



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

April 2023 – June 2023

School for Potential Advancement and Restoration of Confidence (SPARC) India
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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 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 Schools and 10 Indirect Schools in Lucknow from April 2022 for children with disabilities which was extended to 20 Direct Government Primary Schools and 10 Indirect Schools in the second year.

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 Bhithauli Khurd	20 th April 2023
2	Meeting with parents / guardians of CwDs and community	AWC Rampur Behera	28 th June 2023

TRAINING OF SCHOOL MANAGERMENTS 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 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 Paltan Khadri	19 th April 2023

SMC TRAINING

A 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 school was facing.

S. No.	Activity Name	Place	Date
1	SMC Training	PS Iradat Nagar	12 th April 2023

INCLUSIVE CHILDREN'S PARLIAMENT ELECTION

Inclusive Children's Parliament (ICP) election was 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 Gaughat	11 th April 2023

TRAINING ON RIGHT TO EDUCATION ACT 2009 & INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

Trainings on Right to Education (RTE) Act 2009 and Inclusive Education (IE) were conducted for creating awareness on RTE Act 2009 and IE. The main aim of the meeting was to make the participants aware of RTE Act 2009 and the provisions mentioned in the Act including IE. 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 IE	SDP Center, Lucknow	3 rd May 2023
2	Training on RTE Act 2009 and IE	AWC Moongfali Mandi Gali	23 rd June 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 PwDs. The main aim of the meeting was to resolve the queries raised by participants in practicing ADL so that slowly they can become independent. The participants asked questions relating to the issues faced by them in their daily activities.



S. No.	Activity Name	Place	Date
1	Training on Activities of Daily Living	SDP Centre, Lucknow	23 rd April 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, rattler & drums were distributed to them. All the students made a sound for 1 minute through whistling 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.



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	PS Chhavni Madaon	21 st April 2023
2	School Chale Hum	PS Ahibaranpur	26 th April 2023



DISABILITY AWARENESS AND SENSITIZATION CAMPAIGN

Disability Awareness and Sensitization Campaign were conducted for creating awareness on Disability and Sensitization in the members of community. The participants were sensitized on how by being careful during pregnancy disability can be avoided, awareness of disability and its prevalence, various myths regarding disability, importance of school education for CwDs, importance of disability certificate, various govt. schemes and entitlements for children/persons with disabilities etc.



The meeting was attended by parents and guardians of both challenged and non-challenged children. All the participants showed their interest in understanding disability as well as other related information and asked relevant questions.

S. No.	Activity Name	Place	Date
1	Disability Awareness and Sensitization	AWC Nayapurwa-1 st	27 th June 2023

TRAINING OF REGULAR TEACHERS

One day training of teachers of Govt. Primary Schools on Inclusive Education was organized on 10th May 2023 at DIET Hall, Vidya Bhawan, Nishat Ganj, Lucknow. **Mr. Ajay Kumar Singh** (Principal, DIET), **Mr. Sunil Kumar** (Sr Lecture, DIET), **Dr. Amitabh Mehrotra** (Founder, Secretary cum Director, SPARC-India) and **Ms. Sunita Singh** (Professional Consultant-Disability Special and Inclusive Education) were present in the training along with the teachers of govt. primary schools of Lucknow. About 44 participants were present in the training.



Dr. Mehrotra gave a brief introduction of SPARC-India. Mr. Singh spoke about the importance of inclusion in the schools and to have an open mind set. Mr. Sunil Kumar requested everyone to implement the training that they would receive in their schools and field area.



Ms. Sunita was the resource person in the sessions. She discussed about the different Acts and Laws for children / persons with disabilities. In the pre-lunch session she spoke on the topic "Identification and early indicators of learning disability in school children" and "alternative learning strategies". In the post-lunch session, a group activity was conducted in which all the participants were divided in 6 groups and were given a case study of a child with disabilities for which the participants had to identify the child's strengths, challenges in the case study followed by suggestions for collaborations.



TRAINING OF REGULAR TEACHERS ON CURRICULUM DESIGN / PEDAGOGY / TLMS WITH REFERENCE TO INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

A training program for teachers of Govt. Primary Schools on Curriculum design / Pedagogy / TLMS with reference to Inclusive Education was organized on 11th May 2023 in the DIET Hall, Nishat Ganj, Lucknow. 50 participants were present in the training.

Ms. Sunita Singh (Professional Consultant-Disability Special and Inclusive Education) was the resource person of the training. She started with revision of the topics that were discussed on the previous day and spoke on topics “Promoting Seating Behaviour in children with disabilities” and “Accessible School Environment” which could not be completed on the previous day due to lack of time.



After that a chart making activity was conducted in which the participants were divided into 7 groups. The participants were asked to make a chart showing what curriculum adaption (at least one topic that they teach in school) they would make for children with different disabilities. In the post lunch session, she spoke on the topics “Development of TLMS for children with disabilities”, “Role of ICT in Inclusive Education” and “Development of lesson plan according to children with different disabilities”. All the sessions were quite interactive and all the participants actively participated in them. A feedback form was filled by the participants at the end of the training.

QUANTITATIVE ACHIEVEMENTS

1 Training for School Managements on Inclusive Education and Inclusive School Setup was conducted

1 Training of SMC was conducted

1 Training on Activity of Daily Living were conducted

1 Inclusive Children’s Parliament election were held

2 Meeting with parents of CwDs and community were conducted

2 Training on RTE & IE were conducted

2 “*School Chalein Hum*” campaigns was conducted

1 Training program for regular teachers of govt. primary schools on Inclusive Education was conducted

1 Training program for teachers of govt. primary schools on Curriculum design / Pedagogy / TLMS with reference to Inclusive Education was conducted

1 Disability Awareness and Sensitization Campaign was conducted

Intervention with 36 CwDs were conducted which included assessment, education, training on activities of daily living, right based needs (linking with govt. schemes) including training of family members, siblings etc.



SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND PLACEMENT (SDP) PROGRAM

During this quarter we did the placements of trainees of Batch-17 and completed the training of Batch-18 and did their placements. 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.

PLACEMENT DRIVES OF BATCH – 17

LIFE PATH CARE MARKETING PVT. LTD.

Placement drives were organized at Life Path Care Marketing Pvt. Ltd., Lucknow on 4th & 5th April 2023. Total 20 trainees participated in the interview for CCE position. Out of those, 7 trainees (**Kalpana Yadav, Preeti, Arun Kumar, Saurabh Gupta, Anoop Kumar, Adarsh Kumar, Shivam**) were selected for on the job training.



WE WIN LIMITED (1076)

Placement drive was organized at We Win Limited (1076), Lucknow on 28th & 29th April 2023. Total 9 trainees participated in the interview for the post of CCE. 6 trainees (**Deepak Shukla, Dinesh Kumar, Priyanshu Kumar Gautam, Ankit Yadav, Richa Singh, Reeta Devi, Shalu**) out of 9 were selected.



TRAINING & OTHER ACTIVITIES OF BATCH – 18

SELF- INTRODUCTION

Self-Introduction activity on soft skills session was conducted on 6th April 2023 for YwDs at Skill Development & Placement (SDP) Center of SPARC-India. All the trainees participated in the activity and gave their introduction enthusiastically and learned the key points that one should keep in mind while introducing oneself.



INPUT & OUTPUT DEVICES OF COMPUTER

One day session on Input & Output Devices of Computer was organized on 8th April 2023 at the SDP Center of SPARC-India. The importance of Computer and its benefits were previously explained to the trainees so now a practical demo of the input and output devices of computer like Keyboard, Mouse, Scanner, Projector, UPS, Printer etc





was given to them. They were also shown how to connect the peripherals to the desktop.

CHART MAKING ACTIVITY

Chart Making Activity was organized at the SDP Center on 26th April 2023. The trainees were divided in 4 groups. Different topics were given to them for making charts. All the trainees participated in the activity and performed enthusiastically. In the Chart making activity, all the trainees learned how to coordinate and work together in a group.



MOCK CALL ACTIVITY

Mock Call Activity was organized on 2nd May 2023 at the SDP Center. This activity was conducted to give them a practical training on how to sell product or services over the call at the call center as a customer care executive. The activity was conducted through role play. All the trainees actively participated in this activity.



INTERVIEW AT WE WIN LIMITED (1076)

A placement drive was organized on 11th May 2023 at We Win Limited, Lucknow. 13 trainees of Batch-18 participated in the interview for the post of Customer Care Executive for the CM Helpline process. **5** trainees (**Arman Ali, Rajesh Rajput, Upendra Kumar Awasthi, Udit Kumar & Virendra Kumar Saini**) cleared all the rounds and were selected for the on-the-job training.



INTERVIEW AT STARTEK (AEGIS)

A placement drive was organized on 15th May 2023 at STARTEK (Aegis), Lucknow. 13 candidates of Batch-18 participated in the interview for the post of Customer Care Executive. **3** Trainees (**Aditya Kumar Mishra, Chandra has & Pappu Kumar**) were selected. Rest of the trainees faced challenges in comprehension passages though they also received the interview experience and they decided to improve their mistakes and give a better performance in the future.



INTERVIEW at WE WIN LIMITED (1076)

A placement interview was organized on 17th May 2023 at We Win Limited, Lucknow. 3 trainees of Batch-18 participated in the interview for the post of Customer Care Executive. **Moni Kumari** was selected for the on-the-job training. The HR explained her the organization rules & policies along with the joining formalities.





ALUMNI MEET

Alumni Meeting session was organized on 20th May 2023 at the SDP Center. Mr. Santosh Shukla of Batch-3 was invited to share his views and experiences during his stay at SDP center regarding his training and job experience. He shared his views on placement and postplacement support provided to him by SPARC-India team even after he left the training center.



INTERVIEW AT STARTEK (AEGIS)

A job interview was organized on 22nd May 2023 at Startek (Aegis), Lucknow. 6 candidates of Batch-18 participated in the interview for the post of Customer Care Executive in Vi Process. 3 Trainees (**Jamvanti, Mohit Awasthi, Ankesh Kumar Shukla**) were selected for the CCE position.



MS POWERPOINT PRESENTATION ACTIVITY

MS PowerPoint Presentation activity was conducted on 26th May 2023 at the SDP Center. All trainees prepared their presentation by themselves. They also added animation in slides. Trainees presented their presentation and explained it. The trainers explained the trainees how their presentation could be further improved keeping in mind the nuances in the presentation.



FAREWELL CEREMONY

The Farewell Ceremony of Batch-18 was organized by SPARC-India on 31st May' 2023 at the SDP Center, Lucknow. Different indoor activities were organized for the trainees i.e., Housie game, Antakshari and passing the parcel. Some trainees shared their training experience. All the staff members motivated the trainees to work hard, stay focused and perform their best in their on-job-training. They also wished all the trainees good luck for their future.



INTERVIEW AT REZALIO & COMPANY

A telephonic interview was conducted on 15th June 2023. 10 trainees participated in the interview. Basic introduction & banking related questions were asked in the interview. All the trainees (**Reena Shakya, Jameena Khatoon, Afsana Khatoon, Kesar Jahan, Soni Pal, Abdul Vahid, Anuj Kushwaha, Dinesh Kumar, Mantosh Kumar &**





Amarjeet Gupta) were selected for on-the-job training in HDFC Credit Card process as Customer Sales Executive Profile.

GAIL INSPECTION VISIT

Mr. Akshay Kumar Panda (Sr. Officer, Gas Authority of India Limited) visited SPARC-India's office, and discussed about the Program with Dr. Amitabh Mehrotra (Founder Secretary cum Director, SPARC-India). After that he visited Startek, Lucknow to meet our trainees who have completed training and are currently working over there as Customer Care Executive in Vi process. He also



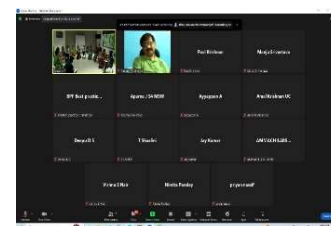
met with Mr. Harish Kumar Tripathi (HR, Startek) and received the feedback about our trainees. After that he went to SDP Center of SPARC-India and interacted with trainees & distributed the training completion certificate to them and wished them luck for their future. All the SDP Staff members were also present.

PRESENTATIONS

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

ONLINE POLICY DIALOGUE OF C20

Dr Amitabh Mehrotra (Founder Secretary cum Director, SPARC-India) was invited to attend the **Online Policy Dialogue** on ***"Inclusive Education and Skill Development: Opportunities and Challenges in the Digital World"*** on 5th April 2023. The event was organized by C20 Working Groups on Gender Equality & Disability (GED).



it was discussed that in order to ensure inclusive education it is important to train the teachers on inclusive education as they are directly involved with the students. Child's perspective should also be kept in mind while developing the curriculum. Inclusion is an on-going process and it is important to bring parents on board too. Dr Mehrotra emphasized on the need for change in attitude which has to become more welcoming and accommodating. He further added that children with neurological impairment need different types of curriculums for acquiring education.



G20 GENDER EQUALITY AND DISABILITY WORKING GROUP

The working group summit on Gender Equality and Disability was held on the 22nd - 23rd April 2023 in KIIT Bhubaneswar and was attended by several pioneers and enthusiasts. The agenda of the summit was to create a platform and to provide policy-level recommendations on the sub-theme of Gender equality and Disability Theme. The event was organized at the Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology in Bhubaneswar, under the chairmanship of **Mata Amritanandamayi**. Gender Equality and Disability (GED) Working Group is committed to holistically examining and addressing the multifaceted dimensions of inequalities and disadvantages experienced by the genders and those with physical and/or mental disabilities (regardless of gender). The purpose of the event was:



- Discussing and presenting the main policy recommendations gathered and received from CSOs by the various GED working group sub-themes.
- Identifying the key policy recommendations to be presented in the policy pack for the G20.

Dr. Amitabh Mehrotra has been nominated as a member of C-20 working on Gender Equality and Disabilities. He was invited to attend 2 days Summit on the 22nd & 23rd April 2023.

C-20 members from 10 foreign countries participated in the Summit. Discussions were held in the form of 7 working groups. Dr. Mehrotra was in the working group on Inclusive Education and Skill Development. 6 policy statements were revised in the discussions. The outcomes were a result of Consultation and after revision would be submitted to the G-20 group. The important ones will be included in the White paper and will be implemented through global policies of which 60% of the population will be covered.



The major achievement of this Summit was that G-20 members had separated Disability as an altogether separate theme.

Dr. Amitabh Mehrotra, shared his experience and provided insights on the issues faced by PwDs in daily life and how policy changes are required to ease them.

SNAC UP CONFERENCE AT RAEBARELI

A Conference on 'Current challenges faced by PwDs and how to address them' was organized by SNAC Uttar Pradesh National Trust (Shubhasheesh Shiksha Evam Vikas Sewa Sansthan,



Raebareli) in its campus on 26th April 2023. The Conference was attended by registered organizations of National Trust in Uttar Pradesh, experts and organizations working in the field of disability. The Chief Guest of the program was Sri U.K. Shukla (Asst. Legal Advisor & Program Director, National Trust, DEPwD,



Ministry of SJ&E, Govt. of India) and Guest of Honor's Smt. Monika Lal (Deputy Director DEPwD, Govt. of U.P.), Sri Kamla Kant Pandey (GC&EC Member, RCI Member, Central Advisory Board Ministry of SJ&E, Govt. of India) and Sri Ramesh Pandey (Director, CRC Lucknow, DEPwD, Ministry of SJ&E, Govt. of India). SPARC-India was represented by Dr Stuti Srivastava

(Program Manager, IE, SPARC-India) and Mr Santosh Tiwari (Advocacy Coordinator, IE, SPARC-India) in the conference. In addition to the challenges faced by PwDs some mitigation strategies were also discussed.



STATE-WIDE CONSULTATION MEETING ON DRAFT-NCF

Sightsavers India held a *state-wide consultation meeting on Draft-NCF* on 18th May 2023 in the Education Department, Uttar Pradesh. Participants included SCERT, DIET, and Inclusive Education Unit officials, as well as representatives from non-governmental organizations- Yeh ek Soch and SPARC-India. The meeting began with the presentation about Sightsavers and their Inclusive Education Program Strategy.



Following that, Mr. Nirmal (State Consultant) presented the summary and key highlights of the NCF Framework, followed by an open discussion in which all participants made suggestions and recommendations. The discussion included the challenges faced by Children with Special Needs, crucial & important roles of their parents and community members, acceptance of CwSN children in classrooms and teacher's support. The recommendations were made broadly on accessibility, social behaviour, peer learning, need of different pedagogy for different disabilities and so on.



Dr Amitabh Mehrotra as a Person with Cerebral Palsy shared his personal life experiences in childhood and as a youth in acquiring education.



PARENTS GROUP FORMATION

An initiative was taken to form a Parents Group. The group was formed with three parents which included Mr. Brajesh Seth, Mr. Saurabh and Mr. Sudhir. The parents decided to form a Parents Group for prompt communication and a WA group was also formed. They decided to unite to empower their daughters with intellectual impairments / neuro elated impairments and provide them a secure future. They also decided to meet once a month and form a social group of their daughters which will meet once a week for their children. Dr. Amitabh Mehrotra offered whatever space was available at the office of SPARC-India for those meetings.



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON DISABILITY, EQUITY, JUSTICE WORKING GROUP CIVIL 20 INDIA

Dr Amitabh Mehrotra (Founder Secretary cum Director, SPARC-India) was invited to attend the International Conference on “Disability, Equity, Justice Working Group, Civil 20 India” on 29th May 2023. The session started with a cultural performance by ‘We Are One’ Group and the opening remarks and journey was presented by Ms. Nidhi Ashok Goyal (Founder and Executive Director, Rising Flame). The chief guest of the conference was Shri Rajesh Agrawal (Secretary, Dep. of Emp. of PwDs), Mr. Vijay Nambiar (Former Ambassador of India), Ms. Saowalak Thongkuay (CRPD Committee Member) and Ms. Sara Minkara (U.S. Special Advisor on International Disability Rights). The sessions were divided into two breakout rooms and the topics mentioned below were discussed:



Room 1: Getting ready for the future - Education, skilling, livelihood

Room 2: Inclusive communities Inclusive societies

Room 1: Accessibility - A sustainable development and economic priority

Room 2: Environment, Climate justice, Disaster risk reduction and Disability



DR. AMITABH MEHROTRA VISITED AT SMK, JAIPUR

Dr. Amitabh Mehrotra (Founder Secretary cum Director, SPARC-India) was invited by Mr Suresh Kaul (President, Sarthak Manav Kushthashram (SMK)) in Jaipur. The purpose of the visit was to plan expansion of activities mainly in the area





of Education and Skill Development at SMK. The focus was on to make the programs inclusive.

Dr. Mehrotra along with Mr. Kaul visited their Raigarh Re-integration Center located approximately 15 Kms away from Jaipur on 1st June 2023. Dr. Mehrotra had an interaction with about 61 youths who were using Library facility of SMK for either completing their graduation or for preparation of competitive exams viz SSC, Teacher's exam, UPSC etc. The students felt the need for coaching and books.



Dr. Mehrotra also interacted with Staff and facilitated SWOT analysis. Later they had a meeting where Mr. Sachin and Mr. Devendra who were running coaching in Jaipur, core staff and Mr. Kaul were present. Mr. Nihit from Germany also joined the meeting virtually and the findings of one and a half day were presented to him. It was decided to start offline Career counseling, coaching classes and computer classes.

UNICEF CSO MEET

A CSO Meet on '*Mission LIFE*' was jointly organized by Department of Environment, Forest & Climate Change & UNICEF Uttar Pradesh in UNICEF, Conference Hall on 3rd June 2023 which was held in hybrid mode i.e. both online and offline. In this Meet, Mr. Ashish Tiwari (Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change) discussed about the campaign. Many voluntary organizations, individuals and educational institutions participated in the workshop. Ms. Nipurnh Gupta was the moderator of the program. Various points viz. Climate Change and its impact on Children and the crucial role of media, Climate Change Mitigation & Adaptation measures in Uttar Pradesh, Climate Change: Key issues and actions required were discussed in the meet. In the end all the participants pledged to participate in protecting the climate in whatever possible way they can. SPARC-India was represented by Dr Stuti Srivastava (Program Manager, IE, SPARC-India) and Mr Santosh Tiwari (Advocacy Coordinator, IE, SPARC-India) in the Meet.



MEETING AT TCS, LUCKNOW

Dr. Amitabh Mehrotra (Founder Secretary cum Director, SPARC-India) visited TATA Consultancy Services, Lucknow to meet Mr. Ajay Singh (CSR head, TCS) to discuss that how TCS can support SPARC-India in financial crunch. Mr. Singh said that they will speak to TATA trust & other CSR for financial support to run the programs in SPARC-India. Dr. Mehrotra emphasized on inclusion and said that donors say





that they don't support disability project, but in all project children / persons with disability exist so the Corporate & Donors should revisit their strategy.

PARENTS GROUP MEETING

Parents Group meeting was held at SPARC-India office on 24th June 2023. The parents discussed that meeting each other gave relief to them and agreed to meet in each other's home along with their daughters (having neurological impairments) so that they can also have social inclusion. Parents suggested to have one meeting with Dr. Mehrotra every month. Dr. Mehrotra offered the available space for parents and children at SPARC-India for indoor activities. Parents were willing to increase members in their Parents Group.



CASE STUDIES

INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

KRISHNA SHUKLA

Krishna Shukla is a 9-year-old boy who lives near Darzi ki Bagiya Lucknow. He is having Cerebral Palsy. There are six members in his family. His father Mr. Mukesh is a driver and his mother Mrs. Kajal Tiwari is a housewife. The monthly income of the family is very low. He currently lives with his mother at his maternal grandmother's house.



Krishna's mother said that he was normal at the time of birth in the hospital but didn't cry till three days after birth. After vaccination, he developed a problem in his hand and leg. Due to lack of money his parents could not give any kind of treatment to him. His parents are worried about his studies and his future. The IE team of SPARC-India assessed him and enrolled him in Basic School Pulgama for his overall development. His disability certificate was not available so the IE team of SPARC-India helped him through the process of getting the disability certificate. Seeing Krishna's physical condition, his mother was not ready to send him to school and take him back. After persuasion by the team, she agreed to bring him to school once a week.

After seven months of efforts Krishna showed improvement in his behaviour and tries to perform the assigned activity. He is very happy to know that he is going to school and his parents are also very happy seeing the changes in his behaviour.



MANTASHA KHAN

Mantasha Khan is 14-year-old girl who lives in Madehganj, Lucknow. She is having low vision. There are four members in her family. Her father Mohd. Hafiz Khan is no more and her mother Mrs. Baby works as a tailor at home and earns her livelihood from that. The financial status of the family is not good.



Her mother said that her eye treatment initially took place at Balrampur Hospital for a few months and after that she was treated at Indira Hospital in Lucknow. The Doctor recommended eye operation but her mother was scared and did not get the operation done. She studied in Morning Public School up to class 2. After that, Mantasha studied class 3 in Amman public schools and Talim School. Due to COVID-19, Mantasha was sitting at home so her mother was very worried about her studies.

After the assessment the IE team decided to enroll her in Upper Primary School Gazipur Balram for the overall development. Her disability certificate was not made so the IE team of SPARC-India completed the online enrolment process of the disability certificate and guided her mother for the next step. Mantasha did not like to interact with people at the time of admission and was afraid to express herself.

After 10 months of intervention Mantasha showed improvement in her behaviour like now, she greets the teachers in school and enjoys her time in school. Mantasha has memorized tables two to ten in Maths and word-meaning of lesson one to four in English and Hindi. She is very happy to know that she is going to school. Her mother is also very happy to see the changes in her attitude and behaviour.

SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND PLACEMENT PROGRAM

UDIT KUMAR

Udit Kumar is 25 years old. He belongs to Laharpur, Sitapur. He has 40% Locomotor disability. Udit has completed his Intermediate. Udit belongs to financially backward background. His father is a farmer and mother is a housewife. Udit before joining training gave private tuitions to children. Udit came to know about SPARC-India's three-month residential skill-based training course through SDP team. He was shortlisted in screening and hence he joined the training course.



Udit needed to work on English and confidence level. Trainers conducted special exercises to build his confidence so that he could speak in front of people. Trainers were happy with Udit's



performance in class as he also motivated other trainees. Udit is well mannered, sincere and a bright trainee.

He successfully completed training and was selected in “We Win Limited, CM Helpline (1076)” in Lucknow as a Customer Care Executive. He is very happy with his job.

“I am happy with the changes in my life after joining SDP training. I was placed in “We Win Limited, Cm Helpline (1076)” 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 team for supporting me throughout my training and interview process without them this would have been impossible.” says Udit.

JAMVANTI

Jamvanti belongs to Kheri, Uttar Pradesh. She is 24 years old. Jamvanti has completed Graduation. She has 50% Locomotor disability. Her family’s financial condition is not very good as her father is a farmer and mother is a housewife.



Jamvanti got to know about the three-month residential training Program of SPARC-India. She visited the center with her parents to know more about the training program. She was selected in the screening process hence she joined the program.

She performed well in class and participated in all the activities conducted by the trainers. Jamvanti was one of those students who always smiled and performed all the responsibilities well. After successfully completing the training, she was selected in Startek (Aegis) as a Customer Care Executive.

She is now more positive towards life challenges. Jamvanti 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 in the training. I am happy with my current job. I feel more independent and joyful after coming to Lucknow.” says Jamvanti.