

AUGUST 2022 | EDITION 20








# Samiksha

*...by LEPRA Society*



For any queries, please email us at [rmuleprahealthinaction.in](mailto:rmuleprahealthinaction.in)

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## Training programs

Our training programs reached over **700** people this month across our project locations. A brief overview of some trainings is given below.

**Rajasthan:** Pre-treatment counselling sessions for the implementation team of 33 districts under the ToT (Training of Trainers) program in State Institute of Health & family welfare at Jhalana, Jaipur, on the importance of counselling and its role in leprosy. A total of 65 participants attended this workshop.

**MP:** Training program on leprosy for 500 CHOs (Community Health Organisations) in Vidisha, Agar Malwa, Barwani, Neemuch and Seoni districts.

## New initiatives

**Mobile footwear unit:** Initiated a new mobile footwear unit at Dichpally, leprosy colony, Nizamabad district, Telangana. Through this footwear unit, we aim to provide customised protective footwear to the people affected with leprosy and LF.

**self-care camp:** With the support of the district National Leprosy Eradication Programme (NLEP) team, our team organised its first self-care camp at Bakawand CHC, Bastar district, Chhattisgarh. Through this camp the beneficiaries received DPMR (Disability Prevention and Medical Rehabilitation) services, ulcer dressings, and customised protective footwear.

## Condolences



On behalf of all of us from LEpra, our deepest condolences to the family of Dr. N.K.Patnaik on his sudden demise. Dr. Patnaik has been working with LEpra since 2009 and passed away after suffering a brain stroke. He was a medical consultant at Koraput care centre, Odisha and was associated with us for 13 years. He was an empathetic and passionate crusader in the fight against leprosy and we will miss his expertise and guidance. We pray that his soul rests in peace.



## IEC

Reached around **400** beneficiaries directly through several awareness generation programs. Some of the programs are listed below

**Bihar:** MDA ((Mass Drug Administration) program was launched in Patna by the honourable health minister, Shri Mangal Pandey.

**MP:** An awareness generation program on leprosy was conducted for the volunteers at Karuna hospital, Sendhwa, Barwani district, Madhya Pradesh.

**Telangana:** Interacted with beneficiaries affected with Lymphatic Filariasis (LF) regarding their perception of LF spread, treatment, MDA, night blood smears, etc., at Kadtal panchayat Office, Nirmal district, Telangana.

**Delhi:** Held a physiotherapy & disability care camp at Kasturba Kushta Ashram, Delhi, to provide services like customized protective footwear distribution and self-care kits for people affected with leprosy.

**Odisha:** Conducted an integrated self-care camp at SB Nuagaon PHC of Kotpad block, to provide services like footwear, self-care kits and protective goggles etc. to our beneficiaries affected with leprosy and LF.

## Others

- Successfully completed the 86th Management Committee Meeting (MCM) on 09th July 2022. This meeting was preceded by a fundraising meeting led by our board member Meenakshi Batra ji.
- The Resource Mobilisation (RM) team held the second round of RM workshops with all the project teams in Odisha. The main aim of this meeting was to chalk out the state-specific RM plan with the involvement of all project teams.
- The honorable district collector Smt. Sunil Aboli Narwane, IAS and LEpra's ambassador for Odisha state - Sri Gorekhnath Sahu, visited our Sonapur Care Centre (SCC) at Sonapur, Odisha and interacted with the inpatients.
- Our eye hospital MNC (Mahanadi Netra Chikistalaya)-LEpra, Sonapur, Odisha, celebrated international doctor's day on 1st July 2022.
- Organised an eye screening camp for 94 people under Urban Eye Health (UEH) project at Gouri Nagar in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.
- On 22nd July 2022, our eye hospital in Odisha - Junagarh Netra Chikisthalaya (JNC), Junagarh, celebrated its 6th foundation day.

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



Jimmy Innes - CEO, Lepra UK and Mowmita Basak - Program Manager, India visited our programs in Bihar, Jharkhand, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana states. Along with colleagues from India, Prasant Naik (CE - LEPRA Society) led the visit of the UK team to various projects. It was a fantastic visit and we are looking forward to them visiting us again.





# State specific key updates

## AP/TS

- Streamlined SADAREM (Software for Assessment of Disabled for access Rehabilitation and Empowerment) camps in Hyderabad. Through these camps, 52 persons affected with leprosy received disability certificates in the state of Telangana.
- As part of the WASH promotional activities, 5 disable-friendly toilets were constructed in leprosy colonies.
- Local donors have offered to sponsor and support some of our beneficiaries for various livelihood opportunities.

## Odisha

- The Swabhiman team has participated in a special house-to-house survey conducted by the government of Odisha.
- Our team facilitated COVID-19 vaccination for 50 persons affected with leprosy and lymphatic filariasis.



## Research

- Initiated partnerships with RICH (Research and Innovation Circle of Hyderabad) and IIIT- Hyderabad to strengthen the research and innovation ecosystem at BPHRC through various cross-learning activities, trainings and funding opportunities.
- Submitted the following funding grant proposals
  - Lymphatic Filariasis (LF) diagnostics proposal to BIRAC (Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council)-Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF).
  - Capacity Building Proposal-Leprosy ulcer- Platelet-rich fibrin (PRF) technique to Department of Health Research (DHR).
  - Aid - Ulcer management through hydrogel treatment to DHR.
- Manikyamma, our colleague participated in the virtual launch event on the initiation of collaboration between University of Essex and Lepra UK. Manikyamma who defeated leprosy shared her life journey and her testimony inspired everyone present.

## MP

- 66 Self Support Groups (SSGs) formed in 3 blocks of the Chhatarpur district.
- Under the Svetana project we aim to test all pregnant women for HIV and ensure that both the mother and baby of positive women are alive and healthy. We are proud to say that during the last quarter, we achieved 100% ANC (Ante Natal Care) screening for HIV against HIMS for the first time. It is more than 95% against state estimation.

## Eyecare

- Conducted 4 special comprehensive eye screening camps under the UEH (Urban Eye Health) project in slums and remote areas. Through these camps, 352 persons were screened, 206 were refracted, 178 were detected with refractive error and referred for spectacles, and 28 were referred for cataract surgery.
- 35 people affected with leprosy from leprosy colony, Puintala Block of Balangir District, Odisha, got surgery and their vision was successfully restored at our eye hospital MNC, Sonapur, Odisha.

## Bihar

- Rajni Kant Singh, received the 5th Plan Impact Award under the category of "Community Volunteer and COVID warrior". He dedicated the award to our patients and beneficiaries.
- From Sparsh referral centre, 9 patients who underwent Re-Constructive Surgery (RCS) have been successfully treated and discharged.
- Honourable Health minister of Bihar, Shri Mangalthe Pandey, announced that the government would provide the necessary support to open MMDP clinics in every district and this is a great opportunity to enhance our reach.



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

## Our staff. . .



Dr. Jijnasu has been working as a Medical In-charge of Junagarh Netra Chikitsalaya (JNC) – LEpra, Junagarh, Odisha, since 3rd October 2017. He is from Junagarh and shared his experience of being a part of LEpra.

### What made you choose Ophthalmology & your biggest accomplishment?

It was my father's dream. He wanted me to pursue this field and that I should join him in serving the people present here who needs medical attention & facilities. My father's 28 years of service make each & everyone from my locality believe that I can withstand & continue his service to poor & needy people.

### What are some precautions which helps us to maintain good eye health?

The major challenge was that the beneficiaries were not able to come to our referral clinics due to restrictions on public transportation. Our team ensured the beneficiaries received all the required services – customised protective footwear, self-care kits, masks, sanitisers etc. at their door steps. We also facilitated COVID-19 vaccinations to most of our beneficiaries.

### What do you like the most about working with LEpra?

Working with LEpra till now it's a fantastic journey. From a new hospital until now, my hospital has emerged as a major eyesight treatment provider in Kalahandi. Providing treatment to poor & needy people is the priority of our work ethics. LEpra Society always believes in good work ethics & will continue to do so in future.



### Ever wondered how LEpra provides opportunities to start a new life?

Yerraballi Jagannadham is a resident of Miryalagudem Mandal, Nalgonda District, Telangana. Presently he is residing in Padmavathi Nagar, Jagayyapeta Mandal. During his early marriage days, he started observing the patches on his skin, and the local (village) key influential people passed a resolution and separated the couple. With the disease progression, he later developed claw foot.

[Click here](#) to read the rest of the story of Jagannadham and Kamalamma.

### Prasant's message

July has been a significant month with LEpra Society welcoming Lepra UK colleagues – Jimmy and Mowmita. The team visited the program activities in Bihar, Jharkhand, AP and TS and got a in person experience and understanding on the range of activities we do and also interacted with beneficiaries and other stakeholders.

We initiated services through referral centre at Jagdalpur, Bastar in Chhattisgarh following the request from the authorities for the same. JNC (Junagarh Netra Chikitsalaya) which has been providing critical eyecare and leprosy services for vulnerable people in the district of Kalahandi and neighbouring areas, celebrated its sixth foundation day on 22nd July.

I had the opportunity to interact with the inpatients at the Koraput Care Center (KCC), wherein I realized the positive impact the facility is having on the lives of people affected and the need to raise resources for increasing the capacity of KCC. The Sonepur Collector visited and interacted with the inpatients at Sonepur Care Center and appreciated the services of LEpra and assured support from the administration. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate my colleague Rajni for receiving the Plan India award for Community Volunteer and Covid Warrior – It's a proud moment for LEpra Society.



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