

A Report on the use of wheelchairs-2016

Introduction

Jan Vikas Samiti in collaboration with Volunteers Group Japan has made efforts to support children with physical disability by distributing 90 imported special wheel chairs. Two persons viz. Tomoyuki Katano and Takao Akine came to Jan Vikas Samiti all the way from Japan to initiate and to distribute wheel chairs to the deserving children with disabilities.

Mr. Katano from Volunteers Group Japan expressed his happiness and great satisfaction in seeing the work of JVS for the children with disabilities. He also shared that he would be happy to extent his exchanging collaboration with JVS in future. A PPT presentation presented by Takao Akine gave us a clear picture of what is Volunteers Group Japan and how they collaborate with different organization in 22 countries.



Distribution of the Wheel Chairs

Distribution of the wheelchairs was done as per the needs of the organization identified by Jan Vikas Samiti. Wheelchairs (including mobility aids and standing frames) were provided to 7 organizations and altogether 79 children with disabilities the details are the following:-

No.	Name of The Organization	Location	Number of Wheel Chairs Provided
1	Jan Vikas Samiti	Varanasi	39
2	Sanchar	Kolkata, West Bengal	5
3	Mobility India	Kolkata, West Bengal	11
4	Karuna Social Service Society(Premdham)	Uttarakhand	9
5	Sacred Heart Convent	Assam	5
6	The Sisters of St. Charles Society	Jharkhand	1
7	Bethany Society	Meghalaya	9
Total Wheel Chairs Distributed			79
Beneficiaries yet to be Identified			11
Total			90

The effects (Impact) of the use of the wheelchairs

The Wheelchairs provided by Volunteers Group Japan has created better and meaningful results in the life of the children with disabilities. The wheelchair has been a boon for them to move in and around their home. It has increased their mobility than earlier. Children with disabilities who were depending on others are able to go out with minimum support from others. It used to be very difficult for CwDs to move around for longer distance and during rainy season when their care taker and other mobility devices like crutches caliper gives way or unable to move around due to slippery roads / pathways, but with the help of wheelchair they are able to go from one place to another with minimum difficulties. Presently, all the wheelchairs are in good conditions.



Impact in community level by this Initiative

This initiative has created a meaningful and positive impact in the community. People are aware of the help these children received and have a change in their mentality towards the CwDs. The children who were always at home have started coming out and meeting with people. The children themselves feel proud to go outside and meet people in the community also the quality of these wheelchairs comparatively from getting from charitable/government organizations are much better and durable.

Evaluation of the usage of the Wheelchairs

Each organization has evaluated the use of wheelchairs in their specific areas and has come up with the following details specifically.

a) Improvement of physical and mental health

The mobility and changing the position from one place to other creates a greater impact on the lives of any individual and this one of the important steps towards the social inclusion of the child. The children with disabilities often face issues with physical and mental health and it is a great challenge for the child and the family members. The child who stays always at home feels frustrated and develops an inferiority complex. But with the use of wheelchair the child is able to move around and feels confident. Almost 50% of beneficiaries claimed to have improved in their physical and mental health.



b) Reducing family burden to care

The children with physical disabilities are sometimes considered as a burden by their family members. They need to carry the child wherever they go and sometimes, the child is ignored for celebrations and functions. Sometimes, it becomes a difficulty for the family members to take care of the child in appropriate manner. Since the child has received the wheelchair, the mobility is easier and improved inside and outside the house. And now the family burden has reduced and become the care to the child. More than 70% of the parents of beneficiaries agreed that their burden is reduced to care.

c) Improvement in Functional Abilities/Activities

The Functional abilities or activities of the daily living/self care activities of a child with disability are limited when no proper care is given. The child feels difficult in improving in the functional activities. But with the help of the wheelchair/ mobility and postural aids the children have improved in their functional abilities and activities like change is position , getting exposed to standing and erect sitting posture have improved their physical functionality and more than 50% of beneficiaries have improved in their functional abilities and activities.

d) Positive change in Child's ADL (Activities of Daily Living)

The children those who were not able to meet their ADL earlier have improved a lot and there is a positive change after they started using the wheel chairs. More than 70% of the parents claimed that the ADL of their children have improved after they began to use the wheelchairs.



e) Mobility within the family

The children are very happy when they move with the help of the wheelchair they received. The mobility of the CwDs has increased a lot and the children move within the family without much difficulty but in rural area and houses sometimes it becomes little difficult to move around due to infrastructural barriers but almost 90% of the beneficiaries have improved in their mobility within the family. The parents are also happy to see their children move around and are grateful to the donors.

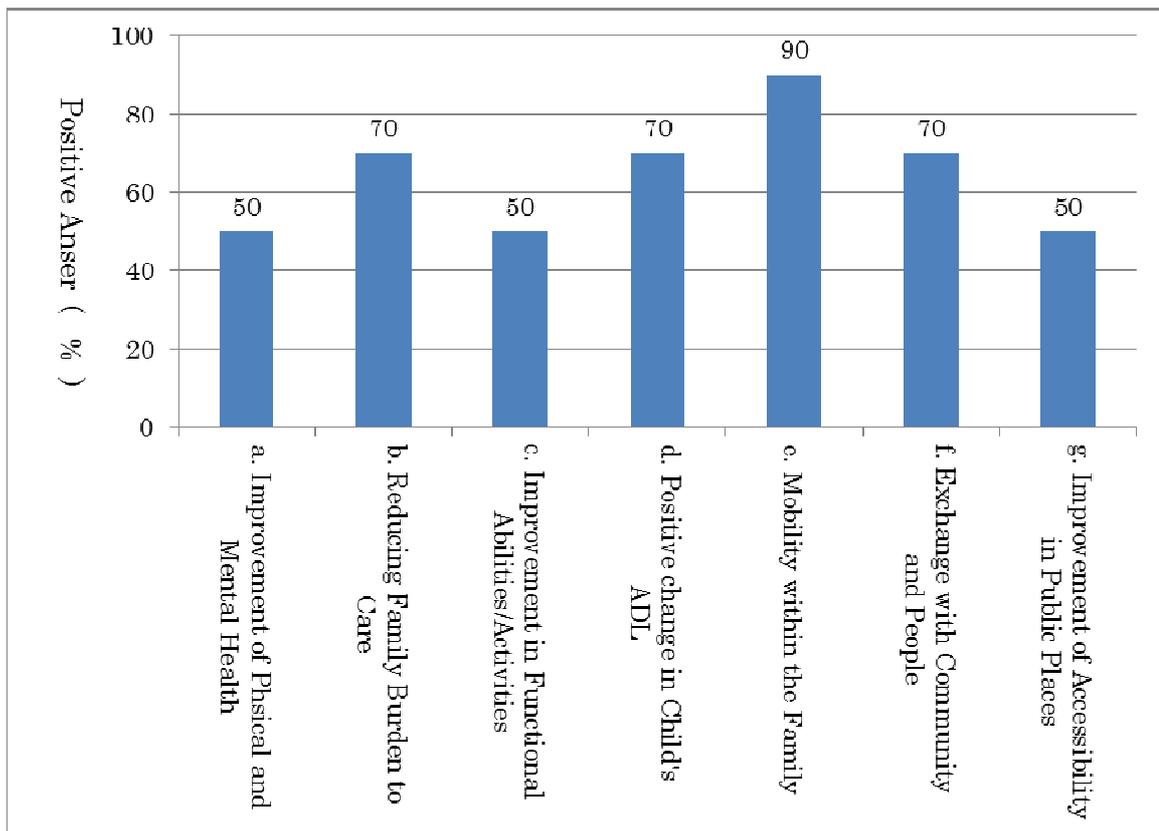
f) Exchange with community and people

The wheelchair has been a great help for the beneficiaries to move and go out to meet people in the community. They are now able to go to their neighbors, places where people gather etc. People have begun accepting them and helping them with a positive attitude. 70 % of beneficiaries confirmed that there is a lot of improvement in Exchange with community and people. This is also initiating a soft pattern advocacy by making themselves visible in the

mainstream society and this will be further contributing towards realizing the community and concerned stakeholders to make barrier free infrastructure.

g)Improvement of Accessibility in public places such as schools, social gatherings, vocational place , etc

Non accessible infrastructure/physical barriers are one of the main barriers for CwDs to participate in the mainstream society and to be included socially like in social gatherings, schools, religious places etc. Therefore, the children with disabilities do not prefer to go to such social gatherings. However with the use of wheelchairs, children who were not regular to their schools have begun going to schools/day care centers regularly. Their attendance rate has shown a hike. More than 50% of the beneficiaries have agreed that accessibility to social gatherings and the social participation and visibility has improved because of the use of the wheelchairs.



Progressive Stories of the Beneficiaries

Salman is experiencing a new life in wheelchair



Salman S K, a beneficiary of the Sanchar West Bengal hails from a very poor family. He hardly had his needs fulfilled. His parents were unable to provide him any sort of help due to their low economic status. His mobility was nil as he was completely dependent on his parents for all his activities. The stereo typed understanding of the parents also played a significant role in looking down upon the child as inferior and less important in life.

He became a beneficiary of Volunteer Group Japan in the year 2016. Salman was provided with a wheel chair by Sanchar a partner organization of Jan Vikas Samiti through the support of Volunteers group Japan.

The smile on the faces of Salman clearly indicates the happiness of being benefited from the project. There is a great difference in the life of Salman and his family members with the intervention of Sanchar and provision of Wheelchair.

Before he received the wheel chair his life was completely bed ridden and he had never thought of education as part of his life. The parents felt him to be a big burden to the family. But now he is very happy to go to school by wheelchair. His elder brother takes him to school and bring him home. He also takes him around within and outside the family.

Using wheelchair he goes to relatives & neighbor's house for social activities, attending religious activities, attending cultural activities in school. He feels accepted and loved by his parents and teachers in the school. He is very regular to school. He also goes to his neighbor's house during vocations. He is quite independent in his ADL. Wheelchair helps him to reach the place where he takes his bathing, feeding, dressing etc.

He feels blessed to have wheelchair. The wheelchair has become a means of complete mobility and the source of happiness to him and to his family. The family members are very happy and grateful to Volunteers Group Japan for being their source of joy and life to Salman.

Bringing a way of redemption to the a child that was abandoned by the parents



Vibha is a CP affected child of 10 years age. She belongs to a large joint family of 23 members. She has 5 sisters. Vibha was born normal but the disease of jaundice affected her health and followed by the disability of CP due to lack of proper care and medication.

She was completely bedridden. Her parents were least interested in her growth. The situation was too worse, she was on death bed. She was affected by bed sore all over her body everyone thought she would not survive.

The work of the CBR Coordinator touched everyone in the family. This became a turning point to the family. The mother on observing the selfless service of the CBR worker began to help the child.

She is also a beneficiary of Muskan Day Care Centre of Jan Vikas Samiti. The mother of Vibha used to carry her to the centre and carry her back home. Before the provision of the wheelchair the condition of Vibha was completely stable. She would be on the bed all the time. Seeing the condition of the child at home a wheelchair was provided to Vibha through the support of Volunteers group Japan.

The mother of Vibha expressed a sigh of relief in receiving the wheel chair. She said that Vibha feels comfortable in the wheel chair. Now there is a lot of improvement in her life. Before she used to cry always even when she is on bed, now the moment she is kept on the wheelchair she keeps quiet. Her mother takes her to the farm and brings her back home when she comes back. Her siblings take her around in the village for playing.

Her mobility has improved. Vibha feels very happy that she got her head rest. There is lot of areas of growth. The mother of Vibha expresses her joy in finding her daughters growth and hoping to find her daughter become normal again in life. The family members feel her to be less burdens to the family. Vibha is taken outdoor to social gatherings, family gatherings and other outdoor functions with the help of the wheelchair.



The family members are very happy to see her daughter improving in life. They are very happy and grateful to Jan Vikas Samiti and Volunteers group Japan for helping their daughter to have better mobility in life.

Special Requests and Comments

- a) If the wheelchairs to be little small with more adjustment in size, we could identify more beneficiaries as per their requirement.
- b) The roads and the surface of the pathways are not even in many of the places and we would suggest having bigger wheels for the wheel chairs so that this problem could be addressed and that even be very helpful for self propelling
- c) Along with wheelchairs if we could get some other kinds of mobility and postural aids like standing frames, walkers, rollators, crawlers and if possible one powered/motorized wheelchair.
- d) To meet the clearance and transport cost to reach wheelchairs to Varanasi requires a handsome amount which is a additional head on JVS, it would be appreciated and very helpful if we could find a resource for this.

Conclusion

The collaboration with Volunteers Group Japan has helped a huge number of children and youngsters with physical and multiple disabilities with the required means in a great way. This initiative by Volunteers Group Japan in collaboration with Jan Vikas Samiti has created a great impact in the children with disabilities as well as in the community. It has been a great help for CwDs to improve in their mobility, improvement in their mobility in Public gatherings etc. The provision of wheel chair has not only helped the family but also created an empowered feeling to the children and youngsters with disabilities.

Jan Vikas Samiti takes this opportunity to thank and show our gratitude towards Volunteers Group Japan on behalf of the beneficiaries and the community for your generous support and constant guidance for the better implementation of the task that we had taken up with great quality and care. We extend our gratitude towards Voluntary Group Japan for having chosen us as one of your collaborators to support the children with disabilities with the required means. Jan Vikas Samiti looks forward to continue this initiative to support many more children and youngsters with disabilities in India in collaboration with Volunteers Group Japan. We also remain thankful to all those supporters and collaborators of Volunteers Group Japan who have made the efforts to contribute their service to the noble cause of helping the youngsters with disabilities all over the world.