

SPARC-INDIA

NEWS LETTER OCT-DEC 2013

From Director's Desk

It gives me immense pleasure to release the fourth issue of our News Letter which we were planning for quite some time. Reflections of all the effort in the programs by the team members of SPARC-India can be seen and felt in this series. We are taking new initiatives and to make impact on large level in the lives of PWDs. Through our Advocacy program we are organizing the voices of PWDs to raise their voice and can develop their potential as Leaders of the PWDs and can facilitate the process of liasoning and networking and be the change maker of the society. Through our Urban and Rural Community Based Rehabilitation programs we are ensuring that every child and adults with disability can prepare themselves for the mainstreaming. We are in the process of developing our Jyoti Kiran School (Institution Based Program) as inclusive school, for our own learning and developing it as resource school for Uttar Pradesh State. We hope you will be able to have an idea after going through this series, what we are doing and will continue to support the cause of disability and mobilize society, we are taking this opportunity to invite you for giving us feedbacks and comments by writing to us.



Mr. Amitabh Mehrotra

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.

Celebration of World Disability Day

On 7th December'13 SPARC-India celebrated World Disability Day at Gandhi Bhawan, Kaiserbagh Lucknow. On the occasion, the function was inaugurated by lightening of lamp by our Honorable Chief Guest **Mr. A.K. Lal, Joint Secretary and CEO, National Trust, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MSJE), Govt. of India** with the Guest of Honors **Mr. Uma Shankar Singh, Finance Controller, Jal nigam, Govt. of U.P, Justice S.C Verma, Ex-lokaayukt, Govt. of U.P** and **Ms. Ministhy S, IAS, District Magistrate, Barabanki** along with **Mr. Amitabh Mehrotra, Founder Chairperson and Director of SPARC-India, Mr. P.C. Saxena, President of SPARC-India, Mr. Aniruddh Mittal, Mr. Uma Shankar, Mr. A.K Singh.** Later, our guests were warmly welcomed by presenting them a flower bouquet from children. Also, they together revealed SPARC-India's Annual Report 2012- 2013.

The cultural program was started by Ganesh Vandana then challenged & non-challenged children performed on Taare Zameen Par, Dhol Baaje, Maa Tujhe Salaam. Also, a skit named "Shekh Chilli" was beautifully performed by the Academic teachers of SPARC-India's Jyoti Kiran School. On the other hand, the Inter-school Competitions were also being conducted in the ground. The Inter-school Competitions had 5 categories of Rangoli, Painting, Mehndi, Group and Solo Dance. Altogether, there were approximately 80 children from 9



schools took part in all the competitions. All the children performed well and judges judged their talent and distributed Ist, IInd, IIIrd prizes according to their performance. On the occasion, SPARC-India had also simultaneously organized an exhibition where in different organizations and schools viz. Pysum, Parvarish, Asha AWWA and Ehsaas came to exhibit their handmade vocational materials like jute bags, paper bags, purses, candle, paintings etc. and puppet show was also conducted to entertain the children.



An Interface Workshop was also conducted under the banner of Poorest Areas Civil Society (PACS) Program which was attended by our honorable Chief Guest Mr. A. K. Lal along with Mr. A.K. Verma, Chief Manager, Marketing, Aaryawart Grameen Bank, Nodal Bank of NHFDC, Mr. S.C. Verma, Project Officer, DUDA and Mrs. Meenu Tiwari, District Coordinator, Inclusive-education, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. The workshop initiated with the discussion on various schemes and entitlements regarding PWDs. They all focused on Inclusive Education for challenged and non-challenged children for mainstream them into the society, Self Employment for PWDs and described all details about funding schemes through banks etc.

Jyoti Kiran" An Inclusive School"

Social Inclusion

Social Inclusion activity was conducted in the school premises in the presence of Mr. P.C. Saxena, Mr. M.S. Saxena & Mr. Amitabh Mehrotra wherein all parents were attended the occasion and participated in all activities. Lots of games were conducted for parents, where in all parents pick up a chit and they had to draw the picture of whatever was written in the chit then anyone had to identify the picture and sing the song.

Other games are mentioned below:

- 1.) Made blocks by the use of matchstick
- 2.) Eat biscuit without using hands

Regular Activities of the School

Physiotherapy

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

- 3.) Put the thread inside needles
- 4.) Balloon game
- 5.) Musical Chair

All the games were beautifully performed by parents and they all taken up lots of interest in each game and won lots of prizes.

Magic Show

A **Grand Charitable Magic Show** was conducted in the Institution supported by “Oxford Welfare Society & SPARC-India”. Mr. Jim Merrills and his Assistant Sarah Merrills came from U.S.A. to present the show on the theme “Cancer Kidz”. They presented several magic’s based game on the theme and in every magic he asked to say “Don’t Smoke” and children enjoyed the show a lot and loved the clues and tricks used between the magic games.



Candle Vigil at State Level



To tabling the disability Bill in Parliament, SPARC-India in collaboration with Uttar Pradesh Viklang Manch, took the lead in Uttar Pradesh on behalf of PWDs of Uttar Pradesh and organized a candle vigil to mobilize the public and media for pressurizing the state as well as central government. Mr. Amitabh Mehrotra Director of SPARC-India stated that, many organizations working for rights of PWDs along with various professionals from across the country are likely to join the march, we would request the ruling government and opposition party to pass the Disability Rights Bill when Parliament would be convened to pass the Vote

on account in late January or early February.

National Symposium on parent’s perspectives

Mr. Amitabh Mehrotra attended the workshop as a resource person at “National Symposium on parent’s perspectives on the current social & medical issues in children with cerebral palsy” organized by Samvedna Trust. Disability & Livelihood in context of adults with CP also, in which founder also chaired the session of experience sharing by the adults with CP and parents of children / adult with CP. His session was on Educational & job opportunities for Persons with Cerebral Palsy. There were more than 400 children/adults with Cerebral Palsy & their parents from all over U.P.

Children Picnic

A children picnic for all schools children was conducted in the park, wherein children played lots of games like; Antakshari, catch the ball etc. All the children were present on the occasion and enjoyed a lot. Also they all swing the jhoolas and did lots of fun.

Care Giver Workshop

A care giver workshop was conducted at Amba Guest house, Kapoorthala, Lucknow. In this workshop Mrs. Pallavi Bhatnagar took a special session for the parents of students of the Jyoti Kiran School. Through this workshop she gave information about the care of special children with the help of few exercises and stories. Mr. Amitabh Mehrotra also presented in this workshop. He agreed to the view of Mrs. Pallavi ji and said special children require more care and affection. Parents convinced and gave promise for more care of their child.



Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR)–Rural Program

Therapy Visit

Physiotherapist from SPARC – India conducted regular therapy sessions for 48 children who were in dire need of the same. The 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 cotton tape which is very comfortable in use and affordable.

Visits in Mentally Challenged children home

Home based plan is made for the Mentally Challenged children, in keeping in mind their special needs based on their IQ level and set goals for the improvement for their life so that they could do ADL (Activity for daily living) without much hurdles. With the help of Parents, field workers and Technical Officer the plan was made and it worked accordingly. There are 45 identified children who are getting benefits (every month) from this process.

S.H.G. Meeting

The SHG meetings were held at 10 Gram Panchayats, the Treasurer explained about the expenditure and all the members were agree with that, also they gave their savings to treasurer and the 50% of their savings are getting used for the development (education, health, awareness etc) of PWDs/ CWDs.

Field Visit by other Organizations

The members of some organizations visited to SPARC-India CBR programs area. The team members of P.G.S.S. & NIRFAD from Gorakhpur & Mathura visited to fine-tune the knowledge of Community Based Rehabilitation Programs. They also visited the areas Nindura, Mehmoodpur, Audar etc where

the project is running its Home Based Programs for Multiple Disabled Children.

Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) – Urban

Regular Activities

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

DPO (Disable People Organization) Meeting

In the reporting period the meetings were conducted in all 7 slum areas under the project by CBR urban program staff . In the meeting focus was to sort out the problems of the disabled Children/persons. Mrs. Suman Gupta (a community worker) said that what she do for the

earning money for the betterment. Advocacy Coordinator gave the example of Rinki, Shabana and Sheeba and said you can join sewing and jewelry-making classes in SPARC-India and can become a role model for women with disabilities.

Some people received the pension (with the support of SPARC-India) during the reporting period 5 got the aids & appliances from Cheshayar Home. This organization provided the material of Rs 2200/- to PWDs for the employment concern.



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 visited children's home to know the family environment and instructed their parents over conducting their children's 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, which is a very positive sign



Bal Group Meeting

In the reporting period the BAL Group meeting was held in all 7 slum areas, and was conducted by Advocacy Coordinator and field workers. In the meeting the challenged and non-challenged children were participated and discussed on the child rights. For the awareness of their right they can live better life and will know about the government schemes so use it in better way. Challenged children were motivated for the help to others by the advocacy coordinators.

Counseling Meeting

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 with the parents of challenged children and provided the information about the children's education. Some Parents said that their child is going to school regularly and studying with the improvement and few parents were convinced for the admission of their children in the future. Few children got the scholarship for which the community members were obliges and they expressed their gratitude towards SPARC-India.

Self-help Group

In the reporting period the Advocacy coordinators and field workers conducted the SHG meetings in all 7 slum areas. The team members focused on the importance and process of SHGs in the community. In the meeting group members of Sankalp Self Help Group gave the fund of this month to the vice-president and the total saving of this month has 11000 Rs. till last 11 months.

Home Visit

Evaluation of the behavior of the challenged children is done in regular intervals through home visit by the therapist, advocacy coordinator and field workers. They discussed on the activity of daily living (ADL) with the parents and motivated to continue the exercises which are instructed by the physiotherapist.

Other Interventions

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

- Few sewing machines were given to few PWDs through Cheshayar Home, Lucknow.
- 4 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, Hemiparesis, 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.

Aman (name changed)

Mufeez (name changed)



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:

- Ward-wise quarterly meetings for disabled people organization (DPO)-110 no meetings
- Zone wise (4 Zone) Quarterly guardians meetings at 3 places
- Development/Distribution of IEC material- 2 no.
- Involvement of local leaders & representatives in DPO led initiatives.-70 no.
- Participation in Half-yearly meetings of health & education committees- 30 no
- Workshop on social exclusion of PWDs and celebration of World Disability Day- 1 no.
- Zone wise training for leadership and capacity building of DPO leaders- 1 no.
- Sensitization training of Health Service providers- 4 no.
- Interface workshops with Government officials and PWDs- 1 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- 1 no.
- Regular experience sharing with the help of Half Yearly meetings of DPOs & other CBOs. - 1 no.
- Building linkage with Commissions on PWDs and other such bodies- 1 no.
- Process Documentation of the Activities, Experiences and Learning- 1 no.
- Establishment of Information Centre- 3 no.
- Exposure visit for DPOs leaders/members- 1 no.

Zone wise Quarterly guardians meetings:

Zone-wise guardian meetings were conducted in the different zones of Uttar Pradesh like Jhanshi, Mathura, and Firozabad. Main objective of these meetings is to provide awareness to PWDs (persons with disabilities/PWDs) and their guardians that how to access the services for basic essentialities and how to make collective efforts for themselves and to advocate for their rights and entitlements. Also coordinator of this program shared

that they in the process of Alliance formation as Uttar Pradesh Vikalang Manch, and shared the objective and planning related to alliance formation.



Sensitization training of Health Service providers:

Sensitization trainings (Four) were conducted in different wards of Lucknow. Health functionaries also sensitized about the ante-natal care (ANC), vaccination of new born child, family planning, birth-certificate and different health schemes. By this workshop persons with disabilities (PWDs) discussed their day to day problem and women discussed their problem with the doctor individually also.

Process Documentation of the Activities, Experiences and Learning :

The workshop on process documentation was organized at Jaishankar Prashad Hall of Rai Umanath Bali Prekshagrih, Resource person for the workshop was Mr. Anupam Panday. He shared the importance of documentation in development sector and for the best usage in advocacy. A discussion was also facilitated between the group over Learning and experience sharing over the understanding of community and issues and approaches. This workshop also covered the other issues like Right to Information Act, Right to Education (RTE) Act, different schemes of the Govt. like Janani Suraksha Yojna (JSY), JSSY, Mid-day Meal and MGNREGA.



Exposure visit for DPOs leaders/members:

Exposure visit of Chattarpur & Khazuraho(MP) was conducted with the PWDs to provide a interface with other manchas like Rashtriya Viklang Manch/MP Viklang Manch. Through this visit PWDs shared their experiences and learning with together.

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 disability certificate, rail/bus pass, individual issues, pension related issue and employment of PWDs were the key topics of the discussion.

Involvement of local leaders and 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.

Zone-wise Training for Leadership and Capacity Building of DPO

Motivating persons with disability for their rights and entitlements, is the main objective of this training. Resource persons covered the four themes of the PACS like livelihood, education, nutrition and health with video and PowerPoint presentation. PWDs (Person with disability) asked different types of questions related to these themes and they discussed all the issue in open session.



Vocational Training & Placement Center

Stitching/sewing Center

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

Computer Center

24 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.

Festive Camps

SPARC-India displayed its products like terracotta statue of God Ganesh and Goddess Laxmi, lightening lamps, Diya , Bags , Jewelery stall and gift item, in four different location of Lucknow. Items made by women with disabilities and marginalized girls from community were displayed at Sahara Ganj Orchid School, Lamartiner girls college, HSBC and ELDECO, also the materials were supplied to three major shops of Lucknow area.

