

Monthly Report

To Executive Director of Sasakawa Health Foundation

Title of the Report	Monthly Progress Report
Name	Narsappa Vagavathali
Date of Submission	31 st March 2021
Reporting Period	March 2021

1. Report on activities of APAL State-Level Bodies and APAL Leaders

- APAL conducted an interaction meeting with SILF and MP Colony members
- APAL conducted an online Executive Committee Meeting from the HQ
- A two-day meeting of APAL and SILF was organized on 09th and 10th, March, 21 at SILF Office, New Delhi
- APAL associated with Local donors and APAL Tamil Nadu distributed food grains
- An interaction meeting with SILF
- Online Meeting with SHF
- APAL successfully conducted a workshop on RPWD Act & Pankaj Sinha Supreme Court Judgment
- APAL successfully organized an Interaction Meeting with Andhra Pradesh Leprosy Colonies Leaders
- Monitoring of regular work in the Hyderabad office for Administration of corresponding mails, finance, and social media.

APAL conducted an interaction meeting with SILF and MP Colony members

On the date of 5th March, 2021 APAL conducted an interaction meeting with SILF and MP Colony members in SKNS in Indore. Mr. Venu Gopal Vice President of APAL, Mr. Sachin, SILF, Mr. Satish, Lepra, and 17 colony leaders participated.

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Visited Indore, M P on 2-3-21 for fundraising purpose for the maintenance of M P State Committee. Drafted a proposal and met with the President of Rotary Club along with Mr. Sarang Gaydhane. Explained the need for support and applied.

He assured me to consider positively.

On 5-3-21 attended the interaction meeting of APAL, SILF, Lepra, and representatives of 17 colonies organized by State committee, M P.

Mr. Sarang explained in detail the ongoing programs and the colony representatives explained their problems and needs.

Found need of immediate action regarding the enforcement of beggary act in Indore district and save the Ujjain colony from demolishing. Later Mr. Sachin, Project officer, SILF explained in detail about SILF's livelihood and education programs. I explained about FCRA Act amendments and the impact on the function of APAL & the need to change the working methodology by state Committees.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks by Mrs. Parvati, President of State Committee, M P.

APAL conducted an online Executive Committee Meeting from the HQ

On the date of 7th March 2021 APAL conducted an online Executive Committee Meeting from the HQ of APAL and discussed future activities of APAL and extension of the project

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A two-day meeting of APAL and SILF was organized on 09th and 10th, March,21 at SILF Office, New Delhi

A two-day meeting of APAL and SILF was organized on 09th and 10th, March,21 at SILF Office, New Delhi. On behalf of SILF Dr. Vivek Lal Ji and Mr. Saurabh Sen & on behalf of APAL Mr. Narsappa and Mr. Venu Gopal attended the meeting. Unfortunately due to restrictions of Covid-19, Mr. Uday Thakar couldn't be joined.

Discussions took place regarding working together in the field with cooperation and understanding to strengthen more the relationship for effective execution and the following points were prioritized as a first step.



Working Road Map:

- * Thorough discussions among CEO, Projects head, SILF, and President Vice President, APAL by communication and on phone.
- * sharing information of the programs while conducting field visits by having prior communication.
- * joint ventures and joint visits wherever possible.
- * Modification in responsibilities of State and colony leaders and revised payments to them.
- * Attachment of State and colony leaders with the zonal offices of SILF.
- * Increased amount for IGPs.
- * keen prior assessment of beneficiary and market-based activity
- * Payment of 50% as repayment in colony development fund by the beneficiary.

Education:

- * Inclusion of two board members in the selection committee of HHDLS scholarships.
- * Inclusion of financial status of students in selection parameters.
- * Adding a few leprosy-affected children from the community for Scholarships.
- * Setting up of after learning centers.
- * webinar English speaking course

Structural Changes in APAL Organization:

As SHF asked to find other options from next FY for Honorarium to Mr. Narsappa and Mr. Venu Gopal, a request was made to SILF but CEO expressed his inability to pay from SILF due to restrictions. Had further discussions about the effective Working methodology of APAL. The suggestion came up to bring changes in the functional structure of APAL by creating CEO or Executive Director and Head of Project posts to bring efficiency by separating Board from administrative functions.

The changed system will strengthen APAL in the future and as well as salary payments for both.

Later had a webinar conference meeting with Dr. Nanri in this regard.

He expressed his happiness by the progressive development in the relationship between SILF and APAL. He also told me that one and a half years back, he presented a presentation before the APAL board and suggested bringing changes by creating the posts. At that time, APAL was not ready and said that after one or two years the suggestion will be considered. SHF will appreciate it if APAL brings structural changes. He also felt the changes will be good for APAL and Mr. Narsappa and Mr. Venu Gopal may work as usual on any post and can draw salaries. SHF is ready to add the salaries to the budget to pay directly instead of indirectly. It's informed by us that it will take at least 3 months to bring changes as a resolution has to bring by calling board and general body meetings. Also requested to Dr. Nanri to attend the meetings. Dr. Nanri advised consulting with auditors or any lawyer and assured to extend SHF cooperation in all spheres. He expressed his inability to visit India at present but certainly will address both meetings by webinar conference. We assured him that he will be keep informed with further p

APAL associated with Local donors and APAL Tamil Nadu distributed food grains

On the date of 15th March 2021 APAL associated with Local donors and APAL Tamil Nadu distributed food grains hair Oil, Bathing Soap, Antiseptic lotion, Toothpaste, Brush, and Biscuits to 70 people affected by leprosy in the Thiruvullur district.



An interaction meeting with SILF

On the date of 15th March 2021, An interaction meeting of SILF, APAL, and Delhi State committee was organized at Tahirpur Leprosy Complex, Delhi. Dr. Vivek Lal CEO of SILF and office employees Mr. Tanzeel, Ms. Tehseen, and others & Mr. Venu Gopal Vice president of APAL, Mr. Girdhari Lal President of RWA, TLC, and committee members attended. Discussion took place about the issues of complex I.e children's education, IGP, Medical, etc. CEO SILF assured to consider extending support from SILF. Before the meeting CEO SILF visited the huge complex to know the conditions.



Online Meeting with SHF

Minutes of the web meeting held on 16 March 2021

Following members were present for the meeting.

1. Dr. Nanri Takahiro, Japan
2. Ms. Kiyomi, Japan
3. Mr. V. Narsappa, President, APAL
4. Mr. Venu Gopal, Vice President
5. Mr. Uday Thakar, Advisor, APAL



During the meeting, the following points were discussed.

- a. The government of India has amended FCRA rules from 30th September 2020 and put up many restrictions on accepting the foreign contribution & its utilization. The same was explained in detail.
- b. It was suggested by Dr. Nanri that, APAL should modify the working of the organization & it should be more professional to achieve this object APAL can appoint a CEO who will be responsible to organize the activities of APAL. All members agreed to this suggestion & it was decided that following procedure should be adopted to achieve this goal.
 1. To organize a physical board meeting to discuss this issue and get approval. General Body meeting should be called to approve the modifications suggested by Board Members.
 2. In a general Body meeting, new board members will be appointed. Newly constituted Board Members will decide the appointment of the CEO.
 3. The budget to be submitted to Sasakawa Health Foundation will be prepared and submitted before May 2021 for their inputs.
 4. It was suggested that some administrative expenses can be reduced in consultation with Board Members.

APAL successfully conducted a workshop on RPWD Act & Pankaj Sinha Supreme Court Judgment

On the date of 24th March 2021 APAL successfully conducted a workshop on RPWD Act & Pankaj Sinha Supreme Court Judgement at Murampudi, Tenali, Andhra Pradesh. Youth of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana participated

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Attendees:

1. M. Ramesh - Hyderabad
2. D. Prakash - Bhimavaram
3. D. Naresh - Nalgonda
4. R. Lakshmi Kumari - Bobbili
5. G. Suguna - Bobbili
6. P. Ravi Kumar - Kurnool

7. S. Jhonson - Bhimavaram
8. K. Sunitha - Bobbili
9. S. Sujatha - Vizianagaram
10. D. Nageswara Rao - Guntur
11. Mr. Narsimhulu - Kurnool

APAL Board Members:

12. V. Narsappa - Hyderabad
13. G. Venu Gopal - Delhi

Resource Person:

14. A. Mohan - Hyderabad



Discussions:

Schedule of Disabilities

- *14 New disabilities added and include;*
- *dwarfism, acid attack, muscular dystrophy and speech and language disability;*
- *Specific learning disabilities;*
- *Autism spectrum disorders;*
- *Hemophilia, thalassemia and sickle cell disease;*
- *Multiple sclerosis and Parkinson's disease;*
- *Multiple disabilities including deafblindness*

Important definitions

- *Barrier*
- *Communication*
- *Discrimination*
- *High support*
- *Reasonable accommodation*

Rights and Entitlements

- *An improvement over the PWD Act of 95 ;*
- *Reiteration of C P rights and procedures for the realization of some rights have been prescribed*
- *Recognizes legal capacity of all persons with disabilities*

- *Sec 3.1. Right to equality, life with dignity, and respect for integrity equally with others.*
- *Sec 3.3. No discrimination on grounds of disability unless it is shown that the impugned act or omission is a proportionate means of achieving a legitimate aim;*
- *Sec 3.4. Disability cannot be grounds for denying liberty.*
- *Sec 3.5 Provision of reasonable accommodation. Denial of reasonable accommodation is discrimination.*
- *Sec 4 1; Women and children with disabilities enjoy their rights equally with others.*
- *Sec 4.2; Children with disabilities have the right to freely express their views and will be provided age and disability appropriate support for this.*
- *Sec 5; Persons with disabilities are not obliged to live in any particular arrangement and provision of in-house, residential, and other community support services, including personal assistance.*
- *Sec 6.1. Protection from torture, cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment;*
- *Sec 6.2. Prior permission of committee on research and informed consent before being subject of research;*
- *Sec 7. Protection from all forms of abuse, violence, and exploitation.*
- *Sec 8. Protection in situations of risk, armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies, and natural disasters.*
- *Sec 9. No child with a disability shall be separated from his or her parents except on an order of the competent court, in the best interest of the child.*
- *Where parents are unable to take care of a child with a disability, the competent court shall place such child with near relations, within the community or in exceptional cases in the shelter home.*

Other rights and entitlements

- *Sec 10. access to appropriate information regarding reproductive and family planning.*
- *No medical procedure leads to infertility without free and informed consent.*
- *Sec 11. Election Commission of India and the State Election Commissions shall ensure that all polling stations are accessible to persons with disabilities and all materials related to the electoral process are easily understandable by and accessible to them.*
- *Sec 12. Access to Justice*
- *Sec 13. Legal capacity*

Education

- *Focus on inclusive education;*
- *Sec 16. The appropriate Government and the local authorities shall endeavor that all educational institutions funded or recognized by them provide inclusive education—*
- *(i) admit them without discrimination and provide education and opportunities for sports and recreation activities;*
- *(ii) make building, campus, and various facilities accessible;*
- *(iii) provide reasonable accommodation according to the individual's requirements;*
- *(iv) provide necessary support individualized or otherwise in environments that maximize academic and social development;*
- *(v) ensure that the education to persons who are blind or deaf or both is imparted in the most appropriate languages and modes and means of communication;*
- *(vi) detect specific learning disabilities in children at the earliest and take suitable pedagogical and measures to overcome them;*
- *(vii) monitor participation, progress in terms of attainment levels and completion of education;*
- *(viii) provide transportation facilities to a person with high support needs and also to the attendant;*
- *Sec 17.*
- *survey school-going children every five years and first survey within two years;*

- *to establish an adequate number of teacher training institutions;*
- *train and employ teachers, including teachers with a disability who are qualified in sign language and Braille and also teachers who are trained in teaching children with intellectual disability;*
- *train professionals and staff to support inclusive education at all levels of school education*
- *establish adequate number of resource centers to support educational institutions at all levels of school education;*
- *provide books, other learning materials, and appropriate assistive devices to students with benchmark disabilities free of cost up to the age of eighteen years;*
- *make suitable modifications in the curriculum and examination system to meet the needs of students with disabilities such as extra time for completion of the examination paper, facility of scribe or amanuensis, exemption from second and third language courses;*
- *Sec 18. promote, protect and ensure participation of persons with disabilities in adult education and continuing education programs equally with others.*

Skill development and employment

- *Sec 19;*
- *Inclusion in all mainstream formal and non-formal vocational and skill training schemes and programs.*
- *Provide support and facilities to avail specific training.*
- *Exclusive skill training programmers with active links with the market for those with developmental, intellectual, multiple disabilities, and autism.*
- *Loans at concessional rates including that of microcredit.*
- *Sec 20;*
- *No discrimination in any matter related to employment.*
- *Provision of reasonable accommodation and appropriate barrier-free and conducive environment.*
- *No denial of promotion on the ground of disability.*
- *No establishment shall dispense with or reduce in rank, an employee who acquires a disability during service.*
- *Policies for posting and transfer of employees with disabilities.*
- *Sec 21; Equal opportunity policy and its registration.*
- *Sec 22; Duties of employment exchanges*
- *Sec 23; G.R.O. and Grievance Redresses.*

Special provisions for benchmark disabilities

- *Sec 31; Children with benchmark disability between six to eighteen years-- free education in a neighborhood school or special school of his choice.*
- *Sec 32; All institutions of higher education receiving aid from to reserve 5% seats for persons with disabilities and to provide age relaxation;*
- *Sec 33; Government to reserve five %seats and provide upper age relaxation of five years.*
- *Identification of jobs in govt. establishments and constitution of committee with benchmark disabled persons for identification of jobs.*
- *Sec 34; Appoint not less than 4% against vacancies in the cadre strength in each group of posts identified for disabled persons of which*
- *1% for blind and low vision;*
- *1% for deaf and hard of hearing;*
- *1% for locomotor disability including cerebral palsy, leprosy cured, dwarfism, acid attack victims, and muscular dystrophy*
- *1% for autism, intellectual disability, specific learning disability, and mental illness; Multiple disabilities including deaf-blindness;*

- *Sec 35; Within limits of economic capacity and development, provide incentives to employers in the private sector to ensure that 5%. The workforce is composed of persons with benchmark disabilities.*
- *Sec 37; Make schemes in favor of persons with benchmark disabilities, to provide:*
 - (a) five percent. reservation in allotment of agricultural land and housing in all relevant schemes and development programs, with appropriate priority to women with benchmark disabilities;*
 - (b) five percent. reservation in all poverty alleviation and various developmental schemes with priority to women with benchmark disabilities;*
 - (c) five percent. reservation in allotment of land on a concessional rate, where such land is to be used to promote housing, shelter, setting up of occupation, business, enterprise, recreation centers, and production centers.*

Social Security, Health, Rehabilitation, and Recreation

- *Sec 24; Subject to economic capacity and development formulate schemes and programs to promote an adequate standard of living for living independently or in the community:*
- *25% more than that for other marginalized groups.*
- *Sec 25; Health; Free and priority treatment and barrier-free access in hospitals.*
- *Sec 29; Measures to promote the rights of all persons with disabilities to have a cultural life and to participate in recreational activities*
- *Sec 30; Measures to ensure effective participation in sporting activities.*

Duties and Responsibilities of Governments

- *Sec 39;*
- *Awareness campaigns;*
- *Ensure inclusion of the rights of persons with disabilities in the curriculum in Universities, colleges, and schools.*
- *Sec 39. f; Induct disability as a component for all education courses for schools, colleges, and University teachers, doctors and other staff, Government officials Asha workers, Anganwadi workers, engineers, architects, other professionals, and community workers;*
- *Sec 40; Formulate rules laying down the standards of accessibility for the physical environment, transportation, information, and communications, including appropriate technologies and systems.*
- *Sec 41.2; Promote personal mobility*
- *Sec 42; Make all contents in audio, print, and electronic media in an accessible format;*
- *Audio description, sign language interpretation and close captioning to ensure access to electronic media;*
- *Sec 43; Universally designed goods and products.*
- *Govt. or private Service providers shall provide services by the rules on accessibility*
- *Sec 45; Make existing public buildings accessible within five years from the date of notification of rules;*
- *Sec 44; No permission to be granted if accessibility standards not adhered to;*
- *Sec 47.2; All Universities shall promote teaching and research in disability studies including the establishment of study centers for such studies.*

Grievance Redressal

- *Chief Commissioner and Two commissioners of which one shall be a person with a disability;*
- *CCPD Advisory committee comprising of eleven members drawn from the experts from different disabilities.*
- *State Commissioner.*
- *An advisory committee comprising of five members drawn from the experts in the disability sector.*
- *Special Court.*

Appoint an advocate practicing for seven years as Special Public Prosecutor to conduct cases in that Court

Advisory Boards

- **Central Advisory board:** Ten Members being persons with disabilities, to represent Disability NGO's or DPO's and five Members shall be women with a representation of SC/ ST;
- **State Advisory boards:** Ten persons being persons with disabilities, to represent NGO's or associations which are concerned with disabilities and five shall be women and one person each from SC/ ST;
- **District Level Committee:** State Government shall constitute District-level Committee on disability whose functions are to be prescribed.

Offenses and Penalties

- **Sec 89;** Any contravention of provisions or rule, fine up to ten thousand rupees for the first contravention and any subsequent contravention fine of fifty thousand to five lakh rupees.
- **Sec 90;** If the offense is committed by a company, every person who at the time the offense was committed, was in charge and shall be proceeded against and punished accordingly:
- **Sec 91;** Whoever fraudulently avails any benefit for persons with benchmark disabilities shall be punished with imprisonment up to two years or with a fine which up to one lakh rupees or both.
- **Sec 92;** Whoever intentionally insults or intimidates, humiliates a person with a disability in any public place, assaults or uses force, denies food or fluids, sexually exploits, damages aids and appliances, and forcefully terminates pregnancy will be liable for fine and five years imprisonment.
- **Sec 93;** Failure to produce any book, account, other documents, statement, information, or any order or direction made or given shall be punishable with a fine of Rs 25000 and Rs one thousand for each delayed day of contravention.

APAL successfully organized an Interaction Meeting with Andhra Pradesh Leprosy Colonies Leaders

On the date of 25th March, 2021 APAL successfully organized an Interaction Meeting with Andhra Pradesh Leprosy Colonies Leaders and elected new board members for SLAP AP at GRETNALTES, Morampudi. Tenali, Guntur, Andhra Pradesh

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Report on activities of the Indian Central Government and States/UTs related to leprosy control that you have learned about while conducting duties as APAL President Mr. Narsappa.

In March 2021 there is no activity in Central/ State Government programs.

a. Key findings which are important for SHF work

- a. To be Concentrated Advocacy on RPWD Act and Supreme Court should be expanded to some more states.
- b. APAL to organizing more coordinated activities with other disabled sectors like DPI & NCPEDP.
- c. The regular meeting of youth leader & women empowerment programs should be budgeted and organized.
- d. To form women empowerment among colony women

b. Difficulties/Challenges you faced during the period

Difficulties: Some travel restriction is still going on in India due to lack of travel vehicles.

Challenges:

- We are continuing our office work because of India Ministry of Home Affairs released new guidelines that allow the opening of Private Offices, malls, restaurants, and religious places in all areas
- We are continuing COVID-19 Awareness Pilot Project and continue 4th month of screening tests
- COVID-19 vaccination is going on in India only for health workers and medical workers
- Workshops on RPWD Act & Supreme Court Order is going on
- Elected SLAP AP new board members
- Mostly using social media platforms and updating activities on the APAL India website

V. Narsappa