

JULY 2022 | EDITION 19

# Samiksha

*...by LEpra Society*

## Training programs

Our training programs reached over **374** people this month across our project locations. A brief overview of some trainings is given below.

**AP** - Organised an orientation program on leprosy for **63** ASHAs (Accredited Social Health Activists) from 3 UHCs (Urban Health Centres).

**Delhi** - Certificate-based training program on leprosy for **183** ANMs (Auxiliary Nurse-Midwives).

**Odisha** - Training program on SSS (Slit-skin smear) and footwear for **10** BNLWs (Block Nodal Leprosy Workers), **2** PTs & **4** lab technicians.

**Telangana** - A session on DPMR (Disability Prevention and Medical Rehabilitation) for **22** medical officers.

**Bihar** - Training program for **90** CRPs (Community Resource Persons) on leprosy and a session on MMDP (Morbidity management and disability prevention) in a training program organised by WHO (World Health Organisation).



## International Yoga Day

As part of International Yoga Day, we organised yoga sessions for our beneficiaries at different projects. Through these sessions, we raised awareness about yoga and its positive transformative impact and benefits.



## New initiatives

June has been a great month for us in terms of new initiatives and projects. Let's take a look at those.

**Foot care unit:** Established a footwear-making unit with the support of KCP Cement in Krishna district.

**Eyecare services for the people affected with leprosy:** Inaugurated project "Punarjanma" at our eye hospital Mahanadi Netra Chikitsalaya (MNC) in Sonepur, Odisha.

**Advocacy effort:** Our advocacy efforts paid off by the first exclusive disability certificate camp held for people with leprosy at the district hospital, Hyderabad. Out of 21 affected persons, 14 are got eligibility for getting a certificate. The Hon'ble Collector issued SADAREM (Software for Assessment of Disabled for Access Rehabilitation & Empowerment) certificates to 3 disabled people, and we issued them to the remaining 11 people affected with leprosy.

**New referral centre:** We have expanded our operations to Maharashtra by opening a referral centre in Gondpipri block of Chandrapur district.

## IEC

Through several awareness generation programs on leprosy, LF, etc., we reached around **693** people.

**MP** - Organised an awareness program on HIV-AIDS for 130 prison inmates.

**Telangana** -

- Our research team organised an awareness program for around **70** truck drivers and staff on Tuberculosis (TB).
- Organised an integrative awareness program on the disease areas we work on and also used this opportunity to focus on creating awareness through medical camp on co-morbidities like Hypertension and Diabetes in Nagamaiahkunta colony which has around **400** households.
- An awareness generation program on leprosy and LF for **40** members of SHGs at Mujigi village, Nirmal district and LF for **45** ASHAs & **8** ANMs at Easgaon in Kagaznagar of Adilabad district.

## Others

In June, we reached around **546** people through self-care camps, Active Case Finding (ACF) and a footwear distribution program.

- Distributed customised protective footwear to **32** people affected with leprosy in Eluru, West Godavari district, Andhra Pradesh.
- Through Active Case Finding (ACF) campaign program, we reached around **445** people in Kamalanagar & Jillelaguda villages of Rangareddy district in Telangana.
- Conducted self-care camps for **44** beneficiaries at our referral centres in Mahalingi, Bhoosi & Bambini villages in Nirmal district, Telangana.
- Organised a self-care camp at Sanmossigaon village of Nabarangpur district, Odisha. Through this camp, we trained and provided services like ulcer dressing and footwear distribution for **25** beneficiaries fighting leprosy.

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

# FEW ACTIVITY UPDATES

## AP/TS

- Expanded our operations to Maharashtra by opening a referral centre (RC) in Gondpipri block of Chandrapur district. This new RC offers DPMR and MMDDP services for the people affected with leprosy and LF (Lymphatic Filariasis).
- By organizing an exclusive SADAREM (Software for Assessment of Disabled for Access Rehabilitation and Empowerment) camp at the district hospital, Hyderabad issued disability certificates for all eligible persons affected with Leprosy. 21 affected persons attended the camp, where 14 persons met the eligibility criteria for getting a certificate.

## Odisha

- Provided training for NLEP Staff (10 BNLWs, 2 PTs and 4 LTs) at Dhenkanal, Odisha. As part of our training, we taught them how to take samples for slit skin smears and footwear measurements for customised protective footwear. We also organised skill development training at Sonepur care centre for 17 affected persons with leprosy.
- Our Odisha team organised 4 self-care camps in Borigumma & Bandhugaon villages of Koraput District, Kasagumunda village of Nabarangpur District and Birmaharajpur village of Sonepur District, Odisha. Through these camps, we provide customised protective footwear, self-care kits, adoptive and protective devices, etc., for 86 leprosy-cured beneficiaries with disabilities.
- We formed 3 new Self-Support Groups (SSGs) in Churuchunda village of Nabarangpur district, Sashahandi village of Koraput district and Bhatraguda village of Kalahandi district with 40 our beneficiaries who people affected with leprosy.

## Research

- Exploring and partnering with the below collaborators
  - Nirmal district officials in connection with the LF project.
  - Kala Azar project with MAAS (Maharashtra Association of Anthropological Sciences) in Saran and Samastipur districts, Bihar.
  - Osmania University-Biomedical engineering department.
  - RICH (Research and Innovation Circle of Hyderabad) and IIT-H digitalised case records (voluntary) for analysis and paper publication.
- 10 oral papers and 6 posters have been accepted by International Leprosy Congress (ILC) for the ILC conference in November 2022.

## MP

- We appointed a PT (Physiotherapist) for the Indore referral centre who will also work with Aurobindo hospital, Indore, to treat leprosy cases.
- We have planned a meeting with SLO (State Leprosy Officer) regarding leprosy training for around 600 CHOs (Community Health Officers) and 7 NLEP (National Leprosy Eradication Program) field staff in 7 districts of Madhya Pradesh. We are focusing majorly on ACD and DPMR services.

## Eyecare

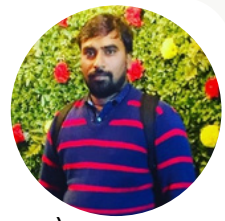
- One of our donors visited our eye hospital Mahanadi Netra Chikitsalaya (MNC) in Sonepur, Odisha & donated one Topcon auto Refractometer for patient utilisation as a philanthropic contribution. Topcon auto refractor machine aids in measuring the eye's refraction with accurate and stable measurements.
- 1088 cataract surgeries at our eye care hospitals - MNC (Mahanadi Netra Chikitsalaya) and JNC (Junagarh Netra Chikitsalaya) located in Sonepur and Junagarh respectively.
- Nabarangpur district, Odisha, has been added to the list of JNC interventions for eye care services by signing a formal MoU (Memorandum of Understanding) with CDMO/DBCS (Chief District Medical Officer/District Blindness Control Society), Nabarangpur.

## Bihar

- A total of 19 abstracts (8 are oral, 10 posters and 1 video) were submitted to ILC (International Leprosy Congress) from Bihar Operation. 18 of the 19 abstracts were accepted by the organising and scientific committee of ILC 2022 and one abstract is under review.
- A workshop proposal on the Integrated footwear model has been accepted for the upcoming NNN (NTD NGO Network) conference in the 2nd week of September 2022.

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

Alok Roy is our colleague based in Bihar and has been working as Project Officer since March 2020 for the ASPIRE Project. He is an inspiration to all of us as he donates part of his salary to LEPRAs every month. Here is our conversation with him.



Since you recently joined LEPRAs, what did you observe at the field level?

During the field visit, I observed the people affected with leprosy, LF (Lymphatic Filariasis), etc. They need counselling and support. Also, there is very little awareness of leprosy and LF in Jamui district. And there is an urgent need of regular IEC programs here.

Your feeling and experience after interacting with the beneficiaries?

I feel very happy interacting with beneficiaries and seeing them satisfied with the services provided by LEPRAs, especially the self-care kits and customised protective footwear.

Being an employee of LEPRAs, what makes you donate to LEPRAs every month?

**There is no particular reason behind it. It is always my belief that you should give something from where you take it. I think we should at least donate something to those from whom we earn income. It makes me happy.**

How does LEPRAs build confidence and clear myths on vaccination?

We considered the persons affected by the diseases like leprosy, Lymphatic Filariasis (LF), etc., as a vulnerable group with regard to COVID-19 vaccination. To raise awareness and clear myths about vaccination, we organised a COVID-19 prevention and vaccine safety program for our beneficiaries. [Click here](#) to read the story of Bandarulanka Narayanamma.

### Message from Prasant

June has been a remarkable month for LEPRAs Society. I was part of the inauguration of the project 'Punarjanma' supported by SEVA Foundation, wherein the MNC team will survey all the residents of people affected by Leprosy for eye health issues in their clusters in 9 districts of western Odisha and extend all services. Leprosy Society's partnership projects with Fontiles started in Andhra Pradesh and Odisha. Went to Bihar for the review of our Aspire project (supported by Effect Hope) and a joint evaluation of the Jagruti programme with representatives of ALM. I was impressed by the commitment and motivation demonstrated by the community resource persons (volunteers). The high-quality self-care practices undertaken at the community level were outstanding.



Participated in the 2-day strategy workshop for the JNC along with the senior programme team at Junagarh, wherein I got an opportunity to visit Thuamal Rampur (town & tehsil) in Kalahandi, one of the most underdeveloped tribal blocks in India (we have a vision centre operation from the local PHC). I was filled with pride to see the extraordinary level of dedication by our colleagues out there in a very challenging context.

**Account Number** 0132 0030 06100 **IFSC Code** IBKL0000002 **Account Name** LEPRAs Society **Type of Account** Savings

**Bank Name** IDBI Bank Limited **Branch Name** Basheer Bagh **Bank Address** Mahavir House, Basheerbagh Square, Hyderabad - 29



For any queries, please write to us at [rmu@leprahealthinaction.in](mailto:rmu@leprahealthinaction.in)

Follow us on social media - @LEPRASociety1989 @LEPRAs\_Society @leprasociety @LEPRAsociety @LEPRAsociety1