

Disabled Persons' Welfare



Motorized Triwheelers for the Disabled

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2005 – 2006

PREVENTION OF CAUSES OF DISABILITIES

Project Health Watch

- Held two "Project Health Watch" workshops at Nihalgarh, U.P and Srikakulam, Andhra Pradesh to train 169 doctors, primary healthcare workers and NGO representatives in the prevention, early detection and management of disabilities

EARLY IDENTIFICATION AND INTERVENTION

Early Intervention Programme for Hearing Impaired Children

- Supported an early intervention programme for diagnosis and rehabilitation of hearing impairment in Vadodra, Gujarat, to maximise the cognitive gains for the hearing impaired child at an early stage
- 38 children presently enrolled and 7 children have been successfully integrated

REACHING OUT TO PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN RURAL AREAS

Lifeline Express Camps

- Organised a month-long camp at Nihalgarh, UP. Total of 719 eye, ear and cleft-lip surgeries performed, 490 assistive devices distributed

Mobility Camps

- Organized three Mobility Camps in Orissa, Andhra Pradesh and U.P, for providing hand-made artificial foot and lower limb prosthesis called the 'Jaipur Foot' to persons with locomotor disabilities
- A total of 738 individuals have been provided the Jaipur Foot

AWARENESS AND ADVOCACY FOR INCLUSION OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Radio Serial for the Visually Impaired

- 52 radio episodes of 30 minutes duration planned to inform and inspire persons with visual impairments
- Information imparted through

interviewing visually impaired persons of renowned about their life stories

- 35 radio episodes aired on AIR Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Hyderabad, Ahemdabad and Lucknow

Advocacy Workshops on Legal Literacy for Disability

- Organised two legal literacy workshops on the rights of the disabled in Nihalgarh, U.P and Srikakulam, Andhra Pradesh
- 157 lawyers and NGO representatives participated

EDUCATION AND TRAINING FOR EMPLOYMENT

Entrepreneurial Skills Programmes for Disabled Women

- Trained 20 disabled and 10 non-disabled women in screwpine crafts in Kottapuram, Kerala. The products manufactured are being marketed. The second batch of 20 disabled women is under training
- Trained 45 disabled women in mushroom cultivation in Bhind, Madhya Pradesh, with assistance to the trainees to set up their own businesses

PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES EXERCISE CHOICE AND CONTROL OVER INITIATIVES

Distribution of Assistive Devices

- Distributed hearing aids to 30 children in the age group of 3-16 years and 5 Brailers to two Delhi based organisations working for the visually impaired

Motorised Vehicle Distribution

- Launched a new model called BINGO, designed to be more user-friendly
- Awarded 100 motorised vehicles including 87 Bingos to orthopaedically challenged persons to enhance their mobility and self-reliance

Disabled Persons' Welfare

Traditionally, disability issues have essentially been addressed as acts of charity. Persons with disabilities have suffered from a relative invisibility, and tended to be viewed as objects of protection, treatment and assistance rather than subjects of rights. Equal access to basic rights and fundamental freedoms, including access to health care, employment, education, participation in cultural activities that most people take for granted, have frequently been denied to them.

Over the past two decades, a dramatic shift in perspective has taken place, and persons with disabilities have started to be viewed as holders of rights.

Four core values of human rights law in the context of disability:

- Non-discrimination: the Dignity of each individual, who is deemed to be of inestimable value because of his/her inherent self-worth, and not because s/he is economically or otherwise "useful";
- Autonomy and participation: the concept of Autonomy or self-determination, which is based on the presumption of a capacity for self-directed action and behaviour, and requires that the person be placed at the centre of all decisions affecting him/her;
- Equality of opportunity: the inherent Equality of all regardless of difference;
- Inclusion: and the ethic of Solidarity, which requires society to sustain the freedom of the person with appropriate social supports.

PROGRAMME VISION

We work towards enabling the disabled to develop their potential and face the world on equal terms.

Our programmes promote:

Recognition of the equal rights of the disabled

•

Self-reliance through independent mobility and vocational education

•

Employment generation

•

Physical, psychological and medical rehabilitation of the disabled

is to empower disabled persons, and to ensure their active participation in political, economic, social, and cultural life in a way that is respectful and accommodating of their difference.

The Biwako Millennium Framework developed to supplement the UN Millennium Development Goals, states that a rights-based approach should be taken to advance disability issues. The civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights of persons with disabilities should be addressed and protected.

The Rajiv Gandhi Foundation has, from the very start, upheld a rights-based approach in all its activities for persons with disabilities, and has sought to address all the BMF goals through its programmes.

The Foundation promotes action directed towards providing accessible opportunities with dignity to the disabled. It encourages partnerships in all its endeavours with government, bilateral organisations, the corporate sector and NGO partners.

The United Nations High Commission for Human Rights propagates the "*Rights-based approach to disability*" which essentially means viewing persons with disabilities as subjects of law. Its final aim

The Biwako Millennium Framework (BMF) recognizes that to uphold the rights-based approach to disability the following core issues be addressed –

- Prevention of causes of disability,
- Early identification and intervention in respect of children with disabilities,
- Reaching out to persons with disabilities in rural areas,
- Raising awareness of, and advocacy for, the inclusion of persons with disabilities in all activities in the community, including social, cultural and religious activities.
- Education, training and employment needs to be met.
- Persons with disabilities exercise their own choice and control over initiatives for community-based rehabilitation.

PREVENTION OF CAUSES OF DISABILITY

Project Health Watch

Several disabilities are caused at birth and are preventable with proper care during pregnancy and at the time of birth.

One of the essentials, therefore, of preventing disabilities is through educating and training the primary healthcare functionaries who form the first and the most basic line of health delivery.

Through Project Health Watch, the Foundation trains health functionaries (medical officers, primary health care workers, ANMs and anganwadi workers) of Primary Health Centres (PHCs), Community Health Centres (CHCs) and Sub-Centres on the prevention, early detection and management of disabilities. The Department of Social & Preventive Medicine, King George Medical University, Lucknow, provides the training expertise.

Some issues covered include pre-pregnancy care, antenatal, natal & postnatal care, neonatal care; immunization, nutrition, balanced diet, vitamin A deficiency, identification of “at risk” cases and information about other childhood diseases, their prevention and management; community needs assessment and preparation of action plans for management of disabilities; management of relevant drugs, vaccine & other supplies at PHCs.

- The first workshop in the year was organized from 23-24 Nov 2005 at Nihalgarh station in U.P inside a train coach converted into an auditorium. 31 medical officers and 38 health workers including dais and anganwadi workers from the District hospital, and local PHCs and CHCs attended the training.
- The second workshop was organized in Srikakulam, Andhra Pradesh from 21-22 March 2006. 100 persons attended the training.



View inside the early intervention classroom

EARLY IDENTIFICATION AND INTERVENTION

Early Intervention Programme for Hearing Impaired Children

Disability Management is defined as “an active process of minimizing the impact of impairment on the individual’s capacity to participate competitively in the work environment”. Central to the practice of disability management is the concept of *early intervention and a focus on psychosocial issues*.

Early intervention is based on the “Critical Year’s Theory” and is essential for successful language acquisition by the child. Therefore, early diagnosis of hearing impairment, fitting of suitable hearing aids and provision of early intervention facilitates the child to build this innate capacity.

The Foundation supports the Akshar Trust in running this early intervention programme in Vadodra. The Trust is a pioneer in this field in Gujarat as no other school admits children as young as 12 months. Besides providing basic medical facilities like testing and check ups, Akshar also provides access to the latest technologically advanced hearing aids. A typical case of any hearing impaired child

seeking admission involves conducting audiological tests, medical examination, fitment of suitable hearing aids, formulation of child-specific education plans, one-to-one counselling and also with parents, speech therapy and ultimately integration into a regular school.

- Almost 38 children are receiving the expertise of skilled special educators, audiologists and speech trainers. 7 children have been successfully integrated.

REACHING OUT TO PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN RURAL AREAS

Lifeline Express Camps

The Lifeline Express Project is one of the Foundation’s most important field-based programmes to help the disabled, which utilizes the vast network of Indian railways to reach the remotest parts of the country where there is no access to medical services. In collaboration with the Impact India Foundation, Mumbai and local collaborators, the Foundation has till now organised 31 such camps all over India through which almost 32,931 disabled persons have been benefited.

Lifeline Express (LLE) is a mobile train hospital through which diagnostic, medical and surgical treatment is provided for prevention and curative interventions to the disabled in inaccessible and remote areas of the country. Apart from curative surgeries for polio, ear and eye defects and cleft lip, assistive devices like calipers, crutches, intra ocular lenses, hearing aids, etc. are also distributed free of cost.

The camp lasts for a period of 30 days with 7 days each devoted to the treatment of those afflicted with polio, cataract, middle ear deafness and cleft lip. Large numbers of aids and appliances are distributed during each phase of the Lifeline Express camp. Two follow-up camps at an interval of three months each after the main camp are also conducted to ensure complete post-operative care to the patients. The entire service from their transport, stay at the camp, to food and medicines, is totally free of cost to the beneficiary.

- During the LLE Camp at Nihalgargh (9 Nov to 4 Dec 2005) more than 1209 individuals were directly benefited through 719 surgeries and distribution of 490 assistive devices.

Mobility Camps

There are 5.5 million amputees in India. An additional 25,000 people lose their limbs annually to diseases, accidents or other hazards. Catering to the vast number of individuals who need an artificial limb and yet cannot afford it, the 'Jaipur Foot' was developed in 1968. The Jaipur Foot is a predominantly hand-made artificial foot and lower limb prosthesis designed to meet the needs of a developing country lifestyle such as squatting, walking barefoot and sitting cross-legged. The Foundation organised three Mobility Camps in collaboration with the Bhagwan Mahaveer Viklang Sahayata Samiti (BMVSS) to provide 'Jaipur Foot' for the physical, economic and social rehabilitation of amputees.

- A total of 738 individuals have been benefited through the camps, which were organized at Cuttack, Orissa (192), Amethi, Uttar Pradesh (282) and Srikakulam, Andhra Pradesh (264).

AWARENESS AND ADVOCACY FOR THE INCLUSION OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Advocacy Workshops on Legal Literacy for Disability

Under this project, the Foundation tries to generate awareness and sensitise the NGOs, lawyers and the disabled persons themselves about the legal issues concerning the disability sector. Information about the different laws/ Acts in force concerning disability and the rights of the disabled is provided in an interactive manner. An effort has also been made to create a pool of sensitized and trained lawyers and NGOs to ensure that the disabled are not deprived of their rights. The NGOs will spread rights

Patients waiting for screening at LLE Camp in Nihalgargh



awareness among the disabled and lawyers will provide legal services.

- First Workshop organized at Nihalgarh, Uttar Pradesh on 21 Nov 2005 was attended by 30 lawyers and 16 NGOs.
- Second workshop organized in Srikakulam, Andhra Pradesh on 20 March 2006 was attended by 111 individuals from local NGOs, as well as reputed institutions like the Red Cross Society and Rotary Club.

Radio Serial for the Visually Impaired

The radio can be used as a medium to inform, inspire, include and empower persons with visual impairments to lead a life of hope and aspiration. The project involves developing radio episodes of interviews, quick profiles, guidance, updates and interesting anecdotes.

Guests interviewed include personalities with visual impairment like Mr. Roshan Rajan (a blind singer from Bangalore), Ms. Jyoti Magoo (a blind athlete from Delhi), Mr. William Rowland (President of the World Blind Union) who have been achievers in their operational areas and can inspire others, as well as persons directly or indirectly connected with the issue, such as medical professionals, to provide encouraging information and guidance to the listeners. The programme specially targets visually impaired persons, their families, NGO professionals, educationists, policy makers, medical professionals and the general population.

The 52 weekly episodes developed are being aired on All India Radio in 7 cities including Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Ahmedabad, Hyderabad, Lucknow and Bangalore. The radio episode called "Eyeway- Yeh hai roshni ka karavaan" begins with a signature tune composed by Ms Annette Philips, Director, Artists Unlimited. Mr Arshad Iqbal and Ms Salima Raza who are among the leading voices of today anchor the programme.

- 35 episodes have been aired in the seven cities with very encouraging feedback.

EDUCATION, TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT

Entrepreneurial Skills Programme for Disabled Women

The Foundation encourages initiatives for generating skills within disabled individuals, especially women who are at a double disadvantage in our country. The ultimate aim is to empower them to become contributing members of society, able to earn and lead an independent life with dignity.

Manufacture and Marketing of Screwpine Crafts

This project was launched in October 2004 in collaboration with the Kottapuram Integrated Development Society (KIDS) in Kerala. It involves training 40 orthopaedically challenged rural women over two years in manufacturing Screwpine craft items, which are marketed by KIDS through its linkages. The project also benefits 20 non-disabled people who are being involved for assisting the disabled women.

- The first training year is over and the second batch of trainees is being provided the requisite skills. The first batch of 20 disabled and 10 non-disabled women has been trained in splicing and weaving of the leaf into a basic mat, side stitching of the pieces for making the particular craft item, lining each piece, and dyeing with azo-free or natural dyes to make beautiful and commercially viable craft items like baskets, greeting cards, penholder, and diaries. KIDS has also initiated some basic literacy classes for the illiterate women.

Oyster Mushroom Cultivation

This project was initiated with Mahila Bal Vikas Samiti (MBVS) in Bhind, Madhya

Ambika is a 25 years old girl from Kodungallur

Ambika was born normal but after one year she contracted polio and both her legs became paralysed. Movement became so difficult that she could not even complete her schooling. Her family was very poor and she had no way of earning money. As fate would have it, Ambika's mother died leaving behind two sisters and brothers for her to take care of. Ambika felt completely lost.



In October 2004, Ambika got information about KIDS and its activities. Ambika had no idea about mat weaving, but with the help of KIDS and co-workers she is learning screwpine craft. "I have been studying how to weave mats, which is the basis of screwpine craft", Ambika says. I take raw material home and try to practice what I am learning at KIDS. This is helping me to master the craft at a faster pace. Through continuous training I am sure that I can make products very effectively."

View of the weaving center



Pradesh for training 50 poor and orthopaedically challenged rural women in cultivating oyster mushrooms in one year.

- The trainings for the first year have been successfully completed and 45 disabled women have been trained. All have been assisted to set up their own businesses. The raw material and technical help is being provided by the NGO. The second training year will witness four such workshops for a total of 70 disabled women and 30 non-disabled men who will assist the women in procuring raw material and marketing.

PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES EXERCISE CHOICE AND CONTROL OVER INITIATIVES

Providing individuals with the opportunity to lead life independently upholds their dignity. The Foundation enables the disabled to exercise choice and control on their future by providing assistive devices and independent mobility.

Distribution of Assistive Devices

The Foundation distributed 30 hearing aids to children in the age range of 3 to 16 and 5 Braille for use by students in three schools and one NGO working for hearing and visually impaired children in Delhi.

The aim of this project is to rehabilitate the students with hearing and visual impairments by providing them with assistive devices, which will enable them to work at par with their non-disabled peers. With this, they have the choice to access all available information, which today is a necessary tool in building a bright future.

Motorised Vehicle Distribution

Most of the built environment, public transport and infrastructure is inaccessible to disabled individuals who perforce remain confined within their homes. The Foundation therefore started

the Motorised Vehicle Distribution programme in 1992 under which a motorized tri Wheeler (MTW), specially designed to suit persons with lower limb disability, is awarded to selected individuals from various parts of the country. Awards are made equally to men and women.

Over the years, the programme has grown from a fledgling one vehicle awarded in 1992 to a record number of 100 vehicles in 2005 (see Graph 1).

The number of sponsorships has also increased in the last few years (see Table 1).

Below: Smt Sonia Gandhi with children gifted hearing aids.

Bottom: Smt Sonia Gandhi handing over the key of a Bingo to an awardee



There has been a constant design improvement effort. *Bingo*, the latest design, a Kinetic Nova 135 cc scooter with stabilized wheels attached on both sides, was launched on 20 August 2005. This new model has features like an attached windscreen and canopy, ample storage space for crutches, safety protection, hand-operated lever for self-start, etc.

Overall, a positive impact has been made on the lives of 475 disabled individuals from all over the country, including Lakshadweep. Through yearly feedback we note that awardees have generally been able to fulfill their dreams, which include pursuing higher education, becoming financially independent or sustaining their jobs and expanding their businesses.

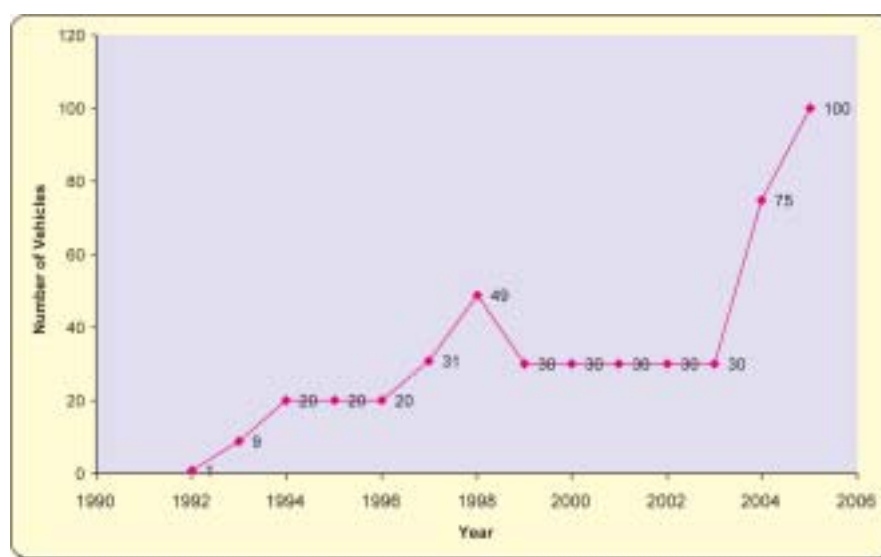
Out of the 100 vehicles awarded this year, a record total of Rs 59,21,858 was raised through sponsorships for 92 vehicles. Out of this, RGF secured Rs 48,91,858 for 76 vehicles from 17 companies and the balance of Rs 10,30,000 was raised by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) from 10 member companies (list on page 109).

We are very grateful for CII's help, as well as to all our other donors.

Table 1

Year	Applications received	Number of Sponsorships raised	Awards made
2000	458	6	30
2001	567	7	30
2002	465	14	30
2003	460	30	30
2004	694	66	75
2005	823	92	100

Graph 1



FROM TRADITIONAL MTW TO MODERN BINGO



MTW 1992 -1998
The first MTW of the country



BINGO 2005
Combination of strengths
of MTW and Kinetic DX



KINETIC DX 1998-2004.
Modified design making Vehicle
more disabled friendly

DISABLED PERSONS' WELFARE

Highlights (1992 – 2006)

1992– ongoing

Lifeline Express Project

- Mobile train hospital, run in collaboration with Impact India Foundation for people with disabilities in remote parts of India lacking means of securing medical aid
- 32,931 disabled persons have been benefited from 31 medical camps

1992– ongoing

Motorised Triwheeler Scheme

- A new model called BINGO, a kinetic nova scooter with modifications, designed and launched on 20 August 2005
- About 475 orthopaedically challenged people awarded motorized vehicles to make them self-reliant
- Training programme on 'Safe Driving for Disabled persons' organised for beneficiaries on the eve of distribution of motorised triwheelers

2002 – ongoing

Distribution of Assistive Devices

- 75 hearing aids distributed to children with hearing impairment within the age range of 3-16 years to enable process of educational rehabilitation to begin early
- 26 Brailers distributed to various NGOs and universities including the University of Delhi, the Jawaharlal Nehru University and the Jamia Millia Islamia University

2003 – ongoing

Advocacy Workshops

- **Legal literacy** – Organised workshops on disability issues organised for persons with disabilities, NGOs working for their cause and lawyers of local bar councils
- Information disseminated included details about laws relating to persons with disability, procedure to file public interest litigation, make a will and access the legal system
- 311 individuals benefited from 6 workshops
- **Project Health Watch**– Organised workshops to train health functionaries on the prevention, early detection and management of disabilities
- 200 doctors, NGO representatives, health workers, dais and anganwadi workers benefited through 4 workshops

2004 – ongoing

Income Generation Programmes for Women with Disabilities

- **Screwpine craft** – 40 women with disabilities and 20 non-disabled women trained to manufacture and market craft products in Kerala
- **Mushroom cultivation** – disabled women trained in cultivation of oyster mushrooms in Bhind, Madhya Pradesh

2004 – ongoing

Early Intervention Programme for Hearing Impaired Children

- Supported an early intervention programme for the early diagnosis and rehabilitation of children with hearing impairment in Vadodra, Gujarat

Some other programmes implemented earlier include -

- Project CATERED –educational software for disabled children in Tamil Nadu (1995-97)
- Service Centre for Mentally Challenged Children in Bhawanipatna, Kalahandi district, Orissa (1995-97)
- National Centre for Promotion of Employment for Disabled People, New Delhi (1996-98)
- *Rajiv Kaksh* - Centre for rehabilitation of Speech and Hearing Impaired Children in Udhampur, J&K (1996-98)
- Improving Awareness of Autism among Medical Professionals and Facilitation of Services and Rehabilitation of Newly Diagnosed, New Delhi (1998-2001)
- Learning Disability Clinic, Mumbai (1999 – 2002)
- Training cum Production Centre in Horticulture for Disabled Youth in Faridabad, Haryana (1999- 2001)

RGF's PROGRAMMES FOR DISABLED PERSONS' WELFARE

