

LEPRA

...celebrating women



Rukmini Rao

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In recognition of the International Women's Day, we dedicate this issue to the **women leaders** of LEPRA. And also best wishes to our women/girl beneficiaries - some of whose pictures are shown here.



Jayashree P Kunju

Urmila Pingle

Ramani Atkuri

Did you know?

About 40-50% of men living in endemic areas develop hydrocele as a chronic consequence of Lymphatic Filariasis (Elephantiasis).

Happy News...

On the #WorldTBDay (24th March), LEPRa Society received a certificate of appreciation for pro-actively contributing towards a Tuberculosis free India.



Women's Day

International Women's Day which was on March 8 was observed at LEPRa, by way of some events at all our project locations. At LEPRa, we believe that every day is a Women's day and are proud and thankful to all our women colleagues for their hard work and dedication. A few glimpses of the events taken up on this day are shown below. . .



World Tuberculosis (TB) Day

On the 24th March, 2021, LEPRa observed World Tuberculosis Day across the states we operate in. We organised many events to spread awareness on Tuberculosis and one of the key highlights has been that in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh - Honourable Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh graced and supported the World TB Day event. Some pictures of the can be seen [here](#).

In addition to the date focussed events, the other happenings are captured below

Information, Education & Communication van in Dhanbad



Beneficiary Story . . .



Zakir works as a auto-rickshaw driver in Hyderabad. His driving work is key as he brings children . . . [Read more here](#)

Active case finding for Leprosy & LF with geo-tagging, Seikhpur



New case detection during contact survey at Vijayawada



Free cataract surgery camp for leprosy affected persons at Hatibari Leprosy Colony, Odisha



Self-care camp, Kalahandi, Odisha



Inauguration of Integrated Mobile Health facility, Kushanpally



₹ The finance team was busy with the FCRA & donor audits and closure of book of accounts for the year-end programmes.

HR The HR has been busy with project-based recruitments for the coming year.

Our article **on COVID19 and Leprosy new case detection in India** has been published in **Leprosy Review**. This activity was a joint work of the UK & India teams comprising of Guillermo Robert De Arquer, Milena Simic and all the LEPRa Society's State Coordinators. [Read the article here.](#)

Key Achievements

We are happy to share that our eye-care facility (Mahanadi Netra Chikitsalaya) in Sonepur, Odisha has been approved for taking forward the COVID19 Vaccination drive and this activity has been going in full speed there.

Andhra Pradesh

- 227 (110 Leprosy & 117 LF) persons and 16 persons with leprosy reactions were followed-up through home visits.
- 66 pairs of customised footwear were provided through mobile footwear van.

Bihar

- In collaboration with Government, a special Rapid Enquiry Survey (RES) activity was conducted in Sheikhpura district - a combined approach of Leprosy & LF.
- 149 pairs of customised footwear was provided by the mobile footwear unit in 4 leprosy colonies.
- 303 persons underwent hydrocelectomy in Munger, Kaimur and Patna.

Odisha

- 30 reaction cases due to Leprosy were ensured taking the steroid treatment followed by counselling.
- 20 new leprosy cases were identified linked them to Multi-Drug Therapy (MDT).
- 109 customised footwear were provided.

Madhya Pradesh

- 89 Leprosy affected persons visited and availed services at our referral centres.
- 140 customised footwear and 25 self-care kits were provided.
- 47 Leprosy affected persons were counselled and trained on self-care techniques.

Telangana

- 232 pairs of customised footwear were distributed to the beneficiaries through referral centres and mobile footwear unit.
- 137 members were screened for Leprosy and no new case was detected.

Research

Integrated Mobile Healthcare Facility supported by Effect:hope to provide medical and lab services for Leprosy, Tuberculosis and COVID19 has been successfully inaugurated at Kushanpally village, Telangana.

Meet our staff. . .

D. Ramanuja Chary was with LEPRO for over 28 years and worked as a project officer, health educator, non-medical supervisor, project coordinator. Chary left LEPRO last year and we recently met him to capture some of his reflections.



What made you stay for so long in LEPRO?

The variety of work, growth opportunities, and benefits all were fairly positive and the organisation nurtured me a ton during my tenure with plenty of training programmes, helping me to write concept notes and participate in National Conferences. LEPRO nurtured me in all aspects and became an assiduous, surefooted, committed to work, with positive attitude.

Share your experiences and learnings at LEPRO

I really relished the work with the neglected communities through eye-to-eye contact and understanding the actual needs. Also, addressed the gaps with impressive outcomes with the support of LEPRO. Implemented plenty of new initiatives in the district in the areas of Leprosy, TB, Targeted Intervention (HIV/AIDS), Malaria and Eye care.

Any suggestions for improvement

LEPRO has already shown transparency and dedication in the work done. I personally feel that there is a need of extension of geographical areas that needs more attention and innovative activities where the disease magnitude is high.

Prasant's reflections. . .

March has been a hectic month. It started with the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) audit initiated by the Government of India and I am happy to share that the audit concluded as per plan and the initial feedback received by auditors had been encouraging. We celebrated Women's Day (08 Mar) and World Tuberculosis (TB) Day (24 Mar) across all the project locations. I was happy to be a part of the event organised at the head office by the research team and also took part at an event organised by Cheyutha. It has been a great experience interacting with women colleagues and guests from various areas. Witnessing the commissioning of LEPRO's integrated mobile health van (supported by Effect:hope) for COVID19 & TB testing facility at Kushnapally (Adilabad district) made me realise that there are many areas and many people who we are yet to reach and help. And it was pretty troubling to see a young boy of about fourteen years detected with Leprosy during the event. I was pleased to see the excellent work during my visit to St. Joseph Leprosy Clinic and the Referral Center at Sendhwa, MP. But, I realised that there is a long way to go if we are to significantly impact our fight against Leprosy in India. I am happy to acknowledge the teams for receiving recognition from Telangana State's government for our TB work, the SPARSH team (Bihar) receiving the TATA Steel award for their work on Leprosy, and the Mahanadi Netra Chikitsalaya (MNC) team for receiving the NABH certification and carrying out the COVID19 vaccination drive successfully.

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