

SAMIKSHA

BY LEpra SOCIETY

Prasant's message



As December marked the end of the year, it proved to be a busy period. I visited Lepira UK, to attend the trustees meeting and discuss the upcoming strategy & future trajectory for LEpra society. During this visit, I had the opportunity to participate in a podcast addressing leprosy and its situation in India. I aim to have reached a substantial audience and raised awareness on the topic. Additionally, three of our shoe technicians have commenced skill training at FDDI, and we are grateful for the institute's generosity in providing sewing machines for their use. Anticipating positive developments in the upcoming year.

Impact story

Surendra Mahto, a 35-year-old resident of Village Maniyarpur in Samastipur District, faced a daunting journey when leprosy-related afflictions disrupted his life for over three years. As a former vegetable seller in Delhi, his health took an unexpected nosedive with mysterious spots and numbness. Despite consulting numerous doctors and undergoing various treatments in Delhi, relief remained elusive, and his condition worsened.

Returning to his roots in Bihar for solace, Surendra's quest for effective treatment continued to be fruitless. A chance encounter by the roadside with a compassionate Lepira worker proved to be the turning point. Urged to visit the Kalyanpur Public Health Centre (PHC), Surendra found respite at the MMPD Clinic within. Extensive support and a thorough examination led to the prescription of

Multidrug Therapy (MDT) and steroid therapy, swiftly ending his ordeal with leprosy.

Empowered by recovery, Surendra secured a bank loan, investing in a rickshaw to rebuild his life. The Lepira Society played a pivotal role, aligning with its mission to strengthen the livelihoods of individuals like Surendra. Today, he joyfully manages his health and family, expressing profound gratitude to Lepira field staff for the transformative intervention that marked the beginning of a promising new life filled with resilience and hope.



LEPRA partners with Footwear Design and Development Institute (FDDI), Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Govt. of India

We are pleased to announce that LEPRA and FDDI have entered into a Partnership agreement to collaborate on various aspects of Footwear Design and Development. The Key Areas of Partnership include Training (Shoe technicians), Standardization of Systems / Processes, Operational Research, Internship and Exploring mutual opportunities



As a part of this partnership, FDDI has generously sponsored a 3-week training program for 3 Shoe Technicians from Telangana at FDDI campus starting from 20th Dec 2023. This Training Program is an initiative of FDDI with Govt of Telangana. We believe that this training program will enhance the skills and knowledge of our Shoe Technicians in designing and producing footwear that meets the specific needs of the patients with best fit

World AIDS day
1 December 2023

World AIDS Day 2023 under the theme " Lets Community Lead", was an opportunity for the project at LEPRA to reflect on the progress made to date, to raise the challenges that remain goals of ending AIDS by 2030 and to mobilise all stakeholders to jointly redouble efforts to ensure the success of HIV response



2023 International Day Of Persons With Disabilities - IDPD observed at projects of LEPRA with the theme - "United in action to rescue and achieve the SDGs for, with and by persons with disabilities



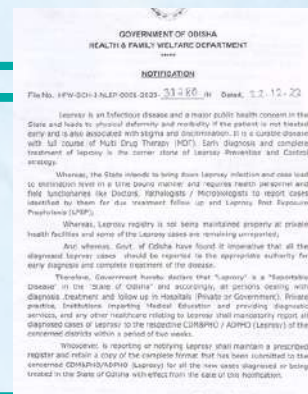
World Pwd day
3 December 2023

Review meeting with the staff of LEPRA Projects in AP, Telangana and Maharashtra was held at Vijayawada, AP. The meeting was informative and useful to evaluate the performance of the projects for last 3 Quarters and to discuss the impact the staff/ projects have on the lives of the people in need. This was also an opportunity to develop an Action Plan for 2024-35 for all the projects in these states.



Central Leprosy Division. DGHS, Dte, has issued a D.O letter regarding ensuring the availability of the Slit Skin Smear (SSS) test for the diagnosis of leprosy including the availability of equipment & logistics necessary and capacity building of available Human Resources (Lab Technician) for conducting the SSS test at all the hospitals run by development partners for NLEP along with the government facilities and medical colleges

Odisha Government has declared Leprosy as a 'Reportable Disease' and all persons dealing with diagnosis , treatment and follow up in Hospitals (Private or Government) , Private Practice, Institutions imparting medical education and diagnostic services and any other health relating to Leprosy shall mandatorily report all diagnosed cases of Leprosy to respective CDM&PHO/ ADPHO (Leprosy) of the concerned districts with in period of two weeks



STATE WISE UPDATES

ANDHRA PRADESH



- Lepra staff, along with NGOs and NLEP members, marked World Disability Day in AP, distributing aids and submitting patient needs representations.
- Jaggaiahpeta CHC organized an HIV awareness rally on World AIDS Day, with participation from M.O., counselors, health staff, and Lepra staff, covering CHC to Rama Talkies area.
- Vakodu PHC in Vizianagaram Dist. organized a DPMR camp, with 25 patients practicing self-care methods and receiving footwear. PHC M.O., staff, and DPMOs attended the program.
- Organized a training session at Jaggaiahpeta CHC for PHC staff on wound care. The program included demonstrations and re-demonstrations on ulcer care, along with an orientation on Leprosy. M.O. and PHC staff actively participated in this educational initiative.
- Lepra AP's ongoing School Survey program, all schoolchildren are undergoing physical testing for Leprosy symptoms. The initiative includes educating them on signs and symptoms, and children are contributing funds. Tenali outreach staff actively participated in this program.
- Choutupalli PHC organized ASHA orientation programs, enlightening ASHAs about leprosy signs and symptoms. The event saw participation from ASHAs, MLHPs, ANMs, and PHC staff.
- With the generous donation from Nataraj Jewellers, Tenali, 25 footwear items were distributed to individuals affected by Leprosy and LF at Old Govt. Hospital. The distribution was facilitated by the participation of AMO and Filaria unit staff.

BIHAR



- LEPROSIS LCDC in 9 Bihar districts, detecting 2509 leprosy cases, ensuring MDT treatment.
- The ASPIRE project team has been implementing an Integrated approach of Active Case Detection for the past year, which has helped in finding 621 new leprosy cases, including 106 children (17%) and 9G2D cases (2.3%)
- Jagruti project facilitates UDID cards and pension schemes for 77 G2D leprosy cases and 553 LF-affected individuals.
- Bihar's Mobile Footwear Unit provides 2588 customized footwear.
- Sparsh Referral Centre, Dhanbad, performs reconstructive surgery for 16 individuals with TATA partnership.
- Two-day PT training at Little Flower Hospital focuses on physiotherapy basics, footwear, orthosis, self-care, counseling, and reporting.
- LEPROSIS collaborates in Bihar's ELF program with WHO, PCI, Piramal Swasthya, Clinton Foundation, GHS, and CFAR.

- LEPROSIS supplies 9200 dose poles for LF in 4 IDA districts and trains 21 MOs and 20 Block Health Managers.
- Provided 739 portable commode toilet seats and compression garments aids individuals affected by NTDs, especially those with LF, enhancing accessibility and comfort.
- World Sight Day celebrated in Bihar's Urban Eye Health Project with the theme "Love your eyes at work." The project focuses on eye care for urban poor, providing refractions and spectacles.

[Click here for leprosy dashboard](#)

[Click here for LF dashboard](#)

[Click here for our IEC & gallery](#)

[Click here for our major updates](#)

- A DPMR Clinic & Self-Care camp at Bakawand CHC empowered 17 disability beneficiaries in self-care. 10 received MCR footwear and dressing kits.
- a Leprosy Forum Formation meeting in Ramni village saw the participation of 15 parents and PRI members. Another Forum Formation meeting was conducted at Sirni village

CHHATTISGARH





- International Disability Day was observed in the project area, featuring six distinct events organized across various districts in the state during this period.
- LEPRAs TI-Koraput observed World AIDS Day at Jeypore Bus stand
- Two PMP/RMP Sensitization programs were conducted in Bargarh and Kalahandi districts, sensitizing 48 individuals on Leprosy and LF.
- Five Integrated DPMR Clinic and Self-Care camps were organized in the project area. Sixty-three individuals with cured leprosy attended, benefiting from items such as footwear, ulcer kits, and adoptive and protective devices.
- Education support checks were handed over to girl students as part of the Girl Child Education Program in the presence of the CDMO in Nabarangpur.

TELANGANA

- World Disability Day was observed at Devapally leprosy colony, Nizamabad. Two pairs of crutches, 10 hand sticks, and seven pairs of MCR footwear were distributed to the beneficiaries in need.
- An awareness program on leprosy was conducted for the women's group at Basti Dawakhana, Manikonda, Ranga Reddy District.
- Capacity-building session conducted for Rastriya Bala Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK) doctors and health staff, focusing on Leprosy and LF.
- Weekly sessions on ulcer dressing and self-care practices have commenced at Christ Delphi Rehabilitation Center in Dasarlapalli, Siddipet district.
- An awareness cum screening program was conducted for school students of Sri Vivekananda Educational Society in Hyderabad. During the program, one MB Female Child case was diagnosed.
- recently elected MLA, Dr. Palvai Harish Babu, an Orthopaedician, visited LEPRAs RC in Kagaznagar.



- Dr. Sireesha Patel, WHO Zonal Coordinator for NTDs in Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, and Karnataka, visited NLRC and engaged in interactions with Gr.2 leprosy cases.
- A collaborative meeting with Dr. BRKR Ayurveda College focused on an integrated approach for managing foot ulcers in leprosy and diabetes. Dr. Aparna Srikantam, Head of Research at BPHRC, Dr. Michael Sukumar, Research Medical Officer, and other dignitaries discussed future activities and timelines during the program.
- Dr. Michael Pallapati, Dr. Khyathi, and Ms. Sushree Nibedita Panda participated in a Good Health Research Practices workshop in Bengaluru on December 17 and 18, 2023. The event was organized by WHO - TDR and IPH, Bengaluru.

BPHRC



Meet our staff

With over 20 years of expertise, Mrs. Vijayalaxmi is a physiotherapist and now at SJLC, Sanwad, MP, where her current focus is on easing the difficulties that leprosy patients confront.

How did you embark on your journey as a Physiotherapist, and what inspired you to pursue this path?

When I commenced my career in 1998 at HOINA in Odisha, I had no specific ambition; it was all about dedicating myself to the work. Working within a focused team left little time to reflect. However, over the years, my focus has evolved, and I am currently dedicated to working exclusively with Leprosy patients due to the persistent stigma surrounding this condition.

Could you share a remarkable success story or a memorable patient interaction from your extensive career?

An inspiring story from my time in Assam involves a person with multiple deformities who was socially isolated. Facing community rejection, he sought help from the AIFO team. After undergoing two surgeries and receiving financial support, he started a small soap business. Today, he earns a monthly income of 60,000 rupees, and his once-isolated village now relies on him for essential supplies.

What techniques or strategies do you employ to ensure patients feel comfortable and at ease during their physiotherapy sessions?

Dealing with individuals who may not be familiar with the treatment process requires effective communication. I find that being a bit friendly, speaking softly, showing kindness, and exercising patience are key elements in making patients mentally prepared and comfortable during their sessions. This approach fosters a positive and reassuring environment for their overall well-being.

Thank you to LEPRAs Society team for your unending support

Facilitated by the programmes team

Dr. Indrani Aila
Communication Officer

K. Arun Kumar
Head - Programmes

G. Swamy Reddy
M & E Officer



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

Follow us on social media - [f @LEPRASociety1989](https://www.facebook.com/LEPRASociety1989) [@LEPRAsociety](https://www.twitter.com/LEPRAsociety) [@leprasociety](https://www.instagram.com/leprasociety) [@LEPRASociety](https://www.linkedin.com/company/LEPRASociety) [@LEPRASociety1](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLEPRASociety1)