

# **SPARC-INDIA**

**NEWS LETTER JAN.-MAR 2015**

## **From Director's Desk**

SPARC India is making its several efforts to make people sensitized about Inclusion and mainstreaming of Children/Persons with Disabilities (PWDs). Through our Institutional Based Education Program (Jyoti Kiran School) we are getting an opportunity to explore the challenges and to work upon those challenges for making government system understand the concept of Inclusive School. It is always a good medium to implement the new ideas and learn from them, and we are working towards it. SPARC India's other programs are focus to make sustainable developments in the life of PWDs. Through our Rights and entitlements program we are working on the awareness to ensure the access of PWDs to the services provided by the government. Also we are working with the State for the better implementation of PWD Act 1995.

We are very happy to inform people that our State government considered our voices in a positive way and passed the Uttar Pradesh Disability policy in Dec'14 and we are expecting big positive changes in life of PWDs of Uttar Pradesh State. Also through this news letter I am making an appeal to the masses to let the PWDs know their rights through supporting them.

**Thanks for all support**  
Mr. Amitabh Mehrotra

**SPARC-India (School for Potential Advancement and Restoration of Confidence)** is working for the rehabilitation and rights of persons with disabilities since 1996. It is a voluntary organization which is successfully working for persons with disabilities (PWDs) through its Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) Programs in the urban slums and rural areas of Lucknow and Barabanki District (U.P India). SPARC India established its Jyoti Kiran School for cerebral Palsied (CP) children in the year 2003 which is now an "*inclusive school*" for children with disabilities and non challenged children from the community. SPARC-India has been putting in concerted efforts in the Disability Movement in the State of Uttar Pradesh since the time when in our country this movement was in its infancy. The organizational objectives are conceived with the firm notion of taking a lead role in its work in the field of disability.

## **Jyoti Kiran School: “An Inclusive School”**

### **Parents Support Group (PSG) meetings**

PSG meetings were conducted on 24<sup>th</sup> Jan. 2015 and 21<sup>st</sup> Feb. 2015 in school premises. A dental camp was held at the first PSG meeting on request from the parents. The professions at dental camp explained the importance of dental health to all the parents. They told parents about ways to maintain healthy teeth. The professionals also answered queries from the parents. In the second PSG meeting the report card was distributed. The teachers discussed results of children with their parents. The teachers suggested parents various ways by which they can help their child in focussing on studies and improving academically. Irregularity issues were discussed with parents whose children had poor attendance. The therapists discussed therapies that parents could provide their children at home.

### **Counselling sessions with children**

Some of the children at school have social behaviour issues and lack socialization. They often have problems like temper, tantrums and mingling issues with peers. Counselling sessions were taken by counsellors with these children to further improve their behaviour and social skills. These were one on one session depending on the individual need of the child. Children showed marked improvement in social skills since these counselling sessions.

### **Presentations given by children**

Presentations are a great way of expressing oneself. They help in self motivation, increase of confidence and self belief. Children in the present quarter gave presentations on various topics like ‘Id’ (festival), ‘cow’ (pet) etc. In one other activity children gave presentation on “myself”. They started with an introduction and later spoke few lines on themselves including their likes/dislikes etc. This activity helped children in better understanding themselves.



## **Understanding market concept**



A presentation was given on the marketing concept in school. Children were explained how to visit a shop and buy things through an enactment. A small shop was set up in school and a skit was played in which a parent asked a child to go to a shop and buy some things of daily use. The child then went to the set up shop and bought things. Later, few children along with teacher went to a nearby shop to gain real life experience and hence understand the marketing concept.

## **Understanding relationship concept**

Our social life is based on relationships with family, friends and society. This understanding of relationship begins at a very early stage in life. Thus the children were explained about the importance of relations and different relations in one's life. They were told about the paternal and maternal relations in detail. Children were explained how to identify these relations from one another.

## **Indoor/Outdoor games**

To help increase the rate of participation and level of confidence in the children various indoor/outdoor games were conducted during this reporting period. The children were divided in 2 groups for these games. Ludo, carrom and antakshari were the indoor games that were played in the school. Children enjoyed all these games. In the outdoor games children enjoyed throwing ball in a bucket. They all played bat and ball together. Children also participated in PT exercises. Children fully participated in these outdoor activities.

## **Physiotherapy**

Therapeutic interventions are a regular activity at our school. Physical exercises and activity based exercises help children with disabilities in slowly achieving their activities of daily living (ADL). Physiotherapy sessions are not only held with children who are enrolled in the school but also with children with disabilities from the community. Those parents whose children do not study at Jyoti Kiran School also bring their children with disabilities to get regular physiotherapy.

## **Livelihood Resource Centre (LRC)**

### **Formation of Raibareilly Viklang Manch**

A meeting was held with **Uttar Pradesh Viklang Manch (UPVM)** at Thulendi Bacchrawa Raibareilly, U.P. for the formation and strengthening of **Raibareilly Viklang Manch (RVM)** on 31<sup>st</sup> Jan. 2015. RVM was formed from UPVM at this meeting in which 20 persons with disabilities (PWDs) participated. Various issues related to PWDs were discussed, including problems faced in availing disability certificates and admission in schools. Decision was made to raise voice against these issues through RVM. UPVM officials laid emphasis to generate capacity building programmes for PWDs. They highlighted the fact that issues faced by PWDs should be raised with the Government in order to find their resolution and help the PWDs lead a dignified life.

### **Strengthening meeting with Barabanki Viklang Manch**

A meeting was held between **Uttar Pradesh Viklang Manch (UPVM)** and **Barabanki Viklang Manch (BVM)** at Cooperative Hall at Gwari Shahpur crossing in Deva block Barabanki, U.P. The focus of the meeting was to strengthen UPVM and BVM. It was presided over by Secretary of UPVM. Firstly all the members gave their introduction which was followed by exchange of information regarding recent events in the past few months between UPVM and BVM. Secretary of UPVM reiterated that in order to stand for the rights of PWDs it is necessary to understand the Disability Act 1995 and laws related to disability.

At present PWDs from 35 districts of U.P are connected to UPVM. He emphasised on the need to be aware of facilities provided by the Government for the rehabilitation of PWDs like availing loan from banks to set up own business. Importance of Right to Information (RTI) was also discussed in this meeting.



### **CSR and Disability: Corporate Meet**

## Objectives of this Meet:

- To seek help of corporate bodies in making general living conditions inclusive in the State.
- To initiate dialogue with the Corporate sector for creating opportunities (job, sports and recreational) for children/persons with disabilities (CWDs/PWDs).
- To provide a platform to SPARC-India for making efforts in favour of CWDs/PWDs with support from corporate bodies.
- To mobilize corporate sector to play a proactive role in changing the mindset of the society towards PWDs.



**Participants:** Ms. Leena Seth, Mr. Brijesh Seth and Mr. Pranjal Singh from *Shalimar Group*; Mr. Jayant Krishna, Mr. Prerna Agarwal and Mr. Pallav Joshi from *TCS*; Mr. N.K. Maurya and Ms. Rekha Dixit from *REC*; Ms. Aparna Dass from *America India Foundation*; Mr. Nazaf Rizvi from *ICICI*; Mr. Sudhir Bora from *Lucknow Petrol Dealers Association*; Mr. Ajay Singh from *Titanium Imports*; Mr. Anand Makrana and Mr. Rajneesh Yadav from *GAIL*; Dr. Munish Chander from *TCI*; Mr. Prashant Anchal from *PACS*; Mr. Amitabh Mehrotra from *SPARC-India*.

**Process:** With the purpose to sensitize corporate bodies regarding issues and needs of PWDs and to start a positive dialogue with corporate for the employment and inclusion of PWDs for the mainstreaming, SPARC-India organized a corporate meet with the support of TCS and Shalimar Groups. The two hour corporate meet was divided in 3 sessions: Welcome and introduction, Employment of PWDs and Corporate Sustainability; How CSR can be used to empower PWDs.

The meet started with the welcome note which reflected the disability status in India followed by Introduction note given by Mr. Amitabh Mehrotra. Mr. Mehrotra himself being cerebral palsied person spoke about his own experiences and difficulties. He made a presentation regarding SPARC-India's work on disability. He focused on the need to identify and coin a model of meaningful interventions in U.P. and ways to create an inclusive environment in the society. Later all the participants introduced themselves and gave presentations on CSR initiatives and corporate sustainability of their respective corporate bodies towards disability. After corporate views, Mr. Amitabh Mehrotra spoke about Future plans and Strategies of SPARC-India.

**Testimonies:** SPARC-India's trainees Ms. Ruhi, Mr. Satish and Mr. Kaleem introduced themselves and shared how skilled development training has changed their life and improved its quality along with their experiences of working in corporate sector.

*I was never sure if I will be able to even face the interview, but my training demo sessions gave me a confidence to interact with individuals and I felt confident and got selected, which became turning point for my life. – Satish (working in Agies, Call center)*

**Outcomes:** The meet had the following outcomes:

- Seven Corporate and PSUs have joined hands with SPARC-India for future partnership.
- Have clear understanding regarding disability issues and CSR linkage.

- Each present corporate representative assured to introduce one more corporate body with SPARC-India in the next meeting.

### **Learning and Sharing Workshop for Health Service Providers**

Learning and sharing workshop for health service providers was held in collaboration with SPARC-India and Parivar Seva Sanstha on 31<sup>st</sup> Mar. 2015. It was attended Anganwadi workers (AWW), ASHA, Auxiliary Nursing Midwife (ANM), a gynaecologist, educationists and females with disability. The workshop started with briefing about the need and relevance for the workshop followed by the concept of safe motherhood which included Ante-Natal Care (ANC) regarding prevention of disability, care during pregnancy and delivery along with Post-Natal Care (PNC). Information was provided on ways to take care of newborns (child up to 1 month), infant (child 1month-1yr) and young child (1yr-5yrs). Developmental milestone during the growing period and complimentary foods was also discussed. Basics of Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakaram (RBSK) and its convergence with other programs like Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) was highlighted. Importance of nutritional requirements in regards to pregnant women, lactating mothers, new born baby, infants and children up to 5 yrs was discussed along with deficiencies in case the requirements are not met. Need for immunization of a child and diseases avoided due to it was elaborated. Emphasis was laid on keeping an immunization chart for each child. Things to do were also discussed in case a child was not immunized. These presentations were followed by open discussions, quiz and prize distribution. The workshop was concluded by a vote of thanks.



### **Awareness meeting at Guru Nanak ward**

A meeting was held at Snehnagar slum of Guru Nanak ward which was attended by community organizer, volunteer and 9 DPO members. The main aim of the meeting was to make PWDs aware of schemes offered by National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation (NHFD) which is a Government body running towards providing financial support to PWDs for educational purpose or entrepreneurial development. Under this scheme a loan of Rs 50,000 up to Rs 25 lac is given to PWDs.

### **Awareness meeting at Chinhat Ward**

A meeting was held at Durgaji mandir at Chinhat market road in Chinhat ward. This meeting was attended by community organizer, volunteer and 15 DPO members. In this meeting PWDs were made aware of aids and appliances given by Cheshire Homes, Lucknow. Cheshire home gives sewing machines to PWDs to start their own livelihood and become independent. Many PWDs availed the benefits after knowing of it through the meeting.



## Sponsorship Program

**Fatima:** She belongs to a very poor family, her father never gave her permission to go outside but after getting support by SPARC-India now she is pursuing B.A.III<sup>rd</sup> year in Shia P.G.College, Sitapur road Lucknow.

It is hard to find any critical aspect towards assistance approach of Liliane Fonds. Every 6 months Liliane Fonds asks us to provide application forms for only 20 children with disabilities (CWDs) but we have more children waiting for assistance.

SPARC-India is running its community based rehabilitation program in Urban Slums of Lucknow city and in the villages of Barabanki district. It is proposed that SLF can plan to support CWDs in the rural areas and also help in livelihood program.

**Soheb:** In the initial stage of intervention we have faced lots of challenges by Soheb's parents as they were not agreeing to link him with the organization. Later, when we started providing him all the services like therapy, education, books, stationeries etc free of cost they were satisfied and allowed him to connect with us.

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## **Rights and Entitlements Program: Lucknow**

The project aims at providing person with disability (PWDs) access to rights and entitlements under health, educational and a sustained livelihood opportunity. *The purpose of the project is to ensure discrimination free access to Government services and the right to live with dignity by mainstreaming the PWDs.* The project covers 110 wards of Lucknow, U.P. Following are the activities that have been done in the 3 months of the reporting period:

- Ward-wise quarterly meetings for disabled people organization (DPO)- 110 meetings
- Meeting local leaders & representatives for DPO led initiatives- 50 meetings
- Meetings with health & education committees- 2 meetings
- Open meetings in the community (with more participation of PWDs)- 4 meetings
- Use of RTI to improve quality & access of services related to PWDs- 10 RTI's filed
- Building linkages between PWDs and Government officials- 1 meeting

### **Ward-wise quarterly meetings for disabled people organization (DPO)**

Ward wise 110 meetings with members of old and newly formed DPOs was conducted on monthly basis during the current quarter. Health, education, nutrition and livelihood issues faced by disabled persons were discussed in these meetings. Disabled persons were made aware of their rights and various schemes, facilities and concessions provided by Government which they could easily communicate to other unaware disabled persons. Ignorance of this information often creates unnecessary inconveniences and grievances to the disabled persons.

### **Meeting with local leaders & representatives for DPO led initiatives**

In the current quarter we were able to conduct 50 meetings with the members of DPOs, local leaders/representatives, sector warden and disabled persons to discuss facilities that were made available at the community level. Issues that disabled persons often face at community level while availing a BPL card, RSBY smart card or Ration card were discussed in these meetings along with ways to resolve them at community level. These regular interventions in turn also help local representatives/leaders to better understand the issues faced by disabled persons.

### **Meetings with health service provider**

A meeting was held in presence of AWW and members of DPOs which made the members of DPOs aware of various facilities provided by AWC to pregnant women and children with special needs in the age group of 0-6 years. This valuable information is passed on by the members of DPOs to the community so that no pregnant/disabled female or child with disability is devoid of health and nutrition facilities.

### **Meetings with education committee**

A meeting was held with Primary Schools and School Management Committees (SMC) in this quarter. We tried to reassure that children with disabilities in the age group of 6-14 years are able



to receive education without any hindrance which is a child's right under Right to Education (RTE) Act.

### **Open meetings in the community (with more participation of PWDs)**

We conducted 4 open meetings with members of DPOs, disabled persons in community, local leaders, health care providers (AWW, ANM, and ASHA) and SMC. In these meetings people shared their experiences with regards to disabilities. The community was made aware of various discriminations observed towards PWDs in everyday life. This awareness helps in creating a discrimination free environment for PWDs in the community along with helping unaware PWDs in understanding their rights.

### **Use of RTI to improve quality & access of services related to PWDs**

With our help in Feb. 2015 PWDs from Sahaadatganj, Lucknow area filed 10 RTI's to Public Distribution System Department. Through these RTI's we wanted to know how many ration distribution shops were allotted to persons with disabilities in one ward. The result provided by RTI would help us to identify if the reservation for PWDs is met during allotment of ration distribution shops. The results are still awaited.

### **Building linkages between PWDs and Government officials**

In order to build linkages between PWDs and Government officials we held a meeting with Mr S. K. Sonker, Deputy Commissioner (Disability) of Viklang Jan Vikas Vibhag, U.P. on 21<sup>st</sup> Jan. 2015. We discussed issues faced by PWDs in this meeting and tried to find out if any rebate/concessions was given to PWDs on buying land. We were told that only PWDs with 80% disability were given relief in the form of no registry fee when they bought Government property. We insisted that relief on registry fee should be provided to PWDs with lesser extent of disabilities and be extended when buying a private property. We also requested intimation in case a Government Order is passed on the foresaid queries.

## **Vocational Training**

### **Stitching/Sewing Center**

To promote entrepreneurship of women with disabilities many short skill development programs were started as:

- Jewellery Making
- Toy Making
- Bag & Folders Making
- Craft Work

In the month of February SPARC's Vocational unit in collaboration with **Sanatkada** displayed its products at Sanatkada festival at Baradari like: decorative items, traditional Jaipuri jewellery, toys, bags, folders, craft items.

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