



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

October 2024 – December 2024

School for Potential Advancement and Restoration of Confidence (SPARC) India
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SUPPORTED BY: -



IDFC FIRST Bank CSR Program



India Pesticides 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 the Department of Psychology, University of Lucknow, and was awarded a PhD degree in Applied Psychology. At present, he is nominated as a member of the Steering Committee of the State Election Commission, Government of Uttar Pradesh, and nominated as a member (renewed) of the State Coordination Committee on Disability. He is also a member of the State Advisory Board on Disability of Uttar Pradesh.

SPARC-India was formed in 1995 and registered in July 1996 as a voluntary organization that 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 with the philosophy of 'Inclusion'. It emphasizes that inclusive environments will help in minimizing segregation and deep-rooted misunderstandings and prejudices between children with disabilities (CwDs) and non-challenged sections of society. In 2005, SPARC-India set up 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 approximately 12000 community members, vocational training to about 2500 PwDs, and has created self-employment opportunities for more than 1200 PwDs and their family members.

JYOTI KIRAN SCHOOL (JKS)

Jyoti Kiran School intervention continued in collaboration with the State Bank of India Foundation. It is included education, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, and speech therapy sessions.



Beads activity



Computer Class



Carrom Board Game



Colouring in picture



**Ring Activity
(colour concept)**

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The main aim was to ensure that children with special needs receive the rightful access to education and raise awareness among parents and community members about the importance of enrolling these children in schools and the benefits of education. The sensitizations were conducted to inform the community about various government schemes and programs available for Children/Persons with Disabilities, emphasizing their rights to education and support.



Additionally, the initiative included providing hands-on assistance to families in preparing necessary documents for school admissions, such as disability certificates, UDIDs, identity proofs, etc. Community Mobilizer actively guided parents through the application processes and connected them with relevant authorities. This collective effort aimed to empower families, promote inclusivity, and ensure that no child is left behind in their educational journey.

SATURDAY ACTIVITY

Every Saturday, some different activities were organized so that the children could experience peer learning, participation, and group work. Students participated in indoor, outdoor games as the main objective of the activity was to strengthen muscles and enhance students' creativity, and provide fine motor and sensory skills through Diya painting, Bandar var crafting, Carrom, Ludo, Snakes, Ladders, and throwing balls into baskets, etc. Additionally, we periodically include quiz activities to





encourage learning in a fun and interactive manner, ensuring that Saturdays are not only enjoyable but also enriching for all our students.

PARENTS SUPPORT GROUP MEETING

A *Parents Support Group* (PSG) meeting was held on **26th October 2024, 23rd November 2024 & 14th December 2024** at Jyoti Kiran School. The main aim of the meeting was:



- Counselling of parents/guardians
- Health and hygiene
- Student attendance, stressing the importance of regular participation in school activities
- The importance of proper documentation for students
- Therapeutic interventions
- Transport Facility
- Parental Involvement, etc.

Counseling of the parents/guardians was done in all the meetings. Since the progress of students is not only dependent on teachers but also on 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 to school regularly.

CASE CONFERENCE

We conducted the *Case Conference*, which typically involves a collaborative discussion between the special educators, therapist, and coordinator to address the student's academic program, behavior, and other specific challenges.



CLINIC DAY

Following the case conference, *Clinic Day* is organized for individual students. On clinic day, teachers, parents, therapists, and coordinators discuss the student's behavior, learning difficulties, challenges in activities, or any other issue faced by the child.



HOME VISIT

We conducted the *Home Visits* after the case conference and clinic day. The purpose of visiting the homes of children with disabilities at Jyoti Kiran School is to gain information about the students who have taken admission to the school, to know about them and their





family's behavior towards them, their home environment, as well as their daily activities of life and their interests.

Home Visits provide teachers an opportunity to connect with parents and discuss the child's progress. It serves as a means to strengthen the relationship between the school, students, and their families while addressing various aspects of the child's well-being and education.

DIYA PAINTING AND JHALAR (BANDANWAR) MAKING

Diya painting and Jhalar-making activities were organized for the students of JKS on 5th October 2024 and 19th October 2024. As part of the preparations for the Deepawali festival, the students painted beautiful diyas to make the festival of lights more vibrant



and colorful. They also created decorative jhalars (bandanwars) to adorn the doors of houses, symbolizing happiness and prosperity. With the guidance of their teachers, the students enthusiastically painted the diyas and embellished them with decorative items such as pearls. Some students also focused on crafting intricate jhalars. The activities were met with great enthusiasm, and the students participated wholeheartedly, enjoying the creative process.



WORLD CEREBRAL PALSY DAY CELEBRATION

SPARC-India celebrated *World Cerebral Palsy Day* in collaboration with the SBI Foundation at Jyoti Kiran School on 7th October 2024. The chief guests of the event were Mr. Sandeep Joshi (CSR Lead, TCS, Lucknow) and Mr. Ashutosh (SBI, Nirala Nagar, Lucknow).



Dr. Amitabh Mehrotra (Founder Director, SPARC-India) delivered an insightful address on the importance of raising awareness about cerebral palsy. Parents of children with cerebral palsy shared their personal experiences, highlighting the challenges they face and their journey of resilience. The celebration also featured a dance performance by some of the children, demonstrating their creativity and joy. The children and parents were enthusiastically engaged throughout the event, making it a memorable and inspiring occasion for all involved.

CHILDREN'S DAY CELEBRATION

SPARC-India celebrated *Children's Day* in collaboration with the SBI Foundation at Ek Prayas Centre on 14th November 2024.

The students enjoyed a variety of activities, from action dances to a fancy-dress competition, exciting games like badminton, ball-





passing, choosing the coloring ball, rolling the ball, a magic show, and poetry recitations. The event concluded with a lively free dance session involving all the students, who enjoyed the celebrations wholeheartedly.

In the end, all the students received gifts to remember this special event.

WORLD DISABILITY WEEK CELEBRATION (3rd – 9th December 2024)

SPARC-India celebrated *World Disability Week (3rd – 9th December 2024)*, supported by the SBI Foundation at Jyoti Kiran School on 3rd December 2024 and at Ek Prayas Center on 7th December 2024.



The main aim was to raise awareness and promote the rights and dignity of Children and persons with disabilities in society. All the children sang the national anthem through sign language and engaged in dance performances, games, poetry recitations, and free dance. The students from Jyoti Kiran School and Ek Prayas Centre were delighted and enthusiastically participated in all the activities.

Dr. Amitabh Mehrotra (Founder Director, SPARC-India), Mr. Somesh Dutt Bajpai (Program Manager, SPARC-India), and the entire team of Jyoti Kiran School and Ek Prayas Centre were present in the program.

At the end, refreshments were distributed to all the students.

TRAINING ON ACTIVITIES OF DAILY LIVING

Training sessions on Activities of Daily Living (ADL) were conducted at Jyoti Kiran School on 26th October 2024 to raise awareness among parents and caregivers of children with disabilities (CwDs). The primary objective of these sessions was to educate participants on the necessary precautions to be taken during pregnancy and to guide them in helping children practice ADL skills, gradually fostering independence.



During the sessions, parents and caregivers were actively engaged by asking questions about the challenges their children face in performing daily activities. The discussions provided practical insights and solutions to address these challenges, ensuring a supportive environment for the development of ADL skills.

About 26 parents/guardians were present in the training.



CAREGIVERS TRAINING

A training session for caregivers of students at Jyoti Kiran School (JKS) was organized by SPARC-India's Jyoti Kiran School in collaboration with the SBI Foundation on 14th December 2024, at the school's premises. The main aim of the session was to raise awareness about parents' responsibilities toward their children, foster empathy, and strengthen the caregiver-child bond through interactive discussions and activities.



The session also emphasized the importance of care, love, affection, and children's rights, highlighting caregivers' crucial role in nurturing overall well-being. A role-play activity allowed parents to step into their children's shoes, gaining insight into their daily challenges and emotions. The program fostered empathy, understanding, and a deeper sense of responsibility among caregivers, making it a highly interactive and impactful event.

About 21 participants were present in the meeting.

CHRISTMAS DAY CELEBRATION

SPARC-India celebrated *Christmas Day* with great enthusiasm and joy with the students of Jyoti Kiran School at the SPARC-India, head office on 24th December 2024. The Christmas tree was decorated, and everyone enthusiastically participated in the cultural program. The children showcased their creativity and excitement, dancing to joyful tunes, and some even dressed up as Santa Claus, spreading smiles and festive vibes among everyone present.



The event was honored by the presence of Dr. Amitabh Mehrotra (Founder Director, SPARC-India) and Mr. Someshwar Dutta Bajpai (Program Manager, SPARC-India), who actively participated in the celebrations. Their involvement added a special touch, inspiring the children and staff alike. Dr. Mehrotra, with his warm and cheerful demeanor, joined in cutting a festive cake, which became a highlight of the day. The cake and chocolates were distributed to all the children, making them feel special and appreciated.

TRAINING ON SUBJECTIVE PEDAGOGY

A training session was organized on *Subjective Pedagogy* for special educators on 27th December 2024 at Jyoti Kiran School, Lucknow.



Mr. Aditya Kumar Shukla (Special Educator, Samgra Shiksha Abhiyan, Lucknow) served as the resource person. He emphasized Child-Centered Pedagogy, highlighting its focus on individualized learning, holistic development, and fostering inclusive classrooms. Key discussions included addressing challenges in the current syllabus, strategies for supporting children with special needs, and the importance of parent counseling. He also introduced low-cost teaching materials, multi-sensory resources, and practical solutions for hyperactivity and body safety education.



The training session engaged 18 participants in active participation, fostering collaboration and innovation in teaching practices.

INCLUSIVE EDUCATION PROGRAM

SPARC-India, in collaboration with SBI Foundation, continued the Inclusive Education (IE) in 20 Direct Government Primary Schools and 20 Indirect Schools in Lucknow from July 2024 for children with disabilities.

SCHOOL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (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, the importance of SMCs, the rules and responsibilities of SMCs, the need and importance of Inclusive Education, and how they can contribute to the development of the school.



All SMC members showed interest in discharging their responsibilities on time and contributing to the betterment of the school. They also assured that they would be more punctual in ensuring their child's studies and regularity and would also attend the school's meetings (SMC, PSG, etc.) regularly.

S. No.	Activity Name	Place	Date
1	SMC Training	PS Bhauli 1 st	21 st October 2024
2	SMC Training	PS Bhaisamau	4 th December 2024
3	SMC Training	PS Gaughat	27 th December 2024

SIBLING WORKSHOP

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



S. No.	Activity Name	Place	Date
1	Siblings workshop	SPARC-India office	28 th December 2024
2	Siblings workshop	SPARC-India office	29 th December 2024

MEETING WITH PARENTS OF CwDs AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY

A *meeting with parents/guardians of CwDs and members of the community on Inclusive Education* was conducted to create awareness for Inclusive Education among the parents of CwDs and members of the community. The main aim of the meeting was to make them aware of prenatal, natal, and post-natal precautions, how to apply for all types of pensions, the importance of education for all, etc.



S. No.	Activity Name	Place	Date
1	Meeting with parents/guardians of CwDs and the community	AWC Usarna	14 th October 2024
2	Meeting with parents/guardians of CwDs and the community	AWC Chak Prithvipur	9 th November 2024

TRAINING ON THE RIGHT TO EDUCATION ACT 2009 & INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

Training on the Right to Education (RTE) Act 2009 and Inclusive Education was conducted to create awareness for the RTE Act 2009 and Inclusive Education among the parents & caretakers of CwDs.

The main aim of the meeting was to make the participants aware of the 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, Kathwara	10 th October 2024
2	Training on RTE Act 2009 and Inclusive Education	AWC, Sardar Nagar	8 th November 2024

3	Training on RTE Act 2009 and Inclusive Education	AWC, Mallahan Khera	18 th November 2024
4	Training on RTE Act 2009 and Inclusive Education	AWC, Vijaypur	23 rd December 2024

DISABILITY AWARENESS AND SENSITIZATION CAMPAIGN

Disability Awareness and Sensitization Campaigns were conducted to create awareness of disability and sensitization among the members of the 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, the importance of school education for CwDs, the importance of disability certificates, various govt. schemes and entitlements for children/persons with disabilities, ADL of CwDs, behavior issues of children with disabilities, etc.



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

S. No.	Activity Name	Place	Date
1	Disability Awareness and Sensitization	Jwarganv	9 th October 2024
2	Disability Awareness and Sensitization	Faizullaganj	18 th October 2024
3	Disability Awareness and Sensitization	Rampur Devarai	14 th November 2024
4	Disability Awareness and Sensitization	Rampur Behra	20 th December 2024
5	Disability Awareness and Sensitization	Chak Prithvipur	24 th December 2024

TRAINING ON ACTIVITIES OF DAILY LIVING

Trainings on Activities of Daily Living (ADL) for the parents and caregivers of children with disabilities were conducted to create 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 practice ADL so that they can slowly become independent. Parents and caregivers of CwDs asked questions relating to the issues faced by their children in conducting daily activities.



S. No.	Activity Name	Place	Date
1	Training on Activities of Daily Living	SPARC-India Office	14 th December 2024
2	Training on Activities of Daily Living	SPARC-India Office	28 th December 2024



TRAINING OF TEACHERS OF GOVT. PRIMARY SCHOOLS ON INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

One-Day *Training of Teachers of Govt. Primary Schools on Inclusive Education* were organized on 30th December 2024 at Shiksha Bhawan Hall, Kaisarbagh, Lucknow, with a clear perspective of training regular teachers on the concept of inclusive education and how it can be achieved in the schools.

The Key Speaker at the event was **Mrs. Seema Yadav** (Lecturer, Department of Special Education (ID) Composite Regional Centre {CRC}, Lucknow), **Mr. Durgesh Kumar** (Special Educator (HI) Composite Regional Centre {CRC}, Lucknow). **Dr. Amitabh Mehrotra** (Founder Secretary cum Director, SPARC-India) and **Mr. Someshwar Dutta Bajpai** (Program Manager, SPARC-India, Lucknow) also participated in the event.



Topics covered in the training included Identification of Disability, Early Indicators of Learning Disability in School Children, Alternative Learning Strategies, Role of ICT in Inclusive Education, Curriculum Adaptation for CWSN, Resource Room Management, Accessible School Environment, and Promoting Seating Behavior in CWSN.

About 22 Regular teachers of Lucknow participated in the training.

Workshop of Teachers of Govt. Primary Schools on Curriculum Adaptation

One-day *Workshop of Teachers of Govt. Primary Schools on Curriculum Adaptation* were organized on 31st December 2024 at Shiksha Bhawan Hall, Kaisarbagh, Lucknow, with a clear perspective of training regular teachers on the concept of inclusive education and how it can be achieved in the schools.



The Key Speaker at the event was **Ms. Vandana** (Special Education (ID) SSA Lucknow), **Mr. Sanjeev** (Special Education (HI) SSA Lucknow), **Mr. Aditya Kumar Shukla** (Special Education (ID) SSA Lucknow), **Mr. Arvind Dutta Sharma** (Special Education (VI) SSA Lucknow). **Dr. Amitabh Mehrotra** (Founder Secretary cum Director, SPARC-India) and **Mr. Someshwar Dutta Bajpai** (Program Manager, SPARC-India, Lucknow) have also participated in the event.

QUANTITATIVE ACHIEVEMENTS

- **4321** Stakeholders sensitized on Disability Rights, RPwD Act 2016, and the Right to Education Act 2009
- **3** Training of SMC Members was conducted
- **4** Trainings on the Right to Education Act 2009 and Inclusive Education were conducted
- **2** Training on Activities of Daily Living was held
- **2** Sibling Workshops were held
- **5** Disability Awareness & Sensitization campaigns were conducted
- **3** Meetings with Parents/Guardians of CwDs and Members of the Community were conducted
- **1** Training for Regular Teachers on Inclusive Education was organized
- **1** Workshop for Regular Teachers on Curriculum Adaptation was organized
- **12** CwD enrolled online for a Disability Certificate, **26** for UDID, **1** for Aadhar Card, **18** for Birth Certificates, and **18** for Assistive Devices
- Intervention with **80** CwDs was 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.

EK PRAYAS CENTRE

SPARC-India, supported by IDFC FIRST Bank, continued the Ek Prayas Centre on early intervention with Children with Intellectual Disabilities and Autism. The sessions included education, physiotherapy, and speech therapy.



Colouring Activity



Hand Painting Activity



Physio Therapy

AWARENESS SESSION FOR PARENTS (COMMUNITY)

Meetings were conducted with the parents/guardians of CwDs (Children with Disabilities) and the members of the community to raise awareness about early intervention services. The main aim of the meetings was to inform them about disability and its prevalence, various myths regarding disability, prenatal, natal, and post-natal precautions, and various govt. Schemes and entitlements for children/persons with disabilities, the process of obtaining disability certificates, and the importance of education for all.



S. No.	Activity Name	Place	Date
1	Awareness Session for Parents	Kathwara	8 th October 2024
2	Awareness Session for Parents	Bhensi	17 th October 2024
3	Awareness Session for Parents	Kisunpur	21 st October 2024
4	Awareness Session for Parents	Tikari	22 nd October 2024
5	Awareness Session for Parents	Bharatpur	25 th October 2024
6	Awareness Session for Parents	Devri Rukhara	26 th October 2024
7	Awareness Session for Parents	Bargadikala	28 th October 2024
8	Awareness Session for Parents	Bihad Karaundi	17 th December 2024
9	Awareness Session for Parents	Kamalpur	18 th December 2024
10	Awareness Session for Parents	Kundapur	18 th December 2024
11	Awareness Session for Parents	Hardhaurpur	19 th December 2024
12	Awareness Session for Parents	Banganw	20 th December 2024
13	Awareness Session for Parents	Parwatpur	26 th December 2024
14	Awareness Session for Parents	Loharanpurwa	26 th December 2024
15	Awareness Session for Parents	Mohhamad Sraiya	27 th December 2024
16	Awareness Session for Parents	Sirsa Grint	28 th December 2024
17	Awareness Session for Parents	Saraiya	28 th December 2024

SENSITIZATION AWARENESS SESSION CAPACITY BUILDING

The objective of the Sensitization Awareness program is to increase awareness and sensitivity towards disability-related issues within the community. This program provides information about the rights of individuals with disabilities, their status in society, and the services available to them. It aims to promote social inclusion and develop a positive attitude towards disability in various communities.





S. No.	Activity Name	Place	Date
1	Sensitization Awareness Session Capacity Building	Palpur	9 th November 2024
2	Sensitization Awareness Session Capacity Building	Sukhadi	12 th November 2024
3	Sensitization Awareness Session Capacity Building	Raipur Raja	13 th November 2024
4	Sensitization Awareness Session Capacity Building	Bikamau	16 th November 2024
5	Sensitization Awareness Session Capacity Building	Shahpur	18 th November 2024
6	Sensitization Awareness Session Capacity Building	Babapurwa	20 th November 2024
7	Sensitization Awareness Session Capacity Building	Mandau	21 st November 2024
8	Sensitization Awareness Session Capacity Building	Bargadikala	26 th November 2024
9	Sensitization Awareness Session Capacity Building	Raipur	29 th November 2024

DUSSEHRA

On October 10, 2024, students of Ek Prayas learned about Dussehra by creating and burning a Ravana effigy made from waste materials, symbolizing the triumph of good over evil.



CEREBRAL PALSY WEEK

On October 9, 2024, Ek Prayas Centre celebrated World Cerebral Palsy Week, attended by distinguished guests from Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) Lucknow, children of Ek Prayas Centre, and their parents. The event featured speeches, a fancy-dress competition, and a group dance, with positive feedback from parents on rehabilitation support.



DIWALI

The Diwali celebration organized at Ek Prayas Center on October 28, 2024, was to raise awareness among children about the significance of the Diwali festival and to encourage their creativity. On this occasion, all the children worked together to make diyas on chart paper, which enhanced their social and craft skills. The event connected the children with the festive spirit and filled them with positive energy.





CHILDREN'S DAY

On November 14, 2024, Ek Prayas, in collaboration with IDFC FIRST Bank and SPARC India, organized a Children's Day program with children from SPARC India's Jyoti Kiran School and Ek Prayas Centre. The event featured dance, poetry, and games, with enthusiastic participation from the children and their parents. Key attendees included SPARC India program manager Mr. Someshwar Dutta Bajpai, along with staff from Jyoti Kiran School and Ek Prayas Centre.



WORLD DISABILITY WEEK (3rd – 9th December 2024)

On December 7, 2024, World Disability Week was organized by Ek Prayas in collaboration with IDFC FIRST Bank and SPARC India. The event was attended by Dr. Amitabh Mehrotra (Founder Secretary cum Director, SPARC India), Mr. Someshwar D Bajpai (Program Manager), Mr. Sunil Kumar (Program Coordinator, JKS), the entire staff of Jyoti Kiran School, the team of Ek Prayas Centre, as well as all the children.



CHRISTMAS DAY

On Tuesday, 24 December 2024, Christmas Day was celebrated with great enthusiasm at Ek Prayas Center. Respected Dr. Amitabh Mehrotra (Founder Director of SPARC-India) attended the program as the chief guest, along with all the children of Ek Prayas and some parents.



PARENTS SUPPORT GROUP (PSG) MEETING

A Parents Support Group (PSG) meeting was held on 26th October 2024, 23rd November 2024 & 21st December 2024 at Ek Prayas Centre.

- ❖ A meeting with parents covered topics like attendance, documentation, and the importance of punctuality, addressing concerns, and providing solutions for their livelihood and other support.
- ❖ Introducing engaging activities at the parents' meeting boosted interest, fostering active participation and improving communication. This strengthened the partnership between parents and teachers, benefiting children's development.





HOME VISITS

Home visits were conducted for children not attending the center, and parents were counseled to encourage regular attendance. Additionally, information was gathered about the children, such as their environment, behavior, and the financial situation of their families.



CASE CONFERENCE

After the home visit, a *Case Conference* was held for the child, where the physiotherapist, speech therapist, special educator, field officer, and center head discussed the child and provided their suggestions.



SATURDAY ACTIVITY

On Saturdays, all the children participate together in the *Saturday activities*, including art, crafts, and indoor and outdoor games. The main purpose of these activities is to promote children's creativity, physical, and mental development. Art and craft activities help enhance children's imagination and artistic skills, while indoor and outdoor games work on improving teamwork, endurance, and motor skills. Additionally, these activities help develop coordination, self-confidence, and overall balance in children, which are crucial for their overall growth and development.



FIELD VISIT

The main objective of a *Field Visit* is to identify children with special needs so that they can be provided with proper support, care, and resources. Additionally, registering children who do not have a UDID (Unique Disability ID) card online is also an important part of this process, so that they can benefit from government schemes and services. This process ensures that children receive proper identification and their rights are safeguarded.



PARENTS COUNSELING

The main objective of *Parent Counselling* is to ensure that parents of children with special needs, who have been identified, send their children to the centre for proper support and care. Often, parents are hesitant to send their children to the centre, which is why counselling is done at their home. During this counselling, parents are informed that sending their children to the centre will provide better treatment, education, and





assistance, which will be beneficial for their overall development. This helps reduce their hesitation, and they become willing to send their children to the centre.

CAPACITY BUILDING TRAINING FOR STAFF

A *Capacity-Building Training* was conducted for the Ek Prayas team, led by Mr. Ashish Singh (Project Consultant) and Mr. Someshwar D Bajpai (Program Manager), focusing on effective communication with community members, staff, children, and parents. The session aimed to enhance interpersonal skills for better engagement and collaboration.

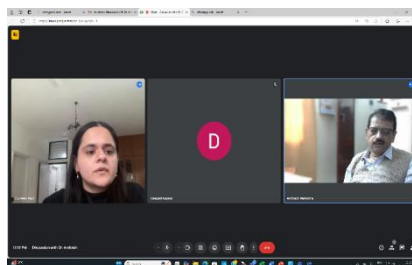


PRESENTATIONS

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

VIRTUAL MEETING WITH PRATHAM EDUCATION FOUNDATION

A virtual meeting with Pratham Education Foundation – India was held on 22nd November 2024, headed by Dr Amitabh Mehrotra (Founder Director, SPARC-India). The meeting was organized at the request of Ms. Deepali Kapoor (Head of Program – Inclusive Education, Pratham Education Foundation) and Ms. Gurmeet (Senior Program Manager, Pratham Education Foundation).



The objective of the meeting was to scale up and intensify intervention on Inclusive Education in UP. The Pratham sought a formal partnership with SPARC-India.

It is important to mention that Pratham Education Foundation is working in 23 states and union territories in India and has international chapters in the USA, UK, GERMANY, SWEDEN, and Australia.

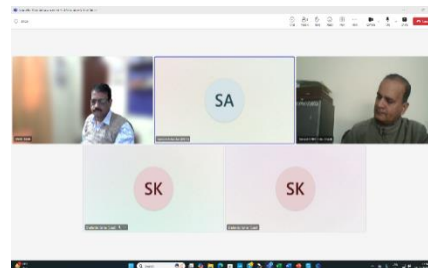
A VIRTUAL MEETING WITH SOCIAL STOCK EXCHANGE

A virtual meeting was held between Mr. Sandesh Achrekar (Social Stock Exchange, Mumbai) and Dr. Amitabh Mehrotra (Founder Director, SPARC-India) on 22nd November 2024. The meeting was also attended by Mr. Someshwar Dutt Bajpai (Program Manager, SPARC-India) and Mr. Shailendra Kumar (Head of Finance, SPARC-India).



The primary objective was to verify the documents and registration in SCCE submitted by SPARC India and to gather detailed information about the organization.

During the meeting, Dr. Mehrotra provided a brief introduction about SPARC India and himself, including a demonstration of his UDID card for verification purposes. Following the verification process, Mr. Achrekar addressed several queries and discussed plans for a follow-up meeting with Mr. Kaushar and himself to address additional questions and facilitate further discussions.

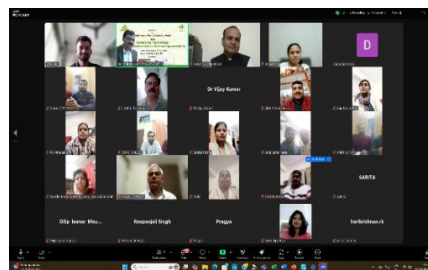


‘WORLD DISABILITY WEEK’ CELEBRATION (3rd – 9th December 2024)

SPARC-India, supported by IDFC First Bank and SBI Foundation, celebrated *World Disability Week* (3rd – 9th December 2024) virtually through Zoom.

Day 01: (4th December 2024)

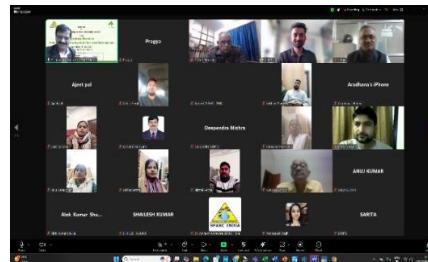
The webinar aimed to promote the technological use of assistive technology and the eminent speakers of IIT Madras and IIT Bombay. They have extended support to SPARC-India to take it forward at the grassroots level. It is also an effort of going on to have a technology assessment camp in collaboration with SPARC-India soon.



A webinar titled “*Advancing Technology: Development of Assistive Devices to Improve Access of PwDs*” was conducted, anchored by **Mr. Rahul Raj** (Fellow, TISSAA, Mumbai) and invited speakers **Prof. Ravi Poovaiah** (Professor, Industrial Design Centre, IIT Bombay), who spoke on “Design and Innovation Eco System for the Needs of PwDs”, **Prof. Jayasree Raghavan** (Head, Assistive Devices, Research Park, IIT Madras), who discussed “Making Affordable Technology for Children and Adults with Neurological Impairment”, **Mr. Dhanjay Bhole** (Accessibility evangelist, Academician and Social Entrepreneur), who addressed “Digital accessibility, compliance challenges, and solutions” and **Dr. Amitabh Mehrotra** (Founder Director, SPARC-India), who shared his insights on “Assistive Technology & Accessibility of PwDs: A Life Span Approach”.

Day 02: (6th December 2024)

The webinar aimed to promote dialogue on inclusive strategies for empowering Persons with Disabilities (PwDs), highlight successful models and innovations, and strengthen networks among stakeholders to drive disability inclusion.





A webinar titled “*Breaking the Barriers - Innovations and Strategies for Inclusive*”, anchored by **Mr. Rajesh Trivedi** (Consultant, Implementation of RPwD Act 2016, MSJE Govt. of India) and chaired by **Prof. Bipin Jojo** (Dean School of Social Work, TISS, Mumbai), **Dr. Sandhya Limaye** (Associate Professor, Tata Institute of Social Sciences), who delivered the “Keynote address”, **Ms. Aradhana Lal** (Senior Vice President, Lemon Tree Group of Hotels, New Delhi), who spoke on “The Seven Pillar Model to Becoming an Inclusive Employer”, **Ms. Rachana Iyer** (Head - CSR, IDFC First Bank, Mumbai), who shared insights on “Leverage Resources for Disability inclusion” and **Dr. Amitabh Mehrotra** (Founder Director, SPARC-India), who addressed “Policy and Advocacy: Shaping an Incisive future”.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ACCELERATING DISABILITY INCLUSION

The CII-IBDN organized the annual **National Conference on Accelerating Disability Inclusion**, themed “*Future-Proofing Industry: Enabling Accessibility for All.*” The conference occurred on 18th December 2024 at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), New Delhi.



Dr. Amitabh Mehrotra (Founder Director, SPARC-India) was invited to participate in this national conference.

The conference served as a cornerstone for industry engagement on disability inclusion. Through a series of thematic sessions, keynote addresses, and discussions, it aimed to foster meaningful dialogue and showcase best practices for the inclusion of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) in the workplace.

This event provided a primary platform for exchanging views, sharing insights, and highlighting industry champions who lead by example. It also offered a valuable networking opportunity for ecosystem influencers to collaborate and build stronger partnerships.

The conference aimed to drive impactful conversations on enabling accessibility for all through the following sessions:

- **Leadership for Inclusion:** How to Champion Accessibility Initiatives
- **From Compliance to Culture:** Building Truly Inclusive & Accessible Organization
- **Inclusive Future:** Leveraging Assistive Technologies for Accessibility

The event brought together senior industry representatives, policymakers, and members of the PwD community to discuss strategies for creating inclusive, accessible, and barrier-free workplaces in the corporate sector.
