“IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF DISABLED PEOPLE LIVING IN LEPROSY COLONIES IN BIHAR THROUGH CHETNA PROJECT”

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Introduction

- CHETANA project began in three districts of Bihar - Purnea, Munger and Khagaria - with support from Sasakawa Memorial Health Foundation in 2011
- The project covers four colonies of leprosy affected people with more than 300 families
- To enhance the quality of life of leprosy affected people and their families
- To dispel stigma and discrimination within communities in three districts of Bihar
4 Lokdoots (Outreach Workers) from these colonies are represented on the Management Committee of Samutthan – the Bihar Forum of Leprosy Affected People

3 districts (Munger, Khagaria & Purnea)
4 leprosy colonies

Training

Door-to-Door survey

315 houses with 376 disabled people

The analysis included project reports, records and interaction with the beneficiaries and residents of leprosy colonies
Selections of “Lookdoot”
“Lokdoot” Training
Key Activities – training

- The project trained 390 ASHA workers (village health workers), 259 Anganwadi Workers, 87 general health staff and 72 AYUSH Doctors on leprosy.

- Four youth melas (exhibitions) were organized in the three districts attracting 1,600 young men and women.
Key Activities – Disability Prevention and Medical Rehabilitation

Twelve footwear *mela* and camps were organized in Purnea, Munger and Khagaria districts respectively. 465 people affected with leprosy and 78 with ulcers participated in the *mela* and selected footwear of their choices.

They were also trained on self-care practices to address their disabilities.
Footwear Mela
Awareness-raising activities

- Leprosy Walk - 1,000 young people participated
- Human Rights day - 250 leprosy affected people participated
- World Disability day - 200 students and 150 leprosy affected people participated
Key Activities – accessing social security schemes

- **Indira Awas Yojna** - 61 households
- BPL card - 55 households
- Pension scheme - 44 people
- **Antyodaya card** - 20 people
- Disability card - 05 people
- Livelihoods training - 30 participants

Participants of livelihoods training are now involved in income generation activities such as tailoring and other small-scale enterprises.
House built and handed over
Activities – educational and legal support

- The project has extended financial support to 16 students from leprosy affected families for higher education (10+2 and above)

- Lepra India has provided financial and legal support to Kalpana who was forced to leave her home by her husband and in-laws when they found that she had leprosy. Lepra is helping her claim alimony and child maintenance
“Rachhabandhan” festival
Media covered
Project Impact – *Lokdoot* involvement

- *Lokdoot* (outreach workers) help improve community awareness and the overall quality of life of leprosy affected people – Restoring Dignity

- *Lokdoot* ensure availability of appropriate treatment and aids and appliances in the four leprosy colonies

- Foster linkages between leprosy affected people and departments of health and social justice at district level for palliative care, self-reliance and in dispelling stigma

- **Chetna** is a sustainable model run by community members who are now recognized by District Officials and invited to planning meetings of the National Leprosy Eradication Programme
Thank you