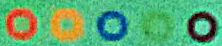


COUNT ME IN

Building an inclusive ecosystem for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities



Rajasthan Mahila Kalyan Mandal Sanstha (RMKM)

Website: www.rmkm.org.in | Model: Non-profit

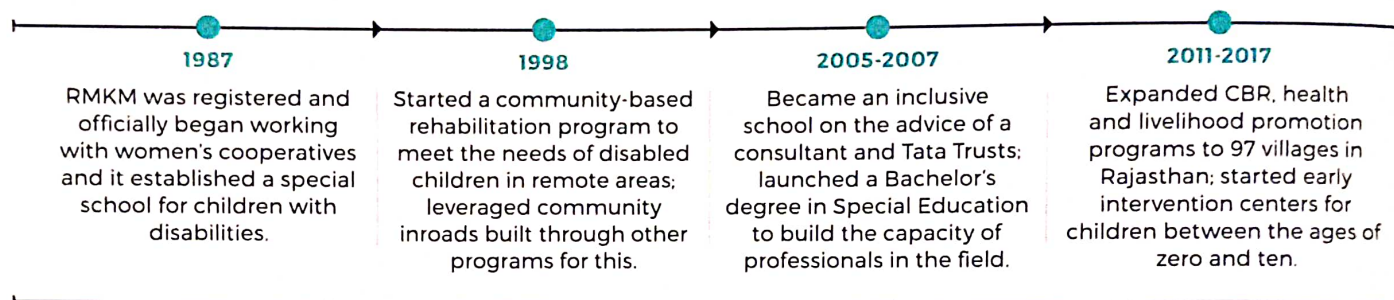


Organization overview:

Founded: 1987 | Head office: Ajmer, Rajasthan | Coverage: Rajasthan
Full-time staff: 112 | Budget (2017-18): INR 2.75 crores (USD 380,000)

RMKM works to uplift rural communities in Rajasthan through formal education on skill enhancement, health, basic human rights, and livelihood for independence and self-reliance. It seeks to partner with and empower individuals living below the poverty line, PwIDDs, women and the elderly.

How did it evolve?



Program overview:

Coverage: Rajasthan | Full-time program staff: 58 | Budget (2017-18): INR 1.40 crores (USD 195,000)

The problem

The mother plays a pivotal role in taking care of a child with disability. However, in the rural areas of Rajasthan, there is limited access to medical practitioners, special educators and other support services that could ensure that the child is healthy and develops basic cognitive and functional skills.



RMKM's approach

RMKM is bridging this gap by providing a holistic range of services for children with disability and training both field professionals and parents on how best to care for the children. It believes that working with children with disability extends support to their mothers and eases the pressure on them as caregivers.

What does it do?

RMKM works in four key areas, namely education and inclusion, health, livelihood promotion and micro-credit, and human resources development. The services that focus on persons with disability include the following.

Education and Inclusion

- Identification and early intervention: RMKM has two early intervention centers. It also monitors children who were admitted to the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit of the government hospital for six months to identify any developmental delays.
- Inclusive schools: The organization runs two inclusive schools, for children with special needs and non-disabled children.
- Day care and vocational training: RMKM operates two vocational training centers for children with special needs that have five units each including woodcraft and vermin composting.
- Community-based rehabilitation: For families in remote villages and districts, the org runs a community-based rehabilitation program. The program focuses on the five aspects of the World Health Organization's CBR matrix - health, education, livelihood, social and empowerment.
- Human resource development: RMKM conducts special education training for government and private teachers. It also runs a Bachelor's degree and Diploma in Special Education (Mental Retardation) that is affiliated with the RCI.

Key interventions

- ✓ Provide diagnostic services and family centered early intervention care
- Deliver technical training to key professionals including medical health professionals, *anganwadi* workers and pre-school teachers
- ✓ Deliver technical training to educators in special schools and inclusive schools
- Equip educators in special and inclusive schools with specifically designed and standardized teaching tools
- ✓ Operate workshops with market linkages or partner with corporates to create inclusive workplaces that employ peer groups comprising PwIDDs
- Conduct advocacy for legislative change and educate key stakeholders to generate awareness
- ✓ Build capacity of partner organizations and enable them to create sustainable entities
- Conduct research to build data on developmental disorders & program effectiveness



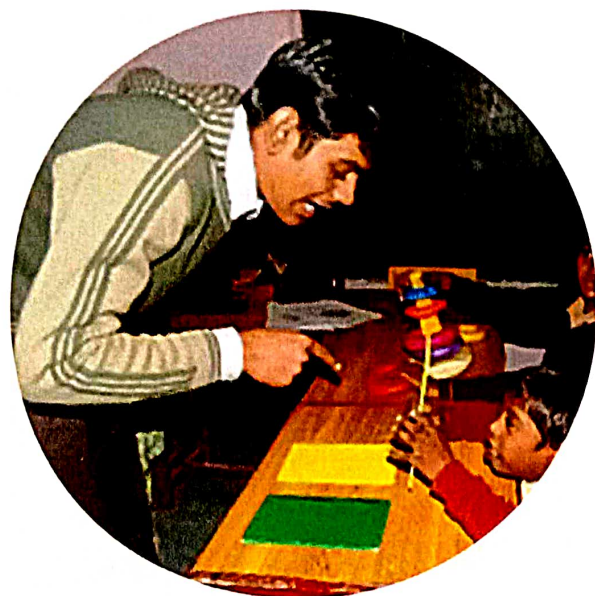
What has it achieved?

- The organization provided services to more than 1600 children with disabilities in the year 2017-18 alone. It also linked over 2000 concessions, housing loans and NREGA cards (including pensions, disability certificates, road and railway) in the same period.
- RMKM's inclusive schools train and prepare children with an inclination for sports to participate in the National Special Olympics- two such children with intellectual disabilities have won gold medals for roller skating.
- It was the first organization in North India to adopt a 'Reverse Inclusion' model for its special school in 2006.

What next?

Over the next three years, RMKM plans to:

- Systematically scale its CBR program from its current presence mainly in Central Rajasthan to 10 districts of the state, thereby reaching 5000 children with disabilities.
- Build an early intervention center in Rajasthan on land provided by the government in a specially designed building with complete access for the disabled.
- Develop a sensory park that will serve as a training area for children and young adults with autism, visual impairments and multiple disabilities.



A special educator teaches a child with disability at Minu inclusive school with the help of innovative tools.

Quality indicators

Leadership

- Kshama R. Kaushik, Secretary and Chief Functionary
- She graduated from TISS with an MA in Social Work; holds a B.Ed. in Special Education

Partners and Funders

Childline India Foundation, Vibha Inc, Sense International India, APPI, Give India, Perkins International, Rehabilitation Council of India, National Trust

Awards and Endorsements

- Winner, Social Achievers Award from C.I.P. Foundation (2017)
- Winner, State-Level Best Organization in the field of Mental Retardation (2009)
- Winner, Best NGO from Ministry of Women and Children Development (2005)
- Winner, Sulakshana Ram Janam Pandey Award for rehabilitation from NASEOH (2017)

"My son was born with intellectual disability, and I couldn't understand how to help him. He would lie in bed all day, unable to sit up, drooling and crying. The CBR sir has been a blessing. He worked with him consistently for the last four years, doing physical therapies and exercises to stimulate his mind. Today, he studies in a regular school alongside non-disabled children. Look, he can write his name in Hindi and knows basic multiplication!"

- Mother of Bhupendra, a beneficiary of the CBR program in Ajmer city

VOICES FROM THE GROUND

"There is so much stigma attached to these children. Our mission is to do everything in our power to reduce this stigma, and partner with experts, government bodies and other non-profit organizations to spread the idea of inclusion. For us, inclusion is not just an articulation or philosophy - it is a spirit and action."

- Kshama Kaushik, Secretary and Chief Functionary

VOICES FROM THE TEAM