

## Research & Development

R & D- Research and Development is an important unit of MI, which engages in developing low cost, light weight and aesthetically appealing aids and appliances.



### Transferring Technology to Ethiopia

One of the most important factors in developing new technology is disseminating that information to a large number of people so that they can benefit from it. In Ethiopia the number of persons with disabilities is about 7 million. Out of this 2 million are children. The Pre –Fabricated Knee Ankle Foot Orthotic components developed by MI would be a suitable option for many.

The technology was shared in Ethiopia through a hands- on- workshop. Two Prosthetists and Orthotists from MI went to Ethiopia to conduct the workshop. 29 technicians from all the rehabilitation centers in Ethiopia and from the neighbouring countries participated in the workshop. The four day 'hands-on workshop' was used as a forum for discussions, information sharing and mutual learning.

During the course of the year, 2 visits were made to Ethiopia. The first one in September- October 2005 for the Hands on workshop and the second in March 2006 as a follow –up of the first.

The dissemination of this new technology has brought about a change in the lives of millions of people with disabilities in Ethiopia. The programme was possible with combined effort of Disability and Development Partners, UK, Mobility India and Handicap National-Action for Children with Disabilities (HN-ACD) Ethiopia. The process of dissemination was with the support of International bodies like World Health Organisation (WHO) and International Society of Prosthetics and Orthotics (ISPO).

Production of light weight, good quality, low-cost Jaipur foot by a group of women with disabilities

The advantages of the new design

- ◆ The weight is reduced
- ◆ The durability is increased
- ◆ It has better functionality



Jaipur Foot Unit is another employment project staffed by five women with disabilities and the unit is set up in such a way that they can perform their duties easily even with the disabilities. Other than India, the Jaipur Foot made in this unit is currently being used in many countries like Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bangladesh, Mozambique etc.

MI has developed the pyramid adaptor for the Jaipur Foot which can be fitted to any of the endoskeletal Prosthesis. The R & D unit has developed stainless steel bolt for better strength and also trying to reduce the weight of the foot. The unit has completed the designing of 3 types of foot. In the earlier design, only rubber was being used to fabricate the foot piece. The new design has fiberglass and polypropylene added to it in the fabrication process.