

Walk to raise funds for autism centre

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
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A FIVE-KM walk was organised this morning to raise funds to build a centre to conduct research on autism and rehabilitate children suffering from the disorder.

Kathak dancer Shovana Narayan, a long-time supporter of Action for Autism, an NGO that has been trying to raise awareness on the developmental disability for over a decade, was part of the event.

Narayan strode along with the group even as a tiny girl helped hold up a banner that loudly proclaimed 'Sponsored Walk for Autism-2004'.

"I gave my students a lot of work to do and practice and I told them that they'd better get it done before I



Participants at the walk on Sunday.

returned from the walk. I try and be here for every function that Action for Autism organises," said Narayan.

As the group strode

along, curious onlookers stopped to stare and policemen wondered what this procession was all about.

The second annual walk began from the grounds of

Sanskriti School in Chanakyapuri at around 10.30 am and went through the diplomatic enclave in Chanakyapuri.

Merry Barua, Director,

Action for Autism, said: "A walk is a fun way to raise funds. Many families joined us and many more were eager to come."

The money will go for the construction of the national centre for advocacy, research, rehabilitation and training. Barua said that currently the organisation operated from a small, rented building in Chirag Delhi Gaon. She added that this place had become inadequate given the demand for its services.

"It is really difficult to raise funds for autism, because the children who suffer from this disorder appear to be normal," said Barua.

The organisation is planning to lay the centre's foundation stone in Jasola, behind Apollo Hospital, within the next month.

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