

Foreword

Dear Friends,

Twelve years of Mobility India filled with so many achievements and much learning, and sharing of experience from all the challenges we have encountered.

All our efforts are focused on those who are seriously affected by the impact of poverty and by the exclusion and marginalization which results from disability. Our strength at MI is in our partnerships working with others within India and other countries in the South where poverty and disability are critical issues.

Our year got off to a flying start with the workshop on 'Exchange of information on Rehabilitation Technology and Disability Rights' held in collaboration with the Centre for International Rehabilitation (CIR), Chicago.

Then in partnership with Motivation-UK we worked on a special project on the prescription and assembly of wheelchairs, designed specifically for use by disabled people in the South. Successful programmes like these will open access for many more disabled people, and at the same time, increase our knowledge and skills.

Capacity Building is at the core of what we do at Mobility India, and we know that encouraging the development of individuals has a powerful ripple effect across our organisation and others, and in the long run benefits disabled people. Training and development have figured largely in our work, to date we have trained about 104 women and men from all over India and other countries in the South. This year the team from the Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI) and International Society of Prosthetics and Orthotics (ISPO) visited us to evaluate our training programmes. We were very pleased that the Rehabilitation Council of India awarded recognition to our Rehabilitation Therapy Assistant Course. There are further developments on the horizon and we will be working on these in the coming years.

Our aim to develop and design appropriate assistive devices is an important part of our work. Our progress over the last few years with innovative technology for the production of prefabricated orthotic components has now led to a successful collaboration with rehab personnel in Ethiopia.

This year is particularly significant for us however we are moving into new and challenging areas of work. All these years our work in rural areas was through our partners, but now we will be directly operational in the rural district of Chamrajnagar, South Karnataka. MI's work in the urban slums of Bangalore has led to the initiation of this work. Education and Livelihood Opportunities for disabled children and adults will be the focus of this project.

These activities and all those detailed in this report are only possible with the active support from our Board members, our service users, and partners; from our funding agencies, regular individual donors and other friends who support us in so many ways. And of course, last but not least the dedication and commitment of the staff who continue to work to make this possible.

Our message for the coming year is positive. Invigorated by new challenges we will carry on the good work and traditions of Mobility India with your friendship and support.



Albina Shankar
Acting Director