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Edition 07

SUSTAINABLE HEALTH APPROACHES FOR KEY TRIBAL COMMUNITIES HEALTH INTERVENTIONS (SHAKTHI) PROJECT



Mr. Prasant Kumar Naik
CEO, LEPRA Society

Message from Chief Executive, LEPRA

“ Our focus remains on early detection, quality documentation, community engagement, confidentiality, and effective linkage with government services, including e-Sanjeevani. I encourage the team to continue working with commitment and compassion to improve health outcomes and reduce stigma in the community. ”



Anti-Leprosy Fortnight Successfully Observed

- Anti-Leprosy Fortnight was observed with awareness and health activities promoting early detection and stigma reduction.
- A rally with over 250 students from Bakawand School and a cycle rally spread messages such as “Leprosy is Curable” and “End Stigma, Embrace Dignity.”
- An awareness rath (IEC vehicle) campaign disseminated information on symptoms, free treatment, and completing the full course of medicine in Kachnar PHC.
- Around 30 students participated in an awareness questionnaire competition, followed by prize distribution in Bakawand.
- Screening of suspected patients, distribution of medicines and patient kits, ulcer dressing, and counselling were carried out during the campaign in Bakawand.
- Rangoli competition were performed in Belgaon with the BIHAAN women group.

District NLEP Coordination Meeting

A District NLEP Coordination and Planning Meeting was conducted at the CM&HO Chamber, Bastar. The meeting was attended by the Chief Medical & Health Officer (CM&HO), District Leprosy Officer (DLO), Block Non Medical Assistant (NMAs), and LEPRA staff



The meeting reinforced coordinated efforts, improved monitoring, and strengthened collaboration among all stakeholders to ensure early detection, effective treatment, and sustained progress toward leprosy elimination.

MDA Mass Propaganda - Bakawand

- Mass Propaganda on Mass Drug Administration (MDA) for Lymphatic Filariasis (LF) conducted through IEC Van in Bakawand Block.
- Villagers were motivated to ensure that all eligible family members participate in the MDA campaign.
- Through the IEC Van, announcements were made regarding the correct dosage of LF medicines, disease transmission, symptoms, prevention methods, and the importance of consuming medicines during the MDA campaign.



Morbidity Management Unit (MMU) Inaugurated

The Morbidity Management Unit (MMU) was officially inaugurated by Mr. Prasant Naik, CEO of LEPRASociety, in the presence of SHAKTHI project staff. The unit aims to strengthen care and follow-up services for patients with chronic conditions, ensuring better treatment support and improved quality of life at the community level.



37th Foundation Day Celebration

The 37th Foundation Day was celebrated on 23rd February at Malgaon Sector. An awareness session on personal hygiene, wound care, and regular medicine intake was conducted. Health services were also provided to patients affected by Leprosy, Lymphatic Filariasis (LF), Scabies, Tuberculosis (TB), and Sickle Cell Disease (SCD) who attended the program. The event was successfully organized with the support of health workers and the community, promoting early detection and improved patient care.



Government Support

The CMHO of Bastar district has extended strong support to the SHAKTHI Project in strengthening the Leprosy Control Programme across high-burden areas. Key directions were issued for medical officer training, fixed weekly skin screening days, supervised drug intake through Mitans, and improved access to nutrition and social security schemes.



Self-Support Group Formation Program – Belgaon

- A Forum Formation Program was organized in Belgaon with active participation of LF patients.
- A Self-Support Group (SSG) was formed with 16 members to promote peer support and collective action.
- A President and Vice-President were selected from among the patients.
- Foot measurements were taken for all patients to provide EVA chappals for prevention of complications.
- Sessions were conducted on disease knowledge, self-care and peer-care practices.
- Information was shared about social security schemes to support eligible patients.



Success Story

The Special Screening Camp was organized for the suspected cases at Karpawand, 13 new cases were identified, including 11 Leprosy and 2 LF cases, along with several scabies cases from different villages of Bakawand block.



Leprosy and LF patients were provided with self-care kits, dressing support, and patient services, while scabies patients received medicines on the spot. The camp was conducted in the presence of Dr. V. K. Thakur, District Leprosy Officer, Mr. Prasant Kumar Naik, CEO, LEPRASociety, and SHAKTHI staff, strengthening early detection and timely treatment efforts.

Meet Our Staff



Miss. Deepika Thakur
Staff Nurse- SHAKTHI

Q. What role do you play in disease screening and patient care?

I conduct screening for suspected cases of Leprosy, LF, TB, and other priority diseases, provide basic treatment and dressing services, ensure medicine distribution, and support timely referral of complicated cases to higher centers.

Q. How does your work contribute to improving community health?

Through early identification, proper counselling, and ensuring treatment adherence, I help prevent complications and reduce stigma, which ultimately improves the overall health and confidence of the community.

Q. What does a typical day look like in your role?

My daily activities include village visits, patient follow-up, ulcer dressing, medicine distribution, maintaining records, coordinating with CHWs, and supporting health education sessions at community and school levels.

Q. How important is patient counselling in your work?

Patient counselling is very important. It helps patients understand their disease, follow self-care practices, complete their treatment, and avoid discrimination or fear.

Q. How do you coordinate with CHWs and PHC staff?

I maintain regular communication with CHWs for case identification and follow-up, share updates with PHC staff, and ensure that all SHAKTHI activities are implemented as per government guidelines.

Thank you to LEPRASociety team for your unending support

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