

For Disability-free India



Annual Report
2010

Commitments
India



Photographs

For Disability-free India

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Commitments

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Vision & Mission

Vision

To enable the poor and disadvantaged communities to perceive possibilities for change and bring about desired change by exercising informed choices through collective action.

Mission

- ? To extend economic and social services to strengthen and enhance the livelihoods of rural poor.
- ? To build capabilities among rural poor.
- ? To improve access to services, facilities and entitlements of rural poor.
- ? To facilitate building of participatory, self-managed institutions among rural poor and the disabled as vehicles of their self-reliance, socio-economic progress and self-respect.
- ? To serve as a resource centre for training, research and study upon the socio-economic conditions of rural poor.
- ? To initiate programmes and projects for sustainable development of rural poor and the disabled and facilitate convergence of services and facilities intended for their benefit.
- ? To provide a platform for advocacy upon issues and the concerns of rural poor.





Board of Trustees





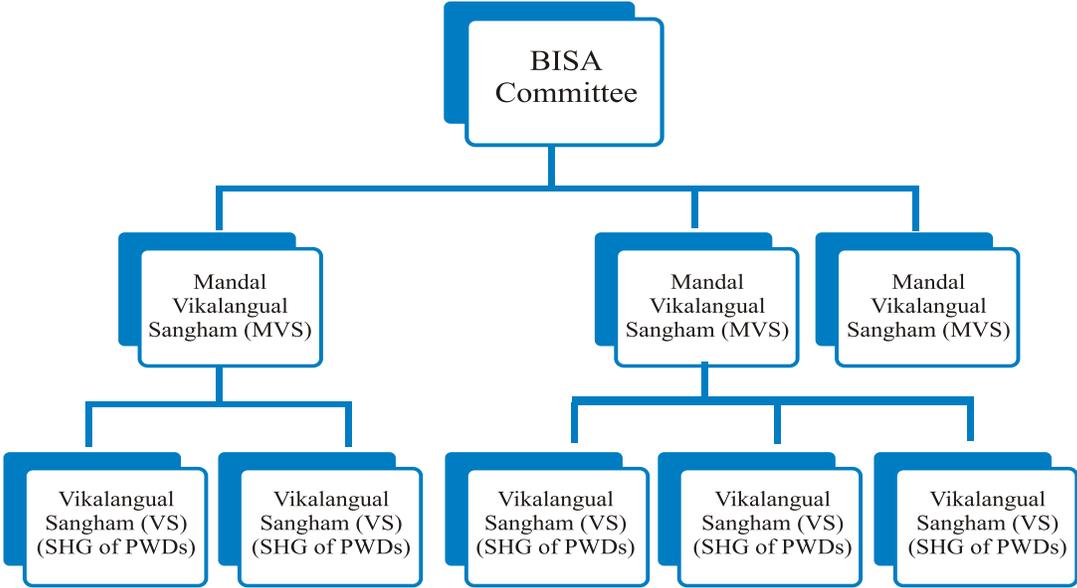
Introduction



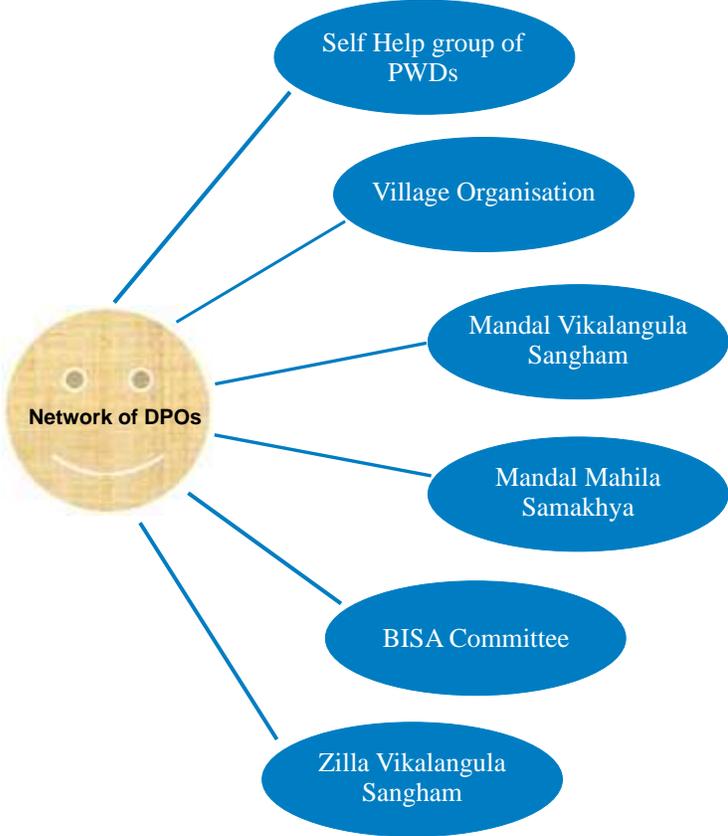




Structure of CBOs/DPOs:



Network of DPOs





Analysis of Persons of disabilities

1. Population of Persons with Disabilities in the 8 Mandals of Commitments Area

Sl.No.	Sex	Population of persons with Disabilities
1.	Women	2238
2.	Men	2404
3.	Girls	1093
4.	Boys	1067
	Total	6802

Commitments initiated all its work with persons with disabilities only after the initial overall study and enumeration of all persons with disabilities in the Mandal before taking up any form of interventions. As part of this the team members of the organization went from home to home in the villages of all the 8 Mandals to gather information about the persons with disabilities, their type of disability, their age, which caste they belonged to, their levels of education, their livelihoods, their requirements vis-à-vis schemes and entitlements, etc. Based on the complete information profile of each of the persons with disabilities, the team members initiate the required rehabilitation and services for both the person with disability as well as her/his family members. The above table gives the breakup of the total number of persons with disabilities women, men, girls and boys in the 8 Mandals of Commitments area.

2. Number of Persons with Disabilities who are members of DPOs

Sl.No.	Sex	Population of persons with Disabilities
1.	Women	1119
2.	Men	1585
3.	Girls	625
4.	Boys	795
	Total	4124

Once the persons with disabilities have been identified in all the villages of the 8 Mandals, the team members of the organization initially motivated the persons with disabilities to form into groups by explaining in detail the multifarious advantages of forming and becoming members of groups. Though most of the persons with disabilities enthusiastically take the step forward and come together to form themselves into groups. In spite of this, there are still some persons with disabilities who are either unable to become members of these groups are or unwilling to do so. There are several reasons for this: i. Some of the families of persons with disabilities go either on seasonal or permanent migration and take their disabled members along with them, ii. In some of the hamlets or habitations of the Mandal there are too few a number of persons with disabilities to be able to form into groups and it is next to impossible to form groups of abled persons from several adjoining



habitations as they are too far away from each other, iii. Some persons with disabilities think the basic requirements of group formation, like attending weekly meetings regularly, is beyond their capacities, iv. Certain persons with disabilities do not like to be pointedly identified with their respective disabilities which they feel would be the case if they were to become members of the groups of persons with disabilities, v. Persons with disabilities belonging to upper caste and who are financially well-off, like the previous group of persons with disabilities, prefer to access all the services and rehabilitation measures, they are averse to become members of the groups for persons with disabilities.

The above reasons and more are some of the reasons for the around 61% of persons with disabilities in the Commitments operational area being members of the DPOs. At present, the DPOs have become so strong and self-reliant that the persons with disabilities who are not members of the existing DPOs no longer wait for the team members of the organization but approach instead the members of their local DPOs to either join the existing DPO or form into another group. Similarly, the DPOs employ the Community Based Rehabilitation Workers at the village level who support the persons with disabilities access disability specific entitlements and schemes. In addition to this, the members of the DPOs themselves have taken up awareness and sensitization activities for both with their fellow persons with disabilities and other community members regarding the importance of right to dignity and equality along with non-discrimination.

3.Mandal-wise population of persons with disabilities

Sl.No.	Mandal	Total population of persons with Disabilities	Population of members in Mandals Level DPOs	Population of person with disabilities who are not members
1.	Kosgi	739	643	96
2.	Daulatabad	717	584	133
3.	Bommaraspet	785	589	196
4.	Balanagar	672	421	251
5.	Maddur	901	630	271
6.	Gattu	827	402	425
7.	Maldakal	1076	428	648
8.	Darur	1085	427	658
	Total	6802	4124	2678

The above table gives a breakup of the number of persons with disabilities in each of the 8 Mandals under the operational area of Commitments and the number of members of the local level DPOs as well as those who have not become members of the same. When Commitments began its operations in Mahaboobnagar in 2000, it was decided that work with persons with disabilities will be initiated in 5 Mandals of this most economically and socially vulnerable districts of Kosgi, Daulatabad, Bommaraspet, Balanagar, and Maddur. These 5 Mandals were chosen out of the 64 mandals of the district because 3 out of the 5 Mandals, viz., Kosgi, Daulatabad and Bommaraspet were found to be the most backward according to the indicators developed by UNDP and WHO, and as such the UNDP had already initiated certain amount of work here and other two Mandals of Balanagar and Maddur were selected as they comprised a very high number of tribal population and according to the survey undertaken by the World Bank, were identified as the most backward.

As part of the expansion of the work of Commitments in 2005, it was decided that 3 more Mandals of the same district would be taken up and as part of that Gattu, Maldakal and Darur Mandals were selected. The criteria for selecting these particular Mandals were given that the focus area of intervention was inclusive education that they had the highest incidence of migration as shown by the ILO and WHO statistics and lowest level of literacy levels in children with disabilities, as found by a survey conducted by Sarva Siksha Abhiyan.



4. Age-wise breakup of Persons with Disabilities in the 8 Mandals (the percentages are given in Parentheses)

Sl. No.	Population	Total	Below 18 Years	19-30 years	31-55 years	Above 55 years
1.	Total population of Persons with disabilities	6802 (100.0)	2160(31.0)	2795(41.1)	1590(23.4)	257(3.8)
2.	Population of members of DPOs	4124 (100.0)	1420(34.4)	1442(35.0)	1173(28.4)	89(2.2)

As can be observed from both the numbers and percentages, it has been found that the highest number of persons with disabilities in all the 8 Mandals were from the age group of 19 to 30 years followed by children (31.0). One strange phenomenon which can be perceived from the figures is the number of persons with disabilities who are above 55 years of age, which is barely 3.8 percent for the total population and 2.2 percent who are members in their respective DPOs. The reasons for this drastic reduction in the number of aged persons with disabilities need to be explored and studied further.

5. Breakup of the Types of Disability in the 8 Mandals (the percentages are given in Parentheses)

Sl. No.	Population	Total	Physical Disability	Visual Disability	Sensory Disability	Intellectual Disability	Psychiatric Disability	Multiple Disability
1.	Total population of Persons with disabilities	6802 (100.0)	4442(65.3)	655(9.6)	955(14.0)	627(9.2)	79(1.2)	44(0.6)
2.	Population of members of DPOs	4124 (100.0)	2540(61.6)	394(9.6)	658(16.0)	456(11.1)	55(1.3)	21(0.5)

As with the situation of persons with disabilities all over the world, the percentage of persons with physiological disabilities is quite high, at 61.6 percent. One interesting statistic is that the percentage of persons with Speech and Hearing Impairment (16.0) is higher than persons with Visual Impairment (9.6). When disability wise percentage of persons with disabilities who have become members of the DPOs is observed, it was found that persons with intellectual disabilities were the highest (73 percent), followed by persons with psychiatric disabilities (70 percent), persons with disabilities (69 percent), persons with visual disabilities (60 percent), persons with physical disabilities (57 percent) and persons with multiple disabilities (48 percent). The point to be observed is that though overall, persons with physical disabilities are the highest in number, when it comes to access to services and rehabilitation through the DPOs, it is persons with Intellectual Disability, Psychiatric Disabilities and Sensory Disabilities who need these services the most.



6. Caste-wise breakup of persons with disabilities in the 8 Mandals (*the percentages are given in Parentheses*)

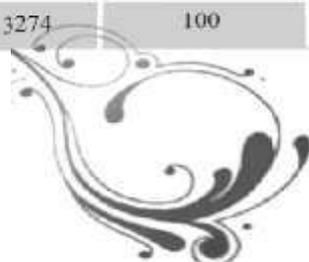
Sl. No.	Population	Total	Scheduled Castes	Scheduled Tribes	Backward Classes	Other Communities	Minorities
1.	Total population of Persons with disabilities	6802 (100.0)	1154(17.0)	531(7.8)	4571(67.2)	378(5.6)	168(2.5)
2.	Population of members of DPOs	4124 (100.0)	843(20.4)	381(9.2)	2485(60.3)	257(6.2)	158(3.8)

As can be seen from the above table, the number of persons with disabilities belonging to the Backward Classes is the highest (60.3) amongst all the castes in the 8 Mandals followed by Scheduled Castes at 20.4 percent. When it comes to the membership of persons with disabilities in the village level DPOs, it is the Minorities who are foremost, where 94 percent have membership, followed in sequence by persons from Scheduled Castes (73 percent), Scheduled Tribes (72 percent), Other Communities (68 percent) and persons from Backward Classes (54 percent). It is indeed interesting to note that though the persons with disabilities from Backward Classes dominate in total number, the percentage which has actually taken membership in DPOs is the lowest among all the castes whereas persons from the Minority Communities, be it Muslims or Christians, have been able to understand the full benefits of being members of DPOs and accessing the various entitlements, services and rehabilitation.

All the above tables analysed dealt with the overall number of persons with disabilities identified in the villages of the 8 Mandals under the operational area of Commitments as well as the number of persons with disabilities who have become members of the local DPOs. From now on, the analysis of the data would be on basis of the socio-economic and cultural rights and civil and political rights and how well the persons with disabilities have been able to access and enjoy the same.

7. Persons with Disabilities being treated with Dignity by their Families

Sl. No.	Dignity	No. of Members	% against Total Members	No. of Members in DPOs	% against each category
1.	Women being treated with dignity in their families	850	25.96	1119	76
2.	Men being treated with dignity in their families	1447	44.20	1585	91
3.	Girls being treated with dignity in their families	446	13.62	625	71
4.	Boys being treated with dignity in their families	531	16.22	795	67
	Total	3274	100	4124	79



When it comes to analyzing exactly how many of the persons with disabilities are being able to gain respect and are treated with dignity by their non-disabled family members, as can be seen from the above table, women (at 25.96 percent) are treated much less with dignity than men (at 44.20 percent) and similarly, boys are treated with greater respect and enjoy dignity (at 16.22 percent) with their family members than girls (13.62 percent), though overall, the children in general are treated very little with dignity when compared to the adults, less than women in fact. In addition to all this, not all the members of the DPOs do enjoy dignity with their family members, 850 of them (or 21 percent) are treated with total disrespect and suffer indignity at the hands of their families every day of their lives.

This is indeed a reflection of the amount of work that Commitments as an organization and the team members of the organization along with the strong DPO members that emerged in these 10 years that the levels of lack of dignity and respect for persons with disabilities has come down to as much as 21 percent, which can be easily compared with the rest of the state as well as the country, whose percentages are nowhere close. Also, where the process of gender empowerment has been indeed slow in implementation from the government side, that even around 25 percent women saying that they get respect from their family members is an achievement for the organizations as well as the local DPOs, given that women have to face the double discrimination of being women in the first place and being disabled in addition to that.

8. Persons with Disabilities being treated with Equality in their Families

Sl. No.	Equality	No. of Member	% against Total Members	No. of Members in DPOs	% against each category
1.	Women being treated equally in their families	1040	27.31	1119	93
2.	Men being treated equally in their families	1454	38.18	1585	92
3.	Girls being treated equally in their families	594	15.60	625	95
4.	Boys being treated equally in their families	720	18.91	795	91
	Total	3808		4124	92

When it comes to persons with disabilities enjoying equality in their families, the situation of women (at 27.31 percent) and girls (at 15.60 percent), as with being treated with dignity and respect, is lower than men (at 38.18 percent) and boys (at 18.91 percent). One interesting factor is that unlike with dignity, the difference in percentages of women and men is much lower (at 10.87 percent) whereas the percentages for enjoying respect and dignity by men was almost double that of women (please see the above Table. 07). Another interesting phenomenon is that girls and boys with disabilities are treated more equally than they are treated with dignity or respect, an increase of almost 3 percent (again, can be compared with the above Table. 07). Even the total number of DPO members to enjoy equality with their respective family members is more than those who enjoy dignity with them (3808 DPO members enjoying equality [at 92 percent] as against 3274 DPO members only [at 79 percent] who are enjoying respect and dignity with their family members).



9. Persons with Disabilities enjoying Inclusion in their Families

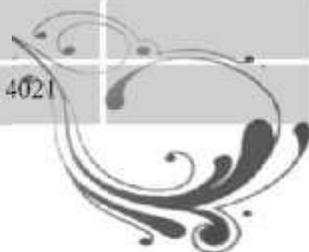
Sl. No.	Inclusion	No. of Member	% against Total Members	No. of Members in DPOs	% against each category
1.	Women enjoying inclusion in their families	1014	27.80	1119	91
2.	Men enjoying inclusion in their families	1336	36.62	1585	84
3.	Girls enjoying inclusion in their families	602	16.50	625	96
4.	Boys enjoying inclusion in their families	696	19.08	795	88
	Total	3648		4124	88

As with all the other rights, women have expressed that they were being excluded by their own family members because of their disability, where 27.80 percent of women with disabilities said they were living in an inclusive environment within their respective families. As with the other rights, men fare a little better when compared to women as well as girl (16.50 percent) and boy children (19.08 percent) at 36.62 percent. But when compared with enjoying dignity/respect or equality, the difference in percentages between men and women who said they were leading inclusive lives is much lesser at 8.82 percent.

Regarding the girl children enjoying their right to inclusion, when compared to their enjoying their rights to dignity or equality, it is marginally at a higher level, though more than 2.5 percent lower than what boys said about the same. On the whole, though lesser members of the DPOs have said that they enjoy inclusion when compared to equality, the percentage, at 88 percent, is much higher than their right to dignity/respect (79 percent).

10. Persons with Disabilities being able to access Respect for Difference in their Families

Sl. No.	Respect for difference	No. of Members	% against Total Members	No. of Members in DPOs	% against each category
1.	Women accessing respect for difference from families	1010	26.68	1119	90
2.	Men accessing respect for difference from families	1514	39.99	1585	96
3.	Girl children accessing respect for difference from families	590	15.58	625	94
4.	Boy children accessing respect for difference from families	672	17.75	795	85
	Total	4021		4124	98



Respect for the persons with disabilities because they are “different” from some others in society is a very rare phenomenon, where persons with disabilities are victimized exactly because they are disabled. Given this reality, the members of local DPOs from the 8 Mandals the operational area of Commitments have expressed that over the last 10 years, they have been able to get the respect of their family members for the very reason that the disabled persons are different from the others in the family. But here also, the women with disabilities fare much worse than their male counterparts and equally similarly, the children fare much worse than the adults, be it girls or boys.

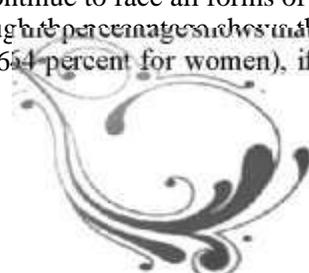
Where almost 40 percent of men have said that they are given respect along with their disability, only around 27 percent women with disabilities said they were given respect along with their disability, a difference of more than 13 percent, a large margin, next only to the levels of dignity given to persons with disabilities by family members. True enough, the children do not garner as much respect for themselves or for their disabilities but the difference in percentages between girls and boys with disabilities (at 15.58 percent and 17.75 percent respectively) is not much. When the total percentage of members being respected for their difference is concerned, it is the highest of all the rights, analyzed above, at 98 percent, which means almost all the persons with disabilities who are members of the local DPOs have been able to garner respect for their difference, a mere 103 persons with disabilities reporting that neither they nor their difference as persons with disabilities is respected by their family members.

11. Persons with Disabilities facing Discrimination in their Families

Sl. No.	Discrimination in families	No. of Members	% against Total Members	No. of Members in DPOs	% against each category
1.	Women facing discrimination in families	13	23.64	1119	1.16
2.	Men facing discrimination in families	20	36.36	1585	1.26
3.	Girls facing discrimination in families	14	25.45	625	2.24
4.	Boys facing discrimination in families	8	14.55	795	1.01
	Total	55		4124	1.33

As was seen from the previous tables, the percentages of persons with disabilities who were members of their respective DPOs in the 8 Mandals of the operational area of Commitments is more than 70 percent, the lowest being 79 percent (right to dignity) and the highest being 98 percent (respect for difference). Given these results, it is indeed not surprising that only 55 members of the total 4124 members of DPOs have expressed that they still continue to face some form of discrimination or the other from their own family members.

Though this is indeed a very small number, a clear achievement not just for the team of Commitments but mainly for the members of DPOs who have been proactive in their work towards their rights assertion and protection for the last few years, this small number cannot remain a small statistic but it is understood that these are 55 persons with disabilities continue to face all forms of discrimination at their respective homes every day of their lives even now. Though the percentages shows that men with disabilities seem to more than women (at 36.36 percent as against 23.64 percent for women), if the numbers were to be observed, the



number of men who are members of DPOs is higher than that of women with disabilities. Also, this does not reflect in children with disabilities though the number of boys with disabilities is higher than the girls with disabilities the percentages of discrimination that girls face are quite high at 25.45 percent when compared to the boys (at 14.55 percent).

12. Persons with Disabilities facing Issues/Problems in their Families

Sl. No.	Issues with families	No. of Members	% against Total Members	No. of Members in DPOs	% against each category
1.	Women having issues with their families	46	59.74	1119	4.1
2.	Men having issues with their families	17	22.08	1585	1.1
3.	Girls having issues with their families	11	14.29	625	1.8
4.	Boys having issues with their families	3	3.90	795	0.4
	Total	77	100	4124	0.1

Though comparatively high percent of persons with disabilities have expressed that they were able to enjoy their rights of dignity (79 percent), equality (92 percent), Inclusion (88 percent) and respect for difference (98 percent), the members of the local DPOs in all the 8 Mandals and the team members of the organization have found some persons with disabilities continue to face lot of problems within their own families, be it their acceptance as disabled persons or accessing the minimum basic needs that they required some form of support or the other, or even to access the various entitlements and schemes being made available by the government for their benefit. There have in fact been cases where the family members have been downright hostile to the presence of a disabled member in their families.

In the earlier tables, the women reporting that they were able to enjoy their rights had been systematically at a much lower percentage than men, when it comes to their facing serious problems inside their homes, the women lead the table with 59.74 percent. The difference between the percentages for men (at 22.08 percent) and women in this table is the highest so far recorded, 37.66 percent. Similarly, when it comes to children, though their percentage is also low, the difference between the problems faced by girls (at 14.29 percent) as opposed to boys (at 3.90 percent) is also quite high at 10.39 percent.

When seen overall, it would appear that hardly .01 percent of the members of the local DPOs are actually facing severe problems in their families because they are persons with disabilities. But statistics and percentages aside, the number of 77 members facing issues with their family members with their disability is an indicator of the future continued work for the organization but more importantly for the members of the DPOs in ensuring with their strong and sustaining support that the problems of even that.01 percent of persons will be redressed and others like them, who are yet to speak out or discuss openly these very same issues, would be able to come forward to discuss the problems in their own families as well.



13. Persons with disabilities who enjoy their Right to Property

Sl. No.	Right to property	No. of Members	% against Total Members	No. of Members in DPOs	% against each category
1.	Housing	893(W)	40	1119	80
		1335(M)	60	1585	84
		2228		2704	82
2.	Lands	520(W)	28	1119	46
		1364(M)	72	1585	86
		1884		2704	70
3.	Livestock	773(W)	40	1119	69
		1171(M)	60	1585	74
		1884		2704	72
4.	Business	503(W)	31	1119	45
		1127(M)	69	1585	71
		1630		2704	60

*Note: The (W) stands for women and the (M) stands for men

The right to property for women had to be protected by force by the state government through enactment for the women in rural areas as well as urban areas to rightfully claim this right for themselves. As such, it has been found across the board that persons with disabilities in general are sometimes willfully neglected when it comes to distribution of family property by the other family members. Given the existing situation, that women with disabilities can claim even the minimal amount as property is indeed an achievement.

As can be seen from the percentages in the above table, the number of women who have a house or own lands or livestock or who run some form of business independently is much lower than the men with disabilities across the board but when compared to business and lands, the difference in percentage of women owning houses and livestock is much closer at 40 percent as against that of 60 percent for men. The percentage of women owning lands, be it agricultural or any other, is the lowest at 28 percent, the next being those who own their own businesses at 31 percent. But the last could not be considered as a negative, as traditionally women are not considered to hold or own any form of business. It is only after the amount of work accomplished by the team members of the organization and DPO members that women with disabilities especially who did not



have any form of economic support were provided with the necessary technical and financial support through linkages in order to gain financial independence.

14. Food security for Children and Persons with Severe disabilities

Sl. No.	Name of the Mandal	Total Persons/children with severe disabilities				Persons/children with disabilities having Food Security			
		Female	Male	Girls	Boys	Female	Male	Girls	Boys
1.	Kosgi	25	15	32	24	18	11	31	23
2.	Doulthabad	9	6	7	12	8	6	5	10
3.	Bomraspet	12	25	10	14	4	10	7	7
4.	Balanagar	6	5	16	14	5	3	15	13
5.	Maddur	11	16	24	17	9	15	21	15
6.	Dharoor	26	18	10	13	24	12	7	12
7.	Ghattu	16	19	11	12	5	6	4	8
8.	Maldhakal	3	13	9	3	1	10	7	2
	Total	108	117	119	109	74	73	97	90
	% persons having food security among severe disabilities					68.5	63	81.6	82.7

There are children and persons with severe disabilities who require various services and support as well as rehabilitation and assistance on an every day basis from not only their family members, the government entitlements but also from the organization in the form of technical support as part of their right to access to basic services. There are 453 children and persons with disabilities among the 4124 members of DPOs, nearly 11.0 percent of them, who need regular assistance from one agency or the other.

Given that access to food is the most basic need on top of every other basic need and this is the one right that is most easily violated where persons with disabilities were concerned, the team members of the organization as well as the other members of the DPOs had decided that the food security of these severely disabled children and adults should be protected at any cost. As such, either directly or through raising funds or necessary food supplements, the members of DPOs and the organization team members have been ensuring that these 453 children and adults are provided with the necessary nutritional supplements every month, thereby ensuring that they are not treated as a burden by their respective family members and grossly neglected. Also, when the family members see that the food security of the disabled person family is being protected, they also ensure that the nutritional supplement is provided on time to the children or adults, as over a period of time they become more sensitive to the needs of their disabled member or of the family.



15. Persons with Disabilities who are without Guardians or are Single

Sl. No.	Single and orphan disabled	Kosgi	Bomraspet	Doulthabad	Maddur	Balanagar	Gattu	Maldhakal	Dhaaroor	Total	Percentage
1.	Female	22	15	7	18	4	8	8	8	90	57.69
2.	Male	3	6	4	6	0	4	4	6	33	21.15
3.	Boys	3	2	10	0	0	2	2	3	22	14.10
4.	Girls	0	2	4	1	0	1	1	2	11	7.05
	Total	28	25	25	25	4	15	15	19	156	100 %

During its work of identifying as well as motivating the persons with disabilities to form into DPOs, the members of the initial DPOs, disabled activists and the team members of the organization have been coming across children and adults with disabilities who have no parents, guardians or any relative or caretaker at all. Realizing the importance of protecting their rights which are on the verge of being completely violated, these disabled persons have been made members of the DPOs, where their fellow disabled persons were constantly present to extend all forms of emotional, technical and if needed financial support to the disabled who have no one to call their own.

Of the total 156 persons without guardians or caretakers, 90 persons are women. One of the reasons for this could be that after the death of their parents, the women generally have to endure various forms of discrimination to the extent of psychological or even physical violence from their siblings who do not feel themselves to be held responsible for the 'burden' of a disabled woman. At the same time, it has been seen that more boys than girls have been identified who have either no parents or are growing up in neglected environment with aging grandparents.

There are several reasons for the children to be left without any guardian at all: parents go on permanent migration and leave the child with aging grandparents, who eventually die, leaving the child with no caretaker at all; some parents are so revolted by the birth of a disabled child that they abandon them by themselves and there are several more reasons. Given these circumstances, these children, be it girls or boys with disabilities, it is the local DPO members who make these neglected children a part of their own families and take care of their emotional needs. Their physical needs are taken care of by the team members of the organization who raise funds to provide and ensure nutritional supplements to each of these children.



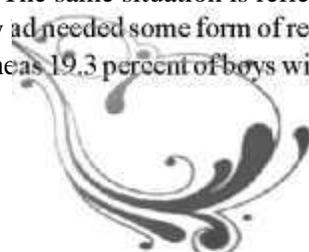
16. Persons with Disabilities who were/were not able to access Legal Redress (the percentages are given in Parentheses)

Sl. No.	Particulars	Female	Male	Girls	Boys	Total
1	No. of people needing legal redress	629 (51.5)	321 (26.3)	150 (12.3)	121 (9.9)	1221
2	No. of people who approached for legal redress	128(35.6)	117 (32.6)	50 (13.9)	64 (17.8)	359
A	No. of people who got legal redress	78 (32.6)	84 (35.2)	31 (12.9)	46 (19.3)	239
B	No. of people whose legal redress is in process	50 (41.7)	33 (27.5)	19 (15.8)	18 (15)	120
3	No. of People whose legal redress has not been initiated yet/No. of people remaining to get legal redress	501 (58.1)	204 (23.7)	57 (6.6)	100 (11.6)	862

Some of the issues that the members of the DPOs bring to the fore in their regular meetings need some form of legal support from the government systems/agencies and necessary support for this access to legal redress is extended by the rest of the members of the respective DPOs. At the same time, there are disputes or issues which might be redressed either at the DPO level or the local Gram Panchayat level also, without have to take recourse only to the police or courts.

The issues that have emerged which needed some form of negotiation and discussion followed by proper redress for persons with disabilities covered the gamut of socio-economic, political, civil and cultural issues which included: a woman with disabilities is given all due respect and treated with dignity and equality in her house by her family members but when it came to allocation of the family property, her siblings keep saying that they would give her portion but it never came to fruition and other similar issues concerned with property; when a disabled person comes into some property, they are made gullible and others attempt to take it away from them; where the parents of the child born with disability did not have any problems but one of the grandparents threatened eviction of the parents if they did not remove the child from the house, which by the way was solved by the intervention of the local DPO members; many cases where the women with disabilities were married off to already married men; various issues in accessing the various government entitlements like housing, getting their name registered in the list of pensioners; children with disabilities encountering various problems at different levels of their education from accessing schools to higher education; and there are several more reasons, including on very rare occasions severe forms of violence and violations of the rights of persons with disabilities.

Coming to the table above, it is most often women who are victims of some form of their rights violation or other, which is why 51.5 percent women required some form of legal redress. When compared to the percentage of men needing the same (at 26.3 percent), this number is almost double. But when it comes to actually accessing complete legal redress, the men have fared much better at 35.2 percent as against only 32.6 percent of women getting total redress. The same situation is reflected with girls and boys with disabilities too where 12.3 and 9.9 percent respectively needed some form of redress, only 12.9 percent of girls were able to get full redress for their problems whereas 19.3 percent of boys with disabilities were able to get redress.



17. Persons with Disabilities who participated in the local Panchayat Raj Institutions elections

Sl. No.	Gram Panchayat elections – politics	Sex	Kosgi	Bomraspet	Doultabad	Maddur	Balanagar	Gattu	Maldakal	Dharoor	Total	Percentage
1.	Contested in elections	Female	11	9	2	5	0	0	0	1	28	35.90
		Male	3	7	5	5	2	2	0	3	27	34.62
2.	Winners in elections	Female	3	3	1	3	0	0	0	0	10	12.82
		Male	1	3	2	4	0	0	0	3	13	16.67

Political right for persons with disabilities has long since been felt to be one of the stronger ways and modes through which the issues of persons with disabilities could be brought to the fore for some form of change to the positive in the lives of persons with disabilities. PRIA had conducted a series of trainings on nitty-gritties of Panchayat Raj Institutions and the importance of fair representation of each community in these Institutions at the national level as part of awareness campaign for the then coming elections in 2004-05. As part of this, they conducted an in-depth training in some of the operational areas of Commitments also.

Some of the persons with disabilities were so motivated from this campaign and training that they decided that when they were able to access so many of the government entitlements being outside the Panchayat system, they would be able to access even more for their fellow disabled members, in case they were to become elected representatives of their respective villages. This motivation led to 28 women and 27 men to contest in the PRI Elections in 2006, where 10 women with disabilities and 13 men with disabilities won several positions in their respective Gram Panchayats, which was a resounding success for the persons with disabilities regarding enjoying their right to political participation.

18. Persons with Disabilities who participated in Inclusive sports

S.No.	Inclusive sports and villages	Kosgi	Bomraspet	Doultabad	Maddur	Balanagar	Gattu	Maldakal	Dharoor	Total	Percentage
	No. Of villages	24	26	36	27	45	24	18	24	224	
1	Boys	38	48	48	45	35	36	28	17	295	27.6
2	Girls	26	28	32	38	28	19	21	13	205	19.2
3	Female	28	24	44	17	18	45	15	36	227	21.3
4	Male	62	32	75	24	10	64	26	47	340	31.9
	Total									1067	

One of the main activities of the team members of Commitments has always been to bring about a change in the attitude and behavior of non-disabled persons regarding the needs and lives of persons with disabilities. Initially, the responsibility of undertaking conducting these sports, gathering the children and taking them to these events rested with the team members of the organization but over the last 4 years, the local DPOs have slowly started taking over organizing these events. Also, today, these events are no longer confined to



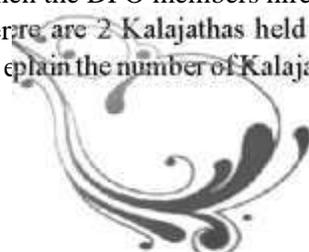
disabled children playing with their peer non-disabled children but similar sports and games are being held between disabled adults and their non-disabled counterparts, so much so that today, there are more women and men participating proactively in these events than children, be it in administrative/organizing or participating capacities. But it can also be seen that the participation of boys with disabilities is much higher (at 27.6 percent) than the girls (at 19.2 percent). Also, when compared to the men (at 31.9 percent) less number of women have taken up the responsibilities of organizing these events or participating in them, in fact there is more than 10 percent difference in the percentages of men and women with disabilities.

19. Community Awareness programmes through Cultural activities performed in the villages (2008-10)

1	Cultural activities	Kosgi	Bomraspet	Doulatabad	Maddur	Balanagar	Gattu	Maldakal	Dharror	Total
	No. of Kalalatha programs	36	14	13	12	6	14	20	18	133
	No. of teams	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	8
	No. of Cultural activists	15	12	13	16	15	15	13	13	112
	No. of cultural activists engaged/working outside	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	4

The cultural activities in the form of Kalajathas and other programs used for generating awareness among the community members about the various issues relating to persons with disabilities, their needs and entitlements, the support that the community can extend to them, etc., have been the cornerstone of the work accomplished by the team members of Commitments, right from its inception. Today, these Kalajathas are a much awaited event by the members of all the villages within the 8 Mandals of the operational area of the organization, even though, 10 years down the line, the awareness and sensitivity towards issues of persons with disabilities have improved manifold. So much so, that since 2006 onwards the DPOs themselves took interest to organize these events as they are so much in demand, and the organization also willingly handed over the responsibility to the DPOs, along with handing them over the allocated budget raised for this purpose. Also, all the cultural activists in these Kalajathas are not only disabled but are active members of their local DPOs.

These cultural activists consist of community members, CBR activists and community social workers. Wherever the Kalajatha is organized, only the local level activists are involved in presenting the event. In case there are some activists missing, then the DPO members hire activists from the neighboring village for the particular event. On an average, there are 2 Kalajathas held each Mandal, which is a scheduled itinerary. The details in the above table explain the number of Kalajathas held during the period from 2008 to 2010.



20. Persons with Disabilities who were able to access Government Schemes and Entitlements

S. No	Name of the activity	No. of eligible persons	Up to 2008 March	From 2008 April to 2010 March	No. of people who have not accessed the Entitlements
1	Ration Cards	5551	2652 (47.78)	1512 (27.24)	1387 (24.99)
2	Anthyodaya cards (YAP)	400	101 (25.25)	74 (18.50)	225 (56.25)
3	Annapurna cards	282	70 (24.82)	65 (23.05)	147 (52.13)
4	Pensions				
4.1	500 (Disability)	6749	2445 (36.23)	2144 (31.77)	2160 (32.00)
4.2	200 (Old Age)	330	85 (25.76)	107 (32.42)	138 (41.82)
5	EGS job cards	4003	1268 (31.68)	1336 (33.37)	1399 (34.95)
6	Adolescent girl children	485	106 (21.86)	145 (29.90)	234 (48.25)
7	Nutrition food	140	45 (32.14)	54 (38.57)	41 (29.29)
8	Pregnant women	313	97 (30.99)	80 (25.56)	136 (43.45)
9	Kids	233	29 (12.45)	85 (36.48)	119 (51.07)
10	Lactating mothers	573	164 (28.62)	309 (53.93)	100 (17.45)
11	Mid day meals	638	96 (15.05)	190 (29.78)	352 (55.17)
12	Severe disabled	785	235 (29.94)	167 (21.27)	383 (48.79)
13	Drinking water	785	306 (40.16)	401 (52.62)	55 (7.22)
13.1	Hand pumps	3712	1510 (40.68)	1316 (35.45)	886 (23.87)
13.2	Taps	922	207 (22.45)	359 (38.94)	356 (38.61)
13.3	Bore wells	460	40 (8.70)	47 (10.22)	373 (81.09)
13.4	Non -availability of any water source close by	529	130 (24.57)	213 (40.26)	186 (35.16)

One of the basic requirements as part of enjoying their rights as persons with disabilities is for them to access successfully the various schemes and entitlements that are being implemented both at State and Central Government level. This has been recognized by Commitments right from the beginning and as part of it is initial work with the persons with disabilities in the 5 Mandals, the team members of the organization have been extending all the support to the disabled persons for them to access the schemes successfully.

The persons with disabilities needed the support of the team members of the organization as they were having to face all kind of problems in accessing schemes and entitlements which were not specifically meant for them, like ration cards, Anthyodaya/Annapurna cards, housing schemes or EGS job cards, as they would face discrimination from the government personnel for being disabled.

After the initial work undertaken by the team members of the organization in sensitizing and bring awareness on the needs of persons with disabilities not only to the members of the rural communities where it was working but with all the concerned government personnel at all levels, be it village, Mandal or district levels, about the kind of support that is required by persons with disabilities. Once the DPOs formed and became strengthened over a period of time, the members of the DPOs began to take up these issues, of ensuring that each and every member of their respective DPOs has been not only able to apply for the required scheme or entitlement, but is also able to access it successfully.



In the above table are given the details of the number of persons with disabilities who have been able to access the various schemes before 2008 and the number of the same for the period between 2008 and 2010. Also given are the details of the number of persons with disabilities who are yet to access each of the entitlements listed above, giving an indication of the amount of work that the DPOs need to still accomplish over the coming few years in ensuring full access to all entitlements and schemes by all the persons with disabilities in the operational area of Commitments. An additional information to be shared here is that the numbers given for each of the categories in the table is of the total number of all the disabled persons in the operational area of the 8 Mandals of the organization and not just the 4124 persons with disabilities who are members of the different DPOs at the local level.



Programmes & Activities for 2008-10:

1. Strengthening the Mandal Vikalangula Sanghams:

The Mandal Vikalangula Sanghams, the independently registered DPOs, initiated their work with the support of Commitments in the beginning but evolved as independent organizations with the organization becoming a partner in technical support and at the same time the Indira Kranthi Padham under Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty became the financial as well as technical support partner.

Under the activities that have been taken up by the Sanghams over the last two years include:

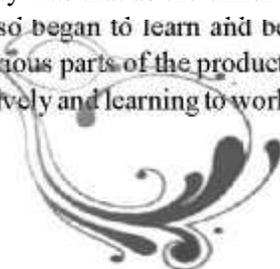
- ? There is a meeting once every month on a fixed date; the Presidents and/or Secretaries of the village level DPOs attend this meeting as representatives where this meeting becomes the platform for the discussion of the village level issues/problems.
- ? Organizing medical camps
- ? Availing CIF funds and distributing the grants accessed through Micro-Credit Plans and the DPO leaders also take up the responsibility of recollecting the amounts distributed
- ? Management and maintenance of the Neighborhood Center, taking up and providing speech and physiotherapy, ADLS and other necessary services for whoever needs it at the village through the Center; ensuring that all the information regarding persons with disabilities is made accessible through this Centre for one and all

S.No	Name of the mandal	Date of the meeting	No. Of Participants
1	Kosgi	21 st	44
2	Doultabad	22 nd	43
3	Bomraspet	23 rd	39
4	Maddur	24 th	52
5	BalaNagar	25 th	40
6	Dharror	19 th	38
7	Ghattu	12 th	34
8	Maldakal	14 th	53

2. Formation of Parivaar Groups

This activity was taken up with the support of Parivaar Parents' Associations, an organization operational nationwide in 4 villages of Sarjhakhanpet, Kudurumalla, Gokafaslabad and Renivatla in 3 Mandals of Kosgi, Doultabad and Maddur. Groups were formed with the parents of persons with intellectual disabilities as members towards ensuring sustainable livelihoods for the parents so that they would be able to earn enough to take care of their children with intellectual disabilities. These groups were each given units of manufacturing soap powder, phenyl, candles and dish washing powder. Except for the group in Kudurumalla village, where only one unit of candle making was given, the groups in the rest of the 3 villages were given 2 units.

The members of the groups manufactured items through these units and distributed the finished products to the local Kirana/grocery stores, direct retail to villagers, to small/petty shops in the villages, sold directly at the small and big shandies held weekly at the villages. In addition to this, the products are brought by the members to the City of Hyderabad where they are put up for display and sales in events like the Abilities Mela. One of the advantages of this activity was that as the children with intellectual disabilities tend to be close to their parents or relatives, they also began to learn and become active in the various activities of running these units, like preparation of various parts of the product and packaging of the finished products, thereby becoming involved in the work actively and learning to work.



3. Cultural activities with children with intellectual disabilities

The children with intellectual disabilities accompany their parents during the Saha Jeevan Sangham meetings held every month and the children are involved in the extra-curricular activities like singing, dancing, playing skits, etc. As part of this endeavor, it was decided by the members of the Sangham that a cultural event should be held exclusively with the children with disabilities, to showcase their talents for cultural activities and as a part of this, these children were trained in dancing and singing according to a structured plan for 6 months and at the end of this regular training, a cultural event was organized in 2008, which has continued from then onwards,

It was felt by the parents that as their children with intellectual disabilities rarely interact socially, this event and events like these could be used for the best in bringing out the hidden talent in their children, but at the same time, make them more social and friendly and not shy and reticent, as they usually are. The training given in dance also gave them training in moving their bodies in a controlled way. This event was also an occasion for the parents to interact freely with everyone in the village as well as among each other and not feel reticent. This cultural event with children with intellectual disabilities was organized once in each of 3 Mandals of Kosgi, Doultabad and Maddur.

4. Trainings on detection, early identification and prevention of disability

The trainings on detection, early identification and prevention of disability was given to pregnant women in the villages by the DPOs through their Community Based Rehabilitation Activists and social workers in collaboration with the technical support from the Commitments team of speech and physiotherapy and other coordinators. The pregnant women were given training on

- ? the ills of getting married at a young age,
- ? marrying within relatives (consanguineous marriages),
- ? what were the basic precautions to be taken during pregnancy, like necessary vaccinations and medical supplements like iron and folic acid supplements,
- ? what are the various vaccinations which need to be provided for children until the age of 5 years from DPT when the baby is 45 days old, Booster vaccination when the baby is 2 months old, etc.,
- ? what are the various sources of nutritious food which are available/accessible right within the homes like eggs, milk, green vegetables, etc.,
- ? the crucial importance of breast milk to the new born child,
- ? the necessity of not carrying too much heavy weights during the period of pregnancy

These meetings are held at the village level and in addition to this, the social workers and Community Based Rehabilitation Workers go to the monthly meetings of the Mandal Mahila Samakhyas and Mandal Vikalangula Samakhyas where many women gather to discuss their issues and speak to these women also about the issues relating to prevention, early identification and detection of disability and the care to be taken during and after pregnancy and child birth. The pregnant women as well as the members of the mandal level group members are given information on whom to approach if and when the mothers do notice any difference in the growth of the child, to take the child to the hospital and in case of surgery, to be taken up, make sure to see if the problem of the child could be solved through use of Plaster of Paris bandages, etc.



S. No	Name of the Mandal	Motivation to Pregnant women	Motivation to Children	Motivation on consanguineous marriages
1	Kosgi	184	157	44
2	Doultabad	205	224	65
3	Bomraspet	147	169	55
4	Maddur	133	176	51
5	BalaNagar	129	164	43
6	Dharror	177	144	62
7	Ghattu	98	110	38
8	Maldakal	217	266	74

Also a series of Kala Jathas are organized on the above mentioned issues to bring greater awareness to the people in the villages and communities. Because of all these interventions, the following number of children were identified at a very young age and at the primary stage of disability, thus ensuring early intervention and arresting further development of disability, Mandal wise:

S. No	Name of the Mandal	No. Of children identified
1	Kosgi	22
2	Doultabad	18
3	Bomraspet	14
4	Maddur	12
5	BalaNagar	10
6	Dharror	7
7	Ghattu	5
8	Maldakal	13

5. Motivating the persons with disabilities who have not done so, to join in groups

This is a regular activity of the social workers of the DPOs, to make those persons with disabilities who have not yet become members of the DPOs into members for which purpose, a series of programs are taken up like speaking personally with the persons with disabilities, explaining to them and their family members the benefits of becoming members of the DPOs, to hold Kala Jathas in the presence of persons with disabilities, their family members and community in general, playing skits and singing songs on the various benefits of being members of the DPOs. During the 2 years, between 2008 and 2010, the following number of persons with disabilities agreed to become members of the various DPOs in the 8 Mandals:

Kosgi	-	29
Doultabad	-	36
Bommaraspet	-	35
Maddur	-	18
Balanagar	-	26
Darrur	-	21
Gattu	-	18
Maldakal	-	68



6. Creating an Accessible Environment

The Mandal Vikalangula Sanghams held a series of rallies and walks through the villages and Mandal Headquarters in order to bring more awareness on the importance of making the built infrastructure more accessible for persons and children with disabilities and the members of the DPOs met up with and discussed this issue with Mandal Revenue Officer, Mandal Parishad Development Officer, to some school administrations, with Gram Panchayat office bearers, etc.

As a result of this concentrated campaign, 38 schools in all the 8 Mandals were made more accessible and barrier free for children with disabilities, through construction of ramps and placing hand rails in appropriate places.

7. Child Development Program under sponsorship of Liliane Fonds Foundation for children with disabilities

Liliane Fonds Foundation has been working with children's issues, especially children with disabilities and came forward to extend financial support to the DPOs for extending support to children with disabilities who either come from the poorest of the poor families or are without any parent or guardian, in the form of providing books both text and note -, uniforms, transportation charges and tuition fees for the children, special education materials for children with intellectual disabilities, aids and appliances like crutches, calipers, hearing aids, etc., for those children who need them, etc. For this program, 115 children with disabilities living in the most vulnerable position in the villages of the 5 Mandals were identified and provided all the above required materials.

8. Nutritional Supplements to Severely Disabled Children

When Commitments was implementing the Project directly, a program for supporting the nutritional supplements for the most severely malnourished children with disabilities who have been identified as part of the work of the team in the villages of its operational area was taken up. Once the DPOs were formed and became strong and independent, the members of the village level DPOs took over the responsibility of ensuring that the most severely malnourished children with disabilities were provided with all the necessary nutritional supplements. The DPOs at the village level provide the supplements with their money and submit the bills for the same to the Mandal level Federation for reimbursement. The Federations, which are financially supported by several agencies then reimburse the village level DPOs for the expenditure incurred for the provision of nutritious supplements. During the period under consideration, 52 children with disabilities who were the most malnourished were being provided with the necessary nutritional supplements.

9. Wall Writings

One of the most successful forms of bringing awareness about the issues relating to disability has been in the form of wall writings in all the villages of the operational area of the organization. Through these writings information such as

- ? How not to call the persons with disabilities by their disability names
- ? The attitude and behavior towards disabled
- ? Articles and sections on the protection of rights of PWD Act, 1995
- ? How to encourage persons with disabilities for their sustained livelihood, etc

These writings were done in all the villages in the 8 Mandals of the Ce Commitments area.



10. MGNREGS and persons with disabilities

The MGNREGS was introduced in 2005, 5 years after the organization began its work in this part of the Mahaboobnagar District and right from the day it was implemented, the activists in the disability sector have been ensuring that persons with disabilities, who are equally vulnerable as persons going on migration, should be recognized as workers and provided with job cards, specifically meant for persons with disabilities and groups of workers who were all disabled persons were formed, to take up various job works. Also, persons with disabilities themselves were the work team leaders. All these opportunities were accessed by the disabled persons by themselves by working with the concerned Mandal Development Officer and Program Officer, EGS, as members of DPOs. The average wages earned as part of their work was around 105 to 110 Rupees for which the government added another 30% and paid this amount as wages to disabled workers. Some of the works that were taken up by workers with disabilities included:

- ? De-silting the canals
- ? Jungle clearance
- ? Digging holes for plantation
- ? Clearing dirt on the sides of road

The Mandal wise details of the number of persons with disabilities who have been provided with employment under this Scheme and have undertaken the above job works are given below:

S. No	Name of the Mandal	No. Of persons worked
1	Kosgi	165
2	Doultabad	293
3	Maddur	262
4	BalaNagar	151
5	Dharror	285
6	Ghattu	15
7	Maldakal	85

11. Livelihood opportunities for women with disabilities

Commitments collaborated with Santha Memorial Rehabilitation Centre for exclusively working for the overall development and empowerment of women with disabilities, because it was felt that issues relating to women with disabilities do not come to the fore as frequently, and as such it was felt that an integrated Coordinator working exclusively for the issues of women with disabilities should be appointed. Also, economic independence of women with disabilities was identified as one proper source of empowerment and so a series of trainings were held for exploring various sources of livelihoods like video shooting and photography, computer operation, small businesses, tailoring/embroidery and handicrafts, etc. 52 women with disabilities were given training in the above livelihoods and are at present earning their sustainable livelihoods.

12. Participating in Special Olympics

The Olympics are held exclusively for persons with intellectual disabilities and as part of the international event, the Indian Olympic Association held an event at the India level called Special Olympics Bharath for which 13 persons with intellectual disabilities from 5 Mandals participated in this sports event. Some of the sports in which these persons from the Commitments area were throw ball, boosi game and running and the participants were provided with certificates of participation in the event.



13. Livelihood for women with disabilities who are single or destitute

Women with disabilities who are either single or who have no relatives to take care or stay with them were identified with the support of the Mandal Vikalangula Samakhya and were provided with financial and technical support for setting up some form of sustainable livelihood to them, under the aegis of the BISA Committee, which was provided funding by Actionaid India. Over the last 2 years, 30 women with disabilities from 5 Mandals have been able to set up small businesses and accessed other sources of livelihoods to ensure their proper economic conditions.

14. Inclusive Games and Sports

Inclusive sports and games where both disabled and non-disabled children participate on an equal basis has been understood to be one source of bringing these two categories of children together, where the non-disabled children are able to understand the lives of disabled children and instead of teasing or tormenting them, they would be more willing to be friends and support their disabled peers in one way or the other. As such, the social workers of each village in all the 8 Mandals of the organisation's operational area, organize these sports and games in each and every school so that as part of participating in these events, all the children would understand that they were all the same, though there might be several physiological or psychological differences in each and every one of them, without being identified as different and disabled. As part of this, the local government authority or elected representative is invited to distribute awards and prizes to the winners of the several events organized as part of the sports and games.

15. Distribution of Aids and Appliances

Once the persons with disabilities have been identified in the villages, they are also identified for any form of correctional surgeries or need for any aid or appliance and once this process has been completed, the concerned person with disability is either sent to the Capital city of Hyderabad for the surgery required or they are provided with the necessary aid or appliance, both these processes being done for free. At the same time, these persons with disabilities are provided with the necessary trainings in the use and maintenance of the aids and appliances, where and whenever necessary. Given below is the breakup of the distribution of aids and appliances to persons with disabilities and those who have accessed correctional surgery:

16. Trainings to health activists

These trainings are aimed to provide the necessary information regarding detection, early intervention and prevention of disability as well as the sections in the PWD Act, 1995 to the various health activists working in the villages at various levels, be it the Anganwadi Workers, Reproductive Child Health activists or the community based rehabilitation workers, which is undertaken through the DPOs by the social workers. In total 128 health activists have been imparted training on the above mentioned issues, for them to be more sensitive to identifying and taking appropriate measures when they come across a disabled child or person.

17. Sensitization Program with Caregivers of Persons with psychiatric Disabilities

76 persons with psychiatric disabilities have been identified as part of the Commitments work and medication is being provided to them under the aegis of the Institute of Mental Health. The medication needs to be used continuously for 3 years without fail, as even missing a single dose means that the medication needs to be taken again for 3 years, from the day of breaking the regular dosage. As a result of this, the social workers make it a point to hold regular meetings with the family members of the persons with psychiatric disabilities to ensure that they do not miss even a single dosage, even if the person taking the medication might have forgotten. This is an ongoing process of training and interaction with both the disabled and their relatives due to the conditions of medication.



18. World Disabled Day

This day, on the December 3, is celebrated on a large scale every year by each of the DPOs where around 300 to 400 persons with disabilities in the surrounding areas of the villages attend an event held on this occasion at the Mandal level. The local DPO submits a brief report on the activities and achievements undertaken by it over the past one year to all present and the persons who have had success stories in the past year are requested to speak about their achievement in life and the positive impact of the work by the DPO in the presence of everyone. The main objective of this event is to bring all the disabled persons living in the Mandal to one place and give them an opportunity to interact with each other, to not remain within the confines of their homes and fall into depression about having to live a life of disability but to come out and see for themselves that there are people, who though they are disabled, have made a success of their lives and living with a positive attitude to life. Overall, at the organizational level, around 3000 persons with disabilities attend this day long program held on this day in all the 8 mandals.

19. Training on bookkeeping

A book keeper is the person appointed to maintain the books of the group of persons with disabilities at the village level, whether it is to call for a meetings, to write the minutes of the meetings, maintaining the accounts of the members like CIFs given, how much of the amounts have been returned, who took the loans and who returned and who is yet to complete the repayment of loans, writing the agendas and resolutions, etc. Normally, this responsibility is taken up either by the social worker of the group or some other person in the village, who is educated to the extent of being able to write fluently. In the last 2 years, around 250 persons were given trainings on the above areas to be the book keepers for the village level groups of persons with disabilities.

20. Orientation Classes in School

The social workers from the village level DPOs go to the local schools in the villages and take some classes for the teachers, non-disabled students as well as other school administration regarding the several issues of children with disabilities who are students in the school, sensitize them about their requirements, as part of their awareness building. They also sensitize the teachers, especially about certain requirements for certain categories of children with disabilities, like ensuring they are made to sit in the front, especially those who cannot see well, that children with intellectual disabilities need to be taught more than once, in fact repetitively until they understood the lesson, etc. They tell the peer students to be empathetic to their friends who are disabled, to extend any form of support to them to ensure that they are also able to access education to the same extent as the non-disabled children are. These classes are held once every week by the social workers. In the last 2 years, schools around 135 villages in the operational area of Commitments have been covered by the social workers.

21. Aam Aadmi Insurance Policy

This insurance program is meant for the common man, a man who cannot afford to pay large amounts as premium. Under this scheme, a person needs to pay Rs.50 and in the event of an accidental death, his family gets around Rs. 75,000/- and in case the insurance holder's death is natural, the family gets Rs.35,000/- as insurance money. To date, 255 persons with disabilities have been provided insurance under this Scheme from across the 8 Mandals where the Organization is working.

22. Support to persons with disabilities through LSN Foundation

The Lakshmi Shankar Narayan Foundation came forward to extend support to the Organisation by distributing the necessary aids and appliances to the needy persons with disabilities. As part of this endeavor, 100 hearing aids, 25 walkers, 40 walking sticks were provided to persons with disabilities by the Foundation.



23. BISA Committee

This committee is the highest level of the Federation of the various groups from the 8 Mandals of the Commitments area. Just as the leaders of the village level groups are members of the Mandal level MVS, the representatives from MVS for the members of the BISA Committee where discussions are held on the issues that were raised at the MVS level. This meeting is represented from each Mandal by 5 office bearers of the MVS along with one social worker. The issues raised here are represented to the line departments of the government, or SERP or with hospitals, etc wherever and whenever necessary by the members of the Committee.

24. Zilla Vikalangula Samakhya

This Federation has been formed by the Indira Kranthi Padham of SERP at the district level and persons with disabilities of all the 8 Mandals of the Commitments area are members in this Federation. The major discussions held at the meetings of this Federation is on the amount of money that SERP has funded to the MVSs and how much has been taken, how much needs to be given, who is utilizing the loans for what purpose, who gets selected for the next round of loans, etc.

25. Trainings to Community Resource Persons

The Resource Persons work in coordination with the Community Based Rehabilitation Workers at the community level and work under the aegis of the DPOs at the village level. The Community Resource Persons were taken on by the DPOs for solely looking after two activities of the groups at village level:

- i. Strengthening of the village level DPOs
- ii. Maintenance of the CIF interactions

These CRPs are affiliated with the Mandal Vikalangula Sanghams and regularly visit all the village level groups when required and so keep traveling all over the Mandal. To date, there are 15 CRPs in Kosgi, 15 in Doultabad, 15 in Bommaraspet, 15 in Maddur and 15 in Balanagar Mandals. For the Gadwal region, there are 6 CRPs for each Mandal of Darrur, Gattu and Maldakal. Over the period of 2 years, on an average, these CRPs have accomplished around 240-250 visits to the village level Sanghams.

26. Training to Sub-Committee of the MVS

Of all the MVS members, 3 members are selected and given training on certain aspects of work, as part of training for policy advocacy by the Commitments team. These Sub-Committees have been set up by the MVSs at all the 8 Mandals of the Commitments area. There are several issues which the Sub-Committee members undertake and as a result, the Sub-Committee is not a committee of set number of people but is an amorphous entity, where 2 to 3 members of the Sub-Committee take up certain responsibility as and when required. Some of the roles and responsibilities of the Sub-Committee include:

- ? Strengthening the groups the Sub-Committee members travel across the Mandal and identify the groups which have become defunct, find out the erstwhile members and speak and motivate them to form their group again and provide all the information required, for the group to function with greater strength
- ? Holding regular consultations and meetings with the government officials to ensure that whatever entitlements and schemes that are available to persons with disabilities are being accessed by their members as well as others in their respective villages and in case there are any problems, letters are submitted regarding the same and the required follow-ups are taken up by the members



- ? Rehabilitation Specific meetings are held regarding the persons who have been identified for surgeries and for aids and appliances at the Mandal level. Once the list of persons has been prepared the members of the Sub-Committee which looks after the rehabilitation takes up the responsibility of seeing whether all the persons identified have been able to go to hospitals, or the institutions which supply the aids and appliances, and in case any of the persons listed do not go, they find out the reasons for that. In addition, they also do all the necessary follow-ups on persons who have either gone in for surgery or have acquired some aid or appliance.
- ? Loan Retrieval The members of this Committee take care of the loans that have been taken by members of the local groups for persons with disabilities as part of the CIF. It has been found that other than a 20 to 25 percent of persons who have availed these loans normally get to repay them on time. As such it was decided that a 2 or 3 member committee should be set up at the MVS level to look into this matter, to explore the reasons for the lack of repayment, etc
- ? Protection of Rights over the years, the members of MVS have been receiving complaints from the members of the village level groups regarding the violation of their rights, be it in education, marriage, family, with government officials or some crime that has been committed against them. It was decided that as these complaints need to be addressed as quickly as possible, given the urgency for redress, a separate Sub-Committee should be set up to dedicatedly look after these issues. The members do the fact finding as soon as they get a complaint, speak with both the victim and the other persons involved and in case any legal action needs to be taken they initiate the process and do follow-ups of the same

27. Home based Adaptations

Most of the time, persons who live in the most vulnerable conditions due to extreme poverty, cannot afford to get their children with disabilities the much needed physiotherapy. There are Neighborhood Centres being run by the MVSs but these are situated at the Mandal headquarters and the parents cannot forego their daily wages to bring the child to the Centre every day for physiotherapy, as the other members would have to suffer. For this reason, the MVS has come up with the idea of home based adaptations, where locally available materials are made use of at very low or minimal costs for setting up the equipment necessary for physiotherapy, like parallel bars, corner chairs for children with Cerebral Palsy, locally available clay for children with upper arm disabilities, etc. A physiotherapist has been appointed for supervising the setting up of this equipment at the homes of the identified children with disabilities and also to visit regularly to ensure that the child is in fact using these materials. In the last 2 years, 35 children have been identified in the 8 Mandals who require this form of service and have been provided with the technical support for setting up the equipment required for them.

28. Children's Day Celebrations

Mandal Vikalangula Samakhya undertakes several programs on the occasion of Children's Day on November 14th every year. On that day, a rally is organized with all the children from the schools in each of the villages as well as other children, where children and members of the local Vikalangula Sangham members make a round around the village and raise slogans on the rights of children and children with disabilities, as part of awareness on the need for protection of the rights of both the persons with disabilities and children. Also, inclusive sports events are organized on this day, where both disabled and non-disabled children participate in various games and the winners are given away prizes. These activities are taken up by the MVS to raise the awareness about the issues of persons with disabilities in the communities.

29. Child-to-Child Program

This program has been taken up with the school children, both disabled and non-disabled. Though the inclusive games and sports do provide a platform for children with a disabilities to become more open and less reticent in their making friends and finding companionship, such events are few and far between. It was



accepted that children with disabilities need to have a constant access to know that they have friends and are accepted in society on equal par with the others, for them to lose their fear and garner more faith. As a result, the Child-to-Child Program has been taken up where around 30 children without disabilities have been identified over the 8 Mandals and were given inputs on the necessity to bring the children with disabilities out of their reticence and interact freely, to be their playmates and learn together, to support each other in their studies like doing homework, revision of their syllabi, etc.

30. Preparing the Micro-Credit Plans

Once the village level groups of persons with disabilities have formed and have also strengthened themselves as a group after being together for around 3 to 4 years, they begin to think about their livelihoods and how to improve their sources of income, as part of their overall development through the Sanghams. The women's groups in the villages are already accessing the Community Investment Funds for improving their livelihoods and as such, the members of the MVS also approached Indira Kranthi Padham (IKP), which is the implementing agency for CIFs, to extend this facility to the MVSs also, which was accepted by IKP and from 2006 onwards, the MVSs also have been preparing the Micro-Credit Plans for each of the persons with disabilities who want to access the CIFs for their livelihoods and sending them to IKP for approval and sanction of the loans. To date, the members of the village level groups have been able to access 1.8 Crores through CIFs for their livelihoods.

31. Marketing of Agricultural Produce

This initiative was taken up by the members of the MVS from Maddur Mandal alone, on an experimental basis. The members of MVS took certain amount as loan from the local Mandal Mahila Samakhya (MMS) and with the money bought some agricultural produce from the local farmers like Bengal gram and Groundnuts. The idea was to keep the produce in stock until they get the right price and then sell the produce for a profit, thereby increasing the corpus of the MVS. This activity was taken up only once because though the idea was a good one, there are too many risks and ups and downs involved in dealing with agricultural products and it is difficult to run a business of marketing on loans alone and without any initial investment from the MVS side. The members were no able to get any profit from this activity; in fact, they were able to barely break even. The members bought the produce worth 12.5 Lakhs and after selling it off, they were left with barely Rs.30,000/- profit. This happened because the members were not really experienced in running a business in a professional manner. But the initiative of the MVS should be appreciated because this is an activity that has been taken up on a large scale by the MMSs but for an MVS to venture into this form of business itself is quite appreciable.

32. Formation of Peer Group Committees

This activity is an extension of the child-to-child program where the children without disabilities are connected with children with disabilities mostly regarding participation in extra-curricular activities and other supports. The Peer Group Committees are formed with children without disabilities at the school level, where children who are active in their studies, in extra-curricular activities and are socially conscious are selected and formed into Peer Group Committees with a membership of 5 to 6 children, in each school. The responsibilities of this Committee are:

- ? Go to the homes of children with disabilities who have not been attending school and in case they need any form of support to come to school, offer the same
- ? Supporting children with disabilities in their studies, like explaining the parts of the syllabus they did not understand, to complete their home work, etc
- ? Be companions to the children with disabilities in extracurricular activities like playing games and sports, etc



33. Training on Gender Issues

As it is understood that women and girls with disabilities are the most vulnerable of persons with disabilities and they often face multiple discrimination, a series of trainings to the members of both the village level groups of persons with disabilities and members of MVSs were held on women's rights and forms of redress for various violations of their rights by the social workers, the sessions being held at the weekly meetings of the village level Sanghams and at the monthly meetings of the MVSs. The issues covered are:

- ? Dropping out girl children with disabilities from school or not enrolling them at all saying education was not really important for them
- ? Child marriages or getting girls or women with disabilities married off to already married men
- ? Forcing girls with disabilities to remain at home to take care of younger siblings and do the household chores

These meetings have been held once in a year for the MVSs and over the last two years 16 trainings have been held in the 8 Mandals. As far as the village level trainings to the groups there is concerned, these are held on a regular basis, whenever possible.

34. Playground

This Playground was set up in Sarjakhpet in 2004. Members of 4 village level groups were instrumental in getting the land for this playground and they personally gave their time and effort, in the form of Shrama Danam, to clear the land and applied to the government to allocate budget for setting up the Playground. After this has been approved and budget sanctioned, a small room was constructed on the premises. Today, this room has become the meeting place and a platform for all the 4 groups, for their weekly meetings and gathering there. It has also developed into a resource centre where any information regarding persons with disabilities is available, like how to access medical certificates, bus passes, railway concessions, which hospitals provide what kinds of services required, etc. This is also the venue for holding events on national holidays like Independence Day, Republic day and holding other events inclusive sports for children with and without disabilities. This is also a venue for trainings and workshops like training on personal hygiene for adolescent girl children with intellectual disabilities. Dr. Jayanthi Narayan, the former Deputy

Director of National Institute for the Mentally Handicapped, recently visited the Playground and expressed that this place was providing all the services that NIMH was at present offering and said that it was on its way to becoming a good resource agency for the various services required by persons with disabilities in this area and also said that though it was actually a playground, it was a Neighborhood Centre in its own way. She concluded by saying that this model of an infotainment centre was highly replicable which was evident from the visits of IKP staff from various Mandals of the state visiting the Playground to set up the same in their own working areas.

35. Neighborhood Center

One of the greatest contribution of the organization to the overall development of persons with disabilities, especially children with disabilities, as well as bringing actual change in the attitude and behavior of non-disabled persons regarding the issues of persons with disabilities has been the Neighborhood Centre, which was initially set up in the Gundumal Village of Kosgi Mandal and replicated over a period of time in the other 4 Mandals of Bommaraspet, Darrur Gattu and Maldakal. In the last 2 years, the Neighborhood Centres were set up in the other 3 Mandals of Doulatabad, Balanagar and Maddur, with the financial support of IKP which sanctioned a grant of 1.5 lakhs for each Mandal. As a result of this activity, around 150 to 160 children with disabilities are availing the various services offered at the Centres in all the 8 Mandals every day. The services being offered at the Centres include:



- ? ADLS
- ? Physiotherapy
- ? Speech therapy
- ? Motivation services like
- ? Motivating parents to send their children to school
- ? Motivating parents to take their children to hospitals
- ? Venue for regular meetings of the village level DPOs; there is a sense of ownership with the Centres and negates the need for searching for a regular venue for the meetings
- ? Resource location for all the necessary and relevant information regarding persons with disabilities

Details of hospital services: -

S.No	Name of the hospital	Type of services	2008-2010
1	NIMH hospital	Medicines	351
2	NIHH hospital	For the assesment of speech and hearing impairment	318
3	L.V.Prasad hospital	Operation and specticals	280
4	Kamineni hospital hospital	For Orthopedic surgeries	277
5	IMH hospital	Medicines	111
6	SVS hospital	Operations and general checkups	978
7	Bhagavan Mahaveer hospital	For Aids and appliances	143
8	NIMS hospital	Clift lip surgery	60
9	Gandhi hospital	General cases	19
9	BIRDS hospital	For Orthopedic surgeries	74
10	NIMS hospital	For Aids and appliances	10
12	Gandhi hospital	For Aids and appliances	17
13	Sweekar Upkar hospital	Plastic surgeries	2
14	Bharath vikas parishath hospital	For Orthopedic surgeries	20
15	Upkar hospital	For the assesment of speech and hearing impairment	3
16	SVS Eye hospital for specials	Operations and specticals	82

Details of aids and appliances:-

S.No	Type of aids and appliances	2008 - 2010
1	Tri cycles	231
2	Wheel chairs	86
3	Calipers	121
4	Walkers	52
5	Crutches	123
6	White canes	67
7	Hand stick	76
8	Specticals	113
9	Hearing aids	242
10	Artificial limbs	31
11	Special education materials	63
12	Physiotherapy materials	42



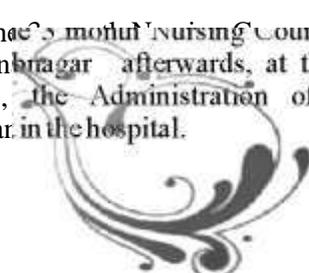
Activities and Events:

Commitments has been working in 423 habitations of 128 Gram Panchayats in the Mandals of Kosgi, Doulthabad, Bomraspet, Balanagar and Maddur Mandals for the overall development of persons with disabilities. 209 DPOs were formed in the 5 Mandals with 2867 members from the total number of 3814 persons with disabilities to date, i.e., 51 DPOs in Kosgi Mandal, 43 DPOs in Doulthabad Mandal, 39 DPOs in Bomraspet Mandal, 24 DPOs in Balanagar Mandal and 52 DPOs in Maddur Mandal.

The organization has also initiated work with persons with disabilities in the Dharoor, Ghattu and Maldhakal Mandals in 68 Gram Panchayats having formed 98 DPOs with 1257 members of the 2988 persons with disabilities are identified in the project area. The project objective in this 3 Mandals is to develop Inclusive Education and Community Based Rehabilitation in the 'SAMARDH' project area. As part of this, 37 DPOs were formed in the Dharoor Mandal, 30 DPOs in the Ghattu Mandal and 31 DPOs were formed in the Maldhakal Mandal.

In the 2 years from 2008 to 2010, several activities were taken up as part of the organization's work in the 8 Mandals of its operational area. Since the DPOs have been formed and strengthened, the organization has been working in close coordination with the DPOs in handing over more and more responsibilities of undertaking the activities in the 8 Mandals. Given below are brief details of the several activities undertaken by the team members of the organization along with the DPO members:

1. Indiramma Sambharalu programme held at the Project Mandal, where 5 members got pensions from Maddur village and Social Workers and MVS representatives participated in the meeting,
2. White Cane Day Mr. Aziz, Ms. Shantha, Mr. Narsimha Reddy and Mr. Narayana from Doulthabad participated in the programme at the Indira Priyadarshini Hall, Hyderabad on 15th October 2008 along with the cultural team from the Balanagar mandal. They performed a skit explaining the PWD Act 1995 on stage. The Managing Director of APVCC gave 23 Talking watches and 23 white canes to the team members to be distributed in the mandals.
3. National Academy of Constructions gave skill development training on Plumbing, Sanitation, House wiring and Electrician's work at Chandravancha village of Kosgi Mandal, on the 5th launched the programme with 24 youth in collaboration with the Mandal Mahila Samakhya of Kosgi, Social Discrimination Project and Indhira Kranthi Padham.
4. The Commitments team participated in the International Day for Senior Citizens at Mahabubnagar district headquarters, distributed walkers to the senior citizens and the District Collector and local MLA participated on this occasion on 1st October 2008.
5. Children's day week-long Celebrations at Mahabubnagar on Children's day and on the November 2008, the Project Director of National Child Labour Project and District Collector organized the programme at District level on prevention of Child labour at the Revenue Conference Hall.
6. Training for the Parivaar Group at Shadhikhana on 19th of this month, where Prof. Babu Mathew was the Chief Guest for the launching of the Phenyl Unit and Cleaning Powder Units for the intellectually disabled children and their parents. The Actionaid team participated in the programme and the representatives from Electronic and Print Media interacted with the children and parents during this programme.
7. Ms. Laxmi Narsamma finished the 6 month nursing course with the support of NCLP and Aide et action lead camp at Mahabubnagar afterwards, at the request of the Mandal Vikalangula Sangham and Social workers, the Administration of Shanthi Nursing Home in Kosgi appointed her as Nursing Assistar in the hospital.



8. Ms. Shyamala and the Cultural team from Balanagar participated in the Programme of violence against women held in Hyderabad organized by Sannihitha and Amanvedhika
9. Mr. Gerard, Board Member of Aide et Action International, Ms. Shivagami and Mr. Ramakrishna from AeA Hyderabad visited the Palwai village, DPOs, School, the homes of persons with disabilities and interacted with the CBR activists at Gadwal. The Managing Trustee of Commitments also participated in the programme.
10. Mr. Sudharshan, AD-Disabled Welfare, visited the Doullhabad Mandal to organize the Medical Certification Camp on 22nd and also met the local members of MVS, MMS along with the MDO and ZPTC. He invited the MLA for the programme which was organized on 28 of December month. 536 members were distributed the medical certificates in this camp and 256 members got Bus passes.
11. On 27th, training was imparted to Vidhya Volunteers on inclusive education and causes and prevention of disabilities for one day for which the MEO, MDO and MRO also participated. The Coordinators of MR and SHI of the Commitments Trust gave the training under the able guidance of the NIMH team from Hyderabad.
12. Mr. Gangadhar, Coordinator for MR participated in a state level training programme at APARD on Community Mobilisation from 10th to 14th November 2008.
13. The Commitments team participated in Gender Consultation Programme at Sundharaya Vignana Kendram, jointly organized by Commitments with Amanvedhika and other partners.
14. The Commitments team attended the meeting on food rights at Hyderabad with the Amanvedhika team, Caring Citizens Collective team and a forum with intellectuals was formed and Ms. Indira who was a member of the same came to the Doullhabad Mandal, did the study on starvation deaths and also she prepared the case histories of Mogulamma's family at Gokafasalwad village and Earlapally village
15. On the 19th November 2008, Ms. Shankar Naik from Medikunta Thanda registered a case with the Maddur Police Station on the issue of his land litigation.
16. Ms. Padmamma, a person with physical disability was beaten by a villager from her village during a land litigation of their relatives; she was admitted to the hospital was given the medical report of the violence at the Civil Hospital, which she submitted to the community elders of her village and requested them for redress. Thanks to the intervention of the community elders, the case was settled amicably.
17. Mr. Nandhaiah, Coordinator participated in the sensitization programme on e-Justice with all the Non-Governmental Organizations for one day, where the District Collector addressed the participants of the programme and the Centre for Good Governance team participated and gave suggestions to the NGOs.
18. Ms. Kiran Kumar and Ms. Jayamma participated in the training on preparation of ear moulds at the ENT Hospital in Koti, Hyderabad, then they shared the experience at the team meeting and planned to select the activists for the training, to do the further follow up action in the Project area.
19. The team participated in the Bharath Nirman programme Wanaparthi Division and the MVS representatives received the IHCBB and Rehabilitation Ses budget from the Minister of



Rural Development. The Project Director of DRDA and the District Collector also participated in the programme, held on 27th November 2008.

20. Mr. Mogulaiah and Mr. Anjaneyulu participated in the 'National Workshop on the Dalit Women rights' at St. Ann's Generalate, Hyderabad for 3 days. Actionaid India organized the workshop in collaboration with the Dalit Samakhyas, held on 5th, 6th and 7th November 2008.
21. Commitments, in collaboration with the Assistant Director of Disabled Welfare Department, SSA, MPDO, Indhira Kranthi Padham, PRI representatives and local MLA, organized a 'Multipurpose Medical Certification Camp for Persons with Disabilities' on 15th of this month. All the members got the medical certificates and Railway concessions, the person responsible for issuing Bus passes attended but was unable to issue the certificates/pass to the persons present.
22. The Athletes and Coaches for 5 members of DPOs went to Kondapally in Krishna District to participate in the Special Olympics; one person was from the Gadwal division and others were from Narayanpet Division and they were able to attend the Meet with the support of Parivaar and Special Olympics Committee and the National Trust. The participants were Sathyamma from Hanumanpally, Padma from Thimmreddypally, Hariprasad from Gundumall villages, Balraju from Kommoor and Thejeswar reddy from Palwai village.
23. Mr. Jhonsey Thomas, Programme officer of Byrraju Foundation visited Commitments, interacted with the BISA committee members on 15th April 2008, then went to the Neighbourhood Centre, discussed with the children regarding the Centre's activities. He was accompanied by Mr. Pavan Kumar of Swadhikaar and they both held discussions with the project team of the organization to provide a training to the team of Byrraju Foundation on the Community Based Rehabilitation Approach over a week. The Project Director from Commitments participated in a core group discussion at Byrraju Foundation on the training to the team of Byrraju Foundation for one week. Mr. Pavan Kumar and Dr. Govinda Rao together prepared a plan for the same.
24. Mr. Balkondaiah, Project Director of National Child Labour Project from Mahabubnagar district attended the BISA committee meeting for one day and interacted with the members. Then he explained about the activities of the child labour project, the importance of education, source of education, present conditions of children and child labourers and opportunities for the children with disabilities in the Bridge Course Centres and Technical Training Centre under the NCLP of Mahabubnagar District.
25. ABILITIES MELA - at Hyderabad from 25th to 27th April 2008 in Engineers' Bhavan, Khairathabad. His Excellency, the Governor of Andhra Pradesh inaugurated the auspicious programme and Mr. Nagarjuna and Mr. Laurence - well known film actors participated and shared their views at the Mela. The Cultural team from Commitments played a Skit on the PWD's Act 1995. The Neighbourhood Centre from Gundumal organized a stall at the Mela and the Governor visited stall and he said 'Keep it up' repeatedly and appreciated the work of Ms. Monamma and Ms. Mogulamma. Around 80 stalls were set up at the Mela.
26. Mr. Bhim Reddy from Mungimalla, Mr. Balappa from Balampet village, Ms. Venkatamma from Sarjhakhanpet village participated in the Special Olympics at Mujhaffarpur from 23rd April to 2nd May. Mr. Kiran Kumar participated as the coach and led the team very efficiently, without any complications.



27. A team from Republic of Indonesia - supported by the World Bank for poverty alleviation programmes, Dr. Bakir Ali, Small Holder Agri-Business Development Initiative, Mr. Prabhawa Eka Soesanta, Ministry of Home Affairs, Republic of Indonesia, Dr. IR Endah Murninigtas, Director of Poverty Alleviation, Dr. Jacqueline Pomeroy, Programme Director, Small Holder Agri-Business Development Initiative, Ms. Excline Korea from the World Bank, Ms. Polaybous from the World Bank, and Mr. Makitan Eand Newarandas from the World Bank visited the MMS and also interacted with the representatives of Mandal Vikalangula Sangham and Commitments team regarding the activities for persons with disabilities and the rehabilitation activities being undertaken.
28. Commitments in collaboration with AP Mahila Samatha Society organized a training to adolescent youth at Mahabubangar district from 22nd to 23rd of May on their health and development stages. 10 adolescent girls and boys who were members of the local DPOs participated in this training. Raju from Mirjapoor was elected as Secretary of the Children's Committee.
29. The team members of Commitments went on an Exposure Visit to Chennai for 3 days and visited the Kellotivakam Grama Sangham at Kanchipuram district, VRC Chennai, Andhra Mahila Sabha, National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Multiple Disabilities, National Institute of Visually Handicapped and Tamil Nadu State Resource Training Centre for Persons with Multiple Disabilities. The visit was very useful to all the team members who mainly observed the inclusive education process and rehabilitation process. The visit was from 22nd to 24th of May.
30. Sri. K. Raju, IAS, Principle Secretary, Department of Rural Development, GoAP visited the Commitments Project, interacted with all the team members and members of the BISA Committee when the BISA representatives explained their activities.
31. A training programme on 'Government Schemes, Entitlements, Responsibility of Leaders and Benefits' was organized on April 2008, 34 representatives attended this programme from the Mandal Vikalangula Sangham of Doulthabad Mandal.
32. Mr. B. Venkatesh, Trustee of Commitments, Sri. Gangadhar Rao, Managing Trustee came to the Project for the 'Preparation of Perspective Building' for the next 3 years. Mr. Mohan Raj was the external facilitator and resource person for the planning programme. The resource persons sat with all the team members for 2 days, one day with the BISA committee and one day with MVS of Bomraspet mandal.
33. Mr. Yutaka Takamine, Professor of Ryukyus University, Japan and his student Mr. Dayasky visited the organization and also visited the DPOs at Gundumal village, interacted with individual persons with disabilities and he planned to do the study for 3 years with persons with disabilities and their development with DPOs.
34. On 2nd October, Commitments initiated the programme on development of persons with disabilities with the support of MEPMA. Ms. Aruna, MLA of Gadwal, Mr. Vengal Reddy from APUSP, Municipal Chairman and Project Director of Commitments participated in the Inaugural function at Gadwal. All the team members from Commitments participated in the programme.
35. The District Collector of Mahabubnagar participated in the distribution programme at Kosgi, in collaboration with the L.S.N Foundation which organized the programme for the distribution of aids and appliances to 94 members. Mr. Murali and Ms. Padmavathi participated on behalf of the L.S.N Foundation.



36. The Mandal Vikalangula Sangham of Kosgi organized a workshop for two days from 11th to 12th of November at Kosgi for the preparation of perspective plan for the next 10 years. Mr. Murali From Akshara facilitated the workshop. The Executive Committee members from MMS, Sub-Committee of persons with disabilities from MMS and Office bearers participated in the process.
37. Children's day programme celebrated in all the project mandals in collaboration with the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyaan on November 2008.

8 children with disabilities and other children participated in the programme at the High School of Mushrifa village. 10 children with disabilities and other children participated in the Neighbourhood Centre at Gundumal village.

A big rally (procession) was organised at the Doulthabad Mandal with the children from all the Primary and High Schools, involving the MEO and SSA team. Inclusive sports and games were also organized where 32 children with disabilities participated in the programme.

Inclusive games and sports were organized in Bomraspet Mandal and 14 children with disabilities participated. The SSA team also participated in the programme.

Inclusive games and sports were organized in Balanagar Mandal on the premises of the Residential School, a procession was held with all the children on the streets of Balanagar, then presentations to winners and runners was distributed and the MEO donated Rs.100/- for children. The Bank Manager of Sanghameshwara Grameena Bank also participated in the programme.

38. Training programme was organized for adolescent girls on the 'Health and Hygiene and Their Personal Health'. Dr. Soujanya gave the training to the girls. 25 adolescent girls with disabilities and 24 parents attended this training held on 20th May 2008.
39. Commitments organized a one day workshop for the 'Mental Health Problems' and invited persons with psychiatric disabilities from all the Mandals. 25 members attended the programme, where Dr. Pavan and Dr. Pradeep did the counseling and motivation sessions for the members and also explained the health and psychological issues of the persons.
40. Ms. Mogulamma and team from Kosgi mandal participated in the inaugural programme at NIRD, Hyderabad for one day. Sri. Raghuvamsha Prasad, Minister RD, GOI was the Chief Guest for the programme May 2008.
41. Ms. Mogulamma from Commitments participated in the Chief Minister's programme at Hyderabad, interacted with the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh on the MVS activities and pensions on 6th and 7th of May 2008.
42. On the 14th of May a 'National level Parents' meet' was held at NIMH, for which Ms. Sayamma from Ejipoor and Ms. Govinadamma from Doulthabad mandal participated as representatives for the programme. The programme gave inspiration for all the parents and so they explained their interaction at NIMH to all the members of the Sahajeevana Sanghams.



43. The Commitments team participated in the Spandhana programme of Actionaid APRO at Vijayawada from 18th to 20th of this month. 22 members participated as representatives for this meetings, where some of the demands by the team were that the government:
- should provide 3% reservation in all the programmes,
 - should provide health facilities for all persons with disabilities at the PHC level and
 - should provide health and risk insurance policies for all persons with disabilities.
44. A team of Community Based Rehabilitation activists went on an Exposure Visit to Hyderabad and they visited the L. V. Prasad Eye institute, National institute for the Hearing Handicapped, National Institute for the Mentally Handicapped and Bhagwan Mahaveer Artificial Limb Centre and they interacted with the PROs of the Institutes for building the rapport on behalf of Commitments for extending the rehabilitation services from the institutions effectively. The Community Social Workers also accompanied the CBR activists on this visit.
45. Women with disabilities programme was held in collaboration with the SMRC and VRC organized a 15 day training programme on Videography and photography to 8 members. Out of the 8 members, 2 members, Ms. Venkatamma and Ms. Nagaveni, were from the Ghattu Mandal.
46. On the 2nd of October the disability programme was launched formally in the Gadwal Local Municipal area, for which the local MLA of Gadwal, Municipal Chairperson, Sri. Vengal Reddy, Addl. Mission Director, MEPMA participated in the programme.
47. The team of Commitments participated in the procession on HIV/AIDS along with the government team on 1st of this May 2008 in all the project Mandals.
48. Mr. Adam from France visited the Project area on behalf of Aide et action and as part of the visit he met the child Krishna in Revulapally village and visited his school for some time. His visit was from 9th to 11th.
49. A team from from Aide et action held a thematic workshop on inclusive education from 14th to 16th of May. A 10 member team came and they divided into two teams, one team went to Aloor village and another team went to Irkichedu village, did a Participatory Rural appraisal, conducted home visits and visited the schools in that village.
50. Indira Kranthi Padham and BIRRDS Hospital in collaboration with the SVS Medical College, Commitments, MEPMA and Sarva Shiksha Abhiyaan organized a Polio Surgical Corrections Camp at SVS Medical College in Mahabubnagar District. As part of this 19 members underwent surgeries - 3 members from Doulothabad, 6 members from Kosgi, 1 member from Maddur, 1 member from Bomraspet and 8 members from Balanagar mandal. The post-operative care is going on for these persons.
51. Mr. Ramesh has attended for the workshop on 'Psycho-social Management of Families with Adults with Mental Retardation' from 23rd to 27th at NIMH.
52. Mr. Krishna Murthy participated in the 'Training on empowerment of Persons with Disabilities in Urban Areas' at RCUES, Osmania University and MEPMA on 26th February.
53. Persons with disabilities and women with disabilities celebrated the International Day for Women at Kosgi on March 8th where 50 members attended and Ms. Megulamma facilitated the programme with the support of the teachers at armanpally village.

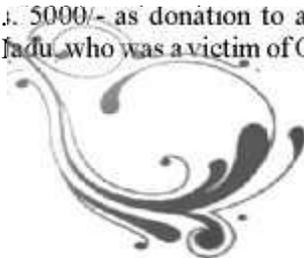


54. Four Women Activists participated in the Training programme on the rights of the women with disabilities at Hyderabad on 8th. Ms. Supriya imparted the training from Thapana Charitable Trust.
55. Mr. Ramjoga Rao from Parivaar Andhra Pradesh, Mr. Ramesh from Kiranam school, Ms. Vijayalaxmi and her son Mr. Vamshi, Mr. Sridhar who is a student and Mr. Srinivas who is a trainer came to Kosgi and participated in the training programme on Candle making, soap powder making, Washing Powder preparation to the Pariwar groups of Renivetla village and Kudhurumalla villages for one day on 25th March.
56. On the 11th, a training programme was organized for the Committees of Women with disabilities for one day on gender issues and health issues. Ms. Sajaya from Caring Citizens' Collective, Dr. Sathyalaxmi from the Government Nature Cure Hospital, Ms. B. Sandhya, advocate and Dr. Srilekha, House surgeon, Government Nature Cure Hospital came as resource persons and they concentrated more on the personal health of women and the imparted details on the special problems regarding health to women with disabilities, gender dimensional issues in day to day life and overview of the Laws and Acts meant for protection of women rights. 25 members participated in the training programme.
57. Ms. Manjula Kalyan, Ms. Vineetha gave training to 80 children and parents of children with intellectual disabilities and associated conditions for one day on the National Trust Act. The members who participated came from the Ghattu, Dharoor, Maldhakal and Gadwal Mandals which was held on 16th March.
58. The Mandal Parishad Development Officer of Dharoor Mandal participated in the Executive Committee meeting of the MVS of Dharoor mandal, interacted with them, gave clarifications on the EGS works, discussed about the tools which are used while working in the field and also motivated them to participate in EGS works in all the villages on 19th.
59. The Commitments Team participated in the workshop on 'Women Participation Contemporary Development' on 6th and "Interface with Political Parties by the Women" on 7th at Sundharaiah Vignana Kendram, Baghlingampally. The workshop was organized by Actionaid India and Partner Organisations. The Representatives from Political Parties was Mr. Rumandla Ramchandraiah from Telugu Desam Party, Mr. Purushotham Rao from Congress Party, Mr. Yarlagadda Ramadevi from Loksatta Party, Mr. Pramod Reddy from Praja Rajyam Party, Dr. Sravan Kumar from Praja Rajyam Party, Mr. Ram Narsimham from CPI and Mr. Veeraiah from CPM.
60. Mr. Ramesh and Mr. Kiran participated in the workshop on 'Early identification and Intervention' at Sweekaar Rehabilitation Centre, Thandoor on 8th April.
61. Eye camps were organized at Dharoor, Maldhakal and Ghattu Mandals where 55 members were selected for cataract surgery out of 220 members in Dharoor Mandal, 42 members were selected for surgery out of 180 members in Ghattu Mandal, 26 members were selected for surgery out of 200 members in Elkoor village of Maldhakal Mandal.
62. The team of Commitments participated in the Abilities Mela 2009 programme at the Vocational Rehabilitation Centre, organized in collaboration with NGOs by the LSN Foundation on 2nd and 3rd May 2009. The team participated in the workshop on Employment and Livelihoods, Nutrition and Health Problems of children with disabilities and Employment in IT where the lectures were given by the heads of the IT institutions like Athyam Computers, Deloitte, Rajeev Gems Park.



The Pariwar groups put their products for sale in the stalls like candles, soap powder, phenyl, washing powder and cleaning powder. The Neighbourhood Centre of Gundumal set up a stall for disseminating the concept of the Centres to others visiting the Mela. Sri. S. R. Shankaran and Sri. B. N. Yugandhar were the Chief Guests for the programme.

63. The Project Director, Commitments attended the Local level committee meeting at Assistant Director's office, Disabled Welfare, Mahabubnagar on the National Trust activities.
64. Mr. Ramesh and Mr. Kiran participated in the training programme on 'Communication Aspects in the People with Mental retardation and Hearing Impaired' at the National Institute for the Mentally Handicapped from 1st June to 5th June 2009.
65. National Institute of Rural Development has started a new course on tailoring and designing for women with disabilities through the Rural Technology Park. Commitments Trust sponsored 5 women with disabilities from the project area, by paying Rs. 300/- for the admission and Rs. 2000/- for the raw material, to take up the training.
66. The Commitments Team participated in the 129th Birth Anniversary of Helen Keller at Mahabubnagar.
67. Mr. George from the Vocational Rehabilitation Centre visited the Play Ground of Sarjhakhanpet village and participated in the Review meeting of the Bomraspet MVS, then interacted with them on the livelihood activities and vocational trainings for the youth with disabilities.
68. Mr. Revanth Reddy, MLA of Kodangal Constituency participated in the meeting at the MPDO office, Doulthabad where the representatives of Mandal Vikalangula Sangham gave him a representation for pensions for eligible persons with disabilities.
69. Ms. Habeeba, a Trainee at NIRD got the Tailoring Machine as a gift from NIRD for her best concentration on the training for two months.
70. A training on 'Rights of Women with Disabilities and Facilities for the Women with Disabilities as per the Reservations under the provisions of Acts' was organized for one day at Kosgi for the representatives from the committees of women with disabilities of the Mandal federations on 28th July 2009 by the Commitments.
71. A one day training programme was organized for the CBR activists and Community social workers from the 5 project mandals on the 'General Diseases - Disease of Tuberculosis' a sensitization programme to the NGOs in association with World Vision India. Mr. Samuel facilitated the training programme.
72. Mr. Raghupathi, an Activist from the Safai Karmachari group visited the Kosgi, Doulthabad and Maddur Mandals and explained about the use of dry latrines in the Mandal headquarters and its impact on the health of the people as well as symbolic meaning for the families of the Safai Karmacharis, he sensitized on these and other issues. Then all the members participated in a procession, after which they gave a memorandum to the MRO, a copy of the same was submitted to the District Collector on 20th August 2009.
73. The BISA committee provided Rs. 5000/- as donation to a representative from one of the partner organizations of Actionaid, Tamil Nadu, who was a victim of Cancer.



74. Mr. Vishal Gupta from Stichting Liliane Fonds visited the Commitments Trust as part of the organizational visit from SLF. He interacted with the children at Mirjapoor village and they are Ashwini, Phakeerappa and Gayathri from Gundumal village, Ramulamma from Nacharam village, Kursheed from Kosgi village. He observed the process of extension of support to the children through the organization, he verified the records which is maintained for the children who are benefiting directly through Liliane Fonds.
75. The team of Commitments participated actively in the flood relief activities in the month of October 2009, it was a severe and heavy flood in the pockets of Thungabhadra and Krishna Rivers due to heavy rains at Karnataka as well as Andhra Pradesh as well as due to the back water force from Srishailam Reservoir.
76. Ms. Mogulamma participated in the 'Actionaid Assembly meeting' at New Delhi as one of the Governing Body Members of Actionaid India from 20th to 23rd October 2009.
77. The District Collector donated One Lakh Rupees as grant for the Commitments Trust to provide assistance to single and destitute women with disabilities.
78. The General Body Meetings of Mandal federations were held on the International Day for the Disabled in all the Project Mandals, which the District Collector attended at Kosgi Mandal and Doulthabad Mandal. The District collector distributed financial assistance to the single and destitute women with disabilities and the MLA of Jadcharla attended the Meetings at Balanagar Mandal and all the Mandal level officials attended the programmes at Mandal level and other participants included the public representatives of the respective Mandals.
79. Ms. Vandhana Chowdhary, a Student from the University of Illinois visited the organization and participated in the Sahajeevana Sangham Meeting at Kosgi where she distributed the Commendation certificates to the team of Commitments from her University.
80. The Commitments Trust organized a workshop on inclusive education in association with the Rajiv Vidhya Mission and Disabled Welfare Department on 31 December 2009. All the team members from Commitments and CBR activists from the Mandals participated in the workshop held for one day. The SSA resource teachers also participated for which Mr. Suresh from Aide et Action anchored this programme.
81. A workshop was organized at SVS Hospital and Medical College at Mahabubnagar on the SADAREM camp - software developed by the HMRI for the certification of Persons with disabilities, which is going to do a pilot in Mahabubnagar district, for a selected two Mandals i.e., Kosgi and Kodangal Mandals. It is planned to begin from 4th to 7th of January 2010 at SVS hospital and Government Hospital simultaneously with two different teams. A two day training was given to CBR activists at TTDC by the IKP team on 2nd January 2010. From 4th to 7th, the camp was organized, 636 PWDs attended the assessment, of which 580 people were assessed by the team of doctors and as the remaining members did not have proper documentation, they were asked to leave the camp site. The Project Director of Indira Kranthi Padham personally took care in organizing the assessment programme.
82. Republic day celebrations were held in all the Project Mandals, Neighborhood Centers and playgrounds where the Representatives of the Federation hoisted the flag in the respective places.



83. All the Community Coordinators, Assistant Project Managers, District Project Managers and Community Development Workers participated in a sharing workshop from 28th to 29th of Jan 2010 at Kosgi. They attended one Disabled People's Organization meeting and interacted with the representatives of Mandal Vikalangula Sangham of Kosgi mandal, learnt the process and they attended the sharing and review meeting at SERP with the CEO of SERP.
84. A rally/procession was organized on the 'Campaign on the Prevention of Disability' in all the Project Mandals where the Principal Secretary of Women Development and Child Welfare Department initiated the process. The social workers' team was actively involved in this process and mobilized the students from various schools. The Mandal Parishad Development Officers participated in the campaign. On the 25th, a procession was organized at the Mandal level and a programme was held on the 26th, at the Town hall.
85. Mr. Krishna Murthy visited Japan as part of the official responsibilities; here he participated in a workshop at JSRPD, Shinjuku-Narita, the World Bank branch and also at the Okinawa University, and gave a presentation on the Commitments Model of Rehabilitation.
86. On 12th March, Commitments team participated in a meeting at SERP on early identification and intervention programme in the IKP Pilot Mandals. The CEO, RPD and SPM of SERP and other teams from the SPMU disability wing and the Commitments Trust team participated in the workshop, held for one day.
87. A Team of Social workers and CBR activists participated in the workshop on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and Implementation of UNCRPD held at the SSA conference hall. Mr. Ragavendra and Mr. Surender from Actionaid participated in the workshop and facilitated the same. Andhra Pradesh Vikalang Manch team also participated in the workshop. Mr. Venkatesh from the SPEED organization provided the support for inviting the NGOs for the workshop held on 26th March.
88. Mr. Balakondaiah, Project Director, MEPMA visited the Neighbourhood Centre at Gundumal village of Kosgi Mandal and he observed the process at the Centre and also observed the status of the Training Centre and facilities.
89. Ms. Suneetha, IAS, Mission Director, MEPMA visited the Neighbourhood Centre at Gundumal village interacted with the Committee members and children with disabilities in the Centre after which she interacted with the representatives of the MVS of Kosgi Mandal at Kosgi to understand the various activities of the MVS. Mr. Balakondaiah, PD-MEPMA, and Mr. Adinarayana from MEPMA accompanied the Mission Director, this even being held on 31st March.

Inclusive Education Initiatives

Commitments Trust has been working for the overall development of the Persons/Children with Disabilities and believes that Education is a key for a child to emerge as a well-rounded person in the society and as such Commitments took up on working with the concept of Inclusive Education. In society, a child with disability will blossom when all the surroundings/atmosphere is cooperative and there is friendly access, which will enable the child to gain knowledge through various ways.



The team at Commitments participated in the scheduled meetings and trainings for Sarpanchs, Village Secretaries and Mandal Parishad Territorial Constituency members (MPTCs), sensitized them on disability issues and concept of inclusive education.

The impact of these meetings and trainings in the villages has been encouraging and the individuals have been extending support to the team and DPOs to develop accessible environment in the schools and villages for children with disabilities and at the same time have been themselves promoting inclusive education in villages.

Every month, the parents of the children with disabilities along with their children come to the Mandal headquarters for a one-day review cum training programme on education for children with intellectual disabilities, cerebral palsy and multiple disabilities.

The coordinators' team and resource team guide the children and review the child development. 13 parents from Dharoor Mandal, 12 parents from Maldhakal Mandal and 10 parents from Ghattu Mandal have been attending this programme, and taking care to follow the tips and education given in the training programme for their children's development.

The organization has worked to make 11 schools in the Project area more physically accessible by constructing ramps and fitting side bars all over the school, with the support of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyaan, DPOs, community elders and public representatives.

The Commitments team has trained 52 teachers at the Mandal level on behaviour and status of a child with disability and need for inclusive education for these children and sensitized the other teachers on the same concept with the help of the trained teachers.

The team has sent the members who required medical assistance to the national institutes and corporate hospitals for reducing the effects of their disability so that they are able to go to the schools and colleges and also mobilized aids and appliances like calipers, crutches, hearing aids, white canes, artificial limbs and sticks. The children with disabilities were able to go to schools with the support they got, the drop out ratio reduced in the Project area and 74 children enrolled. The material was availed from the Edcraft Agency, supported by National Institute for the Mentally Handicapped (NIMH).

3 Samardh Centres, also called Neighborhood Centres, were set up to bring greater awareness to parents and children with disabilities. All children, whether disabled or not, play together and learn together; the non-disabled child will assist the child with disability to learn and play with the material at the centre; the parents and villagers also come to this Centre for observing the activities; the activists at the Centre then create awareness on health, hygiene, disability, causes and prevention and also share with them the development of the children after coming to the Centre; staff from the Health Department also come to the Centre and provide immunization to the children right there.

54 Community Based Rehabilitation Activists were trained to promote the concepts of inclusive education and CBR at the village level; they are the change agents in the village. Also, trainings were imparted to 11 village level organizations and 3 mandal federations on the same concepts.



Community awareness programmes have been taken up in the villages through cultural activities with the community members and CBR activists on inclusive education, rights of child/persons with disabilities, dignity of persons with disabilities and causes and prevention of disabilities during late evenings, as all the villagers and community leaders are able to attend these programmes.

Processions/rallies have been held on Children's Day and World Disabled Day with persons with disabilities, students from the Mandal, Mandal officials, public representatives, village and Mandal heads. Everyone participated in this program in good spirit and were active and it also helped at the same time in increasing the awareness on inclusive education and other issues of disability as seen from the positive speeches by them in all the 3 mandals.

The team of Commitments took classes in 24 schools on inclusive education and the importance of support of the non-disabled children; the teachers have promised to extend their support in promoting the concept in these schools. 120 children are going to get scholarships from the government. 9 model schools were selected in 3 mandals where Children's Peer Committees or Sahavidhyarthi Committee in order to motivate the children with disabilities in their village to attend school, to support them in coming to and going from school along with motivating the parents of the children with disabilities towards embracing education.

Slogans on inclusive education, assertion of rights of persons with disabilities and their dignity were written on the walls in all the villages of the Project area as part of sensitization. At the same time, sensitization classes were given to adolescent girls in high schools the disability and inclusive education so that they can support the children with disabilities from their villages to come to school. The team of Commitments has worked to create awareness among the Anganwadi Workers under the ICDS Project on disability and inclusive education. This activity has ensured food security for children with severe disabilities at the Centre with proper nutrition supplements as also educating them on ADL skills.

Saha Jivana Sangams or association of parents with severely disabled children

An overview:

Commitments has been at the forefront of organizing associations of parents of severely disabled children in rural India or Saha Jeevana Sangams as they are called in Telugu. Saha Jivana Sangams derive their conceptual roots from well-known parents associations, which have so far existed only in cities and urban locales. Pioneering the approach in rural areas, Commitments has organized five such mandal level parents associations in Mahaboobnagar district, across Mandals where Commitments is actively working, namely, Kosgi, Bomraspet, Madhur, Daulatabad, and Balanagar. These Saha Jivana Sangams (SJS) are registered under Society's Act and applied for registration of National Trust Act, 1999, and have a membership of 313 severely disabled children and adults.

Commitments has initiated various support services that foster capabilities of severely disabled and their family members living in rural areas. In collaboration with various partners, Commitments has been responding to their basic needs pertaining to nutritional requirements, bio medical rehabilitation, educational and livelihood supports, and need for representation through participatory forums for severely disabled and their family members. Saha Jivana Sangams are these representational forums of parents of severely disabled people, which are also the focal point of coordinated interventions. Importantly, a multilayered organizational structure, with battery of grassroot workers along with coordinators and professionals (Physiotherapists, Speech therapist and special educators) at Commitments has been instrumental in facilitating holistic interventions at the community and systemic level.



Practices and Experiences

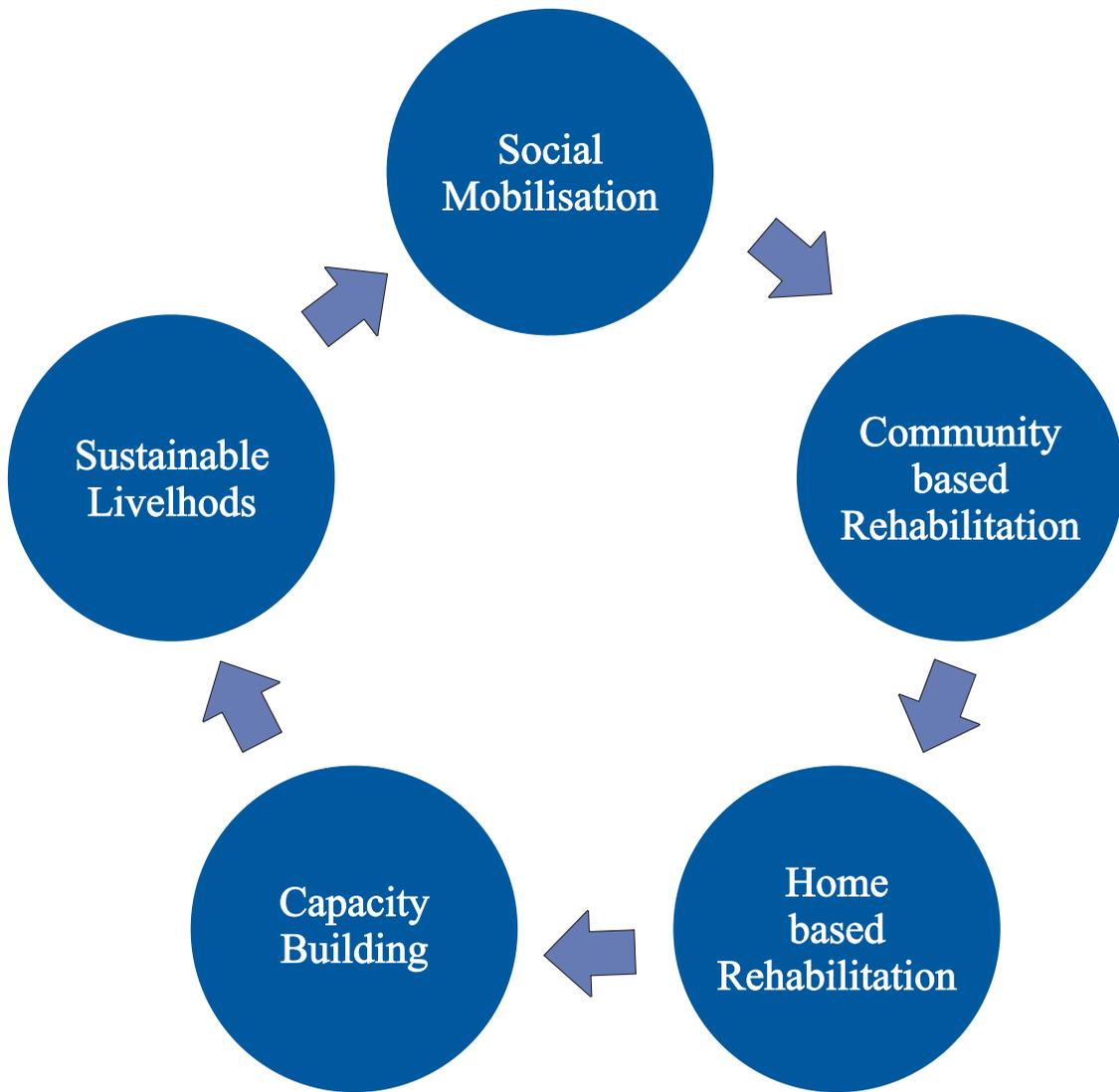
- ? Bringing together parents and other caregivers of severely disabled individuals (mental retardation, cerebral palsy, autism, and multiple disabilities) so that they can provide mutual aid and support to each other, and learn from their collective experiences.
- ? Training parents in activities of daily living such as brushing, combing, tying shoelaces, and other skills important for independent living of their disabled family member. In addition to training their children, the parents also transfer these skills to their peers, that is, other parents with disabled children.
- ? Providing valuable support to the family members who are often the only caregivers of disabled children in rural areas. Unlike in cities where other support systems are available for parents, such facilities are nearly absent in villages due to lack of resources. In such alienating environment, Saha Jivana Sangams provide much needed spaces for emotional sharing and learning for parents of severely disabled children.
- ? Bringing perceptible awareness about prevention of disabilities, access to rehabilitative and developmental services, government entitlements, knowledge and implementation of laws, particularly the National Trust Act (1999) for severely disabled people.
- ? Working closely towards the implementation of National Trust Act (1999), a progressive legislation for people with mental and severe disabilities. This entails procuring legal guardianship for the family members of mentally disabled people, which is necessary for all practical and legal purposes.
- ? Forming collaborations with Pariwar Group, a parent's association of mentally disabled people, constituted under National Trust Act. Pariwar group provides Vocational training and mentorship to their fellow parents of mentally disabled people. Two vocational training units for making surf and other products have been initiated through this collaboration.
- ? Participating in Special Olympics being held in 2008.

Value of the project

The concept and practice of Saha Jivana Sangams is increasingly being adopted and integrated by various NGOs, GOs and CBOs, as a model to empower rural severely disabled people and their families, who are most often forgotten. Commitments has been sharing this knowledge and experience to reach out to as many as possible within its capacity. Its popularity among disability community, and its recognition by other organizations as an important



APPROACHES



Process followed by commitments:

Commitments Trust started interventions in year 2000

Build the alliances with CBO's of women

Identified PWDs with the support of CBO's of women

Trained the activists from the PWDs from that area

Build the rapport with PWDs individual and as group

Identified the problems, needs and Issues faced

Organized Community Awareness programmes in the villages on Prevention and early intervention of disability

Assessments done with the support of Medical Institutions- underwent the Treatment and rehabilitation to come out from the health needs

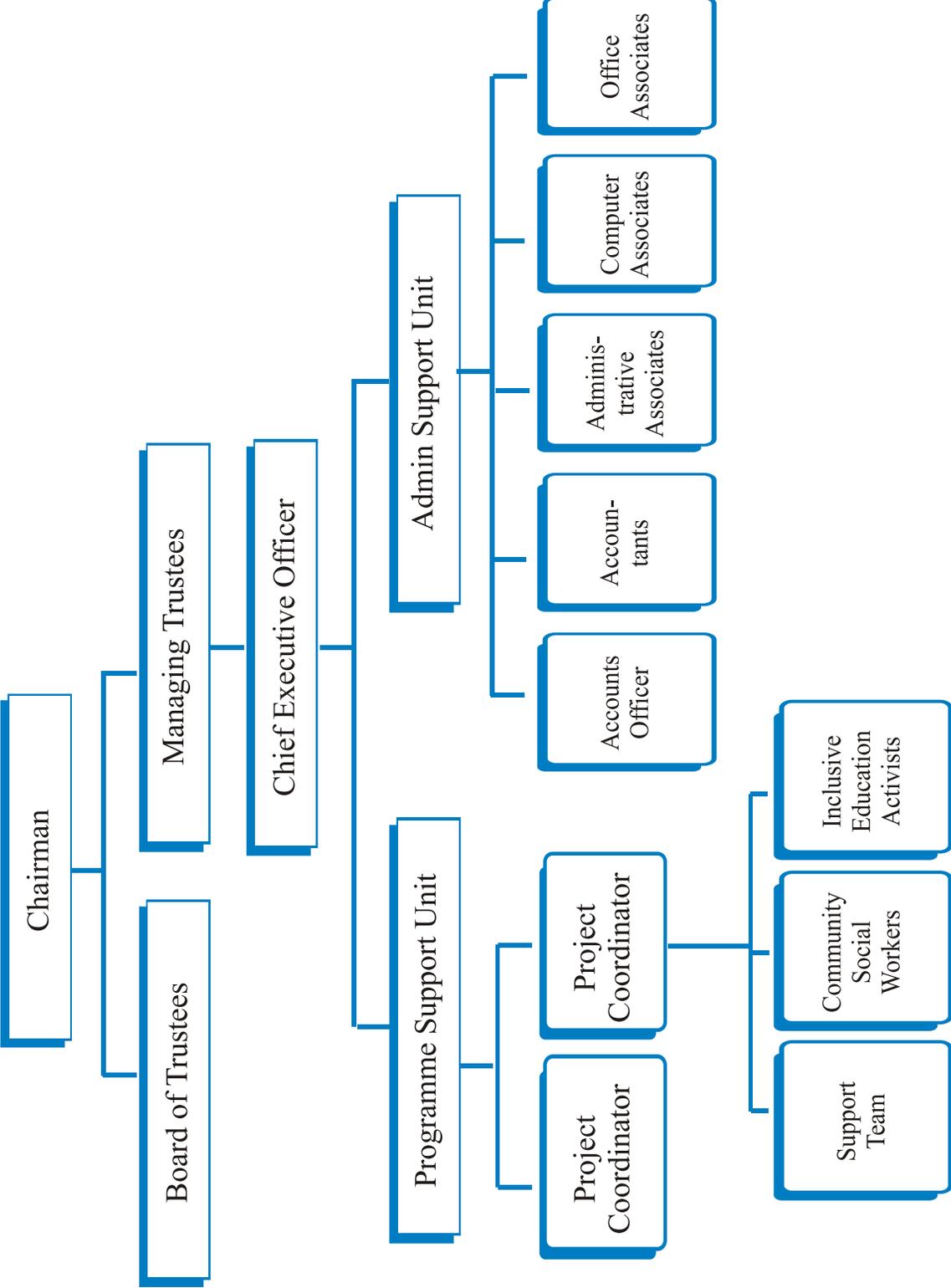
Trainings organized on the PWDs Acts, Social Security programmes, rights and entitlements

Developed the trustworthiness among the PWDs- build the confidence

Formed the Self Help Groups with all categories of PWDs

Access, Training, Support services, Assistive devices, Awareness, Advocacy, Peer group support, Vocational training, Home based training, Family involvement, Modified curriculum, Play, Community participation and involvement

Structure of COMMITMENTS Trust:





Commitments

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