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Samiksha

...by LEPRA Society

World Menstrual Hygiene Day (16 May - 28 May)



On World Menstrual Hygiene Day, we organised a two-week campaign program on Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) with adolescent girls, mothers and men to raise awareness and clear the myths associated with Menstrual Hygiene. The theme for this year was "Making menstruation a normal fact of life by 2030". We reached over 500 plus community members through this campaign and worked closely with the local health and government staff, making it a holistic campaign.

Rotary

Rotary Club of Jubilee Hills (RCJH), in collaboration with LEPRa, has initiated a training program on Women Empowerment and Skill Development in Leprosy treatment with the Global grants funded by the Rotary Foundation, RCJH and Rotary Club of Stratford, UK.



Training Programs



In Bihar, our team conducted a district coordination committee meeting for the Mass Drug Administration (MDA) campaign in Samastipur district. The focus of the campaign strategy was on administering drugs to at-risk populations, regardless of disease status. This is one example of how our team plays a key role in capacity building and training of different stakeholders.

The MP team organized a 3-day induction training under SAMARTH project. The main objective of this project is to improve the lives of the people affected by leprosy or LF with a particular focus on mental health and aims to create and support over 100 self-support groups (SSGs) as part of the project outcome.



MMDP (Morbidity Management and Disability Prevention) clinic



With the help of the local administration and Government, our Odisha team inaugurated an integrated MMDP clinic for LF and Leprosy.

This clinic is located within the CHC (Community Health Centre) in the Odagoan block of Nayagarh district and will help address the needs of the local communities.

[Click here to see some pictures related to the above activities](#)

SOME KEY HIGHLIGHTS

FEW UPDATES FROM STATES

BIHAR

- Our state coordinator, Rajni Kant Singh, was appointed as a resource person by the Government for the state core training on MMDP (Morbidity Management and Disability Prevention).
- We started a new Referral Center (RC) in Jhajha, Bihar. This RC provides end to end services starting from diagnosis to customised protective footwear, physiotherapy and a slit skin unit. Cases from Primary Health Centres (PHCs), other NGOs, other states etc., can avail the services of this RC.

ODISHA

- With the support of one of our donors, our team initiated Active Case Finding (ACF) and Prevention Of Disability (POD) services in Koraput.
- Organised self care camps in Koraput, Nabarangpur & Sonepur District. And through these camps, 73 disabled persons were directly serviced – 26 footwear, 17 adoptive/protective devices, 9 reaction cases, 21 pre-operative counselling and care and linkages with social schemes.
- Through case detection monitoring in partnership with medical colleges (AIIMS, KIIMS, SUM, HI-TECH) 104 new cases of leprosy were detected since October 2021. They have been put on Multi Drug Therapy (MDT).

RESEARCH

- Completed activities for thermal imaging for plantar ulcers and also completed the basic science project on plantar ulcers.
- Participated in the expert committee meeting to finalise national guidelines on leprosy Anti Microbial Resistance (AMR) testing under the pilot project for Delhi and Odisha.

MADHYA PRADESH

- Participated in the national review for prison intervention and consultation meeting with NACO (National AIDS Control Organization) and discussed new strategic plans.
- Quarter review meetings are done for GFATM (Global Fund to fight Aids, Tuberculosis and Malaria) Phase-III projects.

AP / TS

- Rolled out 8 satellite clinics in Andhra Pradesh to reach out to more persons affected with leprosy & LF and initiated leprosy services in Visakhapatnam.
- For the last few years, local cement factories in Jagayyapeta, AP, have been supporting PLHIVs (People Living with HIV) with clinical support, foster care and nutrition support. They generously agreed to continue their support for this year also.

EYECARE

- One of our donors visited our eye hospital Mahanadi Netra Chikitsalaya (MNC) in Sonepur & donated one NCT (Non Contact Tonometer) in the larger interest of glaucoma patients. NCT can measure the eye's Intra Ocular Pressure (IOP) without touching the eyeball.
- We performed 781 cataract surgeries at our eye care hospitals, MNC and JNC (Junagarh Netra Chikitsalaya) in Junagarh.
- We successfully registered 2180 sq. ft of donated land adjacent to MNC in the name of LEPRAs.

[Click here to see some pictures related to the above activities](#)

Our staff . . .

Appala Raju has been working as a shoe technician in the mobile foot care unit, AP, for the last 27 Years. Below is a brief conversation with him.

What made you choose the profession of shoe technician?

Ours is a shoe technician family. Both My grandfather and father are also shoe technicians, so I am also in the profession of shoe technician.

What are the challenges you face when you are in a remote area?

Some remote areas have no proper facilities to do work in the field. Some beneficiaries are not accepted customised footwear due to the stigma.

How do beneficiaries react when they receive new customised protective footwear?

They feel happy with customised footwear as no other cobblers are done. When they touch their foot, they feel very humble and pleasant.

Your experience and learning at LEPRA?

Working with LEPRA was a great experience. It satisfies me when different types of deformity persons feel happy with customised footwear.



How do self support groups help people affected with leprosy?

When LEPRA formed self-support groups in September 2021 in Konijerla village, Krishna district, AP, many people joined these groups to help each other, talk about their experience with leprosy and exchange information on self-care practices, etc. Such SSGs (Self Support Groups) help the beneficiaries in their fight against leprosy. [Click here](#) to read the story of Katukuri Sunitha, who is the member of this SSG.

The LEPRA - Rotary joint global grant project focused on the training of female physio assistants and shoe technicians with Jubilee Hills Rotary Club was formally launched from our head office in Hyderabad. This project will go a long way in addressing the operational skills gaps in the field of Leprosy.

Another key share is that our eye hospital at Sonapur received a land donation (located adjacent to the hospital) from a local philanthropist and the legal registration process was completed in May. ILC related registrations of our teams from India, UK, Bangladesh and the members of the Management Committee has been done. The ILC related activities are going on as scheduled with the abstracts submission underway.



I represented LEPRA at an event in Delhi to launch a research report on reducing stigma and improving the mental well-being of Leprosy affected people under the chairmanship of Dr. Anil Kumar, CLD. LEPRA also participated in the first annual conference on Universal Inclusive Eye Health conducted by SSI and Vision 2020 at Bhubaneswar wherein our work was appreciated.

In terms of our service reach, I am happy to share that we started a new referral center in Jhajha PHC in the Jamui district of Bihar and also 8 new satellite clinics in AP.

With the ebbing of the Covid pandemic, our overseas colleagues are planning to visit us. I am looking forward to the resumption of their visits and in-person interactions.

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Message from Prasant