



## BOMBAY LEPROSY PROJECT

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### Symposium on “Challenges & strategies on the management of disabilities in leprosy” in commemoration of 47<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day

Bombay Leprosy Project (BLP) organized a Symposium on “**Challenges and strategies on the management of disabilities in leprosy**” in commemoration of its 47<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2022 at Referral Centre, Sion-Chunabhatti, Mumbai.

The symposium was attended by undergraduate medical and paramedical students from Government and Private medical colleges in Mumbai and Thane districts under the auspices of Switch India, a Healthcare organization run by medical and paramedical students and personnel from across the country. The symposium was facilitated by the eminent experts from the field of leprosy and disability rehabilitation.



Dr Satish Arolkar, Consultant Plastic Surgeon, Mahavir Hospital, Khar (West), Mumbai



Dr Manish Renghe, Assistant Director of Health Services (Leprosy), Govt. of Maharashtra, Mumbai



Dr Ravindran, Lecturer, Dept. of Physiotherapy, All India Institute of Physical Medicine & Rehab, Mumbai

Dr Vivek Pai, Director, BLP welcomed the distinguished speakers and said that this symposium marks an important breakthrough in the journey of BLP by completing 46 years of yeomen service to the persons with leprosy. He recalled the scientific contribution made by Padma Shri Dr R Ganapati who founded BLP on this day (laid foundation on 11<sup>th</sup> September and registered on 6<sup>th</sup> October) in 1976 along with a bunch of colleagues from the Acworth Leprosy Hospital, Wadala, Mumbai.



Dr V V Pai introducing & welcoming the guest speakers



A section of student volunteers at the Symposium

His revolutionary vision and pioneering studies in the holistic management of leprosy has become the general norms and strategies for urban leprosy control in many mega cities of India. He also mentioned that BLP is continuing to spread his legacy although in a hard way as the funds are dwindling to sustain our efforts in the service of leprosy sufferers through its referral centres.

Mr. S Kingsley, Research Executive, BLP presented a brief life sketch of Dr R Ganapati and his scientific studies and research endeavours in the field of urban leprosy made through BLP. His lifetime ambition was developing and strategizing total patient care with special reference to deformity which can be followed under simple field conditions. He shared the details of disability problem especially with regard to leprosy in India and the challenges to reduce the disability in the urban and rural areas. He also elaborated the strategies of WHO, NLEP, and BLP to manage deformities due to leprosy in the integrated settings with the goal to achieve zero disability by 2030.



Mr. S Kingsley presenting on the 'challenges and strategies on management of disabilities in leprosy'



Dr Manish presenting on the 'disability burden in Mumbai and strategies under DPMR in NLEP'

Dr Manish Renghe presented the disability burden in Mumbai and the services provided under Disability Prevention and Medical Rehabilitation (DPMR) in NLEP. He said there is a declining trend of new leprosy case detected in Mumbai over the past 10 years however the disability burden is a matter of concern. He reiterated that the leprosy cases with disabilities are being provided with appropriate services through the 27 Leprosy Referral Centres (LRCs) managed by the Government, Municipal Corporation and NGOs in Mumbai.



Dr Ravindran presenting on the 'mechanical principles in management of insensitive feet'



Dr Satish Arolkar presenting on the 'care of anaesthetic hands and feet in leprosy and diabetes'

Dr Ravindran presented a comprehensive overview of the biomechanical issues and related consequences of the insensitive foot including leprosy. He enlightened in detail the use of digital technology for the evaluation of abnormal peak plantar pressure on the foot that can guide in the development of customized footwear and suitable modifications for pressure offloading. He described the management of the insensitive foot with various orthotic devises that can reduce the pressure and the incidence of plantar ulceration and recurrence significantly.



Mr. Dhamale demonstrating the use of prefabricated splints for the correction of hand deformities



Dr Arolkar discussing the causes and management of a leprosy case with trophic ulcers

Dr Satish Arolkar presented the various factors that can lead to ulceration in the insensitive feet due to leprosy as well as diabetes mellitus. He highlighted the importance of regular inspection and skin care to recognize the 'positive and negative' symptoms with appropriate interventions. He narrated several options for preventing ulcers in the insensitive foot including the surgical intervention – release of nerve funicles and underlying veins – that can result in optimal recovery of nerve functions.



Dr Pai demonstrating the sensory assessment of a leprosy case to Dr Manish Renghe



Ms Anju Wakade, Research Officer presenting floral bouquet to Dr Sanya Richard, Coordinator, Switch India

Mr. CB Dhamale, Physiotherapist, BLP demonstrated a few leprosy cases with deformities and explained the uses of various aids in the correction of deformities. Subsequently, the invited guest speakers demonstrated the leprosy cases with different types of hand and foot deformities including tropic ulcers and discussed the treatment modalities for clinical improvement and better functional outcome.



Group of medical and paramedic students (Switch India volunteers) along with the eminent speakers at the Symposium

Mr Subash Hoval, Manager proposed vote of thanks to all the invited guest speakers for their valued role in facilitating the technical aspect of the Symposium. He expressed thanks to all the volunteers of Switch India and appreciation for the intended association of Switch India for inspiring medical students in volunteership programs.

#### **Acknowledgement:**

We are very grateful for all the persons affected by leprosy who gave us an opportunity to ease their sufferings due to disabilities and deformities. We express our thanks to Dr Satish Arolkar; Dr Manish Renghe and Dr Ravindran, the invited guest speakers for their valuable presentations and technical sharing at the Symposium. We are thankful to Dr AK Gaur, Director, All India Institute of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Haji Ali, Mumbai, Maharashtra for her encouragement and academic partnership.

**We are also indebted to all our donors and well wishers for their continued support and participation in all our academic and social ventures.**