

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

October 2022 – December 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 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 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 the Inclusive Education (IE) in 10 Direct Government Primary Schools and 10 Indirect Schools in Lucknow from April 2022 for children with disabilities.

WORLD MENTAL HEALTH FESTIVAL 2022 AT IMRT COLLEGE GOMTI NAGAR, LUCKNOW

World Mental Health Festival 2022 was organized by Golden Future at IMRT, Business School, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow on 1st October 2022. SPARC-India set up a stall at the festival to create awareness on disability and promote Inclusive Education. All the Team members of the Inclusive Education Program which is supported by SBI Foundation were present at the event to sensitize the other participants on the cause of disability. Golden Future organized many activities at the event like: Nukkad Natak, Hindi speech, English speech, Cultural Dance, Painting on display, Creative writing on display, Blood donation camp, Healthy food court etc.



MARMA CHIKITSA HEALTH CAMP AND AWARENESS CAMPAIGN AT PYSSUM, LUCKNOW

A Marma Chikitsa Health Camp and Awareness Campaign was organized by Jeevanya Society at PYSSUM, Lucknow on 7th and 8th October 2022. IE team of SPARC-India participated in the camp as volunteers. The main aim of the camp to create awareness on disability and promote Inclusive Education. Children with disabilities covered under the Inclusive Education Program which is supported by SBI Foundation and children of Jyoti Kiran School were invited to the camp for health assessment.



MEETING WITH PARENTS OF CwDs AND MEMBERS OF COMMUNITY

Meeting with parents / guardians of CwDs and members of community on Inclusive Education was conducted for creating awareness for Inclusive Education among the parents of CwDs and members of community. The main aim of the meeting 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 Prem Vihar	14 th October 2022

2	Meeting with parents / guardians of CwDs and community	AWC Azad Nagar-2	15 th October 2022
3	Meeting with parents / guardians of CwDs and community	AWC Naya Purwa-1	19 th October 2022
4	Meeting with parents / guardians of CwDs and community	AWC Moongphali Mandi Gali	07 th November 2022
5	Meeting with parents / guardians of CwDs and community	AWC Naya Purwa	16 th November 2022
6	Meeting with parents / guardians of CwDs and community	AWC Yogi Nagar	17 th November 2022

TRAINING OF SCHOOL MANAGEMENTS ON INCLUSIVE EDUCATION AND INCLUSIVE SCHOOL SETUP

Trainings of School Management on Inclusive Education and Inclusive School setup was conducted for school's principal and teachers, SMC members and parents / guardians. The main aim of the meeting 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	UPS Chhavni Madiagon	5 th November 2022
2	Training of School Management on Inclusive Education and Inclusive School setup	Basic School Pulgama	21 st November 2022
3	Training of School Management on Inclusive Education and Inclusive School setup	UPS 35 PAC Mahanagar	26 th December 2022

SMC TRAINING

Trainings were 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. SMC Election was held to elect the SMC members for the next 2 years. The elected members assured that they will be punctual in ensuring their child's studies and regularity and will also attend the school's meeting (SMC, PSG etc.) regularly.



S. No.	Activity Name	Place	Date
1	SMC Training	PS Gaughat	9 th November 2022
2	SMC Training / Election	PS Gaughat	6 th December 2022

INCLUSIVE CHILDREN'S PARLIAMENT

Inclusive Children's Parliament (ICP) meetings were 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	PS Ghazipur Balram	11 th November 2022
2	Inclusive Children's Parliament	PS Iradat Nagar	19 th November 2022
3	Inclusive Children's Parliament	PS Faizullaganj	22 nd November 2022
4	Inclusive Children's Parliament	UPS Chhavani Madaon	17 th December 2022
5	Inclusive Children's Parliament	UPS Gazipur Balram	21 st December 2022
6	Inclusive Children's Parliament	PS Ahibaranpur	22 nd December 2022
7	Inclusive Children's Parliament	PS Barauliya-1 st	24 th December 2022

TRAINING ON RIGHT TO EDUCATION ACT 2009 & INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

Trainings on Right to Education (RTE) Act 2009 and Inclusive Education was conducted for creating awareness for 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	AWC Azad Nagar-1	14 th November 2022
2	Training on RTE Act 2009 and Inclusive Education	AWC Gaughat-1	15 th November 2022
3	Training on RTE Act 2009 and Inclusive Education	AWC Baraura Hussain Badi-1	18 th November 2022
4	Training on RTE Act 2009 and Inclusive Education	SPARC-India office	24 th November 2022
5	Training on RTE Act 2009 and Inclusive Education	AWC Faizullaganj-1 st	12 th December 2022
6	Training on RTE Act 2009 and Inclusive Education	AWC Naya Purwa-1 st	13 th December 2022
7	Training on RTE Act 2009 and Inclusive Education	Basic School Pulgama	14 th December 2022

8	Training on RTE Act 2009 and Inclusive Education	AWC Ghazipur Balram	15 th December 2022
9	Training on RTE Act 2009 and Inclusive Education	AWC Krishnalok Nagar	20 th December 2022
10	Training on RTE Act 2009 and Inclusive Education	AWC Naya Purwa	30 th December 2022

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	SPARC-India office	24 th November 2022

DISTRICT LEVEL WORKSHOP FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF INCLUSIVE EDUCATION FOR CWDS

A District Level Workshop was organized by District Basic Shiksha Adhikari, Govt. of UP, on 14th November 2022 for the implementation



of inclusive education for children with disabilities at Govt. Jubilee Inter College, Lucknow. Dr Amitabh Mehrotra along with the IE team participated in the event.

Various topics viz. importance and need of inclusive education, home base education, usage of Samarth mobile app and role of nodal teachers in inclusive education of children with disabilities, best practices of inclusive education were covered in the workshop.



In the event Dr Mehrotra spoke about the Inclusive Education Program which SPARC-India is currently running with the support of SBI Foundation. Dr Mehrotra proposed that Govt. can consider SPARC-India to be a nodal agency for Inclusive Education in the State.

QUANTITATIVE ACHIEVEMENTS

- 3 CwDs were identified who were either never enrolled in a school or were drop out of school
- 4 CwDs were identified and enrolled in schools
- 4 Training for School Managements on Inclusive Education and Inclusive School Setup were conducted
- 2 Training of SMCs were conducted
- 1 Training on Activity of Daily Living was conducted
- 7 Inclusive Children's Parliament meeting were conducted
- 6 Meeting with parents of CwDs and community were conducted
- 10 Training on RTE & IE were conducted
- Disability Awareness campaign was conducted through stall at World Mental Health Festival 2022
- 1 National webinar on Disability Awareness and Inclusion
- SPARC-India conducted 3 webinars on the occasion of World Disability Week
- Advocacy for empowerment of Persons with Disability through SHG (Livelihood)
- 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

SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND PLACEMENT (SDP) PROGRAM

In the current quarter, with the support of GAIL (India) Ltd. SPARC-India re started its Skill Development and Placement Program. The mobilization and screening process for the Batch-17 was started on 1st December 2022.

MOBILIZATION OF CANDIDATES

We started mobilization for candidates. We followed a 4-pronged approach for the same which includes different departments of U.P. Government, Private institutions & NGOs working in the field of disability and rehabilitation, social media and word of mouth (previously trained trainees). We requested the following departments for suggesting probable candidates:

1. Uttar Pradesh State Rural Livelihood mission, Lucknow
2. Divyangjan Vibhag, Barabanki
3. Divyangjan Vibhag, Sitapur
4. Divyangjan Vibhag, Lucknow
5. Chief Medical Office, Lucknow
6. Employment Office, Lucknow
7. Employment Office, Saharanpur
8. Employment Office, Unnao
9. Vocational Rehabilitation Centre of Handicapped, Kanpur



10. National Skill Development Corporation, New Delhi
11. Mr. Virendra Kumar, Viklang Association, Kanpur
12. Dr. Neeraj, Centre Incharge CRC Gorakhpur
13. Mr. Nagesh, CRC Lucknow
14. Mr. Bal Mukund (Coordinator), Purvanchal Gramin Vikas Seva Sansthan
15. Mr. Gopal Agarwal, Yuva Shiksha Samiti
16. Mr. Ajai Srivastava, Barabanki
17. Dr. Jitendra Jain, Samvedna Organization, Prayagraj
18. Mr. Ashok Kumar, Block Mission Manager, Barabanki
19. Mrs. Neha, Samooh Sakhi, Kachauna Block, Hardoi
20. Utsah Mahila Sangathan, Kachauna Block, Hardoi
21. Mrs. Kushma, Samooh Sakhi, Mohanlalganj Block
22. Mr. Amarjeet Singh, Field Officer, Trivedi Ganj Block, Barabanki
23. Rajiv Gandhi Mahila Vikas Pariyojana, Lucknow
24. Mrs. Seema, Community Incharge, Para, Lucknow

SCREENINGS

We started the screening process for the admissions of the candidates for the Batch-17. The screening process includes an interview, verification of documents and a brief assessment test of basic English and General Awareness of the candidates, so that their present aptitude could be assessed.



The candidates were informed about the program details and the expected outcome of the training and a tour of the facility was given.



TRAININGS

We started the training sessions of the trainees who joined the program. Basic sessions of BPO, English, Computer and Soft Skills commenced in the month of December. In addition to the computer sessions the trainees are given additional time on the computer system to practice English typing.



CHRISTMAS DAY CELEBRATION

On 24th December 2022 a small cultural program on the eve of Christmas Day was organized at Jyoti Kiran School, Madaon Lucknow. Students decorated the Activity Hall and the Christmas tree with lot of balloons and other decorative items.



Importance of Christmas festival was explained to the students of Jyoti Kiran School and trainees of SDP Program. Trainees were motivated to become strong and use the opportunity provided by SPARC-India to develop their personalities. Christmas cake and snacks were distributed to all the students and staff. Santa Claus came and gave toffees to each student. Trainees SDP Program participated in the cultural program with great enthusiasm and enjoyed the day very much.



JYOTI KIRAN SCHOOL (JKS)

Jyoti Kiran School classes were restarted with the support of Fiserv on 22nd December 2022 for the students whose parents could drop their wards to school. The sessions included a mix of education, physiotherapy and speech therapy sessions.



Eye-hand Coordination
and attention activity



Eye Hand Coordination
GMD activity



Memory retention,
attention enhancement,
FMD activity



Gripping, color concept
FMD activity



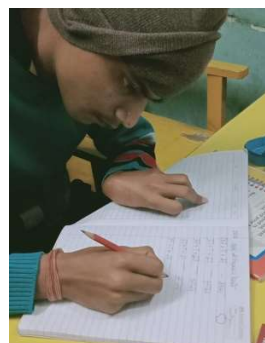
Envelop making
activity



Tearing and pasting
activity



Gripping activity



Educational class

PRESENTATIONS

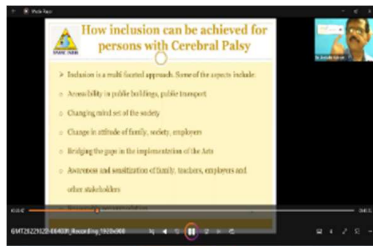
Dr Amitabh Mehrotra (Founder Secretary cum Director, SPARC-India) participated in various webinars and meetings which were organized by various organizations.

FIRST NATIONAL WEBINAR FOR ADULTS WITH CEREBRAL PALSY

SPARC-India in collaboration with SBI Foundation organized **First National Webinar for Adults with Cerebral Palsy** for sharing of experiences and their needs on **22nd October 2022** on Zoom. The main objective of the webinar was to understand how adults with cerebral palsy cope with their challenges and meet their needs.

Dr. Amitabh Mehrotra (Founder Secretary cum Director, SPARC-India) talked about his journey and the history of SPARC-India. He also told how he fought with the challenges of Cerebral Palsy, and how he moved ahead in his life and reached where he is

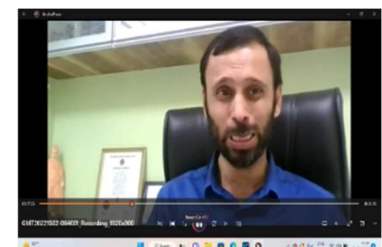
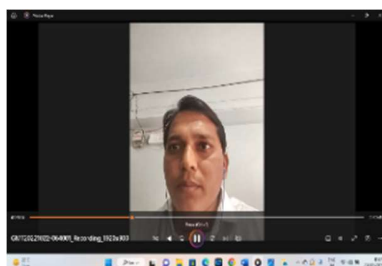
today. He gave a brief presentation on the overview of Cerebral Palsy (CP) which included symptoms & effects of CP. What changes can be observed when a person is affected by CP. He also told us about the problems and stigmas which are associated with CP. He said, CP affects people both socially & emotionally.



In the sequence, **CA Ajeet Singh Shekhawat** (Shekhawat Dagra & Associates, Chartered Accountants) who himself is suffering from Cerebral Palsy since his childhood shared his experiences. Due to CP Mr. Ajeet's speech is not very clear, hence Mr.

Hansmukh Chauhan helped as a voice interpreter so that the audience could understand Mr Ajeet's thoughts. He told about his challenging life. He told, how

he had to face difficulties in his school days. He had to take the help of another person to convey his point of views. Even after suffering from such a serious disease, he never let it dominate him.



After that **Ms. Ira Singhal** (IAS, DC, HQ, Revenue Department, GNCTD) shared her experiences. Ms. Singhal is an IAS officer and a Computer Science Engineer who has scoliosis. She is a Brand Ambassador of Department of Disability and Child & Women Development Department. India Today group gave her an award of 'India Today Women of the Year Award' in year 2015. She also got an award of '1st Lady of India Award' by child & women development department. She has also got her name registered in 'Limca book of Record'.



SARDAR PATEL NATIONAL DIVYANG T20 CUP, EKANA CRICKET STADIUM, LUCKNOW

Opening ceremony of Sardar Patel National Divyang T20 CUP organized by Differently abled cricket council of India in collaboration with Indian Bank was held on 31st October 2022 at Ekana Cricket Stadium, Lucknow. The Chief Guest of ceremony was Hon'ble **Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh Shri Yogi Adityanath** ji. Mr. Uma Shankar Singh (President, SPARC-India) and Dr. Amitabh Mehrotra (Founder Secretary cum Director, SPARC-India) were invited in the inauguration ceremony. Dr Mehrotra along with IE program team members and some youth with disabilities were present at the event.



INDIA INCLUSION SUMMIT 2022

India Inclusion Summit 2022 on “Inclusive India” was held from 11th November 2022 to 12th November 2022 at Radisson Blu, Marathahalli, Bengaluru. **Dr. Amitabh Mehrotra** (Founder Secretary cum Director, SPARC-India) was invited to join the

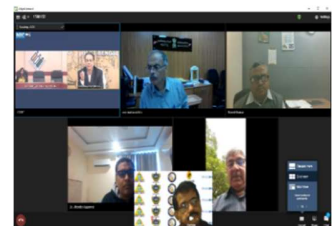


summit. The aim of the Summit was creating awareness on the need for Inclusion in mainstream society, provide a platform for unsung heroes and celebrating the human spirit etc. Dr. Mehrotra participated in the India Inclusion Summit 2022.



SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING OF NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR ACCESSIBLE ELECTIONS 2024

The first subcommittee (for neurological impairments) meeting of the National Advisory Committee was held virtually on 24th November 2022. **Dr Amitabh Mehrotra** is a member of *National Advisory Committee for Accessible Elections 2024*. Dr Mehrotra strongly recommended the formation of a separate category for neurological impairment. Till now it was in the category of Locomotor Impairment.



WORLD DISABILITY WEEK CELEBRATION

SPARC-India in collaboration with SBI Foundation, GAIL (India) Ltd, CRC Lucknow and Indian Academy of Cerebral Palsy celebrated **World Disability Week** virtually between 6th – 12th December 2022 by conducting a series of *three webinars*.

Day 1 (6th December 2022)

A webinar on the topic “***Skill Development and Livelihood of Persons with Disabilities***” was organized by SPARC-India in collaboration with SBI Foundation, GAIL (India) Lucknow and CRC Lucknow under the chairmanship of **Mr. Shankar Venkateswaran** (Chairperson, Oxfam India; Co-Founder, E-Cube Investment Advisors and National Advisory Committee member SPARC-India) and invited speakers **Mr. Sanjay Pradhan** (Inclusion and Diversity Professional), **Mr. Gurusharan Khurana** (Director - Navjyoti Global Solutions Pvt. Ltd.) and **Dr. Amitabh Mehrotra** (Founder Secretary cum Director, SPARC-India) on 6th December 2022.

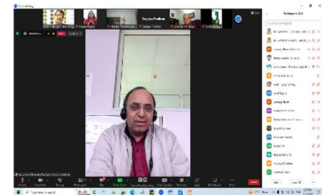
Mr. Shankar Venkateswaran said that the challenge of livelihood is not only for person with disabilities but for all. Education is the main reason behind it. Education is the foundation of any form of livelihood. Although we have passed 75 years as an independent country, the challenges of quality education and availability of education for all remains the same despite presence of various Acts and Laws promoting it. He highlighted that PwDs face many challenges in receiving quality education viz. infrastructure of schools (classrooms, teaching or learning material, availability of teachers etc.), socially exclusion, technical facilities, distance and location of schools etc.



Mr. Sanjay Pradhan expressed his views on the topic “***skilling and entrepreneurship of Divyangjan***”. In the last decade, it has been observed that differently-abled people have been springing up in the society. Slowly now the society is opening up and has started accepting PwDs. Government has started giving support to various types of NGOs for the development of the PwDs. He said that giving skill training to PwDs should not be the only aim, but we should also make efforts to provide them employment.



Mr. Gurusharan Khurana expressed his views on “***New technologies and jobs for person with disabilities***”. He talked about the jobs created by his organization. he said that we have created jobs for the differently abled in content writing, digital marketing, web development, Data Mining. He further said, that now they are working for YouTube Influencing. It is the time for show creativity through internet.



Dr. Amitabh Mehrotra talked about SPARC- India’s Skill Development and Placement Program. He said that employers should give job to PwDs and they should be encouraged to understand their challenges. About 25 participants were present in the webinar including dignitaries, children with disabilities, their parents, youth with disabilities, students and staff of SPARC-India.

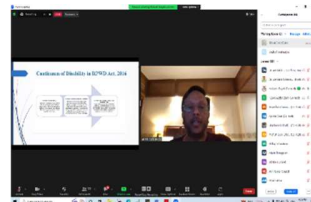
Day 2 (7th December 2022)

A webinar on the topic “*Mental Health Issues Related to Disability*” was organized by SPARC-India, Lucknow in collaboration with Amity University Lucknow, SBI Foundation, GAIL (India) Limited and CRC Lucknow under the chairmanship of **Prof. S. Z. H. Zaidi** (Director, Amity University of Behavioral and Allied Sciences, Lucknow), Patron **Prof. (Dr.) Sunil Dhaneshwar** (Pro vice chancellor, Amity University, Lucknow) and invited speakers **Dr. Amitabh Mehrotra** (Founder Secretary cum Director, SPARC-India, Lucknow), **Dr. Nishant Goyal** (Professor of Psychiatry, Central Institute of Psychiatry Ranchi) and **Dr. Madhumita Bhattacharya** (Asst. Professor of Clinical Psychology, Central Institute of Psychiatry Ranchi) on 7th December 2022.

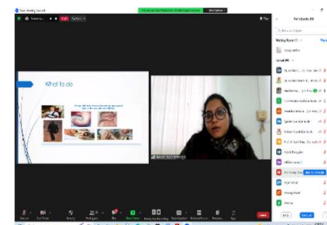


Ms Anamika Srivastava introduced all the distinguished guests who were present in the webinar & informed everyone about the webinar topic. Prof. Zaidi talked about the problems related to the mental health of PwDs. He also talked about the challenges being faced by PwDs. He told everyone about the efforts being made by various activities of Amity University towards the society. Prof. (Dr.) Sunil Dhaneshwar explained how Mental health conditions can be both a cause and an effect of disability, and often involve activity limitations and participation restrictions beyond the 'core' areas of communication, mobility and self-care.

Dr. Goyal talked about the RPWD Act 2016. He explained the rights of person with disabilities. Dr. Bhattacharya said that PwDs face a variety of structural and ideological challenges that have little to do with their actual limitations. These societal stigmas are often at the root of poor mental health and mental illness among individuals with disabilities, rather than their disability itself. Additionally, PwDs experience abuse and neglect more often than the general population, leaving them at a higher risk for developing mental disorders that further limit their participation in everyday life.



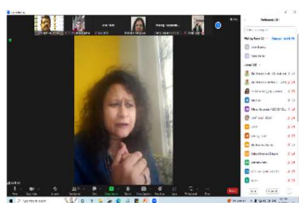
Dr. Mehrotra said that there is a significant body of evidence that PwDs are at an increased risk for suicide or suicidal ideation. They face social hurdles in the form of prejudice, discrimination and avoidance. Rather, it's the social constraints that so many PwDs regularly face that can lead to life-threatening depression. He also spoke about the journey and the programs which are currently being run by SPARC-India.



More than 100 participants were present in the event including dignitaries, youth with disabilities, students and staff of Amity University Lucknow and staff of SPARC-India. At the end of the webinar Ms Ayushi Garg summarized the views of all the speakers and thanked everyone. And she also said that it is necessary to implement the things that all of us have discussed here.

Day 3 (12th December 2022)

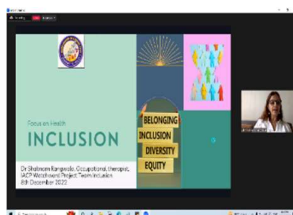
A webinar on the topic “***Inclusion: Dream or Reality***” was organized by SPARC-India, Lucknow in collaboration with Indian Academy of Cerebral Palsy, SBI Foundation, GAIL (India) Limited and CRC Lucknow under the chairmanship of **Dr. K.D. Mallikarjuna** (President, Indian Academy of Cerebral Palsy), Moderator **Ms. Madhavi Gupta** (Founder and Director, Awareness for Inclusion Foundation) and invited speakers **Mr. Carmo Noronha** (Executive Director, Bethany Society), **Dr. Shabnam Rangwala** (Pediatric Occupational Therapist, ADAPT & Project Noor Mumbai Inclusion and Diversity professional) and **Dr. Amitabh Mehrotra** (Founder Secretary cum Director, SPARC-India) on 12th December 2022.



Ms. Gupta introduced all distinguished guests. Mr. Noronha explained the true meaning of Inclusion. According to him, making education access to all is real inclusion. Learn, unlearn & relearn is the key to quality inclusive education. Communities, Campus & Classrooms are key factors of quality education. He told us about the UDL method of education that works to accommodate the needs and the abilities of all learners and eliminates unnecessary hurdles in the learning process. He further added that we all should inculcate 5C's (Collaboration, Communication, Creativity, Critical thinking, Compassion) in us.

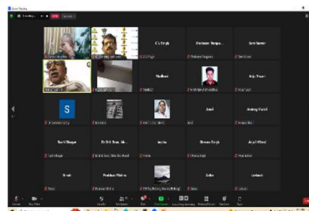


Dr. Rangwala expressed her thoughts on inclusion in health sector. She said inclusion is a long path, we have to move together and educate all. We need to take steps in Access, Inclusion, Research, Workforce, Empowerment, Leadership and Surveillance. We have to give value to diversity, as many colors bind together to make a rainbow.



Dr. Mallikarjun shared his thoughts about the challenges in inclusive education. He said girls' education is challenge in inclusive education and women empowerment as well. Right to education act emphasis on Inclusive Education, but there are gaps in its implementation. Also there is no inclusion in the professionals.

At the end, Dr. Mehrotra presented his thoughts on Inclusion. He told about the practical challenges which he had faced due to cerebral palsy. He also talked about the current scenarios of schools viz accessibility, lack of teachers etc. He also discussed NEP-2020 with focus on neurological disabilities.



About 35 participants were present in the event.

SECOND MEETING OF TELEPHONE ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF BSNL

Second meeting of Telephone Advisory Committee of BSNL was held on 16th December 2022 at Head office, Kaiser Bagh, Lucknow. Dr. Amitabh Mehrotra (Founder Secretary cum Director, SPARC-India) participated as a member of the committee and gave suggestion to increase visibility of BSNL. Thirteen out of fifteen elected members had participated in the meeting.



STUDY TOUR VISIT OF XISS, RANCHI'S STUDENTS VISITED AT SPARC-INDIA

On 17th December 2022, 20 students from Xavier Institute of Social Services, Ranchi came to SPARC-India along with their **Prof. Anant** for an exposure visit. They were keen to hear about the experiences of **Dr. Amitabh Mehrotra** (Founder Secretary cum Director, SPARC-India).



Dr Mehrotra welcomed the group for visiting SPARC-India. He then explained how being a person with cerebral palsy has guided his life journey.

Dr. Amitabh Mehrotra interacted with the students for nearly 2 hours. He proposed that XISS can collaborate with SPARC- India for setting up a Centre for Disability Study of Action and Research.



Prof. Anant said that the setting up of center may take time but they can launch an Elective Course on Disability for which help of Dr. Mehrotra can be taken.

CASE STUDIES

INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

Mayank

Mayank is a 9-year-old **mentally impaired** child and lives near liquor bar, Giolla, Faizullaganj, Lucknow. There are five members in his family which include mother, two elder brother and two elder sisters. His father Mr. Teju is no more and mother Mrs. Sarju Devi is a housewife and have a small shop of general items. The monthly income of the family is very low.



During the intervention, the team assessed aspects like education, social behaviour, physiotherapy, activities of daily living etc. of Mayank. His mother and siblings said that his behaviour is aggressive, he throws stuff, does not sit in one place and even beats others.

Due to these reasons, he is not able to get admission in any school. After interventions, the team decided to send him to Primary School Faizullaganj for his overall development. His Disability Certificate was not made so the IE team of SPARC-India helped him through the process of getting the disability certificate. Due to the above reasons teachers don't like his presence in the class because he disturbs other students in their study. But the team explained his condition to the teachers and assured them that SPARC-India's Special Educator would come to give the sessions to him and his mother also took the responsibility of sending and taking the child back from school twice or thrice a week.

After two-months of continuous efforts of Special Educator, Mayank showed improvement in his behaviour but improvement process is slow. His mother and siblings are very happy to see him go to school and the changes in his attitude. They appreciate the SPARC-India IE staff for the same.

Aman Shahu

Aman Shahu is a 14-year-old child with **genu valgum** and lives near Basant Vihar colony, Lucknow. There are three members in his family which include father, mother and one younger sister. His father Mr. Amrish Kumar is an electrician and step mother Mrs. Poonam devi is a housewife. The monthly income of the family is not very good to meet the basic needs.



During the intervention, the team assessed Aman Sahu on various aspects viz. education, social behaviour, physiotherapy, activities of daily living etc. Earlier Aman lived with his grandparents in the village and went to the nearby primary school but his grandparents were very upset due to his behaviour so they sent Aman to his father. His father took him to Chetna School to get admission but he could not be admitted there due to the inconvenience of commuting. Aman's family was very worried about Aman's admission. After interventions, the team explained to the parents about the benefits and overall development of the child going to school and decided to send him to the Upper Primary School Chhavani Madiakon. Due to transportation problem, his parents sometimes drop him to school and bring him back. As per need the Special Educator visit his home and has also made home-based plans for him. At the time of admission Aman knew tables up to 5 but he did not know meaning of the words.

After five-months, Aman Shahu showed improvement in his academic and now he enjoys his time in the school. Now he knows to read and write tables up to 10 and also remembers the meaning of lesson 1 and 2 in both Hindi and English. Aman's parents are very happy that he is going to school and observe positive changes in him.
