

# MOBILITY INDIA

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One of the most important components of rehabilitation and support services is assistive devices which often provide the first step to ensure that people with disabilities are equal members of society. Persons with physical disabilities, have a need for prosthetics /orthotics and related rehabilitation services. To provide this, it is important that the personnel providing them should have an adequate level of education and training.

One important lacuna that exists is the number of trained personnel (20,000). As a response to this situation, Mobility India has been running courses in Prosthetics, Orthotics and Rehabilitation Therapy\* (see box) since three years. The training programme is designed 'to develop professionals in Lower Limb Prosthetics, Lower Limb Orthotics & Rehabilitation Therapy in modular format with a focus on community based approach to meet the needs of people with disabilities especially the poor who live in urban slums and rural areas'. The training is offered following the World Health Organization and International Society for Prosthetics and Orthotics guidelines. So far we have trained 104 candidates of whom 50 have been women, 16 men with disability and 18 women with disability-an indication that the courses we conduct are in good demand and our focus on training women and persons with disabilities is being addressed.

The fourth batch of training began in July 2005. Our student participants are from various parts of rural India and developing countries of Asia and Africa. These are ridden with strife or natural calamities; the famine, civil war or the tsunami all leave behind a trail of millions in need of assistive devices, therapeutic care. Hence, these regions need to develop their rehabilitation services by having trained personnel to facilitate delivery of quality service for people with disabilities in remote areas.

## \*Permanent Recognition

Mobility India has received Permanent Recognition to conduct the Certificate Course in Rehabilitation Therapy Assistant (CRTA) Training Programme. Rehabilitation Council of India (A Statutory Body under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment) has awarded this recognition to Mobility India.

The purpose of Mobility India is to work with people with disabilities, especially the poor, on rehabilitation and social rights.

## Sponsor

### Physical /Medical Rehabilitation

- Wheelchair Rs. 5,500/-
- Artificial limbs (prostheses) Rs. 3,000/- onwards
- Calipers(orthoses) Rs 2,500/-
- A pair of elbow/axillary crutches Rs. 1200/-
- Therapy for a month per person Rs. 1000/-

### Educational Rehabilitation

- Sponsor education/fees for a child Rs. 2,000/-
- Computer Training of a child Rs. 600/-

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

Towards.....

All donations are eligible for tax exemption under section 80G

## Trained candidates at work...



Lakshmi at work



Rehabilitation workshop in Tangalle, Sri Lanka

Lakshmi was 3 when both her legs were affected by polio. Supported by a walker she completed her schooling, in Ongole, Andhra Pradesh. Thereafter she was fitted with calipers by Mobility India's Partner Support Programme. Her desire to be economically independent saw her venturing out of her village to join training at Mobility India in July '02. After her training she was equipped as a 'prosthetics technologist' an achievement that wreathes her face into smiles of confidence and satisfaction today. Lakshmi says "I am happy that I am able to bring about positive changes in the lives of persons with disabilities".

Lakshmi's batch consisted of 30 candidates, 6 of whom came from Sri Lanka. Back in their country, they are putting their training to use. They have set up a workshop and a therapy unit in Tangalle. The tsunami has left its devastating effects. The country is slowly on the mend. The rehabilitation centre and the skills of the candidates will surely be useful in the prevailing situation and thereafter. A similar programme is replicated in Kandy by 3 more candidates who were trained in the second batch.

Organizations based in Bangladesh have sent 9 candidates in the past 3 years. Nasreen is from Dhaka and she completed her training as Rehabilitation Therapy Assistant in Lakshmi's batch. She has been working in the community programmes conducted by her organization, providing therapy to people with disabilities. She is back to gain more knowledge and skills on therapy for amputees. Thus Mobility India also maintains contact with past candidates to ensure they can upgrade their knowledge and skill as and when the need arises.

Mobility India's vision is "An inclusive society where people with disabilities have equal rights and a good quality of life."



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**MOBILITY INDIA**

*Respecting people's abilities*

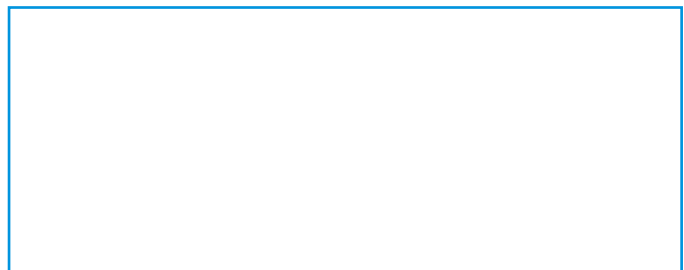
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