Background

- Caters to children with special needs (autism, behavioral problems, learning disabilities, speech/language issues, mentally challenged)
- Project’s goal is to nurture these kids with targeted attention and therapy so eventually they become self-sufficient
  - Individual progress plans for each child, 5-7 children per teacher, Physio/Speech/Behavioral therapy
- Supported by Asha-SV since Fall 2009
  - Asha Stars project: Like any other Asha-SV project except the funds sent are only those that have been directly donated to the project.
  - Asha Kanpur oversees the project (funds are sent to Asha Kanpur, they do the disbursals and monitor funds utilization); they also try to raise funds locally
- FB page - https://facebook.com/Sankalp-Special-School-1717996268428138/?ref=bookmarks
Current statistics

- Students - 26

- Staff
  - 5 teachers for class
  - 1 Speech teacher (part time)
  - 1 Physiotherapist (part time)
  - 1 Occupational therapist (part time)
  - 1 Psychologist
  - Principal
  - 1 Coordinator
  - 2 Supporting staff

- 2 Hired vans
**Review 2021 – Mid year**

**Jan** – The school was reopened full time from 16th January. Around 30 parents had given their consent for sending their children to school if we provided conveyance facility. However, on actually starting the school, 21 children started coming as we started only 2 vans instead of 5. This was because we had only 2-3 children on rest of the van routes so restarting the vans was not feasible on those routes. Initially, the children were finding it difficult to sit for 4 hours in classes but gradually, they adjusted to their old school routine. We celebrated our 14th founder’s day on 23rd January by organizing fun games for children and teachers and cutting a cake.

**Feb** – We were on a look out for an occupational therapist since long. And in February, we received a job application from an occupational therapist. He was working in Delhi previously but lost the job during lockdown. Since he belongs to Kanpur dehat region, he came back home and contacted us for a job. We hired him from 15th February. We also appointed a new speech therapist from February (the old one was not keeping well so had to leave the job). With the occupational therapist in our team, we have started taking admission of younger children (below 5 years) only for therapy purposes as part of early intervention program.

**Mar** – We continued with the regular activities of school during this month. We celebrated Holi with our parents group this time. The idea was to reconnect with them after the pandemic and create an atmosphere of hopefulness and joy. Also, we introduced them to our new therapists so that the parents may directly ask for solutions to their queries and concerns from the therapists.
Apr — The second wave of Covid had started and we had to close the school from 13th April onwards. Since we already had a model for the online classes, we started the online classes and therapy sessions from 20th April. Online therapy classes for the smaller children were a bit difficult but since their parents used to sit with them during the regular therapy sessions, they could follow the instructions and helped their children in doing the exercises.

May — The lockdown continued and the online classes also continued.

June — As always, June is holiday month. However, this time, we had complete holiday for 15 days only and the teachers resumed the online classes from 16th June. Since there was a relaxation in the day time lockdown during the weekdays, we decided to reopen the school from 1st of July and for that, the teachers started coming to school from 25th June to arrange the classes.

July - School opened for children from 1st July but this time, only 17 children started coming to school. However, we got some new admissions for the classes as well as for therapies so that the current strength is 26 at present. We did the routine annual assessments and goal planning for the children and the routine classes were resumed.
Highlights/Future Plans

- Incorporation of the occupational therapist in the team and starting the early intervention facilities is the highlight of this year. This is an important milestone in our journey to provide quality services for children with intellectual disabilities. This facility is for children below 5 years of age. This is the age when we can expect maximum correction of the disability but we were not catering to these children earlier because they can not sit in classes and we used to have therapies only for the children who came to the regular classes earlier. After the pandemic, when we reopened in January, we had only 21 children coming to school (earlier, we had 60+ children with us) so we had a lot of spare space. When the occupational therapist joined, we changed one room to therapy room because of which, we are now able to handle these younger children without disturbing the older ones of regular classes.

- In July, we prepared a detailed project report for our vocational training centre for presenting for Asha projects funds for Kanpur chapter. The presentation was held on 7th August and we are waiting for the final response from the team. Our goals for this project are –
  # Create a successful vocational batch of students with job readiness.
  # Have a running production of our products.
  # Creating an unique brand identity using social media platforms.
  # Creating niche marketspace (online and offline) with marketing interns.
  # Generating profitable returns.