



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

January 2025 – March 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 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, 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



Thumb Painting



Mehandi Design



Envelop Making



Puzzle Fixing



Physiotherapy Sessions



Speech Therapy Sessions



Computer Class



Colouring 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 government schemes and programs available for Children 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 are organized so that the children can experience peer learning, participation, and group work. Students participated in indoor, outdoor games as the main



objective of the activities were 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 **11th January 2025, 8th February 2025, & 8th March 2025** at Jyoti Kiran School. The main aims of the meeting were:



- Counselling of parents/guardians
- Sanitation, hygiene, and diet
- Student attendance, stressing the importance of regular participation in school activities
- Commercialization and socialization
- Tools and equipment
- The importance of proper documentation for students
- Physical and Speech therapeutic interventions
- Parental homework neglect
- Children's behavioral concerns, 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 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 student. 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 of 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.

DISTRIBUTION OF AIDS AND APPLIANCES

On January 20, 2025, the **Composite Regional Centre (CRC)**, Lucknow, organized a special camp titled "*Awareness Program for Divyangjan and Senior Citizens*" to promote inclusivity and support for persons with disabilities and the elderly. The camp focused on raising awareness and distributing essential assistive devices to enhance mobility, communication, and independence.



Ten students from SPARC-India's Jyoti Kiran School participated and received wheelchairs, walkers, hearing aids, and TLM kits. This initiative highlights the importance of assistive technology in empowering children/persons with disabilities and fostering an inclusive, dignified society.

TRAINING ON TLM-KIT

On January 31, 2025, SPARC India organized a *Training Program on Teaching-Learning Materials (TLM)* at Jyoti Kiran School to educate teachers, staff, and parents on age-specific TLM kits. Mr. Durgesh Kumar (Special Educator from CRC, Lucknow) led the session, explaining the use of TLM kits designed for children aged 0 to 18 years. These kits support sensory, cognitive, academic, and vocational development. The interactive session allowed participants to explore kit components and discuss practical applications for inclusive education. Dr. Amitabh Mehrotra emphasized the role of TLM in supporting independent learning. The event reinforced SPARC India's commitment to inclusive, engaging, and accessible education for all children.





ORIENTATION PROGRAM OF INDIAN SIGN LANGUAGE

On March 3, 2025, SPARC India conducted an *Orientation Program on Indian Sign Language (ISL)* at Jyoti Kiran School. The session was inaugurated by Program Manager Mr. Someshwar D. Bajpai, with expert speakers including Dr. Rahul Verma (Clinical Psychologist, CRC Lucknow), Mr. Zaid (Sign Language Interpreter, CRC), and Mrs. Shefali (Interpreter, CRC).



Dr. Verma emphasized ISL's role in cognitive and emotional development, the importance of early intervention, and a multidisciplinary approach to supporting children with disabilities. Mr. Zaid, communicating in ISL, shared insights into Deaf culture, language barriers, common misconceptions, and demonstrated basic signs. His session was interpreted by Mrs. Shefali, showcasing inclusive communication in action.

Attendees learned about ISL grammar, visual communication strategies, and how to teach sensitive topics like good and bad touch to hearing-impaired children. Dr. Verma concluded by highlighting behavior management techniques and the use of the AIC Behaviour Chart for children with special needs.

The program, attended by educators, parents, and staff, concluded with a vote of thanks and closing remarks by Dr. Amitabh Mehrotra, who emphasized the importance of such initiatives in building an inclusive society.

CELEBRATION OF "ABHIVYAKTI" FOR ESPECIALLY ABLED CHILDREN

On March 28, 2025, the *Inner Wheel Club of Lucknow* celebrated "**Abhivyakti**", a vibrant event dedicated to showcasing the talents of specially-abled children, at the Rotary Community Centre, Nirala Nagar, Lucknow.



The objective of the program was to highlight the creativity and capabilities of these children through a series of engaging competitions.



Students from Jyoti Kiran School participated enthusiastically in various events, including creating decorative items from waste plastic bottles and aluminum foil, a clay art competition, a group folk dance performance, and a themed story play based on Swachh Bharat. After the competitions, all participants were awarded prizes and certificates in recognition of their efforts.

The event was graced by Mrs. Monika Lal, Deputy Director, Department of Disability & Empowerment, Uttar Pradesh, as the Chief Guest, adding encouragement and inspiration to the celebration.



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.

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 Bhikhapurva | 21 st March 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 | Sibling's workshop | SPARC-India office | 10 th January 2025 |
| 2 | Sibling's workshop | SPARC-India office | 11 th January 2025 |

MEETING WITH PARENTS OF CwDs AND MEMBERS OF 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 Kheshrawan | 16 th January 2025 |
| 2 | Meeting with parents/guardians of CwDs and the community | Samuday, Chak Prithvipur | 11 th March 2025 |

TRAINING ON THE RIGHT TO EDUCATION ACT 2009 & INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

Trainings on the Right to Education (RTE) Act 2009 and Inclusive Education were 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 IE | AWC, Parsaun | 27 th January 2025 |
| 2 | Training on RTE Act 2009 and IE | AWC, Sardar Nagar | 5 th February 2025 |
| 3 | Training on RTE Act 2009 and IE | AWC, Usarana | 10 th March 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 and other related information and asked questions regarding their concerns.



| S. No. | Activity Name | Place | Date |
|--------|--|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 | Disability Awareness and Sensitization | AWC, Semra Gaurhi | 25 th January 2025 |
| 2 | Disability Awareness and Sensitization | Samuday, Kishunpur | 28 th January 2025 |
| 3 | Disability Awareness and Sensitization | Samuday, Mallahan Khera | 4 th February 2025 |
| 4 | Disability Awareness and Sensitization | AWC, Baraura Hussain Bari | 10 th February 2025 |

TRAINING ON ACTIVITIES OF DAILY LIVING

Training on Activities of Daily Living (ADL) for the parents and caregivers of children with disabilities (CwDs) was conducted to create awareness among them. 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 | 18 th March 2025 |
| 2 | Training on Activities of Daily Living | SPARC-India Office | 22 nd March 2025 |

QUANTITATIVE ACHIEVEMENTS

- **3641** Stakeholders sensitized on disability rights
- **2** Meetings with guardians of CwDs and their caregivers were conducted
- **1** Training of SMC members on Inclusive Education was conducted
- **3** Trainings on the Right to Education Act 2009 and Inclusive Education
- **2** Trainings on Activities of Daily Living were held
- **2** Sibling workshops were conducted
- **4** Disability Awareness and sensitization campaigns were conducted
- **20** CwDs for disability certificate, **21** for UDID, **5** for Aadhar card, **10** for birth Certificates, **2** for Assistive devices, **28** for Sponsorship Scheme, **2** for Pension (Disability, Old, Widow, etc.), and **2** for Niramaya health card
- 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.

Ek Prayas Centre 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).



Colouring Activity



Hand Painting Activity



Compression Therapy

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 | Dhamamau | 8 th January 2025 |
| 2. | Sensitization Awareness Session for Parents | Udavatpur | 9 th January 2025 |
| 3. | Sensitization Awareness Session for Parents | Digoyi | 10 th January 2025 |
| 4. | Sensitization Awareness Session for Parents | Ek Prayas Centre | 15 th January 2025 |
| 5. | Sensitization Awareness Session for Parents | Bhagautipur | 18 th January 2025 |
| 6. | Sensitization Awareness Session for Parents | Bhaisamau | 25 th January 2025 |
| 7. | Sensitization Awareness Session for Parents | Harda Colony | 29 th January 2025 |
| 8. | Sensitization Awareness Session for Parents | Prasau | 5 th February 2025 |
| 9. | Sensitization Awareness Session for Parents | Derawa | 6 th February 2025 |
| 10. | Sensitization Awareness Session for Parents | Hardhaurpur | 8 th February 2025 |
| 11. | Sensitization Awareness Session for Parents | Panditpurwa | 13 th February 2025 |
| 12. | Sensitization Awareness Session for Parents | Shivpuri | 21 st February 2025 |
| 13. | Sensitization Awareness Session for Parents | Chakraprithavipur | 25 th February 2025 |
| 14. | Sensitization Awareness Session for Parents | Kathawara | 27 th February 2025 |
| 15. | Sensitization Awareness Session for Parents | Kalyanpur | 28 th February 2025 |
| 16. | Sensitization Awareness Session for Parents | Kamalpur | 05 th March 2025 |
| 17. | Sensitization Awareness Session for Parents | Ruthara | 06 th March 2025 |
| 18. | Sensitization Awareness Session for Parents | Hardhaurpur | 20 th March 2025 |
| 19. | Sensitization Awareness Session for Parents | Karaundi | 22 nd March 2025 |
| 20. | Sensitization Awareness Session for Parents | Atesuwa | 24 th March 2025 |
| 21. | Sensitization Awareness Session for Parents | Lalpur | 24 th March 2025 |

CELEBRATIONS

New Year Celebration: On January 1, 2025, the New Year was celebrated with all the children at a Prayas Centre. During this celebration, all the children enthusiastically participated in various programs like dance, games, etc.

Republic Day Celebration: On 26th January 2025, SPARC-India's Jyoti Kiran School celebrated Republic Day with vibrant cultural performances by children from Ek Prayas Centre and Jyoti Kiran School. Distinguished guests like Dr. Ravindra Kumar Tiwari, Dr. Anoop Chaturvedi, and others graced the event, adding great value to the occasion.

Holi Celebration: On 11th March 2025, a small Holi celebration was organized by SPARC-India's Ek Prayas Centre in collaboration with IDFC FIRST Bank. Ek Prayas students participated enthusiastically, learning about the significance of Holi and the concept of colors. They applied gulaal on each other, enjoyed gujiya, and had a fun dance session. The event concluded with each child receiving a pichkari (water gun) as a gift.



CAMP

Health Camp: On February 20, 2025, a free health camp was organized at "Ek Prayas Centre" for children with special needs. In this camp, health check-ups were conducted for over 60 children, and necessary medications were provided.



The health camp was conducted by an experienced medical team, including Dr. Sayra Bano (Medical Officer), Dr. Parul (Dentist), Mr. Naimish Verma (Pharmacist), Mrs. Reena Bajpai, and Ranjana (ANMs).

UDID Camp: On January 17, 2025, SPARC-India's Ek Prayas Center, in collaboration with IDFC FIRST Bank and SPARC India, organized a camp to issue "UDID Certificates" to children from Jyoti Kiran School, the IE Program, Ek Prayas, and the community. Prominent doctors and professionals, including Dr. Abhay Singh (Psychiatrist) and Dr. Garima Singh (Clinical Psychologist), attended the event. A total of 22 children were assessed, and UDID cards were issued to 16 children affected by neurological disorders.



UDID Camp: On January 23, 2025, SPARC-India's Ek Prayas Center, in collaboration with IDFC FIRST Bank and SPARC India, organized a camp to issue UDID Certificates to children from Jyoti Kiran School, the IE Program, Ek Prayas, and the local community. Dr. Amitabh Mehrotra (Founder Director, SPARC India) and healthcare professionals like Dr. G.K. Sharma (Orthopedic Surgeon) and Dr. Nidhi (Ophthalmologist) attended the event. A total of 65 UDID cards were issued. This initiative aimed to provide better support for children with disabilities.



EXPOSURE VISITS:

COMPOSITE REGIONAL CENTRE, LUCKNOW

On February 14, 2025, the Ek Prayas team visited CRC Lucknow for an exploratory session. The team, including Mrs. Roopanjali Singh, Mr. Rajwant Yadav, Mrs. Shalini Gupta, and Mr. Anuj Kumar Yadav, met Dr. Ganesan and visited various departments to learn about intervention activities.



- 1. Clinical Psychology:** Mr. Rahul Verma discussed assessment, behavior modification, IQ testing, and parental counseling.
- 2. Special Education:** Mr. Durgesh Verma shared insights on developmental delays, early intervention, TLM, and teaching methodologies.



3. **Audiology:** Mr. Bhownick Kandpal explained ABR testing and diagnostic procedures.
4. **Physiotherapy:** Dr. Santosh provided insights into physical rehabilitation.
5. **Occupational Therapy:** Dr. Amit discussed occupational therapy practices.
6. **Prosthetics & Assistive Devices:** Mrs. Yamini provided information on artificial limbs and assistive devices, including the Pradhan Mantri Divyangjan Sashaktikaran Yojana.

The Ek Prayas team also arranged refreshments for children with special needs at CRC. They expressed gratitude for the warm reception and look forward to continued collaboration.

RISING SUN CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER, LUCKNOW

On March 10, 2025, the Ek Prayas Centre team visited Rising Sun Child Development Center, Lucknow, to understand therapies for children with developmental challenges. Dr. Imran Ahmad introduced key services, including speech, occupational, sensory integration, and behavior therapies.



The team interacted with physiotherapists, special educators, and the speech therapist, gaining insights into individualized interventions.

The visit provided practical exposure to holistic child development practices.

PARENT SUPPORT GROUP MEETINGS

A total of **7 Parent Support Group (PSG)** meetings were held at Ek Prayas Centre from January 2025 to March 2025.

The main objectives of these meetings were as follows:

1. Children's regular attendance
2. Cleanliness and hygiene of the children
3. Behavioral issues of the children
4. Physio & Speech therapies for the children
5. 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 centre, 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.



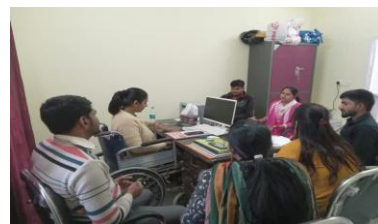
CASE CONFERENCE

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 issue 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

On January 31, 2025, SPARC India hosted a TLM kit training at Jyoti Kiran School. The event, attended by key figures like Mr. Durgesh Kumar (Faculty of CRC, Lucknow), Dr. Amitabh Mehrotra, and other staff, focused on educating attendees about the use of TLM kits. These kits, tailored to different age groups (0-3, 3-6, 7-11, and 12-18 years), contain materials designed to support the overall development of children.



IDFC FIRST BANK CSR MANAGER VISITED EK PRAYAS CENTRE

On January 30, 2025, Mr. Ravi Sakhare, CSR Manager from IDFC FIRST Bank, made a surprise visit to the Ek Prayas Centre. He reviewed the team's attendance, inspected the nutrition, and interacted with the children. A meeting was held with the parents, during which a game was organized to help them understand that children's progress requires time and patience.



Additionally, a discussion occurred with the team members to identify key areas for improving the operations of the Ek Prayas Centre.

A virtual meeting was held with Mrs. Nandini Iyengar (Engagement Manager, SoulAce) to discuss children's education, welfare, and program progress, followed by a session with 18 parents to gather feedback and suggestions. The discussions centred on progress, satisfaction, and potential improvements for the children's development.

CELEBRATION OF "ABHIVYAKTI" FOR ESPECIALLY ABLED CHILDREN

On Friday, March 28, 2025, the Inner Wheel Club Lucknow organized the "Abhivyakti" program at the Rotary Community Centre, Nirala Nagar. This annual event is dedicated to showcasing the talents of differently-abled individuals. Around ten organizations participated in the program, including the children of "Ek Prayas" from SPARC India. The children of "Ek Prayas" conveyed the importance of cleanliness through a presentation on the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (Clean India Mission).





COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAM

During January to March 2025, SPARC-India, with the support of India Pesticides Ltd., continued its efforts to promote inclusive education, health care, and community empowerment for children with disabilities. Key activities included community counselling and awareness sessions, home-based therapy under the Inclusive Education Program, sibling and parental workshops, and sensitization campaigns to strengthen disability awareness. The organization also conducted two UDID certification camps issuing 81 cards, a free health camp benefitting over 60 children, and capacity-building training for staff on Teaching–Learning Materials (TLM). These initiatives collectively enhanced access to essential services, empowered families, and fostered greater inclusion and participation of children with disabilities in both education and community life.

COUNSELLING

The Community Mobilizer conducted systematic outreach and counselling sessions with parents of children with disabilities, both individually and in groups, to enhance awareness of disability rights and strengthen parental engagement. Comprehensive support was extended to families in obtaining essential documents and services such as disability certificates, UDID cards, identity proofs, assistive devices, and disability pensions.



The mobilizer provided end-to-end facilitation—from documentation preparation and application submission to follow-up coordination with concerned departments—ensuring timely access to entitlements. This proactive intervention significantly improved families' access to social protection schemes, empowered parents to advocate for their children's rights, and fostered inclusive practices within the community, enabling children with disabilities to receive their rightful opportunities in education and holistic development.

THERAPY (Community and Jyoti Kiran School)

Under the Inclusive Education Program, structured home-based therapy sessions were conducted for children with disabilities both within the community and at Jyoti Kiran School. These sessions focused on improving motor, cognitive, and communication skills to support the children's overall development and school readiness.

Individualized therapy plans were developed by therapists, who also carried out regular follow-up visits and guided parents on continuing therapeutic exercises at home. This integrated and family-centered approach enhanced the effectiveness of therapy, empowered parents to take an active role in their child's progress, and





contributed to improved functional abilities and greater inclusion of children with disabilities within the community.

SIBLINGS WORKSHOP

SPARC-India organized a Sibling Workshop at its office for brothers and sisters of children with disabilities to enhance their understanding of child rights and their role in supporting siblings with Activities of Daily Living (ADL). The session aimed to educate participants about Child Rights, the Right to Education, and practical strategies to help their siblings develop independence through regular ADL practice.



The workshop fostered empathy, responsibility, and active participation among siblings, encouraging them to contribute positively to the growth and inclusion of children with disabilities within their families and communities.

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, at Anganwadi Centres and within the community to promote awareness on Inclusive Education. The sessions focused on educating participants about prenatal, natal, and post-natal health precautions, procedures for applying to various pension and welfare schemes, and the importance of ensuring quality education for all children, including those with disabilities.



These meetings strengthened participants' understanding of essential health, social protection, and educational aspects, fostering a supportive environment for the holistic 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, particularly those promoting inclusive learning environments and ensuring every child's right to free and compulsory education.



Parents and guardians of both children with and without disabilities actively participated in the sessions. They demonstrated strong interest, shared valuable insights, and reaffirmed their commitment to prioritizing education and supporting their children's regular and meaningful participation in school activities.



DISABILITY AWARENESS AND SENSITIZATION CAMPAIGN

SPARC-India organized Disability Awareness and Sensitization Campaigns at Aanganwadi Centres and within the community to strengthen understanding of disability-related issues among community members. The sessions focused on raising awareness about preventive care during pregnancy, the types and prevalence of disabilities, and dispelling common myths associated with disability.



Participants were also sensitized to the importance of school education for Children with Disabilities (CwDs), the process of obtaining disability certificates, and the availability of various government schemes and entitlements.

Additionally, discussions covered Activities of Daily Living (ADL) support and guidance on addressing common behavioural challenges among children with disabilities. Parents and guardians of both children with and without disabilities actively participated, engaging in meaningful discussions and seeking clarity on different aspects of care and access to services. These interactive sessions contributed to fostering empathy, awareness, and greater inclusion within the community.

HEALTH CAMP

On 20th February 2025, SPARC-India organized a Free Health Camp at the Ek Prayas Centre for children with special needs. The camp aimed to promote the health and well-being of children by providing comprehensive medical assessments and essential medications as required.



More than 60 children benefited from detailed health check-ups conducted by an experienced medical team comprising Dr. Sayra Bano (Medical Officer), Dr. Parul (Dentist), Mr. Naimish Verma (Pharmacist), and ANMs Mrs. Reena Bajpai and Ms. Ranjana. The initiative contributed to early identification of health concerns, ensuring timely intervention and improved overall well-being of children with disabilities.

UDID CAMP

On 17th January 2025, SPARC-India's Ek Prayas Centre organized a UDID Certification Camp for children from Jyoti Kiran School, the Inclusive Education Program, Ek Prayas Centre, and the surrounding community. The camp aimed to facilitate the assessment and issuance of Unique Disability ID (UDID) cards to ensure easier access to government entitlements and disability-related services.





A team of specialists, including Dr. Abhay Singh (Psychiatrist) and Dr. Garima Singh (Clinical Psychologist), conducted comprehensive evaluations during the camp. A total of 22 children were assessed, and 16 children with neurological disorders received UDID cards. The initiative enhanced access to essential identity documentation, enabling families to avail of social welfare schemes and support services more effectively.

UDID CAMP

On 23rd January 2025, SPARC-India's Ek Prayas Centre organized a UDID Certification Camp for children from Jyoti Kiran School, the Inclusive Education Program, Ek Prayas Centre, and the local community. The camp aimed to streamline access to essential government support services for children with disabilities through the issuance of Unique Disability ID (UDID) cards.



The program was graced by Dr. Amitabh Mehrotra (Founder Director, SPARC-India) and supported by healthcare professionals, including Dr. G.K. Sharma (Orthopedic Surgeon) and Dr. Nidhi (Ophthalmologist). A total of 65 UDID cards were successfully issued during the camp, enabling children and their families to access various social welfare schemes, assistive devices, and rehabilitation services with greater ease.

CAPACITY BUILDING TRAINING FOR STAFF

On 31st January 2025, SPARC-India organized a Teaching–Learning Material (TLM) Kit Training at Jyoti Kiran School to enhance the capacity of educators in promoting inclusive learning. The session was facilitated by Mr. Durgesh Kumar (Faculty, CRC Lucknow) and attended by Dr. Amitabh Mehrotra (Founder Director, SPARC-India) along with school staff members.



The training focused on demonstrating the effective use of TLM kits specially designed for different age groups—0–3, 3–6, 7–11, and 12–18 years. These kits include developmentally appropriate materials that support the cognitive, motor, and social growth of children, thereby contributing to their holistic learning and overall development.

PRESENTATIONS

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



THE LEADERSHIP MEETING ON EK PRAYAS PROGRAM

On January 6, 2025, Dr. Amitabh Mehrotra represented SPARC India at the *Leadership Meet on the Ek Prayas program*, sharing the organization's mission and achievements in empowering Persons with Disabilities. He highlighted SPARC India's work in training mothers for home and center-based care while addressing challenges like mobility, funding, and manpower.



The event marked the launch of the Ek Prayas SOP by Mr. Adrian Andrade, CHRO, outlining standardized program procedures. Dr. Mehrotra contributed to discussions on governance, impact assessment, and CSR practices. SPARC India will adopt video-based assessments, refine indicators, and explore partnerships to address funding needs. The meeting concluded with a commitment to continued virtual engagement for shared learning and improved program impact.

QUIZABLED FINAL EVENT

On January 11, 2025, BMS College of Engineering hosted Quizabled, a national-level quiz competition celebrating the talents of individuals with disabilities, with participants from 12 states. Children with intellectual disabilities showcased their skills in an inclusive, empowering environment.



Dr. Amitabh Mehrotra, Founder-Director of SPARC India, was honored as a Special Invitee. He shared his journey with cerebral palsy, delivered an inspiring address to parents and participants, and applauded Sewa-In-Action and LTI Mindtree for the initiative. Dr. Mehrotra also visited the Sewa-In-Action office and interacted with the staff.

SUGAMYA YATRA – 2025

Sugamya Yatra – 2025 was organized on 7th February 2025 by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Lucknow, in collaboration with the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Government of Uttar Pradesh.

The event saw enthusiastic participation from voluntary organizations, educational institutions, social workers, and persons with disabilities working in the disability sector.



The theme of Sugamya Yatra was to raise public awareness about accessibility for persons with disabilities.

Students from Jyoti Kiran School, along with SPARC-India staff, actively participated in the event.



The Chief Guest was Shri Subhash Chand Sharma (IAS, Principal Secretary, Government of Uttar Pradesh), and the Guests of Honor included Shri Ajeet Kumar (IAS, State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, UP), Mrs. Monika Lal (Deputy Director, Department of Disability & Empowerment, UP), and Mr. Rajnish Kiran (Director, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Lucknow).

IMPACT SUMMIT 2025

On February 7, 2025, *Impact Summit 2025*, a major CSR Conclave organized at Hotel Aditya Inn, Balrampur, by Tata Group in collaboration with Giftabled, brought together top CSR partners—including Microsoft, Walmart, CISCO, Amadeus, Dentsu, Apollo, Publicis Sapient, and Accenture—to share strategies on inclusion and empowerment of persons with disabilities.

The summit featured four insightful panel discussions on:

- **Inclusion and Its Community Impact** – Emphasizing inclusive policies, accessible infrastructure, and digital access.
- **Volunteering for Disability Empowerment** – Highlighting sustained volunteer efforts within corporations and communities.
- **Accelerating Development** – Focusing on inclusive hiring, skill development, and technology-driven opportunities.
- **Inspiring Stories** – Mothers shared real-life stories of their children overcoming disability barriers, facilitated by Giftabled.

Key highlights included:

- ✚ Tata Motors' inclusion initiatives.
- ✚ A special session on Indian Sign Language by a Deaf presenter.
- ✚ Microsoft's workshops on "AI for Everyone" and Microsoft 365 Copilot.
- ✚ A session on "AI for Social Good," emphasizing the role of AI in accessibility and empowerment.

The summit concluded as a powerful platform for collaboration and innovation, reinforcing the role of corporations, volunteers, and technology in creating a more inclusive society.

MEETING WITH SDM OF BAKSHI KA TALAB

On February 17, 2025, Dr. Amitabh Mehrotra (Founder Director, SPARC-INDIA), Mr. Someshwar Dutta Bajpai (Program Manager, SPARC-INDIA), Mrs. Roopanjali Singh (Head, Ek Prayas Centre), and Mr. Rajwant Yadav (Special Educator) met with Mr. Satish Chandra Tripathi, PCS, the SDM of Bakshi Ka Talab Block. They discussed the services provided by SPARC-INDIA and Ek Prayas for persons with disabilities and sought support for access to government rehabilitation schemes.





The SDM assured full cooperation and committed to facilitating the necessary assistance.

ANNUAL REVIEW MEETING OF EK PRAYAS PROGRAM

From 6th to 8th March 2025, a three-day event was held in Mumbai to highlight SPARC India's organizational development, sustainability strategies, financial procedures, and its impactful collaborations with government and community stakeholders.



On Day 1, Sessions focused on organizational development, sustainability policies and procedures, and the critical role of the Board as brand ambassadors in sustaining interventions.

On Day 2, SPARC India presented its progress, which was highly appreciated by IDFC First Bank. In just eight months of operation, SPARC India demonstrated remarkable achievements in building linkages with government bodies, fostering community engagement, and developing necessary infrastructure.

On Day 3: Featured discussions on financial procedures, outcome indicators, and tracking mechanisms for deliverables.



The organization's robust tracking system and its effective convergence of services with government schemes were widely praised. SPARC India was recognized for its commitment to sharing community resources and knowledge with government functionaries, further strengthening its role in creating sustainable and impactful interventions.