SANKALP VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTRE

Sankalp Vocational Training Centre was formally inaugurated on 23rd October. This is an extension of the activities of Sankalp Special School (unit of Asha, Kanpur), a centre for teaching and training of persons with intellectual insufficiency which is providing its services since 2007.

While training persons with intellectual insufficiency, it is important to impart them pre-vocational and vocational training, especially after 14 years of age so that they can ultimately lead a productive life as far as possible. Sankalp has been providing this training to its beneficiaries since long but the efforts were not very organized. In September-October 2021, with the support of Asha wide funds, we were able to set up 5 proper workshops where the children are being trained for specific vocations with an ultimate aim of providing them employment. The five workshops are –

1. Cooking and domestic work unit – Here, we are training the children for basic cooking skills so that they are able to sustain themselves even when they are alone. The commercial products that are being produced here include chiwda namkeen, laiyya namkeen, namakpara, mungodi, mixed veg pickle, mix fruit jam, amla candy and ginger candy.
2. Bakery unit – Here, we are making sweet and salty jeera biscuits, coconut cookies and choco-vanilla cookies.

3. Computer lab – In this, we are imparting basic computer skills to two children with an ultimate aim of training them for typing in MS word and image processing and printing (on ceramic mugs and T-shirts).

4. Tailoring unit – In this, apart from training the children for basic clothes repair, we are making kitchen napkins and clothes bag (for shopping).
5. Paper plate manufacturing unit – In this, we have one fully automatic double dye machine for making paper bowls. Our children count, stack and pack these bowls for sale.

Since we had no pre-set protocol for such trainings for persons with intellectual insufficiency, it took us around 2 months to figure out a workable and practical procedure. After the centre reopened post-omicron lockdown, we have been able to properly set up the workshops, figure out the products which we wanted to make and sell and finalize their packing which looks commercially decent. We have been able to put up few sale stalls at various places and get some orders from a shop as well.

While we are training 8 children in our vocational section for different works as per their interest and abilities, we are also trying to establish a market for our products so that when these children are capable of functioning independently (with minimal supervision), we can offer them a job in our workshops.