

MOBILITY INDIA

NEWSLETTER - Issue - April 2005

Nagina was going to school a few years ago. She studied upto Class IV and then she dropped out of school. If she had continued regularly, she would have reached Class X by now.

The reason- **Nagina** has polio in both her legs. She was unable to walk to school. Her family did not know about assistive devices and how they would help **Nagina**. Awareness came about when they enrolled as members of a **Self Help Group**, Nawaz Makala Sangha. Sharing **Nagina's** experiences in one of the meetings, they were



able to find the right rehabilitation solution for **Nagina**. The group members guided her family to get financial assistance for **Nagina's** surgery. After this they got her to **Mobility India's** rehabilitation centre to get therapy and assistive devices.

Now **Nagina** is able to walk with assistive devices and plans to return to school in the coming academic year.

Fatima Bi wants to appear for matriculation exams as a private entrant at the age of 23. She was forced to

discontinue her studies a few years ago. **Fatima** has polio. As a child it was easy for her parents to carry her to school; but as she grew older it became more and more difficult.



On one occasion **Fatima** attended a "World Disabled Day" programme. This was organised by the members of a local **Self Help Group**, Jyothi Sangha. Many participants there were wearing assistive devices. They encouraged **Fatima** to join the Group. **Fatima** started attending meetings and expressed her desire to complete her studies. In June she will write her matriculation exams. This time she will not have to be carried into the exam hall; with the aid of calipers she will walk in all by herself.

Abdullah is a member of **Self Help Group**, Makkala Arogya. He regularly attends meetings and takes an active role in maintaining accounts. In just one year he has helped new members know about their rights as people with disabilities and various schemes the govt. has made available. **Abdullah** was forced to quit his active and productive lifestyle because of an amputation of his left leg. He was working as a manager

☞ Turn overleaf

Sponsor

Physical /Medical Rehabilitation

- Wheelchair Rs. 5,500/- Artificial limbs (protheses) 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.....

(DD/Cheques to be made in the name of Mobility India)

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

of a grocery store. Sitting at home, **Abdullah** started to worry about supporting his wife and family of 5 children. **Abdullah** says, "Joining the Group made me aware of what I could do. It gave me an opportunity to start life afresh." **Abdullah** has found avenues to be up on his feet; an artificial limb and a pair of crutches and an opportunity to earn a livelihood.

Availing a loan, **Abdullah** set up a small grocery store (a trade he knew best) along with 2 of his friends.



The link that brings **Nagina, Fatima & Abdullah** together is the Self Help Group. These groups were initiated as part of the Community Based Rehabilitation programme of Mobility India in few slums of Bangalore. The strategy is to have a Rehabilitation programme through the combined efforts of disabled people themselves, their families and communities and appropriate health, education, vocational and social services.

The activities of the programme address the following needs-

- Medical – Treatment and Cure
- Livelihood – Enhancing the economic status of disabled people and their families
- Social – Organizing disabled people and their families

Currently there are 18 such groups with 297 members. The members are made aware of the different referral centres for accessing rehabilitation services or medical services. The group members are also taken to visit to different Government departments, hospitals and other resource agencies for accessing different services and meeting concerned authorities to redress their grievances.

The outcome of which is in most of the instances the group members have taken the initiatives and go independently to referral centres, accessing Government schemes and the role of Mobility India has been to encourage this practice and ensure that the groups are able to manage most of the activities of the project.

Thus, Mobility India facilitates the Self Help Groups to address basic rights- Right to Education and Livelihood.

Past & Forthcoming Events

- Workshop on Exchange of Information on Rehabilitation Technology & Disability Rights organised by Centre for International Rehabilitation Chicago and Mobility India on 25th, 26th and 27th April 2005.
- 6 weeks Community Based Rehabilitation Workers Training - 11th April, 2005 to 21st May, 2005 (7th Batch)
- One Year Training in 1) Orthotic, 2) Prosthetics 3) Rehabilitation Therapy - 7th July 2005(4th Batch)

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Respecting people's abilities

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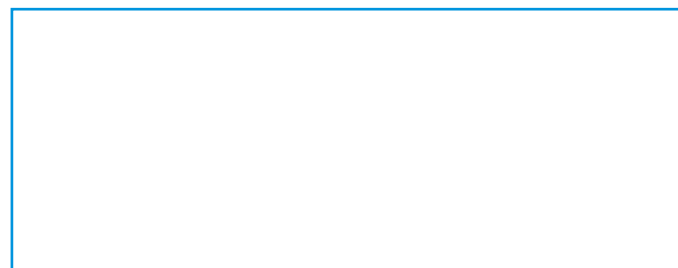
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"Mobility India's vision is "An inclusive society where people with disabilities have equal rights and a good quality of life"