

SASAKAWA HEALTH FOUNDATION

Monthly Report

To

Executive Director of Sasakawa Health Foundation

Title of the Report	Monthly Progress Report
Name	Mrs. Maya Ranavare
Date of Submission	4th April 2025
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1. Report on activities of APAL State-Level Bodies and APAL Leaders

- APAL's State Committee in Telangana, in collaboration with local donors including Marwadi Madam Brandam, recently organized a heartwarming initiative aimed at supporting the underserved. Essential household items were distributed to 32 leprosy-affected families residing in Santosh Nagar Leprosy Colony in Peddampet Pasumamula.
- APAL, along with its State Committee in Maharashtra, recently met with Dr. Ramji Adkekar, the Additional Director of Leprosy, Maharashtra State
- APAL, in collaboration with the Karuna Project and Stepping Stone Charitable Trust, celebrated World Women's Day with great enthusiasm at Sanjay Nagar, Borivali, Mumbai
- On the occasion of International Women's Day on March 8, APAL's State Committee in Telangana, in collaboration with the Children of Deccan Foundation, organized a special awareness program to highlight the significance of women's empowerment and child protection
- APAL's State Committee in Madhya Pradesh took a significant step in advocating for the rights of persons affected by leprosy by facilitating their access to biometric ration cards
- APAL's State Committee in Telangana, in collaboration with the Children of Deccan Foundation, organized a significant initiative aimed at supporting education in rural areas.
- APAL (Association of People Affected by Leprosy), along with the Maharashtra Kusht Pidit Sanghatana, visited the Jeevan Jyothi Society and Vile Parle colony.
- APAL'S Telangana State Committee,(SLAP-TS) in collaboration with Reliable Trust, organized a significant service initiative at the Hindu Yuvajana Sangham premises in Peddamberpet, Hyderabad. As part of this program, essential supplies, including food grains, shirts, sarees, and blankets, were distributed to 550 families of individuals affected by leprosy.

- APAL's State Committee in Jharkhand, led by State Leader Mohammad Zainuddin and APAL Vice President Jawahar Ram Paswan, participated in a crucial meeting organized by the SABAL Center, Tata Steel Foundation
- Mr. Jawahar Paswan, Vice President of APAL, and Mr. Ramavarai Sah, Joint Secretary, have actively represented APAL at key national events
- APAL Vice President Shri Jawahar Ram Paswan Attended Udayan's Foundation Day
- Association of People Affected by Leprosy) State Committee in Madhya Pradesh recently held its annual meeting in Indore, bringing together key representatives and advocates dedicated to the welfare of individuals affected by leprosy
- APAL's State Committee in Maharashtra recently visited the Sanjay Nagar colony in Borivali, Mumbai, to engage with the residents and understand their living conditions.

APAL's State Committee in Telangana, in collaboration with local donors including Marwadi Madam Brandam, recently organized a heartwarming initiative aimed at supporting the underserved. Essential household items were distributed to 32 leprosy-affected families residing in Santosh Nagar Leprosy Colony in Peddampet Pasumamula.

On 5th March 2025, APAL's State Committee in Telangana, in collaboration with local donors including Marwadi Madam Brandam, recently organized a heartwarming initiative aimed at supporting the underserved. Essential household items were distributed to 32 leprosy-affected families residing in Santosh Nagar Leprosy Colony in Peddampet Pasumamula. This outreach effort not only provided much-needed daily necessities but also helped restore hope and dignity among the community members during challenging times.

APAL extends its sincere gratitude to the local donors for their generous support and active participation in this noble cause. A special thanks is due to Maniyada Ramesh, APAL's State Coordinator in Telangana, whose leadership and dedicated involvement were crucial to the successful execution of the distribution. His commitment ensured that the assistance reached the families efficiently, making a tangible difference in the lives of those in need.



APAL, along with its State Committee in Maharashtra, recently met with Dr. Ramji Adkekar, the Additional Director of Leprosy, Maharashtra State

On 5th March 2025, The Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL) continues its dedicated efforts to address the medical and social challenges faced by individuals affected by

leprosy across India. In line with its commitment to ensuring better healthcare and support systems, APAL, along with its State Committee in Maharashtra, recently met with Dr. Ramji Adkekar, the Additional Director of Leprosy, Maharashtra State. The meeting, held at his office, focused on discussing the pressing medical issues faced by persons affected by leprosy and identifying permanent solutions to improve their healthcare access and quality of life.

Ms. Maya Ranavare, President of APAL, and Mr. Jitedran from the APAL State Committee in Maharashtra led the discussions, highlighting critical concerns such as timely diagnosis, availability of essential medicines, and improved healthcare facilities in leprosy colonies. They emphasized the need for strengthened government intervention to ensure that individuals affected by leprosy receive sustained medical care without facing discrimination or delays. The delegation also explored strategies to enhance rehabilitation programs and community-based healthcare initiatives to prevent further complications among patients.

Dr. Ramji Adkekar acknowledged the concerns raised by APAL and assured his support in addressing them effectively. He expressed his willingness to collaborate with APAL to implement systematic solutions, including improving the distribution of Multi-Drug Therapy (MDT), ensuring regular health check-ups, and providing better ulcer care management. The meeting marked a significant step toward bridging the gap between government health initiatives and the needs of leprosy-affected individuals in Maharashtra, reinforcing APAL's commitment to advocating for sustainable healthcare solutions for the community.



APAL, in collaboration with the Karuna Project and Stepping Stone Charitable Trust, celebrated World Women's Day with great enthusiasm at Sanjay Nagar, Borivali, Mumbai

On 9th March 2025, APAL, in collaboration with the Karuna Project and Stepping Stone Charitable Trust, celebrated World Women's Day with great enthusiasm at Sanjay Nagar, Borivali, Mumbai. The event aimed to recognize and honor the strength, resilience, and contributions of women, especially those from marginalized communities. The celebration was marked by inspiring speeches, cultural performances, and interactive sessions that highlighted women's empowerment, gender equality, and the need for continued support in their journey toward a better future.

Ms. Maya Ranavare, President of APAL, along with Dr. Farzana Mulla and the residents of the colony, actively participated in the event. Ms. Ranavare emphasized the importance of providing equal opportunities to women, particularly those affected by social stigma and

health challenges. Dr. Mulla shared valuable insights on women's health and well-being, stressing the significance of education and awareness in improving their quality of life. The residents also came forward to share their experiences and stories of resilience, making the event more engaging and impactful.

The celebration concluded with a pledge to continue working towards women's rights, inclusion, and empowerment. APAL, the Karuna Project, and Stepping Stone Charitable Trust reaffirmed their commitment to supporting women through advocacy, healthcare, and skill-building initiatives. The event served as a reminder that collective efforts can bring meaningful change and uplift communities, ensuring a more inclusive and equitable society.



On the occasion of International Women's Day on March 8, APAL's State Committee in Telangana, in collaboration with the Children of Deccan Foundation, organized a special awareness program to highlight the significance of women's empowerment and child protection

On 10th March 2025, On the occasion of International Women's Day on March 8, APAL's State Committee in Telangana, in collaboration with the Children of Deccan Foundation, organized a special awareness program to highlight the significance of women's empowerment and child protection. The event brought together women from diverse fields, fostering discussions on the challenges they face and the need for collective action to promote gender equality. Through interactive sessions and insightful talks, participants shared their experiences, emphasizing the importance of education, economic independence, and legal awareness in ensuring women's rights and safety.

Key dignitaries graced the program, including Mr. Ashok Kumar, founder of the Children of Deccan Foundation; Mr. Malkanna, Child Protection Officer; Ms. Mary, a dedicated women's welfare activist and NGO representative and Maniyada Ramesh APAL's State Coordinator in Telangana. They highlighted the urgent need for policies and community initiatives that support women's growth and protect children from exploitation. The event concluded with a strong commitment to continuing efforts toward empowering women and fostering a safer, more inclusive society where every woman and child can thrive.



APAL's State Committee in Madhya Pradesh took a significant step in advocating for the rights of persons affected by leprosy by facilitating their access to biometric ration cards.

On 10th March 2025, APAL's State Committee in Madhya Pradesh took a significant step in advocating for the rights of persons affected by leprosy by facilitating their access to biometric ration cards. Many individuals affected by leprosy have lost their fingers due to ulcers, making it difficult for them to provide fingerprints, a mandatory requirement for availing government social entitlements, including food security benefits. This long-standing issue has prevented several people from accessing their rightful benefits, leaving them in a vulnerable state. Recognizing this challenge, APAL intervened to ensure that these individuals from Sevada Aashram Machla, Indore, were not deprived of their essential needs due to a technical limitation.

To address this issue, APAL's State Committee in Madhya Pradesh organized a visit to the Collector's Office, taking affected individuals along to advocate for a viable solution. With persistent efforts and dialogue, they successfully convinced the authorities to accept an alternative biometric verification method—iris scanning—for the submission of their Know Your Customer (KYC) details. This breakthrough ensured that individuals who could not provide fingerprints due to their condition were still able to access their ration cards and other social benefits without further obstacles. This initiative not only resolved an immediate issue but also set a precedent for similar cases, strengthening the movement for equal rights and inclusion of persons affected by leprosy in government welfare programs.



APAL's State Committee in Telangana, in collaboration with the Children of Deccan Foundation, organized a significant initiative aimed at supporting education in rural areas.

On 10th March 2025, the APAL's State Committee in Telangana, in collaboration with the Children of Deccan Foundation, organized a significant initiative aimed at supporting education in rural areas. Through the Vidhyadhan Project, study materials were distributed to the students of ZP High School in Pasumamula Village.

The event was graced by the presence of Mr. Vijayender Reddy, Counselor of Peddamberpet, who emphasized the importance of education in shaping young minds and the role of community support in fostering academic growth. The Head Master of ZP High School also participated in the program, acknowledging the collaborative effort of APAL's State Committee and the Children of Deccan Foundation in uplifting the students. Additionally, Mr. Maniyada Ramesh, APAL's State Coordinator for Telangana, Pooja, Sameera and Sravan have participated.



APAL (Association of People Affected by Leprosy), along with the Maharashtra Kusht Pidit Sanghatana, visited the Jeevan Jyothi Society and Vile Parle colony.

On 12th March 2025, APAL (Association of People Affected by Leprosy), along with the Maharashtra Kusht Pidit Sanghatana, visited the Jeevan Jyothi Society and Vile Parle colony. During this visit, the representatives interacted with the residents, addressing their concerns and discussing various issues faced by individuals affected by leprosy. The visit aimed to understand the challenges encountered by the community and explore possible solutions to improve their living conditions and access to essential services.

As part of the visit, the delegation also met with officials from the Municipal Corporation of Mumbai. A memorandum was submitted to highlight the urgent needs and demands of the leprosy-affected community. The memorandum emphasized the necessity for better healthcare facilities, financial support, and rehabilitation programs to ensure a dignified life for those impacted by the disease.

Prominent figures present during this visit included Maya Ranavare, the President of APAL, along with Mr. Jitedran and other key members of both organizations. Their participation underscored the collective effort to advocate for the rights and well-being of leprosy-affected individuals, ensuring that their voices were heard and addressed by the authorities.



APAL'S Telangana State Committee,(SLAP-TS) in collaboration with Reliable Trust, organized a significant service initiative at the Hindu Yuvajana Sangham premises in Peddamberpet, Hyderabad. As part of this program, essential supplies, including food grains, shirts, sarees, and blankets, were distributed to 550 families of individuals affected by leprosy.

On 15th March 2025, APAL'S Telangana State Committee,(SLAP-TS) in collaboration with Reliable Trust, organized a significant service initiative at the Hindu Yuvajana Sangham premises in Peddamberpet, Hyderabad. As part of this program, essential supplies, including food grains, shirts, sarees, and blankets, were distributed to 550 families of individuals affected by leprosy. The event was graced by the presence of Mr. T. Ravi, Director of Reliable Trust, and Mr. Maniyada Ramesh, APAL'S State Coordinator in Telangana. Distinguished guests, including Leprosy Medical Officer (SLO) & JD Director John Babu, Pedda Amberpet Municipal Commissioner Ravinder Reddy, and former Councillor Vidya Vijender Reddy, participated in distributing these essential items to the beneficiaries, ensuring that the aid reached those in need.

A total of 550 individuals from 13 different leprosy colonies across Telangana attended the event along with their families. The program was successfully conducted with the support of Hindu Mitra Yuvajana Sangham President Puli Raju, along with members Pasula Raghu, Prashanth Reddy, Itikala Mahender Reddy, and senior members from Nagireddy Colony, who played an instrumental role in the organization. The leaders of the leprosy colonies, along with **Ramesh Maniyada**, extended their heartfelt gratitude to Shri T. Ravi and Reliable Trust for their generous support. This initiative not only provided essential resources to the beneficiaries but also highlighted the importance of social responsibility and compassion in uplifting marginalized communities.



APAL's State Committee in Jharkhand, led by State Leader Mohammad Zainuddin and APAL Vice President Jawahar Ram Paswan, participated in a crucial meeting organized by the SABAL Center, Tata Steel Foundation.

On 19th March 2025, APAL's State Committee in Jharkhand, led by State Leader Mohammad Zainuddin and APAL Vice President Jawahar Ram Paswan, participated in a crucial meeting organized by the SABAL Center, Tata Steel Foundation. Senior officials and the CSR Head of Tata Steel were present, expressing their commitment to addressing the issues of families of persons affected by leprosy.

Key Discussions are, Importance of Leprosy Colonies – Due to social ostracization and eviction from ancestral properties, colonies became safe spaces where affected persons could live with dignity.

Major Challenges – Social discrimination, lack of electoral rights, economic insecurity, limited education, difficulty accessing government schemes, and inadequate health services.

Proposed Solutions – Increasing social awareness, restoring electoral rights, providing self-employment opportunities, improving access to government schemes, and strengthening healthcare services.

Key Outcomes are that Tata Steel Foundation officials committed to visiting leprosy colonies on 21 March 2025 to understand the ground reality and implement necessary improvements.

APAL, thanks SABAL Center and Tata Steel Foundation for their continued support in empowering leprosy-affected families.



Mr. Jawahar Paswan, Vice President of APAL, and Mr. Ramavarai Sah, Joint Secretary, have actively represented APAL at key national events

On 22nd March 2025, Mr. Jawahar Paswan, Vice President of APAL, and Mr. Ramavarai Sah, Joint Secretary, have actively represented APAL at key national events. Their participation in the National Disability Network (NDN) and NCEPEDPE highlights their commitment to advocating for disability rights and inclusion in policy discussions.

They also attended the prestigious Purple Festival at the President of India's residence, celebrating inclusivity and the achievements of persons with disabilities. Their presence at

these significant events reinforces APAL's dedication to strengthening advocacy efforts and promoting a more inclusive society.



APAL Vice President Shri Jawahar Ram Paswan Attended Udayan's Foundation Day

Report: APAL Vice President Shri Jawahar Ram Paswan Attended Udayan's Foundation Day

Date: 25/03/2025 Venue: Udayan Campus, West Bengal

The 55th Foundation Day of Udayan Sanstha was a significant occasion marked by the presence of distinguished guests, including Shri Jawahar Ram Paswan, Vice President of the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL). The event saw the participation of all Udayan family officials, including the Director, Deputy Director, Superintendent, Sapan Da, and other esteemed dignitaries.

During his address, Shri Jawahar Ram Paswan acknowledged and commended the exceptional contributions of Udayan Sanstha towards the welfare of children from families affected by leprosy. He emphasized that the organization has been a beacon of hope for many, providing education, self-reliance, and social rehabilitation opportunities. He lauded Udayan's unwavering commitment to empowering these children and helping them integrate into mainstream society.

Shri Paswan took a moment to highlight the success stories of several individuals who have benefitted from Udayan's initiatives and have now carved a respectable place for themselves in society. Among them were:

Mahesh Gorai – Advocate

Dhan Singh – Successful Businessman

Umesh Gorai – Physiotherapist

Vishal Karmakar – Businessman

Yudhistir Dutta – Businessman

These inspiring individuals stand as a testament to the transformative impact of Udayan's efforts in nurturing talent and fostering self-sufficiency among children from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Furthermore, Shri Paswan made a heartfelt appeal to Udayan Sanstha to extend its hostel facilities to accommodate children from other leprosy-affected families in Jharkhand and Bengal. He expressed his confidence that such an initiative would enable more children to receive quality education and uplift their lives. On behalf of APAL India, he assured full support and collaboration in advancing this noble cause.

The event concluded on a positive note with Udayan Sanstha expressing its sincere gratitude to Shri Jawahar Ram Paswan for his presence and unwavering support. The organization reaffirmed its commitment to continuing its social service endeavors, ensuring a brighter future for children affected by leprosy.



Association of People Affected by Leprosy) State Committee in Madhya Pradesh recently held its annual meeting in Indore, bringing together key representatives and advocates dedicated to the welfare of individuals affected by leprosy.

On 29th March 2025, The APAL (Association of People Affected by Leprosy) State Committee in Madhya Pradesh recently held its annual meeting in Indore, bringing together key representatives and advocates dedicated to the welfare of individuals affected by leprosy. The meeting served as an essential platform to assess the current living conditions in the leprosy community and identify critical services still required for their well-being and social upliftment.

Among the prominent attendees were Mr. Sarang Gayadhane, Secretary of APAL, and Mr. Satish Chowdary, State Coordinator of GLRA (German Leprosy and TB Relief Association) in Madhya Pradesh. From the APAL State Committee, active participation was seen from Mr. Raju, Ms. Hira, Mr. Gopal, Ms. Rekha, Ms. Sarita, Mr. Rajaram, and Ms. Meera. The discussions focused on addressing key challenges faced by the leprosy-affected community, including access to healthcare, social inclusion, livelihood opportunities, and essential support services.

The meeting reinforced APAL's commitment to advocating for the rights and needs of those affected by leprosy, ensuring they receive adequate support and integration into mainstream society. The collective efforts of the participants highlighted the importance of continued collaboration with government bodies, NGOs, and welfare organizations to bridge service gaps and improve the quality of life for the leprosy-affected community in Madhya Pradesh.



APAL's State Committee in Maharashtra recently visited the Sanjay Nagar colony in Borivali, Mumbai, to engage with the residents and understand their living conditions.

On 31st March 2025, APAL's State Committee in Maharashtra recently visited the Sanjay Nagar colony in Borivali, Mumbai, to engage with the residents and understand their living conditions. This visit aimed to assess the challenges faced by the leprosy-affected community and discuss potential solutions to improve their quality of life.

During the visit, APAL representatives, along with the colony leaders and community members, engaged in meaningful discussions regarding housing, healthcare, social inclusion, and access to government welfare schemes. Maya Ranavare, a key leader and advocate for the rights of leprosy-affected individuals, actively participated in the meeting, lending her voice to the concerns of the residents. The discussions revolved around improving sanitation, securing financial aid, and ensuring better healthcare services for the community.

The visit by APAL's State Committee in Maharashtra underscored the organization's commitment to empowering people affected by leprosy and advocating for their rights. The interaction not only highlighted the pressing issues faced by the Sanjay Nagar residents but also served as a platform for finding practical solutions in collaboration with local leaders. The committee assured the residents of their continued support and efforts to push for policy changes that would lead to better living conditions for the leprosy-affected community in Maharashtra.


