Mobility India's response towards second wave COVID-19 for people with disabilities, family members, front-line workers and other vulnerable people

The second wave of the coronavirus pandemic had been deadly and devastating thereby affecting many lives. The situation during this period became very grim, particularly in the rural areas where access to healthcare services are limited. The most affected have been persons with disabilities, more so, children with disabilities and their parents’ and caregivers. The pandemic has greatly affected the wellbeing of children who are the most vulnerable section in society. Loss of income and livelihood among the lower income groups, particularly, daily wage earners, resulting in starvation is an adverse impact caused by the Covid 19 pandemic. Persons with disabilities were hit the hardest, as they lost their jobs pushing them to the brink of poverty and other psycho-social problems.

Mobility India took the initiative to reach out to the needy, for children/people with disabilities, older people, their family members and vulnerable individuals, front line workers by providing safety kits living in rural areas in Chamrajnagar District, Chikanayakanahalli, Turuvekere of Tumkur Districts, slums in Bangalore and Dimoria Block, Assam in providing relief services as follows:

- Oxygen
  - 50 people

- Nutritious food
  - 200 children

- Medical supplies, Hygiene kits, Family Essential Survival Kits (Grocery and Ration)
  - 3250 people
COVID 19 Vaccination drive

100 staff members, 44 students and 448 people with disabilities and their caregivers were vaccinated

Equitable access to safe and effective vaccines is critical to ending the COVID-19 pandemic.

Vaccines are like a Shield

Mobility India facilitated the vaccination drive and as the first step got all MI staff and students vaccinated.

From the day the vaccine was rolled out there were a lot of myths among people that the vaccine is unsafe and people were not ready to get themselves vaccinated. The situation was no different in the 38 urban slums in Bangalore where Mobility India is working.

Mobility India worked tirelessly and the CBR team conducted a series of awareness programs on the importance of vaccines and its safety especially for people with disabilities and motivated them to take part in the vaccine drive.

MI CBR team supported health departments to organise /support vaccine drive camps in different BBMP wards and referring people to get themselves vaccinated.

Mobility India in collaboration with BBMP South Zone and Disability Network Alliance organized the vaccine drive for people with disabilities and their caregivers at Mobility India, Bangalore campus.

Mobility India extends its Community Based Inclusive Development program to Chikkanayakanahalli and Turuvekere Taluk of Tumkur District, Karnataka

Mobility India’s rich experience and learning in the community based inclusive development programme in Bangalore urban slums and in rural areas in Chamrajanagar, Karnataka was the basis to start a more comprehensive and intensive inclusive development programs in Tumkur. The focus is on health care and rehabilitation services and inclusive education.

The centres in Chikkanayakanahalli and Turuvekere started their operations in April 2021, but had to stop operations for few days due to COVID.
In June 2021 again the operations commenced with a survey and identified 77 persons with disabilities (32 Adults with disabilities and 45 children with disabilities). 20 walking aids were provided along with gait training and orientation on the use of the products.

Tele - Rehab services
Provision of Rehabilitation & Assistive Technology and Therapy services

While the country was recouping from the first wave of the pandemic, and slowly started accessing the services offline, there were still many people who were hesitant to visit the centres to avail the services.

To ensure continuity of services and support for people with disabilities, Mobility India started providing services both from the centres and also through virtual mode, especially therapy sessions.
Disability and Poverty are tightly interwoven, being both cause and consequence of each other. Mobility India’s goal is to promote access to decent wages and self-employment, equality, security, and dignity for these people. People with disabilities from Assam state have been engaging in fish rearing, country poultry, duck rearing, and goat farming and pig rearing. Meanwhile, SHG members extend their livelihood units by using low-cost technology and local materials. The SHG members engage in fishing activities in ponds and sell their produce outside. (Dhupguri and Khetri Gaon Panchayat). During the COVID 19 pandemic, people with disabilities could manage to earn their livelihood from self-employment, thereby contributing to their family.
Virtual Awareness Program At Chamrajnagar

In collaboration with Shankar Eye Hospital, Mobility India - Chamrajnagar conducted 3 virtual awareness programmes on Black fungus, Common Eye conditions in Children and Awareness on Child Sexual Abuse for community tutors and staff. Mr Paramesh Reddy and Dr Santhanu, provided valuable inputs on black fungus, risk factors, signs and symptoms, prevention and treatment. Dr Sneha, Ophthalmologist gave in-depth knowledge about common eye conditions i.e. refractive errors, Cataract, Squint/Strabismus and Amblyopia prevention and treatment. Ms Ashwini, Director Muktha foundation, provided relevant information on how to prevent sexual abuse in children, 2 types of sexual abuse and 8 warning signs when child is sexually abused. She also threw light on how to support the children and educate them. 30 members participated.

Awareness program on Gender Sensitization and Women Rights

Awareness Program on Gender Sensitization and Women Rights was organized by Mobility India-IDC in collaboration with Legal Cell for Human Rights (LCHR) to sensitize persons with disabilities, local women, their parents and caregivers of children with disabilities on women’s rights and fundamental rights/duties. The program was conducted at Dhupguri, Khetri, Maloibari, Topatoli, Nartap and Digaru village panchayats. 265 members participated and gained awareness of their roles, rights and responsibilities on how to tackle a problem, if any.
Arbin is a 5-year-old girl from Bangalore. The parents were informed at 2 months that she has Cerebral Palsy delaying all her developments. After consulting various doctors, physiotherapy was advised.

Due to severe financial constraints, the parents could not get the therapy services and her health deteriorated. Arbin was identified in 2018 by a sangha member of MI and referred to Mobility India.

At MI, after assessment, it was observed that she had no neck control, was not able to sit and balance herself. She was provided with Home-based Therapy.

Arbin’s neck and trunk control improved through continuous therapy. She was fitted with Bilateral Ankle-Foot Orthosis to enable her while walking, balancing, reducing the tightness, and preventing further deformities. Twin device were provided for enabling her to perform the motor activities while in a standing /sitting position.

But due to the lockdown, the therapy could not continue, she again started developing severe stiffness in her limbs and her parents were not aware of how to provide the therapy.

Immediately MI resumed its operations virtually and guided the parents on virtual therapy. Thereafter, Arbin started receiving the therapy along with the parent’s assistance. Now her stiffness is reducing, she can sit, stand and walk.

Additionally, MI is also providing her with nutritious food to assist in her development. Her mother expresses her gratitude for providing Arbin with rehabilitation and nutritious food, it has helped a lot in her development.

Pavani - A 7-year-old girl hails from North Karnataka and lives in a joint family of 20 members. Pavani’s father and other members of the family work in a garment factory and takes care of the family.

Pavani is currently in UKG. Her hobbies include watching cartoons and learning from watching short YouTube videos and plays games.

By birth itself, Pavani’s had a lot of medical complications, she underwent surgery for removal of her tumour in her brain and diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy with Left Hemiplegia and also had seizures, which is under control with regular medication.

Her speech was also hampered, and she speaks very few words.

Parents learnt about MI and its services, after a detailed assessment Pavani was fitted with left Ankle-foot orthosis to assist her with walking and gait training was given.

Still, there are more kids like Arbin and Pavani who require our support!
I Would Like to

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GIVE ONCE</th>
<th>GIVE MONTHLY</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nutrition Food Per Child..................................................Rs. 10000</td>
<td>Nutrition Food Per Child .................................................Rs. 300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Therapy for 20 Sessions......................................................Rs. 10000</td>
<td>Therapy for 1 Session Per Person............................................Rs. 500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal Protection Kit.......................................................Rs. 8000</td>
<td>Personal Protection Kit.........................................................Rs. 800</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assistive Devices..............................................................Rs. 40000</td>
<td>Assistive Devices...............................................................Rs. 8000 (Caliper; Crutches and Walkers)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Developmental Devices Per Child...........................................Rs. 40000</td>
<td>Developmental Devices Per Child...........................................Rs. 8000</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Nutrition Food**

- Rs. 500/-

**Therapy Session**

- Rs. 500/-

**Developmental Devices**

- Rs. 8000/-

**Education**

- Rs. 5000/-

**Assistive Devices**

- Rs. 8000/-

**Therapy for 1 Session Per Person**

- Rs. 500

**Personal Protection Kit**

- Rs. 800

**Assistive Devices**

- Rs. 8000 (Caliper, Crutches and Walkers)

**Developmental Devices Per Child**

- Rs. 8000

**Make a difference in the life of a person in need by supporting them with your generous gift.**

Regd. Office

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Turuvekere and Chikkanneyakanahalli taluks centres.

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