

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

July 2021-September 2021



School for Potential Advancement and Restoration of Confidence

(SPARC) India

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SUPPORTED BY:-



GAIL (India) Limited

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 counselling 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, GAIL India Limited and Jan Vikas Samiti, Varanasi.

JYOTI KIRAN SCHOOL (JKS)

During July 2021-September 2021 quarter, due to the second wave of COVID-19 pandemic the classes were conducted on virtual mode and all the activities were either conducted through Whatsapp video call or Zoom.

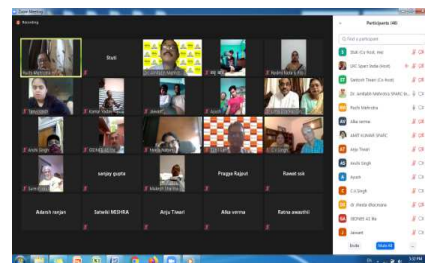
SUMMER CAMP VALEDICTORY PROGRAM

A *Valedictory Program of Summer* was held on 3rd July 2021. The main objective of conducting this program was to bring out the potential or inner talents of all the children and prepare them for what they can do.

The program started with a prayer song which was followed by a welcome speech by **Dr Amitabh Mehrotra** (Founder Secretary cum Director, SPARC-India). Students of Jyoti Kiran School participated in Fancy Dress, Poem Recital, Song and Dance.

Pragya (Foundation), **Shubham** (Foundation), **Ritik** (Block B), **Tauhid** (Block A), **Vicky** (Vocational) and **Jaywant** (Block B) participated in Fancy dress. **Aastik** (Foundation), **Ayush** (Foundation), **Adarsh** (Special class) and **Yash Maurya** (Vocational) recited Poem, **Pranjal** (Block A) sang a Song on system, **Gaurang** (Block A), **Anshi Singh** (Vocational), **Dipali** (Block A), **Ayush** (Vocational) and **Tanvi** (Ex student) performed Dance.

Mr Kashi Rawat (Jaywant's Father), **Mrs Sunita Maurya** (Yash's Mother), **Mrs Shashi Srivastava** (Pranjal's Mother), **Mr Ramanand Maurya** (Anshi's Father) and **Mr Manoj Vaish** (Tanvi's Father) shared their views about the online class of the students and the efforts taken by JKS during the pandemic. Around 54 attendees including 18 participants were present in the virtual event.

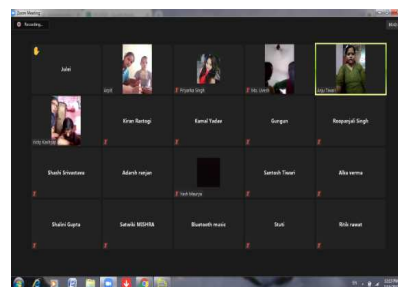


PARENTS SUPPORT GROUP MEETING

Parent Support Group meeting was organized on 10th July 2021 through virtual mode. The main agenda for the meeting was:

- 1- Discussion on topic 'if any change is observed in the behavior of the children due to the participation of the children in the summer camp'.
- 2- Discussion if any change is needed in the method of online class (parents' view)
- 3- Reason for the lack of support of parents and reason for not participating in online classes.
- 4- Reasons why parents of children participating in summer camp not participating in the cultural evening.

Parents of Uvaish, Manu from Foundation Class; Arpit, Suraj Yadav from Block- A; Ritik from Block B; Ayush, Kanhaiya, Yash, Vicky from Vocational class and Gungun, Adarsh from Special Class have participated in the meeting, put forward their views and discussed with the staff members.



IDENTIFICATION OF YELLOW COLOR THROUGH VARIOUS OBJECTS

Activity on *Identification of yellow color through various objects* was held on 17th July 2021 through virtual mode in which the children tried to identify the yellow color with the help of yellow clothes, fruits, flowers and other objects. The main purpose of conducting this activity was to tell them about the difference between the colors and to make them able to recognize colors and identify objects in the asked colour. During the activity Naved was wearing yellow clothes and Ritik had yellow balloons. The yellow color was introduced to the children in which Pranjal Srivastava, Raj Shekhar Tiwari; Suraj Yadav participated with great enthusiasm.



YOGA ACTIVITY

A *Yoga Activity* was held virtually on 24th July 2021 in which the students not only did yoga but also did *Anulom-Vilom*, *Kapalbhati* etc. breathing exercises. The purpose of conducting this activity was to make the students aware of the benefits of yoga. In this activity, Ritik, Rehan, Pragma, Adarsh and Naved showed their full participation. Pranjal Srivastava Shivan Rajput, Gaurang Awasthi and Deepali Gautam made a video of their activity and posted in the WA group.



PALM AND SOLE PAINTING ACTIVITY

Palm and Sole Painting Activity was conducted virtually on 31st July 2021. The main purpose of conducting this activity was to develop the gross motor and fine motor skills of children. Children with support of the



class teacher and therapists painted through their palm and sole of the feet. In this activity Manu, Pragma, Uvaish, Rehan, Shubham, Aastik from Foundation class participated with interest. Through palm painting, from Block A, Pranjal Srivastava made owl, Rajshekhar Tiwari made bee and butterfly with the help of his mother and Sooraj



made a peacock with the help of his sister. From Block-B Ritik Rawat made peacock, Naved made duck and Jaywant made butterfly through palm painting.

CLAY ACTIVITY

Clay Activity was virtually conducted on 7th August 2021. In this activity the students were asked to make a shape through clay and kneaded dough, with the help of all the teachers and therapists through online class. The main objective of conducting this activity was to develop the fine motor of all the children and to develop eye & hand coordination. In the above activity Jaywant, Hariom, Ritik, Naved Shivan Rajput, Gaurang Awasthi, Pranjal Srivastava, Suraj Yadav, Raj Shekhar Tiwari, Pragma and Manu

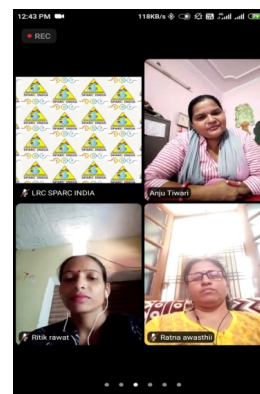


made different shapes with the dough, which was very beneficial for the student's (fine motor) grip. They all showed their full participation in the activity and made very beautiful things like *Shivling*, mango, mouse, butterfly, flower etc.

PARENTS SUPPORT GROUP (PSG) MEETING

PSG meeting was organized virtually on 14th August 2021. The main agenda of the meeting was:

1. Discussion on the program to be held for the Independence Day
 2. Discussion on Covid Vaccine Awareness
 3. Discussion on online classes, physiotherapy and speech therapy
 4. Discussion on lack of participation of students in Saturday activities
- Parents of Pragya, Adarsh, Rehan, Hariom, Anshi, Uvaish, Rajshekhar, Gaurang, Yash, Tauhid, Naved and Ritik participated in the virtual meeting and discussed on the above mentioned points and gave their inputs.



INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION

Independence Day is celebrated as a National festival all over India to commemorate and honour the day on which the country attained freedom. SPARC-India celebrated 15th August 2021 both virtually and through offline mode. The flag hosting ceremony was followed by the National Anthem in the presence of all the staff members of SPARC-India at the Madiyon Centre & the audience joined through Zoom. The students of Jyoti Kiran School (JKS) & trainees of Skill Development and Placement (SDP) Program virtually paid their tribute to the martyrs by singing patriotic song and dance performances. **Dr. Amitabh Mehrotra** (Founder Secretary cum Director, SPARC-India) gave an inspirational & motivational speech through Zoom. At last, sweets & snacks were distributed to the staff members.



RAKHI MAKING ACTIVITY

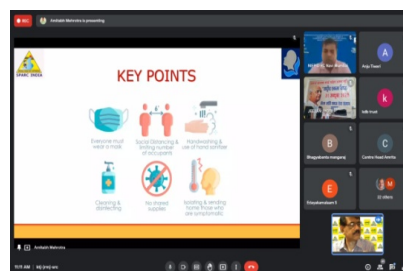
Rakhi making Activity was organized virtually on 21st August 2021, for the students of JKS. The main purpose of conducting this activity was to aware all the students about the *Rakhi* festival and its importance. Raj Shekhar Tiwari, Pranjal Srivastava, Gaurang Awasthi, Deepali Gautam, Shivan Rajput, Hari Om Shukla, Naved Akhtar, Jaywant Rawat, Ritik Rawat, Uvaish, Pragya, Rehan, Adarsh and Manu made beautiful Rakhi and posted them in the WA group along with photos of their siblings tying Rakhi.



CRAFT ACTIVITY ON JANMASHTAMI CELEBRATION

Janmashtami on 28th August 2021 was celebrated virtually with great zeal and enthusiasm. The main objective of conducting this activity was to aware children about the festival and its importance. All the children made craft work related to Lord Krishna and also dressed up as Krishna and Radha like Rajshekhar Sivan Rajput, Pranjal became Krishna and Suraj





CRAFT ACTIVITY THROUGH LEAVES

Craft activity through leaves was organized virtually on 18th September 2021 for the students of JKS. In the activity the students had to make something from the original leaves. The main aim of this activity was to enhance the creativity and improve gross and fine motor skills. In this activity, Ritik made a fish and Naved made a beautiful tree with the help of leaves. Rajshekhar made a flower, Suraj made *rangoli*, Gaurang made a butterfly, Pranjal made a bird, Pragya made a fish, Gungun made a rat and Uvaish made flowers with the help of leaves. All the students shared the photos of their activity through WA.



AIMING ACTIVITY

Indoor aiming activity was organized for all the students of JKS on 25th September 2021. The main aim of this activity was to develop children's fine motor and gross motor. In this activity, Ritik targeted the balloon on the wall and Naved made a mark in the glass with the help of the ball. Rajshekhar targeted the bottle. All the children did this activity through online class with the help of their class teacher, therapist and parents.



SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND PLACEMENT (SDP) CENTRE

SESSION ON CHILD PROTECTION POLICY (EMPHASIS ON PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES)

A **session on child protection policy** was organised on 27th July 2021 which was facilitated by **Mr Saurabh Pande** (Program cum Placement Officer, SDP, SPARC-India) for staff members of SDP and Jyoti Kiran School (JKS) with the aim of enhancing staff awareness on the same.

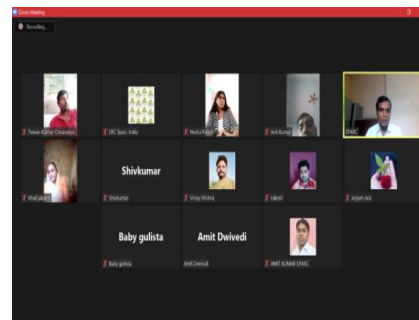
Mr Pande explained the protection policy of children with disabilities (CwDs) to all the attendees. He reiterated that CwDs have the right to be protected from harm like abuse, violence and exploitation. Understanding the rights of CwDs, when those rights are violated, training parents about the rights of their CwDs, awareness campaigns on protection of child with disabilities in the community etc.

All the staff member of SDP and JKS participated in the session & also shared their inputs regarding the Child Protection Policy.



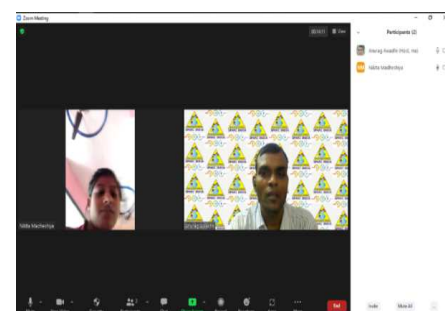
HOBBY BASED PERFORMANCE

Activity on performance based on individual hobbies was organised for Batch 15 on 7th August 2021 through Zoom. The objective of the activity was to break the monotony & analyse behaviour. In the program the trainees were asked about their hobbies one by one. Those trainees whose hobbies were singing, poetry etc were asked to perform their hobbies through virtual mode. All the trainees enjoyed the session and enthusiastically participated in the activity.



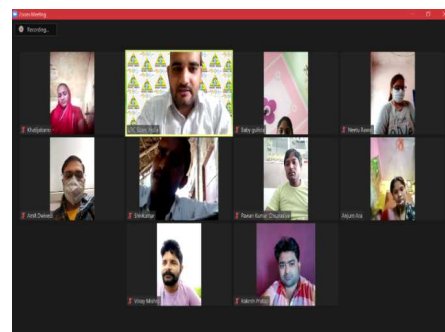
ONLINE SCREENING OF BATCH 16

From 31st August 2021 onwards, *online screening* for batch 16 was organized on daily basis. All the trainers of the SDP Program participated in this process. During the screening we connected with the respective candidates on conference-call for documents verification, asking questions, informing them about online mode through Zoom for the training classes. At last, we also connected with them on video call conference through Zoom for checking the connectivity at their area for conducting the online class.



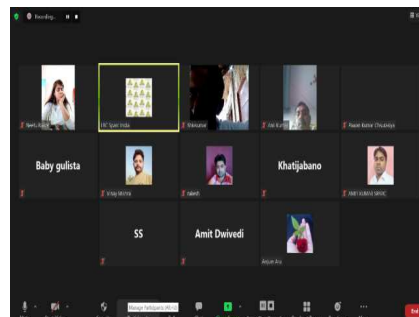
GROUP DISCUSSION & QUIZ

A *Group discussion based competitive quiz* was organised on 4th September 2021 through Zoom in order to enhance the Communication Skills. In this session all the trainees were divided in two groups and the rules of the online quiz was explained to them. The questions of the quiz were based on previous 2-3 chapters that were taught in BPO cum Retail, Computer and English classes. This quiz helped the trainees identify what they know and what they don't. It served as a motivation to them to study more and helped them in allocating their study time effectively by focusing on the information that still needs more practice.



SESSION ON COVID 19 PROTOCOLS TO BE FOLLOWED BY TRAINEES

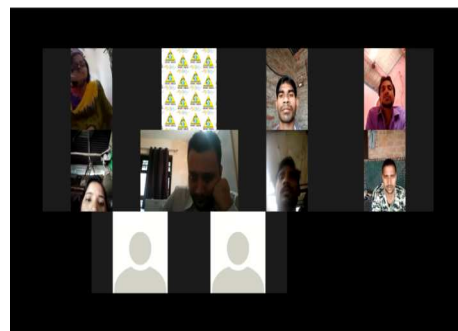
A *session regarding COVID-19 protocol* organized virtually on 13th September 2021 which was conducted by **Mr Saurabh Pande** (Program cum Placement officer, SDP, SPARC-India) for the staff members and trainees. Mr. Pande explained the COVID-19 protocol to all trainees which included how to maintain physical distancing in the class, wash your hands often, wearing mask to all times, practicing health and hand



hygiene, cleaning and disinfecting tips for the classroom, avoid exchanging their lunch boxes & learning material, cleaning their rooms & clothes etc.

ORIENTATION CEREMONY OF BATCH 16

Orientation Ceremony of Batch 16 candidates was organized on 23rd September 2021 through Zoom. All the staff members of SDP team and total 9 candidates participated in this ceremony. **Mr Saurabh Pande** (Program cum Placement officer, SDP, SPARC-India) addressed the newly joined candidates enrolled under SDP Program about the various aspects of the 'training program' along with the rules and regulations which they have to follow during their training program both online & offline.



During the orientation ceremony he briefed about the syllabus and other aspects of the training program and discussed about the workings of SPARC-India and its various program. He introduced all the members of the SDP team to the candidates and after that each candidate gave their introduction in short. The whole SDP team wished, emphasized and encouraged all the candidates to never lose hope in life and climb the mountain of success in a relentless manner.

ZOOM OPERATION AND ETIQUETTES

Zoom Operation and Etiquettes Training was organized on 24th September 2021 through Zoom for trainees. **Mr Saurabh Pande** (Program cum Placement officer, SDP, SPARC-India) conducted this session. Mr Pande explained the newly joined trainees under SDP Program about the Zoom operation and etiquettes which they have to follow during their online training session.



VOCATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAM

A new Vocational Unit was started in January 2021 in Madaon, Sitapur Road, Lucknow. 31 women and men with disabilities were enrolled in the 6 month stitching training program. The training course included sewing, garment making, embroidery, needle work, crochet, fashion design etc. We have mobilized more than 30 Persons with Disabilities for our Fashion Designing and Sewing Training Program for the second batch.

We are rehabilitating the PwDs through training and the livelihood generation is in process. The batch that started from 15th January 2021 was put on hold in the month of April 2021 due to the second wave of COVID-19 as per the Government guidelines. The batch was resumed and their examination was conducted on 15th September 2021.



COMMUNITY BASED REHABILITATION (CBR) PROGRAMME

In the current quarter since the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions were lifted the activities at community level were resumed from August 2021 except for the school education and other related interventions which continued through the online mode.

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.

OUTCOMES:

1. All the field workers (**Ms. Shyama, Ms. Shaheen**) along with the mediator **Ms. Satwiki Mishra** and **Mr. Santosh Tiwari** (Physiotherapist) visited the homes of CwDs who are under this project. They spoke with the parents of CwDs and discussed about how they managed during COVID-19, reasons for not attending online classes regularly, how they can avail UDID card, Aadhar Card and Disability Pension and requested them to give more time to their child and help them in learning new things.
2. Students under this project were provided with regular virtual classes (through video call) which include study, activities viz. games, color concept, drawing, craft, festivals, national



and international days etc and therapeutic interventions viz. speech therapy, occupational therapy and counselling by Special Educators, Speech Therapist, Counsellor and Physiotherapist.

3. The field workers (**Ms. Shyama, Ms. Shaheen**) also visited the field areas for identifying new beneficiaries for replacing the old ones who have shifted to other places during the pandemic.
4. During this time period *seven* Disabled Persons Organizations meetings were organized at New Madehganj, Faizullahganj, Semra, Shahdausi Baba ki Dargah in which either three or four PwDs were present from the community. The main discussion points were basically to aware them about employment opportunities, about Skill Development and Placement Program, how to avail UDID card, Disability Pension, Income Certificates, Loan, Disability Certificates etc. All the field workers (**Ms. Shyama, Ms. Shaheen**) along with the mediator **Ms. Satwiki Mishra** and **Mr. Santosh Tiwari** (Physiotherapist) from SPARC-India were present during the meetings.



5. During this time period *eight* Bal Samuh meetings were organized at Anganwadi Centres of Madehganj, Makkaganj, Masalchi Tola, Puraniya, Gayatri Nagar in which either two or three CwDs were present from the community who are under this project. The main discussion points were basically to aware them about how to avail UDID card, Disability Pension, Income Certificates, Disability Certificates, benefits of vaccination, and how to create a new Bal Samuh. All the field workers (**Ms. Shyama, Ms. Shaheen**) along with the mediator **Ms. Satwiki Mishra** and **Mr. Santosh Tiwari** (Physiotherapist) from SPARC-India were present during the meetings.



6. During this time period *three* Self Help Group meetings were organized at Madehganj and Khadri in which two to four women were present from the community. The main discussion points were basically to aware them about how to form SHG groups, need of it and the benefits which they can avail through it. All the field workers (**Ms. Shyama, Ms. Shaheen**) from SPARC-India were present during the meetings.



7. On 18th and 19th August 2021 **Mr. Niladri** from Jan Vikas Samiti, Varanasi visited SPARC-India and community. On the first day he visited the homes of CwDs under this project namely- **Rehan, Tayyab, Deepanshu, Shivan, Deepali and Adarsh**. On the second day he organized training on **RPwD Act 2016** with the DPO members and staff of SPARC-India at Jyoti Kiran School, SPARC-India. The main objective was to make the members aware about the various rights mentioned under RPwD Act 2016.





OTHER PRESENTATIONS

In the current quarter **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:-

S.N.	Date	Webinar (Topic)	Organized By
1.	08/07/2021	National Webinar on Vocational Training for PwDs and Livelihood Opportunities- Dr. Amitabh Mehrotra was invited as felicitator for felicitation of Achievers	National Institute For Empowerment Of Persons With Multiple Disabilities (NIEPMD)
2.	03/08/2021	Dr. Amitabh Mehrotra took a session on Medical Perspectives: Historical Perspective and Overview of Cerebral Palsy in a “Webinar Series on Cerebral Palsy”.	NIEPMD
3.	04/08/2021	Dr. Amitabh Mehrotra took a session on Psychological & Social Perspectives: Psychosocial Perspectives.	NIEPMD
4.	25/08/2021	Dr. Amitabh Mehrotra took a session on Legislative Perspectives: NEP 2020 with relevance to Cerebral Palsy.	NIEPMD
5.	26/08/2021	Virtual seminar on “Teaching & Learning Material to Person with Intellectual Disabilities towards Indian Organizations”	National Trust, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MSJE)
6.	30/08/2021	Dr. Amitabh Mehrotra took a session on Empowered Adults: Success Stories by Adults with CP (Presentation topic “Challenging The Challenges”).	NIEPMD

7.	21/09/2021	National Conference On Accessible Election-2021 at Election Commission	State Election Commission Office, Janpath, Lucknow
8.	28/09/2021	Local Level Committee Meeting	NIEPMD



SUCCESS STORIES

JYOTI KIRAN SCHOOL

RAJ SHEKHAR TIWARI

Raj Shekhar Tiwari is a 12 year old boy having 75 % Intellectual Disability. His father is an advocate in High Court and his mother is a government employee. He lives in his house with his parents and a younger sister. He has a speech problem, so he mostly expresses himself through gestures. He is a very emotional child and loves his guardian very much.



During online classes real things were used to teach him so that he can achieve his goal easily like book (reading, writing and recognizing), flash card (character recognition), pocket chart (recognition of names of months and days), glass spoon, bowl, other utensils (for doing different types of activities) etc.

Raj's parents say that they have observed a lot of positive change during the online class like his cognitive development has taken place, he also started taking interest in creative work and he is now able to perform his responsibility and express his point of view at home.

REHAN

Rehan is a 17 year old boy having 100% Cerebral Palsy. His father is a labour and his mother is a housewife. He has four siblings. Initially when Rehan started coming to school, he could not walk, his hands did not work at all, he could not speak at all, and he did not know anything related to writing but gradually after regular interventions and guidance he has improved a lot.



When the online classes started during Covid 19, goals were set for him by all the experts including special educator, physiotherapist, speech therapist and counsellor. There has been a lot of growth in Rehan. He has started walking slowly. If something is given in his hand to hold he can hold it for a longer time now. In academics, Rehan writes on his own from A to Z, can make very beautiful paintings by using his feet. Now he can speak a lot of things and also has movement in his hands.

Rehan's parents are very happy and they say that through the school, there has been a lot of improvement in Rehan as now he can read and write, his hands are also working slowly.
