

# MOBILITY

## THE NEWSLETTER OF MOBILITY INDIA

WISH YOU ALL A HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR - 2004

Issue 11

December 2003

### 2 minutes with Mr. Derek Hooper, Director, Equality Works, UK

*Tell us about Equality Works, Derek:*

It's a consultancy, based in London. There are 15 staff 10 consultants and 5 office staff. We celebrated our 10th birthday last year. Our work is about equal opportunity. We train and advise organisations - government agencies and NGO's. A lot of our work is in the Criminal Justice Sector, trade unions and with housing associations they provide subsidized housing for poorer people.

*What are the main equality issues in UK?*

Well, a lot of our work is on race, gender and disability, but class [similar to caste] is a big issue too. For Indians in UK, for example, there is still a lot of discrimination in getting jobs, being promoted, access to services. A black person is more than twice as likely to be unemployed as a white person, and the same is true for an Indian even in government jobs.

*I thought you had laws to stop discrimination?*

We do have laws on race, sex and disability, but there are all sorts of ways of disguising your intentions and evading the law. In England you can do racism and sexism in very 'respectable' ways. But it has the same effect.



**Mr. Derek Hooper**

*What about EW and Mobility India?*

We signed a partnership agreement between EW and MI in 2001. This says EW and MI will work together and swap skills three weeks each year - in any way that is useful. So far, we have worked with Chapal and the team on the Business Plan and training middle managers at MI. In return we have taken a lot of good practice ideas both on management and disability issues - back to UK to share with our clients there.

*How does MI compare to the other organisations you work for?*

The first day I arrived at MI in January 2000, I was surprised at how familiar it seemed. I had been to India many times before and had spent a lot of time in different slum projects in Mumbai,

Nagpur and Delhi. So in some ways, the work context was familiar although I had a LOT to learn. But the organizational issues, the staffing problems, growing from small to big all this was very similar to UK. But I think the staffs at MI are special there is such enthusiasm, creativity, daring, openness to new ideas, commitment to people with disabilities. Also I have never come across an organisation where actions really do speak louder than words 40% staff is disabled. That's unique in my experience.

*What about the future of EW and MI?*

I can only say that EW is learning, learning all the time from working with MI. I hope MI will continue to find some benefit from working with us. Of course, the better we know and understand each other, the easier and more successful working together is. Colleagues become friends; skills are easier to share. A lot of our trainees in UK say our training and consultancy is 'challenging and enjoyable'. I can say the same about Mobility India for me.

*And when you're not working?*

London is a great place to live although I love the country too. I relax with family and friends films, music, books, going out into the countryside to explore and walk. Sport? I'm too diplomatic to talk about my favourite football team. And cricket is a sore point with us English.

### OBITUARY



*We regret the sad demise of our beloved former Founder President Mr. Sundar Egbert on the 15th of September 2003. Mr. Sundar was a guiding force to Mobility India all through his period in office. We pray for his soul to rest in peace.*



*Shivkumari, a beneficiary of Mobility India passed away on 6th of July 2003. We pray for her soul to rest in peace.*

## TRAINING DIARY

### Long Term Training

The second batch of our one year training started in July 2003; in the present batch there are 32 trainees (Orthotics 13, Prosthetics 9 and Rehab Therapy 10). 11 of the trainees are with disability out of which 5 are women with disability, and apart from India,



*Trainees in practical session*

Srilanka, Nepal and Bangladesh, we also have trainees from Angola

### Six Weeks CBR Training

The fourth batch of six weeks training on 'Management of Locomotor Disability' for CBR workers was conducted in the month of October 2003. 11 trainees mainly from partner organization and organization supported by our funders were part of the training which ended in the month of November 2003. The trainees background were varied as some were going to work in the field of CBR after completion of the training and few others were here to enhance their skills as they were already working in the field. The one week *Refresher Training* for the third batch CBR trainees was conducted in the month of November 2003 in which 8 trainees took part.

### CBR Managers Training

The third batch of the 10 day CBR managers training programme was conducted in November 2003, apart from the mediators of the Liliane Fonds who are managing projects in India, we had trainees from Srilanka and Ethiopia also. Totally 23 managers attended the training programme which was inaugurated by Sr. Philomena, National Coordinator - Liliane Fonds, India. The batch was equally challenging as it consisted of trainees who had years of experience in the field of disability.

### RCI Recognition

Mobility India hosted the meeting of 'Expert Committee on Prosthetic and Orthotics' of Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI) in August 2003. During the meeting the course curriculum of all the three one year training programmes conducted by Mobility India, was placed for consideration of the committee to recommend it to attain RCI recognition. RCI has in principal agreed to recognize all the three courses.

### Training Programmes

Programme	Date	Participants
One year Training	On going	32
6 weeks CBR workers	29th Sept.-8th Nov. 2003	11
Refresher training	3rd - 8th Nov. 2003	8
CBR managers Training	10th - 19th Nov. 2003	23
Assembling of TTPMC	27th Sept. 2003	69
Workshop on	10th & 11th Oct. 2003	
Developmental Aids ( 2 batches)	29th & 30th Nov. 2003	46
Total		189

### Cricketers Endorse PFKAFO

Indian cricketer Javagal Srinath was one of the chief guests who laid the foundation stone for the Mobility India Rehabilitation Research and Training Centre in 1999. He visited Mobility India recently



and was impressed with the shape the centre had taken and its various activities which benefit persons with disability especially the poor. He was very keen to promote the activities of Mobility India in a big way and in this connection he was able to convince his fellow cricketers Ajit Agarkar, Zaheer Khan, Ashish Nehra and Avishkar Salvi to put together a public service message that emphasizes the importance of wearing a caliper for enhanced mobility. The short film which was shot in September 2003 was aired by few television channels as part of our caliper campaign.

### Trans Tibial Prosthetic Modular Component (TTPMC)



TTPMC - SATHI, the second product in the year 2003 from Mobility India which was introduced in September 2003, through a one day workshop on assembling of TTPMC. Sixty nine professionals from government and non government organisations participated in the workshop. The modular technology which is light in weight and cost effective will reach out to many people from the low income groups whose limbs are amputated due to road

accidents, Diabetes etc. The technology is further being developed based on the feedback we have received from the professionals and the users. The product will be launched during the 16th Annual Conference of the 'Orthotic and Prosthetic Society of India' to be held in January 2004 at Bhuvaneshwar.

### Best Service Provider in the Country

Mobility India participated in ACCESS 2003 at Hyderabad organized by Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in July 2003. During the 6 day event we assessed 300 persons with disability and fitted 40 persons with light weight plastic calipers. We had a very good response with persons from both government and non government organization including the Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment Mr. Satya Narayan Jatiya visting the stall. We were adjudged the best stall and service providers in the exhibition.



## Interview of Mrs. Indu Ramesh about our Direct Service.



**Mrs. Indu Ramesh**

*How did you get to know about Mobility India?*

We needed a wheel chair on hire. My daughter went on the

Internet to find some one who hires out wheel chairs in Bangalore and found Mobility India doing just that. She came for a visit and was very impressed. Then we hired the Mobility India Mobile service 3 times.

*What is your impression about our services?*

The service is excellent. People here are friendly, helpful and very innovative. They seem to know our specific problems and work towards finding solutions for them. The services are not expensive and the fact that we can find answers to our problems makes it very easy.

*Would you like to suggest any measures to improve our services?*

Even without any advertisement Mobility India is attracting a lot of clients. We need more therapists to take on the load. Interns are doing a very good job. But we cannot fully depend on them. More therapists and more space for treating people should be the focus now.

*What are the changes you see in yourself from the time you have availed our services?*

A lot, I have become independent enough to look after my day to day activities like managing toilet, taking a bath & dressing, walking with only a walking stick, climbing stairs (most important). I am even able to cut vegetables, roll chapathis and do some cooking. All this may sound very simple, but for someone who could not lift a finger to scratch her nose a year ago, every little activity is a great success. At the beginning of my illness, I was not able to press the remote button of the TV nor even press the mouse to operate the computer.

## Workshop on Developmental Aids

The workshop was conducted in two batches the first one with 29 participants was conducted on 10th & 11th of October 2003 and the second one was conducted on 29th & 30th November 2003 with 17 participants. The purpose of the workshop was to enhance the skill of rehabilitation



professionals about the need for and the benefit of developmental aids and appropriate adaptations for children with developmental delay. Developmental aids are helpful for children to achieve normal developmental milestones. The participants for this workshop were physiotherapists and occupational therapists and field workers from our partner organizations.

## Workshop on Assembling PFKAFO



In the month of July 2003 the technical team from our regional resource center in Kolkata conducted a two days workshop on assembling of Prefabricated Knee Ankle Foot Orthosis at Composite Regional Center, Guwahati. Around 14 professionals participated in the workshop

which was an effort to create awareness regarding the technology so that persons with disability from the north east can access this unique technology which is cost effective and time saving.

## Community Outreach Programme at Kolkata

Mobility India Regional Resource center has, keeping in view, the basic objectives of Mobility India started a Community outreach programme in the Slums of Ward 133 and 134 of Metiabruz, garden reach area in Kolkata city. The project aims to provide medical as well as social and economic rehabilitation for persons with disabilities in the area. At present identification, screening and preliminary support are being provided simultaneously to the PWDs in the areas. We have initiated the work with the help of the other organization working in the area. We have also identified one local community volunteer who underwent the 6 weeks CBR workers training at Mobility India, Bangalore.

## Bridge the gap between, Disability and Ability, Sponsor a Caliper\*

**For the Caliper 2500/-**

**And for the components**

- Thigh Shell Rs. 330/-,
- Straight bars 1pair Rs. 70/-,
- Other accessories Rs. 155/-

- Leg Shell Rs. 375/-,
- Contour Bars 1 pair Rs. 80/-,

- Knee joints Rs. 350/-,
- Strap set Rs. 135/-,

\*You can either sponsor a caliper(2500/-) or any one of its components

I am donating Rs..... by Cheque/ Demand draft number .....towards.....

I would like you to mail me / my friend information on your work.

Name and address.....

.....

Pin.....Telephone: ..... E-mail : .....



**All donations are eligible for tax exemption under section 80G**

## Visitor's Diary

### Some of the people who visited Mobility India

#### August 2003

Mr. Derek Hooper, Equality Works, U.K.  
Ms. Ali King, Zurich Financial Services, U.K.  
Mr. Jaymin Trivedi, Supraja Foundation Limited, Hong Kong.  
Ms. Marika Millar from MIBLOU, Switzerland.

#### September 2003

Ms. Eva from World Health Organization, Geneva.

#### October 2003

Mr. Prabhu and Mr. Thomas, TDH - Netherlands.  
Mr. Stephen Murkins, MISEREOR, Germany.  
Ms. Kamala Achu, Jaipur Limb Campaign - U.K.

#### November 2003

Mr. Leo & Ms. Catheriona, Handicap International, France.  
Sr. Philomena. Liliane Fonds, India.

## Mobility India Training Update...

### LONG TERM COURSES

1 year training programme on Rehabilitation Therapy Assistant (3rd Batch) 5th July 2004  
1 year training programme on Orthotic Technician (3rd Batch) 5th July 2004  
1 year training programme on Prosthetic Technician (3rd Batch) 5th July 2004

### SHORT TERM COURSES

10 days orientation programme for CBR Managers (4th Batch) 23rd February to 3rd March 2004  
6 weeks CBR workers training programme (5th Batch) 12th April to 22nd May, 2004  
1 week refresher course for 6 weeks CBR training (4th Batch) 17th May to 22nd May 2004

### WORKSHOPS

Please look out for our announcement on the following forthcoming workshops

2 days workshop on Serial Casting.  
2 days workshop on Orientation on CBR  
2 days workshop on Sensory Integration.

**We have started to accept applications for the 3rd Batch of our 1 year training programmes.**

**We encourage person with disability especially women to apply for our training programmes.**

Our special thanks to all our supporters



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INTERNATIONAL



Action on Disability  
and Development

Katholische Zentralstelle  
für Entwicklungshilfe.V.



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We are also extremely thankful to Life Insurance Corporation of India, individual donors, volunteers and friends for their continued support

Mobility India is a voluntary organisation empowering differently abled people live fulfilled, independent lives.  
We reach out to as many people with disabilities as possible by working with other voluntary organisations all over India.  
Please return this with your gift to:



**MOBILITY INDIA**

Respecting people's abilities

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