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From the Founder's Desk

Greetings to you from PACT!

We are in an era where assistive technology is making great strides, helping persons with disability improve their mobility, and enabling greater inclusion. However, such technologies seldom reach low and middle-income countries, where many people are in dire need of support.

It's encouraging to see reputed institutes such as IIT Madras and IIM Bangalore make efforts to bridge the gap by incubating and accelerating start-ups working in this space. Apart from availability, efforts to keep the technology affordable are also needed to benefit more people in the country.

In the last quarter, PACT explored the market for assistive devices for a few orphaned, abandoned, and surrendered children with special needs (OAS CwSN). It was a challenge to raise funds. Our journey led to the exploration of sectoral support from organizations and big players in assistive technology. As a result, we could provide assistive devices to OAS CwSN in the last 6 months at zero cost. This is because of pioneering organizations such as Motivation India, Marghadharshi, and APD Bengaluru who were open to community collaboration and engagement with us. We owe them a

lot for their support.

We have outlined new strategies for PACT for 2022-25 themed "Together we succeed," shared on the [website](#).

Next quarter, we have the great task of planning a screening program in collaboration with the District Child Protection Unit, Bangalore Urban. We would be screening 165+ Child Care Institutes (CCIs) in the next 9 months (1500+ children) to identify CwSN.

It's a key program. And we invite social work interns and allied health care sector students from PT, OT, and SLPT fields to join PACT's internship program and be part of this pioneering work.

Stand with us and spread the cheer. Stay blessed.

MERLYN HILDA
Co-founder, PACT India

Featured Article

INDIANS REMAIN AVERSE TO ACCEPTING CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

This is a screenshot of the article published in The Economic Times on 24 June 2022.

Author: Prerna Katiyar, ET Bureau

[Link to the article.](#)

Synopsis

Fewer than 50 children with special needs found a home within India in the past three financial years, accounting for less than 1% of the total 9,443 in-country adoptions between 2019-20 and 2021-22.



Even as applications for adoptions are increasing year-on-year, most Indians look for 0-2 years old 'healthy child'.

Even as Indians are opening up to the idea of [adoption](#) by [single parents](#) or adopting a sibling for their biological child, they remain averse to accepting children with special needs.

Fewer than 50 children with special needs found a home within India in the past three financial years, accounting for less than 1% of the total 9,443 in-

country adoptions between 2019-20 and 2021-22.

However, applicants from outside India are considerably more open to embracing children with special needs. Such children comprised 39.1%, 56.1% and 73% of the total inter-country adoptions in 2019-20, 2020-21 and 2021-22 respectively. The category covers non-resident Indians, overseas citizens of India and foreign prospective adoptive parents.

"The motivation of parents outside India is different. They are mentally prepared to take care of such children. Also, it is not just the parents who adopt such kids but the entire country does that," a senior [Central Adoption Resource Authority](#) (CARA) official told ET on condition of anonymity. "Such applicants have to compulsorily undertake a 34-hour course in their country before applying for adoption."

They also undergo several preadoption counselling sessions." CARA is a statutory body of the ministry of women & child development.

It functions as the nodal body for adoption of Indian children and is mandated to facilitate in-country adoptions and regulate inter-country adoptions through Child Adoption Resource Information & Guidance System ([CARINGS](#)), an online platform aimed at bringing transparency in the adoption process and curtailing delays at various levels.

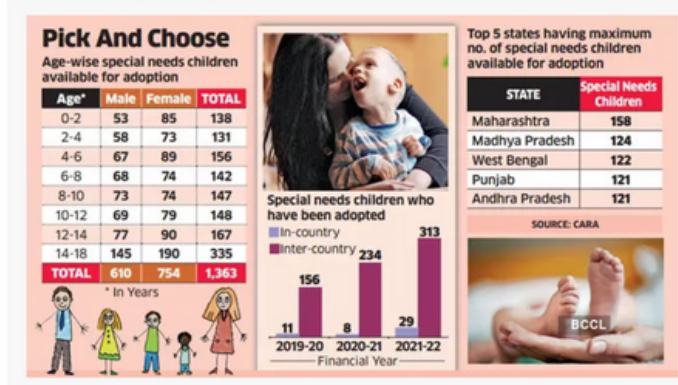
Adoption of children with special needs is much faster and simpler through CARA. The profile of each such child is available on the CARINGS website for all Indian applicants to see and choose from. "There is no waiting list. Anyone can reserve the child after having a look at the profile. If they have any doubts regarding the exact anomaly with the child, we consult the AIIMS panel and get their fresh profile ready," said the official.

As per the CARA data, shared exclusively with ET, only 11, eight and 29 children with special needs were adopted in 2019-20, 2020-21 and 2021-22 respectively, even as the total number of applications for adoptions grew during this period. Maharashtra (159), Madhya Pradesh (124) and West Bengal (122) were the top three states in terms of children with special needs available for adoption.

With most Indian applicants wanting to experience all stages of a baby, more than 70% domestic applicants sought a healthy baby in the 0-2 age group. "As a result, older kids, especially those who are six-plus and those with special needs mostly remain (unadopted) in child care institutions," said a senior women & child development ministry official, who did not wish to be identified.

PROGRESS UPDATES

- Organised screening camps in the newly identified CCIs.
- Digitised training modules for caregivers and students on screening, assessment, safe handling, intervention, and follow up of OAS CwSN.
- Distributed custom wheelchairs and seating devices for 3 CwSN who got rehabilitated through PACT's rehab programs.
- Published the PACT Strategy Guide 2022-25.
- Recruited 2 staff members to scale the programs.



PACT Activities

REHABILITATION OF ORPHANED, ABANDONED, SURRENDERED CHILDREN'S TRAUMA AND SPECIAL NEEDS (ROOTS) PROGRAM

Name of the CCI	No. of children	No. of direct sessions	No. of Tele-rehab Sessions	Sessions delivered by caregivers	Total sessions
Sishu Mandira, BLR	13	22	-	436	458
ASG*, Hubli	6	18	74	323	415
ASG*, Kalburagi	5	19	93	201	313

*ASG: Amulya Shishu Griha

WE INTEND NURTURE GIVING AND SUPPORT (WINGS) PROGRAM

Name of the CCI	No. of children	No. of direct sessions	No. of tele-rehab sessions	Sessions delivered by caregivers	Total sessions
IJCH*	7	58	-	263	321
DSCAT**	12	18	-	442	460
St. Micheal's	5	5	5	12	22

*DSCAT: Divya Shanthi Christian Association and Trust **IJCH: Infant Jesus Children's Home

END MILE CONNECT (EMC) PROGRAM

Name of the CCI	No. of new children screened
Liza's Home	3
Vani Vidhyashray	3
Bala Yesu Bhavan	5
Anandha Margha	19
Providence Home	11
Home of Faith	35



Screening for special needs at Ananda Marga



Visit to the Providence Home, Bengaluru

PACT Activities

Partnership with DCPU, Bangalore Urban

PACT is authorised by the District Child Protection Unit to visit CCIIs in Bangalore and complete a situational analysis of the children - assessing their physical, mental, and psychosocial health. PACT will also provide rehabilitation services for the children identified with special needs, to support their holistic health and development.

The partnership was officially launched on 26 September when PACT's founder Dr Reuban Daniel and coordinator Mrs Vimala met Mrs Bharathi Devi, DCPO (District Child Protection Officer), Bangalore Urban, and discussed strategies and a plan of action to reach our goal.

Wheelchair Training

Our co-founder, Mrs Merlyn Hilda, attended 40 hours training on wheelchair service provision and appropriate postural support devices by Motivation India. This is of value to PACT's services for CWSN in CCIIs.

Therapy kit distribution

The therapy kit makes giving therapy easier and more effective. PACT distributed a therapy kit to the Divya Shanthi Christian Association Trust (DSCAT), where we have started working with the children in their childcare homes.

The kit will enhance the impact of the therapy given to the caregivers also. And it will lead to a faster and more rounded recovery of the children.

Collaboration with APD India

In a joint venture with The Association of People with Disability, India, PACT visited Dr S.R. Chandrasekhar Institute of Speech and Hearing, Lingarajapuram for campus interviews seeking enthusiastic and social work-oriented candidates for the position of Speech Therapist.



Therapy kit distribution to DSCAT

Volunteer Training

Students from United Theological College (UTC), Bangalore visited PACT India to learn about the needs of children from economically weak backgrounds - their education, life skills, etc., and services that may be provided. The weekly visits are part of the students' learning curriculum.

In September, the students paid a community visit with the team of DSCAT to Bharat Matha, an area near Lingarajapuram. The students got a chance to witness the health conditions and needs of the most vulnerable parents and the challenges they face.

UnLtd Incubation Camp

PACT's co-founder, Mrs Merlyn Hilda attended 2 days of boot camp in Delhi, part of the Incubation Program of UnLtd India. In this camp, participants were trained on entrepreneurship and start-up planning and execution. Brainstorming and various assignments were mixed up with fun such as a laughing session!

Open Interview with CCIIs

PACT conducted a virtual meeting for some of the administrators and caregivers of CCIIs. The meeting was conducted in an open interview format to get their perspectives on the requirements of children with special needs at the CCIIs.

Growth, Gratitude, Goodbye

WELCOMING OUR NEW TEAM MEMBERS

Ms Vimala YM

One of the strong pillars of our budding team, Ms Vimala has worked extensively in the social sector since her graduation. Her commitment and passion for the cause are inspiring, and her smile is contagious. As an MSW graduate, she has experience working in a CCI that caters to children affected with HIV. She has also worked as a catalyst between the CWC team and other CCIs. These skills make our team stronger.

Ms Nagma Mohan

Ms Nagma is a professional physiotherapist with rich experience in handling children with special needs and dealing with their pains. She has worked with reputed healthcare firms and has strong domain knowledge on rehab aspects. She hails from Kerala and is deeply compassionate towards pets and street dogs.

KNOW OUR PARTNER

Divya Shanthi Christian Association and Trust (DSCAT) is a care home that has been serving the community since 1967. PACT is working with DSCAT to serve the children sheltered in the care home by aiding rehab care programs through their healthcare center and its operations.

PACT will build this program, so they may independently run it within 3 years. Located in Lingarajapuram, DSCAT caters to the most deprived urban slums of Bangalore to prevent child abandonment and organizes community programs for reunions.

OBITUARY

We regret to inform the sad demise of our ex-advisory board member Mr. John Paul on 13 September 2022, at the young age of 48 years. He was instrumental in structuring our operations during the ideation phase of PACT India. He was battling rare cancer since 2020. His presence on the board was always felt as he served it with great passion until October 2021. We pray for his family members, especially his wife, 16-year-old son and 5-year-old daughter. May his soul rest in peace.



THANK YOU, DONORS

Kingdom Builders community, for the second time, raised funds as part of their giving initiative.

Mr. Mohan Sagayaraj from Tamil Nādu initiated his giving through the online platform.

Dr. Rita from Odisha is a regular supporter. Though we had never met her, we are encouraged by her wishes and prayers.

Dr. Bennila Thankgammal, in remembrance of her beloved husband, contributed to one of the care homes we work with in Devanahalli.

Oct-December Plans

- Organise screening camps to roll out a flagship program in collaboration with DCPU, Bengaluru.
- Enrol PACT in a curated organizational development program.
- Distribute assistive devices to children with special needs identified last quarter.
- Identify and train interns for the rehab care work of OAS CwSN.

PLEASE SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT PACT'S OPEN POSITIONS

OPEN JOB POSTINGS

Occupational Therapist - Salary ranging from ₹30-35K per month (excluding incentives). Master or Bachelor's degree holder, experienced or fresher may apply.

Speech Therapist - Salary ranging from ₹20-25K per month (excluding incentives). Bachelor's degree holder, fresher may apply.

Job Location: Bangalore. Including travelling to the rural community.

Date of Joining: Immediate

Salaries will be finalized after the interviews and competency mapping.



Screening at DSCAT

INTERN WITH US

We welcome students from social work and allied health care backgrounds who must complete internships as part of their curriculum.

Educational institutes that wish to send their students to PACT may reach us by email at info@pactindia.org.

We have 1-month and 3-month structured internship programs and field placements.

We also provide certificates of appreciation post the successful completion of the internship.



Review of PACT's work



DCPU partnership's official launch

Support PACT

PACT India is committed to rehabilitating OAS children with special needs in CCI. The Government of Karnataka has recognised our efforts and partnered with us to take the ROOTS program to CCIs in the state. We have also launched the WINGS and End Mile Connect programs to ensure no child is left behind. (More about these programs on our website www.pactindia.org.)

Together We Can.

Corporate and individual donors can adopt a CCI or sponsor the children's rehabilitation costs.



1 Orphanage's
Healthcare Needs for a Year ₹22,500



1 Child's Healthcare Needs for
a Month ₹575



1 Child's Assistive Training for
a Month ₹550



Make an open donation for
PACT to use the funds based
on urgent and important needs

HOW TO DONATE

For online donations:

<https://pactindia.org/donate/>

Scan with a UPI app:



For NEFT donations:

Account Name: Prakhyata Abhinand Charitable Trust

A/C No.: 0486073000000945

Bank: South Indian Bank

Branch: Kothanur

IFSC Code: SIBL0000486

Account type: Current

During this **Daan Utsav**, PACT hopes to raise ₹2.5 lakhs for Child Care Institutes to support multiple services including early intervention for children with special needs for 1 year.

For this curated program, we invite 25 families to pledge ₹10000 during Daan Utsav, followed by a donation of ₹2500 for 4 months. We will send them a report on the progress of service in the CCIs and the changes observed in the children.

CONTACT US

VOLUNTEER, DONATE & NURTURE

Please email your inquiry to info@pactindia.org.

Call us at +91-9379741933.

Visit www.pactindia.org.



Donations to PACT are eligible for 50% tax exemption under Section 80G of the Income Tax Act, India.