

**National Human Rights Commission**  
**(PRP&P Division JD(R) Unit)**

**Subject: Visit of Shri Rajive Raturi, Special Monitor (Thematic area of Rights of Persons with Disabilities and Elderly Persons) in Delhi from 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> December 2019**

Shri Rajive Raturi, Special Monitor (Thematic area of Rights of Persons with Disabilities and Elderly Persons) visited organizations registered under National Trust in Delhi to understand the Samarth and Gharonda schemes of the National Trust that provide residential care and rehabilitation for adults with disabilities under the National Trust. The visits were undertaken in Ashiana Gharonda Home and Manovikas Charitable Society in Delhi from 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> December 2019. A meeting with the officials of the National Trust was also held to know the status of the schemes in Delhi.

The report of the meeting with the officials, followed by the observations and recommendations that emerged from the visit report to the organizations registered under the National Trust is as under.

**REPORT OF MEETINGS WITH OFFICIALS OF THE NATIONAL TRUST**

1. The Samarth scheme is running at 106 places in the country, including two in the Capital, namely, Manovikas Comprehensive Rehabilitation and Research Centre and Society for Child Development.
2. The Gharonda Scheme, a lifelong shelter and care facility scheme, has been implemented in 4 places in the country, including one in the Capital at Dera Mandi, near Chattarpur.
3. National Trust has drastically reduced its residential care services for children and adults, including orphaned adults. From 110 centres operating in 2013, the Trust is only operating a limited number of centres today. As of the date of the visit, there are only:
  - Gharonda Centres: 20
  - Samarth cum Gharonda Centres: 12
  - Samarth Centres: 8
4. As per the Special Monitor, this drastic reduction in services is attributed to the lack of finances required for administration. With increasing administrative costs of the Trust and a reducing interest on the corpus, the Trust is faced with reduced availability of funds.

## REPORT OF VISIT TO INSTITUTIONS UNDER THE NATIONAL TRUST

### **A. ASHIANA GHARONDA HOME FOR INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES**

1. This institution is run by Muskaan, an NGO working with children and adults intellectual and developmental disabilities.
2. It is a lifelong group home providing residential care for adults with intellectual disabilities run with support from the National Trust.
3. Ashiana Gharonda Home, registered under the National Trust follows the guidelines by the National Trust. The organization is supported by National Trust but the Special Monitor indicated that the support provided to establish a Gharonda was Rs. 2.9 lakh, but now, it has been reduced to Rs. 1.9 lakh.
4. There are a total of 18 residents from ages 22 to 55 years out of which 6 are women. The residents are from Below Poverty Line (BPL) families.
5. The building is a community centre of Dera village and has been leased to the organization.
6. The building has large rooms with partitions to provide residents with individual space with cupboard and storage. The men live on the first floor and the women live on the ground floor. However, men who use wheelchair are accommodated on the ground floor.
7. Each dormitory has attached toilet and the toilets are made accessible with grab bars. Geysers for the provision of hot waters.
8. The building also has a kitchen, dining hall, television room and there is adequate space to play and move around.
9. According to the Special Monitor, the ground floor is accessible and there are ramps at the entrance of the building.
10. There are six caregivers, four for men and two for women. Amongst the six caregivers, there are night caregivers. The ratio of caregiver to the residents is 1:3.
11. All residents go to Muskaan Centre in Vasant Kunj for educational, therapeutic and vocational services.
12. The residents are supported by the National Trust with Rs. 5000 per month. However, according to the Special Monitor, no reimbursement is made towards the therapy, food etc.

13. The issue raised by the management of the Home is that the organization has to vacate the building as the Dera village community now wants the building back. While this change can create trouble for the management, but they are building a shelter in Vasant Kunj as a permanent solution to the issue.

## **B. MANOVIKAS CHARITABLE SOCIETY**

1. Manovikas Charitable Society was started under the Samarth programme (residential care home for children until 18 years) in 2003. The Samarth programme was discontinued in 2017 after the National Trust revised the schemes and all organizations under the Samarth programme were transferred to the Gharonda Scheme. However, as Manovikas Charitable Society did not have a permanent facility for life long stay, the organization opted out from the programme altogether. It took the organization 6 months as the parents needed to make alternate arrangements for the children and during this period, no support was provided by National Trust to the organization.
2. Manovikas Charitable Society is now being run under the Disha cum Vikas Scheme wherein 30 children from ages 5 to 18 years with the four disabilities under the National Trust are supported.
3. Disha scheme is an early intervention and school readiness scheme for children in the age group of 0-10 years whilst the Vikas scheme is a day-care scheme primarily to expand the range of opportunities available to children with disabilities for enhancing interpersonal and vocational skill as they are on a transition to higher age group.
4. The early intervention services are provided by special educators and there is one special educator for every 4 children. The special school follows National Institute of Open Schooling syllabus. The special school imparts education till class twelfth for all age group.
5. The day school in this centre has 75 children. There are 18 special educators, 8 caregivers and 2 therapists (speech and occupational therapist).
6. Manovikas Charitable Society has two other centres, one of them has 25 children and the other is a vocational training centre. While the vocational training centre is funded by HSBC, the special schools get no support from the Centre or the State.

7. The vocational centre has persons with mild disabilities. The training is imparted in hospitality, data entry for Information Technology, food and beverages and house-keeping.
8. Children from BPL families are taught for free without any charges. The school provides transport and mid-day meal is provided to students who cannot get their food.
9. Vikas and Disha scheme have 20 beneficiaries each while the maximum limit of support from National Trust 30 people. There has been a reduction in the amount of support as well. Earlier, Vikas scheme supported with Rs 4850 per child and Disha scheme supported with Rs. 5500 per child. Now the reimbursement is Rs 3500 per beneficiary in Disha cum Vikas scheme.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. The Special Monitor recommended the need to monitor, evaluate and implement remedial measures for improvement in all residential facilities run under the National Trust in line with directions of Supreme Court in Reena Banerjee vs NCT of Delhi.
2. There is a need to accelerate the process of amending the National Trust Act to harmonize it with the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2016.
3. It is recommended to consider increasing the corpus of the National Trust substantially.
4. There is a need for making States and Union Territories (UT) responsible and accountable for implementing National Trust programmes and schemes at the State and District level as disability is a State subject.
5. The Special Monitor recommended the need to reinstate improved schemes and programmes which have been reduced/discontinued over the years.
6. Establish institutions under the Gharonda and Samarth programmes in line with target populations of disabilities under the National Trust Act in each State and UT.
7. Exercise powers conferred on the National Trust as a statutory body to lease out State Government buildings for setting up permanent Gharonda homes in all States and UTs of the country.

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## Report of visit to MP and institutions in Delhi



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To: (JD(R) NHRC, US(C) -, B.S.)

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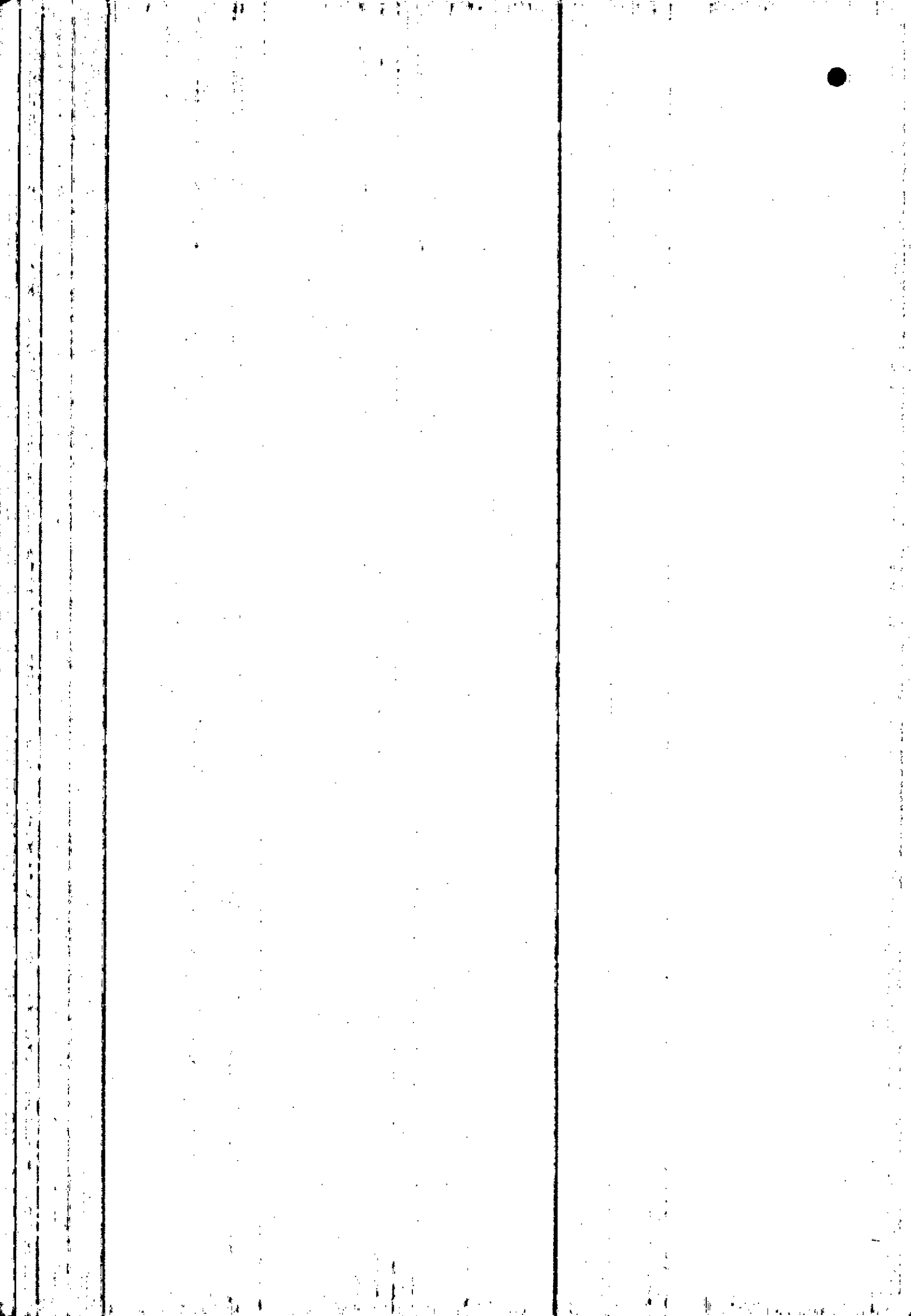
----- Original Message -----

From: **rajive raturi** <rajiveraturi@gmail.com>  
Date: Feb 16, 2020 9:31:00 AM  
Subject: Report of visit to MP and institutions in Delhi  
To: sgnhrc@nic.in, jst.nhrc@nic.in, dsr.nhrc@nic.in

Dear Sirs,  
Greetings.

Please find attached my reports of visit to residential institution in Delhi under National Trust and reports of my visit to Madhya Pradesh. Regret the delay in submission of reports.

With regards,  
Rajive



Report of visit to Registered organizations of National Trust and National Trust office on 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Dec 2019

In the last few months visits have been undertaken to the States of Bengal, Odisha, Kerala and Haryana. Residential homes/ schools for children and adults with intellectual disabilities have been visited in light of Supreme Court judgement in Reena Banerjee vs NCT of Delhi which has directed all States and UT's to monitor, evaluate programmes and suggest remedial measures for improvement in all residential facilities for persons with disabilities.

The visit to homes in Delhi was undertaken to understand the Samarth and Gharonda schemes of the National Trust which aim at providing respite and residential care till the age of 18 years(Samarth) and long term residential care and rehabilitation for adults (Gharonda) for disabilities under the National Trust.

A Press Information Bureau report of Government of India, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment dated 26-August-2013, reported a response from the then Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment, Shri P. Balram Naik in a written reply to a question in Rajya Sabha informing that Samarth scheme is running at 106 places in the country, including two in the Capital at (i) Manovikas Comprehensive Rehabilitation and Research Centre and (ii) Society for Child Development. Besides, a lifelong shelter and care facility scheme namely Gharanda is being implemented by the National Trust for adult persons at 4 places in the country including one in the Capital at DERA Mandi, Dera, Near Chattarpur.

As was apparent, with discussions with NT staff on 20<sup>th</sup> Dec, 2019, National Trust has drastically reduced its residential care services for children and adults, including orphaned adults. From 110 centers operating in 2013 the Trust is only operating a handful of such centres today. (As informed as on date there are only 20 Gharonda centres in the country and 12 are Samarth cum Gharonda centres and only samarthcentres are 8).

Considering that In Gharonda NT supports 15 beneficiaries, Gharonda combined with Samarth the NT supports 20 beneficiaries An Samarth centres only 15 beneficiaries, and with reduced care homes it is apparent that NT's reach and services to disabilities under the National Trust has reduced considerably.

This drastic reduction in services is attributed to a lack of finances. The Trust was set up in 1999 with an initial corpus of Rs 100 crores. With increasing administrative costs of the Trust

and a reducing interest on the corpus the Trust is faced with reduced availability of funds to carry out service delivery programmes.

Report of visit to Ashiana Gharonda home of Muskaan and Manovikas Charitable Society on 19 December 2019:

Ashiana Gharonda home for Intellectual Disabilities situated in Dera Village Chattarpur, Delhi was visited on 19 Dec, 2019 and Mr Tapan, Superintendent was met.

This institution is run by Muskaan, an NGO working with Intellectually and developmental disabled children and adults. This is a life long Group Home for Adults providing residential care for adults with intellectual disabilities run with support from the National Trust. National Trust has issued clear guidelines for running Gharonda homes to Registered Organisations and all guidelines are followed in this residential institution and is registered with National Trust

18 residents from 22 to over 55 yrs of age reside and of these 6 are women. Some are paid residents and all come from families. Some old parents cannot take care of their children and send them here. National Trust supports those coming from BPL families only. All residents are with intellectual and Developmental disabilities and all come from families and restoration is not required.

*The building is a Community Centre for Dera Village and has been leased for setting up this facility. There are Large rooms partitioned for residents and each space has cupboards and storage space for personal belongings. Boys rooms are on first floor and women reside in ground floor. Wheel chair users boys accommodated in ground floor. Each dormitory has attached toilets and baths with grab bars and geysers installed for hot water.*

Building has kitchen, dining hall, TV room and there is adequate space to play and move. Ground floor is accessible and ramps at entrance were visible. Building is very secure and gated. Cooks are present to cook all meals.



There are 6 care givers four for men other two for women. Night care givers also from amongst these six caregivers and the ratio is One caregiver for around 3 residents.

All residents go to the Muskaan Centre in Vasant Kunj and avail all educational, therapeutic and vocational services there.

In Gharonda only adults from BPL families are supported. For each resident the National Trust supports with Rs 5000 per month. Earlier Rs 2.9 lakhs was given to RO to set up Gharonda facility and this is now reduced to Rs 1.9 lakhs. No cost is reimbursed towards therapy, food etc.

This is an excellent life long group home care centre for persons with intellectual and development disabilities run by Muskaan. Muskaan is a reputed NGO working with these disabilities and provides excellent services for education and rehabilitation of residents.

One major concern expressed by Muskaan is that they have to vacate this place as the Dera village community want the community Centre returned to them.

This is a matter of serious concern as life long group homes cannot be moved from one location to another location. Whilst Muskaan has informed that they are constructing a life long shelter in their premises in Vasant Kunj a permanent solution needs to be found for this shelter as well as other life long care centres across the country.

Manovikas charitable society was also visited on 19 December 2019 and the Principal Ms. Indira Alok was met.

Manovikas charitable society started the Samarthyaa programme (Residential care group home for children till the age of 18 years) in 2003 and had to close the programme in 2017. The National Trust revised the scheme and all RO's running Samarthyaa programme were asked to also run Gharonda programme. As Manovikas charitable society did not have a permanent facility for life long care home they had to opt out of the Samarthyaa programme as well.

It took them 6 months to close the Samarthyaa programme, as this was a residential facility for children till the age of 18, arrangements had to be made by parents to take their children back. In these 6 months no financial support was provided by National Trust.

Manovikas Charitable Society now run the Disha cum vikas scheme in which 30 children with the 4 disabilities under the National Trust from five yrs to 18 years are supported.

DISHA is an Early Intervention and School Readiness Scheme for children in the age group of 0-10 years whilst Vikas is a Day care scheme, primarily to expand the range of opportunities available to a child with disability for enhancing interpersonal and vocational skills as they are on a transition to higher age groups. The Vikas centre also offers caregiving support to children with NT Disability during the time they are in the Vikas centre for atleast 6 hours. In addition it also helps in supporting family members to get some time during the day to fulfil other responsibilities.

For Early intervention services there is one Special educator for every 4 children. Special school follows the NIOS syllabus and is called School for Inclusion. The Special school imparts education till class 12 and is for all age groups.

Day school in this centre has 75 children. There are 18 Special educators, 8 caregivers and 2 therapists (one speech therapist and 1 Occupational therapist who is part time).

Manovikas Charitable Society has 2 Other centres. One school has 25 children. The other centre is only a Vocational Centre.

Vocational Centre has only mildly disabled students. Vocational training is imparted in hospitality, data entry for Information Technology, food and beverages and housekeeping.

Children from BPL families are taught free of any charge and about 10% of the students pay Rs 2000/-. School provides transport. Mid day meal provided to some children who cannot get food from home.

Vocational Centre is being supported by HSBC and there is no financial support for the Special Schools from the State or Central Government

Vikas and Disha schemes have twenty beneficiaries each whilst ROs running both schemes together can take maximum 30 beneficiaries and only BPL category are supported by National Trust. Disha and Vikas and Disha cum Vikas schemes are day care schemes.

Earlier Vikas was supported with Rs 4850 per child and Disha with Rs 5500 per child.

Presently it reimburses Rs 3500 per beneficiary in Disha cum Vikas scheme. Setup costs for implementing these schemes is Rs 1.55 lakhs for Disha and for Disha cum Vikas set up cost is Rs 1.95 lakhs.

#### National Trust Act amendment:

The National Trust Act is in the process of being amended to bring it in harmony with the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act of 2016. Whilst this is delayed it is an important step forward.

#### Recommendations:

- Monitor, evaluate and implement remedial measures for improvement in all residential facilities run by Registered Organisations of National Trust in line with directions of Supreme Court in Reena Banerjee vs NCT of Delhi;

-Accelerate the process of amending the National Trust Act to bring it in harmony with the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2016;

-Consider substantially increasing the corpus of the National Trust;

-Making States and Union Territories responsible and accountable for delivering NT programmes and schemes at the State and district level as Disability is a State subject;

-Reinstate improved schemes and programmes which have been reduced/ discontinued over the years;

-Open Gharonda and Samarth programmes in line with target populations of NT disabilities in each state and UT's;

- Exercise powers conferred on the National Trust as a statutory body to lease out State Government buildings for setting up permanent Gharonda homes in all States and UT's of the country;