Protective Footwear Supply to four Northern states under the Disability Prevention & Medical rehabilitation (DPMR) activities of the National Leprosy Eradication Program (NLEP) in India

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BACKGROUND

• Footwear provision to all the Leprosy affected people and thereby prevention of further foot deformities is one of the major activities of the Disability Prevention & Medical Rehabilitation (DPMR) under the National Leprosy Eradication Program (NLEP) in India.

• Provision of Suitable protective footwear to patients to protect feet from developing new deformities. In the year 2012-13 a total of 55,472* pairs of MCR footwear were supplied under the DPMR services.

• The Leprosy Mission Community hospital in Delhi is recognized by the Indian Government in the provision of the protective footwear to the Leprosy affected patients.

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OBJECTIVES

Coordinate and support the NLEP program in the prevention of foot deformities by provision of suitable protective footwear through the DPMR initiative
Methodology - Assessment

- A team from the Leprosy Mission consisting of a Doctor, Podiatrist, Shoe technician visited the colonies in 5 northern states of India
  - Punjab
  - Himachal Pradesh
  - Uttarakhand
  - Uttar Pradesh
  - Delhi
Podiatry Assessments

Individual assessment for custom made footwear in the Settlements (Colonies) for all people affected by Leprosy

- Podiatry Assessment
- Footwear measurement
Methodology – Quality testing of MCR Sandals

- Regular feedback was taken from the patients to improve on the quality of footwear

- Samples (Randomly) were selected every 6 months and sent for quality testing to the premier footwear research institutes in India at regular intervals
  - Footwear Design & Development Institute
  - Central Leather Research Institute
Methodology - Manufacture

Care is taken to manufacture protective footwear to make it more acceptable (fashionable) to patients and reduce stigma.

Micro cellular rubber with only 18 shore hardness were used to fabricate sandals.
TLMTI Doctor screening patients along with the Government District Leprosy Officers in Punjab & Haryana, India
Footwear Supply (2010-13)

Indian States

- Delhi
- Uttar Pradesh
- Punjab
- Uttarakhand

Years:
- 2010
- 2011
- 2012
- 2013

MCR Sandals
Opportunities

• Providing POID
• Able to meet & interact with the people living in isolated settlements
• Opportunity to establish contacts and develop relationship
• Increased referral for other leprosy complications

Challenges

• Extended travel by road & return the same day!
• Hurdles at Sale tax check post at every district border
• Our vehicles are – Old, not roadworthy for long travel
Results

• The cooperation and support showed by the District program managers for Leprosy has helped the leprosy affected patients get their protective footwear.

• To alter the cost of footwear in accordance to the varying market price of the raw materials
Conclusion

• The demand for the MCR sandals among patients affected by Leprosy have increased after the footwear was made more appealing and fashionable.

• The timely provision of footwear and effective coordination by the TLM hospital with the Government of the four states has helped TLM hospital being well appreciated and recognized.