

Quarterly Report July - September 2015

Jyoti Kiran School- An Inclusive School

DANCE PERFORMANCE

A cultural evening organised by Ms Leena Seth was held at UP Sangeet Natak Academy on 4th July 2015. Children of Jyoti Kiran School gave a *group dance performance* at the cultural evening. Children enthusiastically participated and their beautiful performance mesmerised the audience present on the occasion.

ORAL PRESENTATIONS

Class presentations were held on 11th July 2015 on the topic “*how I spent my summer holidays.*” Students of all the classes participated actively. They all gave a very vivid description of their summer holidays. Everyone enjoyed listening to each other’s stories. These presentations helped in enhancing the oral expressions of the students.

MARKETING AND ANTAKSHARI

An activity describing the concept of *marketing* was held on 25th July 2015. Children were told about the concept of selling and buying. Children did role play. Two students became shop keepers and sold items. Rest of the students became customers and bought things from the shop keepers. The activity was thoroughly enjoyed by the students. Later the students were divided in two groups A and B. *Antakshari* was played between the two groups. Children from both groups sung numerous songs and neither group was ready to give up. Students had a lot of fun.

WRITING AND PHYSICAL TRAINING (PT)

Writing was held for the senior class on 1st August 2015. All the students participated in the *Physical Training* exercises held at Jyoti Kiran School. Teachers educated children about the importance of physical training and why it should be done on daily basis.

PSG MEETING

PSG meeting was held on 8th August 2015 at SPARC India’s Jyoti Kiran School. The main topic of discussion in the meeting was cleanliness. Emphasis was laid on keeping the campus premises clean. Stress was laid on keeping homes and surroundings clean. Personal hygiene was also highlighted in the meeting. Low attendance of children in the school was also discussed. Parents were encouraged to send their wards regularly to school.

RADIO FM 91.1

Team from *Radio FM 91.1* visited Jyoti Kiran School on 13th August 2015. The team comprised of 13 members who interacted with the children. They presented a *magic show* for the students, which greatly thrilled the kids. Children were delighted and enjoyed every moment of the show. The team also distributed gifts to the children.

INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATIONS AT JYOTI KIRAN SCHOOL – “An Inclusive School”

A *flag hoisting ceremony* was organised on 15th August 2015 at SPARC India's Jyoti Kiran School (JKS) on the occasion of Independence Day. The chief guest on the occasion was Swami Nikhilanand ji Maharaj from Ram Krishna Matth, Kolkata. Enthusiasm could be seen among the staff as well as the kids of JKS. Everyone gathered in the porch area of the school and seating arrangements were made for the Guests, kids and staff for the ceremony. The flag was unfurled, by the Chief Guest which was followed by the National Anthem which was sung by everyone present. Mr Amitabh Mehrotra (Founder Chairperson and Director of SPARC India) addressed the gathering which was followed by an address from the Chief Guest. The kids performed dance, skit and song in front of the guests. Snacks were served to the guests, kids and Staff followed by distribution of '*Laddoos*' to everyone present.

'RAKHI' MAKING

To mark the occasion of 'Rakshabandhan' children participated in '*Rakhi*' making on 22nd August 2015. Children with the help of their teachers made beautiful 'rakhis' for the activity. Children enthusiastically participated and enjoyed every bit of the activity. In the end they all were very excited to see their own creation.

'RAKSHABANDHAN' CELEBRATIONS

'*Rakshabandhan*' was celebrated at Jyoti Kiran School on 28th August 2015. Children were told about the importance of this day and how it is celebrated. Teachers told stories about 'Rakshabandhan' to the children who actively listened to them. Children then tied 'rakhis' to each other to celebrate the occasion.

ART COMPETITION

An *art competition* was organised by rotary club on 3rd September 2015 at Jyoti Kiran School. The topic of the art competition was "Cleanliness and Environment". Children actively participated and made beautiful drawings on the given topic using their imaginations. Prizes were distributed to the winners in the end.

TEACHER'S DAY CELEBRATIONS

Teacher's day was celebrated on 7th September 2015. Teachers visited the campus of SPARC India's Livelihood Resource Centre (LRC) at Nishatganj. They later played different games organised at Jyoti Kiran School. Teachers participated and thoroughly enjoyed the games. Gifts were distributed among the teachers on this occasion.

Poorest Area Civil Society (PACS)

TWO DAYS STATE LEVEL WORKSHOP FOR STRENGTHENING OF DPOs AND RESTRUCTURING OF UPVM

A two *day state level workshop for strengthening of DPOs and Restructuring of UPVM* was held on 14th and 15 September 2015 at 11/22 Parijat Guest House, Insaaf Nagar, Indira Nagar Lucknow. The main objective of the workshop was to Strengthen and Restructure Uttar Pradesh Viklang Manch (UPVM). The facilitators from Ask Gurgaon were **Mr Prakash** and **Ms Ipsa Pratibimbita Sarangi**. Other participants included **Mr Suraj Yadav** (Secretary, UPVM), **Ms Sushma** (President, UPVM) and members of SPARC India along with about 50 participants from 11 Districts (Lucknow, Barabanki, Hardoi, Sitapur, Bhadohi, Varanasi, Pratapgarh, Bareilly, Raibareilly, Kushinagar and Ghazipur).

Mr Suraj Yadav asked the participants to describe what they have done at District level till date in terms of the formation of their DPOs. How much is it strengthened? What do they think and expect further from this workshop. All the participants presented their work in their respective districts on chart papers. Mr Prakash addressed the participants and briefed the flow and topics of discussion to be covered in the workshop. He further discussed the vision and mission which shaped up as follows:



VISION: “*Ek aisa samtamulak, badhamukt, samekit (inclusive) samaj, jahan viklangjan, apne vikas ke vibhinn kshetra mein samman purvak samaj ki mukhaya dhara mein jude hon*”.

MISSION: “*Rajya star par viklangjano ka sashaktikaran jisse ve samaj mein apni upastithi darj kar apne adhikaron ki pairvi kar saken*”.

After the finalization of Vision and Mission restructuring of UPVM was discussed in the workshop which was followed by the tenure of office bearers and duration at which the meetings would be held at different levels. It was decided that advisory committee would have 7 to 9 members. Roles and responsibilities of president, secretary, treasurer and aam sadasya (general body) were discussed.



Financial sustainability of UPVM was also discussed in the workshop. It was decided that the registration fee will be collected once in the start and the membership fee will be collected in each year. The registration fee will be 51/- (which will be collected once) and the membership fee will be 100/- (which will be collected each year). The collected amount will be deposited in the bank (account to be opened at District level) with a proper resolution to operate. 25% of the collected amount will be contributed from each district to the state for the maintenance of the state level operational cost and the rest amount of required resources will be mobilised at the state level.

Issues that would be worked upon during the span of three years were also identified during the workshop. Some of the issues identified were employment, health, education, entitlements, aids/appliances, livelihood etc. The workshop concluded with the assurance to start the formation and strengthening of DPOs.

STRENGTHENING MEETING OF DPO's IN BARABANKI

A one day *strengthening meeting of DPOs (Barabanki Viklang Manch and Viklang Sewa samiti)* was held at Ram Suman Rawat's residence at Police Line, Barabanki in coordination with UPVM and SPARC India on 18th July 2015. The objective of the meet was to discuss ways to strengthen the DPO's (Barabanki Viklang Manch) network at district level. The meeting was attended by leaders of Barabanki Viklang manch, leaders of UPVM and members of SPARC-India along with about 30 persons with disabilities (PWDs).

Mr Nirmal (President Barabanki Viklang manch) talked about the objectives of the meet. While discussing he emphasized that PWD's should be aware and take the benefit of their rights. Status of PWDs in the village and block area was discussed especially the status of education and employment. It was decided that every month PWD's from Barabanki will discuss issues and concerns to be resolved at Block level and strengthen/empower the network with UPVM. The meet concluded with the pledged that everyone would work on the strengthening and Empowerment of DPO's.



STRENGTHENING MEETING OF DPO'S IN HARDOI

A one day *strengthening meeting of DPO (Hardoi Viklang Manch)* in Hardoi District was held in coordination with UPVM and SPARC India on 18th August 2015 at Siya Ram Gathbandhan Dharmshala, Hardoi. The main objective of the meet was to discuss ways to strengthen the DPO's (Hardoi Viklang Manch) network at Hardoi district level. The meeting was attended by leaders of Hardoi Viklang Manch, leaders of UPVM and members of SPARC India along with about 50 PWDs.

Ms Manorma Kashyap (President, Hardoi Viklang Manch) stated the current working status of Hardoi Viklang Manch. She said that out of 17 Blocks of Hardoi, HVM reaches 11 Blocks in which about 3000 PWDs are connected to district level network. She informed that approx. 25,000 PWDs from Hardoi are availing disability pension, employment and other basic facilities along with working on rights and entitlements of PWDs. Mr Shishu Pal (Vice President, Hardoi Viklang Manch) discussed the challenges faced by HVM.

Mr Suraj Yadav (Secretary, UPVM) informed that on 29th of May 2015, Uttar Pradesh Govt., has sanctioned the Interest free Budget of 565 crore for 59 districts, for which the facility to avail the same loan can be taken from Aaryavart Gramin Bank. Mr. Somesh Dutt Bajpai (SPARC India) discussed how to take benefits from the schemes announced by the Central and State government. It was reiterated that it was necessary to educate PWDs for their Rights and Entitlements, make plans for work and activities, periodically should meet Govt. officials to keep them updated with the current situations etc.

ONE DAY STATE LEVEL INTERFACE WORKSHOP FOR PWDs

A one day *state level interface workshop for persons with disabilities* was held on 25th August 2015 at Jai Shanker Prasad Auditorium, Rai Umanath Bali Auditorium, Kaiserbagh, Lucknow. The main objective of the workshop with the State Level Govt. official was to share their respective views and opinions on Disabilities. The Govt. Officials who attended the workshop were **Shri Purshottam Mishra** (Deputy Director, Uttar Pradesh Skill Development Mission), **Dr. A. K. Awasthi**, (Joint Director, Epidemics (Mahamari) Mother care and Child Care), **Mr. Rakesh Kumar**, (Specialist SSA) **Mr. Akhilesh Bajpai**, (District Handicapped Development welfare Officer) and **Mr. Mithlesh Kumar**, (Employment Officer). The other participants included leaders of UPVM, DPO leaders from various districts of Uttar Pradesh and members from SPARC India.

Mr Purshottam Mishra described the motivation behind the formation of NSDM (National Skill Development Mission) and its working. In July 2013, UPSDM was launched in UP with the policy to Impart the Training to the prospective candidate and place them. To motivate the participants Mr. Mishra stated that “Today PWDs are taking lead and no challenge can pull you back or distract you. It is all in the mind. We should be thankful to God to what he has given us, rather than for what he has not, thus you need to understand your inner spirit and be proud of yourself.” A question answer session was held.

Where Mr P. Mishra answered questions put up by members of different DPOs from Uttar Pradesh.



In his address **Mr. Akhilesh Bajpai** informed everyone present about the changes in the pension scheme for PWDs and “*Shaddi Vivha Neeyamavali*”. He also talked about the soon to be launched scholarship scheme by NHFDC (National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation) for the social justice and empowerment of PWDs. He further informed that the Honbl’e Minister has also declared “leprosy for disabled pensioned”. Mr. Rakesh Sharma (Specialist SSA), discussed about Mainstreaming and Inclusive Education of PWDs. He informed about the initiation of ALC (Accelerated learning Camp) which provide residence, training and placement. He said that residential camps are started for children: with free facilities of accommodation, food, training and dress. Mr. A.K. Awasthi said that preventive methods could play a great role in keeping disability at bay.



Lastly, Mr. Suraj Yadav (Secretary, UPVM) thanked everyone on behalf of UPVM and SPARC India, for investing their precious time to attend the workshop while imparting and educating the participant, providing their views on disabilities.

ONE DAY STATE LEVEL WORKSHOP FOR PWDS

A one day *state level workshop for PWDs* was held on 29th September 2015 at Hotel Gomti, Sahanazaf Road Hazratganj, Lucknow. The main objective of the workshop was to strengthen the structure of UPVM and discuss the action plan for sustainability of Uttar Pradesh Viklang Manch. Participants present at the workshop included **Mr Amitabh Mehrotra** (Founder Chairperson and Director of SPARC India), **Mr Suraj Yadav** (Secretary, UPVM), members of UPVM, Members from SPARC India and about 50 participants from 12 Districts of Uttar Pradesh.



Ms Shraddha (SPARC India) reiterated the agenda of the last meet followed by a brief introduction of Uttar Pradesh Vikalangi Manch (UPVM), established in 2009, a state level network of Persons with Disabilities working through its 30 district partners. The session

started with the discussions on the Structure of UPVM. Mr Amitabh Mehrotra, addressed the meeting and stated that PWDs have to raise their voice collectively in a disciplined way so that state has to correct the things basic entitlements as per the provisions of PWD Act 1995, and UNCRPD 2008.

The structure of UPVM, its working procedure and membership criteria was finalized in the workshop. Financial stability of UPVM was discussed with Mr. Rajesh Asthana (Finance Department, SPARC India).

Livelihood Resource Centre (LRC)

TRAINING PROGRAM (6th JULY 2015 – 15th OCTOBER 2015)

Livelihood Resource Centre (LRC) is a collaborative effort by SPARC India and PACS. SPARC India was responsible for handling the on-ground execution of the LRC program. The 3-month residential program focuses training on life skills, communication skills (English), basic computer skills, personality development along with basic management of retail/BPO. 42 persons with disabilities were selected for the 3-month training program at Livelihood resource centre through test and interview. The 3-month program started on 6th July 2015 at Vidya Bhawan in Nishatganj, Lucknow. The training started with an orientation program which helped the students in knowing each other. Various activities enhancing the team spirit were conducted during the training. Every activity conducted during the training program had its own importance and purpose which helped individuals in developing team work, understanding the trade along with enthusiasm and confidence. Regular counseling and assessment were conducted to monitor the growth of each student. Group discussions, storytelling and role play were often part of the daily schedule. Basic computer training including MS Office, internet and typing was provided to them during this period. 35 students out of 42 have been selected in various companies. All the students were happy and satisfied after getting a job.



Now they all feel more confident and independent. They all were keen to join the job as soon as possible. They all thanked SPARC-India's initiative as it has greatly changed their lives.



INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATIONS

Independence Day was celebrated at LRC, Nishatganj with great enthusiasm on 15th August 2015. Mr Amitabh Mehrotra (Founder Chairperson and Director of SPARC-India), Mr Ashish Singh (Program Manager, LRC) along with Staff and Students of the training program were present on the occasion. Students sang welcome song, performed patriotic group dance and a historic play to commemorate the day. Everyone present on the occasion thoroughly enjoyed the performances. Sweets were distributed to all which was followed by snacks and cold drinks.



INAUGURATION CEREMONY OF LIVELIHOOD RESOURCE CENTRE

Livelihood Resource Centre at Nishatganj was inaugurated by Mr. Ambika Chaudhary (Cabinet Minister for Backward class and Development of Persons with Disabilities, Govt. of Uttar Pradesh) on 15th September 2015. Other honorable guests that participated in this ceremony were Anil Kumar Sagar (IAS, Secretary Disability Development Department), Mr. Humair Siddiqui (AVP, AEGIS Pvt. Ltd.), Mr. Ravi Kapoor (Manager, NSDC), N. K. Maurya (Zonal manager, REC), Mr. A. M. Makwana (Deputy General Manager, ITC), Mr. Suwendu Das (Regional Financial Manager, ITC), Mr. Prashant Kumar (State Manager, PACS), Mr. Anand Kumar (Director, PACS), Mr. Krishna Bhagat Singh (Program Manager, PACS), Mr. Pallav Joshi (TCS, CSR Head), Ms. Pallavi (CEO, 5th state), Mr. Sunil Bhargava (Vocational Rehabilitation Centre), Mr. Amitabh Mehrotra (Founder Chairperson and Director of SPARC-India) and members of SPARC India.



Firstly, Mr. Ambika Chaudhary was felicitated by flower bouquet presented to him by children with disabilities. The event was inaugurated by lighting the lamp. Person with disabilities enrolled in the 3-month livelihood program of SPARC India presented a song in front of the panelists. Mr. Amitabh Mehrotra who himself has Cerebral Palsy with mild spasticity with tremors welcomed all dignitaries and guests stated in his inaugural speech that “SPARC is working since last 19 years



for empowerment of PWDs through their education, vocational training, collective awareness and advocacy efforts”. SPARC has made concerted efforts for rehabilitation of PWDs.

On this occasion Honorable Minister Mr. Ambika Chaudhary mentioned that Uttar Pradesh Govt. Will make all possible efforts to improve the development process for the disable youth in order to increase and create opportunities for them, which will help them to be self dependent. Also he mentioned all possible extended support would be given to SPARC India for more such skill development program and focus would be more on how to improve the livelihood programs for the youth with disabilities.

At the behest, a panel discussion on “Creating Employment Opportunities for Youths with Disabilities” was also held. Panel Members reiterated that being associated with SPARC in their livelihood program

said that they will help with all possible ways in order to sustain the program and help the youth with disability to learn and grow through different verticals of training as per their disability and understanding level. Also they focused on development of friendly infrastructure for them which gives them an ease to move across. The event was anchored by Mrs. Ruchi Mehrotra. In the end Mr. Amitabh Mehrotra thanked everyone and emphasized that every person with disability could contribute to the society if given opportunity.

VISITS BY COMPANIES IN AUGUST 2015

Representatives of renowned MNC's like TCS (Tata Consultancy Services), ITC (Indian Tobacco Company), Tata Teleservices, Reliance Communication, Club Mahindra etc visited LRC in August 2015. They shared their personal experiences and knowledge with LRC and discussed how scope of skill development could be extended. The team from TCS talked about proper approach to crack job interviews. These suggestions helped in elaborating interview preparations and questions which were often asked by an employer during interview.



FAREWELL FUNCTION OF BATCH

A farewell party was held for the students of the batch at LRC. All the students recalled their stay at LRC through photographs of different activities and events shown on the projector. Students sang beautiful songs expressed their parting emotions in speeches. On this occasion Mr. Amitabh Mehrotra (Founder Chairperson and Director of SPARC-India) appreciated the efforts and self-confidence of the students. He admired their courage and dedication to work. Students are now successfully working in different BPO companies.



Sponsorship Program (SLF)

ADMISSION OF CHILDREN TO SCHOOL

Treasurer of Khadri Baal Group (established by SPARC India) Ms Arti Gautam got 5 children admitted to primary school on 17th July 2015. Four children were normal while one was a child with disability. Members of the group on this occasion pledged to help these children in their studies in the future.