



# **QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER**

**April 2025 – June 2025**

**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 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, the 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 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 includes education, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, and speech therapy sessions.



**Beats activity**



**Number Concept**



**Mehandi Design**



**Putting beats in rope**



**Puzzle Fixing**



**Physiotherapy Sessions**



**Speech Therapy Sessions**



**Art / Craft Activity**

## **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 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 **19<sup>th</sup> April 2025, & 10<sup>th</sup> May 2025** at Jyoti Kiran School. The main aims of the meeting were:



- Counselling of parents/guardians
- Children's health-related (timely medical treatment)
- Vocational training (Prevocational & Vocational Training)
- Commercialization and socialization
- Summer Camp-related discussion
- Documents for the sponsorship form
- Children's report cards
- Commencement of the new academic session
- Physical and Speech therapeutic interventions
- School uniform and dress code, 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, 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 involved 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 student. On clinic day, teachers, parents, therapists, and coordinators discuss the student's behavior, learning difficulties, challenges in activities, or any other issues 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.

## CAREGIVERS MEETING

On 10<sup>th</sup> May 2025, SPARC-India's Jyoti Kiran School (JKS) organized a Caregivers Meeting to promote awareness and strengthen the emotional and practical bond between caregivers and their children.



Key topics included treating children with love and respect, ensuring timely medical care, access to education and employment opportunities, nutritional needs, and child safety. Caregivers were encouraged to nurture a supportive environment that fosters self-esteem and emotional well-being. The importance of regular health check-ups and collaboration with healthcare professionals was emphasized, along with the need for inclusive education and future livelihood support. Guidance was also provided on maintaining a balanced diet and ensuring a secure environment at home and school. The session concluded with an interactive discussion, allowing caregivers to share their experiences and concerns.

A total of 29 parents participated in the meeting.

## VALEDICTORY OF SUMMER CAMP

SPARC-India's Jyoti Kiran School organized a *Valedictory Function to mark the conclusion of the Summer Camp*. The event was graced by **Mr. Punit Asthana** (Ex-Director, Bhartendu Natya Academy) as the Chief Guest and **Mr. Ankit Mehra** (Chief Manager, SBI, Daliganj) as the Guest of Honor. We were also privileged to have **Mr. S.K. Seth** (Board Member, SPARC-India), **Mr. Sanjay** (TCS, Lucknow), and **Ms. Mridula Mehrotra** (Board Member, SPARC-India) in attendance. **Dr. Amitabh Mehrotra**, Founder Director of SPARC-India, warmly welcomed the guests and gave a brief introduction about the organization.



The celebration commenced with a soulful Welcome Song and Saraswati Vandana, followed by a vibrant Ramp Walk and Group Dance by hearing-impaired students. The audience was further enthralled by Classical Dance and Group Performances by students with Intellectual Disabilities, Down syndrome, and Physical Disabilities. An impressive Art & Craft Exhibition was also showcased, highlighting the creativity and talent of the students.





All the esteemed guests appreciated the efforts of the students and staff, offering words of encouragement and heartfelt motivation. The day concluded with the distribution of gifts to all the students of Jyoti Kiran School, marking a joyful end to a memorable event.

## **CAPACITY BUILDING SESSION**

SPARC-India organized a series of *Capacity Building Sessions* for the staff from 25<sup>th</sup> June to 27<sup>th</sup> June 2025 at Jyoti Kiran School.

### **Day 1 (25<sup>th</sup> June 2025):**

The Capacity Building Session to enhance staff knowledge and skills. Mr. Santosh Tiwari (Coordinator, Inclusive Education Program) led the session on the topic “*Basics of Physiotherapy*” and also shared insights on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The program was also graced by the presence of Mr. Sunil Kumar (Coordinator, Jyoti Kiran School) and Ms. Roopanjali (Centre Head, Ek Prayas). The session focused on building awareness around physiotherapy, its importance, common conditions treated, techniques used, and the role of physiotherapists. A total of 17 participants attended and gained practical knowledge relevant to disability support and rehabilitation services.



### **Day 2 (26<sup>th</sup> June 2025):**

The Capacity Building Session was led by Mr. Someshwar Dutta Bajpai (Program Manager, SPARC-India), who spoke on the topic “*Early Intervention & Disability Stages & Process*” and shared insights on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Mr. Sunil Kumar (Coordinator, Jyoti Kiran School) was also present during the session. The training focused on the importance of early intervention, brain plasticity, key developmental milestones, and the rationale for early support for individuals with disabilities. A total of 18 participants actively attended and gained practical knowledge to enhance their work in healthcare, rehabilitation, and support services.



### **Day 3 (27<sup>th</sup> June 2025):**

The Capacity Building Session to enhance staff skills in “*Documentation and Reporting.*” The session was conducted by Mr. Sunil Kumar (Coordinator, Jyoti Kiran School). Mr. Santosh Tiwari (Coordinator, Inclusive Education Program) and Ms. Roopanjali (Centre Head, Ek Prayas) were also present during the session. Key topics included the importance of documentation, progress reports, case notes, structure, confidentiality, and ethics. A total of 21 participants actively engaged in the session, gaining valuable insights essential for effective work in healthcare, rehabilitation, and support services.





## **INCLUSIVE EDUCATION PROGRAM**

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

### **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 Gohanakala	15 <sup>th</sup> May 2025

### **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	Mallahan Khera Samuday	26 <sup>th</sup> June 2025

### **MEETING WITH PARENTS OF CwDs AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY**

The 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	Samuday Kishunpur	10 <sup>th</sup> May 2025





## 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, Sarakpur Saraiyan	29 <sup>th</sup> April 2025

## 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	AWC, Vijaypur	26 <sup>th</sup> April 2025
2	Disability Awareness and Sensitization	AWC, Bhaisamau	14 <sup>th</sup> May 2025
3	Disability Awareness and Sensitization	Samuday Mallahan Khera	25 <sup>th</sup> June 2025

## TRAINING OF TEACHERS OF GOVT. PRIMARY SCHOOLS ON INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

One-Day Training of Teachers of the Govt. Primary Schools on Inclusive Education was organized on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2025 at Shiksha Bhawan Hall, Kaisarbagh, Lucknow. This workshop is





based on the understanding that inclusive education is a lifelong commitment that starts with early identification and continues through ongoing support at all stages of a child's life.

The Key Speakers at the event were **Prof. Saumya Shankar** (Dept. of Sociology & Social Work, DSMNRU, Lucknow), **Mr. Amresh** (District Coordinator, Inclusive, Mr. Someshwar Dutta Bajpai (Program Manager, SPARC-India, Lucknow), and Mr. Santosh Tiwari (Coordinator, Inclusive Education Program, SPARC-India) also participated in the event.



Topics covered in the training include identifying the challenges in recognizing and addressing the needs of children with learning disabilities and other disabilities, exploring effective strategies for early identification and support, and promoting a value-centric approach to inclusive education by fostering awareness, empathy, and collaborative practices among educators, enabling the creation of an equitable learning environment for all children.

A total of **50 participants** from various government primary schools actively attended the session and expressed a strong commitment to adopting inclusive practices in their classrooms.

### QUANTITATIVE ACHIEVEMENTS

- **2640** Stakeholders sensitized on Disability Rights
- **1** Meeting with parents of CwDs and members of the community was conducted
- **1** Training of SMC members on Inclusive Education was conducted
- **1** Training on the Right to Education Act 2009 and Inclusive Education was conducted
- **1** Sibling Workshop was conducted
- **3** Disability Awareness and Sensitization campaigns were conducted
- **1** Training of teachers of the Govt. Primary/ Upper Primary Schools on Inclusive Education
- **5** Accessible School Infrastructure is being developed
- **14** CwDs for disability certificate, **16** CwDs for UDID, **4** CwDs for Aadhar card, **3** CwDs for birth Certificates, **1** CwD for Assistive devices, **17** CwDs for Sponsorship Scheme, **6** CwDs for Pension (Disability, Old, Widow, etc.), **1** CwD for Niramaya health card
- Intervention with **96** 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**

Ek Prayas Centre, supported by IDFC FIRST Bank, focuses on early identification and intervention to support the physical and mental development of children aged 1 to 10 years with neurological disorders. The center provides timely treatment and support for conditions such as Cerebral Palsy, Intellectual Disability, Down Syndrome, and autism spectrum disorder (ASD).



Dance activity



Thumb Painting



Speech Therapy



Physiotherapy

### **SENSITIZATION AWARENESS SESSION FOR PARENTS (COMMUNITY)**

Meetings were held with parents/guardians of Children with Disabilities (CwDs) and community members to raise awareness about early intervention services. Key topics included understanding disability, common myths, prenatal to postnatal precautions, government schemes, disability certification, and the importance of inclusive education.



The Sensitization Awareness Program aimed to promote community awareness on disability rights, available services, and social inclusion, fostering a positive and informed attitude toward persons with disabilities.

S. No.	Activity Name	Place	Date
1.	Sensitization Awareness Session for Parents	Chaugawa	9 <sup>th</sup> May 2025
2.	Sensitization Awareness Session for Parents	Khesranwa	14 <sup>th</sup> May 2025
3.	Sensitization Awareness Session for Parents	Dingurpur	21 <sup>st</sup> May 2025
4.	Sensitization Awareness Session for Parents	Bhadsar	5 <sup>th</sup> June 2025
5.	Sensitization Awareness Session for Parents	Bargadi Khurd	6 <sup>th</sup> June 2025
6.	Sensitization Awareness Session for Parents	Kisunpur	12 <sup>th</sup> June 2025
7.	Sensitization Awareness Session for Parents	Kundapur	18 <sup>th</sup> June 2025



8.	Sensitization Awareness Session for Parents	Taranpur	21 <sup>st</sup> June 2025
9.	Sensitization Awareness Session for Parents	Bikamau Khurd	21 <sup>st</sup> June 2025
10.	Sensitization Awareness Session for Parents	Raipur Raja	24 <sup>th</sup> June 2025
11.	Sensitization Awareness Session for Parents	Grint Rukhara	24 <sup>th</sup> June 2025
12.	Sensitization Awareness Session for Parents	Bahadurpur	26 <sup>th</sup> June 2025
13.	Sensitization Awareness Session for Parents	Tikari	27 <sup>th</sup> June 2025
14.	Sensitization Awareness Session for Parents	Dughara	28 <sup>th</sup> June 2025
15.	Sensitization Awareness Session for Parents	Bangaon	28 <sup>th</sup> June 2025

## UDID CAMP

On January 17, 2025, SPARC-India's Ek Prayas Center, in collaboration with IDFC FIRST Bank, organized a camp to issue "UDID Certificates" to children from Jyoti Kiran School, Inclusive Education Program, Ek Prayas Centre, and the Community. Prominent doctors and professionals, including **Dr. Abhay Singh** (Psychiatrist) and **Dr. Garima Singh** (Clinical Psychologist), issued Medical certificates to 22 children.



## PARENT SUPPORT GROUP MEETINGS

At Ek Prayas Centre, a total of 6 Parent Support Group (PSG) meetings were organized from January 2025 to March 2025.

The main objectives of these meetings were as follows:

1. Discussion on children's regular attendance.
2. Discussion on the cleanliness and hygiene of the children.
3. Discussion on behavioral issues of the children.
4. Discussion related to therapies for the children.
5. Discussion on documentation and related information.
6. Counselling of parents/guardians



The primary objective of the meeting was to provide parent counselling to encourage parents of children with special needs to send them to the center for appropriate care and support. As many parents are initially hesitant, home-based counselling is conducted to inform them about the



benefits of the center's services in terms of treatment, education, and overall development. This helps reduce their reluctance and increases enrolment.

## 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.



## 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 issues faced by the child.



## SATURDAY ACTIVITY

On Saturdays, all the children participate together in 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.







## **CAPACITY BUILDING TRAINING FOR STAFF**

SPARC India conducted capacity-building sessions on June 25, 26, and 27, 2025. The sessions covered key topics such as Early Intervention, Physiotherapy, Documentation, and Reporting.



## **IDFC FIRST BANK CSR MANAGER VISITED EK PRAYAS CENTRE**

On May 5, 2025, Mr. Ravi Sakhare, CSR Manager at IDFC FIRST Bank, visited the Ek Prayas center. During the visit, he reviewed the MIS sheet with the entire team and held discussions regarding parents' income. It was decided that each child would contribute ₹500 as a monthly fee. The meeting also focused on the overall operations of Ek Prayas, emphasizing the need for closer monitoring in areas such as home visits, awareness programs, and field visits.



## **VALEDICTORY FUNCTION**

On May 31, 2025, SPARC India, supported by IDFC FIRST Bank, held the valedictory function of the “Ek Prayas” Summer Camp at its Madiyaon office. The event showcased cultural performances, an art exhibition, and gift distribution, celebrating the talents of children with disabilities. The Chief Guest was Mr. Puneet Asthana (Director of Bharatendu Natya Academy), and the Guest of Honor was Mr. Ankit Mehra (Manager of the State Bank of India, Daliganj Branch) attended, along with representatives from SPARC India and Tata Consultancy Services, Lucknow.



## **COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAM**

From April to June 2025, SPARC-India, with the support of India Pesticides Ltd., continued its efforts to promote inclusive education, family empowerment, and community awareness for children with disabilities (CwDs). The Community Mobilizer conducted counselling sessions to strengthen parental engagement and assist families in accessing essential documents and social protection schemes. Under the Inclusive Education Program, individualized home-based therapy sessions improved children’s motor, cognitive, and communication skills. Capacity-building workshops equipped staff with knowledge on early intervention, physiotherapy, and documentation. Awareness meetings with parents and community members enhanced understanding of health precautions, pension schemes, and educational rights, while sibling workshops encouraged young family members to actively support their disabled brothers and sisters. Training on the Right to Education Act, along with Disability Awareness and Sensitization Campaigns, fostered inclusivity and reduced misconceptions about disability. Additionally, a UDID Certification Camp benefited 22 children by issuing essential disability documents, ensuring improved access to entitlements and support services.



## COUNSELLING

The Community Mobilizer conducted structured outreach and counselling sessions with parents of children with disabilities, both individually and in groups, to enhance awareness of disability rights and strengthen parental involvement. Families were provided with comprehensive support to obtain essential documents and services, including disability certificates, UDID cards, identity proofs, assistive devices, and disability pensions.



The mobilizer offered end-to-end facilitation—from preparing documentation and submitting applications to coordinating follow-ups with relevant departments—ensuring timely access to entitlements. This initiative significantly improved families’ access to social protection schemes, empowered parents to advocate for their children’s rights, and fostered inclusive practices within the community, thereby ensuring that children with disabilities receive equal opportunities in education and holistic development.

## THERAPY (Community and Jyoti Kiran School)

Under the Inclusive Education Program, home-based therapy sessions were conducted for children with disabilities both in the community and at Jyoti Kiran School. These sessions aimed to enhance motor, cognitive, and communication skills, thereby supporting holistic development and school readiness.



Therapists developed individualized therapy plans, carried out regular follow-up visits, and provided parents with guidance to continue therapeutic exercises at home. This participatory approach improved the effectiveness of the intervention, empowered families to actively support their child’s progress, and contributed to better functional outcomes. The initiative has significantly strengthened inclusive education practices and promoted greater acceptance and integration of children with disabilities within the community.

## CAPACITY BUILDING SESSIONS

SPARC-India organized a series of Capacity-Building Sessions for staff members from 25<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> June 2025 at Jyoti Kiran School. The sessions aimed to enhance staff knowledge and practical skills to strengthen program implementation and service delivery.



Key topics included “Early Intervention & Disability Stages and Process” facilitated by Mr. Someshwar Dutta Bajpai (Program Manager, SPARC-India), “Basics of Physiotherapy” led by Mr. Santosh Tiwari (Coordinator, Inclusive Education Program), and “Documentation & Reporting” conducted by Mr. Sunil Kumar (Coordinator, Jyoti Kiran School). The training enhanced staff understanding of disability management, early intervention strategies, and effective record-keeping practices, contributing to improved program efficiency and outcomes.



## **MEETING WITH PARENTS OF CwDs AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY**

SPARC-India organized meetings with parents and guardians of Children with Disabilities (CwDs), along with community members, to promote awareness on Inclusive Education within the community. The sessions aimed to educate participants about prenatal, natal, and post-natal care practices, procedures for accessing various pension and social welfare schemes, and the critical importance of education for all children, including those with disabilities.



These interactive discussions helped strengthen participants' understanding of essential health, social protection, and educational aspects, fostering a more supportive environment for the holistic development and inclusion of children with disabilities within their families and communities.

## **SIBLING WORKSHOP**

SPARC-India organized a Sibling Workshop in the community for brothers and sisters of children with disabilities to enhance their awareness of child rights and equip them to support their siblings in performing Activities of Daily Living (ADL). The session focused on educating participants about Child Rights, the Right to Education (RTE), and practical methods to assist their siblings in developing greater independence through regular ADL practice.



The workshop encouraged empathy, active participation, and responsibility among siblings, empowering them to contribute meaningfully to the growth, development, and inclusion of children with disabilities within their families and communities.

## **TRAINING ON THE RIGHT TO EDUCATION ACT 2009 & INCLUSIVE EDUCATION**

SPARC-India conducted training sessions on the Right to Education (RTE) Act, 2009 and Inclusive Education at Anganwadi Centres to enhance awareness among parents and caregivers of Children with Disabilities (CwDs). The sessions aimed to familiarize participants with key provisions of the RTE Act, emphasizing the importance of inclusive learning environments and the right of every child to free and compulsory education.



Parents and guardians of both children with and without disabilities actively participated in the sessions. They expressed a strong commitment to prioritizing their children's education, supporting their regular school attendance, and fostering inclusive learning in their communities.





## DISABILITY AWARENESS AND SENSITIZATION CAMPAIGN

SPARC-India organized Disability Awareness and Sensitization Campaigns at Anganwadi Centres and within the community to strengthen understanding of disability-related issues. The sessions covered key topics such as preventive care during pregnancy, types and prevalence of disabilities, and dispelling common myths surrounding disability. Participants were also informed about the importance of school education for Children with Disabilities (CwDs), the process for obtaining disability certificates, and various government schemes and entitlements available to persons with disabilities.



Additionally, the sessions provided guidance on Activities of Daily Living (ADL) and strategies to manage behavioural challenges among children with disabilities. Parents and guardians of both children with and without disabilities actively participated, engaging in discussions and seeking clarifications on disability and available support services. The campaigns helped foster awareness, empathy, and inclusive attitudes within the community.

## UDID CAMP

On 17<sup>th</sup> January 2025, SPARC-India's Ek Prayas Centre organized a UDID Certification Camp for children from Jyoti Kiran School, the Inclusive Education Program, and the surrounding community. The camp aimed to facilitate the assessment and issuance of Unique Disability ID (UDID) certificates to ensure streamlined access to government entitlements and support services for children with disabilities.



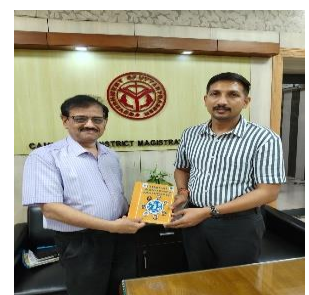
A team of specialists, including Dr. Abhay Singh (Psychiatrist) and Dr. Garima Singh (Clinical Psychologist), conducted detailed assessments and issued medical certifications. A total of 22 children benefited from the camp, enabling them to access necessary identity documentation and welfare schemes to support their continued development and inclusion.

## PRESENTATIONS

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

## MEETING WITH THE DISTRICT MAGISTRATE

On 9<sup>th</sup> April 2025, **Dr. Amitabh Mehrotra** (Founder Director, SPARC-India) and **Mr. Someshwar Dutta Bajpai** (Program Manager, SPARC-India) held a meaningful meeting with the **District Magistrate of Lucknow, Mr. Vishakh G. Iyer, IAS**, to discuss support for SPARC-India and its Ek Prayas Centre, supported by IDFC First Bank.



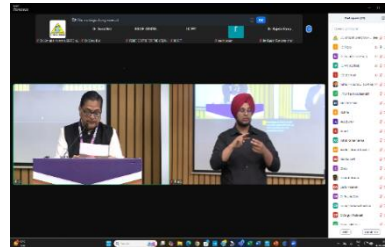




During the meeting, the District Magistrate graciously consented to be the Chief Guest for the inauguration of the Ek Prayas Centre.

## **INCLUSIVE INDIA SUMMIT ON THE OCCASION OF GLOBAL ACCESSIBILITY AWARENESS DAY**

**The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD), Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India, in collaboration with the SBI Foundation, NAB Delhi, Mission Accessibility, and the Association of People with Disability (APD), organized the Inclusive India Summit on May 15, 2025, to commemorate Global Accessibility Awareness Day. Held virtually, the summit brought together a diverse group of stakeholders, experts, and practitioners dedicated to promoting accessibility and inclusion across sectors.**



The event began with an inaugural session featuring speeches by dignitaries who emphasized the critical role of accessibility in building an inclusive society. This was followed by a panel discussion on Inclusive Technologies and Innovations, showcasing best practices and advancements in accessible solutions. The summit concluded with a consultation session on Digital Accessibility in Curriculum, focusing on the integration of accessibility standards into educational content and teaching practices.

Dr. Amitabh Mehrotra (Founder Director, SPARC-India) actively participated in the summit, contributing valuable insights and raising a pertinent question during the consultation session. He underscored the urgent need for systemic reforms to ensure digital accessibility within academic frameworks.

## **MEETING WITH THE DISTRICT MAGISTRATE, BARABANKI**

On 20<sup>th</sup> May 2025, a meeting was held with the **District Magistrate of Barabanki, Mr. Shashank Tripathi, IAS**, to discuss a proposed program for leprosy-cured persons and individuals with other disabilities. **Dr. Amitabh Mehrotra** (Founder Director, SPARC-India) introduced the initiative, which is to be implemented in collaboration with SMK. During his address, he highlighted the significant contributions of Mr. Suresh Kaul Ji, a committed advocate who has worked tirelessly for the welfare of leprosy-cured individuals for several decades.



The District Magistrate extended his full support to the proposed vocational program, aimed at empowering leprosy-cured persons and individuals with disabilities. He also agreed to assist in resolving long-standing issues related to a parcel of land sanctioned in January 2006 for establishing a vocational unit. Additionally, he instructed his Public Relations Officer to provide relevant data on leprosy-cured individuals residing in the Barabanki district, to support effective planning and implementation of the initiative.



## CII AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN DISABILITY INCLUSION – 2025

On May 22, 2025, the *Confederation of Indian Industry* (CII) hosted the inaugural CII Awards for Excellence in Disability Inclusion at Hyatt Regency, Lucknow. The event recognized and celebrated organizations demonstrating exemplary inclusive practices for persons with disabilities. Notable awardees included **Wipro Limited** (Champion Company), **Zomato**, and **Vindhya E-Info Media** (Best Employers), **Amazon** (Accessibility), and **Minda Corporation** and **Worth Trust** (Inclusive Recruitment). The event also saw the launch of the Inclusion Insights report, which showcased best practices in disability inclusion.



The awards ceremony underscored the shared responsibility of building inclusive workplaces and fostering a more equitable society. Distinguished guests on the dais included **Shri Asim Arun** (Minister of State, Independent Charge, for Social Welfare and SC/ST Welfare, Government of Uttar Pradesh), **Shri Awanish Awasthi** (Chief Advisor to the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh), **Shri Subhash Chand Sharma** (Principal Secretary, Backward Welfare & Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities and Director, Handicapped, Government of Uttar Pradesh), **Ms. Upasana Arora** (Chairperson, CII Uttar Pradesh), and **Ms. Sminu Jindal** (Founder-Chairperson, Svayam).

**Dr. Amitabh Mehrotra** (Founder Director, SPARC-India), along with **Mr. Santosh Tiwari** and **Mr. Sunil Kumar** (Coordinators, SPARC-India), also actively participated in the event.

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