

15 years of challenge and beyond...



Newsletter

April - September 2009

Dear friends,

On 2nd August 1994, Mobility India was formed with small but significant beginnings to make positive changes to the lives of people with disabilities. It has been an extraordinary journey of connecting people, overcoming challenges, recognizing capability instead of disability and changing the quality of life of people with disabilities through all our activities.

Albina Shankar
Director

Anniversary Celebrations



The 15th Anniversary was celebrated on 2nd August 2009 by reflecting on all trials and triumphs over the past years, acknowledging friends old and new, and taking a pledge to become better.

Many individuals who played a significant role in Mobility India's growth were duly acknowledged for their contribution.

Mr. D. H. Shankaramurthy, Deputy Chairman, Karnataka State Planning Board graced the occasion as Chief Guest. Mr. Chapal Khasnabis, Former Director, Mobility India and currently Technical Officer-Disability & Rehabilitation Team(WHO), Ms. Marika Millar from Miblou, Switzerland and Gunawathy Fernandez, Regional Director CBM-SARO (S) were the guests of honour. Many board members past as well as present, well-wishers attended the celebrations. A commemorative souvenir, that helps one trace the paths traversed and puts in a nutshell all the successful endeavors was released.

Vision

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



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Chamrajnagar Snapshots

Divyashree (12) is a bright and gifted young girl. She loves dancing, sports and has many trophies to her credit. At school, she teaches her classmates to dance. Her parents are very proud of their daughter's achievements.

A few years ago though Divyashree's family was in despair. Born with a disability that affected both her legs, Divyashree spent her early childhood years either crawling or waiting for her parents carry her to school. The ELO programme fitted her with assistive devices and encouraged her parents to be members in the Local Self Help Group. According to Divyashree's family, these interventions have brought about significant changes in their lives – an independence in Divya that help her talents blossom and allow total participation with her peers and economic stability for her parents through the Self Help Group initiated by Mobility India.



Divyashree



Dodamma

Dodamma's afternoons are very busy. Planning learn & play activities for a group of enthusiastic children at a Community Education Centre (CEC) take up her time. Dodamma is a CEC tutor. She was trained in teaching methodologies for slow learning children and teaches a mixed group of disabled, non- disabled and slow learning children.

Dodamma attributes this recent life changing experience to the ELO programme. Having developed a disability that restricted her movements, she spent many years in bed depending on her mother to help her each day.

Now, Dodamma and her siblings who also have disabilities are members of the Self Help Group. Dodamma is independent after regular physiotherapy and goes about her tutoring and Self Help Group activities with equal gusto.

Having one's own toilet is a comfort few people can claim if you reside in a rural area. Ramaswamy will have the use of a toilet designed for his special needs. He has a disability and uses a tricycle to move around. Ramaswamy weaves coconut leaves to make roof thatches. Earlier he would do the same work for daily wages, but now he works independently.

Taking the initiative to build a toilet and the capacity to work by himself has come about through the joint efforts of the Self help Group.



Ramaswamy

The ELO programme is supported by Disability And Development Partners, UK and The Big Lottery Fund. The latrine project is supported by Miblou, Switzerland.

Changing Lives



Learning the alphabet and going to regular school are Bhuvana's biggest achievements according to her parents. Bhuvana has Cerebral Palsy that has restricted her mobility. She uses a walker around the house and a wheelchair to go to school. Bhuvana's parents are happy with the progress she is making –at school as well as at home in her activities of daily living. Guided by the ELO team to enroll in the Local Self Help Group, Bhuvana's family has a better economic status today through regular savings and an income generation programme.

Education & Livelihood Opportunities (ELO) Programme

Divyashree, Dodamma, Ramaswamy and Bhuvana all live in villages of Chamrajnagar. They have a common link - the Education & Livelihood Opportunities (ELO) Programme of Mobility India in Chamrajnagar.

Initiated in 2007 in Chamrajnagar district, Karnataka, the programme focuses on 3 key areas-

- Education for both disabled children and other excluded children
- Livelihood opportunities for adults with disabilities and the parents of children with disabilities
- Rehabilitation services



The programme presently covers 2 hoblis (village clusters) – Kasaba & Harve reaching 76 villages.

Friends,
Our commitment
needs your support.
Choose from the wish
list to donate
generously.

Nutrition support for a child for a year **Rs.1000 to Rs.2000**

Education support for a child per year **Rs.2000 to Rs.5000**

Assistive devices like calipers, artificial limbs & wheelchairs **Rs.3500 to Rs.5500**

Skill Training for young adults **Rs.5000 to Rs. 25,000**

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

.....Towards

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

Training Announcements

Hands On Workshop
On
“Ischial Containment Trans Femoral
Socket Designing”-
5th-7th November 2009

One-week course on
“Current approaches to initiate &
Strengthen Community Based
Rehabilitation Programmes”
16th to 21st November 2009.



Training Picture Gallery



Governing Board Members

President: Mrs. A. Sathyavathi Shamshuddin, Former Principal, Govt. College

Vice President: Mr. Anil Prabhu, Chief General Manager State Bank of India (Retd)

Secretary: Dr. Elizabeth Thomas, Former College Principal

Treasurer: Mr. Philip de Costa, Additional Director(Retd) Defence Research & Development Organisation, Ministry of Defence

Member:

Mrs. Romola Joseph, Social Worker

Mr. Ramesh Ramachandra IRS, (Retd) Chief Commissioner of Customs, New Delhi

Mrs. Poorna Thangaraj

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Please return this with your donation to:

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All donations are eligible for tax exemption under section 80G