

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

April 2022 – June 2022



**School for Potential Advancement and Restoration of Confidence
(SPARC) India**

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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.

INCLUSIVE EDUCATION PROGRAM

SPARC-India in collaboration with SBI Foundation initiated to ensure the Inclusive Education in 10 Direct Government Primary School and 10 Indirect Schools in Lucknow from April'2022 for Children with Disabilities.

The program started in April 2022. In this month the baseline was started and identification of CwDs and non-challenged children who were not enrolled in schools or were drop outs in the community around the schools was conducted. We had identified 2 direct govt. primary school for the intervention for the Inclusive Education program.



In the month of May 2022, we had identified 6 new direct govt. primary schools and 2 indirect schools for the intervention. 4 CwDs were identified who were not enrolled in the schools while conducting baseline survey in the community around the schools. We had conducted regular meeting with challenged and non-challenged children and their parents / caretakers, DPOs, community, AWC and other stakeholders for awareness on Child Rights, Right to Education, IE and RPwD Act 2016.



In the month of June 2022, we had identified 2 new direct govt. primary schools and 2 indirect schools for the intervention while conducting the baseline survey and 6 CwDs and 15 non-challenged children were identified who were not enrolled in the schools while conducting baseline survey in the community around the identified 10 direct primary schools and 4 indirect schools. We had enrolled 12 non-challenged children in schools and conducted regular meeting with

challenged and non-challenged children and their parents / caretakers, DPOs, community, AWC and other stakeholders. Access Audit was also conducted in the 10 identified direct govt. primary schools.



VISIT FROM SBI FOUNDATION

SBIF Team visited SPARC-India on 10th May, 2022 to overview the start of the **Inclusive Education Program** in government primary schools of Lucknow. **Dr. Amitabh Mehrotra** (Founder Secretary cum Director, SPARC-India) greeted **Mr. Ravindra** (AGM, SBI Foundation) and **Ms. Eeshwarana** (Assistant Manager, SBI Foundation) and introduced them to the SPARC-India team.



Dr. Mehrotra along with two staff members (Mr. Santosh Tiwari and Mr. Sunil Kumar) and SBI Foundation team visited P.S. Faizullaganj and P.S. Lahorganj to meet the teachers of the respective schools. Ms. Eeshwarana asked some questions to the teachers about their school facilities and how they impart education to differently abled children in their schools. Mr. Ravindra assured the school's teachers that SBIF would provide help to their school as much as they could through SPARC-India.

COMMUNITY BASED REHABILITATION (CBR) PROGRAMME

Objective:

1. To give children with disabilities (CwDs), their parents proper information about making DPO
2. To give proper information about making Bal Samuh
3. To tell CwDs about the process of getting Aadhar card.

4. To find out if the online / offline classes, physiotherapy, speech therapy and counselling of the CwDs who come under this project are going on regularly or not.

Outcomes:

1. The field worker (**Ms. Shaheen**) along with the mediator **Mr. Santosh Tiwari** 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. Students under this project were provided with regular therapeutic interventions (speech therapy, physiotherapy etc).
4. Field workers also visited Viklang Kalyan Vibhag for discussing the issues of the pension of PwDs.



5. The field workers 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.
6. The field worker (**Ms. Shaheen**) along with the mediator **Mr. Santosh Tiwari** (Physiotherapist) visited the homes of CwDs who are under this project. They also spoke with the parents of CwDs and discussed about how they managed during COVID-19, reasons for not attending classes regularly, how they can avail UDID card, Aadhar Card and Pension for 18 years above and requested them to give more time to their child and help them in learning new things.
7. During this time period **Three** Bal Samuh meetings were organized at Anganwadi Centers of Khadri, Makkaganj and Khadri slum respectively in which 44 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, Pension, Income Certificates, Disability Certificates, benefits of vaccination, and how to create a new Bal Samuh. The field worker (**Ms. Shaheen**)

along with the mediator **Mr. Santosh Tiwari** (Physiotherapist) from SPARC-India were present during the meetings.

8. During this time period **three** Self Help Group meetings were organized at AWW center Khadri, Khadri slum and Mohan making, Daliganj ward respectively in which 30 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. The field worker (**Ms. Shaheen**) along with the mediator **Mr. Santosh Tiwari** (Physiotherapist) from SPARC-India were present in the meetings.
9. On 18th and 19th May 2022 **Mr. Niladri** from Jan Vikas Samiti, Varanasi visited SPARC-India and community. On the first day a training was organized on *Strengthening of DPO* with the DPO members and staff of SPARC-India. The main objective was too aware the members about the various rights mentioned under RPwD Act 2016. Later he visited the homes of CwDs under this project namely- **Adarsh, Gungun, Aradhaya Tiwari, Iqra, Bikki and Sandeep Nishad**. And a **DPO meeting** was held at SPARC-India, Jyoti Kiran School, Lucknow. On the second day a meeting was held with **Mr. Shailendra** (Finance Officer / admin person), **Dr. Amitabh Mehrotra** (Founder Secretary cum Director, SPARC-India) and team members.



PRESENTATIONS

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: -

FOUNDATIONAL LEARNING AND NUMERACY FOR CWDS-PARENTS

A *virtual meeting* was held on 27th May, 2022 through zoom. The meeting was organized by **Mr. Samir Ghosh** (Founder, SHODHANA). **Dr. Amitabh Mehrotra** (Founder Secretary cum Director, SPARC-India), 3 staff members of Jyoti Kiran School (Ms. Anju Tiwari, Ms. Rupanjali and Ms. Alka) and approx. 10 parents participated in this meeting. Mr. Ghosh addressed the parents present in the meeting regarding lack of information about challenged children like toileting, eating etc. Parents shared their ward's challenges with Mr. Ghosh and everyone present in the meeting.



During the online meeting Dr. Mehrotra asked the parents about their child's challenges and informed appropriate solution as per their query. He emphasized and encouraged all the parents to never lose hope in life and inspire their child to keep going in life with a positive attitude.

BRIGHT NEW WORLD INTERNATIONAL CONSULTATION

A *virtual meeting* (through google meet) was held on 18th May 2022. The meeting was organized by *International Center for Promotion of Enterprises and Institute for Career Studies*. **Dr. Amrita Dass** (Founder, Director, ICS) was coordinating the meeting and she started the meeting with welcome speech and introduced **Dr. Amitabh Mehrotra** (Founder, Secretary cum Director, SPARC-India). Dr. Mehrotra was invited as a Guest Speaker.



Dr. Mehrotra presented his inspirational presentation on *Challenging the Challenges* and also shared his life experience, ideas and suggestions. All the participants listened carefully and asked their questions after presentation. Candidates from all over the world participated in the meeting and shared their experience and views.

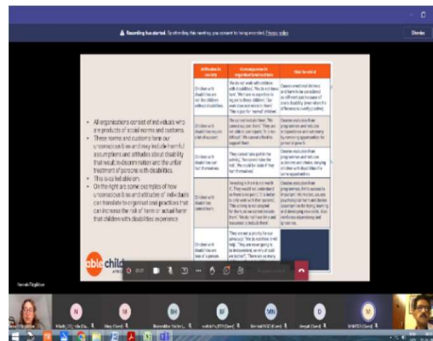
TELEPHONE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

A *Telephone Advisory Committee meeting* was held on 10th June 2022 at Head office, Kaiser Bagh, Lucknow. **Dr. Amitabh Mehrotra** (Founder Secretary cum Director, SPARC-India) has been nominated as a member of the committee. All the new members were greeted and congratulated for being elected as new members of the committee. Dr Mehrotra attended the meeting and gave suggestion to increase visibility of BSNL. Suggestions were also given by other new members in which it was discussed that all new members should have an identity card. Thirteen out of fifteen elected members had participated in the Telephone Advisory Committee meeting. **Mr. Kamlesh** (GM, BSNL) showed his interest in visiting SPARC-India.



JAN VIKAS SAMITI – LILIANE FOUNDATION WEBINAR

JVS – Liliane Foundation organized two days' webinars on **Disability Inclusive Child Safeguarding** on 22nd & 23rd June 2022 through Microsoft Team. The webinar was quite enriching and the trainers provided worthwhile information which quite informative in today's scenario. The major concern was to provide Inclusive Education from school life to higher education so that children/persons with disabilities (C/PwDs) could also contribute to the society.



The main factors are discrimination and attitudinal barriers which hamper the overall development of C/PwDs. There is a need to provide a positive environment and encouragement for the growth of a CwD.

Dr. Amitabh Mehrotra (Founder Secretary cum Director, SPARC-India) attended the webinar and participated in the discussion. Dr. Mehrotra talked about Attitudinal Risk, Institutional Risk, Communications Risk and Environmental Risk in the webinar.

MR. S K SETH VISITED SPARC-INDIA

On 29th June 2022 **Mr. S K Seth** (Ex Additional General Manager, NTPC) visited SPARC-India. **Dr. Amitabh Mehrotra** (Founder Secretary cum Director, SPARC-India) greeted Mr. S K Seth and informed him about the vision and mission of SPARC-India.



Mr. Mehrotra and Mr. S K Seth exchanged their views on all the programs which are currently running or were on hold. Mr. S K Seth said that possible help will be provided by him for the organization.
