

MOBILITY

THE NEWSLETTER OF MOBILITY INDIA

Facts

- ♀ Women & Girls with disabilities form approx. 10% of the total population of women
- ♀ Even using the lower disability prevalence rate (5%) in the developing countries the number of disabled girls & women are estimated to be around 80 million in Asia and Pacific region.
- ♀ In women's movement disabled women have seldom been included as partners in the movement.
- ♀ Mainstream women's empowerment programmes seldom included disabled girls and women.
- ♀ Leading to poor participation by disabled women

Need

- ♀ Disabled girls and women should be included in all mainstream empowerment programmes in relation to:
 - ♀ Education
 - ♀ Health care
 - ♀ Appropriate rehabilitation
 - ♀ Training and employment
 - ♀ Social integration

It has been observed that among the people with disabilities, women and girls with disabilities often have fewer opportunities than others and they often face double discrimination. They have little opportunity to access basic amenities and most women do not access rehabilitation services because a male technician would assess them. Their mobility is hampered and lack of skills or education makes them totally dependent on their families. This is the situation facing the vast majority of women with disabilities in India. This scenario makes it difficult to find women with disabilities in the work force.

Mobility India's experience in the field since 1994 prompted it to encourage employment of women in various capacities as part of their workforce.  Turn overleaf

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The number of amputees the world over is rising. The reasons are varied- motor accidents, landmines, medical amputations. Accordingly the demand for Jaipur Foot has increased. The Jaipur Foot is a low cost foot piece available in India and is suitable for amputees living in the rural areas. It is the technology of common people using locally available raw materials. Owing to its affordability and the acceptance by a large number of users the Jaipur Foot is also used extensively in the strife ridden countries of Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Vietnam, Afghanistan, and Mozambique.

The Jaipur foot industry has been male dominant one and no women were encouraged to take up this profession till date. Mobility India took this up as a challenge and has trained women with disabilities to fabricate the Jaipur Foot.

The training began in the month of September 2002 and went on for 6 months. This was followed up with skill training in making quality foot pieces. This has given them the opportunity for earning their livelihood.



Of these women Jane, Daya, Mabel, Bhagyajyothi and Hameeda had polio when they were young. They use calipers and crutches to help them in their mobility. Jayamma is an amputee. She has lost one of her legs to cancer and uses a crutch and artificial limb to walk. Lata had deformity in her legs right from birth. Surgeries have been conducted to correct the deformity but have not helped her much. She uses a wheelchair.

The women have shown amazing enthusiasm and dedication to learn the new techniques and become independent in the process.

Mobility India was formed in 1994. Its vision is

"An inclusive society where people with disabilities have equal rights and a good quality of life."

Please return this with your donation to:



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Respecting people's abilities

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