

SAMIKSHA

By LEpra Society

Prasant's Message



Let me start by congratulating all colleagues, partners and our MC & GB members for finally receiving our FCRA approval. It's a major relief for Lepra Society and will help us in focusing on programme implementation and raising long term resources. Attended the quarterly ILEP meeting at Delhi along with representatives from WHO and Central Leprosy Division. An extra-ordinary general body meeting was convened by Chairman to approve the audited accounts for the year 2022-23. Shodhana Laboratories from Hyderabad

Supported distribution of 600 pairs of MCR footwear in TS. A joint programme was organized for footwear distribution in Shantinagar colony, Hyderabad with the participation of SLO, DLO and other local representatives. Lepra Society and Sasakawa Foundation distributed 500 pairs of MCR footwear in Varanasi. Going forward Lepra Society will like to strengthen the collaboration with Sasakawa Foundation. I will like to take the opportunity to congratulate our UK Trustee Nayan Patel for receiving the Global Gandhi Award at the International Conclave 2023 held at the UK House of Parliament.

IMPACT STORY



Mr. Sunkari Dharmarao, a 48-year-old tailor residing in Bogguladabha, Vizianagaram district, who was diagnosed with leprosy eight months ago. Mr. Dharmarao is the son of Mr. Satyam and is a father to one son and one daughter. His life took an unexpected turn when he faced the challenges posed by leprosy, impacting his health, social life, finances, and mental well-being. Despite these obstacles, his journey toward recovery and resilience serves as an inspiring example of overcoming adversity.

Problems Faced:

Mr. Sunkari Dharmarao encountered a myriad of challenges following his diagnosis of leprosy.

Health issues loomed large as he grappled with the disease, leading to the premature onset of footdrop. His condition worsened with a Type I reaction during his treatment, affecting his overall well-being. Yet, the challenges extended beyond the physical realm. The diagnosis carried a heavy burden of social stigma, inducing self-shame and isolation, particularly due to visible symptoms like footdrop. This self-stigma impeded his ability to engage in regular social activities and fulfill his usual responsibilities. Moreover, leprosy inflicted an economic setback as he lost two months' worth of income due to his condition, exacerbating financial strain. His psychological distress deepened as he chose to conceal his medical status from his family, compounding the emotional toll of his predicament.

Lepra's Intervention:

Mr. Dharmarao sought assistance at our Resource Centre (RC) when he began experiencing anesthesia in his feet. At the RC, his foot measurements were taken, and he was provided with MCR footwear. He received education on self-care practices and was encouraged to visit the referral centre for follow-up services.

Subsequently, a physiotherapist conducted an assessment and noted changes in his gait pattern while walking, indicating the onset of early footdrop in his right foot. Accordingly, a physiotherapy treatment plan was initiated. This treatment included muscle stimulation for the right foot, towel exercises, stretching routines, and home exercises, all of which were thoroughly explained and demonstrated to the patient.

Changes After Lepra Intervention:

Through consistent follow-ups and physiotherapy sessions, Mr. Dharmarao's walking pattern gradually returned to a normal state. He expressed deep gratitude for Lepra's intervention and is now contentedly back at work, leading a happy life with his family members.

STATE WISE UPDATES

ANDHRA PRADESH

- Fifty bed nets were allocated and distributed within the Guravaiah colony slum areas in Tenali, with active participation from both the AMO (Assistant Medical Officer) and the Filariasis unit staff.
- EVA footwear was distributed to individuals afflicted with LF (Lymphatic Filariasis) in the Tenali AMO (Assistant Medical Officer) Office, with active participation from the AMO and other staff members from the Filariasis unit during the program.
- A Rapid Enquiry Survey was conducted within the urban area of Machilipatnam with the aim of identifying early and concealed cases while simultaneously fostering community awareness.
- An ASHA orientation program was executed at Marpalli PHC in Vizianagaram District, with a total of 72 participants, including 56 ASHAs, 16 general health staff members, and NLEP (National Leprosy Eradication Program) personnel.



BIHAR REGION

- On September 20, high-burden districts Samastipur and Lakhisarai in Bihar initiated the MDA campaign, known as IDA regimen, to combat Lymphatic Filariasis, mobilizing community participation and students from the Engineering College. Bihar is exceeding global targets to prevent disability and economic hardship caused by this mosquito-borne disease.
- A District Coordination Committee meeting, led by the District Magistrate, Samastipur Collectorate, involved multiple departments and partners to enhance MDA uptake and Dengue prevention.
- Twin strategies, Mass Drug Administration (MDA) to stop transmission and Morbidity Management and Disability Prevention (MMDP), are embraced for LF elimination. At Dr. Rajendra Prasad Central Agriculture University, Pusa Samastipur, students, faculty, and staff attended a session led by LEpra, WHO Zonal Coordinator, and Vector-Borne Disease Control Officer (VBDCO). They discussed the 3-drug regimen and a comprehensive five-pronged approach for LF eradication.

CHHATTISGARH

A training session on ulcer care was conducted at the Nangur Primary Health Center (PHC) in Jagdalpur, located in the Bastar district of Chhattisgarh state. Ten ulcer beneficiaries, along with ASHA (Accredited Social Health Activist) workers, participated in the training. The session included a demonstration of self-care techniques, and dressing kits were distributed to facilitate proper wound management.



MADHYA PRADESH

- SSG meetings involve consistent interactions with the block coordinator to enhance a supportive network, foster collaboration, and share knowledge among SSGs. This collective effort enhances health and well-being in Rajnagar, Lavkushnagar, and Gaurihar blocks. Additionally, SSG members consult with a doctor for ulcer care during these meetings.
- In collaboration with the local NMA, a leprosy and LF awareness session was organized at Rajnagar Block School. Over 25 students participated, receiving information and self-care guidance from Mr. Arjun Chaudhary, the block coordinator.



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Overall, in the month of September a total of 1257 Nerve Function Assessments were done

ODISHA

- Dr. Acharya visited MMDP Kanas to provide medical care for individuals experiencing acute LF attacks. During the visit, he engaged in a discussion with the medical officer at Kanas CHC regarding the management of these acute episodes.
- Leprosy Society partnered with the Health Department to conduct an awareness initiative in Naibhua village, situated within the Puri Sadar block. The program's primary objective was to enlighten the community about the social stigma surrounding individuals affected by leprosy.
- 2 MMDP Clinic & Self-care camps were arranged in Nabarangpur & Koraput Districts, benefiting 42 individuals with disabilities due to cured leprosy. Attendees received essential provisions such as footwear, ulcer kits, and adaptive and protective devices.
- Mayurlep Community Health Project Shoe Unit was officially inaugurated at the Leprosy Office Premises in Rairangpur. The event was honored by the attendance of ADPHEO (NLEP) and ADPHEO (NVBDCP)



TELANGANA & MAHARASHTRA

- Leprosy Awareness and Screening Program was conducted for Chinthaguda Govt. High School Students, Kumrumbheem District.
- Kagaznagar RC Staff verified 117 individuals initially suspected during LCDC, revealing 13 cases of leprosy.
- In Nirmal district, RC staff validated 22 suspects during LCDC, detecting 3 cases of leprosy.



MEET OUR STAFF

Employee Spotlight: Dandu Babu Rao - 26 Years of Dedication at LEPRAs

Today, we have the privilege of interviewing Mr. Dandu Babu Rao, who has dedicated an impressive 26 years of his career to LEPRAs.

How long have you been associated with LEPRAs?

I have been associated with LEPRAs for 26 years.

Could you share a memorable moment or experience from your time at LEPRAs?

Of course, here are a few memorable moments:

- Promotion to Physio-technician: I was honored by Mr. Jimmy, CEO of Leprosy UK, during his visit to NLRC when I was promoted from a counsellor to a physio-technician.
- Attending the International Leprosy Congress (ILC).
- Participating in the LEPRAs Strategic Planning workshop.

What, in your opinion, makes LEPRAs a unique organization?

LEPRAs stands out for several reasons:

- It houses a research center, setting it apart from many other organizations.
- LEPRAs boasts skilled staff and robust HR and finance systems, contributing to its uniqueness.

Over your 26 years with LEPRAs, what changes have you observed in the field of leprosy? And what do you appreciate the most about working with LEPRAs?

When I first joined LEPRAs, its primary focus was on leprosy programs. However, over the years, I've witnessed the organization's remarkable evolution. LEPRAs has expanded its health services to include not only leprosy but also eye care, RNTCP, HIV/AIDS, LF, and research, while actively supporting national health programs. This adaptability and commitment to broadening its impact are what I appreciate the most about working with LEPRAs.

Farewell to our staff: Ms. Vinitha

As I say my goodbyes to this wonderful community, I want to express my deep gratitude for the support and camaraderie I've enjoyed during my time here. Working alongside such dedicated individuals has been an honor. In parting, I'd like to highlight the incredible work of the Leprosy Society, tirelessly combating leprosy and aiding those affected. I urge you to support their noble cause and envision a world free from leprosy's stigma. Thank you for the cherished memories and connections. Our paths may cross again in the future.



Facilitated by Programmes team

Thank you to LEPRAs Society team for your unending support

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