



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	4 th October 2024
Reporting Period	September 2024

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

- State Committee of the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL) in Bihar, referred to as SAMUTHAN, convened at the office of the Land Reforms Minister in Patna to address critical land-related issues
- State Committee of APAL in Jharkhand, accompanied by Mr. Madhusudan Tiwari, conducted a visit to the Angarpathra Leprosy Colony
- APAL State Committee in Andhra Pradesh conducted a health screening camp in collaboration with Kaligiri Leprosy Hospital at the New Jyothi Leprosy Colony in Nellore
- APAL's State Committee in Jharkhand, namely Mr. Mohd. Zainuddin and Mr. Madhusudan Tiwari, a formal request was submitted to the Deputy Commissioner's office
- State Committee of APAL, in partnership with the Children of Deccan Foundation, hosted a book distribution event at MPPS School in Pasumamulu as part of the Vidyadhan program
- Pasumamula J.P.H.S. hosted a significant event organized by the Children of Deccan Foundation (CDF) in partnership with Mangala as part of their girl safety program
- State Committee of APAL in Odisha conducted a significant visit to all leprosy colonies in the Balangir district
- Association of People Affected by Leprosy, in collaboration with the District Health Society (DHS) in Kamrup, organized a significant event at the Dhirenpara First Referral Unit (FRU) in Assam
- State Committee of APAL in Telangana, in conjunction with the Share Vision organization, orchestrated a notable occasion to provide aid to families impacted by leprosy
- During a recent meeting, Mrs. Maya Ranavare, the President of the Association for People Affected by Leprosy, held discussions with Mr. Aamdar Satish Patil, a Member of the Vidhana Sabha in Kolhapur

- The State Committee of APAL in Telangana and APAL's State Coordinator Mr. Ramesh Maniyada convened a meeting with the Honorable Minister, Komati Reddy Venkata Reddy
- State Committee of APAL (Association of People Affected by Leprosy) in Telangana, in partnership with the Share the Vision Khammam organization, conducted a significant distribution of essential provisions
- State Committee of APAL in Gujarat conducted an educational program at the Gandhi Leprosy Seva Sangh. The aim was to enlighten third-year [B.Sc](#) Nursing students from KD Hospital, Ahmedabad
- State Committee of the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL) in Bihar, known as SAMUTHAN, submitted a significant application to the Chief Minister of Bihar
- The APAL State Committee in Telangana, in conjunction with the HP Shakti Ladies Club, recently undertook a commendable initiative to distribute food grains to 85 families affected by leprosy
- a delegation led by Maya Ranavare, President of APAL, visited the office of the Additional Director of Health Services (ADHS) in Sangli, Maharashtra
- APAL's President, Maya Ranavare, along with members of the APAL State Committee in Maharashtra and representatives from the Maharashtra Kusht Sanghatana, visited several key leprosy colonies
- APAL State Committee in Bihar, represented by Mr. Ramesh Prasad, Mr. Ram Barai, and Mr. Kamlesh, held an important meeting with Harjot Kaur Bamhra, the Additional Chief Secretary of the Social Welfare Department in Bihar
- President of APAL, and representatives from the Maharashtra Kusht Sanghatana, recently held a meeting with Honorable MLA Annasaheb Bansode, Pimpri Vidhan Sabha
- president of APAL, took part in the BIAnnual National Disability Network Meeting conducted in Delhi
- The State Committee of the APAL in Telangana, in collaboration with the Health Department of Peddambar Peta Primary Health Centre (PHC), recently organized a successful health camp
- APAL's State Committee in Karnataka, accompanied by women affected by leprosy from Vijaypur Leprosy Colony, visited the local Primary Health Center (PHC) to address a critical need for regular health and ulcer care services
- APAL's State Committee in Haryana, in collaboration with the Leprosy Society, recently carried out a compassionate initiative aimed at supporting individuals affected by leprosy at Rohtak Kusht Aashram
- Mr. Prakash, Treasurer of the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL), in conjunction with leaders from various leprosy colonies in Bhimavaram, undertook an initiative to address the inadequate infrastructure in their communities

State Committee of the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL) in Bihar, referred to as SAMUTHAN, convened at the office of the Land Reforms Minister in Patna to address critical land-related issues

On the 3rd of September, the State Committee of the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL) in Bihar, referred to as SAMUTHAN, convened at the office of the Land Reforms Minister in Patna to address critical land-related issues encountered by leprosy

colonies in the state. The committee highlighted the significant challenges faced by residents, including insecure land ownership and inadequate living conditions. Emphasizing the urgency of intervention and policy reform, they urged the Land Reforms Minister's office to take concrete steps to address the longstanding land problems affecting the community.

Subsequent to the meeting with the Land Reforms Minister, the committee proceeded to the Social Security Office to submit an application advocating for an elevation in the disability pension for individuals affected by leprosy. They argued that the existing pension amounts are insufficient to meet the basic needs of those living with disabilities and stressed the need for an increase to ensure a more sustainable livelihood. They emphasized that augmenting the pension would significantly enhance the quality of life for individuals affected by leprosy, many of whom already face marginalization and endure social and economic hardships. The delegation expressed optimism that their efforts would yield positive changes and committed to further advocacy for the rights and welfare of leprosy-affected communities in Bihar. APAL extends its gratitude to the APAL State Committee in Bihar for their advocacy and extends special thanks to Mr. Someswar Dubey, Mr. Kamlesh Chandra Lal, and Mr. Ramvarai Sah for their contributions to the leprosy community.



State Committee of APAL in Jharkhand, accompanied by Mr. Madhusudan Tiwari, conducted a visit to the Angarpathra Leprosy Colony

On the 5th of September 2024, the State Committee of APAL in Jharkhand, accompanied by Mr. Madhusudan Tiwari, conducted a visit to the Angarpathra Leprosy Colony and Tetulmari Leprosy Colony in Dhanbad. Mr. Tiwari actively engaged with the residents of Angarpathra Colony, holding discussions with them to comprehensively understand the myriad challenges and issues they encounter in their daily lives. This visit served as a platform for the residents to articulate their concerns, predominantly centering around the socio-economic adversities and insufficiencies in the support structures within the colony. The significance of Mr. Tiwari's visit lies in its demonstration of APAL's continuing dedication to comprehending and redressing the specific requirements of leprosy-affected communities across Jharkhand.

Additionally, Mr. Tiwari made his inaugural visit to Tetulmari Leprosy Colony, where he uncovered several pressing issues encountered by the residents. In 2004-2005, 20 leprosy patients from Barambe Ranchi were relocated to Tetulmari. Subsequently, in 2008-2009, 22 houses were erected under the Indira Awas Yojana in Block - Baghmara, Tetulmari, Dhanbad, and these were assigned to all the relocated patients, including two local leprosy patients. However, the current circumstances in Tetulmari Leprosy Colony are dire. The residents rely entirely on a modest government pension of ₹1000 and a monthly ration of 5 kg in addition to

a PH (Public Health) card. There are no other means of livelihood or supplementary support, leaving the community to subsist solely on these limited provisions. The visit underscored the urgent requirement for augmented support and enhanced living conditions for the residents of Tetulmari, who persist in enduring severe hardships with nominal resources.



APAL State Committee in Andhra Pradesh conducted a health screening camp in collaboration with Kaligiri Leprosy Hospital at the New Jyothi Leprosy Colony in Nellore

In the previous month, the APAL State Committee in Andhra Pradesh conducted a health screening camp in collaboration with Kaligiri Leprosy Hospital at the New Jyothi Leprosy Colony in Nellore. During the visit, they discovered significant obstacles faced by individuals affected by leprosy, particularly in terms of accessing treatment and eye protection services. Many residents were grappling with insufficient healthcare support, elevating the risk of further health complications, including common eye-related issues among those affected by leprosy.

Recognizing the immediacy of the situation, the APAL State Committee promptly engaged with the pertinent Medical Department of the Government and the District Leprosy Officer of Nellore. They submitted a memorandum urging improved healthcare services for the colony's residents. The Medical Department responded affirmatively, swiftly coordinating healthcare and eye care services tailored to the needs of those affected by leprosy. Furthermore, they administered BCG vaccinations to the residents, addressing a critical health requirement within the community.

The APAL State Committee, in conjunction with the residents of New Jyothi Leprosy Colony, conveyed their deep appreciation to the Medical Department of Nellore for their speedy and compassionate response. They also extended special thanks to the APAL State Committee Mr. Sayilu, Mr. Prakash and Ms. Jyothi an AASHA worker, who played a pivotal role in the initiative in the locality, making significant contributions to the success of the health camp and ongoing support for the community.



APAL's State Committee in Jharkhand, namely Mr. Mohd. Zainuddin and Mr. Madhusudan Tiwari, a formal request was submitted to the Deputy Commissioner's office

On the 9th of September, 2024, a significant development took place to address the well-being of the inhabitants of Nirmal Kusht Colony in Bokaro, Jharkhand. In the presence of Mr. Jawaharram Paswan, the Vice President of the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL), and key members of APAL's State Committee in Jharkhand, namely Mr. Mohd. Zainuddin and Mr. Madhusudan Tiwari, a formal request was submitted to the Deputy Commissioner's office. This petition aims to launch a housing program for Nirmal Kusht Gram to improve the living conditions of individuals afflicted by leprosy within the colony.

The residents of Nirmal Kusht Colony, backed by APAL's leadership, are optimistic that this initiative will lay the groundwork for obtaining suitable housing and improving their standard of living. This endeavour underscores APAL's unwavering dedication to championing the rights and requirements of individuals affected by leprosy, ensuring that they are not marginalized in the pursuit of socio-economic progress. The presence of APAL's Vice President and State Committee members underscores the significance of this cause and the collaborative endeavour to effect positive change in the lives of the colony's inhabitants.



State Committee of APAL, in partnership with the Children of Deccan Foundation, hosted a book distribution event at MPPS School in Pasumamulu as part of the Vidyadhan program

On September 10, 2024, the State Committee of APAL, in partnership with the Children of Deccan Foundation, hosted a book distribution event at MPPS School in Pasumamulu as part of the Vidyadhan program. This initiative aimed to facilitate the educational advancement of female students by providing them with essential learning resources. The event garnered active involvement from the local community, including the school's teaching staff and the students, who were the program's primary beneficiaries.

The event was graced by Mr. Malkana, the local councillor and founder of the Children of Deccan Foundation, whose unwavering commitment to education and community service has been pivotal in realizing such initiatives. Mr. Ramesh, the State Coordinator of APAL in Telangana, played a significant role in coordinating the event, alongside Vidyadhan program coordinators Pooja and Ramesh. The presence of Vineet, Amir, and Diya, in addition to Mr. Malkana's supporters, contributed to the collaborative atmosphere of the day, underscoring the collective endeavour to champion the education of young girls. This endeavour exemplifies APAL's dedication to the socio-economic empowerment of marginalized communities, in line with its overarching mission to serve individuals affected by leprosy and advocate for comprehensive education.



Pasumamula J.P.H.S. hosted a significant event organized by the Children of Deccan Foundation (CDF) in partnership with Mangala as part of their girl safety program

On Tuesday, the 10th of September 2024, Pasumamula J.P.H.S. hosted a significant event organized by the Children of Deccan Foundation (CDF) in partnership with Mangala as part of their girl safety program. The event primarily aimed at providing safety kits to the female students of the school and conducting an awareness program focusing on hygiene practices. The school's principal led the awareness session, emphasizing the significance of personal hygiene and safety, particularly for young girls. The initiative sought to empower the students with crucial knowledge and resources to uphold their health and well-being.

The event was attended by a diverse group of participants, including Pooja and Diya, Coordinators of the Child Protection Program, Shri Malkanna, the Founder of CDF, Mr. Ramesh Garu, the State Coordinator of APAL in Telangana, and other prominent figures such as Vidyadan Vineeth and Amir. Their presence and active involvement highlighted the collaborative endeavor to advance the safety and welfare of girls in the community. The event not only furnished practical safety kits but also instilled a sense of awareness and responsibility among the young girls, equipping them with the knowledge necessary to safeguard themselves and make well-informed decisions regarding their hygiene practices.



State Committee of APAL in Odisha conducted a significant visit to all leprosy colonies in the Balangir district

On the 11th of September 2024, the State Committee of APAL in Odisha conducted a significant visit to all leprosy colonies in the Balangir district. The team, led by Mr. Prabhakar Sahoo, Executive Member of APAL, India, Mrs. Jayanti Pradhan, Secretary of APAL's State Committee Odisha, Mrs. Banita, and Mr. Lokanath Lenka, Member of the State Committee Odisha, engaged with individuals affected by leprosy to discuss the various challenges and

issues they encounter in their daily lives. The visit aimed to address the residents' needs, understand their living conditions, and advocate for their rights and welfare.

At Sudpada Adarsh Leprosy Colony, residents emphasized pressing issues such as the proliferation of mosquitoes due to stagnant rainwater, which could not be drained because of inadequate drainage facilities. Furthermore, they raised concerns about the lack of proper land titles (land patta), leaving many families without legal ownership of the land they inhabit, exacerbating their sense of insecurity and instability.

In Narayan Colony, Balangir, the team encountered numerous issues. The residents urgently require land pattas, as well as the construction of a new community hall and pucca houses under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana. The community also expressed the need for better sanitation facilities, including the construction of a community toilet. Additionally, they reported that children from the colony are not receiving scholarships under the Sahaya Schemes or the Umbrella Schemes provided by the Odisha Government, limiting their educational opportunities and support.

At Gaintala Colony in Girigobardhanpur, Balangir, which houses 85 individuals across 35 families, 25 out of 33 eligible families have already received land pattas; however, some families are still without legal titles. The president of the colony, Mr. Bighnaraj Rout, along with other residents, voiced concerns about the need for further land patta allocation, the construction of pucca houses, and an improved water supply. Additionally, the community lacks adequate Medical Care and Rehabilitation (MCR) footwear, and they face a dire need for dressing and ulcer care kits. Similar to the other colonies, the children in Gaintala Colony are also facing issues with accessing scholarships.

The visit by APAL's Odisha state committee underscored the urgent need for governmental intervention to address the basic living conditions and welfare of people affected by leprosy in Balangir district. The delegation promised to follow up on these issues and advocate for solutions that would help improve the lives of these marginalized communities.



Association of People Affected by Leprosy, in collaboration with the District Health Society (DHS) in Kamrup, organized a significant event at the Dhirenpara First Referral Unit (FRU) in Assam

On September 13, 2024, the Association of People Affected by Leprosy, in collaboration with the District Health Society (DHS) in Kamrup, organized a significant event at the Dhirenpara First Referral Unit (FRU) in Assam. The primary objective of the event was to mitigate disabilities caused by leprosy and to provide essential healthcare support to individuals affected by the disease. The Government Health Department of Assam actively participated in the event by offering healthcare services, including ulcer care, the distribution of MCR

(Microcellular Rubber) footwear, and the provision of ulcer-related medicines. Moreover, the program focused on educating individuals affected by leprosy about crucial self-care methods to prevent further complications and effectively manage their health.

APAL expressed sincere gratitude to the Government Health Department of Assam for their support and dedication. Dr. Purabi, the Zonal Leprosy Officer, Dr. Dhulal from the District Health Society, and Dr. Uday Shankar, the director, were specially recognized for their dedicated efforts in ensuring the success of the event. APAL also extended special thanks to the State Committee of Assam, particularly acknowledging the active involvement and contributions of Mr. Venu, the state coordinator of APAL, towards the welfare of the leprosy community. Overall, the program marked a crucial step towards empowering individuals affected by leprosy and ensuring they receive the care and resources required to lead healthy and dignified lives.



State Committee of APAL in Telangana, in conjunction with the Share Vision organization, orchestrated a notable occasion to provide aid to families impacted by leprosy

On September 13th, 2024, the State Committee of APAL in Telangana, in conjunction with the Share Vision organization, orchestrated a notable occasion to provide aid to families impacted by leprosy. Necessities were allocated to 100 disadvantaged families residing in three leprosy colonies: Premasamajam, Dr. Hanson Colony, and Immanial Three Leprosy Colony. This endeavour, spearheaded by Director Mr. Narayana Rao and Chief Secretary Mr. Paul, offered vital assistance to those in need, bringing optimism and respite to the recipients.

The distribution event was honoured by the presence of various esteemed guests, including ZPTC school HM Mrs. Sivakumari, Panchayat Secretary Mr. Krishna, and former Sarpanch Dandi Suresh. They, alongside APAL's State Coordinator in Telangana, Mr. Ramesh, disbursed the essential provisions. Their attendance and involvement lent significance to the event, reaffirming the importance of community engagement in supporting the underprivileged segments of society.

The inhabitants of the colonies conveyed deep appreciation to the Share Vision organization for their benevolence. The elders of the colonies, in particular, extended gratitude to the organization's representatives and Mr. Ramesh for their enduring support, which has played a pivotal role in ameliorating their living conditions. This initiative not only furnished material assistance but also fortified the bond of empathy and concern for the leprosy-affected community.



During a recent meeting, Mrs. Maya Ranavare, the President of the Association for People Affected by Leprosy, held discussions with Mr. Aamdar Satish Patil, a Member of the Vidhana Sabha in Kolhapur

On 16th September 2024, During a recent meeting, Mrs. Maya Ranavare, the President of the Association for People Affected by Leprosy, held discussions with Mr. Aamdar Satish Patil, a Member of the Vidhana Sabha in Kolhapur.

Mrs. Ranavare emphasized the significant challenges that individuals affected by leprosy encounter, particularly within leprosy hospitals. She presented a memorandum outlining these issues and submitted the annual report of APAL (Association of People Affected by Leprosy). In response, Mr. Patil expressed his support and dedication to addressing the raised concerns positively.



The State Committee of APAL in Telangana and APAL's State Coordinator Mr. Ramesh Maniyada convened a meeting with the Honorable Minister, Komati Reddy Venkata Reddy

On 16th September 2024, The State Committee of APAL in Telangana and APAL's State Coordinator Mr. Ramesh Maniyada convened a meeting with the Honorable Minister, Komati Reddy Venkata Reddy, to address developmental concerns regarding the Bibinagar

Subrahmanyam Leprosy Colony and the longstanding issue of Home Pattas allocation for its inhabitants. The committee highlighted the pressing challenges faced by the residents, who have been awaiting essential amenities and rightful housing provisions. Minister Komati Reddy attentively listened to their grievances and expressed his commitment to addressing the situation.

During the meeting, the Honorable Minister assured the APAL State Committee of his support in resolving the issues promptly and favourably. He acknowledged the significance of providing stable housing and proper facilities to the residents of Bibinagar Subrahmanyam Leprosy Colony, who have historically experienced neglect. His dedication to the cause instilled a sense of hope in the committee, who departed the meeting with optimism that tangible steps would soon be taken to grant the Home Pattas and enhance the overall living conditions in the colony.



State Committee of APAL (Association of People Affected by Leprosy) in Telangana, in partnership with the Share the Vision Khammam organization, conducted a significant distribution of essential provisions

On the 18th of September 2024, the State Committee of APAL (Association of People Affected by Leprosy) in Telangana, in partnership with the Share the Vision Khammam organization, conducted a significant distribution of essential provisions to impoverished families impacted by leprosy in the Badradi district of Kothagudem. The initiative focused on two prominent communities: Karunambika Leprosy Colony and Singareni Leprosy Colony. The distribution event supplied crucial rations to 100 families affected by leprosy, ensuring the fulfilment of their basic needs.

The operational oversight was led by the organization's Director, Narayana Rao, and General Secretary Paul, ensuring the aid reached those most in need. The event was graced by esteemed guests who supported and motivated the cause. Magdalene Sister, Clara Sister, and APAL's State Coordinator in Telangana, Mr. Ramesh, were in attendance, alongside Raju, the President of the Colony. Their involvement underscored various stakeholders' collective commitment and dedication in aiding marginalized communities. On behalf of the people affected by leprosy, APAL conveyed profound appreciation to the representatives of the Share the Vision organization for their humanitarian aid. Special recognition was extended to Mr. Ramesh for his consistent commitment to the well-being of individuals affected by leprosy and their families, acknowledging his pivotal role in upholding these essential support systems.



State Committee of APAL in Gujarat conducted an educational program at the Gandhi Leprosy Seva Sangh. The aim was to enlighten third-year B.Sc Nursing students from KD Hospital, Ahmedabad

On September 18th, the State Committee of APAL in Gujarat conducted an educational program at the Gandhi Leprosy Seva Sangh. The aim was to enlighten third-year B.Sc Nursing students from KD Hospital, Ahmedabad. The event focused on imparting crucial information about leprosy, a disease that continues to impact numerous individuals across the country. Under the guidance of program administrator Shula, students were educated on various aspects of leprosy, including the disease's nature, wound care, and the importance of specialized footwear such as MCR (Micro Cellular Rubber) chappals for patients. This knowledge is essential for managing leprosy-related complications, especially for individuals suffering from nerve damage and ulcers.

The session also addressed the availability of medicines, government schemes, and treatment options for leprosy, ensuring that students grasped both the clinical and social dimensions of the disease. Furthermore, students were briefed on the challenges encountered by individuals living with leprosy, particularly the hardships they face despite ongoing efforts to enhance their quality of life. They were informed about the activities within the leprosy colony, shedding light on the continuous support and rehabilitation efforts. This visit not only enriched the students' medical knowledge but also fostered a deeper understanding of the human and social aspects of leprosy care.

APAL expressed gratitude to APAL's State Committee in Gujarat, Mr. Narsimhulu, and Mr. Vijay Kumar for their remarkable intervention and initiative to contribute meaningfully to the community's awareness.



State Committee of the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL) in Bihar, known as SAMUTHAN, submitted a significant application to the Chief Minister of Bihar

On the 19th of September 2024, the State Committee of the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL) in Bihar, known as SAMUTHAN, submitted a significant application to the Chief Minister of Bihar. The application specifically addresses two pressing issues encountered by the leprosy community in the state: the necessity to increase the leprosy pension and to resolve the persistent land problems in Bihar's leprosy colonies. These longstanding challenges have significantly impacted the livelihoods and overall well-being of individuals residing in the leprosy colonies, making this submission a crucial stride towards enhancing their living conditions.

Madam Usha, a key figure in spearheading this initiative, has been a staunch advocate for the cause. Not only does she serve as a dedicated member of the Inner Wheel Club of Patna, but she also holds the position of District President of the Janata Dal-United (JDU). Her dual roles afford her the platform and influence to champion the needs of marginalized communities such as those affected by leprosy. During the submission, Madam Usha pledged to facilitate a meeting with the Chief Minister, bringing the issues of the leprosy community directly to his attention. Her unwavering commitment and active engagement inspire hope that the grievances of these communities will finally receive the attention of the highest echelons of state governance.

APAL extends its heartfelt gratitude to the State Committee in Bihar and Mr. Ramavarai Sah, Joint Secretary of APAL, for his tireless advocacy on behalf of persons affected by leprosy. Mr. Sah's unwavering commitment to raising awareness, fighting stigma, and improving the lives of those impacted by the disease has been instrumental in fostering change in the region.



The APAL State Committee in Telangana, in conjunction with the HP Shakti Ladies Club, recently undertook a commendable initiative to distribute food grains to 85 families affected by leprosy

On 19th September 2024, The APAL State Committee in Telangana, in conjunction with the HP Shakti Ladies Club, recently undertook a commendable initiative to distribute food grains to 85 families affected by leprosy residing in Shanthinagar Colony, Peddamberpet. This altruistic endeavour sought to address the daily needs of the community, ensuring that individuals grappling with the social and economic challenges associated with leprosy received vital provisions for their sustenance. The event not only provided tangible assistance but also

infused a sense of hope and relief among the families, underscoring the values of empathy and unity.

The successful execution of the distribution event was made possible through the collaborative efforts of esteemed colony leaders, namely M. Samuel, V. Dominic, Sk. Rahemathulla, Ch. Mallaiah, and M. Chakali, who played pivotal roles in orchestrating and facilitating the seamless allocation of resources within the colony. Their unwavering dedication to the welfare of the affected families exemplifies the shared commitment of local leaders to uplift their community. APAL expressed profound appreciation to the HP Shakti Ladies Club for their invaluable service, acknowledging their significant contribution to enhancing the lives of individuals impacted by leprosy.

Special recognition was also extended to Mr. Ramesh, APAL's State Coordinator in Telangana, whose active involvement and steadfast dedication to the cause were instrumental in the success of this initiative. Mr. Ramesh's resolute commitment to aiding individuals affected by leprosy mirrors the fundamental principles of APAL, which revolve around advocacy, empowerment, and support for those confronting social ostracism due to the disease. His endeavours, in conjunction with the collaboration with HP Shakti Ladies Club, have positively influenced the lives of the families in Shanthinagar Colony, fostering dignity and optimism for a brighter future.



A delegation led by Maya Ranavare, President of APAL, visited the office of the Additional Director of Health Services (ADHS) in Sangli, Maharashtra

On 19th September 2024, a delegation led by Maya Ranavare, President of APAL, visited the office of the Additional Director of Health Services (ADHS) in Sangli, Maharashtra. The delegation included members of the Maharashtra State Committee team of APAL and representatives from the Maharashtra Kusht Sanghatana. The purpose of the visit was to address the challenges encountered by leprosy patients, particularly related to the Municipal Pension Scheme. Timely disbursement of these pensions is crucial for the basic needs of many individuals affected by leprosy, and any delays or issues have resulted in significant hardships.

Maya Ranavare, a staunch advocate for the rights of leprosy-affected individuals, articulated these concerns to Dr. Shivaji Aldar. She emphasized the importance of punctual pensions and other essential support systems. The meeting also delved into various other issues affecting leprosy patients in the region, such as access to healthcare services, rehabilitation, and social inclusion. Dr. Shivaji Aldar displayed a positive response and a profound understanding of the challenges faced by the community.

APAL, in conjunction with the Maharashtra Kusht Sanghatana, expressed sincere gratitude to Dr. Aldar for his warm hospitality and commitment to addressing the raised concerns. His receptiveness to dialogue and willingness to collaborate in resolving these issues has instilled hope in the leprosy-affected community, reinforcing their faith in a more inclusive and supportive healthcare system.



APAL's President, Maya Ranavare, along with members of the APAL State Committee in Maharashtra and representatives from the Maharashtra Kusht Sanghatana, visited several key leprosy colonies

APAL's President, Maya Ranavare, along with members of the APAL State Committee in Maharashtra and representatives from the Maharashtra Kusht Sanghatana, visited several key leprosy colonies in the state to address pressing issues faced by residents. Their visit to Lalnager Colony, Meghjihaiwadi Colony, and Ambewadi Colony marked a crucial step in understanding the specific challenges experienced by persons affected by leprosy in these areas. During the visit, they engaged in in-depth discussions with the colonies' local committees, focusing on the immediate concerns that needed attention and resolution.

One of the primary issues raised during these interactions was the land-related problems that persisted in the colonies. Many residents, who are persons affected by leprosy, continue to face uncertainty around land ownership, making it difficult for them to secure their homes and build stable lives. The discussions revealed how the lack of clear land titles and the ongoing disputes over land rights are affecting the community's access to basic infrastructure, services, and long-term stability. Maya Ranavare and the APAL delegation listened carefully to these concerns and reassured the residents that they would advocate on their behalf at both state and national levels to seek viable solutions to the land disputes and ensure better living conditions for the leprosy-affected community in Maharashtra.

The visit not only served to highlight the issues but also reinforced APAL's commitment to empowering persons affected by leprosy and ensuring that their voices are heard in the fight for land rights and social justice.



APAL State Committee in Bihar, represented by Mr. Ramesh Prasad, Mr. Ram Barai, and Mr. Kamlesh, held an important meeting with Harjot Kaur Bamhra, the Additional Chief Secretary of the Social Welfare Department in Bihar

On 20th September 2024, the APAL State Committee in Bihar, represented by Mr. Ramesh Prasad, Mr. Ram Barai, and Mr. Kamlesh, held an important meeting with Harjot Kaur Bamhra, the Additional Chief Secretary of the Social Welfare Department in Bihar. This meeting, which took place at the Social Welfare Department office in Patna, aimed to raise awareness about the numerous challenges faced by leprosy-affected individuals living in Bihar. The delegation presented the difficulties and hardships these individuals endure, emphasizing the lack of adequate financial support and resources necessary for their daily lives.

During the meeting, the APAL representatives discussed the Bihar Shatabdi Leprosy Welfare Allowance, expressing concerns about its inadequacy compared to the support provided in other states. They highlighted how leprosy-affected persons in other regions receive higher pension benefits, which greatly aid in improving their living conditions. By sharing these examples, the delegation underscored the urgent need for Bihar to increase its welfare allowance to ensure that those affected by leprosy in the state receive the support they deserve. To formalize this request, the APAL committee members submitted a memorandum, urging the state to enhance the existing pension scheme for leprosy patients, aligning it with the standards of other states across India.



President of APAL, and representatives from the Maharashtra Kusht Sanghatana, recently held a meeting with Honorable MLA Annasaheb Bansode, Pimpri Vidhan Sabha

On 22nd September 2024, Maya Ranavare, the President of APAL, and representatives from the Maharashtra Kusht Sanghatana, recently held a meeting with Honorable MLA Annasaheb Bansode, Pimpri Vidhan Sabha, to address the pressing issue of rehabilitating leprosy patients residing in the impoverished urban leprosy colony situated in Niradhar Nagar, Pimpri, Pune-411018. This colony has been home to leprosy patients who have been marginalized by society and their families for over 50 years. Despite the provision of basic amenities such as electricity, water, and roads by the Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation (PCMC), the residents continue to grapple with significant challenges due to their economic vulnerability and social exclusion.

During the meeting, the delegation, led by Maya Ranavare, emphasized the plight of the 33 families living in the colony. Each household has been issued photo passes by the PCMC, and house leases have been applied to their homes, providing a certain degree of security. However, these families, predominantly reliant on daily wage labour, continue to face

hardships stemming from financial instability and inadequate housing. Ranavare and the Maharashtra Kusht Sanghatana sought MLA Annasaheb Bansode's assistance in ensuring the residents are relocated to a more dignified and suitable location.

The delegation also informed the MLA that they had previously submitted a letter to the PCMC Commissioner on March 17, 2023, urging action on the rehabilitation matter. The Commissioner had referred the issue to the Town Planning Department, but unfortunately, no report has been received so far. The meeting with MLA Bansode aimed to secure his support in expediting the process and ensuring that the concerns of the leprosy patients are promptly addressed, allowing them to live with dignity in Pimpri.



president of APAL, took part in the BIAnnual National Disability Network Meeting conducted in Delhi

On 23rd September 2024, Maya Ranavare, the president of APAL, took part in the BIAnnual National Disability Network Meeting conducted in Delhi. This significant gathering was dedicated to shaping the future of disability advocacy in India. Ranavare made substantial contributions to the key deliberations, offering valuable insights into the challenges and opportunities encountered by individuals with disabilities.

During her address, she underscored the imperative of incorporating individuals affected by leprosy into disability organizations. Ranavare highlighted the considerable social stigma often faced by those affected by leprosy, emphasizing the necessity of their inclusion in these groups to facilitate their reintegration into mainstream society with dignity. Her contributions underscored the broader movement toward inclusivity, advocating for a collective endeavour to ensure that all individuals with disabilities, including those impacted by leprosy, are accorded equal opportunities and respect in Indian society.



The State Committee of the APAL in Telangana, in collaboration with the Health Department of Peddambar Peta Primary Health Centre (PHC), recently organized a successful health camp

On 23rd September 2024, The State Committee of the APAL in Telangana, in collaboration with the Health Department of Peddambar Peta Primary Health Centre (PHC), recently organized a successful health camp in the Shanthi Nagar Colony. The primary objective of this camp was to deliver essential health and ulcer care services to individuals affected by leprosy, as well as to provide medical assistance to the residents of the area. Alongside ulcer care, general medicines were also distributed to the attendees, contributing to the overall well-being of the community.

APAL extends sincere appreciation to the committed members of the medical department for their invaluable contributions on behalf of the individuals affected by leprosy. Special recognition is extended to Dr. Durgadevi, the Medical Officer of the Bastidawakhana at Peddambar Peta PHC, for her dedicated efforts in ensuring the success of this camp. APAL also expresses gratitude to DPMO Shanthiraj, Sister Vanaja Garu from Peddambarpet, and Mr. Ramesh for their significant roles in the seamless execution of the camp. Their collaborative endeavours have substantially benefited the community, particularly those affected by leprosy, by facilitating access to essential healthcare services.



APAL's State Committee in Karnataka, accompanied by women affected by leprosy from Vijaypur Leprosy Colony, visited the local Primary Health Center (PHC) to address a critical need for regular health and ulcer care services

On 24th September 2024, APAL's State Committee in Karnataka, accompanied by women affected by leprosy from Vijaypur Leprosy Colony, visited the local Primary Health Center (PHC) to address a critical need for regular health and ulcer care services. During the visit, the group met with the medical officer to formally request the health department's continued support in providing essential healthcare to individuals affected by leprosy. These services, especially ulcer care, are vital for maintaining the health and dignity of the community. The engagement was a proactive step towards ensuring that the health needs of the community are met consistently and that individuals affected by leprosy do not face neglect in accessing medical care.

APAL extends its heartfelt gratitude to the medical department of the PHC for their positive response to this important request. The willingness of the health officials to listen to the concerns of the community and commit to providing regular healthcare services is a significant achievement. Special recognition must also go to the women from Vijaypur Leprosy Colony and the Karnataka State Committee for their tireless efforts. Their rights-based

approach to securing healthcare services is a testament to the power of collective advocacy and determination. By standing up for their rights and working directly with local health authorities, they have paved the way for more sustained and reliable care for persons affected by leprosy in their community.

This initiative highlights the importance of grassroots advocacy and the impact it can have on bringing about change in healthcare delivery. The visit not only resulted in a commitment from the PHC to provide much-needed health services but also reinforced the message that persons affected by leprosy have the right to equitable, accessible healthcare. APAL is proud of the collaborative efforts that led to this positive outcome and looks forward to continued engagement with the health department to ensure that these services remain consistent and effective. This victory, led by the women of Vijaypur and the Karnataka State Committee, is a shining example of how a rights-based approach can yield tangible results for vulnerable communities.



APAL's State Committee in Haryana, in collaboration with the Leprosy Society, recently carried out a compassionate initiative aimed at supporting individuals affected by leprosy at Rohtak Kusht Aashram

On 27th Sep 2024, APAL's State Committee in Haryana, in collaboration with the Leprosy Society, recently carried out a compassionate initiative aimed at supporting individuals affected by leprosy at Rohtak Kusht Aashram. They distributed MCR (Micro Cellular Rubber) footwear, which is essential for the protection and comfort of those suffering from leprosy-related foot issues, to all the inmates in the colony. In addition to this, necessary medicines were also provided to ensure the ongoing treatment and care of the residents. This initiative reflects APAL's continued dedication to improving the lives of people affected by leprosy.

APAL expressed its heartfelt gratitude to the Leprosy Society for their invaluable support in making this event successful. The organization also extended special thanks to the members of the State Committee in Haryana for their tireless efforts and dedication in organizing and executing the initiative. A special note of appreciation was given to Mr. Govinda Swamy, whose contributions were instrumental in ensuring that this distribution reached those in need. His efforts were a testament to the spirit of community and care that defines APAL's mission.



Mr. Prakash, Treasurer of the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL), in conjunction with leaders from various leprosy colonies in Bhimavaram, undertook an initiative to address the inadequate infrastructure in their communities

On the 28th of September 2024, Mr. Prakash, Treasurer of the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL), in conjunction with leaders from various leprosy colonies in Bhimavaram, undertook an initiative to address the inadequate infrastructure in their communities. They presented a memorandum to the government authorities outlining the critical issues affecting their living conditions. The memorandum underscored the urgent requirement for enhanced drainage systems, consistent power supply, access to clean water, sanitation, and proper CC roads within the colonies. Recognizing the gravity of these issues, Mr. Prakash and the colony leaders advocated for immediate government intervention to improve the lives of people affected by leprosy in the area.

The authorities, including Mr. K. Ramachandra Reddy, Municipal Commissioner of Bhimavaram Municipality, sanitation officers, deputy engineer, electrical engineer, and water section officer, responded affirmatively and promptly by visiting the colonies (New Jyothi and Krupa Colonies) and surrounding areas to firsthand assess the situation. During their visit, they observed unhygienic drainage systems, irregular power and water supply, and the poor condition of the roads. The officials also engaged with the colony residents, discussing the daily challenges they faced and potential improvement solutions. Following a comprehensive assessment, the authorities assured the residents that improved living spaces and surroundings would be provided as soon as possible, instilling hope for a better quality of life among the colony's inhabitants.

APAL expressed their sincere gratitude to the authorities for their immediate response and commitment to enhancing conditions in Bhimavaram's leprosy colonies. Special recognition was extended to Mr. Prakash and the APAL State Committee of Andhra Pradesh, whose efforts were pivotal in realizing this success. Their dedication and perseverance culminated in a positive outcome, ensuring that the needs of the leprosy-affected community were acknowledged and addressed.



Mrs. Maya Ranavare
President, APAL