

MOBILITY

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**INTERVIEW WITH
MR. D. THANGARAJ, IAS
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO
GOVERNMENT, WOMEN & CHILD
DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT &
COMMISSIONER FOR
DISABILITIES, GOVERNMENT OF
KARNATAKA.**

Q. As Principal Secretary what according to you is the crucial factor in issues related to disability?

A. First of all people's approach and attitude towards disabilities should change. This should start at the community level where persons with disabilities should be treated like every one else and equal status ought to be given

Q. What important programmes/projects have you earmarked for this year as head of this department?

A. Initially we started with many things. I think we should first address the educational needs of the persons with disabilities and of course the rights and rehabilitation aspects. The Government is concentrating on the education of children with disabilities. At present government school teachers are being provided training to help children with disabilities. The said children should attend regular schools, in other words inclusion in education is a key programme.

As far as rights are concerned the

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PRE FABRICATED KNEE ANKLE FOOT ORTHOSIS (PFKAFO) TECHNOLOGY LAUNCHED



Six years of intensive research work and the hard work of a dedicated team is what took Mobility India to develop and dedicate this indigenous technology to millions of persons with disability who are in need of orthosis in our country. This technology is a very cost effective and time saving mechanism where in a person with disability can get an orthosis within 24 hours. Mobility India launched the technology through two-day hands on workshop on assembling of PF KAFO, which was held on 17th, and 18th January 2003. There were 25 participants in the workshop, who were mainly from the National Institutes, Government & Non Government organisations and Private Practitioners. The participants were convinced that the technology would be helpful for the millions of persons with disabilities in our country and have assured us that they would use the technology and give us the feedback to develop it further.



Workshop in progress

CHILDREN IN CHITRADURGA EXPERIENCE WALKING



Children exploring their abilities

Mobility India has agreed to collaborate with the Department of Women and Child Welfare, Government of Karnataka to do the rehabilitation need assessment of Government aided residential special schools in Karnataka.

As a first step towards this, Mobility India team along with the government officials visited the Special school in Chitradurga to do an assessment of the children, till now we have

visited the school 3 times and have assessed 146 children with disability and have provided aids and appliances to 62 children with disability.

There is a dramatic change in the quality of lives of the children as compared to our first visit when, out of 192 children, only one child had a broken Aluminum crutch, 3 children had crutches out of bamboo and not a single with any other kind of assistive devices except three giant size tricycles.

The children found a new hope in their lives and were excited with their new appliances which has enabled them to explore their abilities themselves better than before.

Chitradurga is one of many hurdles; there are still more than 3000 children in more than 120 such schools in Karnataka who are in need of rehabilitation services. We have made a beginning and would be covering the other schools in the near future.

JAIPUR FOOT MADE BY THE SKILLED HANDS OF WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES...



The 'Jaipur Foot' team

This is not just another first for Mobility India but a FIRST for India. Eight women with disabilities are undergoing training in the most modern, disabled friendly - Jaipur foot workshop available in South Asia. Mobility India hired the expertise of two resource persons from Jaipur to train these women with disability who do not have any technical background. Initially the resource persons were skeptical about the women's competency but changed opinion soon due to the enthusiasm and dedication shown by the women to learn and become self-dependent is amazing.

ORIENTATION ON CBR

We conducted a two-day orientation workshop on CBR for the P&O professionals from the leading National Institutes of the country on 15th and 16th January 2003. Senior faculty members of the Institute participated in the workshop apart from few other professionals from the field of rehabilitation. 20 rehab professionals participated in the workshop, which mainly concentrated on creating awareness regarding the roles of different rehab professionals in a Community Based Rehabilitation Programme. At the end of the workshop the participants had fairly a clear idea about what their role should be in a community based rehabilitation project.



Participants of the Workshop

PARTNERS' CBR WORKERS FOUND THEIR SKILLS ENHANCED...



Trainees experiencing disability

Twenty representatives (6 persons with disability) from nine non-governmental organizations came to Mobility India to undergo 6-weeks training programme in 'Management of Locomotor Disabilities for CBR workers' (II batch). The participants were mainly from Mobility India's partner organisations and from the organisations supported by its funders. The participants were provided with theoretical as well as practical exposure to various topics. The participants also got an opportunity to interact with the 1st batch trainees who were attending the one-week refresher course.

MANAGEMENT OF COMMUNITY BASED REHABILITATION PROGRAMME.

18 Mediators of SLF - Netherlands who are working in the rural areas of south India in the projects funded by SLF underwent a ten days training on 'Management of CBR Projects'. 1 participant apart from the 18 was from our partner organisation GRAM. The participants were provided with theoretical and practical exposures on various aspects related to management of CBR Programme. They were also given inputs on planning, implementation and evaluation of a CBR project. The participants felt that the programme has changed their outlook regarding a CBR Programme.



Learning to be Managers

Forthcoming Training Programmes in Mobility India

- ◆ March 20th - March 29th - (II Batch) - Management of CBR projects for CBR managers.
- ◆ April 14th - May 24th 2003 - (III Batch) Six Weeks Training Course on 'Management of Locomotor Disabilities for CBR Workers'.
- ◆ July 7th 2003 - 1-year training in Orthotics / Prosthetics / Rehabilitation Therapy (II batch)
- ◆ November 10th - December 20th 2003 - (IV Batch) Six Weeks Training Course on 'Management of Locomotor Disabilities for CBR Workers'.

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public should be sensitized to the rights of the persons with disabilities. A Charter on the same will be released in a month's time.

Regarding rehabilitation, the Government is providing financial assistance through National Handicap Finance Development Corporation (NHFDC) where financial aid will be provided to persons with disabilities. Karnataka State has been allotted Rs. 2 crores for this; applications of the same are available in the Taluk office. The process is also simple and takes one month to distribute the money. Shortly, loans will be sanctioned to 2000 to 3000 persons who will be the beneficiaries. NGOs too can avail grants upto Rs.15000/- for an individual micro credit programme through this scheme.

Q. What are the other schemes available?

A. The ADIP scheme is another viable scheme where the District Rehabilitation Centres will supply aids and appliances. This project is to a tune of Rs. 3 crores and is a lot of money for a single rehabilitation programme.

Q. Do you feel that it is good for Government to collaborate with NGOs?

Yes definitely. NGOs have the advantage of being flexible and are dedicated to their job. While mostly in the Government even if there is dedication, people have to go through a lot of formalities before implementing or introducing anything new. I believe that Government departments and NGOs should complement each other to get a better and fruitful result.

PAYAL WINS THE GAME

Payal Kayal is a nine-year-old girl who lives in Hanspukur village under Behala Sub Jurisdiction, a project area of SANCHAR, a Mobility India Partner organization. She is a student of std. III and has a younger brother. Payal was given her first Polio drops at a polio camp organized at her village but her body reacted negatively to the injections and within a week of the said dosage she became totally paralyzed. Her parents rushed her to a City hospital but that too was of no help. Her parents did not give up hope and they kept trying to improve the condition of their little one and their efforts did payoff, Payal soon regained the strength in her left leg but her right leg still remained under the effect of Polio. When Mobility India saw Payal she was wearing conventional metal calipers that she did not like as they were heavy and her thin body could not carry this additional weight. Thus, we made her a plastic caliper for her. Now, a very happy and chirpy Payal not only competes with her brother on her way to school but also plays "Kit Kit" (a local game where the players have to hop and push forward a small piece of clay/cement coin with their feet) with her friends, and if we take her word, often it is she who wins the game!



A smiling Payal

EXPLORING SRILANKA



One of the few Rehabilitation Centre

Chapal, Executive Director of Mobility India visited Sri Lanka along with Silvana Inselmann, Regional Representative of CBM-SARO(S), Gunawati Fernandez, Programme Manager of CBM-SARO(S), Dr. J. Nelson - Director, Joseph Eye Hospital, Trichy, Tamil Nadu. As the purpose of their trip, the team explored the Northern parts of Sri Lanka to understand the nature of rehabilitation work taking place. They concentrated more on places such as Jaffna, Vanni, Vavunia and found that the civil war in the country had destroyed the beautiful nation and had felt its profound impact all over the country. Many people had lost their limbs and most of the people in need of rehabilitation are living in the area which is affected by the civil war. To explore the status of rehabilitation work going on, the team visited Orthotics & Prosthetics workshops and various Community Based Rehabilitation programmes. They realized that the need for rehabilitation is extremely huge and had a fairly good idea of their requirement. Soon Mobility India will work with CBM and Motivation (an UK charity supported by USAID) to render its services to the needy in Sri Lanka

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OUR ACHIEVEMENT IN MOZAMBIQUE

Accepting the invitation of Jaipur Limb Campaign-UK, Soikat and Pachauri of Mobility India went to Centro Ortopedico Jaipur (COJ) in Mozambique to conduct Refresher training programme on Orthotics and Prosthetics for the technicians and therapist of the organisation. They also provided inputs on long term planning, store management, tools & equipments required for a workshop, enhancing the administration of client service and to enhance the outreach programme so that they can reach out to many persons with disability. Mobility India is satisfied with its partner support and is confident that there is bound to be changes in the rehabilitation scenario in Mozambique.



Training session in progress

MOBILITY INDIA & ABILIS JOIN HANDS TOGETHER



Mahesh signing the MoU

ABILIS a Finland based funding agency has identified Mobility India as its Partner organisation for South and Northeastern parts of India. According to the partnership Mobility India would be assisting Abilis in identifying, guiding and evaluating projects to be funded by ABIIS. To formalize the partnership Mahesh of Mobility India was invited by ABILIS, Finland to attend the Sixth World Conference conducted by Disabled People International (DPI) in Japan, during which Mobility India signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with ABILIS.

Congrats!

- ◆ *Vishal (therapy assistant) for representing the Indian Cricket team in World Cup for visually impaired persons held in Chennai.*
- ◆ *Kamala & Geetha (CBR Programme Assistants) for being felicitated by Mitra Jyothi on Louis Braille Day.*

Our special thanks to Mr& Mrs P.S. Vishwanath, H.P.S. Foundation and to all our supporters

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We reach out to as many people with disabilities as possible by working with other voluntary organisations all over India.
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*Mobility India wishes all
of you a cheerful and a
prosperous new year.*

1st & 1st 'A' Cross, J.P. Nagar II Phase, Bangalore - 78. Phone : +91-080-6492222, Fax : +91-080-6494444
Email : e-mail@mobility-india.org Website : www.mobility-india.org

MOBILITY INDIA REGIONAL RESOURCE CENTRE

P-91, Helen Keller Sarani, Majerhat, Kolkata - 700 053, Telefax : 033 - 4013914, 4012190. Email : mic@vsnl.com