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## Allergan Healthcare India sponsors Developmental Devices for Children with Disabilities



**Age:** Two and half years

**Name:** Venkat

Venkat is the only child to his parents, residing in Bangalore. He was a healthy and active child. A sudden fever in the 10<sup>th</sup> month of his birth, which persisted for 2 months despite of medication had severe impacts on him. Few months later he was observed to stop all kinds of functional movements abruptly, whose reason was beyond the understanding of his parents.

He was identified with Cerebral Palsy during one of the visits to Paediatric Neurologist and considering his age Physiotherapy was suggested as the best possible remedy. He was immediately put under therapeutic intervention and it seemed to have positive impacts on his condition. Gradually he developed the ability to sit for a while with support.

At this stage he was provided with a Twin Device from Mobility India through Allergan's support, which meant to help him sit

and stand with support. His parents has reported positive and noteworthy improvements in him with the regular usage of the Twin Device as well as the strengthening exercises being provided to him by the Therapist.

24 Children with Disabilities (CwDs) like Venkat, mostly with Cerebral Palsy, have been benefitted through the substantial contribution from the **Allergan Health Care India**.



**Mr K T Rajan**, Director, Operations, Info Services, BU Director, Projects & Neurosciences India & South Asia and **Mr R. Raghu Kumar** - Managing Director from Allergan Healthcare visited MI on **1st April, 2016** to understand the activities carried out as well as personally handing over the devices to the children.

Mr Raghu Kumar mentioned "we have been impressed with the excellent and focused work that all of you here are doing. Great work!!! and wish you all success!"

On his feedback Mr Rajan mentioned "Highly pragmatic infrastructure, passionate leadership team along with dedicated staff. Glad to be associated with Mobility India. God bless the great work".

## Sports Meet for Children with Physical Disabilities in collaboration with TCS Digital Enterprise Unit: Fostering Inclusion and Well-Being



Disability is both a cause and consequence of poverty and this relationship is even acute in developing nations. Persons with disabilities still face stigma, discriminatory attitudes, disempowerment and the cost of this exclusion is enormous in terms of lost opportunities and poor quality of life.

The universal popularity of Sport, its physical, social and economic development benefits makes it an ideal tool for reducing the stigma associated with disability. Sports changes community's perceptions of persons with disabilities by focusing attention on their abilities.

MI hosted an 'Interschool Athletic Meet for Children with Physical Disabilities' on 23<sup>rd</sup> June, 2016 at Kittur Rani Chenamma Stadium, Bangalore, in collaboration with the TCS Digital Enterprise Unit as part of their Para Vista initiative to promote Para Sports at Grassroot level for PwDs.

78 Children with Disabilities from the urban slums of Bangalore and Jigani community projects of MI and Children from Karnataka Welfare Association for Blind and Samarthanam Trust exhibited their talents in the Shot Put, Javelin Throw and 100 Meter Race arranged as a part of the event. Seeing the children enjoying to the fullest made the parents very happy.

Addressing the gathering Ms Albina Shankar, Director, MI mentioned "There are no winners or losers. Everyone who participated despite of their disability is a winner".

Mr Vineet Tripathi, Delivery Centre Head of Digital Enterprise Unit of TCS Bangalore expressed his happiness on successful conduct of this event. It was a nice opportunity for TCS team and volunteers to witness active participation of children with disabilities in sports.



# Larsen & Turbo Sponsors Physiotherapy Equipment & Assistive Devices

Service user satisfaction is an important and commonly used indicator for measuring the quality of services pertaining to healthcare and rehabilitation.

Physiotherapy holds high significance in retaining the functional capabilities for people with amputations, polio, stroke patients as well as children with neurological issues and associated developmental delays. MI has a well-equipped physiotherapy unit with state of art equipment and machinery for the quality service delivery. The advanced therapy equipment sponsored by L & T

through their CSR initiatives, such as Static Cycle, Physio-Roll and Theraband will be quite helpful for the service users in functional and strengthening exercises.

Ms Mitali Naika and Ms Elizabeth from L & T visited MI on **12<sup>th</sup> May, 2016** to inaugurate the various therapy equipment sponsored by L & T through their CSR initiatives.

Along with therapy equipment, several assistive devices as per the need of 10 service users has been sponsored and personally handed over. These devices along with appropriate therapy interventions, will help the service users to continue their education and have a good quality of life.



## Avinash overcomes multiple barriers to access quality education...

**Age:** Twenty eight years

**Name:** Avinash

Avinash hails from Bangalore. Since his early childhood he was fortunate enough to receive on-time and appropriate rehabilitative intervention. He uses a wheelchair for his personal mobility. His functional limitations could not deter him from getting ahead in life. With a never to give up attitude, he completed his schooling and went on to pursue a Bachelors in Computer Application Degree from Christ University, Bangalore.

During one of his recent visits to Mobility India, he was provided with a wheelchair with seating brace and reclinable features designed as per his requirement. A happy Avinash mentions "this wheelchair feels wonderful".

We extend thanks to Cognizant Foundation for supporting equipment and machineries to upgrade the P & O workshop. The wheelchair modifications and enhancements for Avinash has been possible through these advanced equipment.



# Strengthening P&O Services in the underserved Regions of Afghanistan



Afghanistan has been in a near constant state of conflict and war since the late 1970s. The 16 million population has compelling demands for basic assistance for their fundamental survival needs—food, clothing, shelter and medical attention. Under these difficult circumstances, disabilities resulting from war or conflict, or endemic poverty, are extremely common. While there is a surging need of appropriate rehabilitation services, the existing facilities and services and trained personnel are inadequate to serve the existing and projected needs.

'**Strengthening of P & O Services in the underserved areas of Afghanistan**' project developed to complement Afghan Government's efforts to build institutional capacities of the country through development of appropriate human resources. The project is implemented by **Handicap International (HI)** and **Swedish Committee for Afghanistan (SCA)** and aims at developing capacities of P & O professionals to carry out the 3 year duration ISPO CAT || Diploma training program. **MI** in collaboration with **HI** and **SCA** launched a training program for the **7** participants from Afghanistan.

The training scheduled from **18<sup>th</sup> May to 14<sup>th</sup> June, 2016** aimed at strengthening the P & O services as well as capacity building of the participants as trainers for effective implementation and dissemination of the knowledge. The course outline was designed and delivered with effective theoretical aspects, group activities and practice delivery by the participants.

A valedictory ceremony celebrating the journey and successful knowledge gain of the participants was conducted on **14<sup>th</sup> June, 2016** which was presided by Ms Romola Joseph, Secretary, Governing Body, Ms Albina Shankar, Director and Ms Ritu Ghosh, Deputy Director-Training. Participants shared their experience of the initial challenges, gradual adaptations and successful completion of the training and asserted the positive implementation of the learnings at their respective workplaces.

## Graduation Day Celebrations of 10th Batch of Orthopaedic Technologist

Graduation takes on special significance in our academic culture as the one transition where we honour the exciting and challenging process of 'letting go', more appropriately letting them go with the roots of strong education, experience, values, attitude of serving to the needy and also the wings to take further on their journey.

MI celebrated the special journey of each graduate of the 10<sup>th</sup> Batch of Orthopaedic Technologist, on **28<sup>th</sup> June, 2016**. The event was presided by Ms Albina Shankar, Director, MI and Ms Ritu Ghosh, Deputy Director-Training, MI. Ms Saija Lukkarinen from International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC), also participated as an examiner for ISPO CAT || examination. This is the second batch of graduates from MI receiving the ISPO CAT || Certificates, which holds special significance as MI is the only P & O School in India with ISPO affiliation.





The event commenced with the welcome talk by Ms Ritu Ghosh. She inspired the students to keep on the track of life-long learning, while putting the skills and experiences they acquired to practice.

The feedbacks, experience sharing of their incredible and unique journey of the graduates were often blended with smiles and tears. Graduates shared their experiences of linguistic barriers, overcoming them gradually as well as their academic and technical knowledge gain with the sheer support from the trainers.

Ms Hema attained the first position in the scoreboard with her outstanding performance in the theoretical and practical learning. 7 graduates received the ISPO CAT || Certificates for their academic performances.

Ms Saija congratulating the graduates expressed "The profession you have chosen is very fascinating. The learning every day you all will have, with each service user will be the real learnings you will cherish and treasure for your life time".

Ms Albina Shankar, Director, MI encouraged the gathering with "In MI you all have opportunities to work with people with different kinds of disabilities and from different setups. Do your best for the people and the return will exceed your expectations". The celebrates concluded with Mr Soikat Ghosh Moulic, Assistant Director-Technical, MI thanking all the students and staff, especially Ms Saija from ICRC and stating "Education is just the tool, the people you are going to serve are the best teachers".

## Expansion of Rehabilitation Services to the North-Karnataka



MI initiated the plan of escalating its rehabilitation services to the Northern Districts of Karnataka, in partnership with organisations working with people with disabilities.

As a part of the initiative, exploratory visits made to Bidar and Davangere Districts. The scenario of disability and rehabilitation is found to be quite challenging due to inadequate infrastructure and facilities and the existing services is unable to meet the rehabilitation needs of the community. As per the available data, 4000 people and

children are in need of rehabilitation services in Bidar.

To cater to the need an effective and structured rehabilitation service provision was proposed by MI in partnership with Deepalaya. Deepalaya established in 2006, works for people with disabilities in the 30

villages of Bidar District covering 4 to 5 Panchayats. Their activities include education for children with disabilities and conducting vocational trainings for the youth and disabled people.

Awareness programs on various kinds of disability and its management were conducted at Bidar and for the staff, community members, SHG members and ASHA workers. An assessment and fitment camp was held at Bidar during June, 2016, 48 people were provided with the 85 assistive devices as per their need.

An awareness program on various disabilities and its management was also conducted at Davangere.

## Workshop on 'Measurement & Preparation of Positioning Devices' at Research Academy for Rural Enrichment, Odisha

MI Regional Resource Centre (RRC) in collaboration with local NGOs has been conducting a series of workshops for the community facilitators and personnel involved in rehabilitation services. The various positional devices, their importance for the children with Cerebral Palsy, Delayed Development, Spina Bifida, Muscular Dystrophy and acquired injuries are the agenda of the workshops.

Though the rehabilitation and community personnel are aware of the positioning devices, fabricating the devices and working

closely with persons with disabilities has been emerging as a challenge. To cater to this scenario, MIRRC in association with one of its partner organization Research Academy for Rural Enrichment (RARE) organised a workshop on "Measurement & Preparation of Positioning Devices for Community Facilitators" at Sonepur, Odisha.

The 17 participants were being explained the importance of proper positioning to maintain skeletal alignment, correct skeletal deformity, promoting functions, comfort and relaxation. Participants learned to perform assessment to identify the need of the user, taking measurement for the fabrication of the devices. By the conclusion of the workshop, 2 standing frames and 3 special chairs were fabricated by the participants and provided to the service users.



## Environmental Day Celebrations with Children with Disabilities

World Environment Day Celebrations marked on 5<sup>th</sup> June each year, aims at spreading the awareness and message to protect the unique and life nurturing Nature and Planet Earth. The 2016 theme was "fight against the illegal trade in wildlife e for life".

The day was celebrated across MI projects, in Kolkata and Chamrajnagar district involving school going children and children with disabilities from the community and education centres. 11 children from the





Outreach program, Kolkata along with 5 staff members from MIRRC commemorated the day with staffs of Indian Museum. Children enjoyed the participatory workshop on music, photography, art, clay modelling and Origami. The program was presided by Mr Dibendu Barua - eminent chess player, Mr. Param Brata Chatterjee - actor, Mr. Sanatan Dinda – artist and Mr. Anil Sukhdeo - environment specialist. They shared various environmental issues, their work experience in environment protection.

A drawing competition was held at Chamrajnagar, organised by District Environment pollution control Board and District Education Department for the school children, including those with disabilities. 700 students participated, among them 135 students were from Community Education Centres of MI operational in Chamrajnagar district.



## Donate >>

- ☐ Developmental Aid per unit.....Rs.1,600-5,500
- ☐ Assistive Devices (Calipers, artificial limbs, crutches, walkers)..... Rs.2,500-15000
- ☐ Wheelchairs.....Rs.8,000-15,000
- ☐ Nutritious food .....Rs.1,000-2,000
- ☐ Therapy Services per session.....Rs.250
- ☐ Education per child per year.....Rs.2,000-5,000
- ☐ Any amount you wish to contribute

I am donating ₹ ..... by Cheque/ Demand Draft number .....  
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I would like to introduce a friend. ....  
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Pin.....Telephone: ..... E-mail : .....

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

# Continuing Rehabilitation Education (CRE) on “DEVELOPMENTAL DEVICES PROVISION” for children with delayed milestones



28 - 30 July 2016

Venue: Mobility India, Bengaluru, India.

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