

MOBILITY

THE NEWSLETTER OF MOBILITY INDIA

Issue 10

June 2003

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Dr. Umashankar

MI changes President of the Board

Sundar Egbert has been Mobility India's President from its inception in 1994 and has been instrumental in the development of MI for the past 9 years. Unfortunately due to health reasons he had now relinquished his position to Dr Umashankar. We would like to thank Sundar for his tireless efforts over the years and also to thank Dr Umashankar for accepting the new post of President of the board. Dr Umashankar has previously been a member of the MI Board and has supported Mobility India in numerous ways for many years.



Sundar Egbert

Kolkata Kids Day Out

On the 12th of March we organized a Metro Joy ride through our Kolkata centre for 40 children with disabilities. Out of them five were from our CBR programme at Garden Reach and the rest were from a special school called MENTAID. The programme was a success as it created awareness among the general masses about the difficulties faced by these children or by any person with disabilities in accessing such a highly acclaimed public transport. Furthermore it was a unique opportunity for these children because it was the first time they had been to the Metro and it was evident from their smiling faces that they had enjoyed the ride as much as we had enjoyed organizing it. Thanks to Bakers World for sponsoring the snacks.



PFKAFO - Patent Pending!

MI's new product the Pre Fabricated Knee Ankle and Foot Orthosis (PFKAFO) is now on the way to being patented, MI has been issued the Patent Pending number.

We have now introduced this technology to national institutes through a series of workshops (some of MI's partners also attended), the participants have returned to their organisations with samples for further use.

MI has now gained an export import license for its products. Exporting the PFKAFO could mean that low income countries will have access to an orthotic device that is low cost and appropriate to their needs. Indeed the orthotic PFKAFO could become the sister of the prosthetic Jaipur Foot and following in its foot steps go onto serve the needs of low income countries all over the world



The PFKAFO in use

Auto Co-operative:



Mobility India has now provided six new Auto Rickshaws to six Self Help Groups (SHG) of people with disabilities and their families operating in the Banashankari slums. The SHG's were established as part of MI's Community Based Rehabilitation programme. When an Auto is provided to a group they will rent it out to drivers within the local community and monitor the use, the income generated is then used by the SHG. This activity includes subsidising school fees and medication for children with disability and also to help SHG families become more financially independent. The Autos also provide a means of transporting the children with disability to and from school. This type of economic regeneration is important for the SHG as it gives them a sustainable income which is readily available to all members for their needs. It is hoped that the income generation will be the start of a co-operative that will be able to purchase more Autos to further strengthen the SHG's financial position.

Staff File : CBR Officer

Name: Arun

Job: Community Based Rehabilitation Programme Officer

This job involves?

"Basically I look after the CBR programmes which includes planning and monitoring the programmes, preparing and allocating budgets and support to other CBR staff and volunteers.



Arun at the Summer Camp

Most rewarding part of Job?

"Setting up income generating activities because this helps PWD move toward a more independent life, which over time we can see change for the better. Also the rapport we now have with the local people, because they are now approaching us for help, where before we were having to convince them that we could help."

Recent activity?

"I have been running the children's summer camp. The summer camp is for children to learn new skills such as music, dancing, sports etc. Normally there is little opportunity for the slum children

especially those with disabilities to access this kind of activity. This year we had over a hundred children participate over the 10 days of the summer camp, some of them with disability. It went well but we need more specialists for the future to teach subjects like painting, local dancing, general assistants and street theatre. If any one reading this is interested in helping next year they can

contact Mobility India.

"What in your opinion do you think is the biggest single barrier to low income disabled people?"

What happens in the slums is that PWD have less opportunity because they have overprotective parents who shelter the children from daily life. As a result they learn few life skills so that when they grow up they have difficulty getting a good job and can not contribute to the daily activity of the family. Also when they do get a job they often get paid less than an able bodied person."

Business Plan

The current years business plan is now operational and MI would like to extend its thanks to Derek Hooper from Equality Works UK. Derek has been instrumental in this process and has worked with Mobility India for the past 3 years. This years key themes for Mobility India are:

- To continue to promote the social and medical model in all our work with more focus on poverty alleviation, women with disabilities in an inclusive society
- To develop a programme covering whole district as a model of inclusive society.
- To develop assistive devices which are affordable, user friendly and easy to fit, and to take the technologies beyond India
- We will develop MI as a social enterprising organisation to be self reliant and give more benefits to the poor

MI support for Government of Karnataka's Training Programme

The State Government of Karnataka - Administrative Training Institute recently requested Mobility India to design and deliver Disability Awareness Training to its civil servants. Mahesh and Ritu spent a day in early June drafting a pilot training programme for the grade I/II officials. The subsequent 3 day training programme was delivered in Mysore by MI staff. The programme was a huge success and the participants said they had learnt a great deal from the course. The course was designed to increase awareness on the rights and needs of people with disabilities. Further training with the local government was carried out by Mahesh when he delivered 3 sessions at a recent training programme "How to enhance the quality of services for people with disability" organised by the Directorate of Disability and Welfare - Government of Karnataka in which over 100 NGOs from Mysore and Bangalore district participated.

A call to engrave your name as our supporter...

Support us to support the people in need, support us to make millions smile,
support us with your heart, deed and money,

YES, I support MOBILITY INDIA and it's activities.

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

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

Mobility India Training Update...

LONG TERM COURSES

1 year training programme on Rehabilitation Therapy (3rd Batch)	5th July 2004
1 year training programme on Orthotics (3rd Batch)	5th July 2004
1 year training programme on Prosthetics (3rd Batch)	5th July 2004

SHORT TERM COURSES

6 weeks CBR workers training programme (4th Batch)	29th September to 8th November 2003
10 days orientation programme for CBR Managers (3rd Batch)	10th November to 19th November 2003
1 week refresher course for 6 weeks CBR Training (3rd Batch)	3rd November to 8th November 2003

WORKSHOP

Workshop on developmental aids	10th and 11th October 2003
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We encourage person with disability especially women to apply for our training programmes.

Interview with RAJSHEKHAR, Vice President, Finance & H.R. of Mistral

Views on Corporate Social Responsibility?

These days everybody is very busy with their work. The same is happening with the Corporate. They have the inclination but are not able to set aside the time for involving themselves in social work. It is the responsibility of every citizen to get involved. We just criticize and move on whenever we come across something wrong but never take care to work towards a change. We have to earmark time for it. For example the endeavors of a group like BATF (an NGO working to clean up Bangalore, which has members the Corporate world) have been very good. The impact they have been able to make at various levels are amazing. They have been able to influence some Govt. decisions. We have to work towards making a positive change.

MISTRAL and Corporate Social Responsibility?

WE started MISTRAL in 1997. In the past few years we have assisted Bangalore Traffic Police and in the maintenance of a few parks. We have also supported the work of Mobility India's

Rehabilitation, Research and Training Centre by helping them get equipment for the dormitory.

MISTRAL and MI?

We were very happy to note that there is an organization like MI working for the physically challenged and the weaker sections of society. Besides MI's focus on rehabilitation is interesting. It is also promoting accessibility and doing a lot to influence access features in all public buildings.



Rajshekhar

Future?

In the future we would like to support work in the rural areas especially the education of the rural youth. We would be happy to support the work of MI in the future too.

Our special thanks to all our supporters

HANDICAP
INTERNATIONAL



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Katholische Zentralstelle
für Entwicklungshilfe e.V.

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Every money making a difference

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FINANCIAL SERVICES

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We are also extremely thankful to 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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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 - 24013914, 24012190. Email : mic@vsnl.com

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