

CAMP REPORT

SAKSHAM

EMPOWERMENT OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES
PUNE, MAHARASHTRA

21st to 27th February 2024

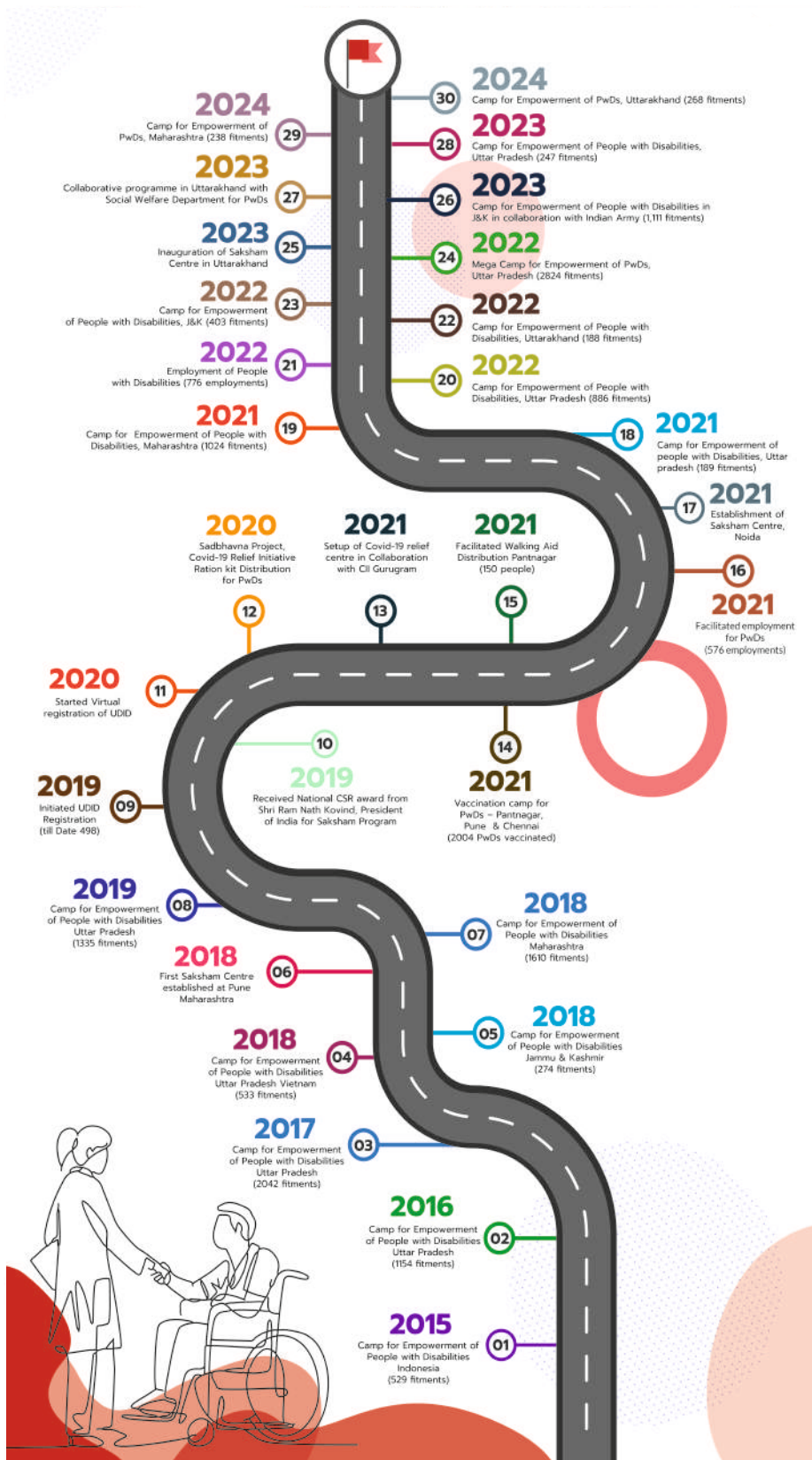


OVERVIEW

Spark Minda Foundation (SMF) was incorporated under Section 8 of the Companies Act and has been the CSR wing for the group companies to undertake CSR programmes since 2014. The vision of the Foundation is to build a sustainable society by improving the quality of life; protecting the planet through affirmative actions and establishing integrated and inclusive growth of people and the environment. The main aim of SMF is to work for community development by catering to Skilling, Livelihood Promotion, Women Empowerment, Facilitation of Healthcare, Empowerment of People with Disabilities and Sustaining the Environment. The Foundation runs projects and programmes for the communities in the semi-urban and rural areas majorly in 5 states of India- Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu. The approach is need- based and focuses on collaborating with like-minded institutions to cater to a wide range of people around the nation. The programmes are conceptualised in such a way that they can be easily replicated and provide avenues to gradually scale up the programmes in the years to come. The CSR strategies are designed to address some of the global concerns in the Indian context keeping the programmes aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals offered by the United Nations.



SAKSHAM - JOURNEY



Spark Minda Foundation (SMF) established a programme called “Saksham” for Empowering People with Disabilities (PwDs) in 2015. It is supplementing the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2016 of the Government of India.

Under this programme, SMF has catered to more than 18,000 PwDs, through providing them with Artificial Limbs, UDID (Unique Disability ID) Registration support, Skilling, Employment and Entrepreneurship support. Spark Minda Group is a proud employer of more than 1,000 PwDs. SMF has also established permanent Saksham centres for PwDs in the states of Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand.

OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAMME

- Enhancing accessibility and providing assistive technology to empower PwDs.
- Offering guidance and support for the registration of UDID cards, ensuring official recognition for PwDs.
- Identifying and facilitating suitable employment opportunities for eligible PwDs through collaborations with partner organizations.
- Providing skill development initiatives and on-the-job training tailored to individual needs and industry requirements.



CAMP FOR EMPOWERMENT OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES PUNE, MAHARASHTRA 21ST TO 27TH FEBRUARY 2024

The Saksham programme has been meticulously designed to promote self-reliance among individuals with disabilities, aiming to decrease their dependence on external assistance for both mobility and livelihood. This transformative initiative took place from 21st to 27th February 2024, with a profound goal: to provide aid to community members lacking the financial means to obtain essential devices like artificial limbs and assistive aids. Throughout this period, a wide range of crucial services were provided to the people residing in rural and semi-urban areas of Maharashtra. The impact of this endeavor is significant, directly addressing the essential needs of individuals who might otherwise encounter obstacles in living independently. Through offering appropriate interventions and assisting with UDID card registrations, the Saksham programme has not only improved their physical well-being but also provided the invaluable gift of acknowledgment and support. This year the camp was organised in Pune, Maharashtra. A huge number of people from Nashik, Sinnar, Maval, Shrirampur, Charholi etc. attended the camp.



THE METHODOLOGY FOLLOWED

- a) Involvement of Government (District Administration) in the identification of PwDs for the programme
- b) Association with mobilizing partners/stakeholders (Ngo's and Panchayat)
- c) Organizing screening camps in identified areas for selecting PwDs
- d) Communication strategies applied for dissemination of the information about the camp

Registration Desk

The registration desk was set up at the entrance of the camp to track the total number of PwDs attending the camp. Medical assistance was provided to the PwDs for the identification of Fitment types and Assistive Aids they require. Photography was used to maintain and support the pre and post fitment records.

UDID- Unique ID for Persons with Disabilities

A UDID counter was set up to offer assistance to PwDs at UDID registration desk, PwDs were counselled and made aware of the benefits of the UDID card.

Employment Desk

An employment desk was set up to facilitate the employment of PwDs across the Spark Minda Group as well as external agencies and organisations. HR volunteers from group factories volunteered and counselled the PwDs for potential employment opportunities.

Entrepreneurship

Project Swavalamban – As the name suggests, it is aimed at making people independent – financially as well as individually. It is designed to support PwDs and women from rural backgrounds through an entrepreneurial model. This project would help them to be self-reliant and independent. The project is an amalgamation of projects at Minda Silca Engineering PVT. LTD. (MSEPL) and Spark Minda Foundation (SMF) – Silca Keys and Accessories Storz (SKAZ) and Saksham respectively.

Prosthetics and Orthotics

This process involves empowering individuals with locomotor disabilities or those who have undergone amputations. It includes providing prosthetics (artificial limbs), orthotics (callipers), or other assistive aids. The first step is assessing the person's needs, followed by taking measurements based on the prescription. After fabrication, the device is fitted to the individual, followed by gait training and quality checks. This brings them closer to empowerment.



CAMP INAUGURATION

The inauguration of the Saksham camp took place on February 21st, with the esteemed presence of notable dignitaries. Mr. Anil Khamkar, Superintendent of Yerwada Central Prison and Mr. Santosh Kokhne, Jailer, Yerwada Central Prison along with representatives from Prahar, honoured the event with their presence.



CAMP ANALYSIS

The Saksham camp stands as a beacon of hope, illuminating the path for People with Disabilities (PwDs) and marking a profound milestone. For many, the introduction to the transformative potential of prosthetic limbs was a revelation, catalysing a significant shift in perspective. Whether they had undergone limb amputations or faced recent challenges, the concept of fitments opened new doors of opportunity and empowerment.

Spanning across generations, from tender ages of to venerable , the camp embraced a diverse spectrum of participants. The commitment to gender parity, with % male and % female representation, underscored a concerted effort towards inclusivity. Meticulously tailored prostheses, orthoses, and various assistive devices catered to individual needs, with % opting for prostheses, % for orthoses, and % for a spectrum of assistive devices.

In total, the camp facilitated fitments, each representing a life touched and empowered. Among these, UDIDs were issued, symbolizing not just the tangible support provided but also the recognition and acknowledgment of each individual's journey towards greater independence and inclusion.



TOGETHER WE CAN

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have been designed to establish a comprehensive framework of global objectives that encompass the essential pillars of sustainability: social, economic, and environmental. These goals collectively address areas of paramount importance, such as ensuring access to quality education, fostering equitable economic growth, reducing disparities, and cultivating effective partnerships towards achieving these aims.

Underlying these goals, SDG- 3 is to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all and at all ages. SDG-8 emphasizes the pursuit of sustainable economic growth that yields quality employment opportunities, thereby enhancing living standards. SDG-10 aims to diminish inequalities while upholding steady income growth, guaranteeing that no one is marginalized. SDG-17 serves to fortify global collaborations that advance sustainable development.

In alignment with these pivotal SDGs, the Saksham initiative is significantly contributing to the employment of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs). Spark Minda and Minda Corporation have collectively engaged over 1,000 PwDs within the manufacturing units of the Spark Minda Group. This step not only fosters economic empowerment but also exemplifies the production of assistive devices like Artificial Limbs and Callipers, directly addressing inequality by enhancing mobility for PwDs.

Additionally, the program actively supports PwDs in procuring UDID, a unique identification card, facilitating a more equitable work environment.



By forging strategic partnerships with governmental bodies, non-profit organizations, trade associations, and kindred CSR groups, the scope of impact expands, paving the way for a substantial improvement in the lives of PwDs. This approach not only adheres to the ideals set forth by the SDGs but also amplifies their positive influence on the lives of those with disabilities.

TOGETHER WE CAN

SUPPORT & GUIDANCE



EMPLOYMENT SUPPORT PARTNER



TECHNICAL PARTNER



SKILLING PARTNER



TESTIMONIALS

Bhausahab Punja Sanjale ***“A resilient soul”***

Meet Bhausahab Punja Sanjale, a resilient soul from Sinnar whose journey is nothing short of inspiring. Despite facing adversity in 2014 when an accident took place while he was at work. Bhausahab ran an ambulance and one day on duty in order to save a patient he met with an accident which left him with a locomotor disability. However, he didn't let it define him.

Instead, he ventured into the clothes business in 2016, determined to rebuild his life. He extends his heartfelt gratitude to the support of SMF, he received his first pair of prosthetic legs, granting him a new lease on life. Today, as a beacon of hope Bhausahab serves as the POC for SMF Saksham Camps for Sinnar Taluka, embodying resilience, strength, and the power of second chances. His story is a testament to the human spirit's ability to overcome obstacles and emerge stronger than ever.



Vaibhav Wagh

“A man with unwavering determination”

Vaibhav Wagh, a trailblazer from Sinnar whose journey is a testament to perseverance and unwavering determination. Despite facing skepticism from those around him who doubted the potential of a person with a disability, Vaibhav remained steadfast in his aspirations.

Determined to pursue his passion for engineering, he defied all odds, completed his engineering degree, and embarked on a remarkable entrepreneurial journey. Today, he stands as a beacon of inspiration, not only for overcoming societal barriers but for also thriving in the world of business. With his startup, boasting a thriving manufacturing unit, Vaibhav exemplifies the boundless possibilities that await those who refuse to be defined by their circumstances. His story serves as a powerful reminder that with courage and resilience, one can achieve anything they set their mind to.



“Champ”

Gratitude knows no bounds when it comes to the remarkable journey of this 11-year-old. Born with unique challenges, every step was a triumph, made possible through the unwavering support of SMF.

With their compassion and expertise, they didn't just provide mobility; they granted him the gift of independence and joy. Today, as he takes each stride forward, his heart is filled with gratitude for SMF, the guiding light that helped him discover the world on his own two feet. His story is a testament to the transformative impact of kindness and generosity, reminding us all of the power of a helping hand in shaping a brighter future.





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