

# SPARC-INDIA

## NEWS LETTER JULY-SEP 2013

### From Director's Desk

It is always a pleasure to share our SPARC-India's happenings with our alliances and well-wishers. SPARC-India is doing continuous tremendous job in making individuals and community people understand what disabilities issues are and how deficiently we need our own share in public services and government policies. Through our Advocacy, Community Based Rehabilitation Program (Urban & Rural), Vocational and Educational Institutional Program (Jyoti Kiran School) we are trying to improve the status of PWDs in positive way.



We wish to continue this process of work and request our respected readers to share their views with us for our improvement and appreciation.

**SPARC-India (School for Potential Advancement and Restoration of Confidence)** is working for the rehabilitation and rights of persons with disabilities since 1996. It is a voluntary organization which is successfully working for persons with disabilities (PWDs) through its Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) Programs in the urban slums and rural areas of Lucknow and Barabanki District (U.P India). SPARC India also established its Jyoti Kiran School for cerebral Palsied (CP) children in the year 2003. SPARC-India has been putting in concerted efforts in the Disability Movement in the State of Uttar Pradesh since the time when in our country this movement was in its infancy. The organizational objectives are conceived with the firm notion of taking a lead role in its work in the field of disability.

## Jyoti Kiran School for Cerebral Palsied Children

### Advisory Committee Meeting

Director and founder chairperson of SPARC-India Mr. Amitabh Mehrotra started Meeting with the welcome of all members an Introduction session was initiated of presented members and SPARC-India team. After that coordinator of CBR program made a presentation over the annual progress 2012-13 and SPARC-India's Strategy Plan Document.

Advisory committee discussed the plan over fundraising and they also discussed over the land need for SPARC-India's inclusive building setup.

### Inclusive Workshop

During the period an inclusive workshop had conducted in the Jai Shankar Prasad Hall, Rai Uma Nath Bali Auditorium, Qaiserbagh. In this workshop, principals and teachers of different schools from Lucknow district participated in the workshop. By these workshop teachers, principals gained lots of knowledge about Inclusive Education and shared their view; also they took interest to understand the topic and how it can be implemented in their schools and can make their school barrier free. At the end of the workshop, Action Plan was designed, where in all the schools including Primary schools gave commitment to SPARC-India that they will work on Inclusive Education according to the provisions of RTE act 2009 and Private schools stated that they will also enroll and work towards disable friendly atmosphere with positive energy.

### Regular Activities of the School

- Home Visits
- Case Conference
- Clinic Day
- Physiotherapy
- Counseling
- Saturday Activities
- PSG Meetings



## Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR)–Rural Program

### Therapy Visit

An expert from SPARC – India conducted regular therapy sessions for 48 children who were in dire need of the same, learnt after a thorough assessment. Regular follow up and monitoring of the plan was prepared by CBR workers with the assistance of the parents of the targeted children. The physiotherapist made handmade equipments for children according to their need; these equipments were made up of bamboo sticks and are very comfortable for children.

### Panchayat Meeting

5 panchayat meetings were held in the entire gram Panchayats and as a chief guest Gram Pradhan & Panchayat Adhikari attended the meeting. Challenged, non-challenged and the members of SHGs participated. In the meeting they made a discussion on government schemes like- Disability Certificate, pension, Loan etc and told them the process to get all the schemes and services. It was also discussed in the meeting that PWDs can get loans through the agencies and can start the self business.

### Anganwadi Training Program

In the reporting period, One Day Anganwadi Training was held and C.D.P.O Mrs Rashmi Awasthi conducted the training as resource person, wherein she discussed about the types of disability with participants and also briefly discussed on **Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS)** including objective and major points.

## Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) – Urban

### Regular Activities

- SHG Meeting
- DPO Meeting
- Home Visit
- Advocacy Meeting
- Bal group Meeting
- Counseling Meeting

### DPO (Disable People Organization) Meeting

**Objective:** To raise the voice of PWDs demanding their rights and entitlements for the policy influence and change.

**Process:** Meetings were conducted in all 7 slum areas

under the project by the Advocacy Coordinator and field workers. In the meeting Advocacy Coordinator asked to the disabled persons about their employment related problems and provided the information of the employment. He told if you want to open the shop so will fill the material of minimum 2200 Rs and Cheshayar Home will also provide the help of Rs 2200 for your livelihood. Participants shared their experiences over how they are getting financial support from this small support.



### Physiotherapy

In the reporting period the physiotherapy was given to all 36 children in the slum areas of Madiyaon ward. The physiotherapist along with speech therapist and special educator made a follow up visit to children's home to know the family environment and instruct their parents to how to conduct their therapies at home. During the period 13 children have shown improvement in ADL, FMD, and GMD and the parents of 7 CWDs taking interest in home based therapy.

### Bal Group Meeting

In the meeting, the challenged and non-challenged children were participated and they themselves raised the issues related to discrimination and ignorance due to their disability. After that challenged children shared their initiatives and positive impact after the inclusion of non challenged children in their children group.

### Counseling Meeting

**Objective:** Provide the information to the parents of severely challenged children about to the Daily Activities of CWDs and sort out the problems and link them with self-



employment.

**Process:** In the reporting period counseling meeting was conducted in all 7 slum areas of project areas. The advocacy coordinator and field worker conducted the meeting, the parents of severely challenged children were called in the meeting and they shared the problems which were faced by their child. Advocacy coordinator also told

the process of issuing the certificate and provides the name of the schools of disabled children. Few parents also shared good experiences and said my son have more comfortable with the wheel-chair and he is very happy because he goes to the Jyoti Kiran School of SPARC-India.

### **Self-help Group**

In the reporting period, in the different slums we have conducted the meeting and provide the importance and process of SHGs in the community. Lakshmi is a SHG and all the group members give their saving and treasurer collects it and also applies to open a group account in Aaryawart Grameen Bank.

### **Home Visit**

In this visit, therapist and advocacy coordinator motivated the guardian for the regular therapy of the children. Evaluation of the behavior of the challenged children was done in regular interval through home visit and found some cases of improvement. Guardian got the assurance of the regular therapy.

### **Other Achievements**

In the reporting period, the organization enabled PWDs in accessing the following facilities through different government sources:

- 9 PWDs had linked with Cheshayar Home for self employment.

## Sponsorship Program

The program has been implemented for providing support in education and therapeutic intervention for CWDs. These children are affected from Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation, Hemi paresis, PPRP (Post Polio Residual Paralysis), Physical Disability and visual impairment etc. **The two main facilities provided by SPARC-India to them are Education & Therapy.** All in all 53 children have been provided skills for ADLs and educational support to develop their ability to reverse the disability. Teaching and learning materials were provided to each CWD.

**Therapy:** Facility which is provided under this program is Home based Therapy/treatment. The children who are not able to come, therapists of SPARC-India facilitate these physiotherapy sessions by visiting their homes and also help them in getting aids & appliances viz; caliper, crutches, wheel chair, walker etc according to their needs.

Amar (name changed)

Abdul (name changed)



Before

After

Before

After

## Rights and Entitlements Program in Lucknow

The project aims to provide person with disability (PWDs) access to rights and entitlements under health, educational and a sustained livelihood opportunity. *The purpose of the project is to ensure discrimination free access to government services and the right to live with dignity by mainstreaming the PWDs. The project is covering 785 slums and 110 wards of Lucknow city in Uttar Pradesh.*

### **Sharing best practices and learning at state and regional consultations to influence policies and schemes to be inclusive towards PWDs.**

Following are the activities that have been done in the 3 months of the reporting period:

- Formation of 5 DPOs
- Ward-wise quarterly meetings for disabled people organization (DPO)-110 no meetings
- Training programme of Domestic Violence Act & Disability Act. - 1 no.
- Zone wise (4 Zone) Quarterly guardians meetings at 1 places
- Involvement of local leaders & representatives in DPO led initiatives.-70 no.
- Participation in Half-yearly meetings of health & education committees- 30 no
- Open meetings in the community (with more participation of PWDs)-8 no.
- Use of RTI to improve quality & access of services related to PWDs- 2 no.
- Advocacy training of DPO leaders- 1 no.
- Building linkage with Commissions on PWDs and other such bodies- 1 no.
- Establishment of Information Centre- 4 no.
- Workshop for the Inclusive Education- 1 no.
- School Management Committee (SMC) formation- 60 Schools

### **Training Programme (Domestic Violence Act, Disability Act)**



A training programme was conducted to provide the awareness about their rights with the help of different acts. Main aim of this training programme was awareness of the PWDs (Person with disability) and the women for his rights and enhanced their capabilities. PWDs (Person with disability) were sensitized on the right based approach, although the special focus on the women.

### **Zone wise Quarterly guardians meetings :**

1 meeting was conducted to the current status of the guardians who have know the organization SPARC-India and the PACS project that has intervened in the life's of C/PWDs to give them a chance at living a better life in the society by making them aware about the entitlements in the government structure. This was also an opportunity for new guardians who have known about the project recently so that they can share their grievances in the meeting to resolve them at the earliest.



### **Formation of Disables People's Organizations**

5 DPOs formations have been done in the 5 wards of Lucknow in the current reporting period, where PWDs (Person with disability) and the guardians of CWDs (Children with disability) came forward and formed a Disabled people organization, so that they can group up together and conduct meetings over the access of their fundamental rights and entitlements. Its main agenda was on how to resolve the issue of PWDs and how they should avail their rights/entitlements in Government structure. These are the key points on which a DPO formation takes place and making them realize (PWDs) the importance of this group.



### **Ward-wise quarterly meetings for disabled people organization (DPO)**

110 meetings have been held so far by in the DPOs that have been formed recently and the DPOs formed earlier they had new schemes and regulations passed by the government as their discussion topics. Problems regarding CMO certificate, rail/bus pass, personal issues, pension related issue, livelihood were the key topics of the discussion.

### **Involvement of local leaders & representatives in DPO led initiatives**

Discussions and meetings have been conducted so far where the participation of the local leader in the DPOs initiative had been explained i.e. how they could help the disabled people in getting them their entitlements or help an individual in opening his/her own business so that they can involve other disabled people in the venture and with the help of local leaders they could have a strong voice in striving to live a dignified life in the society.

### **Advocacy Training of DPO leaders**

DPO (Disabled People Organization) leaders were sensitized on the right based approach, although the special focus on the women. They were intensively trained in this programme to move forward for the cause of doing their own advocacy and liasoning at various platforms in the community and also took up income



generation activities for self dependence. The resource persons discussed on how to make government/other stakeholder and local people to seek equal participation of PWDs in development as well as in the programs meant for their upliftment and also pointed how to promote government ownership and accountability at all level(ward, city, division, state, central) for reaching out to all disables ensured their wellbeing.

### **School Management Committee (SMC) Formation**



Formation of the new SMCs was conducted through open meeting of parents of the students in the schools. In this meeting, all parents were awaked to the rules of school management committee. Formation of this committee was necessary under the Right to Education Act,2009. The main objective of SMC is the watch on all the running government schemes of school and school management and also provides the suggestions for the development of the school.

## **Vocational Training & Placement Center**



### **Stitching/sewing Center**

29 disabled women and girls from most marginalized section of the community are learning stitching and tailoring skills in our stitching section

### **Computer Center**

20 students are enrolled and pursuing their diploma in computer application from Computer Training section. In this group some challenged and some girls belong to marginalized section.