Celebrating fullness of life

The Leprosy Mission Trust India

ANNUAL REPORT 2009

The Leprosy Mission Trust India
**About us**


**Mission Statement:** To minister in the name of Jesus Christ to the physical, mental, social and spiritual needs of individuals and communities disadvantaged by leprosy; working with them to uphold human dignity and eradicate leprosy.

**Our Vision:** A World Without Leprosy.

**Our Goal:** To eradicate the causes and consequences of leprosy.

**Our Key Priorities:**
1. Stay focused on leprosy until the work is finished.
2. Strengthen and expand our work with people with physical disabilities.
3. Include people society excludes.

**Our Values**

We Strive to be...

... like Jesus
- motivated by the Gospel
- compassionate

... holistic
- valuing each person, their families and communities
- working at every level of need

... professional
- in our attitude, actions and management
- appropriate
- in our practice

... open
- working for authentic participation
- promoting dignity

**The Leprosy Mission Trust India**

**Members of the Trust**

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<tr>
<td>Dr D P N Prasad</td>
<td>Member &amp; Chairman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Geoff Warne</td>
<td>Ex officio Member</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr Christopher Doyle</td>
<td>Ex officio Member</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr Sunil Anand</td>
<td>Member</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Vijay Aruldas</td>
<td>Member</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr V P Macaden</td>
<td>Member</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr George Koshi</td>
<td>Member</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Nalini Abraham</td>
<td>Member</td>
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<td>Mr B S Chakranarayan</td>
<td>Member</td>
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**Who are we?**

- An International Christian Organisation
- Working in 10 states of India
- Transforming and empowering the lives of those affected by leprosy since 1874

**What do we do?**

We work together with those affected by leprosy for them to regain good health and become active members of their communities, empowered to access their rights to social interaction, education and employment.

**How do we carry out our activities?**

Through
- 18 Hospitals
- 26 Community Based Projects
- 6 Vocational Training Centres
- Support to NLEP in 10 states
- A well equipped Research Laboratory
- A Media Centre
- 50 Partner Institutions

**What is our focus?**

- Quality medical care & Specialised leprosy referral services
- Awareness and Advocacy
- Women Empowerment
- Sustainable Livelihood Solutions
- Working with Government - providing technical support
- Networking

**Articles contributed by**

- Mr Sijo Mathew
- Mr Sathish Paul
- Ms Tina Mendis
- Mr Joshy Jose
- Mr Tanmoy Muduli
- Mr Samuel Thomas

**Editorial Committee**

- Dr Premal Das
- Dr Shyamala Anand
- Mr Ranjit Mookerji
- Mr Wilfred Balraj

**Collated & Designed by**

- Mr John Thomas
- Mr Ronnie D’Souza
from the
Director’s Desk

It is my pleasure and privilege to present the report of what we in The Leprosy Mission Trust India did in the year 2009. This report of our activities is a reflection of the goodness and faithfulness of God, the commitment and hard work of each staff member, the support of those who raise funds for our work and those who give us the privilege to work - those whose lives are affected by leprosy.

The year was an eventful one bringing challenges and changes. We started 2009 with the challenge of finding a strategic role for our hospitals in an ever changing environment where ‘welfare only’ approaches are being challenged by development issues. The Hospital think tank meeting held in the early part of the year threw up many possibilities for relevance of health care in the current leprosy situation. Apart from this, we began the process of developing a country strategy, that would enable us to continue to play a significant role in facilitating those affected by leprosy to claim their rights to education, employment and a dignified way of life, in addition to quality specialized medical and surgical leprosy referral services.

The year also saw a change in leadership at the country level with Jeyakumar Daniel retiring after 4 years as Director. His contribution is much appreciated and acknowledged.

Leprosy continues to be at the core of all our activities. This report attempts to highlight that focus and is presented in 5 thematic areas.

I thank all my colleagues whose commitment and hard work through the year continues to better the lives of those affected by leprosy. I also thank our Supporters, the Chairman and members of our Trust, our various partners and the members of TLM International whose support and encouragement we value.

I thank God for His faithfulness because of which we not only look back in gratitude at the past year but also look ahead with hope at the challenges we face in the coming year.

Dr Sunil Anand, MD

We make a difference through...

Health Care.................................................. 03

Quality health services for the leprosy affected, working towards improving the health status of the rural and urban poor communities.

Prevention of Disability..................................... 05

Empowering persons affected by leprosy in the care and prevention of impairment and disability.

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Sustainable livelihood solutions for the marginalised.

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Socio-economic and political empowerment of leprosy affected and marginalised rural women.

Awareness Building.......................................... 11

Creating awareness for behaviour change.
Our Impact

17256
Overall Leprosy Registrations - New

6245
Untreated Leprosy patients Registered

122148
Consultations for Leprosy

377905
Consultations for General Services

9017
Leprosy Admissions

12346
General Admissions

1257
Reconstructive Surgeries

5461
Ophthalmic Surgeries

Achieved through

18 Hospitals

5 Snehalyas

780 Medical and support staff

Health Care

Quality and affordable health care have always been the hallmark of TLM Hospitals in India. We have played a major role in the reduction of leprosy and enhancing the health status of the rural and urban poor. With our expertise in leprosy, the focus of our hospitals continues to be management of leprosy related complications. General services through our hospitals reach thousands of marginalised in the country every year for whom quality health services would remain inaccessible in our absence.

Leprosy Management: TLM Hospitals are centres of excellence in leprosy care receiving referrals from local practitioners, Govt. hospitals, NGOs and the community for management of Reactions, Neuritis, Deformity correction, Ulcers etc. Thousands of new patients are registered each year for treatment and tertiary care. Two of our Urban Hospitals are being planned for a Pilot model on Urban Leprosy Control and Management following the WHO Global Strategy on Leprosy Elimination. TLM’s hospitals in 10 states of India, work towards the vision of a world without the consequences of leprosy. We have been playing an integral part in bringing down the leprosy load and stigma associated with it. Our close association with ILEP and Government of India is a clear indication of our partnership to achieve the goal of a world without leprosy.

Ophthalmology: Secondary level eye care services form an integral part of our health care activities in 6 TLM hospitals. Community eye care is given emphasis to create awareness on preventive and correctable blindness in the rural and urban communities where we work. Regular surveys for eye disease and awareness programmes benefit leprosy affected as well as other marginalised and tribal populations. Our ophthalmic work is done in partnership with the local community, DBCS and NGOs like CBM, HelpAge India, EFICOR, World Vision India, etc.

Public Health: TLM India supports the National Leprosy Eradication Programme in capacity building, monitoring & supervision, DPMR, Socio Economic Rehabilitation and Operational Research in 11 states. Orientation for Medical Students was done in 25 Medical Colleges covering over 4000 students.

Obstetrics and Gynaecology: Maternal and child mortality rates have been a serious problem in India more so among the rural poor who usually lack access to quality health care. Leprosy affected are often refused obstetric care by govt. & private hospitals and TLM fills this void. TLM Hospitals in 6 strategic locations provide maternal and
child health services and contribute to the achievement of Millennium Development Goals (MDG). We also partner with various state governments for implementing the welfare schemes for women.

Community Health & Development: Community outreach work of TLM hospitals impact a wider community, improving the health status and enhancing health seeking behaviour. Mother & Child Care in the villages, Immunisation Clinics with UNICEF and Govt., Eye Screening in schools and the Community, Self care groups for the leprosy affected, Village clinics for Medical problems and Health Awareness, working with the Govt. in the community through the Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme are some of the community activities carried out by TLM Hospitals in partnership. Several Hospitals are recognised for Government Health Programmes such as NRHM and Health Insurance schemes to provide General health care to the Community.

Advocacy and Awareness: A Rights based approach is adopted in TLM Hospitals to promote and honour the rights of our stakeholders. Advocacy and awareness programmes are essential components in all TLM hospital programmes. Awareness and advocacy for leprosy is facilitated and often led by the hospital staff who also assist the disabled in accessing their rights and benefits through the existing government schemes. Providing knowledge about causes of diseases and choices available will go a long way towards promoting a change in health seeking behaviour of the rural population.

Leprosy Oriented Research: Clinical and social research is carried out through Stanley Browne Laboratory in Delhi and Research Resource Centre (RRC). Current major researches are:

- Molecular epidemiology of leprosy
- Study of environmental mycobacterium leprae and transmission link
- Pathogenesis of leprosy reaction
- Drug resistance in leprosy

Social and clinical studies are also being carried out through RRC in Noida. The focus is mainly on stigma reduction strategies and drug resistance. TLM hospitals link to research through the WHO-Govt. of India Drug Resistance Surveillance. Also involved in several operational & clinical research proposals and papers for publication.

Snehalayas: TLM runs 5 Snehalayas for the leprosy affected destitute in the geriatric age group. These homes provide holistic care for the beneficiaries to have a dignified living. We also try to reunite them with their families. Staff of the Snehalayas are trained to provide physical, psychological and spiritual support to the residents and make them feel the importance of life. TLM Snehalayas provide support to 152 beneficiaries.

18 year old Rahul comes from a poor family in rural Maharashtra. He had not received adequate and timely treatment for his Hansen's disease and this resulted in deformity of his right hand. Motivated by the health talks given by TLM staff, he decided to undergo reconstructive surgery at TLM Miraj.

The surgery was a success and this made him more courageous and resolute. He completed his secondary school education with 78% marks after the surgery. Seeing his poor financial condition, TLM sponsored him under Catch Them Young project to do his Teacher's training. A village boy's dream has come true. “The Leprosy Mission is doing marvellous work for the people excluded by society. Due to deformity and my family's financial condition, my dream couldn't have materialised, but TLM has made it possible”, says Rahul.
Innovative and effective ways to empower persons affected by leprosy in the care and prevention of impairment and disability have always been a priority for TLM. Uniform protocols, action plans and guidelines have been formulated and are being followed for an effective POID programme in TLM.

**Ulcer care:** Participatory self-care methods enable the patients in identifying their problems due to leprosy and in further prevention of their deformities. Involvement of family members and community in the self-care groups have helped to improve patient compliance for self-care. Ulcer surgeries were done on 61% of patients who were hospitalised for ulcer care in 2009.

**Early detection of Nerve function Impairment:** Of the 6244 nerve function assessments done on newly registered leprosy patients, 16% were diagnosed to have grade-I deformity and 24% with grade-II. Physiotherapeutic modalities like exercises, plasters, splints alongside medical treatment (steroids) were provided to these patients and further deterioration of these impairments were prevented.

**Podiatry:** The Podiatric services, an initiative by TLM, helps in effective management of foot deformities. Both functional and adaptive orthosis are now fabricated by our shoe technicians with the help of hot air ovens provided to the hospitals. 11356 Micro Cellular Rubber (MCR) sandals and 2368 orthosis were fabricated and supplied to our clients in 2009. 146 artificial limbs have been designed and fabricated by TLM Artificial Limbs centres using light weight High Density Poly Ethylene (HDPE) pipes. These prosthesis fitted with Jaipur foot are preferred over the conventional prosthesis by the patients for its functionality, cosmetic appearance, light weight and early manufacture.

**Patient education:** Educating patients is the first step in POID. Innovative methods like organising forums on disability care for patients in the community and hospital help them to come out with their own solutions for the problem. The staff and some clients are trained from time to time on facilitating a group discussion. It is the learning and practice of self-care that help to reduce recurrent ulceration, worsening of deformity and facilitate early detection of new deformities.

**Training:** Physiotherapy and Occupational therapy students from various Universities across India come to TLM hospitals at Naini, Sheela, Renu, Rekha and Basevu are 4 women who were admitted in a TLM hospital for ulcer management. They developed repeated ulcers for being negligent in taking care of their anesthetic hands and feet while cooking. While in the hospital they became part of the self-care groups and were trained to be cautious in handling hot utensils while cooking, thus protecting their anesthetic hands and feet. The patients were very thrilled by this new way of participatory learning and have now gone back to their homes equipped with this knowledge on safe cooking.

2039 persons (diabetic and leprosy) benefited through podiatry services

2368 people given Orthoses

10037 people taught Self-Care activities
Dayapuram, Kolkata and Shahdara for their clinical postings. They are oriented on the clinical features and therapeutic management of Leprosy. They in turn help to spread awareness of the disease, get involved in deformity management and refer leprosy affected patients with complications for treatment.

**Occupational Therapy:** Occupational Therapists in Vocational Training Centres help in screening and selecting students for appropriate VTC training. They are also involved in placements by providing information required to the employers on special needs for differently abled candidates.

Differently abled patients in hospitals are assessed by the therapists for activity limitation and functional disabilities. Appropriate modifications are advised and provided which are useful in their occupation as well as at home. Adaptive devices are provided for patients whose activities of daily living are affected due to irreversible deformities.

**Reconstructive Surgeries:** TLM Hospitals play a significant role in the reduction of stigma associated with leprosy through the correction of deformities and restoration of function. Reconstructive Surgeries for correction of leprosy related deformities are available in 16 hospitals to restore dignity and enhance the lives of people affected by leprosy to enable them to carry out activities of daily living and lead a normal life.

**Awareness and Advocacy:** World Disability Day 2009 was observed in TLM by conducting various leprosy awareness programmes, general disability camps, exhibitions and rallies in the hospitals and in the community.

**Partnerships:** TLM has been working in collaboration with several NGOs and the Government in the area of POID. This includes community related work in the field through self-care activities and capacity building. Screening camps for RCS and Training in detection of deformities are conducted with the Government staff in many states of the country by our experienced Physiotherapy staff and doctors. RCS is done in Government and other NGO hospitals on request using TLM Surgeons and Physiotherapists.

Though staff members have retired from service after giving their invaluable knowledge and skills for POID work in TLM, others have returned after finishing their Postgraduate studies in Physiotherapy, Occupational therapy and Rehabilitation Engineering bringing newer skills and knowledge to the field of POID.

The key area which needs to be focused on will be on applying the latest technology in the field of rehabilitation and disability prevention for the leprosy affected and the disabled so as to enable them to live their lives to the fullest.

Durjadhan is a 26 year old young man who lost both his legs from below the knee in a train accident. His hopes of living a normal life and doing the things he loved like riding his bike were shattered after the accident and he was very depressed. When a friend of his told him about artificial limbs that are supplied by TLM; with great hope he came to one of the TLM hospitals.

Cast measurement for both lower limbs were taken and light weight High Density Polyethelene prostheses were specifically designed and fabricated for him. Within 48 hours the artificial limbs were ready and Durjadhan was walking. Immediately he asked for a bike in the hospital and showed the staff his riding skills. Now Durjadhan comes to the hospital for regular check ups.

### Statistics:
- **11356** protective footwear provided
- **4521** leprosy affected persons benefited through Physiotherapy & Occupational therapy interventions (Adaptive Devices, Plasters, Splints)
- **112** prostheses provided

**A life transformed**

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Sustainable Livelihood Initiatives

The Leprosy Mission India’s ‘Sustainable Livelihood Initiatives’ centres around strategic interventions to improve the quality of life through available alternative livelihood opportunities on a progressive rights based approach. These will ensure that the people affected with leprosy, general disabilities; people living with HIV/AIDS; people living in remote tribal belts and women marginalised due to their gender (widows, devdasis, etc) have adequate resources to sustain themselves.

Vocational Training Centres: TLM’s 6 Vocational Training Centres (VTCs) have been instrumental in imparting quality vocational education and training to young adolescents affected by leprosy/general disabilities. The VTCs ensure that these marginalised youth have increased employment opportunities through improved access to Vocational Education & Training and Skill Development. Existing trades are updated to meet the current market demand. Increased employability is attained through improved multi-stakeholder collaboration, particularly involving the private sector. Emphasis is also given on entrepreneurship development in potential growth sectors.

Micro enterprise development through Community Based livelihood Projects: TLM’s Community Based projects continue to promote sustainable livelihood initiatives by mobilising clients to act collectively through Self Help Groups (SHGs). Not only has TLM facilitated the formation of SHGs but it has also helped in strengthening of SHGs already existing in their programme area. The SHGs were enabled to choose from among several livelihood options based on their resources, skills and perception of risks. Members were trained to develop personal livelihood plans.

Most of the SHGs formed through TLM projects across the country are equipped to work together on developing micro enterprises that are relevant to the local market. Individual member as well as group micro enterprises was encouraged. Many groups have taken up pickle production, papad making, mushroom cultivation, catering of mid day meals to schools as enterprise development for the entire group. Some of the individual enterprises developed have been animal rearing for sale of milk, cultivating vegetables for sale, honey bee keeping for the production and sale of honey. The year

Our Impact

3055
Students given educational support through CTY

2865
Self Help Groups formed

883
Students trained in VTCs

804
Students found job placements

280
Disabled friendly houses built

48
Individuals assisted in Economic Rehabilitation

Comprehensive Rehabilitation Programme
Centre for Rehabilitation of Artisans for Fair Trade
Promoting Artisans for Participatory Empowerment

6 Vocational Training Centres
Centre for Rehabilitation of Artisans for Fair Trade
Promoting Artisans for Participatory Empowerment
saw the strengthening of linkages between the SHGs and micro-finance organisations. As a result most loans for SHG initiated enterprises were accessed through local micro-finance organisations. SHGs also received detailed information about various income generation schemes/grants/loans being initiated through the local government and were facilitated to access the same.

The SHGs in several parts of the country that were more than two years old have joined together in local federations. Federations have received training in supporting and facilitating the SHGs under their leadership for their continued sustainability.

**Animal husbandry / Goat rearing projects:** In several of the SHGs in Chhattisgarh and Karnataka, members were trained in rearing of goats. Members of SHGs were selected and provided with goats. In a year’s time, these members returned 12 female goat kids to the group which was then revolved to other SHG members. This revolving of kids has had a multiplier effect and has/will enable several SHG members to add to their income.

**Artisans & Craft projects:** The year also saw TLM extending its support to traditional artisans with disabilities. Around 500 such artisans received skill training to enhance their capacities in their traditional crafts. The artisans were also linked to necessary markets for procurement of raw materials as well as sale of products. As a result, these artisans were able to revive their traditional crafts and earn a sustainable income out of them. Crafts like wood carving, bead-making, pottery to name a few were developed ensuring that the products were all eco-friendly. This was made possible through two of TLM’s projects namely, Centre for Rehabilitation towards Artisans Fair Trade and Promoting Artisans through Participation and Empowerment.

**Strategy for inclusion:** Where people affected by leprosy could not be included in SHGs, financial assistance to start viable enterprises was provided through TLM. Eighty such individuals across India were assisted.

The sustainable livelihood initiatives across CBA programmes are evolving as we work with economically disadvantaged members of society helping them meet their daily needs in a manner locally appropriate. These initiatives however, have played a significant role in ensuring food security, decreasing economic vulnerability, enhancing incomes and increasing access to basic entitlements – realizing a life of dignity for the marginalised.

“I am Hotrika Rathore, 20 years old from Basmuda, a village of Raigarh district, Chhattisgarh. While studying in Std IV, a very horrifying & heartbreaking event took place in my life. I was not able to hold my pencil, noticed a few patches on my hand. I was diagnosed with leprosy. We went back to our village, but my father who was scared of villagers and society at large shifted me to his brother’s house in another village.

Through an awareness programme in our village, I heard about TLM VTC Champa. My father & my uncle were also very supportive and allowed me to attend the classes. I got myself registered in Computer Operator and Programming Assistant course. Here I not only learn about my vocation but also English and life coping skills. TLM VTC Champa has a great contribution in boosting my confidence level and skills required to meet the challenges in life. I wanted to be a Computer Teacher, which I felt was beyond my imagination while I was growing up, but VTC training made my dream come true”. 
Our Impact

30000 Lives touched

700 Families empowered through exclusive Women SHGs

245 Youth employed

120 Women elected in Panchayat elections

65 Mahila Mandals formed

Achieved through

Women Empowerment Project

Strengthening Self Help Groups

Empowering Village Women of Rural Uttar Pradesh

Rural Women Empowerment

"Women empowerment is the ability of women to exercise full control over one’s actions". The term women’s rights refers to freedom and entitlements of women and girls of all ages. These liberties are grouped together and differentiated from broader notions of human rights because they often differ from the freedoms inherently possessed by or recognised for men and boys, and because activists for this issue claim an inherent historical and traditional bias against the exercise of rights by women and girls. Rural women empowerment programmes of TLM focus on the key socio-economic and political challenges faced by the women affected by leprosy, disability and from other marginalised communities through its community based projects. In the Indian context women affected by leprosy are doubly stigmatised: on the one hand they are ostracised due to the obvious, leprosy related stigma, but on the other, women especially the rural women are subjected to discriminating evil practices, child marriage, female infanticide, women trafficking, inadequate awareness on life threatening health conditions, HIV..., the list goes on.

Issues commonly associated with notions of women’s rights include, the right: to bodily integrity and autonomy; to vote (suffrage); to hold public office; to work; to fair wages or equal pay; to own property; to educate; to enter into legal contract; and to have marital, parental and religious rights. Women and their supporters have campaigned and in some places continue to campaign for the same rights as men. The Women Empowerment projects in Uttar Pradesh address these issues through a series of interventions both at the grass root level through the ‘Mahila Mandals’ or women’s groups as well as at the provider’s level, by sensitising the panchayat members, PHC staff, ANMs, Ashas, local government office bearers etc. On the access front the groups work through panchayats, local administration and block development officials in creating friendly approachable access channels for disadvantaged women from the affected communities to reach the services or service providers. This include lobbying for better accessible school/adult literacy centres, roads, presence of officials in the PHCs devoted to leprosy and disability care on a regular basis.

Mahila Mandals: At present the project works through close to 65 groups in 30 Gram Panchayats in two blocks of district Barabanki in

When we speak we are afraid our words will not be heard or welcomed.

But when we are silent, we are still afraid. So it is better to speak.

- Audre Lorde
UP and has its presence in three other districts of UP viz. Allahabad, Sitapur and in Rae Bareilly where at present a multi level need assessment is being conducted. The members of the Mahila Mandals take responsibility in teaching and sensitising women in their neighbourhoods.

The major part of the empowerment is in terms of economic empowerment. The Mahila Mandals as Self Help Groups (SHGs) inculcate the habit of saving among the women. The saved money in turn attracts bigger loans from the government and banks with minimum interest. Many of the small scale ventures thus started in our earlier Women Empowerment projects in Muzaffarpur and Purulia still stand as witness to the enterprising power of the rural women in these districts.

**People’s Representatives:** Networking with other community based groups at the district level helps them to be part of larger groups lobbying for their common good. In the past, 120 Women community leaders from 444 Self Help Groups from Women Empowerment project in Muzaffarpur, Bihar had actively contested and got elected in the reserved seats in the panchayat elections, giving them sustainable platform for addressing their issues. Many of these women who never been out of their homes in the villages saw the light of empowerment in meeting the district officials for expressing the collective concerns as part of the community interface programme in the project. The SHGs and TLM’s Women Empowerment project strive to bring the rural women to common platforms exposing them to the commonality of their issues.

All this shows that the process of gender equality and women’s empowerment still has a long way to go and may even have become more difficult in the recent years. Empowerment would become more relevant when women need are given equal priority and actually treated as equal to men. The division of labour that a woman is supposed to do only household chores and the men are the only one who can earn a living for the family, has to be removed.

It was noticed that by far, there was a greater number of male leprosy patients than female. This is often not because the women are far more immune to the disease, but because of the acute stigma attached to the disease. Women are forced not to go for diagnosis and it was also found that many parents kept their affected children, especially daughters, (for fear of not being able to “marry them off”) locked away from the public eye and many husbands were frightened and ashamed, because of the stigma of the disease, for their wives to be seen as a “leprosy patient”. Meanwhile, a woman needs to be physically healthy in order to work equally. This is sadly lacking in a majority of women especially in the rural areas where TLM has its presence. They have unequal access to basic health resources and lack adequate counselling. The result is an increasing risk of unwanted and early pregnancies, HIV infection and other sexually transmitted diseases.

“I am Padma, 45 years old, with two children. In 2009, when TLM promoted Self Help Group practices in the District of Villupuram highlighting the possible benefits of micro-credit strategy, I decided to be part of a Self Help Group with other 19 village members. The working activity I chose was a grocery store.

Later, thanks to our group's initiative, I received a loan of Rs 15,000, which enabled me to set up my own tiny business. Now I am able to save Rs 3,000 each month. I feel proud that I proved myself to be a successful entrepreneur. The first step, I took was to expand my existing stall into a better one. I have decided to concentrate on my children's future. Further, I would like to guarantee them high-level education according to their personal attitude and interests”.

When asked about her ambitions, she says, “My smile is back and, I am going to promote welfare initiatives for the needy people in my village”.

**Restoring smiles**
Our Impact

20000
School children given orientation on Leprosy related stigma

8124
Disability Certificates facilitated

3025
Awareness Camps organised

2245
Rail and Bus passes facilitated

1324
Mobility Devices provided

Awareness Building

One of the major concerns of the modern democracies and major developmental issues is the alienation of the marginalised individuals and communities from various aspects of improved quality of life.

The awareness programmes of TLM is centered around sensitisation and information sharing about leprosy in high risk areas. This is crucial so that patients and their families, who were historically ostracised from their communities, are encouraged to come forward and receive treatment.

The focus of TLM’s awareness programme rests in making people conscious about the possibility of exploring innovations in their own surroundings. This fosters the values and attitudes of creativity and innovations in the wider audience, and to enhance self-dignity and self-esteem. The entire exercise of knowledge dissemination and awareness building goes along the spirit of building up a strong positive public opinion in favour of persons affected by leprosy. TLM’s campaigning and awareness building programmes, in the year, has branched out to rope in a diverse set of stakeholders from within the targeted communities and provides them a common platform that allows them to share their concerns leading to acceptance of the community and the society at large.

In this context, as in many others, awareness building and information sharing constitutes an important component of TLM’s work. It provides our targeted individuals and communities an alternative way of channelising different views and striving to secure interest in the decision making process at various levels of community life.

Awareness towards Stigma reduction: Lack of proper understanding and the unabated propagation of traditional myths and disbeliefs about leprosy have led to build-up of negative social attitudes that culminate in social discrimination and stigma against persons affected by leprosy and their families. While discrimination refers to the unjust or prejudicial treatment of people, especially on the grounds of being affected by leprosy, stigma is an ugly “act of labelling, rejection or unexplained fear of a person affected by leprosy”.

With this statement in mind TLM’s major thrust area is towards educating individuals and communities, especially the leprosy affected people, about their basic rights and entitlements with a greater emphasis on Rights Based Approach. TLM stresses the Empowering communities to address their own issues

School Targeting Stigma

Empowering village women of rural Uttar Pradesh
need of educating the younger generation about leprosy through its specially designed programmes for school children. The programme not only sensitises the upcoming generation in the schools but also equips them to act as change agents in the society and develops them as role models to sensitise the society that leprosy is treatable, curable and touchable.

Continuing from sensitisation, spreading the message and equipping individuals and communities on the areas of leprosy care and other diseases, our awareness programmes are strategically designed to address the stigma attached to leprosy. The awareness programmes are meant to reduce the stigma attached to leprosy, at three different stages, viz., self-stigma, perceived stigma and institutional stigma.

**TLM’s components of Awareness Building:** Information is power and is regarded as a strategic tool of democracy. TLM believes that, if people do not know happenings in their society, if the actions of those who rule them are hidden, then they cannot take a meaningful part in the affairs of the society. Access to information not only facilitates active participation in the democratic governance process, but also promotes openness, transparency and accountability. The introduction of Right to Information Act has played a greater role in building knowledge banks within the community members making them aware of their rights and exercising them.

TLM’s awareness building plays a crucial role in the awareness process of the community in 3 major areas:
- Empowerment
- Social Awareness
- Social Action

The Leprosy Mission Trust India through various methods and ways of intervention, which includes, public awareness meetings, rallies, health camps, “trialogue” meeting, street theatre, video shows, puppet show, etc., facilitates in the entire process of awareness building and information sharing for the communities.

**Conclusion:** Unified efforts are required to promote increased awareness about leprosy and reduce stigma and discrimination, so as to sustain the interest of policy-makers and encourage the involvement of general health services in leprosy control. It is crucial to address the problem of leprosy and its wider ramifications through careful implementation of evidence-based strategies. It is necessary to use every available opportunity to expand the vision and enhance all efforts to achieve the goal.
Our presence in India
Financial Highlights

(Figures - rupees in lakhs)

Financial Position as at 31st December 2009

SOURCES OF FUNDS

- Capital Fund 3,912.68 (82%)
- General Fund 563.57 (-12%)
- Designated Prog. Fund 1,087.62 (23%)

APPLICATION OF FUNDS

- Fixed Assets 4,066.53 (85%)
- Amount receivable 180.33 (4%)
- Cash & Bank Balances 1,084.71 (23%)
- Investment 275.55 (6%)
- Provision for Gratuity 100.00 (2%)

INCOME

- Foreign Contributions 3,922.01 (64%)
- Local Contributions 1,512.87 (29%)
- Miscellaneous Income 287.85 (6%)

EXPENDITURE

- Rehabilitation 1,089.07 (21%)
- Treatment 2,510.07 (48%)
- Prevention of Disabilities 176.46 (3%)

Working Results for the year 2009

*Each Hospital/Project/VTC receives partial funding from more than one Supporting Country.
Celebrating fullness of life

“Celebrating Freedom” - Patients and Snehalaya residents observing Independence Day in TLM Naini Hospital.