Provision of Assistive Devices

The program of providing assistive devices by Shri Siddaramaiah, Chief Minister, Karnataka was conducted on 14th Jan, 2017. The event was organized by Department of Health and Family Welfare and Department for Empowerment of Differently Abled and Senior Citizens at Banquet Hall, Vidhana Soudha. The program focused on enabling access to appropriate assistive devices for people and children with disabilities.

52 staff and students of MI participated in the program. A Twin Device and a Prostheses was provided to MI service users, according to their individual need.

The other dignitaries present on the day were Smt Umashree, Minister of Women and Child Development, Empowerment of Differently Abled and Senior Citizens, Shri K. R. Ramesh Kumar, Minister of Health and Family Welfare Department, Shri H.K.Patil, Minister of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Development, Shri R.Roshan Baig Minister of Urban Development, Haj and Information, Shri Ramalinga Reddy, Minister of Transport Department, Dr. Sharanaprakash Rudrappa Patil, Minister Medical Education from Health and Family Welfare Department, Smt. G. Padmavathi, Mayor, BBMP and Shri Govindraj, Director of Differently Abled and Senior Citizens.
55th Annual Conference of Indian Association of Physiotherapy (IAP)

Ms Ritu Ghosh, Deputy Director-Training, Mr Sama Raju, Manager-Therapy Services & Partner Support and Mr Sudhakar G, Physiotherapist from MI participated in the 55th Annual Conference of IAP, organised at Ranchi.

The paper presentations from MI included 'Assistive Technology for All including older people – WHO initiative of opening GATE', 'WHO - WHEELCHAIR SERVICE TRAINING PACKAGES (WSTP) in low and middle income Asian pacific countries' and 'Development Of A Low Cost Innovative Twin Device For Sitting And Standing, From Ideation To Impact For Children With Developmental Disorders'. Mr Sama Raju was presented with the most prestigious award ‘Significant Contribution Award-2017’ at the conference in recognition of his dedicated service.

Manjula: Defeating Childhood Deafness

Most of us take speech and hearing for granted, but hardly envisage how it feels being unable to uttered a word or to understand what the people around you speak. Let us hear Manjula’s story of a silent childhood and an adulthood full of verbosity.

Manjula was born with speech & hearing impairment. Her parents were not well equipped to deal with her special needs, which left her with a challenging childhood. Most of the time she preferred to be alone, not mingling with other kids as she was unable to communicate and interact with them. At the age of 4, she received a pair of hearing aids from MI, and that was a turning point in her life. She was able to hear for the very first time in her life.

Few months later she learned to speak through speech therapy. Life went on and she never looked back. She is currently studying in 8th Standard at JSS Sahana speech & hearing children’s school. She excels in her academics despite of her functional challenges. Apart from academics, she participates in recreational activities and is a Bharatnatyam dancer. The hearing aids has redefined her life and presented better opportunities for a promising future. Manjula wishes to study further as well as continue her interest in Bharatnatyam.
National Science Day Celebration

National Science Day is celebrated each year on 28th February to mark the Raman Effect discovered by eminent Indian Physicist Sir Chandrasekhara Venkata Raman. The theme for 2017 celebrations was ‘Science & Technology for Special Abled Persons’.

MI was invited by Karunya University, Coimbatore and B.M.S. College of Engineering, Bangalore to make a presentation on Assistive technology and how Science and technology can bring changes in the lives of people with disabilities.

Events:

- MI along with CBM organised 2nd Continuing Rehabilitation Education program at Kolkata on 21st December, 2016. 18 rehabilitation personnel belonging to 9 States (Assam, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Nagaland, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal of India and Nepal attended the workshop.

- MI successfully completed the 3rd Continuing Rehabilitation Education on Developmental Device & Service Provision on 17th March 2017 at Bangalore with 32 participants from different states (Karnataka, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu) & Countries (Kabul, Tanzania)

- An awareness program on disability and rehabilitation was organised at Deepalaya, Bidar, a partner organisation of MI

- MI along with Becker organised dynamic workshop on ‘Clinical Rationale of Lower Extremity Orthotic Prescriptions’ on 27th October, 2016
MI conducted 5 days course on “Wheelchair Service Training of Trainers Package – Intermediate module pilot training (WSTPtot- I)” from 13th - 17th February 2017 as per WHO guidelines.

Ms. Nirmala Danu, Occupational Therapist, MI presented a paper on WHO - Wheelchair Service Training Packages (WSTP) in low and middle income Asian pacific countries in 54th annual conference of AIOTA (OTICON 2017) at Jaipur on 18th February 2017.

MI successfully completed 2 days Workshop on WHO Guidelines on Wheelchair Service and Training Delivery in SVNIRTAR, (Under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment of India), Odisha with a total 146 participants.

People and children with disabilities mostly spend their time indoors, with less opportunity of interaction with the outside world. To make them inclusive and socially active, a day out was organised by MIK on 22nd October, 2016. 122 children with disabilities, family members and elderly had fun moments.
**Best Innovation Award**

The 5th International Conference and Workshops of Physical Therapy was organised by Physiotherapy Unit, Department of Anaesthesiology, Pain Medicine & Critical Care at All India Institute of Medical Science (AIIMS), New Delhi from 8th-12th December, 2016.

Physiotherapy being the inseparable part of holistic management of a range of disorders, the latest trends, advancements and upcoming research in it has been of utmost significance to enhance the health & well-being of people.

Mr Riyaz Hussain, Assistant Manager, Physiotherapy on behalf of MI received the ‘Best Innovation Award’ at the conference for the unique design of low cost, pre-fabricated Twin Device. Twin Device is the outcome of continued research in the field of positional devices to address the issues of children with Cerebral Palsy and associated disorders. This device has been designed to improve sitting and standing posture of children according to their developmental need.

**Participatory Rural Appraisal Training**

Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) is an approach used by NGOs and other agencies involved in international development, to incorporate the knowledge and opinion of rural people in the planning and management of development projects and programs. It is an effective method of involving the stakeholders in the decision making process.

A training program on PRA was conducted at MINE, Guwahati office during 23rd-24th March, 2017. 12 participants from Dimoria Block and Guwahati attended the training program. The participants gained knowledge on topics of discussion such as concept of disability, community based rehabilitation, and community based inclusive development, PRA, tools for PRA, role of PRA team as well as social and resource mapping. Various approaches of disability-medical, charity, social and human rights were discussed during the sessions. The role of common people, government and non-governmental organisations in creating an accessible and barrier free environment and society was also discussed.

Few recommendations from the participants included an extensive training programs, Assamese as a mode for training as well as to include mock exercises relevant to the training programs.
NORTHERN TRUST sponsors assistive devices for 117 people with disabilities from community projects and partner organizations of MI.

MITSUBISHI HITACHI POWER SYSTEMS sponsors assistive devices for 40 people and children with disabilities.

DIGICAPTIONS extends second time support in sponsoring assistive devices for 19 service users.
Improved Mobility for Athaullah

47 years old Mohammed Athaullah resides near Wilson Garden, Bangalore with his wife and two daughters. He works in a shop to make the living and provide for his domestic needs. His wife is a homemaker and occasionally does tailoring to support her husband. They are determined to get the best of education and other facilities for their daughters, towards which they work day and night.

Athaullah has congenital deformity in both of his feet, which makes it difficult for him to walk longer distances and move around. He used to drag himself to walk and manage his daily and work needs. For transport purpose he uses a sponsored modified vehicle.

A few months ago he was identified by CBR facilitators of MI and after assessment provided with a wheelchair. He says "The wheelchair made my life much easier, I can move around, go outside and enjoy doing things which looked impossible previously".

With renewed confidence, he took part in the ‘Cricket Match for people with disabilities’ organised in Bangalore. He stated “The wheelchair presented me this opportunity to participate and I enjoyed the program quite well. It was nice to play cricket for the first time, and in the wheelchair. The officials were very cooperative and the play area was quite accessible for people with disabilities".

Donate

- Developmental Aid per unit........................................................................Rs.1,600-5,500
- Assistive Devices (Calipers, artificial limbs, crutches, walkers)............................. Rs.2,500-15000
- Wheelchairs...........................................................................................Rs.15,000-20,000
- Nutritious food .....................................................................................Rs.1,000-2,000
- Therapy Services per session.......................................................................Rs.350
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