

Vision: *An inclusive and empowered community where people with disabilities, their families and other disadvantaged groups have equal rights to education, health, livelihood and a good quality of life.*

Mobility India in Jigani, Anekal Taluk



Mobility India (MI) community programme in Attibele Hobli, came to a successful conclusion in December 2012, leaving behind a structure for its sustainability. This project was supported by CBM & AUSAID which continue to support the project in Jigani.

From January 1, 2013, MI started its work in Jigani, Anekal Taluk, South Bangalore, 43 kilometers from Bangalore city. Jigani has eight panchayats covering 110 villages with a population of 58,000.

The project focuses on strengthening the capacity of people with disabilities, their families and other disadvantaged groups, and facilitating their inclusion and participation in all developmental programs such as access to education, health, livelihood and social security benefits.

Part of Jigani belongs to the green belt area in which the Bannerghatta National park is situated. The three panchayats (Bannerghatta, Ragi Halli & Kalballu) belong to a predominantly forest area. Tribal community lives

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in 15 villages where 80% of the people lead their lives by hunting and the remaining 20% go for labour work.

The project office was inaugurated by Ms Albina Shankar, Director, Mobility India. Other dignitaries present included the President of Jigani Panchayat, Board Members of Janapriya Angavikalara Sangha, Secretary of Ambedkar Sangha and Inclusive Education Resource Teacher of Jigani Block



A "long short walk" for pedestrian safety



The United Nations has launched the 'Decade of Action for Road Safety (2011-2020)' to create public awareness on pedestrian safety and emphasize the need to develop adequate infrastructure for the purpose. This comes in

the context where pedestrians are victims of most of road traffic accidents. As per the UN statistics, every year 2,70,000 pedestrians are dying in road accidents. This shows the gravity of the issues faced by the pedestrians on the road and the deficiency in the infrastructure facilities provided. The UN launched a campaign called "The Long Short Walk" in the memory of Zenani Mandela, great granddaughter of Nelson Mandela, who died in a road accident in June 2010. This year's theme being "**Pedestrian Safety**", the UN had organized a week-long campaign (6-12 May, 2013) and also made a call for organizing relevant programs across the world.



On May 9, 2013, "The Long Short Walk" campaign was jointly organized in Bangalore by a group of NGOs championing the cause of children. The group included APD, APSA, CRT, ESAF, Sparsha, Mobility India, and many others. The walkathon was flagged off by Dr R Padmini, Founder and Executive Trustee of Child Rights Trust (CRT). The rally was conducted from K R Circle to Kittur Rani Chennamma Circle. Among the fifty participants were nine children with disabilities from Mobility India. Their participation was an eye-opener for many, as laying broad and tiled

footpaths in the heart of the city alone does not guarantee accessibility and safety. The children were received by Mr M A Saleem, Additional Commissioner of Police, Traffic, and Mr Umesh Aradhy, Chairperson, Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (KSCPCR). The children submitted their recommendations on road safety to both the officials. They appealed to them to take adequate measures to protect their rights as road-users and make Bangalore city child and pedestrian friendly.

Runners turn up with smiles on their faces for

TCS World 10k-Marathon-Bangalore



On Sunday, the 19th of May, Bangalore hosted one of the biggest world-class marathons. There were enthusiasts, international athletes, celebrities, foreign participants, senior citizens, and wheelchair participants. All poured into the streets of Bangalore to run. They ran for a cause, for fun, to set or break records, to achieve something or just to prove that they can do it. They all showed the spirit of good sportsmanship.

Mobility India was one among 100 non-governmental organizations that participated in the TCS world 10K. Accenture came forward to be the corporate care supporter for Mobility India. It had a team of 70 enthusiastic people who ran at the event carrying banners and posters spreading messages to create an inclusive and empowered community where people with disabilities, their families and other disadvantaged groups have equal rights to education, health, livelihood and a good quality of life.

The **“Champions with Disability event”** showed that disability was no bar when it came to participation. Six wheelchair participants took part from Mobility India. MI thanks all the participants of the World 10K who made this event successful.



Summer camps in Bangalore Rural & Urban projects



How does one change perceptions of people? Here is a small effort made by MI’s CBR Rural Project in Chamarajnagar.....

With a view to engaging children to bust myths and superstitions, this year’s summer camp theme was **“Belakinadege Namma Hejje”** (steps towards the light) was held at J. H. Patel Auditorium, Chamrajanagar.

Believers of miracles are found more in the rural areas and many people take advantage of their innocence and use tricks as a tool for money-making.

Children learnt tricks such as walking on the glass pieces, lighting lamp with water and dipping the hands in boiling oil as well as the scientific meaning behind each trick. Mr.Hulikal Natraj (very famous for breaking blind beliefs) was the resource person who taught the children. The project team also used the platform as an opportunity for creating awareness on the importance of sanitation and use of toilets.



Studies have shown the benefits of including art-based learning to improve critical thinking and problem-solving skills. The summer camp at MI CBR programme in urban slums envisaged doing just that - to create a child-friendly learning atmosphere where children had the opportunity to be creative. 89 children (37 disabled and 52 non-disabled) participated. The children enjoyed learning and exhibiting their skills in drawing, singing, dancing and craft. They played inclusive games like, musical chair and passing the ball. This camp gave children an

opportunity to know each other and strengthen their relationship. It was also an opportunity for non-disabled children to develop-positive attitude towards children with disabilities.



World Health Organization Wheelchair Service Training Package

Managers' Module & Basic Level



Wheelchair is one of the most common assistive devices. The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) highlights the responsibility of states to ensure personal mobility and to Promote the availability of and access to such devices.

It is estimated that 70 million people require wheelchairs worldwide, yet only 5-15% of people have access.

In order to strengthen wheelchair service provision and improve wheelchair delivery systems, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) have completed a

comprehensive Wheelchair Service Training Package. This training package is designed to increase the capacity of different levels of personnel working in wheelchair service delivery

Wheelchair Service Training Package: Managers' module:31 May-1 June 2013

In all 17 health and rehabilitation professionals attended the training. The participants represented government, ministries, national institutes, district rehabilitation centres and non-government organizations.

The manager's module provided an overview of the rehabilitation/wheelchair service manager's role in leading the implementation of the eight steps of wheelchair service delivery and issues related to it. This also included the human and physical resources required to provide a

wheelchair service, including planning, service costing, funding, monitoring and evaluation.



1st South East Regional Workshop on the WHO Wheelchair Service Training Package: Basic Level: 3-7 June 2013

The World Health Organisation (WHO) South East Regional Office and Headquarters have collaborated with Mobility India in organizing the first pilot workshop on the WHO wheelchair Service Training Package: Basic Level in the South-East Eastern Region.

Twenty-Five health and rehabilitation professionals from 8 countries attended five day workshop. The countries represented were -Bangladesh, Bhutan, India (Andhra Pradesh,

Assam Delhi, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu), Indonesia, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand. The participants represented from government ministries, national institutes, district rehabilitation centres and non-government organizations. Among the participants, one had personal experience of using wheelchair.

The objective of the training designed for people already having an exposure to wheelchair provision, was to familiarize the participants with the 8 steps that wheelchair service personnel need to take while providing wheelchair service following WHO Wheelchair service training package. The workshop sought to upgrade the clinical competency of participants and capacitate them to provide and share their knowledge to strengthen wheelchair service delivery in their respective organizations and countries.

Mr. K. V. Rajanna, Commissioner for persons with Disabilities, Government of Karnataka, was the Chief Guest and Mr. Chapal Khasnabis, Technical Officer, WHO, graced the occasion along with Mobility India Board Members, Ms. Romola Joseph - President, Ms. Sathyavathi Shamshuddin- Treasurer, Mr. Charles Prabhakar & Mr. Nagaraj -Members.



Towards Inclusion:

Sangeetha seems thrilled when her cousin **Vasantha** helps her into these trendy sunglasses! Though she is eight, she is mostly confined to a high chair because she has cerebral palsy (CP). This is an umbrella term for a number of disorders affecting brain and nervous system functions, such as seeing, hearing, thinking, learning and - most obviously to those who meet them - movement. CP is one of the most common disabilities in the district of Chamrajnagar, and the next two children you'll meet have one of the manifestations of this as well. Sangeetha's



mother **Nandini** never imagined that her daughter could ever go to school, but following encouragement from *Mobility India* and an Inclusive Education Resource Teacher (IERT) from the local government, she has started gaining exposure to the school setting. **Sakamma**, the home-based education tutor who's been working with Sangeetha, says that playing with the children there helps with her social development, and that it's crucial that she builds familiarisation with the surroundings because, over time, she intends that she'll start attending more regularly. So far, with the support of **Nandini** at home, **Sakamma** has been able to help Sangeetha improve her fine motor skills by playing with various teaching and learning materials. Sangeetha has also learned to recognise regular visitors to her home, and to say simple words like *amma* (mother). Over the lifetime of the project that's getting underway now, **Sakamma** says we can expect her to start walking and also to learn to write a little and turn those single words into full sentences. These things, which used to be beyond **Nandini's** wildest dreams, will hopefully mean that she'll be able to attend school every day



Rajashekar's parents were reluctant at first to let their son have the surgery that was suggested for him. The doctor warned them that operating on his neck bore the risk of brain damage, and they felt that agreeing to this could be like deciding to kill him with their own hands. After regular encouragement from *Mobility India*, they agreed at least to surgery to correct his knees, which were locked at a 45 degree angle. After this, RTA gave him regular in-home therapy, taught the family how his appliances should be fitted

and used and encouraged his family to support him while he learned to walk. **Rajashekar** has been making one improvement after another ever since. He has started eating without assistance, and can stand up using his walker, though he may trip after attempting a couple of steps. His father, a tailor, says that he can now pick out the right coloured thread for a piece of cloth, which gives the family the belief that there's much scope for him to learn. They hope that in time, **Rajashekar** may be able to build sufficient skills to run his own petty shop, and **Sudha** agrees that with dedication, this is certainly possible, potentially even during the lifetime of this three year project. With this in mind, she is incorporating things like identifying key objects, learning numbers and saying important words like 'rupees' into the Individual Development Plan she's drawing up for him.

Tenth Anniversary Celebrations and First Alumni Meet

The 10th anniversary celebrations of MI's training activities were held at Bangalore. MI board members Ms. Romola Joseph, President and Ms. Sathyavathi Shamshuddin, Treasurer, were present on the occasion.

With an ever-increasing gap between demand and availability of trained personnel, the access to health and rehabilitation services remains poor in the developing countries. MI has been addressing this issue since its inception. Till 2012, MI has trained 200 prosthetic & orthotic (P&O)



technologists and 102 rehabilitation therapy assistants (RTA) from 16 countries. It is estimated that 2.54 million people with disabilities received their services. 99% of the MI alumni represent low and middle income countries, 42% of them are women and 26% are people with disabilities. Further, during the last 10 years, MI has also trained more than 300 CBR personnel from over 240 institutions in India and abroad.

The First MI Alumni Meet was organised from 31 January to 1 February 2013. 66 former students of the P&O and RTA programmes, now representing various government and private organisations in Albania, India & Nepal, attended the meet. Ms. Romola Joseph, President-MI, released a souvenir entitled **10 Years of Training Health Care Professionals**, on the occasion. In conjunction with the meet, nine 'Refresher Workshops' were conducted. A survey of the participating alumni was also carried out to assess various aspects of their experiences as professionals and their perceptions on job satisfaction, the quality of the training they received at MI, requirements *vis-a-vis* further skill upgradation. The programme concluded with a 'Cultural Evening'.

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1st & 1st 'A' Cross, 2nd Phase, J. P. Nagar,
Bangalore - 560 078.
Phone : +91-80-26492222 / 26597337
26491386 - Ext - 9 (Reception)
Telefax : +91-80-26494444 Ext - 110(Fax)
Email : e-mail@mobility-india.org

Regional Resource Centre
P-91, Helen Keller Sarani, Majerhat,
Kolkata - 700 053
Telefax : +91-33-24013914, 24012190
Email : mik@mobility-india.org

