# NEWSLETTER

April - September 2025

A vibrant period of progress at Mobility India, marked by international collaborations, expanded outreach, impactful research, and community empowerment. From global recognition at the ISPO World Congress to provision of rehabilitation services in the aspirational District of Baksa, Assam, Mobility India continues to transform lives and lead in disability inclusion across India.

## Celebrating 31 Incredible years of Mobility India - *Honouring a Legacy of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Innovation, and Impact*

For over three decades, Mobility India has been a force for change-advancing inclusive development, rehabilitation and assistive technology services, education and research, and livelihoods for people with disabilities, and marginalized communities. The 31-year milestone was a moment to reflect, celebrate, and recommit to our mission of Inclusive and Empowered community and Enhancing Lives.

The celebrations began on July 25, 2025, with an inspiring session led by **Dr. Patanjali Dev Nayar, former WHO-SEARO Regional Adviser and Vice President of Mobility India.** He urged our team and students to uphold the core values of honesty, integrity, compassion, responsibility, and justice. Through stories of moral courage and resilience-including the Chipko Movement and Dashrath Manjhi's journey-Dr. Nayar reminded everyone that service is not merely a duty, but a heartfelt commitment to humanity.

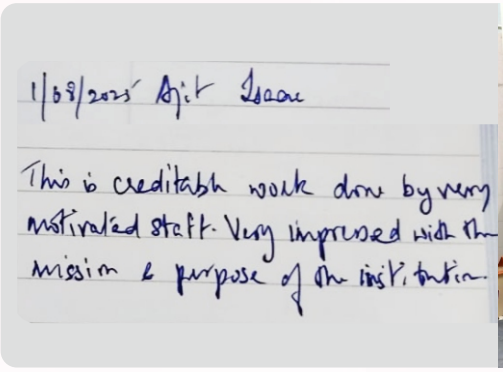
Dr. V. Chandra-Mouli retd. WHO shared s enriching insights on serving vulnerable populations with empathy, accountability, and respect.

## Fall Risk and Diabetic Evaluation Program for Older People

On August 1, 2025, Mobility India conducted a screening program for 38 older people from the South Bangalore urban slums at its Bengaluru Centre. The screening assessed mobility, balance, vision, and diabetes-related health risks. Common issues identified included knee pain, arthritis, blurred vision, and hypertension.

Fifteen participants received MCR slippers, 18 were advised to use reading glasses, and several were referred for physiotherapy and specialist consultations. The program highlighted Mobility India's commitment to promoting independent and healthy ageing through preventive care and early intervention.

We were honoured to have **Mr. Ajith Isaac, Chairman of Quess Corp Limited,** witness the program. He was oriented on the activities of Mobility India, and he shared his appreciation and insights on the work done by mobility India.



**The grand celebration held on August 2** brought together staff and students to commemorate three decades of dedicated services towards the inclusion and empowerment of people with disabilities, their families an older people. The event opened with a graceful welcome dance, followed by a **heartfelt address from Ms. Albina Shankar, Executive Director.** She warmly welcomed everyone and reflected on Mobility India's remarkable 30 years journey, its growth, challenges and milestones. She expressed deep gratitude for the unwavering support MI has received over the years, which has shaped it into the organization it is today. This was followed by the lighting of the lamp, symbolizing Mobility India's unwavering commitment to equality and inclusion.

**Dr. V. Chandra-Mouli** reflected on the challenges faced by marginalized communities in accessing health services and inspired the team to continue innovating and improving access for all.

The event concluded with heartfelt moments-cutting the anniversary cake and celebrating togetherness through a vibrant cultural program that filled the campus with joy and unity.

## International Recognition and Collaboration

**ISPO 20th World Congress, Stockholm:** Mobility India took the stage at the 20th ISPO World Congress in Stockholm, Sweden.

**Ms. Ritu Ghosh, Academics and Technical Director**, had the honour of becoming the first Asian woman and only the second person globally to present the prestigious **Knud Jansen Lecture.** Selected by the ISPO Executive Board, she was recognized for her pivotal role in transforming Mobility India into a globally respected leader in education and service delivery in the mobility sector. Her decades-long commitment to advancing prosthetics, orthotics, wheelchair services, and sector-wide collaboration has significantly improved lives, aligning with ISPO's vision.

**Ms. Ritu** also co-presented a session on the sustainability of prosthetics and orthotics education in South and Southeast Asia, alongside partners from Bangladesh, Myanmar, and Cambodia. MI's participation reinforced its leadership in inclusive rehabilitation education.

# World Health organisation Training on Assistive Products (TAP) Hearing Module Training | Tumakuru District, April 15–18, 2025

Introduction to Hearing Assistive Products and Hearing Aids, were field tested in a 4-day training held at Mobility India. Supported by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Karnataka, the hands-on training engaged 12 Community Health Officers (CHOs), and was guided by experts from WHO, **Mobility India, Maulana Azad Medical College, and the Dr S.R. Chandrasekhar Institute of Speech and Hearing. Dr Sandeep Maruthy (AIISH)** joined as an observer, with WHO representatives providing technical feedback.

The training combined online learning, group discussions, role plays, and real clinical practice, including ear health checks, wax removal, audiometry, and hearing aid fitting. Four children received programmable hearing aids and will be followed up in their communities. **Learners received WHO ear health materials in local language** and low-cost otoscopes, and are training local community workers to raise awareness and improve referrals.

The initiative marks a significant advance towards inclusive, accessible hearing care to expand community outreach.

# Mobility India participation at Tech4All 2025 Exhibition, organized by the Government of Tamil Nadu

Mobility India, showcased its assistive technology innovations. The Twin Device received special recognition for its functional, user-friendly design. Representatives Mr. Rajnish Kumar, Mr. Manigandan, and Mr. Muthappa interacted with students, professionals, and government officials, earning commendation from the Tamil Nadu government for MI's meaningful contributions.

# Mobility India conducts orientation programs for 273 Physiotherapy students

Mobility India at Bangalore and Hyderabad jointly conducted orientation and exposure programs for 273 students from five leading physiotherapy and disability studies colleges, focusing on the integration of assistive technology in holistic rehabilitation.

In Hyderabad, an orientation session was held at PDS College of Physiotherapy on **"Integrating Assistive Technology in Physiotherapy for Holistic Disability Rehabilitation."** Attended by 75 students, the session highlighted the practical applications of assistive devices in enhancing physiotherapy outcomes and promoting inclusive rehabilitation practices.

In Bangalore, Mobility India welcomed:

- 160 BPT students (2nd, 3rd, and final year) from Harsha College of Physiotherapy
- 58 final-year BPT students from KIMS College of Physiotherapy
- 30 final-year BPT students from Columbia College of Physiotherapy
- 25 CBID students from CBM, enrolled under the RCI curriculum

These orientation visits included hands-on exposure to a wide range of assistive technologies such as mobility aids, seating systems, orthotics, and communication devices. Students also learned about community-based rehabilitation models and the interdisciplinary approach to disability care.

The sessions aimed to bridge the gap between classroom learning and clinical practice, encouraging future physiotherapists to adopt innovative and inclusive approaches in their professional journeys.

Mobility India remains committed to building the capacity of young professionals by providing meaningful exposure to assistive technology and person-centered rehabilitation.

## Parents' training on NIRAMAYA Health Insurance Scheme at Huliyar

**On September 18, 2025, Mobility India organized a Parents' Training Program** at Vasavi Bhavana, Huliyar, bringing together caregivers, frontline workers, and community leaders to strengthen support for children with disabilities.

The program was inaugurated by Mr. Nagesh, President of Vasavi Bhavana, and attended by key guests, including Ms. Ashwini, CHO Mrs. Sowmya, Anganwadi Supervisor, Mr. Ramesh, MRW, Mr. Nagabhushan, Vasavi Member, VRWs, and URWs of Huliyar Hobli, and Mobility India team.

The session began with an insightful talk by Mr. Natesh, Resource Person, who spoke on the importance of parents' group formation and its long-term benefits. He also facilitated a group activity to encourage interaction and mutual support among parents.

Mr. Anand S. N, Senior Program Manager, Mobility India, followed with a presentation on the **NIRAMAYA Health Insurance Scheme,** highlighting its advantages for families of children with disabilities and how to access coverage.

A key highlight of the event was the distribution of 21 NIRAMAYA health cards and 18 assistive devices to children with disabilities, helping improve both their access to healthcare and functional independence.

The event witnessed the active participation of 87 members. It provided a strong platform for awareness-building, service access, and family empowerment-reinforcing the collective commitment to inclusive community development

# Workshop on Child Rights and Protection in Sira

**On August 25, 2025, a one-day workshop on Child Rights and Child Protection** was conducted at Ambedkar Bhavana, Sira, jointly organized by the Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights, the District Department of Empowerment of Disabled and Senior Citizens (Tumkur), and Mobility India.

The workshop brought together key officials, including Dr. Thippeswamy, Member KSCPCR, Mr. Chidananda, DWD, Ms. Pavithra, President, Child Protection Unit, and Mr. Anand S.N., Senior Program Manager, Mobility India. Also in attendance were officials from the Public Education Department, BIERT staff, Mr. Chittayya, MRW, Sira, and 42 VRWs and valuators from both urban and rural areas.

Sessions emphasized legal safeguards, reporting mechanisms, and the role of frontline workers in protecting vulnerable children, particularly those with disabilities. The workshop strengthened interdepartmental coordination and reinforced community-level awareness and accountability for child protection.

# Early identification and intervention training – Tumkur District

**Mobility India, in collaboration with the Department of Women and Child Development,** conducted a series of early identification and intervention training sessions for Anganwadi workers across Tumkur District. Held in nine locations, the sessions trained over 211 workers.

Facilitated by MI's interdisciplinary team, the training covered developmental milestones, early signs and types of disabilities, disability management, and home-based interventions. Participants received hands-on demonstrations of assistive and positional devices and were introduced to key government schemes such as UDID and Niramaya Health Insurance.

The program enhanced participants' knowledge and confidence in identifying and supporting children with disabilities. Over 150 children were identified during the training, paving the way for follow-up services. The initiative strengthened collaboration between MI and field workers, promoting inclusive, community-based rehabilitation.

# Empowering lives through life skills and motivation training

**Mobility India successfully conducted 11 Life Skills,** Personality Development, and Motivation training sessions in two phases, reaching 290 participants, including people with disabilities, caregivers, and unemployed youth from the community. The sessions were facilitated by Mrs. Smitha, Manager – CBID, Mobility India.

In the first phase, 172 participants (30 males and 142 females) were trained on SWOT analysis, poverty reduction strategies, employment opportunities, time management, leadership, and decision-making. These sessions motivated participants to explore job-oriented training and microenterprise opportunities.

The second phase engaged 118 participants (16 males and 102 females), focusing on motivation, overcoming barriers, self-employment vs. micro-enterprise, and market survey techniques. Participants also learned about entrepreneurial skills and accessing vocational training.

Trainings were conducted across Bommanahalli, Wilson Garden, Mobility India campus, Kengeri Government School, and Beedi Colony, strengthening community engagement and capacity-building.

Additionally, an awareness meeting at Roopena Agrahara School, Bommanahalli, encouraged parents to support and refer individuals to future personality development programs.

These trainings have sparked confidence, self-awareness, and motivation among participants-empowering them to work towards independent and dignified livelihoods.

# Professional Business Counselling and Career Guidance - Bengaluru

As part of its continued efforts to support economic empowerment, Mobility India organized one-on-one Professional Business Counselling and Career Guidance sessions for persons with disabilities and caregivers in Bengaluru.

A total of 31 participants-including 12 men and 19 women-took part in the initiative, with many expressing interests in launching their own micro-enterprises. The sessions were facilitated by Mr. Sadashiva, an experienced external business consultant, and Mrs. Smitha, Manager Community Development at Mobility India.

Participants received personalized guidance on identifying viable business opportunities, selecting strategic locations, building operational plans, and developing market strategies. The resource team also supported participants in drafting detailed business plans and exploring options for staffing and resource mobilization.

Based on the outcomes of these interactive sessions, potential candidates were shortlisted for further support. The initiative created a platform for individuals to turn ideas into action, strengthening self-reliance and income-generation opportunities within the community.

## Mobility India celebrates World Physiotherapy Day 2025: Honouring the Power of Movement and Healing

On September 8, Mobility India celebrated World **Physiotherapy Day 2025** across its centres in Bengaluru, Tumkur, and Hyderabad, uniting communities under this year's global theme: **"Healthy Ageing."** The day honoured the profound role physiotherapists play in restoring health, dignity, and independence-from childhood to old age.

Bengaluru Centre, the event was graced by distinguished guests, **Dr. Rashmi Adiga, Consultant Pediatric Neurologist, Rainbow Children's Hospital,** who shared valuable insights on pain management in children with neurological conditions and **Ms. Rachel Natasha, Partnership Manager, United Way Bengaluru,** who spoke on the social and emotional impact of physiotherapy and applauded Mobility India's rehabilitation work.

The celebrations included the successful launch of a new Pain Management Clinic and resulted in the screening of 40 older persons at a local old-age home for mobility, pain, and fall risks.

**Tumkur Centre – Kallambella, Sira- commemorated World Physiotherapy Day 2025** with a community-focused event in Kallambella, Sira, in collaboration with the Department of School Education, Madhugiri Educational District.

**Dignitaries present:**

- Mr. Tippeswamy, Honourable Member, Karnataka State Child Rights Protection Commission
- Block Education Officers, Mr. Krishnappa & Mr. Anand
- Mr. Anil Kumakar, Headmaster, Kallambella School

MI inaugurated a new Community Therapy Centre in Kallambella, felicitated our physiotherapists and RTAs, and distributed health insurance cards and exercise materials to children and people with disabilities. Over 50 participants, including children, parents, volunteers, and staff, joined in, demonstrating how physiotherapy transforms lives and builds inclusive communities.

**@ Hyderabad Centre- celebrated World Physiotherapy Day 2025** with academic engagement and outreach. A guest lecture was delivered at Yashoda College of Physiotherapy by Sama Raju on the topic **"Healthy Ageing – Preventing Frailty and Falls,"** focusing on physiotherapeutic strategies to reduce fall risks among older adults. At Susrutha College of Physiotherapy, an orientation titled **"The Role of Physiotherapists and Assistive Technology in Healthy Ageing"** was conducted, highlighting the integration of assistive technology into geriatric care.

In collaboration with the Bharath MD Foundation, Mr. Raju led a national webinar on **"Customized Assistive Devices for Individuals with Muscular Dystrophy,"** emphasizing the design and functional needs of assistive technology in managing neuromuscular conditions.

Additionally, during the **SZIRACON 2025** Conference (August 22–24) hosted at Novotel, Hyderabad, Mr. Raju presented **"A Global Approach to Assistive Technology in Rheumatology,"** based on the WHO frameworks and Mobility India's implementation model, which received strong encouragement from rheumatology professionals across the region.

Students participated in the International Yoga Day 2025 celebration on June 21, in alignment with the global theme **"Yoga for Self and Society."** The event was led by certified trainers Mr. D. N. Suresh and Mrs. Vijayalakshmi from the Art of Living Foundation, and included participation from BPO and MPO students, faculty, and staff. The session featured breathing techniques, adaptive yoga postures, and meditation, emphasizing both physical fitness and emotional well-being. The event encouraged awareness around holistic health and the integration of yoga into rehabilitation practices.

## Workshops and Exposure:

Students participated in a series of focused technical workshops conducted in collaboration with industry leaders. A 3D Printing Workshop led by Alivio Technology introduced students to digital design and fabrication for prosthetic components.

Ottobock conducted a hands-on seminar on advanced socket fabrication techniques, focusing on customisation, alignment, and material choices in modern orthotic and prosthetic practices.

Motivation India hosted a workshop on prescription criteria for assistive devices, with an emphasis on user assessment and functional outcomes. These workshops enriched the students' clinical competencies and provided practical exposure to cutting-edge innovations in assistive technology and rehabilitation.

Students attended the workshop **"Going Against Gravity"** led by UK-based physiotherapist Sarah Frost, which focused on posture management, seating, and positioning for individuals with complex disabilities. The workshop emphasized therapeutic handling techniques and equipment selection to optimize function and comfort. It offered valuable insights into evidence-based approaches for working with children and adults who have severe physical impairments.

# Research Endeavours and Clinical Trials

Mobility India advanced its evidence-based approach to rehabilitation through a series of impactful research projects during the quarter.

- Three significant dissertations were completed and submitted to the Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences:
  - A user satisfaction study on Knee Ankle Foot Orthosis (KAFO) among individuals with mobility impairments, evaluating comfort, function, and usability in daily life.
  - A cross-sectional study assessing endoskeleton prosthesis satisfaction for individuals with transtibial amputation, focusing on performance, durability, and user acceptance.
  - A pioneering awareness study on washable absorbent incontinence products, examining both user needs and stigma reduction strategies among prosthetics and orthotics users in resource-limited settings.

- In collaboration with Salford University (UK), a pilot usability study was conducted on the Prosthetic Repair Registry (PPRR). The research focused on tracking usage, everyday repair needs, and design feedback from 34 prosthetic users over one month. The insights gained will contribute to improving long-term maintenance systems for upper extremity prostheses.

- The MIT-supported clinical trial on a newly developed prosthetic foot is progressing steadily. To date, 23 users from MI and partner sites (RDT Anantapur and MSSS) have been enrolled. Participants have been fitted with either MIT feet, ICRC feet, or Jaipur feet, and their baseline mobility outcomes assessed. Four-week follow-ups are underway, and results are being monitored for functional improvements and user preferences.

# Baseline study inauguration and SBI Foundation Delegates Visit – MIIDC, Assam

**On May 26, 2025, Mobility India hosted a significant event in Simla, Baksa District, Assam**, marking the formal inauguration of the Baseline Study Report and the visit of key representatives from the State Bank of India Foundation (SBIF).

The Baseline Study Report was officially launched by **Mr. Atul Telenge, Manager from SBI Foundation Mumbai, and Mr. Budeb Goswami from Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Baksa, in the presence of Ms. Albina Shankar, Executive Director, and Mr. Anand Sr., Programs Manager.**

Developed through extensive field research, the report presents key findings on the current status of rehabilitation services, access to assistive technology, community awareness, and systemic gaps affecting persons with disabilities in the region. These findings offer a strong evidence base to guide future interventions in Jalah and Dhamdhama blocks, where Mobility India is actively implementing inclusive development initiatives.

The event also featured interactive sessions, where service users and their families shared valuable feedback on the assistive devices provided by Mobility India. The visit created a platform for meaningful dialogue with the SBI Foundation, reaffirming a shared commitment to disability inclusion, community engagement, and evidence-based programming.

# Health screening and livelihood support for persons with disabilities and caregivers – Bengaluru

Mobility India, in collaboration with **Sri Krishna Sevashrama Hospital, Jayanagar,** organized a Diabetic Blood Screening Camp at its Bengaluru centre. The screening included FBS, PPBS, HbA1c, and blood glucose level tests, with 56 individuals screened. Reports for 53 participants were collected and handed over for follow-up and care.

## Transforming lives through Early Intervention

Four-year-old **Prathisha** from Bengaluru was diagnosed with cerebral palsy when she was just 20 days old, after an epileptic seizure, which led her parents to seek medical help at Indira Gandhi Hospital. The doctor identified muscle weakness and epilepsy and advised timely treatment.

Mobility India identified her and conducted a detailed assessment. Based on the evaluation, she was provided with suitable assistive devices and enrolled for regular physiotherapy sessions.

Since then, Prathisha has been attending therapy consistently, and the improvement has been remarkable. Her activities of daily living (ADL) skills and mobility have improved significantly. She can now sit with support for up to an hour, maintain proper body posture, and has experienced a reduction in muscle tightness related to cerebral palsy. These interventions have also helped prevent potential secondary complications, giving her greater comfort and independence in her daily life.

## Transforming challenges into possibilities

**Hemanth,** an 11-year-old boy from Bengaluru, was born with cerebral palsy. He struggled to walk independently, limiting his movement and social interactions, and his parents had to carry him to school every day.

Mobility India identified his needs and conducted an assessment. He was provided with Bilateral ankle-foot orthoses and Knee Gaiters, which now help him walk with support and attend school independently.

Hemanth's parents are delighted to see his progress. His mobility has improved, secondary complications have reduced, and he is now more active and socially engaged. They express heartfelt gratitude to Mobility India for helping their son take confident steps toward independence.

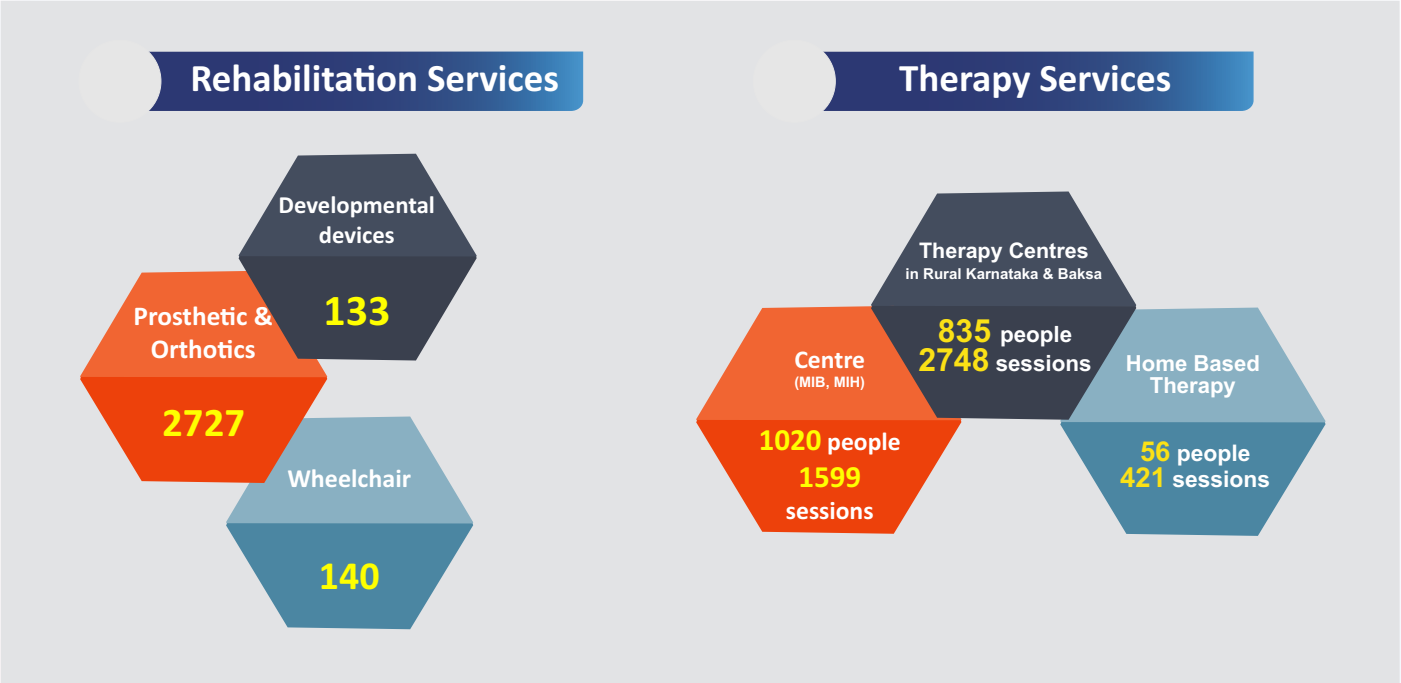
# From lying down to sitting tall - a journey of change

Four-year-old **Rahib Pasha** from B.D. Colony, Kengeri, Bengaluru, was diagnosed with cerebral palsy at a young age. He lives in a joint family with his parents and grandparents. His father drives an auto, and his mother is a homemaker. Though his birth was normal, seizures at two months old led doctors at Indira Gandhi Hospital to diagnose muscle weakness and epilepsy.

Before intervention, Rahib's development was delayed in all areas. He was unable to sit, stand, or walk, and spent most of his time lying on the floor, relying completely on his family for support.

A Community-Based Inclusive Development (CBID) facilitator from Mobility India identified him at MI, and we conducted a detailed assessment. After evaluation, Rahib was provided with a modified Twine device to improve posture, an AFO (Ankle Foot Orthosis), and knee garters.
Since using these assistive devices, Rahib can now sit upright for an hour, enjoys meals while sitting, and maintains better spinal alignment. His digestion and comfort have improved, and his mobility, social interaction, and nonverbal communication have increased.

Rahib's parents are grateful to Mobility India for transforming his daily life and giving him the support and confidence to move forward with joy.



# Support Us

Let's come together and support children and people with disabilities in gaining access to health and rehabilitation services, empowering them to lead a better quality of life.

1. Prosthesis
2. Developmental Devices
3. Assistive Device
4. Wheelchairs
5. Therapy Services

Your generous donations will make a significant impact on their

**DONATE NOW!**

Donate Now!

## Give Monthly

| | |
|---|---|
| Therapy for 1 Session Per Person | Rs. 450 |
| Assistive Devices | Rs. 2,000 to 12,000 |
| Developmental Devices Per Child | Rs. 5,000 to 12,000 |
| Wheelchair | Rs. 20,000 to 30,000 |
| Prosthesis | Rs. 35,000 to 60,000 |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