

# SASAKAWA HEALTH FOUNDATION

## Monthly Report

To

**Executive Director of Sasakawa Health Foundation**

<b>Title of the Report</b>	Monthly Progress Report
<b>Name</b>	<b>Mrs. Maya Ranavare</b>
<b>Date of Submission</b>	4 <sup>th</sup> February 2025
<b>Reporting Period</b>	<b>January 2025</b>

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

- APAL, in conjunction with its State Committee in Bihar, hosted a significant visit from Mr. Keiji Nakajima, Advisor to the Sasakawa Health Foundation; Mrs. Michiko Nakajima; and Dr. Ranganadh Rao, Programme Advisor on Medical Issues
- A complimentary health check-up camp was organized at the Mahatma Gandhi Leprosy Colony, facilitated by the esteemed Dr. Hedgewar Health Centre in collaboration with the APAL State Committee in Bangalore
- **\*\*APAL Interaction Meeting in Bihar Focuses on Leprosy Services and Community Welfare\*\***
- In collaboration with its State Committee in Bihar, APAL organized a significant visit to the Missionary Hospital and the Prem Nagar Gaunpura colony in Phulkari, Patna.
- Maya Ranavare, the esteemed President of the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL), accompanied by the APAL State Committee in Maharashtra, recently conducted a visit to Mangalgad Hill in Kudus Dashaashram.
- APAL distributed essential food grains and clothing to the residents of the Annai Terissa Leprosy Colony in Vadathorasalpur.
- APAL proudly announces our heartfelt congratulations to Mrs. Maya Ranavare, President of the Association for Persons Affected by Leprosy (APAL), for being awarded the esteemed "Lokmat Sakhi Manch Shaurya" recognition
- Maya Ranavare, the esteemed President of the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL), recently attended the distinguished Sahu Chhatrapati Foundation program.
- Maya Ranavare, President of the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL), along with Dr. Takahiro Nanri, Director of the Sasakawa Health Foundation (SHF), and Dr. Ranganadh Rao, Program Advisor for Medical Issues at SHF, recently convened with Deputy Director General of Leprosy at the Central Leprosy Division, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India.
- Committee of the Association for the People Affected by Leprosy (APAL) in Telangana coordinated a significant humanitarian initiative in collaboration with Jacob, President of the Grace Service Society.

- The collaboration meeting between the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL), the Sasakawa India Leprosy Foundation (S-ILF), and LEPROA was convened on 19 January 2025 at the Khagual Leprosy Colony in Patna, Bihar.
- The Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL) recently conducted a Nutrition Support Program at Gandhi Kusht Aashram in Jamira, Ara (Bhojpur). This initiative aimed to provide essential foodgrains to individuals affected by leprosy and their families, ensuring they receive adequate nutritional support.
- The Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL) recently convened a significant meeting with its State Committee in Bihar.
- In a recent initiative, the newly elected APAL State Committee in Bihar organized a Nutrition Support Program aimed at addressing the nutritional needs of those affected by leprosy and their families.
- APAL's State Committee in Madhya Pradesh organized an awareness program on leprosy for the nursing students of Choithram Nursing College at Babulpura Kusht Ashram, Bamnaganga, Indore, Madhya Pradesh.
- A ration distribution program was conducted in Shantinagar Colony, benefiting 30 families affected by leprosy.
- The celebration of Leprosy Day at Ramnagar Leprosy Colony, Danapur, Patna, was organized under the leadership of APAL's State Committee in Bihar, demonstrating a strong commitment to the rights and well-being of individuals affected by leprosy.

***APAL, in conjunction with its State Committee in Bihar, hosted a significant visit from Mr. Keiji Nakajima, Advisor to the Sasakawa Health Foundation; Mrs. Michiko Nakajima; and Dr. Ranganadh Rao, Programme Advisor on Medical Issues***

On 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2025, The Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL) is a dedicated organization led by its president, Mrs. Maya Ranavare, who is committed to advocating for the rights, dignity, and socio-economic empowerment of individuals and families impacted by leprosy. APAL prioritizes the elimination of stigma, the improvement of living conditions, and the facilitation of access to social entitlements. The organization actively engages with communities, government entities, and international organizations to fulfill its mission. The State Committees of APAL play a vital role in addressing region-specific challenges, ensuring that every individual affected by leprosy has the opportunity to live with dignity and be integrated into mainstream society.

Recently, APAL, in conjunction with its State Committee in Bihar, hosted a significant visit from Mr. Keiji Nakajima, Advisor to the Sasakawa Health Foundation; Mrs. Michiko Nakajima; and Dr. Ranganadh Rao, Programme Advisor on Medical Issues. The delegation conducted a tour of several leprosy colonies in Bihar, engaging with both the State Committee members and the residents of these communities, which consist of individuals and families affected by leprosy. The visitors interacted with residents to gain insights into their daily challenges, assess their living conditions, and evaluate the state of infrastructure within the colonies. During the visit, the delegation identified several critical issues faced by the community, including inadequate housing, poor sanitation, and limited access to essential medical care. They scrutinized the status of social entitlements provided by the Government, encompassing disability pensions, housing schemes, and healthcare services. The interactions with residents and State Committee members underscored the pressing need for increased governmental and societal support to address these urgent challenges.

The delegation's visit emphasized the significance of multi-stakeholder partnerships in enhancing the rights and welfare of individuals affected by leprosy, thereby inspiring a renewed commitment from APAL and its collaborators to advocate for transformative change.



***A complimentary health check-up camp was organized at the Mahatma Gandhi Leprosy Colony, facilitated by the esteemed Dr. Hedgewar Health Centre in collaboration with the APAL State Committee in Bangalore.***

On 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2025, A complimentary health check-up camp was organized at the Mahatma Gandhi Leprosy Colony, facilitated by the esteemed Dr. Hedgewar Health Centre in collaboration with the APAL State Committee in Bangalore. This initiative aimed to provide essential healthcare services to the residents of the colony, ensuring they receive timely medical attention and support. The event was highlighted by the presence of Shri Dr. Shailesha Jee Kannura, who conducted patient examinations and provided expert consultations, addressing their health concerns with remarkable dedication.

Key individuals and staff from the health centre played an instrumental role in the success of the event. Shri Raju Anna Magimath attended the occasion, offering support for the initiative. The dedicated team from the Dr. Hedgewar Health Centre, consisting of Mr. Premananda, Kumari Mahadevi, Mrs. Vijayalakshmi, Mr. Siddu, and Mr. Neminatha, worked diligently to ensure the efficient operation of the camp. Additionally, Shri Sriram Mali contributed to the coordination and management of the event. Their collective efforts emphasized the significance of community healthcare and underscored the commitment to enhancing the lives of individuals affected by leprosy.





***\*\*APAL Interaction Meeting in Bihar Focuses on Leprosy Services and Community Welfare\*\****

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The Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL) recently convened an Interaction Meeting with its State Committee in Bihar, aimed at enhancing leprosy services and addressing the challenges faced by communities affected by leprosy. This meeting provided a forum for comprehensive discussions regarding the current conditions of leprosy communities and colonies in Bihar. Participants articulated insights into the social, medical, and economic challenges encountered by individuals and families impacted by leprosy. The dialogue concentrated on identifying sustainable, long-term solutions to empower these communities, enabling them to live with dignity and integrate into mainstream society.

The meeting was marked by the active participation of several key leaders and advisors. Mrs. Maya Ranavare, President of APAL, underscored the necessity of inclusive strategies to elevate the status of the leprosy-affected population. Mr. Ramavarai Sah, Joint Secretary of APAL, emphasized the ongoing need for efforts to enhance healthcare access and facilitate social integration. The event also featured contributions from Mr. Keiji Nakajima, Advisor to the Sasakawa Health Foundation, and Mrs. Michiko Nakajima, who offered valuable international perspectives on advancing leprosy services. Dr. Ranganadh Rao, Programme Advisor on Medical Issues, presented significant medical insights, focusing on innovative methods for care and prevention.

This collaborative meeting represented a substantial advancement in addressing the multifaceted issues faced by leprosy communities in Bihar. It reaffirmed APAL's commitment to fostering an inclusive society where individuals affected by leprosy can thrive free from stigma and discrimination. The outcomes of these discussions will inform future initiatives and fortify APAL's mission to transform lives, ensuring the integration of affected individuals into the social fabric with dignity and equality.



***In collaboration with its State Committee in Bihar, APAL organized a significant visit to the Missionary Hospital and the Prem Nagar Gaunpura colony in Phulkari, Patna.***

On 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2025, The Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL), under the leadership of President Maya Ranavare and Joint Secretary Ramavarai Sah, remains steadfast in its mission to enhance the lives of individuals affected by leprosy. In collaboration with its State Committee in Bihar, APAL organized a significant visit to the Missionary Hospital and the Prem Nagar Gaunpura colony in Phulkari, Patna. This initiative underscores APAL's ongoing commitment to addressing the pressing issues faced by communities impacted by leprosy while fostering meaningful dialogue with relevant stakeholders.

During this visit, APAL had the honor of hosting Mr. Keiji Nakajima, Advisor to the Sasakawa Health Foundation; Mrs. Michiko Nakajima; and Dr. Ranganadh Rao, Programme Advisor on Medical Issues. Their participation highlighted the importance of collaborative efforts in addressing the challenges confronting leprosy-affected individuals. The visit facilitated interactions with residents of the colony, providing a platform to discuss critical issues, including the necessity for improved access roads, housing renovations, and nutritional challenges. These discussions reinforced the urgent need to address infrastructure deficiencies and enhance the overall quality of life within the community.

Furthermore, APAL engaged in constructive dialogues with media representatives, whose role is essential in raising awareness about the realities faced by individuals living with leprosy and the initiatives aimed at supporting these communities. By bringing these issues to the forefront, APAL seeks to secure public and governmental support for the implementation of sustainable solutions. This visit exemplified APAL's advocacy for holistic and inclusive development, striving to ensure dignity and improved opportunities for those affected by leprosy.



***Maya Ranavare, the esteemed President of the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL), accompanied by the APAL State Committee in Maharashtra, recently conducted a visit to Mangalgad Hill in Kudus Dashaashram.***

On 7<sup>th</sup> January 2025, Maya Ranavare, the esteemed President of the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL), accompanied by the APAL State Committee in Maharashtra, recently conducted a visit to Mangalgad Hill in Kudus Dashaashram. They were joined by the dedicated representatives of the Maharashtra Kusht Pidit Sanghatana to address a pressing issue impacting the leprosy-affected community residing in this area. The primary objective of their visit was to support and advocate for the rights of these vulnerable families, who currently face the potential threat of eviction as a result of a recent notice issued by the Forest Department.

For the past 35 years, the leprosy patients residing in Kudus Dashaashram have established their lives on Mangalgad Hill. Presently, approximately 50 families, predominantly from economically disadvantaged backgrounds, call this location home. Despite living in modest dwellings with limited resources, these families have exhibited remarkable resilience, dedicating themselves to achieving stability and securing education for their children. The community encompasses individuals of varying ages, from young children to elderly residents,

all of whom have managed to sustain their livelihoods through determination and arduous effort.

In 1991, the government officially allotted this land to the Leprosy Department, acknowledging the necessity for a secure environment for those affected by leprosy. However, the recent eviction notice issued by the Forest Department has cast uncertainty over the future of these families. The visit by Maya Ranavare and the APAL State Committee, alongside representatives from the Maharashtra Kusht Pidot Sanghatana, constituted a significant initiative aimed at advocating for the retraction of this notice and seeking a permanent resolution for the residents of Kudus Dashaashram.

They have appealed to the authorities to reconsider the eviction notice and to recognize the longstanding connection these families maintain with their home on Mangalgad Hill. By withdrawing the notice and facilitating a sustainable resolution, the government can ensure that these families retain their dignity and security. The collaborative efforts of APAL and the Maharashtra Kusht Pidot Sanghatana underscore the imperative of safeguarding the rights of marginalized communities and promoting an inclusive society.



***APAL distributed essential food grains and clothing to the residents of the Annai Terissa Leprosy Colony in Vadathorasalpur.***

On 8<sup>th</sup> January 2025, The Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL) in Tamil Nadu has recently undertaken a significant humanitarian effort through its State Committee. In collaboration with a generous local donor, APAL distributed essential food grains and clothing to the residents of the Annai Terissa Leprosy Colony in Vadathorasalpur. This initiative aimed to alleviate the hardships faced by individuals affected by leprosy, ensuring they have access to basic necessities and comfort in their daily lives.

APAL extends heartfelt gratitude to the donor whose invaluable support made this distribution possible. The gesture has provided much-needed relief and has been a source of hope and encouragement for the residents. Additionally, APAL gives special recognition to Mr. Rajendran, the State Coordinator in Tamil Nadu, for his unwavering commitment and active involvement in the leprosy community. His dedication to improving the lives of those affected by leprosy has been instrumental in the success of this initiative, reflecting the organization's mission to uplift and support marginalized communities.





***APAL proudly announces our heartfelt congratulations to Mrs. Maya Ranavare, President of the Association for Persons Affected by Leprosy (APAL), for being awarded the esteemed "Lokmat Sakhi Manch Shaurya" recognition.***

On 10<sup>th</sup> January 2025, APAL proudly announces our heartfelt congratulations to Mrs. Maya Ranavare, President of the Association for Persons Affected by Leprosy (APAL), for being awarded the esteemed "Lokmat Sakhi Manch Shaurya" recognition. This honour was presented by Additional DSP Rajashree Desai in acknowledgement of Mrs. Ranavare's unwavering dedication and significant contributions to disability advocacy. Over the past twenty years, her relentless commitment to enhancing the lives of individuals affected by leprosy and their families has positioned her as a beacon of hope and a formidable advocate for marginalized communities.

Mrs. Ranavare's journey serves as an exemplary model of inspiration. Her initiatives have not only provided essential support to individuals with disabilities but have also contributed to raising awareness about leprosy, a condition often surrounded by stigma. As a role model, she has illustrated that meaningful societal transformation is attainable through compassion and resilience. Under her leadership, APAL has empowered numerous individuals by equipping them with the necessary resources, support, and dignity that they rightly deserve. The acknowledgement of her work through the "Lokmat Sakhi Manch Shaurya" award underscores her exceptional service and the profound influence she has exerted on the lives of many individuals.



***Maya Ranavare, the esteemed President of the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL), recently attended the distinguished Sahu Chhatrapati Foundation program.***

On 11<sup>th</sup> January 2025, Maya Ranavare, the esteemed President of the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL), recently attended the distinguished Sahu Chhatrapati Foundation program. This event commemorated the launch of their annual calendar, a significant milestone that celebrates the foundation's rich cultural heritage and its philanthropic initiatives. The program was attended by several dignitaries, including Shivraj Naikote, the Secretary of the Paschim Maharashtra Devasthan Samiti, alongside other notable guests. Their participation underscored the critical importance of collaboration between cultural and social organizations in promoting community development and support.

In conjunction with the calendar unveiling, Maya Ranavare also visited a local leprosy hospital. This visit emphasized her unwavering commitment to social welfare and the enhancement of the lives of marginalized communities. Accompanied by Shivraj Naikote and other distinguished attendees, Ranavare engaged with both patients and staff, offering words of encouragement and support. The objective of this visit was to raise awareness about leprosy and to highlight ongoing efforts to provide medical care and rehabilitation for those affected. The collaborative endeavors among APAL, the Sahu Chhatrapati Foundation, and the Paschim Maharashtra Devasthan Samiti reflect a shared vision of inclusivity and compassion, aimed at creating a more equitable society.



***Maya Ranavare, President of the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL), along with Dr. Takahiro Nanri, Director of the Sasakawa Health Foundation (SHF), and Dr. Ranganadh Rao, Program Advisor for Medical Issues at SHF, recently convened with Deputy Director General of Leprosy at the Central Leprosy Division, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India.***

On 13<sup>th</sup> January 2025, Maya Ranavare, President of the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL), along with Dr. Takahiro Nanri, Director of the Sasakawa Health Foundation (SHF), and Dr. Ranganadh Rao, Program Advisor for Medical Issues at SHF, recently convened with Deputy Director General of Leprosy at the Central Leprosy Division, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India.

This meeting, held in Delhi, provided an important platform for constructive dialogue regarding the enhancement of leprosy services nationwide. Furthermore, the team conducted a visit to the Ektanagar Leprosy Colony, where they engaged with the residents to gain insights into their experiences and needs.





***State Committee of the Association for the People Affected by Leprosy (APAL) in Telangana coordinated a significant humanitarian initiative in collaboration with Jacob, President of the Grace Service Society.***

On Saturday, January 18, 2025, the State Committee of the Association for the People Affected by Leprosy (APAL) in Telangana coordinated a significant humanitarian initiative in collaboration with Jacob, President of the Grace Service Society. The program aimed to provide assistance to families affected by leprosy in Parvat Nagar (Borabanda) and Rajiv Gandhi Nagar. With the active involvement of Zahed Sharif (Baba), President of Parvat Nagar, DPMO Simhachalam and DPMO Joseph, essential goods, including ration supplies and blankets, were distributed to 170 families. The beneficiaries comprised 100 families affected by leprosy from Parvat Nagar and 70 families from Rajiv Gandhi Nagar.

The event was graced by the presence of Maniyada Ramesh, APAL's State Coordinator in Telangana, who expressed his support and appreciation for the initiative. Key staff members of the organization, including Muralikrishna Reddy, Satish, A. Manemma, P. Anjamma, Saroja, and Mohan, were integral to the efficient execution of the program. They conveyed their sincere gratitude to all contributors who played a role in ensuring the event's success. The collective efforts of all involved underscored a commitment to compassion and solidarity in addressing the needs of marginalized communities.



***The collaboration meeting between the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL), the Sasakawa India Leprosy Foundation (S-ILF), and LEPRa was convened on 19 January 2025 at the Khagual Leprosy Colony in Patna, Bihar.***

The collaboration meeting between the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL), the Sasakawa India Leprosy Foundation (S-ILF), and LEPRa was convened on 19 January 2025 at the Khagual Leprosy Colony in Patna, Bihar. This significant event gathered key stakeholders and leaders from the leprosy community to discuss initiatives aimed at improving the lives of individuals and families affected by leprosy. The meeting served as a platform to strengthen partnerships and explore collaborative strategies regarding advocacy, healthcare, and social support.

Representatives from APAL's State Committee and leaders from leprosy colonies across the region actively engaged in the discussions. Mrs. Maya Ranavare, President of APAL, emphasized the importance of empowering individuals affected by leprosy and fostering community resilience. Mr. Ramavarai Sah, Joint Secretary of APAL, provided insights into ongoing efforts and future plans designed to enhance the quality of life for affected individuals. Representing S-ILF, Mr. Gaurav Sen, CEO of the foundation, highlighted the critical role of sustainable livelihood programs and educational initiatives for communities impacted by leprosy. Mr. Rajnikanth Singh, State Coordinator of LEPRa, reaffirmed LEPRa's commitment to delivering comprehensive healthcare and support services to those in need.

The meeting highlighted the collective commitment of APAL, S-ILF, and LEPRa to collaborate towards achieving a leprosy-free and inclusive society. Discussions centred on addressing the challenges faced by leprosy-affected individuals, advocating for their rights, and creating opportunities for social and economic inclusion. This collaboration represents a vital step towards ensuring that the voices of leprosy-affected communities are acknowledged and their needs are adequately addressed through unified efforts.



***The Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL) recently conducted a Nutrition Support Program at Gandhi Kusht Aashram in Jamira, Ara (Bhojpur). This initiative aimed to provide essential foodgrains to individuals affected by leprosy and their families, ensuring they receive adequate nutritional support.***

On 20<sup>th</sup> January 2025, The Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL) recently conducted a Nutrition Support Program at Gandhi Kusht Aashram in Jamira, Ara (Bhojpur). This initiative aimed to provide essential foodgrains to individuals affected by leprosy and their families, ensuring they receive adequate nutritional support. The program is part of APAL's ongoing commitment to improving the quality of life for people impacted by leprosy.



and addressing their fundamental needs. The distribution of food grains was met with gratitude and optimism from the beneficiaries, as it alleviated some of the challenges they face in their daily lives.

The program witnessed active participation from key members of APAL, including Ms. Maya Ranavare, President of APAL, and Mr. Ramavarai Sah, Joint Secretary of APAL. Their presence underscored the organization's dedication to standing in solidarity with the leprosy-affected community. The State Committee of APAL in Bihar also played a vital role in organizing and executing the event, ensuring its success. The collective efforts of the APAL leadership and the state team highlighted the importance of community-driven initiatives to empower marginalized groups and foster social inclusion.



***The Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL) recently convened a significant meeting with its State Committee in Bihar.***

On 21<sup>st</sup> January 2025, The Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL) recently convened a significant meeting with its State Committee in Bihar. This meeting served as a platform for meaningful engagement and dialogue among participants regarding the current circumstances encountered by the leprosy-affected community. The committee addressed the challenges and barriers faced by individuals impacted by leprosy, both within designated leprosy colonies and in the wider society. Strategies and measures to confront these challenges were discussed, emphasizing sustainable solutions aimed at enhancing the quality of life and ensuring the comprehensive welfare of the community.

A noteworthy aspect of the meeting was the election of a new management team for the State Committee. APAL extended its congratulations to the newly elected members, underscoring the critical role they will assume in furthering the organization's objectives. The dialogue also focused on the future responsibilities of the committee in promoting socio-economic empowerment and advancing the welfare of individuals affected by leprosy. These initiatives are designed to uplift both individuals and families living in leprosy colonies, facilitating their integration into mainstream society with dignity and respect. APAL reaffirmed its commitment to fostering a more inclusive culture where all individuals can flourish without facing stigma or discrimination.





***In a recent initiative, the newly elected APAL State Committee in Bihar organized a Nutrition Support Program aimed at addressing the nutritional needs of those affected by leprosy and their families.***

On 21<sup>st</sup> January 2025, The Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL) has once again demonstrated its commitment to the welfare and empowerment of individuals affected by leprosy. In a recent initiative, the newly elected APAL State Committee in Bihar organized a Nutrition Support Program aimed at addressing the nutritional needs of those affected by leprosy and their families. The event was held at the Missionaries of Charity in Prem Nagar, Gonpura, Phulwari Sharif, Patna, and was marked by the active participation of several APAL leaders and members.

During the program, essential food grains were distributed to the beneficiaries, ensuring that their dietary needs were met. The distribution was graced by the presence of Ms. Maya Ranavare, the President of APAL, whose leadership and dedication have been pivotal in driving APAL's mission forward. Alongside her was Mr. Ramavrai Sah, the Joint Secretary of APAL, who played a crucial role in the planning and execution of the initiative. The entire state committee came together, contributing their time, resources, and efforts to make this event a success.

This initiative highlights APAL's unwavering focus on addressing the holistic needs of individuals affected by leprosy, beyond just healthcare. By ensuring access to nutrition, APAL continues to promote the dignity and well-being of these individuals, fostering a sense of inclusion and support within the community. The collaborative efforts of the state committee and leadership reflect the organization's dedication to its core values of compassion and service.



***APAL's State Committee in Madhya Pradesh organized an awareness program on leprosy for the nursing students of Choithram Nursing College at Babulpura Kusht Ashram, Bamnaganga, Indore, Madhya Pradesh.***

On 27<sup>th</sup> January 2025, APAL's State Committee in Madhya Pradesh organized an awareness program on leprosy for the nursing students of Choithram Nursing College at Babulpura Kusht Ashram, Bamnaganga, Indore, Madhya Pradesh. The program aimed to educate future healthcare professionals about the physical, social, and mental consequences of leprosy, emphasizing the importance of empathy and understanding in their approach to treating and supporting individuals affected by the disease. This initiative sought to dispel myths and stigma surrounding leprosy while encouraging students to play a proactive role in its eradication and in improving the quality of life for affected individuals.

During the session, Mr. Sarang Gayadhane, Secretary of APAL, addressed the audience, providing insights into the medical and social dimensions of leprosy. He highlighted how the disease impacts individuals not only physically but also socially and mentally due to the deep-rooted stigma associated with it. He urged the students to approach the care of leprosy-affected individuals with compassion and dignity. The principal of Choithram Nursing College also participated in the event, underscoring the significance of such programs in building awareness among healthcare students. The nursing students actively engaged in the discussion, showing keen interest in understanding the challenges faced by leprosy-affected individuals and ways to support them effectively. This collaborative effort marked a significant step toward fostering awareness and reducing prejudice against leprosy within the healthcare community.



***A ration distribution program was conducted in Shantinagar Colony, benefiting 30 families affected by leprosy.***

On January 29, 2025, a ration distribution program was conducted in Shantinagar Colony, benefiting 30 families affected by leprosy. This noble initiative was made possible through the generosity of local donor Madam Aruna and her family, who extended their support to ensure that essential supplies reached those in need. Their kindness and commitment to social

welfare brought much-needed relief to these families, reinforcing the importance of community-driven humanitarian efforts.

APAL expresses its heartfelt gratitude to Madam Aruna for her invaluable services in supporting persons affected by leprosy. Her compassionate contribution reflects a deep sense of empathy and solidarity with marginalized communities. Additionally, APAL extends special thanks to its State Coordinator in Telangana, Maniyada Ramesh, for his active role in organizing and facilitating the distribution. His dedication and efforts played a crucial part in ensuring the smooth execution of the program, demonstrating the power of teamwork in making a meaningful impact on the lives of those in need.



***The celebration of Leprosy Day at Ramnagar Leprosy Colony, Danapur, Patna, was organized under the leadership of APAL's State Committee in Bihar, demonstrating a strong commitment to the rights and well-being of individuals affected by leprosy.***

The celebration of Leprosy Day at Ramnagar Leprosy Colony, Danapur, Patna, was organized under the leadership of APAL's State Committee in Bihar, demonstrating a strong commitment to the rights and well-being of individuals affected by leprosy. APAL (Association of People Affected by Leprosy) has been instrumental in advocating for the dignity and social inclusion of leprosy-affected persons, and this event further reinforced their efforts. The program was marked by the enthusiastic participation of residents, healthcare professionals, social workers, and volunteers united in their mission to spread awareness and dispel leprosy myths. Through various activities, the attendees gained valuable insights into the medical, social, and emotional aspects of the disease, fostering a more compassionate and informed perspective.

A highlight of the event was the oath-taking ceremony, where all present vowed to actively contribute to the eradication of leprosy-related stigma and discrimination. This pledge served as a reminder of the collective responsibility to ensure that individuals affected by the disease receive the respect, care, and opportunities they deserve. The commitment of APAL's State Committee in Bihar to promoting awareness and early treatment was evident in the speeches and interactive sessions held during the event. Participants were encouraged to engage in community outreach and advocacy efforts, emphasizing that leprosy is curable and that those affected should not face social exclusion.

The program also paid homage to Mahatma Gandhi, whose deep compassion for leprosy patients remains an enduring source of inspiration. His philosophy of service and inclusion resonated throughout the event, reinforcing the importance of humanitarian efforts in



eliminating prejudice against leprosy-affected individuals. The event concluded with a renewed sense of determination among all attendees to work towards a society where leprosy patients are treated with dignity and are fully integrated into the community. APAL's State Committee in Bihar reaffirmed its commitment to continuing its advocacy and support initiatives, ensuring that awareness and sensitivity toward leprosy remain a priority in public discourse.



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