From Roadblocks to Lifelines: Supporting Families and Training Professionals Along the Cochlear Implant Journey

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India in numbers

~1.48 billion

people in India (UN estimate, mid-2026)

~50,000

cochlear implant recipients in India (estimate)

2,500–6,000

audiologists and speech-language pathologists

Roughly 1 audiologist or speech-language pathologist for every 8–20 implant users and fewer than 1,000 trained auditory-verbal specialists: about 1 for every 50 or more

Sources: UN World Population Prospects 2024; implant recipient figure is an estimate; workforce figures from CIICA 2025 (Daboo) and ISHA/RCI. Ratios are approximate and calculated from these estimates.

Roadblocks after diagnosis

For families

- Grief, anxiety, and exhaustion
- Stigma and conflict within families
- Financial strain and long distances to care

In the system

- Lack of trained clinicians
- Lack of awareness
- Late or inconsistent diagnosis

Two ways to clear the roadblocks

Support family's Mental Health

- Mental health support through VConnect Foundation
- Training 20 mothers in 2022 to support the Mental Health of parents
- Conducting programs to support the mental health of the parents and children

Build professional capacity

- Creating awareness about LSL leading to good outcomes (70)
- Conducting training workshops online and offline (45)
- Started Six Month Certificate Course in LSL: Theory to Practice (26)

From lifelines to momentum



Mental health support leads to supported families leading to better outcomes!
Trained professionals lead to better outcomes, families supported leading to family's feeling supported!

Call to action: Invest in -

1. **Mental Health Support for families**
2. **Professional training for habilitation**

Thank you☺