

Samiksha

. . .by LEPRA Society

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Anti Leprosy Fortnight Observations from 30 January 2023 to 15 February 2023

Telangana



Suzanne McCarthy
Addressing the gathering



Dr Dayakar Thota, Vice Chairperson,
LEpra Society addressing the gathering



Unveiling the Leprosy Promotional
Materials

Marking Anti Leprosy Fortnight Observations 2023, a special event was organised on Sharing of Experiences – a meet with Leprosy Champions took place on 3rd February 2023 at Nallakunta Leprosy Referral Centre, Hyderabad. The meeting was graced by Ms. Suzanne McCarthy, Chairperson, Lepra UK (virtually); Dr Dayakar Thota, Vice Chairperson, LEpra Society; Dr Ravindra Naik, Additional Director (Leprosy), Dr John Babu, Joint Director (Leprosy), Dr Nirmala Prabhavathi, ADMHO (Hyderabad Dist.), Dr. Sandhya Rani, PO, (Medchal district), Dr. Sudha Rani, Sr.MO, Govt Leprosy Clinic & Training Centre and Ms. Sneha Ramachander, Kuchipudi Artist & LEpra Brand Ambassador (Telangana).

Message from Ms Suzanne: Thanks to LEpra Society for giving me the opportunity to join with you in celebrating World Leprosy Day in India. I appreciated being able to express the very strong bond between our two organisations and how together we work to meet the needs of those affected by Leprosy and to prevent the continuation of this disease.

Andhra Pradesh



Orientation programme to nursing
students in Eluru district



Awareness rally in Vutukuru
PHC area, NTR district



Awareness rally in Nuzvid Area
Hospital, Eluru district

Bihar



Flagging off a rally
in Kalyanpur district



Inauguration of NTD clinic &
Footwear Unit, Kalyanpur district



Oath taking ceremony,
Sparsh Referral Centre

Madhya Pradesh



Peer Counsellors training,
SAMARTH project



IPoD camps in all blocks of
SAMARTH project



Training to ASHAs in
Gaurihar, Raj and Luvkush Nagar

Odisha



ASHA training programme
in Kansa block, Puri district



Focal Group Discussions in
Kanas and Odagaon blocks



LEpra Foundation Day celebrations,
Kanas & Odagaon blocks



LEPRA Society celebrated its 34th Foundation Day on 22nd February 2023, at its Head Office and also across its projects in all the states. Marking this occasion, Dr V M Katoch, Chairman , LEPRA Society , Mr Jimmy Innes , CEO , Lepra UK , Dr Dayakar Thota , Vice Chairman , LEPRA Society, General Body Members Ms. Meena Gupta , , Dr Urmila Pingle, Mr.Govind Reddy, President of Cherlapally Industrial Association, Mrs. Sneha Ramchandran, LEPRA Brand Ambassador for Telangana State, and Mr Prasanta Kumar Naik, Chief Executive LEPRA Society addressed the event and paid respects to the Founding Members and Board Members who laid a strong foundation to next stage of development all these years and encouraged staff to rededicate themselves to make Leprosy a disease of past. LEPRA Society ex-staff who were associated for a long period also shared their working experiences.



Happy to update that Mr Rajni Kant Singh, State Coordinator Bihar Region has been elected by the ILEP Members' Assembly as the new member of the ILEP Independent Technical Commission (ITC). Rajni will be leading the ITC Working Group on Empowerment, Participation and Stigma



LEPRA is one among the top 3 choices for CSR funding - CSR magazine - a proud moment for us



Case Study

Ms Maheshwari (name changed) was identified during Rapid Enquiry Survey at Mahabubnagar District with Leprosy Type I reactions wherein multiple nerves in both hands were severely damaged. As a result, she got visible deformities in her hands becoming extremely difficult for Maheshwari to carry out her day-to-day activities like cooking food, household activities, and looking after the needs of her two children. Conservative treatment protocols including Physiotherapy could not restore functionality in hands though the type I reactions subsided. Her husband used to tease her saying that she was not at all beneficial for household activities. Accordingly, she was advised and facilitated reconstructive surgery on her right hand. Meanwhile, she had an ulcer on the sole of the foot which was cured with regular self-care practices and using of provided MCR footwear. Further LEPRA team facilitated for Reconstructive Surgery for correction of her thumb and correction of her claw hand. LEPRA facilitated for getting her surgery allowance of over Rs. 20,000 from National Leprosy Eradication Programme (NLEP). Ms Maheshwari is happy to have a good hand after corrective surgery through which is now able to do all household activities.



Other Activities

- 'Punarjanma' is an ongoing eye care programme supported by Seva Foundation, USA for the people residing in the 38 leprosy colonies of 9 districts in Western Odisha. As a part of this programme all the residents in these locations are screened for eye problems and will facilitate as per need for the provision of spectacles and needed surgical interventions at MNC. The initial results are encouraging and it is planned to expand this initiative to all districts of Odisha state.
- Dr Ramchandra Mutatkar, Dr Raju visited Bihar to oversee the Quasi-Experimental Study to Overcome Barriers in Help-Seeking and Compliance to Treatment and Preventive Measures for Visceral Leishmaniasis in Saran and Samastipur District. The Study is supported by Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)
- With support of American Leprosy Mission (ALM), Telangana State NLEP Data Systems Strengthening Project has been initiated. This project is being implemented in close collaboration with Telangana State NLEP Authorities. In this regard, a Situational Analysis is being carried out to understand the gaps in data collection, validation, data reporting and to arrive at possible solutions to mitigate the gaps.
- **Extension of Jute Unit @ Cheyutha WCBO**, is an initiative to empower women living with HIV/AIDS through sustainable, ethically made, premium-quality jute bags reducing environmental pollution, duly supported by USAID, FHI 360, Sattva, and LEPRO Society. These products were meant to serve diverse needs without compromising on the style quotient. All employees of social enterprise are women who are affected by HIV/AIDS, with an objective to create employment for community members. The profits generated from this enterprise are allocated to meet the contingencies needs of the community members and their children.
- **Socio Economic Support** was provided to ASHA, a member of our Transgender Community, who is currently working as a Treasurer @ INFOCEM, a CBO at Rajanna Siricilla district. She completed her diploma in photography in 2017 and developed a poster for this CBO at the time of its inauguration. LEPRO EPIC appreciated her talent and motivated her to continue and develop skills in photography. All the community members were briefed about their rights, livelihood schemes available at government in a district level meeting. ASHA has applied for a loan amount of Rs.5,00,000 under PMEGP to establish a photography studio, that got sanctioned by the district administration, making ASHA the first TG to avail loan under the PMGEP. INFOCEM, express their gratitude to all the concerned officials for providing the required financial support in establishing the photo studio and also enabling ASHA lead a dignified life.



An Interview with staff

Mr Mukesh working as a driver at LEPRO Head Office, below are some highlights of our conversation with him.

How many years have you been associated with LEPRO?

20 years!! I am with LEPRO since 13th June 2003, firstly I have joined as a driver in Healthy Highway Project (HIV) in LEPRO Head Office, Secunderabad. I have worked in Technical Support Team, Hyderabad district for 2 years (2004 and 2005), then continuing as driver in LEPRO Head Office.

A memory at LEPRO which you would like to share?

I really enjoy working with LEPRO and travel to field visits with several people from various countries. I have got best driver appreciation letter earlier and gift from UK CEO. Most of my travel with higher officials and staff from LEPRO India and UK.

What do you like the most about working with LEPRO?

I like field visits with CEO and staff. All staff in LEPRO are like my family.



Prasant's Message

All the operational areas continued with the Leprosy awareness campaign fortnight following on from the observation of World Leprosy Day on 30th Jan. Thanks to Ms. Suzanne McCarthy, Chairperson, lepro UK for taking her time to address virtually Leprosy Champions Community Event at Hyderabad and appreciated very strong bond between our two organisations and how together we work to meet the needs of those affected by Leprosy and to prevent the continuation of this disease. We had the Leprosy PT refresher training at Koraput in Odisha for all PTs working with LEPRO. I had a brief joint visit to A.P. with the head of Fontilles to review the project supported and discuss on the way forward. I would like to congratulate Rajni for being elected to the ITC for ILEP. It's a proud moment for LEPRO and I am sure Rajni will add value to the ITC deliberations during his tenure. Foundation Day of LEPRO was celebrated across all our project locations on 22nd Feb renewing our pledge to strive for a Leprosy Society. Congratulations to all the teams for finalizing the action plans and budget for next year which we will present to our MC for approval. I attended the board meeting of Goodbye Leprosy Trust as the representative of LEPRO. Will like to conclude by congratulating Rotary Club & our team in Delhi for successfully negotiating for another referral center at Indira Gandhi Hospital.



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