

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

April 2021-June 2021



School for Potential Advancement and Restoration of Confidence

(SPARC) India

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SUPPORTED BY:-



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 25 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 Department of Psychology, University of Lucknow and was awarded PhD degree in Applied Psychology. At present he is nominated as member in Steering Committee of State Election Commission, Government of Uttar Pradesh and nominated as member (renewed) of State Coordination Committee on Disability. He is also member of State Advisory Board on Disability of Uttar Pradesh.

SPARC-India was formed in 1995 and registered in July 1996, as a voluntary organization which 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, 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 segregations and deep rooted misunderstandings and prejudices between the children with disabilities (CwDs) and non-challenged sections of the society. In 2005, SPARC-India setup 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 approx. 12000 community members, vocational training to about 2500 PwDs and has created self-employment opportunities for more than 1200 PwDs and their family members.

In the current quarter SPARC-India received funding from HCL Foundation, GAIL India Limited and Jan Vikas Samiti, Varanasi.

JYOTI KIRAN SCHOOL (JKS)

In the current quarter due to the second wave of COVID-19 pandemic the classes were shifted back to the virtual mode and all the activities were either conducted through whatsapp video call or zoom.

TREE PLANTATION ACTIVITY

Tree Plantation Activity was conducted through online class on 3rd April 2021 in which all the students were given activities related to trees and plants like sprinkling water in pots, planting trees and telling the benefits of plants etc. The main objective of conducting this activity was to make all the students aware of the benefits of trees and plants. In this activity the students participated with enthusiasm and sent the photos of their activity to the teachers and therapists of all the classes.



YOGA ACTIVITY

Yoga Activity was organized through online class on 10th April 2021, in which the students did yoga and were made aware about the benefits of these exercises with the help of therapists and teachers. The main aim of this activity was to provide information about yoga to all the children, how yoga is good for physical health, mental health and its benefits. In this activity Ritik Rawat practised *yoga* very well and Naved Akhtar practised *pranayam*. Children namely Pragya, Rehan, Uvaish and Aastik from the Foundation class showed full participation in the activity with the help of their parents.



THUMB PAINTING ACTIVITY

Thumb Painting was conducted virtually on 17th April 2021. The main purpose of thumb painting was to improve fine motor skills of all children as there is a correlation between the hands and eyes of the children. Children were also asked to recognize the colour. The students participated very actively and with great interest. Ritik Rawat of Block B did thumb painting in the picture of mango and Pranjal of Block A in that of a flower .



DECORATION ACTIVITY

Activities related to *decoration* were organized on 24th April 2021. The main objective of conducting this activity was to improvise the fine motor and gross motor skills of all the children and to make them able to recognize the material with which they were decorating the object. All the children decorated bottles and converted it to beautiful flower pots, under the guidance of the teachers and therapists of all the classes through online class. Pragya, Uvaish Anshi and Ritik participated very well and decorated the bottles.



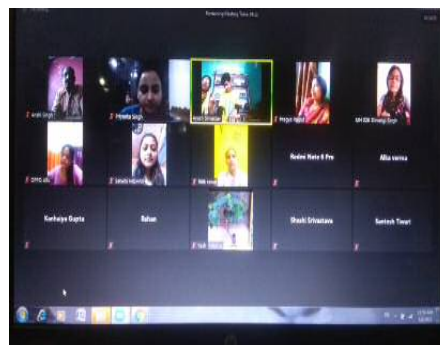
ACTIVITY THROUGH VARIOUS SHAPES

All the students of Jyoti Kiran School were asked to make objects from paper relating to figures of *various shapes* through virtual class on 1st May 2021. The main objective of conducting this activity was to make the students recognize the different shapes and know their names. Tauhid of Block-B with the help of his brother and mother made a train using the figures in the art copy and also coloured it. In this activity Manu, Anshi, Uvaish, Rehan and Ayush showed their participation with the support of teachers, therapists and family members.



PARENTS SUPPORT GROUP MEETING

Parents Support Group Meeting: A Stress Management Session was held on 8th May 2021 through Zoom app. Shivangi Singh, an internee of TISS Mumbai discussed about the topic stress management at first and later she tried to ask the parents about the tension and further discussed how to eliminate the stress. Some parents asked some questions on how to reduce stress. She also told some activities to all the parents to reduce stress, such as taking long breaths with eyes closed, turning their heads to the right and left, then turning them around etc. The parents of 15 children showed their participation and the topic were discussed openly.



PRIMARY COLORS ACTIVITY

Primary Colors Activity was held on 15th May in which all the students were asked to make something through pictures in different shapes related to primary colors i.e. red, yellow and blue. The main objective of conducting this activity was that all the students could identify the colors, know their names and improve their fine motor and gross motor skills. In this activity, Ritik Rawat of Block-B made mango in his art copy. Pranjal of Block-A recognized the color with the help of original vegetables, leaves and fruits with the help of his mother. Uvaish, Pragya, Rehan and Rajshekhar also showed active participation in the activity.



ORIGAMI ACTIVITY THROUGH NEWSPAPER

Origami activity was held on 22nd May 2021 through virtual class for all the students to make different designs and shapes from newspaper like making envelope flower etc. The main objective of this activity was that all the children can know that how a new thing can be made from anything and to develop creativity. It will also improve fine motor skills. Zikra of Special Class made a butterfly out of paper with the help of her sisters. Pragya



and Ritik completed the activity with the help of news paper and showed great interest while doing this activity.

AWARENESS ABOUT VARIETY OF PLANTS AND ITS BENEFITS

Activity on *awareness about variety of plants and its benefits* was held on 29th May 2021 in which the students of Jyoti Kiran School participated with the help of their parents and siblings. All the children were told about two different trees or plants around or in their house along with their benefits. The main objective of conducting this activity was to help students in identifying different trees / plants and enhancing awareness regarding essential tree / plant and their benefits.

In the activity, Ritik's mother told the child about this activity through sign language and helped him in this activity by showing lemon tree and its leaves to the child. He was also told about the benefits like drinking lemon reduces stomach and applying lemon on the skin gives benefits. Ritik did this activity with interest.

In this activity, other children also showed their participation enthusiastically. They attentively heard about the benefits of different leaves of trees planted in the vicinity of the house. This activity was done by the class teacher, therapist of all the classes, through the online class.



CELEBRATION OF WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

World Environment Day was celebrated virtually on 5th June 2021. Activities related to the special day were conducted with the help of parent and teacher. The main aim of this activity was to increase awareness of World Environment Day.



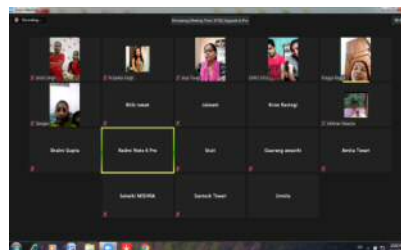
The importance of environment was explained to the children like we must plant trees, water, paper, and food should not be wasted, vehicles and electricity should be used only when needed etc, Later children who are capable recited poetry, told about ways to save water, made pictures on paper, planted trees in the pot, poured water in the pot etc.



PARENTS SUPPORT GROUP MEETING

Parents Support Group Meeting was organized virtually on 12th June 2021 with JKS Team and parents of Children with Disabilities. The main agenda was:-

- Discussion on the presence of children in online classes by the parents and the reason for the lack of cooperation of the parents.
- Cooperation of parents in Saturday activity and any other suggestion.
- Discussion about case conference.
- Parent's thoughts about online education and therapy.
- Any other suggestion for the child's progress.
- Discussion with parents in organizing summer camp by school.

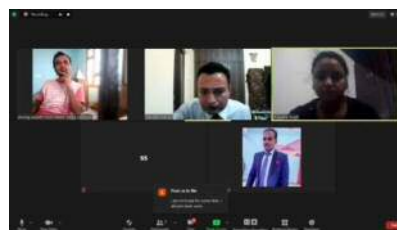


SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND PLACEMENT (SDP) CENTRE

In the current quarter the program was redesigned to online-offline mode in which the probable trainees were first trained through online mode (Zoom) for 2 months and after completion of online mode to offline classes for one month.

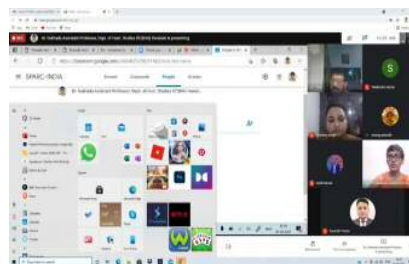
TRAINING OF TRAINERS (TOT)

Training of Trainers was organized on 19th and 20th April 2021, on online mode through Zoom for trainees. All the Trainers of LRC team & Dr. Amitabh Mehrotra (Founder Secretary cum Director, (SPARC-India) participated in the session. Master Trainer & Facilitator **Mr. Saurabh Pande** (Program cum placement officer, SDP) conducted the session for LRC trainers Mr Sunil Kumar, Mr Anurag Awasthi, Ms Priyanka Singh.



ZOOM MEETING WITH IIT BHU PROFESSOR

A meeting was held on *Technological needs for conducting online training classes* on 30th April 2021 with Dr. Shukhada (Assistant professor, dep. of Hum. Studies IIT-BHU) in which she suggested Google class & Google meets for taking online classes & also gave specialization points for the same. LRC team members participated in the online training program.

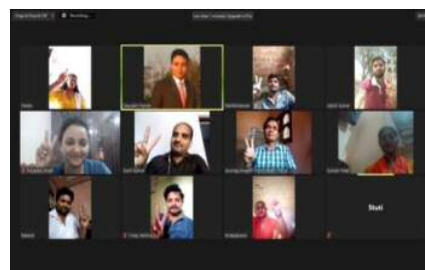


A SESSION ON ZOOM OPERATIONS & ETIQUETTES

A *training session* was organized on 30th April 2021 for the LRC trainers. The main aim of the training was to train the trainers to effectively deliver the training through ZOOM mode. **Mr. Saurabh Pande** (Program cum placement officer, SDP) addressed the LRC team on the topic 'Zoom etiquettes for training' which they have to follow during their training. All the LRC team members were present in the meeting. During the online session he briefed the trainers about the hosting, creating breakouts, mute all candidates etc. through Zoom.

ORIENTATION CEREMONY OF BATCH-15 TRAINEES

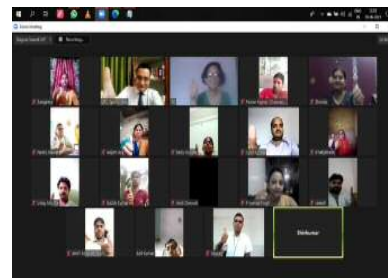
Virtual Orientation Ceremony of *Batch-15* trainees was organized on 10th May 2021 through Zoom. All the staff members of LRC team and total 8 trainees participated in this ceremony. During the orientation ceremony **Mr. Saurabh Pande** (Program cum



Placement Officer, SDP) briefed the students about the syllabus and other aspects of the training programme through verbal communication and discussed about the workings of SPARC-India and its various programmes. He introduced all the members of LRC team to the candidates and after that each candidate gave his or her introduction in short. At last, whole team of LRC wished them to achieve success in their life.

GUEST LECTURE FOR BATCH-15 TRAINEES

Virtual Guest Lecture for *Batch-15* trainees was organized on 19th June 2021 through zoom. All the staff members of LRC team and total 14 trainees participated in this session.



Ms. Shweta (Placement and Event Coordinator, Amity University, Lucknow) addressed the trainees on the topic 'Grooming standard for office' which they have to follow at the work place. During the online session she briefed about the social behaviour communication, corporate culture, work from home scenario & e-mail etiquettes etc. She emphasized and encouraged all the candidates to never lose hope in life and climb the mountain of success in a relentless manner.

VOCATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAM

A new Vocational Unit was started in January 2021 in Madiyon, Sitapur Road, Lucknow. 31 women and men with disabilities enrolled in the 6 month stitching training program. The training course included sewing, garment making, embroidery, needle work, crochet, fashion design etc. The livelihood generation of the trained trainees stated in the current quarter but due to the second wave of COVID-19 it was put on hold in the month of April as per the Government guidelines.

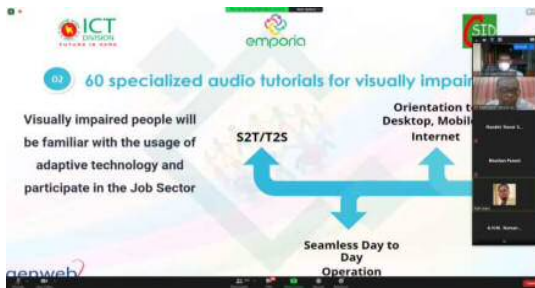
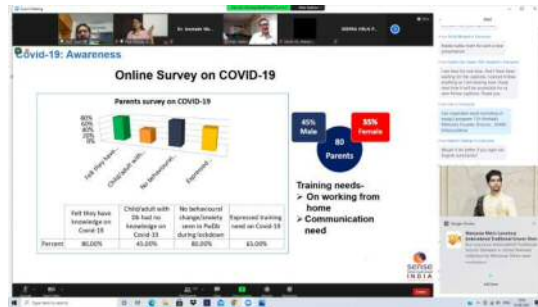
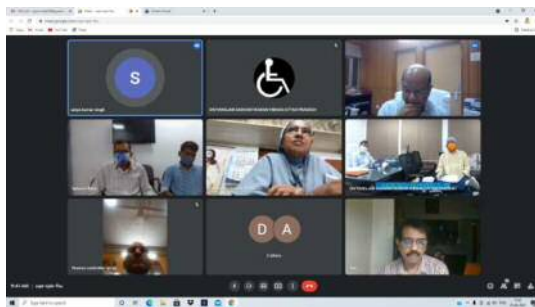


OTHER PRESENTATIONS

During this second wave lockdown **Dr. Amitabh Mehrotra** (Founder Secretary cum Director, SPARC-India) participated in various webinars and meetings which were organized by various organizations on virtual platforms. The list of them is given below:-

S.N.	Date	Webinar (Topic)	Organized By
1.	9 th May 2021	IFCP Mother's Day Celebration	IFCP Mumbai, Kolkata, New Delhi

2.	25 th May 2021	Learning From Leaders, TIM Talks 2021 by Mr. Nixon Joseph, President & COO, SBI Foundation	TKM Institute of Management
3.	27 th May 2021	Discussion with Mr. Gautam, IIT Bombay	IIT Bombay
4.	6 th June 2021	Took a session on “Demonstration of Assistive Devices used for the Education and Training of Mentally Retarded CP and Dyslectic Children Two days CRE Program on Application Of Technology in Education & Training under Rehabilitation Council of India.	Rehabilitation Society of the Visually Impaired, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh
5.	9 th June 2021	Grant-n- Aid Committee Meeting	SNAC, UP
6.	19 th June 2021	How has the COVID-19 Pandemic impacted the education of CwDs in West Bengal	National Consultation by West Bengal
7.	19 th June 2021	Workshop on Jellow Communicator	IIT Bombay
8.	21 st June 2021	Discussion on Software Emporia	Consultation organized by Bangladesh Software

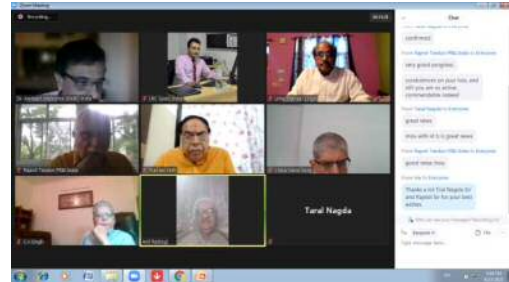


SECOND NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (NAC) MEETING

The **Second National Advisory Committee (NAC) meeting** was organized on 15th June 2021 through Zoom Platform. Dr. Amitabh Mehrotra, Dr. Rajesh Tandon, Dr. P.K Seth,

Justice S.C Verma, Mr. C.V Singh, Dr. Anil Rastogi, Dr. Taral Nagada, Mr. V.N Garg, Dr. Uma Shankar Singh and CA Rajeev Sharma were the main participants of the meeting. The main agenda of discussion was basically on *the developments made till the time mentioned in the earlier meeting and the way forward.*

Dr. Amitabh Mehrotra introduced the new National Advisory Committee member and informed the action taken on the recommendations of the First National Advisory Meeting. He further told about the current work being performed under various programs of SPARC-India.



Dr. Rajesh Tandon suggested that whenever Dr. Mehrotra gets any new idea he could share with the NAC members so that they could suggest and support SPARC-India. He further added that if anything related to publication and research is needed he has two young people who can do it very well.

Dr Taral Nagda gave his advice that whatever work SPARC-India is doing on field can also include research component.

At the end Dr. Mehrotra (Founder Secretary cum Director, SPARC-India) thanked everyone for giving their valuable time and suggestions.

SUCCESS STORIES

JYOTI KIRAN SCHOOL

UVAISH

Uvaish is an 11 year old Intellectually Disabled child. He can hear but is unable to speak. His father is in a private job and his mother is a homemaker. Uvaish is a sincere child, never fights with other children and always obeys his mother. His dream is to become a Doctor. During online classes, he always showed his interest in studies and participated very enthusiastically in every activity. The school team is now focusing on his social skills and is trying to inculcate a sense of responsibility in him. Seeing the improvement his parents are very happy and have promised to help him in every step of learning.



TAUHEED

Tauheed is a 15 year old Intellectually Disabled student, who is unable to speak. His father is a salesman and mother is a housewife. Tauheed is a shy child. Initially, he tried to escape from interacting with the teacher during online class. But when he observed that the teacher called everyday and spoke to his family then he felt left out and started taking interest. His writing skill has improved and now he shows interest in all the activities. His mother says that he is benefiting from the online class and prepares himself before the class time by sitting at a proper place with his stationery and he is becoming self dependent.



SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND PLACEMENT PROGRAM

NEETU RAWAT

Neetu Rawat is 24 years old girl. She has completed Bachelor's degree in Art. Neetu belongs to Unnao District of Uttar Pradesh. She has 80% Locomotor disability.



She came to know about SPARC-India training program through our Mobilizer. She wants to become self dependant in her life. She was a quiet student earlier and was bit hesitant to participate in many activities but as of date in training she is one of the brightest & prompt students of the class who always joins on time on regular basis without fail.

VINAY KUMAR MISHRA

Vinay Kumar Mishra is a 32 year old boy. He belongs to Sitapur District of Uttar Pradesh. He has completed his Intermediate. He has 80% of PPRP (both lower limb) disability.



He came to know about SPARC-INDIA training program through Mr. Sachin Gulati. He has come across Online Mode of Learning through Zoom for the first time in this program. He is very happy and excited to utilize the same in his studies. He wants to become self dependent by doing job after successful completing training. At present Vinay is one of the few students who is well acquainted with Online Mode & is very sincere in his studies. We are very much confident about his participation & better future post placement.
