

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

January 2021-March 2021



School for Potential Advancement and Restoration of Confidence

(SPARC) India

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SUPPORTED BY:-



INTRODUCTION

School for Potential Advancement and Restoration of Confidence (SPARC)-India is a non-profit organization with its Head Office in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh (UP) and has been in its existence for 25 years now. The Founder Director and Chairperson, Dr. Amitabh Mehrotra is himself having Cerebral Palsy (CP) with mild spasticity since birth and it was his cherished dream to work for the cause of disability. He did his Post graduation from Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Mumbai and served Corporate and CSOs in Bihar and UP. Recently, he completed his PhD from Department of Psychology, University of Lucknow and was awarded PhD degree in Applied Psychology. At present he is nominated as member in Steering Committee of State Election Commission, Government of Uttar Pradesh and nominated as member (renewed) of State Coordination Committee on Disability. He is also member of State Advisory Board on Disability of Uttar Pradesh.

SPARC-India was formed in 1995 and registered in July 1996, as a voluntary organization which aimed to empower people with various disabilities especially people with CP. SPARC-India started its Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) program in the year 1996 for persons with disabilities (PwDs) in the urban slums of Lucknow. The thrust of the program was on health and medical rehabilitation, formation of Disabled Persons Organizations (DPOs) / Self-Help Groups (SHGs) of PwDs & their families and to establish linkages with the government schemes.

In due course of time, SPARC-India gradually established Jyoti Kiran School (JKS) for children with CP in the year 2003. Recently, SPARC-India has been aligning itself to the philosophy of 'Inclusion'. It emphasizes that inclusive environments will help in minimizing segregations and deep rooted misunderstandings and prejudices between the children with disabilities (CwDs) and non-challenged sections of the society. In 2005, SPARC-India setup a Vocational Training and Placement Cell for PwDs to provide placement services to them. SPARC-India has immense experience in imparting vocational training and skill development programs for PwDs.

SPARC-India established Uttar Pradesh Viklang Manch (UPVM) to develop a support system for CwDs / PwDs to help them exercise their statutory rights and avail entitlements. SPARC-India has provided counseling to approx. 12000 community members, vocational training to about 2500 PwDs and has created self-employment opportunities for more than 1200 PwDs and their family members.

In the current quarter SPARC-India received funding from HCL Foundation and Jan Vikas Samiti, Varanasi.

JYOTI KIRAN SCHOOL (JKS)

PARENT SUPPORT GROUP MEETING

Jyoti Kiran School organized virtual **Parent Support Group Meeting** on Saturday 9th January 2021. Around 17 parents attended the virtual meeting. **Mrs. Yogita Srivastava** (Coordinator, Jyoti Kiran School, SPARC-India) welcomed all the parents with her eloquent words and was followed by the teachers giving the feedback of their students. The meeting agenda was designed to reflect the needs and concerns of the parents' involvement in school activities, and parents were encouraged to share information and resources with each other as well. The meeting was conducted in a positive and constructive environment.



CRAFT MAKING ACTIVITY

Jyoti Kiran School organized virtual **Craft Making Activity** on 16th January 2021. Craft activities help the students think out of the box and get creative. They are a great way for parents and teachers to get Autism and Hearing Impaired children to channel their creative energies and bring out their artsy side. Craft encourage them to get happy and engaged. Around 15 students posted their crafts in their parents' teacher whatsapp group and received wonderful comments from all those who viewed them. The engagement of teachers and therapist made them more confident.



TRICOLOR ACTIVITY

Jyoti Kiran School organized **Tricolour Activity** on 23rd January 2021. We all feel proud to be Indians, and it is equally important that such feelings are instilled in the children with disabilities too. School team planned various activities for children on Republic Day which helped the kids in understanding the importance of the day in a better way. School Coordinator, teachers and therapist ignite the patriotic fervour in kids through visual stories, songs and activities, and explained to them the importance of our Republic Day.



REPUBLIC DAY CELEBRATION

SPARC-India celebrated 72nd Republic Day on virtual platform with great zeal and enthusiasm. **Dr. Amitabh Mehrotra** (Founder Secretary cum Director, SPARC-India)

hoisted the National Flag at the Madiakon office in presence of all the staff members followed by the National Anthem. He welcomed the Guests and parents and appreciated the hard work done by the team members during COVID-19. He said that we should empower the children / persons with disabilities and provide them opportunities to come forward.

The program included various cultural programs by children with disabilities of Jyoti Kiran School, youths with disabilities of Skill Development and Placement Program and Women with Disabilities of Vocational Program. It was really an appreciable program.

Our special Guest Honourable **Shri Uma Shankar Singh Ji** and his wife also appreciated the performances given by our students and addressed few points about the Constitution of India. Few other officers from Corporates also enhanced the glory of the program by their august presence.

At the end Dr. Mehrotra thanked everyone for their participation and presence.



YOGA ACTIVITY



Jyoti Kiran School organized **Yoga Activity** on 6th February 2021. In the yoga activity, all the children did yoga with the support of their parents and younger siblings, along with the teacher who explained the benefits of yoga and how to do yoga through video call. Raj Shekhar Tiwari did yoga with his elder sisters. Pranjal Srivastava did it with the help of his mother and Gaurang Awasthi Shivan Rajput, Deepali Gautam, Neeraj Gautam and Tauhid showed full participation in yoga with the help of teacher and guardians. They also posted photos and videos in the parents' teacher whatsapp group.

teacher whatsapp group.

PARENT SUPPORT GROUP MEETING

Jyoti Kiran School organized virtual **Parent Support Group Meeting** on 13th February 2021. Online classes allow the students to learn in a supportive and convenient atmosphere in these unprecedented times. So, from time to time school team keeps reminding and suggesting parents about how to promote their ward and what are the instructions to be followed during virtual classes.

- Like taking initiative to do yoga at home and learn



following online etiquettes viz.:

1. Sit in a proper formal set up
 2. Sit upright and keep the camera at a little distance
- Create a learning environment for the child with least distractions.

HCL VISIT TO SPARC INDIA

HCL Officers Mr. Arpit Asthana, Mr. Vineet Kumar Singh, Mr. Gaurav Majumdar visited SPARC-India Jyoti Kiran School on 16th February 2021. The main aim of the visit was to take ***an overview of the projects of SPARC-India which are currently running.*** They met **Dr. Amitabh Mehrotra** (Founder Secretary cum Director, SPARC-India). Dr. Mehrotra briefed them about the progress of programs. After having a conversation with him they met with all the staff members. They appreciated the work done by the teachers and therapist for the students of school in this toughest situation and their concerted efforts to ensure that the necessary resources are allocated to and for children with disabilities and their families. Each child should be provided with appropriate individual support, including assistive devices, sign language etc. They also saw the Individual plan of students and their daily class activities during the pandemic.



CLAY MODELLING ACTIVITY

Clay Modelling Activity was organized virtually for students of Jyoti Kiran School on 27th February 2021. The main aim of the activity was to strengthen muscles and enhance creativity of students and provide fine motor and sensory movements. It gives opportunity to be creative and learn about texture, shape and form whilst having lots of fun. Students were very joyful and showed their creativity and imaginative ideas and their parents / guardians posted the pictures in the parent teacher WA group.

COIN RUBBING ACTIVITY

Coin Rubbing Activity was organized virtually for students of Jyoti Kiran School on 6th March 2021. Coin rubbing is such a quick and easy art activity for Neurological disorder children, they set it up in minutes and every material that is required for it is available at home. They can make a really colourful piece of artwork to put on wall. Jyoti Kiran School Team advised them to gather few different coins, place a sheet of paper over the top and use mixed crayons to “rub” a colourful pattern into the paper. It also helps in developing and enhancing students hand eye coordination.



HOLI COLOR CONCEPT ACTIVITY

Holi Color Concept Activity was organized on 13th March 2021. All the children participated in this activity and were told about *Holi* festival along with stories related to *Holi* festival and reconciliation was taught to the children through online video call in which Rajshekhar Tiwari, Pranjal Srivastava, Shivan Rajput, Gaurang Awasthi, Tauheed, Deepali, and Suraj Yadav actively participated.

SIBLING WORKSHOP

A **Sibling Workshop** was organized by JKS Team on the campus on 17th March 2021, in collaboration with Composite Regional Centre (CRC) Lucknow. The workshop was facilitated by **Mr. Chandan Singh** (Lecturer, CRC). The purpose of the workshop was to explore the challenges faced by the siblings of CwDs and to share their feelings with us. He discussed about the various issues faced by the siblings and children with disabilities (CwDs) and their coping strategies. About 50 participants were present including 20 students with disabilities of JKS. In the workshop, children also played small games with great enthusiasm. They first introduced themselves and told some things about their siblings so that they were also being encouraged. Some of the participants included sister of Rajshekhar along with him and cousin brother of Gaurang Awasthi along with him. They participated well in all the activities and shared many things about their brothers.



FACULTY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

SPARC-India Jyoti Kiran School organized a **Faculty Development Program** on 24th March 2021 in the premises of Jyoti Kiran School for special teachers in collaboration with Composite Regional Centre (CRC) Lucknow. The purpose of the workshop was to sensitize and aware the special educators on the wider prospective of disability. The topic was “Cross Disability” on which the **Mr. Nagesh Kumar Pandey** (spokespersons of Special Education Department, CRC Lucknow,) and **Ms. Savita Shukla** presented their views in the program. Around 25 special teachers participated in this program.



SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND PLACEMENT (SDP) CENTRE

ALUMNI MEETING SESSION

An *Alumni Meeting Session* was organized on 5th January 2021 at SDP Center. Mr. Ramchandra of Batch 12 was invited to share their views and experiences during their stay at the centre along with their experiences regarding technical and non technical classes, computer and skill training. He shared his views on the placement and post placement support provided to him by SPARC-India team even after he left the training centre. It was a confidence building exercise for the new learners.



INTERVIEW AT GVK (EMRI) AMBULANCE

A *placement drive* was been organized at GVK (EMRI) Ambulance, Ashiana Powerhouse, Lucknow on 12th January 2021. 07 trainees participated in the interview for the post of Customer Care Executive. A short briefing was given to the trainees about the job profile by **Mrs. Shalini Purohit** (HR, GVK EMRI). She told them about the type of work they have to do if they get selected along with their timing slot and salary package of Rs. 8000/month for first six months and after that Rs. 9200/month.



In the interview process, typing test was taken on typing master to assess the typing speed of the trainees along with an English language test. 06 trainees were selected for the second round selection process. This was followed by aptitude and general awareness test (20 questions). All 06 trainees are selected for the final third round interview session to check their communication skills.

Finally, 04 trainees (Mohd Mufeed, Vishal Kumar Gond, Nayab Ahmad and Chandrashekhar) were selected for the Customer Care Executive position.

INTERVIEW AT NISTHA PROJECT & SERVICES

A *placement drive* was organized at Nistha Project & Services office on 21st January 2021 in which 05 trainees (Puja Sahu, Rekha Rani, Mohd Jasim, Ankit Kumar and Ravi Kumar) of Batch 13 appeared for the post of Sales man & Receptionist.



The interview round was conducted by **Mr. Vivek Srivastava**. He asked the trainees to speak about themselves. He asked the trainees regarding

system knowledge as well as retail and marketing, they were also asked general awareness questions. Out of 05 trainees, 02 were selected for the post of salesman and receptionist.

REPUBLIC DAY CELEBRATION



Republic Day is celebrated annually as a National Festival all over India to commemorate and honor the day when the Constitution of India came into force as the governing document of India. This year Republic Day was celebrated virtually at SPARC-India.

The flag hosting ceremony was followed by the national anthem sung by all the staff members of SPARC-India and audience. The energetic and enthusiastic trainees of SDP Program paid their tribute to the martyrs by singing patriotic songs and delivering speech. This patriotic aura was sustained by the inspirational and motivational welcome speech given by **Dr. Amitabh Mehrotra** (Founder Secretary cum Director, SPARC-India), **Mr. Sunil Kumar Shah** (Central Zonal Head ICICI Foundation) and **Mr. Uma Shankar Singh** (President, SPARC-India). A speech & songs was performed by the trainees of livelihood resource centre. At last the sweets were distributed to the trainees and staff members.



INTERVIEW AT AEGIS CUSTOMER SUPPORT SERVICES PVT. LTD.

A **placement drive** has been organized on 29th January 2021 at Aegis Customer Support Services Pvt. Limited, Hazratganj, Lucknow. 14 trainees participated in the interview for the post of Customer Care Executive. A short briefing was given to the trainees about the job profile by **Mr. Kushal Dubey** (HR, Aegis). He told them about the type of work profile, their timing slot and salary package of Rs. 8600/month (CTC).



In the interview process, all the trainees had to fill the CSA Application form and after that each trainee was asked to fill the same in the provided system. After that the interview was conducted and all the trainees who qualified the interview gave the online test which had four sections: Quantitative Aptitude (10 questions), Technical Round related to smart phones and Computers Test (10 questions), followed by two comprehension passages both consisting of 4 questions each related to the passage. At last, typing test was taken on typing master to judge the typing speed of the trainees. After completion of all tests, the entry slip was given to the successful trainees.

Finally, 7 trainees (Seema Bano, Sadaf Khan, Humera Bano, Chandrashekhar, Vishal Kumar Gond, Sheetal and Pooja Sahu) were selected out of 14 trainees who appeared for the interview.

INTERVIEW AT AMARTECH (ACIPL)

A *placement drive* was organized on 30th January 2021 at Amartech Office in which 6 trainees of Batch 13 appeared for the post of Customer Care Executive. The interview process was in two rounds. The first interview round was conducted by **Mr. Pankaj Pratap Chauhan** (VIL Account Head). First round was self introduction in which the trainees were asked to speak about themselves. The second round was the typing test which was conducted by **Mr. Amit Nishad** (Team Manager). After the typing speed test the trainees were asked questions regarding system knowledge such as short cut keys for copy, cut and paste etc. Out of 6 trainees, 3 (Moni Saini, Rekha Rani and Chandni Bano) were selected for the post of CCE in Vodafone East Process.



ORIENTATION SESSION

An *Orientation Session* of the partners was organized by HCL foundation on 10th February 2021. The main objective of the session was to inform the audience about the uses of application: Vikalp – Open Education Resource. They informed everyone that they are currently running the pilot project in District Hardoi in UP. They further briefed that under the project they have created content which is class wise and chapter wise which includes questions & answers as per NCERT books for the Teachers and trainees. SDP Team of SPARC-India participated in the session.

The officials from the HCL foundation who were present in the session were Mr. Ashish Kumar Singh, Mr. Shashank Khare and Mrs. Namrata



ORIENTATION CEREMONY OF BATCH 14

An *orientation ceremony* for Batch 14 trainees was organized on 10th February 2021 at the SDP Centre. All the staff members of SDP team along with 13 trainees of Batch 14 participated in this ceremony.

Dr. Amitabh Mehrotra (Founder Secretary cum Director, SPARC-India) addressed the newly enrolled trainees of the SDP Program about the various aspects of the ‘training

program' along with the rules and regulations which they have to follow during their stay at the centre. He also discussed about the various other programs of SPARC-India. He also emphasized and encouraged all the trainees to never lose hope in life and climb the mountain of success in a relentless manner.

The SDP team briefed the trainees about the syllabus and other aspects of the training program. Each trainee gave their introduction in short. At last, the whole SDP team wished the trainees success in their journey.



ALUMNI MEETING SESSION

An *alumni meeting* sessions were organized on 13th February 2021 and 5th March 2021 at SDP Centre in which Mrs. Rekha Rani (Batch 13) and Mr. Nayab Ahmad (Batch 13) were invited respectively to share their views and experiences during their stay at SDP centre and the training program. They shared their views on the placement and post placement support provided to them by SPARC-India team.



KIT DISTRIBUTION CEREMONY OF BATCH 14

Education is very important tool for everyone to succeed in life. It helps a lot in lessening the challenges of difficult life. As every education and training mostly starts with a pen and copy to note the required material, therefore the *kits were distributed* to the trainees of Batch-14 on 13th February 2021. Kits were distributed by **Mr. Saurabh Pande** (Program cum Placement Officer, SDP Program, SPARC-India). Each study kit contains a clear bag, a notebook, pencil, eraser and pen. All the trainees were very happy on receiving the training kits.



CHART MAKING ACTIVITY

A *chart making activity* was organized at SDP Centre on 15th February 2021. The topic for the activity was 'COVID-19'. Trainees were divided in 5 groups. Each group made charts on



different aspects of the given topic. Trainees enthusiastically participated in the activity and performed with dedication and sincerity. In this activity trainees learned how to work in a team and perform well to compete with other teams and also express their talent.

WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATION

Women's Day was *celebrated* on 8th March 2021 at the SDP Center. The program started in the presence of **Mr. Saurabh Pande** (Program cum Placement Officer) and other staff members. In the beginning Mr. Pande gave an introduction about Women's Day. A cake was cut by female trainees & Mrs. Kiran (Hostel Warden). He motivated all the trainees to be strong and use the opportunity provided by SPARC-India to develop their personalities. Snacks were distributed to all the trainees of the program.



INTERVIEW AT AMARTECH CONVERGENCE INDIA PVT LTD

A *placement drive* was organized on 13th March 2021 at Amartech Office in Jankipuram, Lucknow in which 9 trainees of Batch 14 appeared for the post of Customer Care Executive. The interview process was in two rounds.

The first interview round was conducted by **Mr. Pankaj Pratap Chauhan** (VIL Account Head). First round was self-introduction and CV reading. Second round was typing test which was conducted by **Mr. Nadeem Ahmad** (Team Manager). After typing test the trainees were questions regarding system knowledge such as: short cut keys for copy, cut and paste etc.



Out of 9 trainees, 7 trainees (Dev Singh, Nirbhay Chauhan, Vishnu Pratap Yadav, Chandresh Kumar, Tauseef Ahmad, Roshan Jahan and Tabassum) were selected for the post of CCE in Vodafone East Process.

INTERVIEW AT RAKUSO IT PVT. LTD.

A *placement drive* was organized on 16th March 2021 at Rakuso Office in Ashiyana, Lucknow in which 5 trainees of Batch-14 appeared for the post of Tele-caller Executive. The interview process was in one round.

Interview round was conducted by **Mrs. Janhavi Gurnani** (HR Manager). All the 5 trainees (Chandresh Kumar, Sushama, Rashida, Roshan Jahan and Tabassum) were selected for the post of Tele-caller Executive.

INTERVIEW AT AEGIS CUSTOMER SUPPORT SERVICES PVT. LTD.

A *placement drive* was organized on 22nd March 2021 at Aegis Customer Support Services P. Limited, Hazratganj, Lucknow. 4 Trainees participated in the interview for the post of Customer Care Executive. Short briefing was given to the trainees about the job profile by **Mr. Kushal Dubey** (HR, Aegis). He told them about the type of work they have to do if they get selected along with their timing slot and salary package of Rs. 8600/month (CTC).

In the interview process, all the trainees had to fill the CSA Application form and after that each trainee was asked to fill the same in the provided system. After that an interview was conducted and those trainees who qualified the same were asked to attend an online test which had four sections: Quantitative Aptitude (10 questions), Technical Round related to smart phones and Computers Test (10 questions), followed by two comprehension passages both consisting of 4 questions each related to the passage.

At last, typing test was taken on typing master to judge the typing speed of the trainees. In the end all the successful trainees were given entry slips.

Finally, 3 trainees (Roshan Jahan, Pinki Kumari and Saurabh Singh) were selected out of 4 trainees who appeared for the interview.



COMMUNITY BASED REHABILITATION (CBR) PROGRAMME

In this *Quarter of January-March 2021* all activities were put on hold as they all were community based so the only way to stay connected with our children with disabilities (CwDs), persons with disabilities (PwDs) and primarily with our CWSN was through the video calls and voice calls.

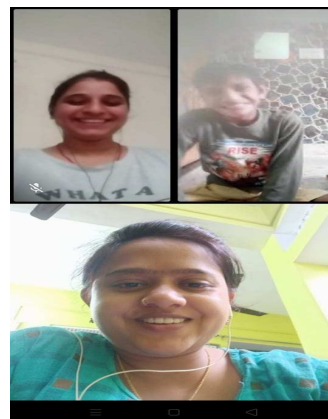
OBJECTIVE:

1. To make CwDs, parents, Bal Samuh members, DPO members, SHG members aware of this pandemic and what precautions should be taken during this time.
2. To know their issues regarding the facilities which are provided by government whether they are aware or not and how they can avail them.
3. To counsel the CwDs and their parents who are facing behavioural changes.
4. To find out if online classes, physiotherapy, speech and counselling of the CwDs who come under this project are going on regularly or not.

During lockdown when we started the interaction through voice calls we faced many issues viz. all parents did not have smart phones, some DPOs/PwDs could not get their pension and other government facilities on time, lack of proper health services, basic needs were often not available as the markets were closed, financial crisis etc.

OUTCOMES:

1. All the field workers (**Ms. Shyama, Ms. Shaheen**) along with the mediator **Ms. Satwiki Mishra** interacted with C/PwDs who are under this project. They also spoke with the parents of CwDs and discussed about the precaution to be taken during COVID-19 and requested them to give more time to their child and help them in learning new things.
2. During this time we have also helped DPO members and SHG members in opening bank account or to apply for pension and disability certificates.



3. The members and C/PwDs were also provided with essential things through our organization and various government institutions that were providing essential necessities.
4. Students under this project were provided with regular virtual classes (through video call) which include study, activities viz. games, color concept, drawing, craft etc and therapeutic interventions viz. speech therapy, occupational therapy and counseling by Special Educators, Speech Therapist, Counselor and Physiotherapist.
5. Field workers also visited Viklang Kalyan Vibhag for discussing the issues of the pension of PwDs.
6. Many DPO members and CwDs were informed about the distribution of equipments and were asked to register for it so that they can avail it.
7. They also visited the homes of PwDs in the field in order to connect them with a Labour Organization from Kanpur who were providing E-ATM for drinking water.
8. They also visited Lokvani Kendra to avail Income Certificate of PwDs and CwDs. They also helped them in availing other documents like Aadhar Card, Disability Certificates etc.
9. The field workers (**Ms. Shyama, Ms. Shaheen**) also visited the field areas and told the PwDs and women from marginalized section about the Vocational Training Program and asked them to enrol themselves for the present and upcoming batches so that they can become self dependent.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

RING THE BELL CAMPAIGN 2021

The campaign was started to include children with disabilities into educational institution. The campaign complements the government's flagship programme – Sarva Siksha Abhiyan (SSA), to achieve its goal of education for all in 2000-2001 and “Right to education” (RTE) Act in 2009 which provides for free & compulsory education to children in the age group of 6-14 years at elementary level in a neighbourhood school.



Government of India has since aligned the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) norms with the provisions of RTE Act, 2009.

What is Ring the Bell?

The campaign Ring the Bell is a pioneering initiative to ensure the educational initiatives for children with disability. The full participation of the students in this campaign draws the attention of the community, local governing body, media etc. towards the enrolment of children with disabilities in educational institutions. It is



a fact that the peers with a disability are not able to or not allowed to attend school because of various social factors such as non accessibility, exclusion etc.

SPARC-India aims to:

- Increase enrolment and retention of children with disabilities in mainstream schools.
- Gain community and parents commitment to ensure inclusive education.
- Ensure children with disabilities in schools are learning with their peers.
- Organize rally to spread awareness on social inclusion and Right to Education of children with disabilities.
- Make the school accessible (child with disability should be able to access every part of the school) and child friendly.
- We also aim to ensure reduction in dropouts of children with disabilities in the regular schools due to lack of accessible toilets, ramps, child friendly classrooms etc.
- This initiative is going to be a challenge to the school officials to make appropriate atmosphere accessible for children with disabilities.
- Create awareness on inclusive education among school authorities, teachers, students and the communities.
- The school authorities shall involve parents of children with disabilities in the school management committees and promote accessibility for the children with disability.
- The school management committee will ensure that counselling and guidance programme for teachers and parents to build positive attitudes towards children with disabilities is timely monitored.
- The government officials shall help the schools with special educators.



5 Schools participated in the Ring the Bell Campaign which was held during the Month of March 2021. Out of 917 students enrolled in those 5 schools, 166 students were present in the campaign along with teachers and staff of those schools.

OTHER PRESENTATIONS

During this lockdown **Dr. Amitabh Mehrotra** (Founder Secretary cum Director, SPARC-India) participated in various webinars and meetings which were organized by various organizations on virtual platforms. The list of them is given below:-

- Attended *webinar* on **Psychotherapy in Schizophrenia: New Trends** in AIBAS Webinar and Guest Lecture Series by Amity University on 22nd February 2021.
- Invited as a **Judge** in the event “**Social Innovation Challenge - Jagriti 2021**” organized by Social Service Council IIT BHU, Varanasi on 28th March 2021.



- Dr. Amitabh Mehrotra (Founder Secretary cum Director, SPARC-India) was invited by India Literacy Board. He met **Dr. Madhu Joshi** (Director, Literacy House, Lucknow) on 1st February 2021.
- Attended *webinar* on **Effective Leadership Transformation of Organizations** in AIBAS Webinar and Guest Lecture Series by Amity University on 5th March 2021.
- Attended a special *webinar and Launch* of **White Paper: Inclusion of People with Disabilities through Information and Communication Technology** on 5th March 2021 organized by FICCI and Microsoft.



SPARC INDIA'S FIRST NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (NAC) MEETING:

First National Advisory Committee Meeting was held on 19th February 2021 on Zoom Platform. The members who were present in the meeting were **Dr. Rajesh Tandon, Dr. P.K Seth, Justice S.C Verma, Prof. Shalini Bharat, Mr. C.V Singh, Mr. Anil Rastogi, Dr. Taral Nagada, Mr. V.N Garg and CA Rajeev Sharma.**

The First Virtual National Advisory Committee Meeting started with formal introduction of all the distinguished members. The members greeted each other. Dr. Mehrotra described that the need of NAC. He said that he is grateful to the members who have made outstanding contributions as administrators, scientists, judges, medicine, artists and social workers have accepted his request to be a member of NAC. Dr. Amitabh Mehrotra gave a brief presentation to introduction of SPARC-India, its mission and vision, journey of SPARC-India, Projects undertaken by SPARC-India and its Annual Budget and Revenue Streams, Fund Requirement for FY 20-21 and Tentative Plans. He discussed the prevailing constraints of space, building, funding lack of manpower and others in running the organization. He mentioned that COVID-19 pandemic has severely impacted the organization. He mentioned that SPARC-India is directly or indirectly in contact with 2000 children with disabilities.

The NAC Members appreciated the work done by SPARC-India and efforts made by Dr. Amitabh Mehrotra to serve the disabled children. They also appreciated the need of a building of its own of the organization. The members suggested that:

1. Priority should be to find funds so that the organization can work smoothly.
2. SPARC-India should undertake mapping of schemes formulated and offered by Ministry which can grant funds.
3. NEP 2020, Vocational Training (Aatmnirbhar) by Social Welfare Ministry.
4. To contact Corporate regarding CSR funding in Uttar Pradesh

SUCCESS STORIES

JYOTI KIRAN SCHOOL

ISHA SRIVASTAVA

Isha Srivastava is a 19 years old girl with Cerebral Palsy. Previously she was hesitant, shy, and had unclear speech. Due to spasticity in her hands and legs, she was unable to perform any activity like walking, writing, etc. Because of lack of confidence, she even hesitated in talking to teachers. Due to physical problems, she was unable to participate in any cultural program of the school. After continuous efforts of the Class teacher, Special Educator, Physiotherapist, and Coordinator now she talks to everyone, cooperates with others, and regularly participates in the online classes of the school. She also participates in co-curricular activities, colouring activities, and shows interest in studies. Her parents observed a lot of behavioural changes along with her growth at an academic level. They are very happy and wish that she could study so much that she can become self-dependent one day.



KANHAIYA GUPTA

Kanhaiya Gupta is a 19 years old Cerebral Palsy (CP) child. His father is in a private job and his mother is a housewife. Earlier in school days before COVID-19 he was a slow learner and showed less interest in school activities. School team always tried to make him feel comfortable and told his parents about the problems of the child and insisted them to make him interact with his siblings and organize home activities so that he tries to accommodate himself with them. The school team's continuous interaction with his family especially his sister made them follow the routine timetable and everyday activity given by the school. The family's little efforts brought a great change in him. Slowly, he started showing his



participation and interest in performing activities. Kanhaiya's parents are quite happy with the online class as it is benefiting the child greatly.

SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND PLACEMENT PROGRAM

ROSHAN JAHAN

Roshan Jahan is a 23 year old girl having 60% of PPRP in both lower limb. She belongs to Bhavanipur Rampur village of Barabanki District. She has completed her BA from Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Avadh University, Faizabad. Her father is a daily wage worker and her mother is a homemaker. There are 5 members in her family. She came to know about SPARC-India's Skill Training Program through a call by our Mobilization Officer.



Roshan Jahan wants to become a self-dependent person in her life. When she joined the program she was very shy but slowly she started participating in the activities and responding in the class which showed great improvement in her overall skills.

She appeared in 3 interviews and was selected in all of them. Currently she is working as Customer Care Executive at Amartech Convergence India Pvt Ltd.

Roshan says, *"I liked the training program. Now I am doing job & I feel good. I am also earning. My family is very happy."*

HUMERA BANO

Humera Bano is a 34 year old girl. She has completed Graduation (BA). She belongs to District Barabanki. She has 55% PPRP in left lower limb. She has lost her parents and wants to become self dependant in her life. She came to know about the Skill Training Program through SPARC-India's mobilization officer and decided to join the program.



She was quiet and not very vocal in the beginning of the program and did not actively participate in the activities but towards the end of the training she started responding in class. She was selected and is currently working at Aegis Ltd as Customer Care Executive

"I have learned a lot here & now I am very happy & be able to live a better life" says Humera Bano.
