



Camp for Empowerment of People with Disabilities

Spark Minda Foundation in collaboration with IIT Gandhinagar, Gujarat

5th to 9th March 2025





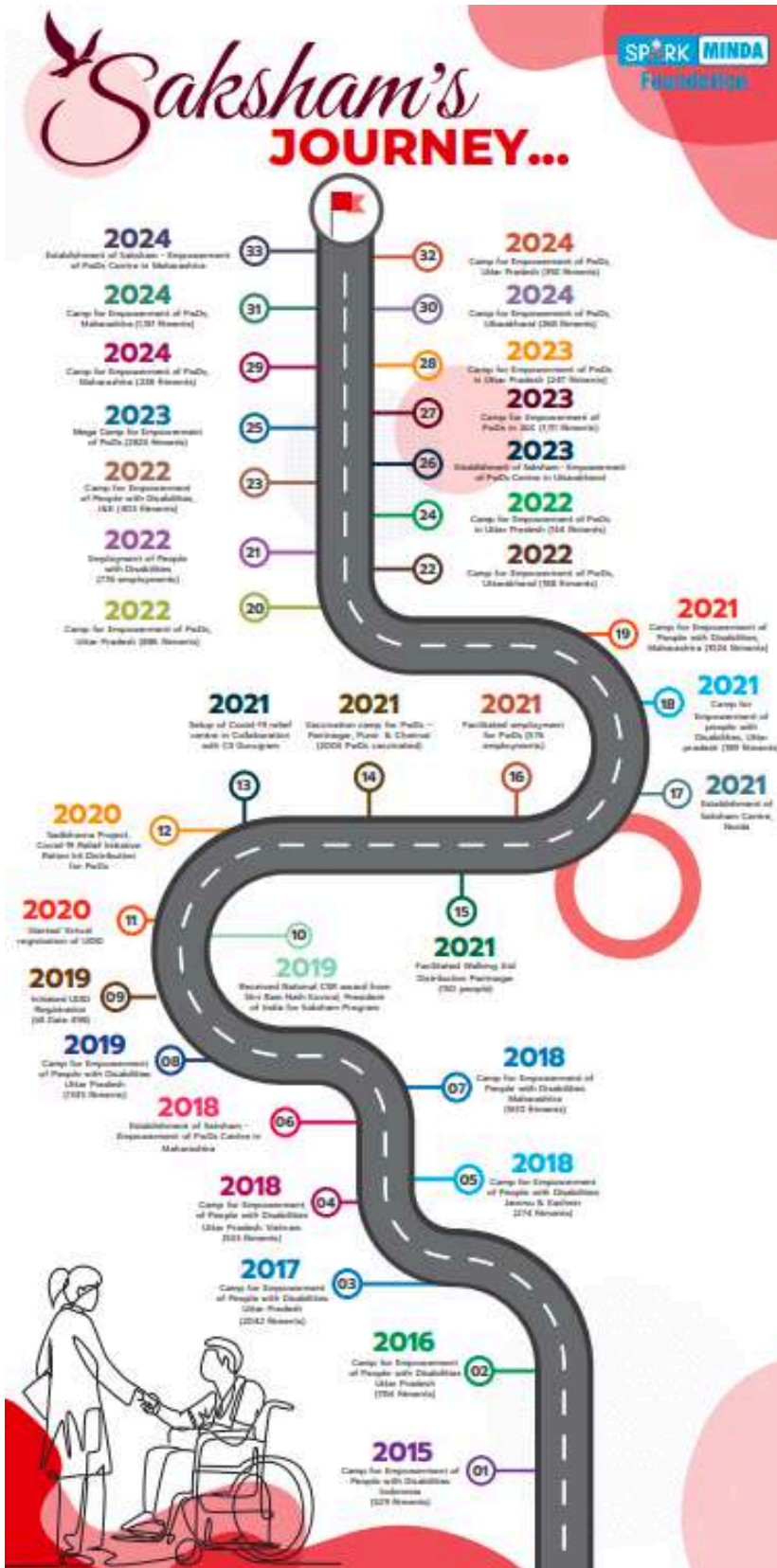
OVERVIEW

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, Inmate Reform and Sustaining the Environment. The Foundation runs programmes for the communities in the rural and semi-urban areas of five 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 the Empowerment of 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 25,000 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 1,200 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 organisations
- Providing skill development initiatives and on-the-job training tailored to individual needs and industry requirements





CAMP FOR EMPOWERMENT OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES (PwDs)

IIT GANDHINAGAR, GUJARAT

5th - 9th MARCH 2025

The Saksham programme has been meticulously designed to promote self-reliance among PwDs, aiming to decrease their dependence on external assistance for both mobility and livelihood. This transformative initiative took place from 5th to 9th March, 2025, 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 Gujarat. 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. A huge number of people from Arawali, Anand, Vadodara, Mahesana, Gandhinagar, Vispur, Dhansura, Modasa, etc. attended the camp.





THE METHODOLOGY FOLLOWED

- Involvement of partner organisations in the identification of PwDs for the programme
- Association with mobilising partners/stakeholders (Academic Institutions, Ngo's and Panchayat)
- Organising screening camps in identified areas for selecting PwDs
- 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.

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 5th March 2025, with the esteemed presence of notable dignitaries. Prof. SP Mehrotra – Dean of External Relations Mr. Nirmal Jha – Advisor, Institutional Advancement and Research Park, Prof. K. Chelwa Kumar – Visiting Professor, Mechanical Engineering, Ms. Latah Chelwa Kumar, Mr. KS Murthy – Head, Marketing and Development IIT Gandhinagar Research Park, Dr. Riya Pancholi – Assistant Professor - Ganpat University, Prof. Vineet Vashishth – Associate Professor, Mechanical Engineering and Mr. Praveen Karn, Head Group Sustainability & CSR, Spark Minda Group, 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. Till the 7th March 2025 i.e third day of the camp, the commitment to gender parity, with 63% males and 37% females representation, underscored a concerted effort towards inclusivity. Meticulously tailored prostheses, orthoses and various assistive devices catered to individual needs, with 17% opting for prostheses, 21% for orthoses and 62% for a spectrum of assistive devices. In total, till the third day of the camp, we facilitated 328 fitments, each representing a life touched and empowered. Among these, 12 UDIDs were issued, symbolising not just the tangible support provided but also the recognition and acknowledgment of each individual's journey towards greater independence and inclusion.





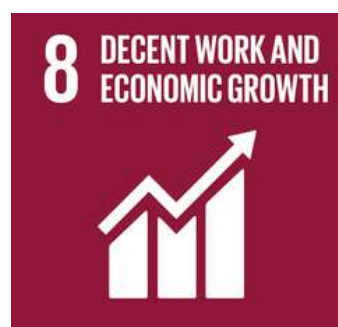
TOGETHER WE CAN

The United Nation's 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 emphasises 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 marginalised. 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 1,200 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 programme actively supports PwDs in procuring UDID, a unique identification card, facilitating a more equitable work environment.





By forging strategic partnerships with governmental bodies, academic institutions, non-profit organizations, trade associations and 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.

Partners for this camp-

**The Social Defence Department, Anand
Abhilasha Charitable Trust
Aravalli Physically Handicapped Mandal
Ganpat University
Nyasa Foundation
The Society For Physically Handicapped
Uttar Gujarat Viklang Kalyan Sangh**

Strengthening Indo-Lanka Relations: A Collaborative Effort for Global Inclusivity of PwDs

Notably, the camp has garnered international attention, with over 18 PwDs travelling from Sri Lanka, specifically for their fitments. This emphasises the importance and reach of the camp, as individuals are making the journey from abroad to participate. This is made possible with the invaluable support of Professor Chelva Kumar from the University of Jaffna, Sri Lanka. The presence of international participants highlights the significant impact of this initiative, marking it as a vital step toward global inclusivity for PwDs.





TESTIMONIALS

A Mother's Hope Restored

"Seven years ago, my life took an unexpected turn when a fall from the terrace left me paralyzed from the waist down. The journey that followed was filled with struggles, but through it all, I never lost hope. After undergoing surgery, I regained some sensation, but I still couldn't walk without callipers. When those callipers broke, I found myself at a loss, unable to replace them and with no clear way forward, until the Spark Minda Foundation's IIT Gandhinagar Camp offered me a new chance.

Thanks to the calipers and walker they provided, I am now one step closer to my dream of walking my children to school. This support has done more than restore my mobility; it has re-instilled a sense of hope. I am profoundly grateful to Spark Minda Foundation and IIT Gandhinagar for helping me believe in the possibilities ahead once again."

– Mubarak Bano
Modasa, Aravalli District, Gujarat





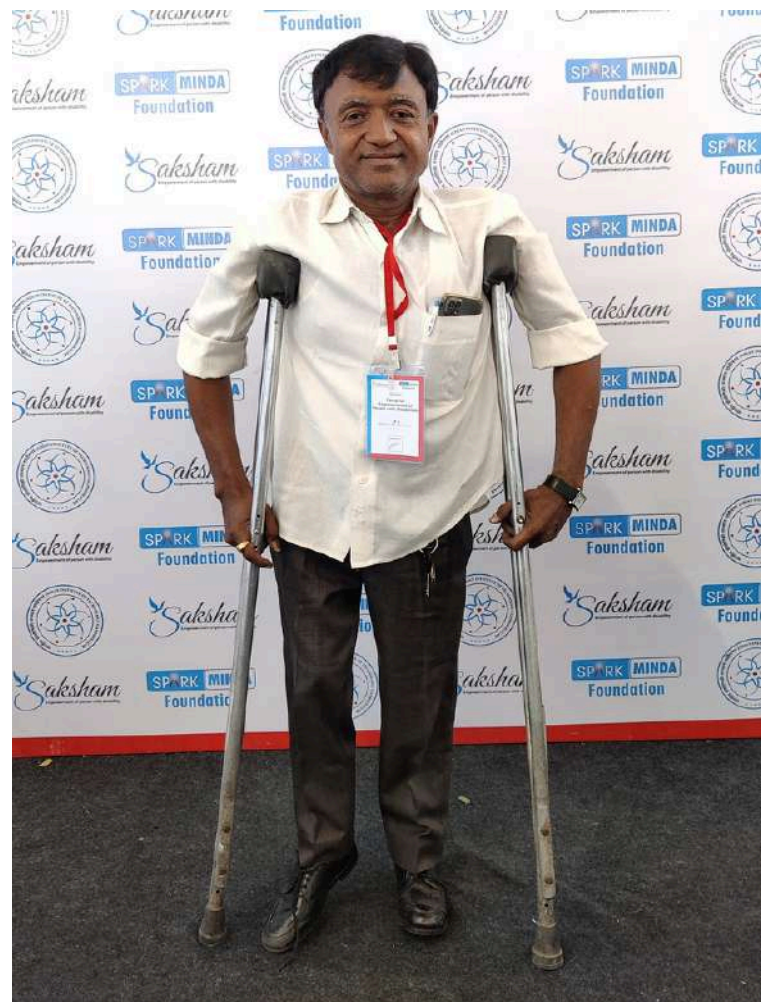
A Lifelong Commitment to Empowerment

“I’m Jignesh Bhatt, from Aravalli District. I attended the IIT Gandhinagar camp with my wife, son and 30 other PwDs from my organisation, Abhilasha Charitable Trust, a partner NGO of Spark Minda Foundation.

I got affected by polio when I was six months old, as my parents were unaware of the polio vaccine. This was my first time at an SMF camp which is in collaboration with IIT GN as well, where I received a calliper and crutches. Despite my condition, I hold an M.A. degree and work as an ICICI Prudential advisor and director of a corporate banking agency.

As the primary breadwinner for my family, I truly appreciated the SMF team’s efforts in providing smooth transport, food and comfortable spaces for all of us. The assistive aids I received will help me maintain my independence as I age. I look forward to spending more time with my son and continuing my efforts to empower other PwDs.”

– Jignesh Bhatt
Aravalli District, Gujarat





A New Step Towards Independence

"My name is Kannaiya Subaskaran, and I am 49 years old. In 1992, I lost my right leg in an unfortunate incident and since then, life has been a constant struggle. I work in agriculture and in a poultry farm to provide for my family—my wife and three children. But each day, my impairment makes even the simplest tasks difficult.

Thanks to this incredible camp, I am grateful to have received a new prosthetic leg and crutches. I am truly grateful for this opportunity, as it has already made a huge difference in my life. With the new artificial leg, I can now move more freely and work with much more ease. This gift has given me renewed hope, not just for walking, but for regaining my independence and dignity.

I am very happy and thankful for the camp's support. It is making it possible for me to take better care of my family and continue my work with less struggle. This prosthetic leg is not just a tool—it's a new beginning for me."

– Kannaiya Subaskaran
Kilinochchi District, Sri Lanka





Restoring Strength

"My name is Rajaratnam Puwaneswaran and I am 72 years old, from Mallavi. In 1998, I lost my left arm in an accident while working as a machine operator. This loss was a huge challenge, but over the years, I gained a lot of experience and learned how to adapt. However, even with the experience, it was always difficult to manage daily tasks, especially with the responsibility of looking after my grandchild.

I've never been to India before, so when I had the chance to come to this camp, I felt both nervous and hopeful. I am deeply grateful to have received a new prosthetic arm from this camp. This has given me a sense of self-confidence that I thought I had lost. I can now perform all my work on time, and I no longer feel limited by my disability. I can even compete with others who have both hands.

I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to Prot. Chelva and all the supportive staff involved. I also want to thank the Spark Minda Foundation team for their invaluable support."

– Rajaratnam Puwaneswaran
Mallavi, Sri Lanka





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