

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

January 2023 – March 2023

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 26 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.

INCLUSIVE EDUCATION PROGRAM

SPARC-India in collaboration with SBI Foundation initiated the Inclusive Education (IE) in 10 Direct Government Primary School sand 10 Indirect Schools in Lucknow from April 2022 for children with disabilities.

MEETING WITH PARENTS OF CwDs AND MEMBERS OF COMMUNITY

Meetings with parents / guardians of CwDs and members of community on Inclusive Education were conducted for creating awareness on Inclusive Education among the parents of CwDs and members of community. The main aim of the meetings was to make them aware of prenatal, natal and post-natal precaution, how to apply for all types of pensions, importance of education for all etc.



S. No.	Activity Name	Place	Date
1	Meeting with parents / guardians of CwDs and community	AWC Khadri	17 th January 2023
2	Meeting with parents / guardians of CwDs and community	AWC Faizullaganj-2	18 th January 2023
3	Meeting with parents / guardians of CwDs and community	AWC Nehru Nagar	19 th January 2023

TRAINING OF SCHOOL MANAGEMENTS ON INCLUSIVE EDUCATION AND INCLUSIVE SCHOOL SETUP

Trainings of School Management on Inclusive Education and Inclusive School setup were conducted for school's principal and teachers, SMC members and parents / guardians. The main aim of the meetings was to make the parents aware of the importance of SMCs and importance of implementation of Inclusive Education. The parents asked questions regarding their concerns that they face on daily basis in reference to their children.



S. No.	Activity Name	Place	Date
1	Training of School Management on Inclusive Education and Inclusive School setup	PS Iradat Nagar	23 rd February 2023
2	Training of School Management on Inclusive Education and Inclusive School setup	PS Faizullaganj	3 rd March 2023

SMC TRAINING

Training was conducted for SMC members on Inclusive Education. The main aim of the training was to make the SMC members aware of the importance of education, importance of SMCs, rules and responsibilities of SMCs along with need and importance of Inclusive Education and how they can contribute towards the development of the school. SMC members discussed about the various concerns that the schools were facing.



S. No.	Activity Name	Place	Date
1	SMC Training	PS Triveni Nagar	4 th March 2023

INCLUSIVE CHILDREN'S PARLIAMENT

Inclusive Children's Parliament (ICP) meeting was conducted for creating awareness on child rights and formation of ICP for school's students. The main aim of the meeting was to make the students aware of their rights along with the meaning, process of formation and benefits of ICP. Importance of parliament, election process and the roles of the elected members in ICP were also explained to the students. At the end of meeting, many children showed their interest in contesting the election for the formation of ICP.



S. No.	Activity Name	Place	Date
1	Inclusive Children's Parliament Meeting	UPS 35 PAC Mahanagar	28 th February 2023

INCLUSIVE CHILDREN'S PARLIAMENT ELECTION

Inclusive Children's Parliament (ICP) elections were held to open opportunities for practical experiences to students on democracy, its responsibility and accountability, and on the supremacy of the law.



Through the election process students were elected to various positions of ICP. Election was conducted through secret ballot. The winning candidates took oath to perform their duties in school to make it a better place for all the students of school.

S. No.	Activity Name	Place	Date
1	Inclusive Children's Parliament Election	PS Iradat Nagar	2 nd February 2023
2	Inclusive Children's Parliament Election	UPS Paltan Chhavni	6 th February 2023

TRAINING ON RIGHT TO EDUCATION ACT 2009 & INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

Trainings on Right to Education (RTE) Act 2009 and Inclusive Education were conducted for creating awareness on RTE Act 2009 and Inclusive Education. The main aim of the meeting was to make the participants aware of RTE Act 2009 and the provisions mentioned in the Act including Inclusive Education.



The training was attended by parents and guardians of both challenged and non-challenged children. All the participants showed their interest that they would focus more on their ward's education.

S. No.	Activity Name	Place	Date
1	Training on RTE Act 2009 and Inclusive Education	SPARC-India head office, Lucknow	26 th January 2023
2	Training on RTE Act 2009 and Inclusive Education	Prem Bihar Gaughat, Lucknow	30 th January 2023
3	Training on RTE Act 2009 and Inclusive Education	SPARC-India head office, Lucknow	20 th February 2023

TRAINING ON ACTIVITIES OF DAILY LIVING

Trainings on Activities of Daily Living (ADL) for the parents and caregivers of children with disabilities were conducted for creating awareness among parents and caregivers of CwDs. The main aim of the meeting was to make them aware of what precautions to take during pregnancy and how to help the child in practicing ADL so that slowly they can become independent. Parents and caregivers of CwDs asked questions relating to the issues faced by their child in conducting daily activities.



S. No.	Activity Name	Place	Date
1	Training on Activities of Daily Living	SDP Centre, Lucknow	20 th January 2023
2	Training on Activities of Daily Living	SPARC-India head office, Lucknow	21 st January 2023

SIBLING WORKSHOP

Sibling Workshop for the siblings of children with disabilities was conducted to create awareness on Child Rights and how to help the sibling in practicing ADL. The main aim of the meeting was to make the participants aware of Child Rights, Right to Education and how to help the sibling in practicing ADL so that they can slowly become independent.



S. No.	Activity Name	Place	Date
1	Sibling Workshop	Khadri	4 th February 2023
2	Sibling Workshop	AWC Khadri	7 th February 2023
3	Sibling Workshop	Naubasta	8 th February 2023
4	Sibling Workshop	Vaij Nagar Naubasta	24 th February 2023
5	Sibling Workshop	SPARC-India head office	25 th February 2023

SCHOOL CHALE HUM

“*School Chale Hum*” campaign was initiated to ensure that each child including children with disabilities can be linked to formal education in regular schools. In this campaign all the students of the school were gathered in a playground in a circle with the support of school’s principal / teachers and whistle, rattle and drums were distributed to them. All the students made a sound for 1 minute through whistling, rattle-ring and drumming for creating awareness for each child’s right to education. The main aim of the campaign was to make the children aware of the importance of education and inclusive education. The campaign was initiated in 5 schools.



At the end, the children assured that they will come to the school regularly in a clean and well-dressed manner. They also pledged that they will go to the houses of all the children whether challenged or non-challenged, living near their house, who are not going to any school and would talk to them and their parents to motivate them to go to school. If unsuccessful, then they will tell the school’s teachers and SPARC-India team so that they could further intervene.

S. No.	Activity Name	Place	Date
1	School Chale Hum	Basic School Pulgama	16 th March 2023
2	School Chale Hum	PS Gaughat	17 th March 2023
3	School Chale Hum	PS Khadri Paltan	25 th March 2023
4	School Chale Hum	PS Baraura Hussain Badi	28 th March 2023
5	School Chale Hum	PS Triveni Nagar	29 th March 2023

NUKKAD NATAK

2 *Nukkad Natak* (street play) were organized on 22nd March 2023 at Faizullaganj and Naya Purwa in Lucknow. The main aim of *Nukkad Natak* was to create awareness on disability in the community. The *Nukkad Natak* depicted the plight of children / persons with disabilities and how if given chance they could do wonders for themselves, their family and society. People gathered to observe *Nukkad Natak* had a lot of fun. They all applauded and encouraged the actors of *Nukkad Natak*. The *Nukkad Natak* was conceptualized and presented by the Natak Baaz Team.



CONSULTATION MEET

A one-day Consultation Meet on "Towards Creating an Inclusive Society" was organized on 27th March 2023 at Sahbhagi Shikshan Kendra, Lucknow. The resource person at the event was **Mr. Tushar Anchal** (Freelance Consultant on Disability). Dr Amitabh Mehrotra (Founder Secretary cum Director, SPARC-India) welcomed all the participants. Mr. Tushar spoke about the need of having disability context incorporated in all policies rather than having a separate policy for disability.



It was highlighted that disability awareness should be started from home itself and any policy or act working committees should include persons with disabilities to have better sensitivity and awareness on disabilities. All types of disabilities should be included while working on policies.

Participants from more than 10 organizations participated in the event.

QUANTITATIVE ACHIEVEMENTS

- 2 Training for School Managements on Inclusive Education and Inclusive School Setup were conducted
- 1 Training of SMCs was conducted
- 2 Training on Activity of Daily Living were conducted
- 1 Inclusive Children's Parliament meeting was conducted
- 2 Inclusive Children's Parliament election were conducted
- 3 Meeting with parents of CwDs and community were conducted
- 3 Training on RTE & IE were conducted
- 5 Sibling Workshop were conducted
- 5 *School Chale Hum* were conducted
- 2 *Nukkad Natak* were conducted
- Consultation Meet on "Towards Creating an Inclusive Society" was organized
- Interventions with 40 CwDs (which include 25 CwDs enrolled under the IE Program, 7 CwDs which were previously enrolled in the Direct/Indirect Schools and 8 CwDs in the community) were conducted

JYOTI KIRAN SCHOOL (JKS)

SPARC-India in collaboration with Fiserv, reopened Jyoti Kiran School in the month of December 2022.

PAPER CUTTING / PASTING ACTIVITY

Paper cutting / pasting activity was conducted for students of JKS on 2nd January 2023. The activity included cutting of paper and creating simple artifacts like flower, leaves, stems, pot etc. The children seemed to be excited and happy while participating in the activity and enjoyed a lot. The school staff and teachers supported the students where ever necessary.



SCHOOL PICNIC

A school picnic was organized for students of JKS on 11th February 2023 at Regional Science Center. All the staff and students of JKS, Skill Development and Placement Program (SDP) and Inclusive Education Program of SPARC-India participated in the picnic.

Since the students belong to differently abled category, they do not get chance to go around in general so when the plan to visit the Regional Science center was discussed with them, they were not only enthusiastic but were also very keen to visit the center. The Children visited the World Water Gallery and Aquarium. A Puzzle activity was also organized by Regional Science Centre for the children and quiz contest for the female staff was also organized during the visit. The children enjoyed swings and played outdoor games at the center.



FLOWERPOT ACTIVITY

A flowerpot making activity was planned for students of JKS on 22nd February 2023. The students were provided with thermocol sheets, glue and other necessary equipment's to make flower pots. The Major objective of this activity was to increase gross motor skills and movement control. The teachers of the JKS supported the students in making flower pot. The students showed a keen interest in different activities and performed the activity enthusiastically.



MUSIC ACTIVITY

A music activity was held on 24th February 2023 for the students of JKS. The students were taught how to play musical instruments viz. Daff, Keyboard, Banjo and Tambourine. The objective of the

activity was to show children how the instruments work and create an environment for them to enjoy and be involved.



CLAY ACTIVITY

On 11th March 2023, the students of JKS participated in clay activity where the students were provided play dough to create different models from clay. The major objective of the activity was to enhance the soft motor skills, better control and creativity. The students were asked to make anything they like, from animals to any other objects. Several students created models of their favorite animals while some made models of their favorite toys. The staff of JKS supported the children in creating models and practicing motor skills.



ANNUAL DAY CELEBRATION

Annual day Celebration of Jyoti Kiran School was held on 25th March 2023 in City Montessori School, Gomti Nagar Campus, in collaboration with Fiserv and United Way.

The Chief Guest of the event was **Ms. Leena Seth** (Director of Shalimar Corp. Ltd) and Guest of Honor was **Ms. Versha Verma** (Chairman, Ek Koshish Aisi Bhi). The students of JKS welcomed the guests with a flower bouquet. The event was also attended by **Mr Sanjay Seth** (Ex Member of Parliament), **Mr US Singh** (President, SPARC-India), **Mr CV Singh** (Vice President, SPARC-India), **Dr Anil Rastogi** (NAC Member and Board Member, SPARC-India) and **Dr Amitabh Mehrotra** (Founder Secretary cum Director, SPARC-India) along with other dignitaries.



The celebration started with light lamping by the honorable guests followed by a brief journey of SPARC-India which was shared by Dr. Mehrotra.

The students of Jyoti Kiran School and children from community performed dance, fancy dress and a skit depicting the plight of CwDs. Trainees of Skill Development and Placement Program performed a skit on the activities of the skill program. The event was choreographed by Ms. Laveena and Mr. Himanshu.



The audience were highly enthralled by their performance of the students and encouraged them by applause.

The Guest of Honor shared her views, quoting that, “She never thought that the function can be this electrifying, especially by the children with disabilities”. She also appreciated the work being done by Dr Mehrotra as one of its kind. In her speech she said, and as quoted, “These children should be supported in any manner as they are the most marginalized but have great potential”



The participants in the program were then appreciated by a token gift rendered to them by the Chief guest and guest of honor and other dignitaries.

Mr Uma Shankar Singh shared his views and the mission of SPARC-India and JKS and gave his best wishes to the team. Dr Mehrotra thanked everyone in the end. The program was anchored by Dr Alka Nivedan.

PARENT SUPPORT GROUP MEETING

Parent Support group meeting was organized on 23rd February 2023 and which showed participation of 18 parents and later on 29th March 2023 in which 15 parents were present.

The topics covered in the first meeting included:

- New admission of children and change in behaviour of children
- Socialisation of children (behaviour)
- Discussion on Activities of Daily Living
- Discussion on Vocational training
- Discussion on Cleanliness habits of children



Topics covered in the second meeting included:

- How parents deal with the child on daily basis
- How do they understand the requirement of the children
- Issues faced by the parents and children with disabilities

Counseling of the parents was done in both the meetings. Since the progress of student is not only dependent on teachers but also their parents hence the JKS staff discussed strategies that can be followed at home to have a positive impact on the overall development of the children.

The parents were also motivated to send their wards on regular basis.

VOCATIONAL UNIT

16 challenged women and 17 non-challenged marginalized women were enrolled in the vocational program at Madiyon center, Lucknow in January 2023.

KIT DISTRIBUTION

SPARC India started the Vocational Program for Men/Women with and without Disabilities in collaboration with KTL Automobile Pvt. Ltd on 23rd January 2023. The kit distribution of the program was held on 26th January 2023 at SPARC-India head office. **Dr. Amitabh Mehrotra** (Founder Secretary cum Director, SPARC-India) and Mrs. Mridula Mehrotra distributed the kits to trainees and wished them all the best for their bright future.



TRAINING

The enrolled participants continued their training as devised in the center in the current quarter. The enrolled participants were provided hand on training on different aspects of sewing techniques which included:

- Hemming in paper cutting and on handkerchief

- Stitch button, buttonhole, hook and eye closure or loop
- Stitch panty first on newspaper then on cloth
- Variety of embroideries on handkerchief
- Stuffed embroidery, reverse bone stitching



The trainees of vocational center Madiyon, Lucknow learned cutting and measuring process with the help of newspaper, cutting cloth, stitching cloth and also learnt various types of embroideries etc. They also learned to stitch variety of clothes with hand operated machine as well as foot operated machines.

The present trainees of the program are now able to stitch variety of clothes like baby frocks, gown, Patiala salwar, petticoat, blouse, salwar-suit, palazzo and palazzo petticoat variety of pant, apron in kurtas etc.



The trainees were also registered under National Livelihood Service Center (NLSC). After completion of their course, they appeared for final practical and theoretical exam in April 2023, in which their files were seen and various questions related to stitching and drafting were asked. The trainees were also asked to draft blouse, petticoats etc.



SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND PLACEMENT (SDP) PROGRAM

During this quarter screening of the candidates continued for Batch-17 and later for Batch-18. Training and placement of Batch-17 was completed. Along with it training of Batch-18 started in March 2023. The training curriculum included English, Computer, Computer typing, BPO and soft skills. Regular assessments and tests were conducted to ensure the progress of the training and its outcome.



ORIENTATION & KIT DISTRIBUTION CEREMONY

On 19th January 2023 Orientation Ceremony of Batch-17 trainees was organized. **Dr. Amitabh Mehrotra** (Founder Secretary cum Director, SPARC-India) addressed and enlightened the newly joined trainees 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. During the orientation ceremony all trainees introduced themselves. He along with the SDP staff wished and encouraged the trainees

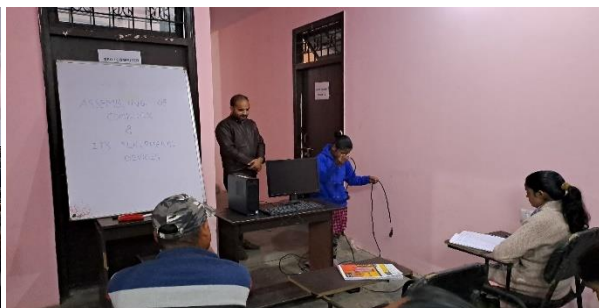


to never lose hope in life and climb the mountain of success in a relentless manner. The staff also told them about the training and residential rules.

Kits were distributed to the trainees of Batch-17. Each bag contained adequate material for a candidate to study for 3 months of residential training period. Each study kit contained a notebook, pencil, eraser and pen. The trainees were very happy on receiving the kit.

COMPUTER AND ITS PERIPHERAL DEVICES ACTIVITY

Computer and its peripheral devices activity was organized on 21st January 2023 at the SDP Center. **Mr. Sunil Kumar** (Training Coordinator, SDP Program) gave live demo to the trainees that how to assemble all the external devices of the computer like Keyboard, Mouse, Scanner, Projector, UPS, Printer etc.



REPUBLIC DAY

Republic Day celebration was held on 26th January 2023 at SPARC-India head office. All the trainees & staff of SDP Program, trainees & staff of JKS along with staff of IE and Vocational Unit were present in the event.

Dr. Amitabh Mehrotra (Founder Secretary cum Director) hoisted the flag. **Mr. Uma Shankar Singh** (President, Board Member, SPARC-India) virtually addressed the trainees. Trainees of JKS and trainees of SDP Program participated in the cultural activities.



INPUT & OUTPUT DEVICE ACTIVITY

Computer activity on Input & Output Devices was held on 28th January 2023 at SDP Center. **Mr. Raj Mishra** (Computer Trainer, SPARC-India) explained the input and output devices of computer like Keyboard, Mouse, Scanner, Projector, UPS, and Printer etc.



CULTURAL ACTIVITY

In soft skill session, ‘Cultural Activity’ was conducted on 4th February 2023 at SDP Center. The trainees talked about their hobbies and demonstrated their talent viz. singing, dance, dialogue delivery, mono act, role play etc. This activity helped in breaking the monotony of the regular classes and helped the trainees in overcoming their public fear in showcasing their talent. **Mr. Anurag Tiwari** (Program cum Placement Officer) explained the benefits of such activities. Trainees participated in the activity with enthusiasm.



CHART MAKING ACTIVITY

A chart making activity was organized on 27th February 2023 at SDP Center. Trainees were divided in 5 groups and different topics were given to the trainees for preparation of charts. Trainees enthusiastically participated in the activity and performed with dedication and sincerity. In this activity trainees learnt how to work in a team and perform well to compete with other team and also express their talent.



INTERVIEW AT STARTEK (AEGIS)

A placement drive has been organized on 03rd March 2023 at STARTEK (Aegis), Hazratganj, Lucknow. **6 trainees** (Anoop Kumar 1st, Anoop Kumar 2nd, Govind Rawat, Upendra Kumar, Kirti Tiwari, and Rukshar Bano) participated in the interview for the post of **Customer Care Executive**. Unfortunately, none of the candidate were selected there. They faced challenges in



comprehension passages. But all the trainees received interview experience and they decided to improve their mistakes and give their best performance in future interviews.

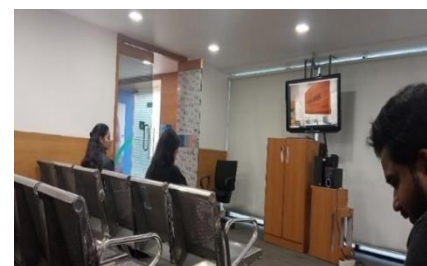
INTERVIEW AT TECHNO TASK BUSINESS SOLUTION PVT. LTD

Trainees of Batch-17 were taken for interview to Techno Task Business Solution Pvt. Ltd. on 18th March 2023. In the interview process, 1st round of interview was conducted by HR team, followed by operations team. General introduction and basic questions were asked in HR round. **13 Trainees** cleared the 1st round and were selected for the operations round. English communications were assessed in both the rounds. In the operations round 2 trainees (Govind Rawat & Anoop Kumar) were selected for final Client round. Both of them cleared the client round & were selected for the CCE profile.



INTERVIEW AT STARTEK (AEGIS)

On 24th March, 2023 second placement drive was organized at STARTEK (Aegis). **20 Trainees** participated in the interview for the post of **Customer Care Executive**. **3 Trainees (Kirti Tiwari, Rukhsar Bano & Sudheer Kumar)** were selected in the interview and were called for their document verification.



ALUMNI MEETING SESSION

Alumni Meet session was organized on 30th March 2023 at the SDP Center. Mr. Ramchandra of Batch-12 was invited to share his views and experiences during his stay at the SDP center regarding BPO training, Computer, English and Soft skills training. He also shared his experiences regarding placement and post placement support provided to him by SPARC-India team even after he left the training center.



FAREWELL CEREMONY

The Farewell Ceremony of Batch-17 was organized on 31st March 2023 at SDP Center. Different activities were organized for the students i.e., Housie game, Dumb Sheraz, *Antakshari* and passing the parcel. Few students gave their singing performance. The winners of the games were Mr. Sudheer Kumar & Reeta Devi. The Chief Guest of the program **Dr. Amitabh Mehrotra** (Founder

Secretary cum Director, SPARC-India) enlightened the students with his inspirational speech and also wished them good luck for their future.



VISIT BY Ms KALIKA MEHROTRA ERIKSSON

Ms Kalika Eriksson (Founder and Owner, SveaBharti Services (SBS)) visited SPARC-India on multiple occasions between February 2023 and March 2023. For the past 10+ years, Ms Eriksson has been attached to SPARC-India as our global strategy advisor as a Volunteer. Now, since November 2022, SBS has actively been our advisor with reference to international perspective. During her visit, SBS has identified projects and recommended collaborating partners that will help SPARC-India in Skill Development and job placements for the persons from marginalized sector in Lucknow and surrounding districts, in Uttar Pradesh.



PRESENTATIONS

Dr Amitabh Mehrotra (Founder Secretary cum Director, SPARC-India) participated in various webinars and meetings which were organized by various organizations.

STATE ELECTION COMMISSION MEETING

Dr Amitabh Mehrotra is a member of State Election Commission for the accessible elections. The meeting of the commission was held on 9th January 2023 in Hazratganj, Lucknow which was attended by Dr. Mehrotra. He raised the below mentioned points:



- State commission should look into the issues of persons with neurological impairments and how they could be practically included in the process.

- Mass awareness campaign on the aforesaid to be carried out on war footing.
- The main venue for polling is schools / colleagues for which plan should be prepared to make them accessible covering from entrance to the classes, drinking water areas and toilet facilities. It should be ensured that there is running water in schools.
- I recommended roping in CRC Lucknow to look into the training aspects and provide aids and appliances on various polling dates.

Dr. Mehrotra extended SPARC-India's help to play a major role in providing technical support at different levels. The Chief Electoral Officer presided over the meeting.

VISIT OF DR. SARVENDRA VIKRAM BAHADUR SINGH

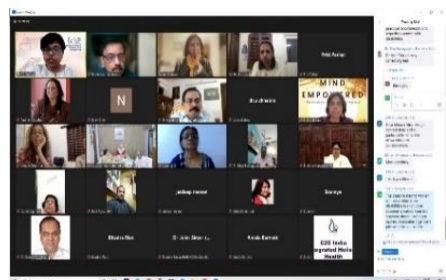
Dr. Sarvendra Vikram Bahadur Singh (Ex Director Basic Education UP) visited at SPARC-India head office on 08th February 2023. **Dr. Amitabh Mehrotra** (Founder Secretary cum Director, SPARC-India) greeted Dr. Singh and introduced SPARC-India & elaborated about the various programs which are currently running in SPARC-India. Dr. Mehrotra invited him to become a member of National Advisory Committee. He talked about process documentation (classroom observation report) which could help in identifying the practicality of different aspects of the Inclusive Education Program and would help in its betterment.



C20 GENDER EQUALITY & DISABILITY WORKING GROUP

A webinar co-hosted by the C20 Gender Equality & Disability Working Group and the Integrated Holistic Health Working Group was held on 25th February 2023. The topic of the webinar was "Women - The Pillars of Family Health & Wellbeing".

The three major components affecting the health of an individual are social, economic and cultural component. Women with disabilities face several issues in daily life, from simple tasks like transportation to opportunity for education, job and basic quality of life.



Dr. Amitabh Mehrotra appreciated their presentations and gave suggestions to invite women with disabilities from cross disabilities as speakers to share their views. It was important to carry out empirical research in different states and outcomes to be included in the Policy recommendations. In the chat box the organizers appreciated that Dr Mehrotra's views indicate need to organize a separate webinar on the theme for women with disabilities.

CASE STUDIES

INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

RAJAN

Rajan is a 12-year-old boy who lives in Mohibullapur, Lucknow. He is having cerebral palsy. There are five members in his family which include father, mother, one elder sister, one younger sister and one younger brother. His father Mr. Kashi Ram is a driver and his mother Mrs. Mamta Devi works as a maid in the houses of other people. The monthly income of the family is not enough to meet out the basic needs of life.



During the intervention, the IE team of SPARC-India assessed aspects like education, social behavior, physiotherapy, activities of daily living etc of Rajan. His parents told the team that he was initially treated at Lohia Hospital but now he is undergoing treatment at an Orthopedic Hospital in Daliganj. He cried late at birth, and a year later he also had pneumonia, since then he started having problems with his eyes (vision). He has made some progress after the treatment. Earlier he used to go to study in a government school but ever since the COVID-19 he has been sitting at home. After interventions, the team explained to the parents about the benefits and overall development of the child in going to the school and hence his parents decided to enroll him in Upper Primary School Chhavni Madaon. Seeing Rajan's condition, his family members were not willing to send him to school every day but they agreed to bring him to school once a week.

After seven months of efforts Rajan showed improvement in his behavior. He has become obedient and disciplined and now he knows and recognizes some numbers and recognizes some letters of English and Hindi alphabet as well. On seeing the change in Rajan behaviors and attitude, his family members are very happy.

KARAN

Karan is a 14-year-old boy who lives in KL colony, Aliganj, Lucknow. He is having Cerebral Palsy. There are two members in his family. His father Mr. Ashok Kumar is a labour and his mother Mrs. Gudiya works as a maid in other's houses. The monthly income of the family is very low.



His parents told that after a month and a half of his birth he fell sick and suffered from pneumonia. Karan was initially treated in a Medical College in Delhi and subsequently in KGMU Lucknow as well as Ballarpur Hospital in Lucknow. Karan's house caught fire some years back in which his face was burnt. Karan's family was very sad and worried about him as he was

always lying at home. His parents did not enroll him in any school. During the intervention, the IE team of SPARC-India assessed Karan after which his parents decided to enroll him at Primary School Ahibaranpur. His parents took the responsibility to drop him to school and take him back once or twice in a week.

In the beginning Karan used to hesitate and was afraid to talk to people and had difficulty in understanding people's words. After seven months of intervention Karan showed improvement in his behavior like now he greets all the people he meets, his family members and teachers in the school. He performs all the activity given to him with great attention and he is very happy to do the work. Karan's family members are very happy with his good behavior and on seeing positive changes in him.

JYOTI KIRAN SCHOOL

TAUHID

Tauhid is a 15-year-old boy who has 50% mental retardation. He lives in the Daliganj area of Lucknow. The socio-economic condition of the Tauhid's family is not good. Tauhid's father Mr Babu works as a salesman, while his mother Mrs Raushan Jahan is a housewife and take cares of the household chores and other members of the family. Tauhid also has a younger brother and sister. Tauhid is a good learner with an average academic learning and skills.



When Tauhid first came to school, his behavior was shy and hesitant in expressing his point of view. He usually did not mix with any other student of the class. He always remained silent, calm and preferred being composed by himself. Though he was shy, he did have little interest in creative work.

When Tauhid started coming to school, he was able to recognize some alphabets, in English and Hindi but not fluently. Also, he was able to count till 5 and was able to write some of them if direction was given under dictation.

Tauhid has now started writing two letter words as well as capital A's and other alphabets., quantity and number names 1 to 25 and writing 3 letter words in English. Tauhid used to complete classwork with the help of teachers and supporting staff and homework with the help of his siblings. But now he has started doing all his work on his own like homework, therapy etc. and shows interest in participating in activities He is willing to repeat the things he learnt in school with his parents.

Tauhid's parents say that the child is learning a lot through the school and is also becoming self-dependent. His parents are very satisfied with the classes.

SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND PLACEMENT PROGRAM

PREETI

Preeti belongs to Pakariya Dila, Sitapur. She is a 20-year-old young and vibrant girl. Preeti has completed intermediate. She has 50% locomotor disability. Preeti belongs to financially backward family. Her father is a farmer and her mother is a house wife.



Preeti came to know about the residential Skill Development & Placement Program of SPARC-India through the SDP Team. She visited the SDP center with her parents to know more about the training program. Preeti was selected in screening process hence she joined the training program.

She performed well in class and participated in all the activities conducted by the trainers. Preeti was one of those trainees who always smiled and performed all the responsibilities well.

After successfully completing the training course, she received offer from **Life Path Care Marketing Pvt. Ltd., Lucknow** as **Care Sales Executive**. She is now more positive towards life's challenges. Preeti wants to continue her higher studies and do something big in life.

"I am thankful to SPARC-India and all the trainers who supported me and guided me in the training. I am happy with my current job. I feel more independent and joyful after coming to Lucknow"- says Preeti

GOVIND RAWAT

Govind Rawat is 27 years old, young and talented boy. He belongs to Shuklaganj, Unnao. He has 80% locomotor disability. Govind has completed Intermediate and has good knowledge of using computers. Govind belongs to financially backward background. His father is no more and his mother is a house wife.



Govind before joining the training gave private tuitions to children. Govind came to know about SPARC-India's residential skill-based training program through the program team. He was shortlisted in the screening and joined the training.

Govind needed to work on English and confidence skills. Trainers conducted special exercises to build his confidence so that he could speak in front of people. Trainers were happy with Govind's performance in class as he also motivated other trainees. Govind is well mannered and a sincere student.

Govind is a bright student and hence he successfully completed the training and was selected in **Techno Task Business Solutions Pvt. Ltd., Lucknow** as a **Customer Care Executive**. He is now very happy with his new job.

"I am happy with the changes in my life after joining SDP training. I was placed in TTBS which is like a dream come true for me. I never thought I could be able to live in Lucknow independently. I am thankful to SPARC-India and team for supporting me throughout my training and interview process. Without them this would have been impossible"- says Govind.

VOCATIONAL UNIT

JULIE KASHYAP

Julie Kashyap is a 39-year-old woman who has 90% PPRP of both lower limbs. She lives in Gudiyan Purwa area of Jankipuram Lucknow. Her father does not work and her mother is a house wife. She has 6 members in her family. The economic condition of the family is fine. She has studied up to 8th standard.



Julie came to know of the tailoring program of the Vocational Unit of SPARC-India through the community mobilizer of the program. She joined the tailoring program and later on also joined the computer & beautician course under the program. She completed all the programs with great dedication and also used to help the other trainees of the program whenever they needed any help.

She is now self-employed and has opened up her own boutique and at the same time she is also teaching 5 other females the skill of sewing and passing on what she has learnt.