



## JULY 2023 HIGHLIGHT

Dr. Rukmini Rao, Former Chairperson of the LEpra Society graciously attended the In-person Interaction meeting with Girl Children on Education Support on July 23, 2023. For the last 2 years, Mette Zorstad Fund has been providing support for the project to fund the education of Girl Children. She underlined the value of education during these conversations and reaffirmed the fund's commitment to helping girls reach their full potential and securing a better future not only for them but also for families at large. She guided project team to carry out detail needs assessment of Girl Children.

# SAMIKSHA

By LEpra Society

## PRASANT'S MESSAGE

An active month, July 2023, saw the end of our audit procedures, a management committee meeting, and a fundraising event at the national level with vice - chairman. The head office and all the states have announced the stakeholder



engagement for the unified strategy plan (2024-30). LEpra observed World Doctors Day at all its locations, including the BPHRC and Head Office. The Helping Hand Foundation, Hyderabad, will provide funding for LEpra's free footwear clinic at Osmania General Hospital, which will provide free footwear to patients. Attended the high-impact education support for leprosy-affected girls event at the headquarters with three girls from Odisha and Dr Rukmini Rao, a key donor to the initiative over the past two years. I want to end by thanking two of our colleagues, Anju (retired) and Gupta (moved to another organization), for their assistance to LEpra.

## P.U.L.S.E.

## PROJECTS UPDATE FOR LEARNING AND SHARING EXPERIENCES

From June 2023, Programmes team initiated, PULSE a Monthly (Last Friday of Every month @ 15:00 Hrs) Online Meeting Series with Experts aimed at facilitating knowledge and experience sharing, and completed two sessions.



July 2023 Session taken by , Dr. Jose Manikkathan, Secretary & Director AIFO, on "Leprosy Work Experiences of AIFO in Assam/North East Areas" The session saw active participation and interaction from all LEpra staff members, ILEP India Partners. Anticipating numerous more enriching knowledge-sharing experiences in future.



# STATE WISE UPDATES



## ANDHRA PRADESH

- Support group meeting was held at Vizag RC, attended by 10 PALs, where the rights and responsibilities of patients were discussed by the concerned PT.
- At the Machilipatnam IPOD camp, customized EVA footwear was prepared for a Grade IV LF patient, considering the unsuitability of normal footwear for the swollen foot.
- LF infected individuals at IPOD camps in Tenali and Machilipatnam received demonstrations of foot washing and cleaning techniques to prevent entry lesions and acute attacks, encouraging home practice along with health education sessions.
- Nutrition support packets were distributed to 93 PLHIV and CLHIV persons in Nandigama, 13 CLHIV in Mylavaram, 25 PLHIV in New Govt. Hospital, Vijayawada, and 32 CLHIV in Old Government Hospital, Vijayawada, through Addnl. D.M.H.O. (AIDS & Leprosy). The Government of Andhra Pradesh provided Viral load tests, CD4 count tests, and Hepatitis B vaccinations to all infected individuals.

- LCDC Training was conducted for 123 staff members, including 44 Medical Officers (MOs), 36 Para-medical workers (PMWs), 22 Multi-Purpose health Supervisors (MPHS), and 21 Block Health Managers (BHM) and Block Community Mobilizers (BCM) in Kaimur and Begusarai districts.
- 31 SSGs (478 members - 152 men, 326 women) in Jagruti Project Bihar discussed important topics such as accessing UDID, Ayushman Bharat cards, home-based care techniques, and IDA drug intake during the MDA campaign.
- In Kalyanpur block, Samastipur, 17 community resource persons, 9 ward members, and 6 key influencers actively participated in meetings to discuss issues related to garbage management, drainage improvement, and toilet construction.

## BIHAR



## JHARKHAND

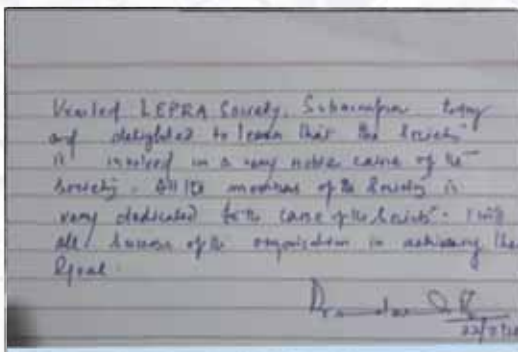
- On the 119th birth anniversary of Jehangir Ratan Jii Dadabhoy (JRD) Tata, Sparsh Center in Jamadoba, Dhanbad, organized an aids and appliances distribution event. Customized MCR footwear, adjustable sticks, and wheelchairs were distributed among 44 individuals affected by leprosy. The distribution was facilitated by Mayank Shekhar, Chief Sijua Group, and Dr. Alok Kumar, CMO TCH, Colonel.

In the month of July, 1134 LF cases were trained for home based self-care



## MADHYA PRADESH

- As a part of our SAMARTH project, the SSG members underwent comprehensive training in community organization and mobilization, following the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) of the SSG training module. This training serves as a catalyst, empowering SSGs to actively drive positive transformations within their communities. Participants gain essential skills to adeptly address local challenges, foster health consciousness, and promote collective engagement towards fostering community development.
- In the Lavkushnagar block, peer counselors were deployed to assess the mental health of patients utilizing the PHQ-9 (Patient Health Questionnaire) for depression and the GAD-7 (Generalized Anxiety Disorder 7) test for anxiety. A total of 7 peer counselors were assigned to cover all 48 SSGs in the block.
- Regular meetings were held by the peer counselors with members of the SSGs to address their mental health concerns and offer counseling support. Throughout the month, approximately 200 patients received counseling services from these 7 peer counselors.
- Guided Mindfulness interventions are being provided to the SSG members of the Rajnagar block. A total of 28 mindfulness sessions have been conducted in the month of July. The primary objective of these sessions is to promote mental well-being and reduce stress among the SSG members in Rajnagar, fostering a positive impact on their overall health.



Visiting note & comments from the District Collector Sonepur, to our Referral Centre in Sonepur, Odisha

FAREWELL TO OUR ASSET

I worked for LEPRAs for over 33 years. My journey with the organization was amazing, it's been like a second home to me. The staff here is sincere, they feel a sense of belonging and hence most of them have continued to work with the organization for a long time. I wish LEPRAs a wonderful future and I am sure the people here will continue to serve the community with the same zeal and commitment. All the best!



MRS. ANJU SADANAND



# STATE WISE UPDATES

Chandrapur Referral Center has received a commendation letter from the District Leprosy Officer of Chandrapur, Maharashtra, expressing gratitude for LEPRAs invaluable assistance in providing technical expertise and essential Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials during the special Leprosy Case Detection Campaign held in June 2023. The District Leprosy Officer further extended a request to LEPRA to continue its unwavering support in effectively breaking the chain of leprosy transmission.

## MAHARASHTRA



In the month of July, 991 pairs of Footwear were supplied to government



## ODISHA

Introducing an inspiring and transformative initiative by Mayurbanj Referral Centre:

Encouraging community support to uplift and revitalize their village into a model community. The goal is to foster a sense of ownership among residents, motivating them to actively engage in diverse development projects and initiatives.

- Two self-care camps were successfully organized in Kalahandi & Nabarangpur Districts, benefiting 47 individuals who have been cured of leprosy. The attendees received essential items such as footwear, ulcer kits, and adaptive and protective devices, enhancing their well-being and quality of life.
- An awareness program at Birharekrishnapur GP, Puri Sadar block, was attended by 15 Ward Members, Sarpanch Mrs. Dharitri Jena, and Nominee Mr. Ajaya Kumar Pradhan. Dr. Gagan Bihari Acharya sensitized them about leprosy and LF, emphasizing available hospital facilities and support from LEPRA Society. Monthly meetings were assured to make the panchayat leprosy and LF-free, with hydrocele patient surgeries arranged.
- In Koraput and Nabarangpur districts, a total of 10 cases of RCS were performed, comprising 7 hand surgeries and 3 foot surgeries.
- Within the Swabhiman Project area, a successful effort led to the detection of 94 new cases through Active Case Detection (ACD) and Passive Case Detection (PCD).
- LEPRA Society facilitated 9 successful hydrocele surgeries at SDH Rairangapur.



- At the MMDP Camp in Nirmal district, LF patients were shown how to apply a crepe bandage on Elephantiasis-affected legs. Health staff also took part in the demonstration.
- Awareness program was conducted for Govt Urdu primary school students in Narsing, Ranga Reddy district.
- RC staff organized an exclusive group talk with pictorial demonstration by ANM for immunization-seeking women in Asifabad district.
- Leprosy case demonstration was done for 4th year BHMS students at Devs Homeo Medical college and hospital in Hyderabad.

## TELANAGANA



## BPHRC

- Milena Simic from LEPRA UK visited our organization for the recently initiated LRI funded project focused on Baropodometry-based intervention for footcare in individuals affected by leprosy.
- On 20th July 2023, a patient education and awareness foot care clinic for individuals affected by Leprosy and Diabetes took place at Osmania General Hospital, Hyderabad. The initiative was generously funded by The Helping Hand Foundation, Hyderabad, to support LEPRAs free footwear clinic at the hospital, which provided complimentary footwear to patients. The clinic was inaugurated and marked the commencement of this significant endeavor.



[Click here for our Leprosy Dashboard](#)

[Click here for our LF Dashboard](#)

[CLICK HERE FOR OUR MONTH'S MAJOR UPDATES](#)

## MEET OUR STAFF



Hello, I am Suman Sirmoria. I have significant experience in facilitating the physical and mental development of adolescents. My familiarity with Lepra began during my previous role, which subsequently prompted me to apply for a position as a yoga instructor within the organization. Fortunately, I was selected and appointed to this role at Lepra Society in June 2022. Currently, I proudly serve as a Mindfulness Instructor in the SAMARTH project.

### What is a mindfulness session?

Mindfulness refers to the conscious awareness and attunement to each moment, both within and around us. It entails deliberately experiencing the unfolding events in our surroundings. This state involves focused attention on the present moment, enabling detachment from concerns about the future and the past.

### How or what do you feel when you are giving a mindfulness session?

Mindfulness is a profoundly advantageous practice for the mind and brain, offering benefits to all participants when executed effectively. Engaging in mindfulness with SSG group members brings me a sense of gratification and well-being.

### How do you feel when a beneficiary says that they benefitted through your session?

Receiving feedback from beneficiaries about the positive impact of the activity fills me with immense joy and confidence in the effective execution of my chosen task. Such testimonials serve as a constant source of motivation for me.

### What do you do when an individual in the group has a negative take on the session?

When individuals express negative opinions about the sessions, we respond calmly by acknowledging their perspective and affirming that our primary focus is on their well-being and benefit. We offer examples of other participants who have experienced positive outcomes through these activities. Additionally, I strive to address their concerns and provide timely support and follow-up to resolve any issues they may have.

## IMPACT STORY



In Focus : Vyapari Jaya Lakshmi

### Introduction:

Vyapari Jogeswara Rao is the son of Vyapari Jaya Lakshmi, residing in Lambadipeta, Vijayawada, NTR district. His family faced hardship when his father passed away due to cancer, leaving Jaya Lakshmi with two sons to support. Despite challenges, Jogeswara Rao persevered and completed his bachelor's degree despite being deaf and mute. However, their lives took a turn when Jaya Lakshmi was diagnosed with leprosy, leading to visible deformities and societal discrimination.

### Problem:

Following the diagnosis of leprosy, Jaya Lakshmi faced stigma and rejection from the community. House owners refused to rent to her, worsening their living situation. As the sole breadwinner, Srihari, the younger son, had to work in a shop to sustain the family, further burdening their financial situation. Jaya Lakshmi's visible deformities due to leprosy further added to her distress, leaving her feeling dependent on her son and stripped of her personal identity.

### LEPRA's Intervention:

LEPRA Society came to the rescue of Vyapari Jogeswara Rao and his family during their trying times. They recognized the potential in Jogeswara Rao and facilitated his enrollment in a skill development training program at Win Vinaya Foundation. Despite being deaf and mute, Jogeswara Rao successfully completed the three-month training, and with the support of LEPRA Society, he secured an internship offer with a promising stipend. LEPRA Society also assisted with his hostel fees during the training period.

In addition to empowering Jogeswara Rao, LEPRA Society provided essential care and interventions to Jaya Lakshmi. She received medical attention for her condition, including self-care practices and customized MCR footwear to alleviate her discomfort. LEPRA's dedication and support empowered the family to overcome the challenges posed by leprosy and societal discrimination, enabling them to envision a brighter and more self-sufficient future.



In Focus : Vyapari Jogeswara Rao

[CLICK HERE FOR THE FULL STORY OF VYAPARI JAYA LAKSHMI AND HER SON VYAPARI JOGESWARA RAO](#)

[CLICK HERE FOR OUR MONTHLY IEC AND GALLERY](#)



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

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



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