

MOBILITY INDIA

NEWSLETTER - Issue - Jan-March. 2009

News & Event

Mobility India was recognized for its contribution to the disability sector with the India NGO award, 2008.

Instituted by the Nand & Jeet Khemka Foundation, in collaboration with the Resource Alliance, Mobility India was recognized in the category for Medium NGO's.

The Awards seek to promote good standards and practices in resource mobilization, accountability and transparency and recognize and celebrate excellence in the non-profit sector. The aim is also to create examples and inspiration for other non-profits and promote cross-regional learning and to thus promote the overall credibility of the non-profit sector for long-term sustainability.

The award selection process evaluated the impact of the services Mobility India provides to people with disabilities.

Best NGO Award For Mobility India



Albina Shankar, Director receiving the award from Ms. Neelam Makhijani, Deputy CEO, The Resource Alliance



2nd Anniversary programme at Chamrajnagar

2nd Anniversary Celebration -Chamrajnagar

Mobility India's Education & Livelihood Opportunities Programme is conducted in Chamrajnagar District of Karnataka in 2 hoblies (76 villages).

Using a holistic approach, the programme simultaneously tackles 3 inter-connected elements

- ♦ Inclusive Education
- ♦ Livelihood Opportunities
- ♦ Rehabilitation Services

The Programme has completed 2 years. To mark the occasion celebrations were held on 23rd January 2009. Since its inception in 2007, the programme has identified over 1500 children and adults with disabilities. To support their rehabilitation a mini orthopaedic workshop was inaugurated on the day. More than 800 people with disabilities and their families were present for the programme.

The programme was graced by Mrs. Radha, Deputy Director, Women and Child Welfare Department and Mr. Manoj Kumar Meena, District Commissioner of Chamrajnagar. Other dignitaries present were Mr. Simon Godziek, Project Coordinator, Disability and Development Partners, London, Mr. Jayaram, Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Panchayath, Mr. Giridhar Karkala, Manager, Lead Bank, Mrs. Sathyavathi Shamsuddin, Vice president, Mobility India and Mrs. Albina Shankar, Director, Mobility India.

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



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Story Feature

Leelavathi & Parvathi have chosen to train as rehabilitation personnel. The circumstances that led them to make this career choice are distinctly similar.

Having polio as a child Leelavathi walked with a hand to knee gait. Growing up in a small village in Haveri District, Karnataka in a family of limited means, Leelavathi managed to complete her pre- university education.

Thereafter, Leelavathi joined the Karnataka Rajya Angavikalara Okuta, a state level Disabled People's Organization(DPO). Taking an active role, she was responsible for strengthening local Self Help Groups in her area and ensuring the members of the group had access to all the government facilities and schemes available for people with disabilities.



Leelavathi after surgery, during a practical session producing developmental aids



Leelavathi wearing a caliper and learning to walk

The DPO proved to be a platform for Leelavathi to meet staff of Mobility India, who gave her an orientation of both physical rehabilitation and the training courses available at Mobility India. Initially hesitant, Leelavathi made the decision to move to Bangalore and to enroll for Rehabilitation Therapy Assistant (RTA) course.

Leelavathi started her training course in July 2008. Alongside she was assessed for physical rehabilitation. She was referred for a surgical intervention followed by regular therapy sessions and fitting of orthoses for the affected limb. Gone is the hand to knee gait, as Leelavathi is able to walk upright now.

“Getting the right kind of intervention has made me walk better. My family had never expected this turn around. They are extremely happy. Having personally experienced the benefits of physical rehabilitation, I would like to share this with other women with disability who hesitate to come forward” says Leelavathi.

On completing her RTA course in June 2009, Leelavathi will be a skilled rehabilitation para-professional health care personnel. She will be able to provide rehabilitation therapy under the guidance of a Senior Therapist.

Enrolling for the same course in July 2009 is Parvathy who had polio as a child. Parvathy's family migrated to Bangalore from their rural base in Kankapura (Karnataka) in search of better job opportunities. She recently completed her pre- university studies.

Regional Resource Centre

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Parvathy at Mobility India prior to her entrance test for the training course

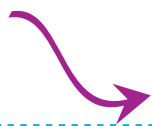
On moving to Bangalore, Parvathy's family found a small house in Kaverinagar (Banashankari slum, Bangalore). Mobility India has been working in this slum area since 1999 with focus on health, education, livelihood, empowerment & social inclusion of people with disabilities.

Parvathy has been assessed for physical rehabilitation and she now wears orthosis for mobility. "After wearing this caliper (orthosis), I find walking easier. I am eager to start the training course at Mobility India as I can work to support myself and my family and also help other people with disabilities" says Parvathy

Mobility India has adopted a multi-pronged approach to bring a change in the quality of life of people with disabilities. Through the experiences of Leelavathi & Parvathy one sees 3 inter-connected activities of Rehabilitation, Training of Rehabilitation personnel and Community Based Rehabilitation jointly making a difference in their lives.

Mobility India conducts these activities with the support of many organizations and donations from philanthropic individuals inclined towards disability issues.

Do contribute to Mobility India's activities. You may do so by using the tear-off slip attached below



Our Social Commitment needs your support... Please sponsor

Physical/Medical Rehab

- Wheelchair Rs. 7,000/-
- Artificial limbs (prostheses) Rs. 3,500/- onwards
- Calipers(orthoses) Rs 3,500/-
- Therapy for a month per person Rs. 1000/-

Education

- Primary education fee for one child Rs. 2,000/-
- Training fee for Therapy course Rs. 60,000/-
- Study materials for Therapy Course Rs. 5,000/-
- Computer Training for child in slum programme Rs.600/-

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

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

All donations are eligible for tax exemption under section 80G

Forthcoming Training Programmes

Wheel Chair Prescription Course

8th June 2009 -20th June 2009

Wheelchair Assembly Course

8th June 2009 -20th June 2009

Prosthetics & Orthotics (CAT II Level)

6th July 2009- 6th July 2012

Lower Limb Orthotics (CAT II Single Discipline)

6th July 2009 -5th Jan 2011

Lower Limb Prosthetics (CAT II Single Discipline)

6th July 2009 -5th Jan 2011

Rehabilitation Therapy Assistant

6th July 2009-11th June 2010



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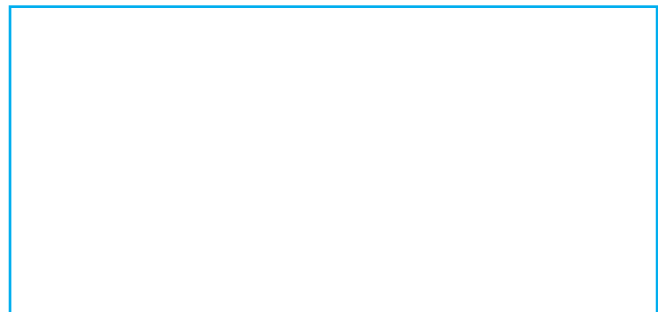
Romola Joseph,
Member,
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