



**Community Based Inclusion and Development (CBID) Program  
for People with Disabilities**  
Annual Narrative Report  
1<sup>st</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023

Since, 1985, CORD Training Centre Sidhbari focused on individuals with cross-disabilities and their families comprehensively on the issues of disability awareness, education, counseling, treatment, rehabilitation, accessibility, home-based & mainstream education, community-based livelihood, advocacy, socio-economic inclusion at family and community level and enable People with Disabilities (PwDs) to emerge as contributor, productive and responsible citizen in the society beyond just an issue of charity and welfare.

CBID program is intensively working with 2700 people with cross disabilities **including 650 People with Intellectual disabilities, 80 People with Cerebral Palsy, 10 People with Autism, and 160 People with Multiple Disabilities in 600 villages of district Kangra, Himachal Pradesh.** The program is integrated and interwoven with CORD's comprehensive participatory, community-driven and sustainable Rural Development work.

#### Key achievements

On 10<sup>th</sup> July, 2022 **SNEHbility National Award** was received by Sh. Balbir Guleria, Team Lead of the program on behalf of CORD as an Excellent Institution for the services of PwDs.



#### Outreach

In the reporting period, 2700 PwDs in 152 panchayats.

#### Summary of activities performed during the year:

Sr. No.	Activity Statistics	Till 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2023
1	Villages participating in the CBID Programme	600
2	Differently-abled participants in the CBID Programme <b>including 900 People with National Trust Disabilities</b>	2700
3	Mothers of differently-abled children in women's groups	1450
4	Parents of differently-abled children in Self-Help Groups (SHG)	1200
5	Differently-abled women in women's groups	238
6	Differently-abled men and women in SHG	350
7	Differently-abled children in mainstream education	510

Sr. No.	Activity Statistics	Till 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2023
8	Differently-abled men and women in Community Based Livelihood (CBL)	715
9	Parents of differently-abled children in CBL	1350
10	Differently-abled /mothers facilitated for CBL	163
11	Aids and appliances provided through cooperation with government agencies	463
12	Medical certificates given through the Disability Board	2517
13	Unique Disability Identity Card (UDID) provided through the Health Department	1700
14	Individuals registered with the local employment exchange	126
15	Individuals receiving disability allowance from the government	1874
16	Individuals receiving allowance under HP Sahara Yojna	500

## Referral

### Disability Certification

111 PwDs received disability certificates through the facilitation of the program team. A Disability certificate is a prime document for PwDs to avail government schemes and entitlements available for them.

### Enrolment in UDID (Unique Disability Identity Card)

198 PwDs have received and 60 PwDs have enrolled for the UDID card. The UDID card is a single document of identification and verification of the PwDs for availing various benefits under the government schemes, programs and benefits etc.

### Health Check-Ups

Team mobilized 254 PwDs for health check-ups to the nearest Primary Health Care Centres and Dr. Rajendra Prasad Government Medical College & Hospital Kangra with proper care and sanitization.



### Disability Pension

Team ensured that 776 PwDs received Rs.1700 and 1214 PwDs received Rs.1150 respectively as a monthly disability pension. The disability pension of the PwDs has been released by the state government for the period of three months in the first week of each quarter. The state government has been providing disability pension to PwDs of Rs. 1150/- to

1700/- per person as per the percentage of their disability. PwDs having 70% or above disability certification are getting Rs. 1700/- per month as disability pension and PwDs having disability certification between 40% to 69% are getting Rs. 1150/- per month.

**HP Sahara Yojana 2019:**

The team ensured 585 PwDs associated with the program to receive Rs. 3000/- per person as a monthly allowance under HP Sahara Yojna to bear their medical expenses. People with Blood Disorders, Parkinson, Muscular Dystrophy, Hemiplegic and Chronic Diseases are covered under this scheme.



**Inclusion in Mahila Mandal (MM):** The inclusion of 30 mothers and 13 women with disabilities in MM was facilitated by the field facilitators of the program. Besides that, team has formed and facilitated 84 Chinmaya Umang Self-Help Groups of PwDs in 70 Panchayats. 89 parents and 346 PwDs were integrated into these groups for social and economic inclusion and development.

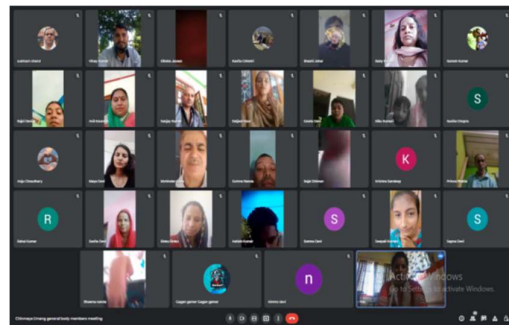


**Aids and Appliances:**

Program provided 47 cerebral Palsy chairs, corner chairs, standing frame and 45 wheel chairs, crutches, walking sticks and hearing aids through networking with the Government and Non-Government agencies. These appliances will be helpful in maintaining correct body posture and help in the activities of daily living skills. They help in preventing bed sores; contractures. Mothers and family members were trained on the use these appliances effectively.

**Central Chinmaya Umang Meeting (Rural advocacy forum for PwDs, their parents and friends)**

Three virtual Chinmaya Umang (CCU) meetings were held in the presence of vice president Sh. Mahinder Singh, secretary Ms. Neelam Kumari and treasurer Mrs. Rajni Bala. The meetings were attended on average by 35 participants including PwDs, their family members, village resource persons and team members. Participants were educated on access to govt. schemes and entitlements, Community inclusion, Accessible India Campaign, 21 types of disabilities and also sensitized about disability abuse and mental health.



**Mini Chinmaya Umang Meetings (Rural advocacy forum for PwDs, their parents and friends at the Panchayat level):**

483 Mini Chinmaya Umang (MCU) meetings were held at panchayat level in Nagrota Bagwan, Bhawarna, Dharamshala, Kangra, Rait and Indora,





development blocks of district Kangra. Meetings were attended by 586 PwDs and their family members. The participants were educated about the benefits of using the CM Helpline number (1100), strengthening of MCUs, benefits of available entitlements, renewal of UDID & health insurance cards and active participation in Up Gram Sabha and Gram Sabha meetings.

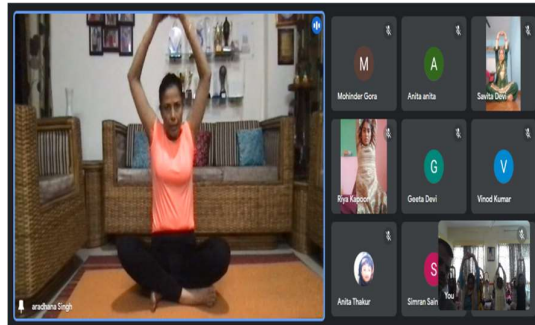
**Program and Events:**

- Four Parents Counseling and Get-together Programs were facilitated by the Program. The sessions were attended and actively participated by 95 participants which included parents, children with disabilities, special educators, and therapists. The core objectives of the sessions were to educate, counsel and guide parents regarding the condition of their children and make them relaxed from their day-to-day hectic and stressful life.
- Facilitated one-day excursion trips of 12 children with Deaf-blindness to Gopalpur Zoo, War Memorial and Kangra Fort. These trips were basically organized to enhance their orientation, mobility and audit the physical access in the public places and sensitize the officials about the issues, concerns and challenges of People with Deafblindness and other disabilities. Children and their families greatly enjoyed the trips and also met with the authorities.
- Diwali, Lohri and Holi festivals were celebrated with great enthusiasm at CORD Training Centre Sidhbari with on an average of 20 children with disabilities, their parents and team members. The children and parents enjoyed the celebrations and understood the significance of the festivals.



- Program facilitated World Autism Awareness Day virtually on 2<sup>nd</sup> April, 2022 with an objective to create awareness about autism spectrum disorder at the community level for the identification and sensitization about the needs, challenges, abilities and inclusion of the children/persons with autism. The session was attended by 43 participants from the field area. The theme for World Autism Awareness Day, 2022 was *'Inclusion in the workplace'*, *'Inclusive education' is the key to the transformative promise of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), to 'Leave no one behind' also covered the SDG goal-4 'Quality Education'*.

- The International Day of Yoga observed on 21<sup>st</sup> June. A Yoga session was organised to mark the Day at CORD Training Centre Sidhbari virtually as well as physically under the Program. “*Yoga for Humanity*” was the theme for the International Yoga Day, 2022. *It was mainly focused on the importance of Yog in our life.* 45 participants including parents of children with disabilities, adult PwDs and CORD team members actively participated in the session. Dr. Aaradhna Singh, a sports psychologist and yoga instructor from Delhi demonstrated Yoga Asanas, warm-up exercises, Pranayam and relaxation and also talked on the importance of these exercises to deal with the day-to-day stress in life.



- On 27th June 2022, Helen Keller Day celebrated at CORD Training Centre, Sidhbari. 65 participants including parents of children with disabilities, Village Resource Persons, Special educators, Anganbari workers and team members of the program participated in this program. Participants were educated on the needs and challenges of the persons with Deaf blindness. The participants expressed how they would feel in the absence of sound and light. Sh. Satpal from Child Development Office (CDPO) Dharamshala was the guest of the program.

- **Anjali International Festival 2022:** A one-day district-level Anjali Cultural Festival was celebrated on 29<sup>th</sup> November with great enthusiasm at CORD Training Centre, Sidhbari in collaboration with Swabhiman Organization, Odisha and Himachal Pradesh Gramin Bank. The Program was attended and actively participated by 184 participants which included Children with disabilities their parents/siblings, special educators, therapists, community stakeholders and govt. functionaries etc. The Chief Guest of the program was Ms. Anjali, a girl with Down syndrome and Master Akshar Sharma, a child with Cerebral Palsy and guests of honour were Smt. Gandharva Rathore, Additional Deputy Commissioner Kangra and Sh. Shashi Pal Rana, Regional Manager, Himachal Pradesh Gramin Bank. Smt. Gandharva Rathore celebrated her daughter’s first birthday with the children



**World Disability Day celebration:**

- The Program organized World Disability Day,2022 in Bagli, Dargella, and Jamanabad Panchayats. More than 200 participants including PwDs, their families, Govt. officials, MM members, ASHA, Anganwadi, ANM, and PRI where they were educated and sensitized about the issues and concerns of Persons with Deaf-blindness and Multiple disabilities and also on the importance of disability certification, Govt. schemes and programs and inclusion of PwDs in the upcoming census 2023.





## Human Resource Development

### Team's capacity-building sessions at CORD or outside

- Six Team's training session were held on the management of learning disabilities with Ms. Prarthna Bhuta, an occupational therapist from Australia. The team learned about the early identification and intervention for the development of children with Autism and learning disabilities.
- Dr. Chandra Johri and Dr. Sunil Johri Occupational Therapists from Delhi visited CORD from 19<sup>th</sup> April to 28<sup>th</sup> April 2022. Both visited the program's field area and understood the approach of CORD for the inclusion and development of PwDs. They interacted with the families and PwDs and suggested appropriate therapies for them. They also attended PwDs in the central OPD and educated the team on the therapeutic interventions.



- Three faculty members from Ummeed Child Development Centre, Mumbai visited CORD from 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> May, 2022 for the follow-up of the training of CBID team members held virtually in November, 2021 on the administration of the Guide for Monitoring Child Development (GMCD), which is a tool for assessing the areas of development among the children from 0 to 3 years. The Ummeed team has also visited the field and assessed the knowledge and skill of the trainees regarding the use of the tool and provided relevant feedback.



- On 18<sup>th</sup> June 2022, Community Awareness Programs were held in two development blocks of district Kangra on the impact of COVID19 on persons with Deafblindness and their families. 115 participants attended the programs in two venues. Including Govt. officials, Elected Representatives, MM members, and 28 PwDs.

- On 26<sup>th</sup> September 2022, CORD organized a community awareness program along with distribution of aids and appliances at Bagulehar gram panchayat, Nagrota Bagwan. Sh. Balbir Guleria educated all participants on 21 types of disabilities and needs and concerns of children with disabilities. 60 participants including PwDs, their family members, MM members, ward panch, ASHA, Anganwadi and health workers participated in the program. Sh. Munish Kumar Sharma, SDM Nagrota was the chief guest of the program. He distributed the aids and appliances to six PwDs.



- On 7<sup>th</sup> June 2022, a virtual meeting was held with seven district partners. 20 participants attended the meeting including 16 (Male) and 4 (Female). They were educated on the

initiative of CORD on the services and needs of deaf-blindness and Skill events under Abilympics.

- Mental health workshop was held at CORD from 8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> Feb 2023. Ms. Aastha Shah (Counsellor & Psychologist, Sense International India) has facilitated the sessions. Workshop was focused on issues and concerns regarding the Mental health & Well Being of People with Deaf-blindness and Multiple disabilities. 22 participants including Therapists, Special Educators, CBR workers, PwDs and their parents participated in the workshop. Teams also learnt about the basic assessment techniques of Mental Health & Well Being.



- Sh. Balbir Guleria and Sh. Shashi Kumar participated in National Consultation of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) on the impact of COVID19 on person with deaf blindness at Ahmadabad. Consultation was organized by Sense International India from 19<sup>th</sup> May to 21<sup>st</sup> May 2022. It was mainly focused on the need, challenges and impact of COVID19 on the persons with deaf blindness and their families.



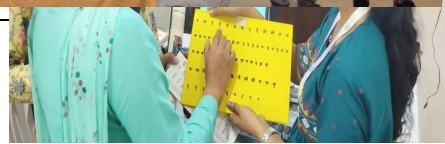
- Sh. Balbir Guleria and Sh. Sanjeev Gupta attended National Conclave of Adult persons with Deafblindness their families, educators, administrator and coordinators from 27<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> June 2022 at Ahmedabad, Gujrat. They learned about project management and mental health and wellbeing.

- Sh, Narender Paul, Chief Operating Officer, CORD participated in National Consultation on Rights of PwDs at Delhi from 26<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> August 2022 and 24<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> March 2023. NCPEDP (National Centre for Promotion of Employment for Disabled People) has organised these consultations. The consultations were mainly focused on the National Curriculum framework of education, accessibility, civil aviation and vision of National Disability Network.



- Smt. Kavita Chettri and Sh. Vinay Kumar, team member of the program and two mothers of Adult person with Deafblindness participated in Regional Network Meet at Delhi. National Association for the Blind has organized these two days meet from 15<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> September for educators, parents and adult person with disabilities. They have learned about the issues, concerns and challenges of people with Deafblindness and available different livelihood avenues.

- 12<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> December, Sh. Anand Kumar and Sh. Shashi Kumar participated in five-day regional training program on Deaf-blindness at NAB, Delhi. Both of them learned the screening assessment techniques, mobility & orientation and communication skills for the inclusion and





development of People with Deaf-blindness in the mainstream society.

- Sh. Sanjeev Gupta accompanied Ms. Shipali Koundal, adult person with Deaf-blindness and her mother to the National Training Program on Sexuality and Gender from 4<sup>th</sup> January to 6<sup>th</sup> January, 2023 at Goa. They also attended Purple Fest from 6<sup>th</sup> January to 8<sup>th</sup> January 2023 at Goa. Purple Fest is an inclusive event that aims to showcase how we can come together to create a welcoming and inclusive world for everyone. The festival includes engaging, panel discussion, artist live performances, Exhibitions, immersive experience zones.
- Sh. Balbir Guleria participated in National Training Program on Project Management at Goa from 30th January to 1st February 2023. Sense International India has organised this three days training program on Newer Methods in Project Management: Theory of change and Project Monitoring Evaluation and Learning (PMEAL). Ms. Elizabeth Ewen, Sr. Program Manager, Sense International UK was the trainer of the program.
- A National Conclave of Networks (UDANN, Paryas and Abhi-Prerna) was held at United Service Institution of India, New Delhi. It was a three days (13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> March) training-cum orientation program for adults with Deaf-blindness (Db), their parents and educators. Ms. Anita Thakur, Ms. Swati and Ms. Shipali from CORD attended the Conclave

### Resource Centre:

- On 28<sup>th</sup> September, 2022, CORD organized a one day workshop for Anganwadi supervisors, workers and CORD's MM team members of Nagrota Bagwan development block of district Kangra. Smt. Anita Thakur and Sh. Sudershan Kumar team members of the program educated the participants on the prevention, early identification and development of PwDs, especially in early age. Ninety participants attended the program.
- A two-day State Level Network and Stakeholder Engagement Meeting for the inclusion of Persons with Deafblindness (Db) was held at CORD Training Centre Sidhbari on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> December. It was attended by 45 participants from seven districts respectively on both days. Participants include persons with deaf-blindness, their parents, special educators, Anganwadi supervisors, therapists, etc. Dr. Gurudarshan Gupta Chief Medical Officer Kangra was the chief guest of the program. Dr. Kiran Sharma Under Secretary, Social Justice and Empowerment, Himachal Pradesh, Sh. Suresh Sharma Deputy Director, Empowerment of SCs, STs, Minorities and Specially Abled and Sh. Manjul Thakur District Welfare Officer, Kangra attended the Meeting virtually. Sh. Parag Namdeo, a resource person from Sense International India, office Delhi educated the participants on the importance of parents' network and the





engagement of different stakeholders for the inclusion and empowerment of persons with Deafblindness.

- On 20<sup>th</sup> January, 2023 one day training program for Samagra Shiksha teachers was held at CORD for the inclusion of children with disabilities in the mainstream. 63 participants from 17 Development blocks of district Kangra, Himachal Pradesh including Block coordinators SSA, JBT teachers and educators. Sh. Ashwani Bhatt (Deputy District Educational Officer) was the chief guest of the programme. Dr. Kshama Metre, National Director CORD also joined the programme. The training was focused on education of teachers regarding 21 types of disabilities and issues/challenges and counter solutions about the Inclusion of children with disabilities in the mainstream education.
- On 17<sup>th</sup> March, 2023 training for ASHA and Anganwari workers was held at CORD training center Sidhbari. 53 participants (5 male & 48 Female) including 19 ASHA workers, 26 Anganwari teachers, Adult with Db and CORD team members participated. The training was focused on the education of ASHA and Anganwari workers on the developmental milestones, importance of 1000 days, prevention, and early identification of disabilities.

### Sports activities for PwDs

On 7 April 2022, on the eve of World Health Day, Special Olympic Chapter Kangra had organized Health Fest for Divyangjan as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahaostav at Polytechnic College, Kangra with the support of Special Olympic chapter Himachal Pradesh. 700 participants including 300 special

athletes, families, doctors and volunteers had participated in the program. Dental and general health screening was held during the event; dental kits were distributed to the athletes and provided appropriate medical guidance for the families of Divyangjan. Sh. Rakesh Pathania Honourable Sports and Forest Minister of Himachal Pradesh was the Chief Guest and Dr. Kshama Metre, National Director CORD was the



Guest of honour of the program. CORD is coordinating Special Olympics activities in the district through District Special Olympics Coordination Committee, Kangra.

- National Coaching Camp cum Selection Trail of football games for coaches and athletes was held from 21<sup>st</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> June at Gandhinagar Gujarat. Three special athletes from CORD, participated in the NCC.
- Special Olympics-Bharat chapter Kangra organized a Developmental Sports Ribbon Day celebration at CORD Training Centre, Sidhbari on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2022 with the support of Special Olympic Bharat. 50 Special athletes in the age group of 6-12 years of district Kangra participated actively in this event. The training provided to athletes as per the sports specific by the coaches along with community coaches.
- Three special athletes and one coach participated in the National Coaching Camp cum selection Trial of cycling held at Bokaro Jharkhand from 21<sup>st</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> July. The athletes learnt warm-up, cool down exercises and were assessed for the race of 500 and 1000mtrs.



- On 17<sup>th</sup> September 2022 Sh. Balbir Guleria and Sh. Sanjeev Gupta participated in the opening ceremony function of the Special Olympics District Sports Centre at Surya uday Special School, Yol. Both have taken an active part for the preparation of the celebration. 25 children with disabilities and parents from CORD participated in the function. Dr. Kshama Metre National Director, CORD was the Chief Guest of the program.

- State

14<sup>th</sup> from games bronze events.



Youth Sports Service Department, Himachal Pradesh organized a state-level sports competition, 2022 at Kahloor Athletic Synthetic Track Bilaspur, from 13<sup>th</sup> December to December. Eight special athletes CORD participated in the state and bagged 4 gold, 3 silver and 4 medals in the different sports

- Sh, Sanjeev Gupta along with five female athletes participated in the Special Olympics National Coaching Camp of Winter Sports from 12<sup>th</sup> February to 17<sup>th</sup> February 2023 at Narkanda. Athletes participated in Alpine Skiing and Snow Board training events. They learnt skills and techniques of the sports.



### Networking

- On 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2022, Sh. Balbir Guleria and Sh. Sanjeev Gupta visited Rotary Seva Ashram, (A residential school for intellectually disabled children) in Saliyana Palampur. They met with Smt. Damani Sharma, the Principal of the school and understood the activities of the school. They also met with Sh. Shiv Kumar Pathania, block coordinator Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and sensitized him to the needs and concerns of children with disabilities.
- On 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2022, Sh. Parag Namdeo (Head Advocacy and Networks Development, Sense International India); Sh. Balbir Guleria, Team leader of the program and Ms. Shipali an adult Person with Deaf-blindness (Pwdb) and her brother Mr. Subham Koundal. visited Shimla for a meeting with state officials. The team had met with Dr. Kiran Sharma, Under Secretary, Social Justice & Empowerment, Govt. of Himachal



### Visits

Dr. Nipun Jindal, Deputy Commissioner Kangra and Chief Medical Officer Kangra, Dr. Gurudarshan Gupta visited CORD Training Centre Sidhbari on 1<sup>st</sup> July. They visited the central OPD of the program and personally met



with the parents and children with disabilities. They took great interest in listening to the issues and challenges of rural PwDs.

- Mrs. Preeti and Mrs. Priyanka from Ummeed Child Development Centre, Mumbai visited CORD Training Centre for the mentorship visit for Mrs. Anita Thakur and Sh. Sudarshan Kumar. They observed both trainees for their practical skills/ techniques with the disabled children in the OPD. They discussed in detail the observations and intervention techniques.
- From 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> August, Sh.Sachin Razil and Ms. Kanupriya from Sense India visited CORD for a Monitoring and Evaluation visit. During their visit they visited field and met with the parents and children with Deafblindness (Db) and Multiple disabilities (MD). They demonstrated assessment techniques of vision and hearing in the field for the program team. Besides, that they also facilitated a session of parents in the CORD center and educated the team on the definition of Db/MD, functional assessment and Individual action plans for the people with Db/MD under the program.
- On 20th November, Sh. Parag Namdeo Head of Advocacy & Network, Sense India visited CORD Training Centre Sidhbari. He visited different programs of CORD and sections of the Community Based Inclusion and Development (CBID) program to understand education, counseling and management interventions with cross disabilities and their families and interacted with team leads of the programs.



#### **Visit of the HCL Team**

Dr. Chandreyee Das and Mohd. Saqib from HCL foundation visited CORD from 2nd to 3rd November for the field visit due diligence round of HCL Grant Edition VIII. They thoroughly understood the submitted proposal of CORD and interacted with team leaders of the CORD's program. Besides that, they visited the field and understood the CORD's approach to the inclusion and development of PwDs.



#### **Mentoring visit of Sheela Sinha:**

From 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> November 2022, Mrs. Sheela Sinhaji from Sense India visited CORD for a Mentoring visit of the program. During her visit, she understood the activities of CORD for the inclusion and development of PwDs. and conducted field visits and interacted with the parents and children with Deaf-blindness (Db) / Multiple disabilities (MD). Besides it, she facilitated an interactive session with the team and educated the team on the functional assessment/ Individual action plans/long-term and short-term goals for the development of people with Db/MD under the program.



### **Economic empowerment of PwDs (Follow-up and Skill development):**

16 PwDs were facilitated for the initiation of community-based livelihood (CBL) activities such as poultry, goat rearing, tailoring, petty shops and barber shops etc. to enhance their income generation and ninety PwDs/parents were regularly followed-up by as well as provided training on the skills required in the relative field of livelihood activities by the trained team members of the program and the resource persons from the farm, allied and service sector.



### **CORD's fellowship and internship program**

- Ms. Mehak Soni a final year student of Bachelor of Physiotherapy from Dharamsala completed her two months internship under the program from 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2022 to 24<sup>th</sup> June 2022. She learned & served under the close supervision of Physiotherapists in the Physiotherapy unit of the program and also visited the field area and understood the issues and concerns of rural PwDs.
- Mr. Darsh a MBA student from Siv Nadar, university successfully completed his internship from 9<sup>th</sup> June to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2022 in the program. He compiled ten case studies of livelihood and studied the impact of CORD's intervention for the livelihood of PwDs.
- From 8<sup>th</sup> December to 17<sup>th</sup> December, Ms. Swarna and Ms. Ananya a student from SP Jain Institute of Management & Research, Mumbai visited CORD
- Four interns, MBA Rural Development from Himachal Pradesh University Shimla have completed their 15 days of internship in the program from 21<sup>st</sup> January to 4<sup>th</sup> February 2023. They understood the needs and concerns of children and adults with disabilities. During their internship, they compiled 30 case studies of children and adults with disabilities.
- Sense India in partnership with CORD Training Centre, Sidhbari under Azim Premji Foundation commenced an onsite four months internship program for Persons with Deaf-blindness (PwDb) from the 15<sup>th</sup> of November 2022. This internship will ensure PwDb gains hands-on experience in advocating for their rights with local government officials, media representatives, the Organisation of PwD, and local networks of family members of PwDb.



## Stories of change

**Baby** is a single mother who hails from Khaniyara panchayat of district Kangra, Himachal Pradesh. Her son Saksham, 6 years old having 90% of Cerebral Palsy. She runs a parlour and alone takes care of her son. Her husband was very irresponsible towards Saksham which caused family disputes and later they got separated. When Saksham was one-year-old, his mother found that his developmental milestones were not age appropriate as he could not hold his neck. Ms. Baby being an active mother went to the hospital where doctor diagnosed him as cerebral Palsy. Baby who never saw or heard about this disability was very confused and felt depressed about what to do with Saksham. As per her statement, **“Mere bacche ka bhavishye kaisa hoga, Bhagwan ne mere sath hi esa kyun kiya, main akeli kya karungi”** (How would be the future of my child, why God has done injustice only to me, what would I do alone?). Many people from her community also demotivated her.



CORD's facilitator counselled the mother and told her about CORD's OPD where integrated services for CwDs (Children with disabilities) are being provided. Baby was informed by CORD's team members about the various government schemes and entitlements which could be availed. With the facilitation of the CORD team, Saksham has a medical certification and receives Rs.1700/- month under Disability allowance and Rs. 3000/- month under H.P Sahara Yojna. CORD's field facilitator motivated her for using her capabilities to start income generation

work. Later she started a beauty parlor as a livelihood activity in a rented shop. CORD provided her support to upscale her business so that she can earn better and live a dignified life with her son in society. She integrated with CORD's facilitated SHG (Self Help Group) in her panchayat which will provide her some financial support. Regular Education/Counselling and therapies at home and CORD's OPD for the last four years brought a significant change in Saksham and his mother. Now he has started walking with the support of a walker. His mother dedicatedly worked with him and plays an important role in bringing about an improvement in Saksham's condition.



Baby who earlier was depressed is now pleased to see her child's transformation. She says **“We should never lose faith in us and I believe that hard work & dedication always pays”**.



Fifteen years old, **Divyanshu** having 50% of Intellectual Disability belongs to a Below Poverty Line (BPL) family from Kathgarh panchayat of district Kangra, Himachal Pradesh. Earlier Divyanshu's parents were not aware of the condition of their child. CORD's team member visited their home and counseled the parents regarding the condition of child. Later, with the facilitation of

CORD he accessed all disability entitlements like disability certification, disability allowance (Rs.1150/- per month), UDID and Ayushman card (Health Insurance). Right now, he is going in 8<sup>th</sup> grade and regularly takes part in Special Olympics activities. Two years back his father Sandesh Singh had paralysis attack. He is the only bread earner of the family. So they were also undergoing financial crisis.

Divyanshu's mother has been integrated in CORD's facilitated MM and Self-Help Group. Sandesh Singh has also been facilitated for disability certification and disability allowance worth Rs. 1150/-month. In order to improve the financial condition of the family, his father was helped by CORD to start a street shop where Divyanshu helps his father in selling the items. They are earning around Rs.3000/- month from the shop. The family is very grateful to CORD who is working towards in bringing a significant change in the life of marginalized people and helping them to be an active contributor in the society.



#### Abbreviations used in this document:

1. MM – Mahila Mandal
2. PwDs – People with Disabilities
3. UDID – Unique Disability Identity Card