kirtane referred us to the Hinduja hospital. The hospital authority informed us that there is no need for implant as his hearing is 60% so we continued with the therapy.



The therapist recommended the Cochlear implant again as the progress was very slow. We couldn't afford the 7-8 Lakhs for the implant so it took us a year to manage the amount and complete the pre-operation process. Subodh was 2 years old when he got the surgery done.

After the operation, Subodh showed behavioral hyperness. We visited Wadia Hospital and they recommended Occupational therapy and we immediately started the OT at Wadia Hospital. At the same time we were continuing his Auditory Verbal Therapy (AVT) at one of the clinics near Dadar station. After finishing 4 months therapy at Wadia hospital, one of the parents recommended me the AVT therapy at Montfort Care which is a programme under the Stephen High for the Deaf and Aphasic where my elder son is studying.

We started Subodh's therapy at Montfort Care in August, 2019 and this has been the best therapy experience for both me and my son. The progress of my child is exceptional as I can see the change. When I joined the center he barely maintained eye contact and there was no response to any commands. Now he started speaking words like, "Mamma", "Pappa", "Ughad", "De" etc. I am also encouraging him to speak and to form a conversation. Now, Subodh knows that he has to ask if he needs something which has made communication with him so much easier. I can't help but thank Montfort Care to bring my child where he is right now.

- Subodh's Mother

## Highlights of Awareness Camps



Awareness workshop conducted for ICDS workers from **Niramaya health Foundation, Vashi naka.**

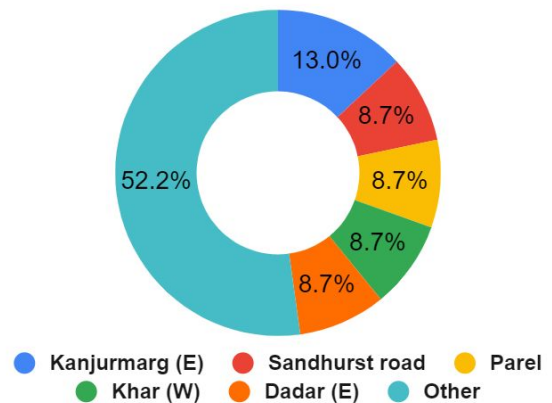
Anganwadi workers are primarily engaged in the early intervention work. Many of them are aware about different disabilities and hearing impairment. This session helped them to understand hearing impairment and its possible intervention at early stages better.



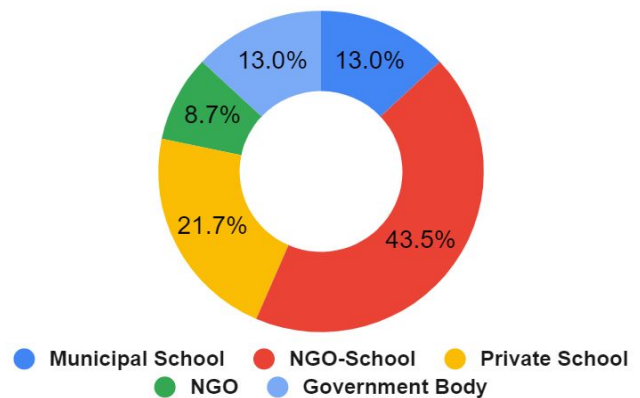
Conducted an awareness workshop for pregnant police personnel in collaboration with **Mumbai Police**. Around 150 pregnant police women from different nearby police stations attended this program. Deputy Commissioner of Police (Mumbai) Ms. Sunita Thakre also attended this workshop and shared her personal experience on hearing health. The workshop covered general health, importance of newborn hearing screening and how it affects the child's development, pregnancy care, different vaccination, beliefs & myths about hearing health and pregnancy care.

## Overall Distribution of Awareness Camps from 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020

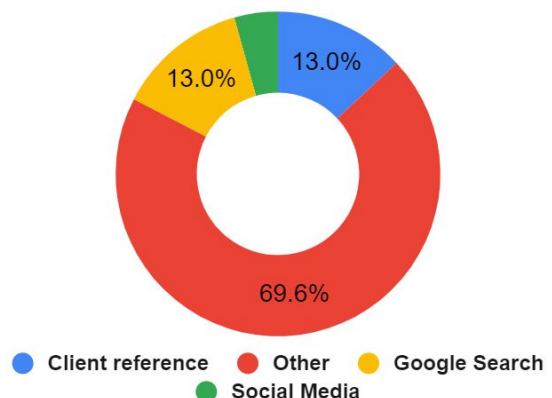
### Top 5 Locations



### Types of Organisations



### Outreach Channels





**Anganwadi, Kalina**



**Navjeet Community centre-Supari tank  
Municipal school, Bandra**



**Laxmi Nagar MPS-Akanksha Foundation,  
Khar Road**



**Shindewadi MPS-Akanksha  
Foundation, Dadar east**



**Mahatma Jyotiba Phule MPS, Akanksha  
Foundation, Dongri**



**K. E. M. School, Kanjurmarg**



**JR Secondary Municipal School-  
Fazlani Aishabai Trust, Dongri**



**Nutrition week rally, ICDS-Ghatkopar**



**Sitaram Mill compound MPS-  
Akanksha Foundation, Lower parel**



**Manikji Gajadhar Municipal school-  
Navjeet Community Centre, Khar**



**Mahalaxmi MPS- Akanksha  
Foundation, Mumbai Central**



**Saraswati Vidyalaya, Kanjurmarg**



**Saibaba Path Municipal School-Educo, Parel**



**Naigaon Mumbai Police Headquarter**



**Dharavi T. C. Municipal school, Sion**

**Testimonial from Mr. Rakesh Ghone  
Sr. manager, Social work department, The Akanksha Foundation**

*Kindly accept sincere gratitude from The Akanksha Foundation for conducting absolutely fruitful Health camp in our schools. This camp was helpful for our schools to understand and recognise the issues of parents and children related to hearing. Your contribution was really valuable to us in this matter. The schools of the families which Akanksha caters are from low income communities. Approximately 80% of our family working as a daily wagers where are remaining 20% are working in a private sector at grade 4 jobs. Hence they were the neediest one and hence your support and help in this matter has made a difference for all of us.*



## Hearing Screening Camps

### About Screening Camps:

After the awareness and screening camps, a team of trained specialists conduct auditory screening for children(0-6 years) at Montfort Care Centre and in communities. The information will be used for necessary medical intervention and Rehabilitation (hearing aids and/or cochlear implants) and in making recommendations to improve the functioning of the child at school.



*Newborn Hearing screening, V. N. Desai Hospital*



*Hearing Screening, Mahalaxmi MPS school*

## Impact of Screening Camps:

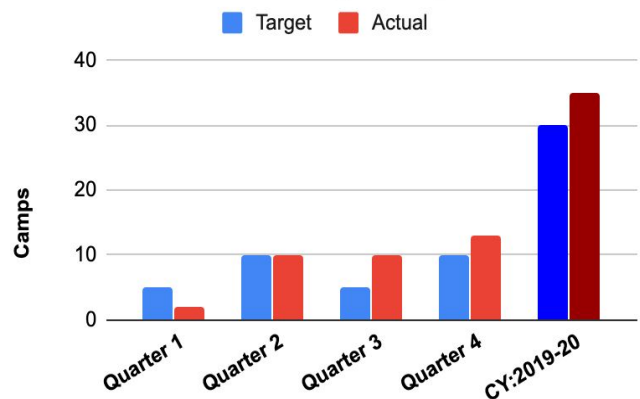
### Screening Camps

Current Year Total

**35.00**

↑5 Target Camps

### Number of Screening Camps



*Chart 3: Number of screening camps planned versus conducted in the FY 2019-20*

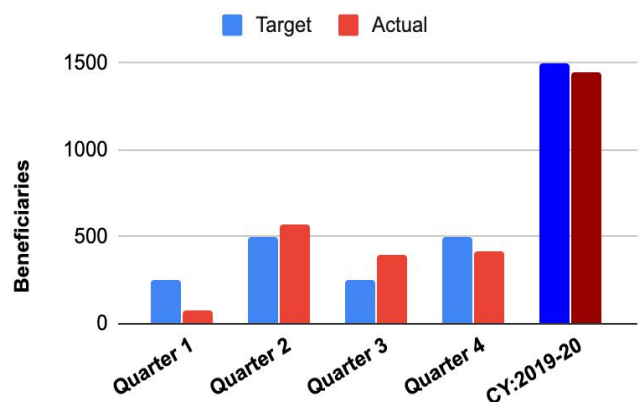
### Beneficiaries

Current Year Total

**1450.00**

↓-50 Target Beneficiaries

### Number of Beneficiaries



*Chart 4: Number of beneficiaries targeted through the screening camps versus actuals from the FY 2019-20*

## Meera's Story

My daughter had an episode of convulsion when she was 1.5 years old and followed by speech difficulty. Her speech and language abilities were absolutely fine before convulsions but immediately after the episode she stopped speaking the words which she was able to speak earlier. My family members were in absolute shock and were gravely worried when they came to know this but they have been extremely supportive throughout her treatment to this date.

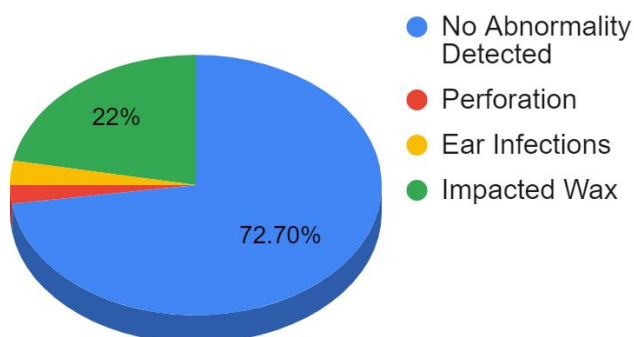


We were consulting Dr. Ashish Gujar for Meera and he referred us to Montfort Care, Dadar for Speech and Language Therapy. We were also suggested to get her checked for autism traits but the psychologists and developmental pediatricians said that she was too young to observe for autistic traits and asked us to come once she completes 5 years of age.

I started speech therapy at Montfort Care in April 2019 and since then we all have observed a lot of improvement in my child. She has progressed a lot sooner than expected. Before this, she used to repeat all our sentences and we were unable to communicate or understand her. Soon after she started therapy, this changed drastically. It has been nearly a year at Montfort Care and her repetitions have totally stopped. She is able to concentrate, speak in sentences and her speech and language skills are getting better day by day. Teachers in the school are also happy about her progress. She is very attached to her therapist and sometimes reminds us of the activities that are asked by the therapist to get done at home. We are happy that we are receiving constant guidance even during this lockdown period.

- **Meera's Mother**

## Hearing Screening Result:



We held 35 screening camps in schools, NGOs and other institutions in the FY 2019-20. We learnt that:

- Personal ear hygiene is in a poor condition amongst school children.
- The ears are not regularly examined as per the standards.
- 22% of the children had impacted ear wax that affects hearing sensitivity and if not removed, leads to several other issues.
- Around 3% of them had ear infections and few of them were recurrent and untreated.
- Regular ear inspections are vital especially in school-going children.

**Testimonial from Dr. Bhavesh Rathod**

(M.D.Pediatrics). Dept of Pediatrics  
PGMO, V.N.Desai hospital

V.N.Desai hospital has well equipped Pediatric ward, Neonatal intensive and Pediatric intensive care units with 2D echo and ventilator facilities. On an average 250 to 300 deliveries occur in the hospital per month out of which 20-25 babies require Neonatal intensive care admission. We truly thank Montfort Care an early intervention program of Stephen school, a trust working in the field of hearing disability, for performing Otoacoustic Emission (OAE) hearing screening test for neonates at V.N.Desai hospital. The screening test was performed free of cost. We thank Audiologist Prajakta Patil Madam for her efforts to test 116 neonates during total 11 screening camps held at the hospital on once a week basis.



With the help of OAE screening test we were able to do early detection of newborns with hearing defects and prompt intervention preventing further damage. It was very productive and useful screening program. We appreciate the hard work and thank Mr.Akash for getting us connected to Montfort Care and for coordinating the whole program, without his help it would have not been such a success. We would like to continue the screening program at V.N.Desai hospital. We once thank The Stephen High school for the Deaf for support and extend our sincere gratitude for your generosity.

## Maisha's Story



Maisha was identified with hearing loss at the age of 6 months. She started using one hearing aid till she was 2 years old. She attended therapy at different places but her performance did not improve at all. After starting her therapy at Montfort Care center she got new hearing aid for both the ears. With her condition, she was suggested to get a cochlear implant but her family was not ready to do it. Now she has started progressing and has also started to identify sounds, family members' names and can follow simple commands with support from therapists and caretakers. She can also communicate with the family since she is able to read lips. We have seen a commendable improvement in Maisha.

- **Maisha's Parents**

## Highlights



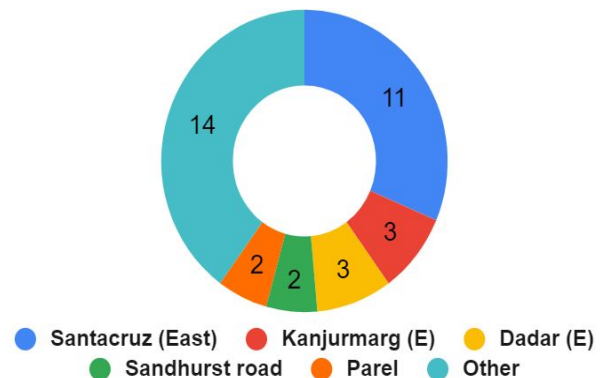
On 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, we conducted a screening camp at Panbudya Gaon-Adivasi Pada, Kalyan. We screened 30 children and adults of Katkari tribal community. We found one of the girls having profound hearing loss. We sort the help of local general physician for medical intervention as he is working there and he also assured us that he will help them for further consultation.



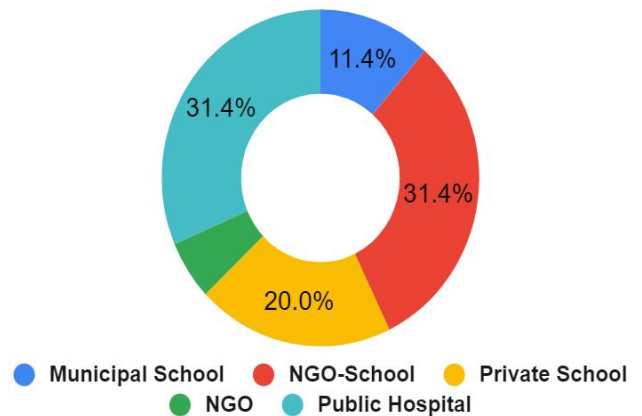
We conducted screening in the neonatal and pediatric care units of **V. N. Desai Municipal Hospital, Santacruz East**. We have screened 116 newborns in 2019-20. Hospital nurses and assistants helped us in building trust and coordination with the mothers and relatives at the labour ward. We have built a long term relationship with the hospital and hope to continue our free of charge screening for all the children.

## Overall Distribution of Screening Camps from 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020

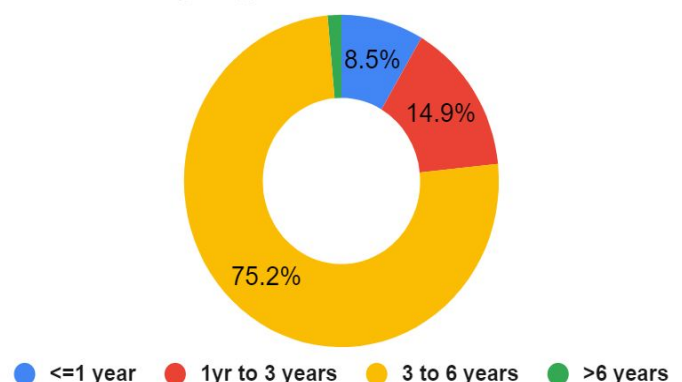
### Top 5 Locations



### Types of Organisations



### Beneficiary Age Distribution





**Shivaji School, Dharavi**



**Supari Tank School, Navjeet Community centre, Bandra**



**Dr. D. B. Kulkarni School, Dadar East**



**Shindewadi MPS- Akanksha Foundation, Dadar East**



**Laxmi Nagar MPS- Akanksha Foundation, Khar Road**



**K. E. M. School, Kanjurmarg**



**Mahatma Jyotiba Phule MPS- Akanksha Foundation, Sandhurst Road**



**Sitaram Mill Compound MPS, Akanksha Foundation, Lower Parel**



**Manikji Gajadhar Municipal School, Navjeet Community Centre, Khar**



**Mahalaxmi MPS- Akanksha Foundation, Mumbai Central**



**Saraswati Vidyalaya, Kanjurmarg**



**City of Los Angeles Municipal School, Matunga**



***V. N. Desai Hospital , Santacruz***



***Adarsh Vidyalaya, Bhandup***



***BMC community health center, Dadar***



## Testimonial from Saad's Mother

I went to Wadia hospital for hearing and speech treatment of my child and they referred Montfort Care to us. Till date, Montfort Care has helped me clear my doubts and questions regarding my child's hearing, speaking and learning needs. Saad has a 70% hearing loss and the therapist recommended getting hearing aids. We could not afford the costs so Montfort Care helped us avail hearing aid completely free of cost. The hearing aids has helped my child a lot along with the therapy provided. I am really happy about the progress he has made so far.

- Saad's Mother

## Auditory Verbal Therapy (AVT) and Speech Therapy

### About Auditory Verbal Therapy and Speech Therapy:

A trained speech therapist, audiologist, and special educator provide the children with individual Auditory-Verbal Therapy and Speech Therapy. The focus is to promote an early diagnosis, one-on-one therapy, and state-of-the-art audiologic management and rehabilitation. Parents and caregivers actively participate in therapy. Through guidance, coaching, and demonstration, parents become the primary facilitators of their child's spoken language development.

### Impact of AVT and Speech Therapy:

CY:2019-20	Therapy Direct Beneficiaries		
Time Period	Target	Actual	Achievement %
Quarter 1	8	18	225
Quarter 2	16	22	138
Quarter 3	25	24	96
Quarter 4	30	32	107
CY:2019-20	30	32	107

Number of Direct Beneficiaries of Therapy

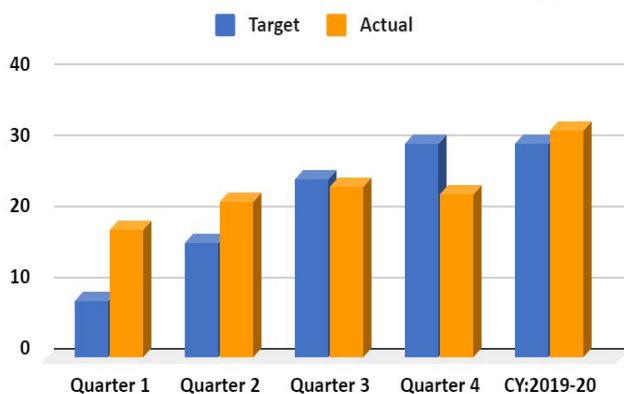


Chart 5: Quarter wise number of students we catered to in FY 2019-20

Year Over Year Comparison

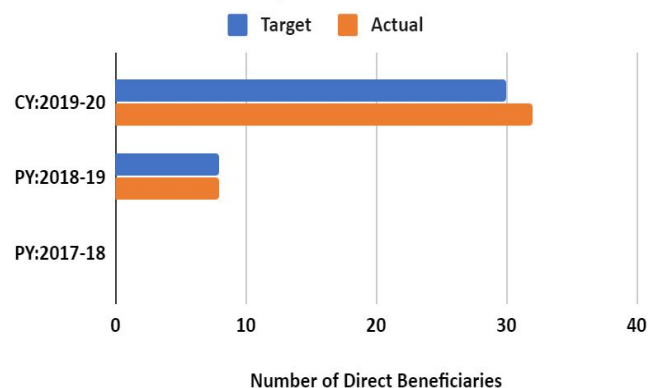


Chart 6: Year wise student enrollment in the Therapy programme

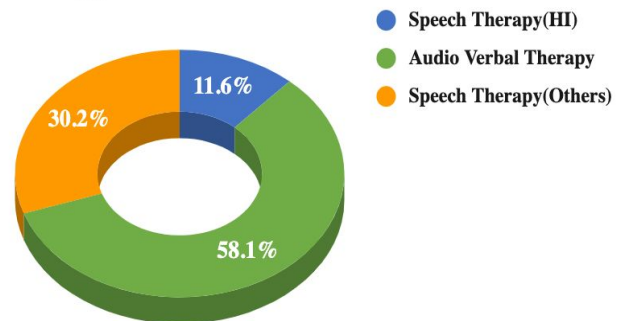
## Highlights



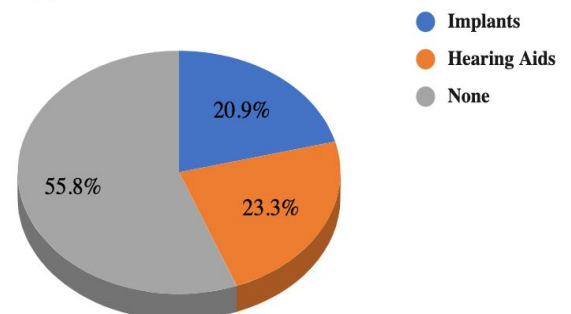
As soon as the child is fitted with hearing aid or cochlear implant, we advise the parents to start the intense speech therapy. We recommend the parents to visit the centre at least twice in a week.

So far we have reached 38 children who are enrolled in our therapy centre. 25 of them are regular in attending therapy. Over 60% are below 4 years of age which is very encouraging.

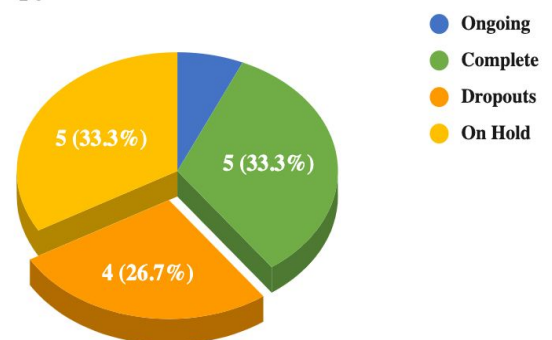
Therapy Status for Current Year



Therapy Status for Current Year



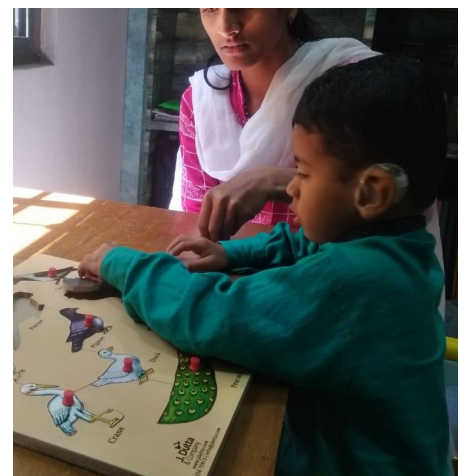
Therapy Status for Current Year



## Testimonial from Ayush's Parents

Ayush has a moderately severe hearing loss so he could not listen to some sound and he was doing some vocalizing before we came to Montfort care center. When we got hearing aid and Auditory verbal therapy, he started to listen and comprehend some words and sentences. Now he is able to speak in short phrases and short sentences and he has started following simple commands, his speech is also much clearer. Montfort Care center teaches us how to deal with our children's what kind of conversation we need to do with our children. Ayush wouldn't have improved so much without Montfort Care guidance and support.

- Ayush's Parents





**Rudraunsh**



**Sanika**



**Alimunisha**



**Ayush**



**Faiz**



**Anshika**



***World Hearing Day***



***Hearing Aid Programming***



***Holi Celebration***



***Thank You Elena***



***Kite Activity at Dadar Beach***



Think of a 12-year-old boy; laughing, playing with his friends, going to school, studying as well as doing mischief. Adarsh is that typical pre-teen school-going boy. He's naughty like all the boys his age but he's obedient too. He loves dancing, singing and playing football. His teachers think he has the potential; if only he concentrated more in his books than in the playground. They think that about most of their students without any exception and it is all very normal except that Adarsh is an exception! He is a Cochlear implantee which means he was born deaf and has undergone cochlear implant intervention. This has helped him not only to hear and speak but also to adjust to a mainstream life as a any other child.

This journey was not easy especially for his mother, Mrs. Siji. It was because she changed the way she brought up her son and got accepted in spite of his impairment. She had seen signs of her child's disability at early ages, specifically in his lack of response to any external sound stimuli like firecrackers. He was diagnosed with profound hearing loss, by the National Institute of Speech and Hearing (Trivandrum) when he was one year old. Initially, the family had a hard time coming to terms with Adarsh's disability; yet they stood by him and offered him the kind of support that he needed. There were still a lot of challenges ahead - they had inhibitions about letting him play with other children fearing that he would be teased. Wearing a hearing aid would make him the subject of mockery and jokes. What should they do in such a situation? Should they hide his disability? It is very difficult to control how the outside world treats individuals who are different or differently-abled. A primary question every parent has - how can they protect their child?

Mrs. Siji was losing hope and was troubled about the way ahead when she got to know about cochlear implants for deaf children. It was a tough decision to take but she decided to opt for surgery that would help her son hear and give him a chance to live a normal life. The decision to go for Cochlear implant surgery meant a huge financial setback for the family in addition to the psychological toll it would take. Determined to face all challenges that came up, this strong and brave mother got her son operated. After the operation, she worked tirelessly to get him extensive audio-visual therapy that was required for the surgery to be effective. This therapy enables the implantees to understand and distinguish sounds and thus helps them adapt to life as hearing-abled individuals.

The next hurdle for Mrs. Siji was that there was no therapist available in Trivandrum where they lived for most of their life. She did not lose her determination, every week she took a train to Calicut which was 400 kms away and was an 8 hour long journey for her son's therapy sessions. She also started teaching Adarsh at home using audio-visual cues to aid his progress and improvement. He even attended pre-primary school with students who are hearing-abled. She still faced challenges, especially with teachers who did not understand that in spite of the cochlear implant, Adarsh needed special attention in the classroom. This, however, was a small obstacle compared to what she had overcome to help her son counter deafness. Today, she is proud of Adarsh's progress who is starting to adapt to the cochlear implant thanks to the tireless efforts of his mother.

Mrs. Siji says that there is a great need to create more awareness regarding the nature of hearing disability and cochlear implants. She also says that it is imperative for the government to provide more assistance and financial aid to children in need of such implants. More therapy centres are also needed to raise the overall standard of living of people in the deaf community. All in all, this is a success story! A deaf child when given proper hearing assistive device and extensive Auditory Verbal Therapy gets a new normal life. All you have to do is address the problem and seek help and success will soon follow. It wasn't as easy as it sounds, but today Mrs. Siji is proud and happy to know that her son will grow up to live a regular life in mainstream society all due to the tremendous sacrifices she made. Adarsh is currently in Grade 7 at the Little Flower School; a unit of Montfort group of Schools (CBSE) in Hyderabad doing well in the classroom, playground and his overall life.



In the picture: Adarsh is second from the right

*Adarsh has been the inspiration behind what I have set out to do. I started the Montfort Care Early Intervention Programme two years ago. Although I firmly believed that any child with profound hearing loss can learn to speak and converse just like other mainstream children, I needed some proof to validate this. I decided to study cases of implantee childs and came upon Mrs. Siji and her son Adarsh's story. It answers and clarifies many questions and doubts that parents usually ask me. I hope that Mrs. Siji's efforts and Adarsh's life inspire other parents to avail of Cochlear Implants.*

**- Ranjith Moovarasu SG, Founder,  
Montfort Early Intervention Centre**

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**Chimani Pakhar School, Dadar West**

**K.E.M School, Kanjurmarg**

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**Adarsh Vidyalaya, Bhandup**

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