

Quarterly Report January - March 2016

Jyoti Kiran School- An Inclusive School

PARENT SUPPORT GROUP (PSG) MEETING

Parent Support Group Meeting was held on 9th January 2016 at SPARC India's Jyoti Kiran School. In this meeting the Half Yearly Report cards were discussed with the parents.

COUNSELLING ON CO-EDUCATION (GIRLS)

Counselling session on co-education was held on 16th January 2016 at Jyoti Kiran School. Girl students of the school took part in the counselling sessions. Importance of co-education was discussed with the girls. General concerns in regards to co-education were highlighted on this occasion.

REPUBLIC DAY CELEBRATIONS AT JYOTI KIRAN SCHOOL – “An Inclusive School”

Flag Hoisting and *Republic Day Celebrations* were held at Jyoti Kiran School (JKS), on 26th January 2016. Chief Guests on the occasion were **Mr. Neelanjan Mukherjee**, General Manager (HR & Training), Propularity Group. Other Guests included **Justice S.C. Verma**, **Mr. P.C. Saxena** (President, SPARC India), **Mr. Uma Shanker**, **Mrs. Reena Tandon** and **Mr. Pallav Joshi** (CSR Head, Tata Consultancy Services) along with his team. The Flag Hoisting Ceremony was followed by National Anthem sung by everyone gathered for the occasion. Children of JKS enthusiastically performed dance, skit, song etc. before the guests. All the encouraged the kids with their motivational words.



Mr. Pallav Joshi and his team organised a Clay Modelling activity with the children which they thoroughly enjoyed. Later snacks were served to the guests, kids and the staff followed by distribution of 'Laddoos' to everyone present.



COUNSELLING ON CO-EDUCATION (BOYS)

Counselling session on co-education was held on 30th January 2016 at Jyoti Kiran School. Boy students of the school took part in the counselling sessions. Importance of co-education was discussed with the boys. General concerns in regards to co-education were highlighted on this occasion.

MARATHON (RUN TO EMPOWER OUR FUTURE)

A *Marathon (Run to Empower our Future)* was held in Lucknow on 31st January 2016 in collaboration with PLAN India & UPSCPCR, which started from 1090 Crossroad, Gomtinagar, Lucknow. The Objective of the run was to “*Boycott Child Labour, Small hands hold a pen better*”. The Chief Guest of the Occasion was **Mrs. Dimple Yadav** (Member of Parliament), who inaugurated the Marathon. SPARC India, Jyoti Kiran School (JKS) -



“An Inclusive School” was invited as one of the guests at the Event.

Mr. Amitabh Mehrotra (Founder, Director and Chairperson, SPARC India) was present there with his whole team which including teachers and students of Jyoti Kiran School. Students participated and showcased their performance which included dance, song, laughing news and poem which touched the hearts of everyone gathered on the occasion. Later, Mr. Amitabh Mehrotra, extended the vote of thanks for inviting him as guest on the occasion. Smt. Dimple Yadav, appreciated the performance given by the students of JKS.



EVENT AT ROTARY CLUB

SPARC India's Jyoti Kiran School - *An inclusive school* along with Pyssum were invited to an event by Rotary Club on 7th February 2016. The guests included **Mr Amitabh Mehrotra** (Founder Chairperson and Director, SPARC), teachers and students of Jyoti Kiran School, members of SPARC India along with staff and students of Pyssum. Members of Rotary Club present on this occasion included **Mr K. R. Ravindran, Mr Ved Prakash, Dr. S. S. Hashmi, Er. A. K. Saxena and Er. R. K. Saxena**. The event was organised to promote the literacy mission with the idea “Each one teach one” and “Every one bring one”. The event also focussed on creating awareness about the issues and concerns surrounding children with disabilities. The students of Jyoti Kiran School presented dance performances which enthralled the audience. A donation of Rs 5000/- was given by Rotary Club to Jyoti Kiran School.



PARENT SUPPORT GROUP (PSG) MEETING

Parent Support Group Meeting was held on 13th February 2016 at SPARC India's Jyoti Kiran School. In this meeting the parents discussed the importance of games and curricular activities in child with disabilities life. They emphasised that special facilities of games and other co-curricular activities with proper space should be provided for the children with disabilities. They also discussed that integrated rehabilitation centre for challenged children should be made in every state where all kinds of services like therapeutic, counselling, vocational, psychological testing, referral and all related services are available.

ART COMPETITION OF JYOTI KIRAN SCHOOL STUDENTS AT ROTARY CLUB

An *Inter School Skill Competition* was organised by Rotary Club on 17th February. The guests present on the occasion included **Ms. Vineeta Gupta** (Secretary, Rotary Club), **Ms. Shiromani Jain** (Rotary Club) and **Mrs. Rita Singh** (President, Inner Wheel Club). 10 students each from 5 different local schools participated in the competition, in which art competition and cultural activities were the main events. Students from SPARC India participated enthusiastically in the same and performed well which touched the hearts of all those who were present there.



PREPARATION FOR THE ASSESSMENT

Children were prepared for their assessment on 20th February 2016. Mr Sanjeev Srivastava from Nalanda: Resource centre for educational innovation visited SPARC India's Jyoti Kiran School for the assessment.

BASICS OF COOKING

Children at SPARC India's Jyoti Kiran School were given the preliminary training about the basics of cooking on 27th February 2016. They were taught how to knead the flour, cutting, peeling and washing of vegetables. Children showed great interest in the activity and enthusiastically participated in it.

DRESSING CONCEPT

Children were taught about the dressing concept on 5th March 2016. In this activity they were taught the importance of dressing and how to dress on their own every day. Children were also taught how to do make up. Students later put make up on each other with the help of the teachers. They were very excited while putting make up on their counter parts.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATIONS

International women's day was celebrated at SPARC India's Jyoti Kiran School on 8th March 2016. The occasion saw participation of teachers of Jyoti Kiran School, staff of SPARC India and Livelihood Resource Centre (LRC). All the ladies present were felicitated with a rose bud. Everyone shared the experiences that changed their lives in a major way. Games like housie, lighting the candle with one match stick were played which were thoroughly enjoyed by everyone present. Everyone relished lunch in the end.

PARENT SUPPORT GROUP (PSG) MEETING

Parent Support Group Meeting was held on 12th March 2016 at SPARC India's Jyoti Kiran School. In this meeting the teachers discussed the upcoming final examinations with the parents. Parents discussed the progress of their wards. They also discussed ways to prepare the kids for the examinations. Teachers individually answered the queries of the parents.

VISIT BY TATA CONSULTANCY SERVICES MEMBERS

Members of Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) visited SPARC India's Jyoti Kiran School on 19th March 2016. They spent time with children and conducted two activities with them which included art competition and clay modelling. Children participated in the activities and enjoyed a lot. Later gifts were also distributed among the children.

Poorest Area Civil Society (PACS)

OUR JOURNEY WITH CONFIDENCE..... FORGING AHEAD TOWARDS INCLUSIVE SOCIETY (A CONSULTATION ON SUSTAINING DISABILITY ACTION THROUGH CSR)

A consultation meet, *"Our Journey with Confidence..... Forging Ahead Towards Inclusive Society"* was held on 7th January 2016, at PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industries, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow. The main objective of the meet was to Consolidate and share SPARC India's 4 years of working with children/people with disability in partnership with PACS, DFID. Chief Guest at the meet was **Dr. Ratnesh Kumar**, Director and In-charge of (CRC), Lucknow, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Govt of

India. Other honourable guests included **Shri K.K. Gupta**, Former Chief General Manager NABARD, Uttar Pradesh, **Shri R. K. Sharan**, Regional Director, PHD Chamber of Commerce, Lucknow, **Mr. Pallav Joshi** (CSR Lead) Tata Consultancy Services, **Ms. Nahid Lari Khan**, member SCPCR (State Commission of Protection of Child Right) and **Mr. Amitabh Mehrotra**, (Founder Chairperson and Director, SPARC India). Other participants included **Mr. Suraj Yadav** (Secretary, UPVM) and members from SPARC-India. The main objective of the meet



was consolidating and sharing SPARC India's 4 years of working with children/people with disability in partnership with PACS, DFID. A video on the life of Ruby (A trainee of LRC, Livelihood Resource centre) – BPO Placement was showcased to the participants, which touched all the participants. All the guests gave their views on different aspects of Livelihood, Education, Employment, Health n Nutrition of PWDs. Special mention was given to livelihood capacity building program to empower PWDS and how corporate through CSR could actively participate in the program.

PACS INCLUSION UTSAV

SPARC India completed four years of its PACS (Poorest Area Civil Society) Project of Department for International Development (DFID), United Kingdom (UK). Thus it celebrated its four years journey with all its CSO Partners from 11th to 13th January as “PACS Inclusion Utsav” at Indira Gandhi Pratishthan, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow.



PACS closure report has been sent in the month of February 2016 to the respective department.

19th MARCH 2016 CANDLE MARCH BY UPVM

A candle march was held on 19th March 2016 on the occasion of the martyrdom day of disabled revolutionary Shri Charu Chandra Bose. The candle march started at 6 p.m. from Convention Centre, Buddha Park, Daliganj, Lucknow and ended at Shaheed Smarak, Kaiserbagh. The march was organised by UPVM in collaboration with SPARC India. The march was flagged off by **Mr Amitabh Mehrotra** (Founder Chairperson and Director SPARC India). **Mr. Suraj Yadav** (Secretary, UPVM) was also present on the occasion. About 300 PWDs participated in the march. Various CSO's working in the field of disability along with UPVM sent a message to the society and the government that PWDs of our country have not only actively participated in the freedom movement but have also given their lives for our country. Therefore PWDs too have a right to participate in the social life and live a life of dignity. In the memory of the great revolutionary the PWDs present on the occasion and UPVM urged the government to establish a statue of Shri Charu Chandra Bose at a public place. This would help the new generation know about the PWDs who



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despite their respective disabilities played a vital part in weakening the British rule. A photo of Shri Bose was garlanded and his morale was saluted towards the end of the march.

American India Foundation (AIF)

A SEMINAR ON EMPLOYMENT OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

A seminar '*Being an inclusive employer*' on employment of persons with disabilities was held at Gemini Continental, 10 R. L. B Marg, Hazratganj, Lucknow on 17th March 2016 in collaboration with American India Foundation (AIF). The main objective of the seminar was to create awareness about employability, training PWDs and to equip employers with practical business information and latest trends for successful employment and retention of PWDs. **Shri. Anil Kumar Sagar**, Senior IAS and Secretary, Disability Development



Department, Government of Uttar Pradesh was the Chief Guest on the occasion. Other honorable guests included **Mr. Usmair S. Usmani** AVP (HR) at Aegis, **Mr. Manish Chandra**, Senior Manager Legal and Compliance at Proplarity Group, **Mr. Shailendra Jain**, President at ASSOCHAM, **Prof. Avnish Mishra** from Dr. Shakuntala Mishra National Rehabilitation University, **Dr. Rakesh Jain**, HOD, National PG College and **Ms. Nahid Lari Khan**, Member, State Commission of Protection of Child Right, Uttar Pradesh and **Mr. Amitabh Mehrotra** (Founder Director and Chairperson of SPARC India). Other Participants included **Ms. Aparna Dass** (Program Manager, AIF), **Ms. Pratishtha Singh** (AIF), **Ms. Rajvinder Kaur** (AIF), **Mr. Baldev Gulati** (Consultant, AIF) and members from SPARC India. Mr. Amitabh Mehrotra welcomed the Guests and all the participants gathered on the Occasion. The session began with the *lighting of the lamp*.

Ms. Aparna Dass in her introductory remarks reiterated AIF's commitment to disrupt poverty, catalyze social and economic change in India and build a lasting gap between The United States and India through high impact interventions in education, livelihoods, public health and leadership development, with a particular emphasis on empowering girls and women to achieve gender equity. She also talked about **Ability based livelihood Empowerment (ABLE) Program** which trains PWDs and facilitates their entry into the job market. She further talked about the **Veer Campaign** in which the Govt., Media, Pvt. Sector, Community and NGO have join hands to address challenges such as inclusive education, employment, skill training and development.

Further, Mr. Amitabh Mehrotra, who himself has Cerebral Palsy with mild spasticity and tremors, in his inaugural speech said that "SPARC India is working since last 18 years for the empowerment of PWDs through their education, vocational training, collective awareness and advocacy efforts". SPARC India has made concerted efforts for rehabilitation of PWDs.

The topic of the first Panel Discussion was ***Employment of Persons with Disabilities: A Business Proposition***. The panel members included Mr Usmair S. Usmani, Mr. Manish Chandra, Mr. Baldev Gulati and Mr. Shailendra Jain.

Mr. Usmair Shajid Usmani, talked about Aegis and its experience with PWD work force. He also talked about SPARC India's LRC program. Mr. Manish Chandra reiterated that we should not see disabled with pity and should come forward, join hands and create opportunities for an inclusive society.



Mr. Baldev Gulati stated that disability is both the cause and consequence of poverty from cradle to grave. Disabled people are the most vulnerable among the vulnerable. We should have a positive

mindset towards PWDs and generate employment opportunities. Mr. Shailendra Jain has been associated with blind since 25 years. He talked about the need to sensitize and bring awareness among government along with developing confidence in PWDs by providing training.

The topic of the second Panel Discussion was ***Skill Development for Inclusion of PWDs at Work Place***. The panel members included Prof. Avinash Mishra, Mr Amitabh Mehrotra and Dr. Rakesh Jain.

Prof Avinash Mishra stated that he believes that being an employer we need to focus on inclusion besides understanding PWD's abilities. He said PWDs can also contribute as a resourceful and productive individual. Mr. Amitabh Mehrotra in his presentation explained about the *Inclusivity and Diversity Initiative* and stated that employing PWDs is a business imperative and talked about ways to create integration at work place through 3 A's approach (attitude, accessibility and accommodation). Then, he showcased Ruhi's Film and stated that this is our success. Dr. Rakesh Jain said that we need to remove the word differently abled from the minds, mindset and the dictionary.

Rajkumar, a student trained by SPARC India's LRC Program told his story, that how after getting training and job at Aegis, he became confident enough to sustain his life with dignity.

The third panel discussion included **Keynote Session** by Mr. Anil Sagar and Ms Nahid Lari Khan.

Mr Anil Sagar, stated that we need to identify ways to utilise the abilities of PWDs. We need to identify the companies, employers and focus mainly on inclusion. He added that placement cell is the main context for present, thus collectively with Mr. Amitabh Mehrotra he announced the launching of Placement Cell. Ms. Nahid Lari Khan said that we need to see PWDs with equal eyes as the first step to mainstream PWDs.



Lastly while concluding, Ms. Aparna Dass stated that we should try to enhance motivation and develop confidence among PWDs by providing training. We need to understand the challenge and sensitize the employer towards the abilities of PWDs, and put our best endeavour to bridge the communication gap between the employers and prospective PWD employees.

Livelihood Resource Centre (LRC)

SELECTION AND COUNSELLING OF CANDIDATES FOR THE FOURTH BATCH

About 110 PWDs have been contacted to make them aware of the training and placement opportunity available to them in the form of 3-month LRC Program. Individual counseling sessions have been provided to the PWDs and their queries regarding the training program were addressed. Amongst the 110 PWDs contacted, approx. 62 PWDs have been screened and 42 PWDs have been shortlisted and expected to join the fourth batch of the training program which is scheduled to commence by the end of May.

Sponsorship Program (SLF)

SENSITIZATION WORKSHOP AT MARUTI SHIKSHA NIKETAN

Under community based rehabilitation program a *sensitization workshop* was organised by members of SPARC India at Maruti Shiksha Niketan, a private school in the slums of Mohibullapur on 12th

January 2016. The workshop was attended by **Mr Suraj Yadav** (Secretary UPVM) along with physiotherapists, special educators from SPARC India's Jyoti Kiran School, Principal, teachers and about 60 students of Maruti Shiksha Niketan.

Mrs Namrata Shukla (physiotherapist) started the workshop with the discussion on types of disabilities. She talked about how physiotherapy helps in activities of daily living and reduces the increase in disability. Then Mrs Anju Tewari (special educator) described how she assesses every child who comes to Jyoti Kiran School and then plans their individual learning materials so that they could completely benefit from it. She further said that we need to be patient with these children as sometimes they may take several days to understand something due to slow learning and retaining issues. She added that there is a provision that children who have physical disability of hand could be provided with a writer in the examinations.

Mr Suraj Yadav said that children with disability have the right to have equal opportunities in life including education. He emphasised that children with disabilities need support and not pity from their counterparts. Students were encouraged to develop a positive attitude towards children with disabilities.

SENSITIZATION WORKSHOP AT RATNA DEVI MEMORIAL PUBLIC JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Under community based rehabilitation program a *sensitization workshop* was organised by members of SPARC India at Ratna Devi Memorial Public Junior High School, a private school in the slums of Naubasta Kurd of Madiyon area on 6th February 2016. The workshop was attended by **Mr Suraj Yadav**, Secretary UPVM along with physiotherapists, special educators from SPARC India's Jyoti Kiran School, Principal, teachers and about 92 students of the School.

Firstly, Mrs Divyanshi Srivastava (Physiotherapist of SPARC India's Jyoti Kiran School) made everyone aware of different types of disabilities and various issues relating to it. She informed that through regular physiotherapy of children with disability, increase in their disability could be checked. Physiotherapy relaxes their muscles and restricts their stiffness. These physiotherapy sessions conducted at Jyoti Kiran School help cerebral palsy children in their activities of daily living. Then Mrs Kiran Agnihotri (special educator) said that the mental ability of children is assessed when they are admitted at Jyoti Kiran School and accordingly their study material is developed. She added that teachers patiently teach them as sometimes they take longer time to understand things in comparison to normal children.

Mr Suraj Yadav emphasised on accepting children/person with disabilities as equal members of society. He said that in future if we come across children/person with disabilities then we should encourage them rather suppressing them.

Awards and Recognition

On 7th January 2016 **Mr. Amitabh Mehrotra** (Founder Chairperson and Director of SPARC India) was facilitated with the *Memento* of PHD Chambers of Commerce and Industry, on the occasion of (A Consultation meet on Sustaining Disability Action through CSR) "Our Journey with Confidence.....Forging Ahead towards Inclusive Society".

