

Quarterly Report October - December 2015

Jyoti Kiran School- An Inclusive School

PSG PARENTS SUPPORT GROUP (PSG) MEETING

Parents Support Group meeting was held at Jyoti Kiran School (JKS) on Saturday 10th October 2015. Approximately, 35 Parents were present in the meeting. Few of the concerns focussed in the meeting were budget, lack of space to accommodate strength and formation of the committee. Mr Amitabh Mehrotra (Founder Chairperson and Director SPARC-India) briefed parents about the financial status and approaches being made to government for land. Later he discussed the future of the kids at length. He also requested parents to help and support the school. He stated that till now JKS was providing free education to 30 kids, but now onwards to sustain the school every parent is expected and requested according to the capabilities.



Two committees were formed namely Parents Committee and Review Committee. It was decided that Review Committee, will visit the school every 3 months and intervene the progress. Parents committee was formed which comprised of parents of five children studying in JKS.



VISIT BY REC TEAM

Team from **REC visited** Jyoti Kiran School on 29th October 2015. REC conducted an art competition in the school. Children chose their own topic to make the drawings. They enthusiastically made beautiful drawings according to their vivid imagination. Prizes were distributed by the REC team to the winners. The REC team also conducted a fancy dress competition. Children zealously participated in the fancy dress competition. Some of them were dressed as farmer, 'pujari', angel etc. They all acted role play according to the dress they had worn.

PARENTS SUPPORT GROUP MEETING (PSG) MEETING

Parents Support Group meeting was held at Jyoti Kiran School (JKS), on 8th November, 2015. The events of the last PSG meeting were reiterated. Mr Amitabh Mehrotra (Founder Chairperson and Director of SPARC-India) discussed some important issues concerning enhancement and betterment of school. All the members of the Committee were present in the meeting. The meeting concluded with a request that if parents or any outsider were interested in sponsoring a child or donating for children in school they are most welcome.



WORKSHOP ON INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

A one day *workshop on Inclusive Education* was held on 15th December 2015 at Jyoti Kiran School - *an inclusive school*. The participants of the workshop were school principals, head teachers and teachers from different local schools which included **Mrs. Surbhi Dua** from Bal Bharti School, **Ms. Poonam Arya** from Maharishi Kashyap Vidya Mandir, **Mr. Mohd. Rizwan Farooq** from Farheen Public Inter College, **Mrs. Anjana Srivastava** Nirmala Paramount



School, teachers of Jyoti Kiran School,

Mr Amitabh Mehrotra (Founder Chairperson and Director, SPARC India) and members of SPARC India. The objective of the workshop was to sensitize the participants to bring inclusion among the society. The discussion started with the RTE Act and further emphasised on the need to have an inclusive education. The workshop further focussed on how the schools could help in the integration of children with disabilities (CWDs) in the regular schools.



Poorest Area Civil Society (PACS)

CULTURAL EVENING ON THE OCCASION OF WORLD DISABILITY DAY AND ANNUAL DAY CELEBRATIONS

Sparc India's Jyoti Kiran School – *An Inclusive School*, celebrated a *Cultural Evening* on the occasion of *Annual Day and World Disability Day* on 4th December 2015, at Rai Uma Nath Bali Auditorium. The Chief Guest on this occasion was hon'ble **Saheb Singh Saini** (Minister of other Backward Caste and Disability Development Dept., Govt. of Uttar Pradesh). The other guests of honour were **Mr. N. K. Maurya** (Zonal Manager, Rural Electrification Cooperation), **Mr. R. K. Saran** (Regional Director, PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry) and **Mr. Amitabh Mehrotra** (Founder Chairperson and Director, SPARC India). The Participants from SPARC India included all members of management team, finance department, staff of Jyoti Kiran School, staff of Livelihood Resource Centre and the support staff team.



Mr. Amitabh Mehrotra in his inaugural speech emphasized on the contemporary pertinence of making a policy level intervention for differently abled children. All the hon'ble guests lit the lamp to inaugurate the cultural evening. The programs started with a welcome song which was followed by *National Anthem – Sign Language* (Livelihood Resource Centre), *Shiv Vandana*, *Suraj Ki Bahon Mein (PK)*, *Sufi song* (Jyoti Kiran School), *Sitar Vadan* by Ashutosh. Children from Community



Schools also gave performances. The ANNUAL REPORT–SPARC India, 2014-2015 was inaugurated on this occasion. The Anchoring of the show was done by Ms Alka Nivedan.

The performances wonderfully covered the theme ‘*Importance of Natural Conservation and Earthquake*’. The performance by the children stirred the soul of the audience bringing out an eternal message of Conserving Nature. The event was organized under Poorest Areas Civil Society (PACS) Program. Other co-sponsors were Shalimar Corp. and Rural Electrification Corporation (REC)

WORLD CEBRAL PALSY DAY

A one day *workshop* was held on the occasion of **World Cerebral Palsy Day** (7th October 2015) at Composite Regional Rehabilitation Centre (Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Govt. of India), Mohan Road, Lucknow. The theme of the workshop was “*Dignified Life and Livelihood of Persons with Cerebral Palsy*”. The participants of the workshop included **Mr Amitabh Mehrotra** (Founder Chairperson and Director of SPARC-India), **Dr. Ratnesh Kumar** (Director, Composite Regional Rehabilitation Centre), members of UPVM, members of SPARC India, teachers and students from Jyoti Kiran School and support staff.



Dr. Ratnesh Kumar said that “Cerebral palsy is the most common physical disability in childhood and is also one of the least understood one. People with cerebral palsy are ‘invisible’. They live out of sight, out of mind and out of options.” He emphasised that their goal is not to replace or compete with any of the excellent national and regional cerebral palsy organisations instead it is to empower them, to give them, and the people who serve them, unprecedented access to literally everything in an Inclusive manner. CRRC is working towards identifying the rehabilitative needs of cerebral palsy in various ways.



Mr Amitabh Mehrotra, who himself has cerebral palsy stated that he felt delighted, to share the events, the thoughts and the celebrations among the society with you all, being our esteemed funders, who have contributed immensely, to SPARC India family. He said that there are over 17 million people living with CP and 350 million family, friends and supporters who care about them. In Indian Context 1.5 % population is having cerebral palsy. The artistic, economic, social, scientific and political contribution of 17 million people and those who commit everything on their behalf are simply unrealized. The Children affected from cerebral palsy from Jyoti Kiran School - An Inclusive School of SPARC-India performed beautifully on various (National Song, Skits etc).

CONSULTATION MEET ON FRAMING / UPDATING DRAFT OF POLICY DOCUMENT ON INCLUSIVE EDUCATION & EMPLOYMENT FOR PWDS / CWDS

A two day *consultation meet of framing / updating draft of policy document on inclusive education and employment for C/PWDs* was held on 4th and 5th November 2015 at Rai Uma Nath Bali Auditorium, Jaishankar Prasad Hall, Kaiserbagh. The main objective of the meet was to frame / update draft of policy document on inclusive education and employment of C/PWDs. The meet was

attended by **Dr. Sandhya Limaye** (TISS, Mumbai) and **Prof. Amitav Mishra** (IGNOU), **Mr Sandeep Khare** (Director, Vigyan Foundation), **Dr A. K. Tiwari** (Professor, Dr Shakuntala Mishra Rehabilitation University), **Mr Sameer Ghosh** (Consultant Skill Mission, Pune), **Mr Purshottam Mishra** (Deputy Director, UP Skill Development Mission, Govt of Uttar Pradesh), **Mr V. N. Garg** (IAS *Retd.* Ex. Principal Secretary, Department of development of Persons with Disabilities, Govt. of Uttar Pradesh), **Mr Surendra Singh** (IAS) Mission Director, **Mr Ramesh Chandra** (Assistant Director Department of Employment and Training), **Mr Mithlesh Kumar** (Assistant Employment officer), **Mr Amitabh Mehrotra** (Founder Chairman and Director, SPARC India), members of UPVM, members of SPARC-India and other CSO partners.



After introductions Mr Amitabh Mehrotra gave a presentation on need for planning a policy. He stated that this policy shall meet the state specific educational needs of C/PWDs thus providing them with an equal opportunity to empower and become valuable and contributing citizens of the nation.

Prof Amitav Misra discussed Social Security and Right to Education and its Amendment. He reiterated that inclusiveness is Important which could be achieved with addition of few alternatives in the education system for the same.

Mr. Sandeep Khare stated that inclusiveness should not be only in the education but it should prevail across all aspects of life. He emphasised that universal access and early childhood education, should be the motto for implementation. Dr. A. K. Tiwari stated that the revised policy should be child centred, safe and healthy environment. Dr. Sandhya Limaye stated that the policy should be drafted to maximize the welfare and minimize the loss. She stated that our focus should especially be on education and employment of PWDs.

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Mr Sameer Ghosh discussed the challenges faced in skill building of PWDs which could be considered while drafting a policy. Mr Ramesh Chandra informed everyone present at the meet about the Government's role in providing Employment to PWDs and functioning of Skill Development Program. He further added that registered PWDs are already taking benefits. Mr Mithlesh Kumar talked about the newly designed user friendly website w.w.w.sewayojan.org and Model Carrier Centre (MCC).

Mr Purshottam Mishra talked about the reasons behind the formation of national level skill development mission and its policy. Mr V. N. Garg said a policy if not implemented then is just a piece of paper. He emphasised the importance of an evidence based policy and suggested that while formulating a policy the legal context should be in mind.

Livelihood Resource Centre (LRC)

TRAINING PROGRAM (15th October 2015 – 15th January 2016)

Livelihood Resource Centre (LRC) is a collaborative effort by PACS and SPARC India. SPARC India handles the on-ground execution of the LRC program. The third batch of the program started on 15th October 2015. 32 PWDs were selected for the LRC training program through written test and interview. Residence and food facilities were provided to all students. Training started with an orientation program which included some introduction games, which the students



thoroughly enjoyed and made them comfortable with their co-students, trainers and new environment. Life skills, communication skills (English) Computer along with BPO/Retail management were taught to the students during the 3-months training program. Various classroom activities, games, presentations are conducted by trainers during this time. The main motto of these activities was to build confidence in students and improve their English. Basic computer training including MS Office, internet and typing was provided to them during this period. Regular counselling and assessments were conducted to monitor the growth of each student. Some students showed a considerable growth from being timid to a confident individual. By the end of three months students were taken for interviews in different companies. Fortunately, all the students were placed. They all were very happy with their current placements.

NAME GAME- CLASSROOM ACTIVITY

First day of training is always very important and it's the management's responsibility to make it easy for students who are new to the environment. Students are usually very sceptical about the new environment with new people around them. They are very hesitant so in order to break the ice trainers conducted name game activity. This activity helped them to open up with each other and create a healthy environment among students and trainers. Students thoroughly enjoyed the activity and by the end were quite acquainted with each other.



WEEKLY PRESENTATIONS

Presentations are a great way to express oneself. They help in to boosting confidence among students. Weekly presentations were conducted by trainers so that students can speak in English and express themselves in public without hesitation. Every week students were given different topics like women empowerment, social evils, personal idols etc. Students had to write on the topic along with an oral presentation on it. These presentations not only enhanced their confidence but also helped them in getting over speech phobias in some cases.



RETAIL ACTIVITY

For better understanding of retail concepts various classroom activities were conducted by the trainers. Students were asked to make classroom a retail shop, and sell their products by convincing the customers. Student actively participated in the activity and creatively created the environment of a small store. Activities like this not only help students to know about retail but also develop their communication skills.



CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

Christmas was celebrated at LRC with great zeal on 25th December 2015. A Christmas tree was decorated on the eve of Christmas. Students along with the trainers enthusiastic participated in the celebrations. Mr Amitabh Mehrotra, Founder and Director of SPARC India, was invited as the chief guest. Students performed Christmas songs, skit, dance and jingles on this occasion. A Christmas cake was cut to mark the occasion. Mr Amitabh Mehrotra praised the efforts of the students and thoroughly enjoyed the performances. He encouraged them to work hard and pursue their dreams despite hardships in life. Trainers played various games with the students who enjoyed them thoroughly. Presents were distributed to the winners of the games.

