



**IMPACT
INDIA
FOUNDATION**

The **I**nternational **M**ission for **P**reventive **A**ction for **C**omprehensive **T**reatment





New Delhi Declaration

October 1983



New Delhi Declaration

OCTOBER 1983

India's National Plan of Action Against Avoidable Disablement

On October 2nd, 1983 – the auspicious occasion of the one hundred and fourteenth birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi – India launched a National Plan of Action Against Avoidable Disablement, which are a major cause of human suffering and economic loss in India and which are estimated to afflict a tenth of the world's inhabitants. India thus became the first nation to launch a national plan in this field in response to Impact, the International Initiative Against Avoidable Disablement promoted by the United Nations Development Programme, the World Health Organisation and the United Nations Children's Fund.

This initiative, to be known as “**Impact India**”, has two aims:-

- | | |
|---|---|
| (a) to initiate, augment and intensify action against those causes of massively prevalent disablement against which there exists a potential for prevention and control, which can be delivered through on-going health and development programmes; | (b) to treat an estimated fifteen million people who are disabled by curable blindness, deafness and physical handicaps, by restoring sight, hearing and mobility, as well as taking any possible action to prevent and mitigate mental impairment. |
|---|---|

Cover: In the service of the disabled poor of rural India. Sangeeta Manji Mor, 13 years old, shown with her family, smiles after receiving her prosthetic lower leg. She can now walk to a new life in school.



The Genesis of Impact India

On November 12, 1981 – the International Year of Disabled Persons – a global group of politicians, economists, clinicians, UN experts and health administrators met at Leeds Castle, England, to deliberate on preventing disabilities worldwide. The participants concurred that adopting appropriate and cost-effective measures would result in a major reduction in physical disablement the world over.



Rural patients waiting to be treated inside Impact India's Lifeline Express, the world's first hospital train.

Courtesy THE WEEK



Symbol
designed by
Krishna Rao

The symbol of a child, split in form denoting disability, reaching out from a ring of thorns representing suffering, into the healing love and protection of a mother's arms



These recommendations were later adopted as a UN General Assembly Resolution on December 3, 1982. The role of the private sector, Non Government Organisations (NGOs) and professionals, was specially addressed in terms of forming partnerships with Governments, in mass, replicable, health projects of national importance using available delivery systems and existing infrastructure. To implement these policies, three UN agencies, - UNDP, UNICEF and WHO – undertook to promote **IMPACT, an International Initiative Against Avoidable Disablement**.

Impact India Foundation (IIF) was registered in March 1984, pursuant to the New Delhi Declaration launched by the Government of India, as the first and flagship of 19 such Foundations (upto April 2011) across the world, which together constitute the International Federation of Impact Organisations (IFIO).

Impact India's Attributes

- Ability to create projects on quality deliverables by involving professionals
- Strategically building credibility
- Consistently measuring performance and being completely accountable about its work
- Setting up systems to build efficiencies and reduce dependence on one or two people
- Extensive volunteer programme and involving community to reduce costs and build ownership.

Impact India's Credibility

- Income Tax exemption under 35AC – 100%
- Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act approval
- Highly placed Trustees
- Eminent Medical Advisory Board
- Central Government recognition through National postage stamp
- State Government's support through appointment of a senior Liaison officer
- BBC and other global films
- UN and other International awards
- World press accolades



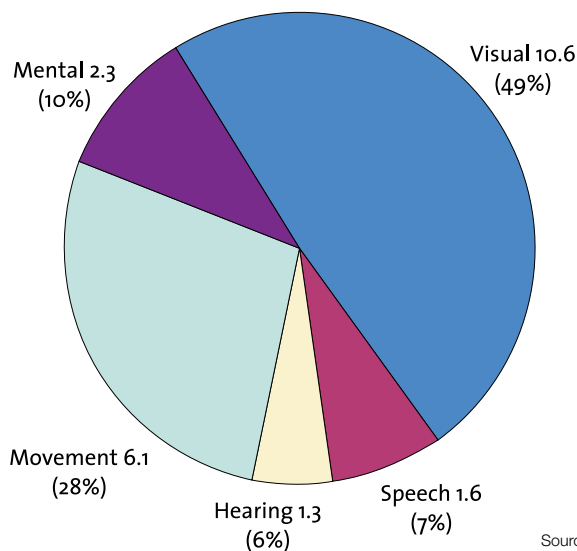
Key Indicators for India

Indicators	%	Value
Total population		1.21 bn.
Population under 15 years	35	
Population aged 65 and older	5	
Prevalence of undernourishment in total population	22	
Life expectancy at birth		64.4 years
Infant Mortality Rate	5	
Under -5 Mortality Rate	6.6	
Maternal Mortality Rate	0.23	
Child deliveries at home	60	
Public health expenditure as of % of GDP	1.1	
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita		1017 US\$
Adult (15+) Literacy Rate	62.8	

Sources: UNDESA; *NFHS-3; UNDP; UNICEF; India's Union Budget; World Bank; UNESCO
* (NFHS -3): National Family Health Survey

Disabled in India (in millions)

Total 21.9 million



Source: Census of India 2001



IMPACT INDIA

launched in New Delhi on 2nd October 1983.

1983

A fourth coach is added to the Lifeline Express

1998

1993

IMPACT INDIA

completes a decade. It wins the United Nations Grand Award and the IPRA Golden World Award for the Lifeline Express for Excellence in Public Service

2000

Expo 2000 Award Hannover, Germany.
Gandhi Book in various languages launched.

2005

Launched "Community Health Initiative" in seven tribal blocks of Maharashtra covering a population of 1.5 million.

2006

First of five Lifeline Express Mobile Clinic Buses launched for early diagnosis of vision and hearing impairment in remote villages.



1985

"Polio-free Madras" campaign:
immunized 300,000 infants.

1986

"Bombay Against Disability"
campaign: immunized
300,000 children.

1991

Launched 'LIFELINE
EXPRESS' in three,
old railway coaches
- the world's first
Hospital train

Impactful

Milestones

A new five
coach,
custom-
built, Lifeline
Express
inaugurated
on 12th
July by Mrs.
Sonia Gandhi
and Railway
Minister Lalu
Prasad.

In its 25th year
Impact India's
Lifeline Express
celebrates its
100th project
at Atgaon,
Thane District,
Maharashtra.

Release of National
Postage Stamp
honouring the
Lifeline Express

Conferred the
AmeriCares
Spirit of
Humanity
2010 Award

Expansion
of the
Community
Health
Initiative,
Maharashtra,
to serve nearly
2 million
tribals.

2007

2008

2009

2010

2011



The Lifeline Express

Impact India Foundation is best known for the world's first hospital train, the LIFELINE EXPRESS (LLE) which was launched in 1991 and runs on broad-gauge railway tracks. The train takes quality health services free of cost to the disabled poor in rural India.

The Lifeline Express parks for about a month at a rural location with

Photo courtesy THE WEEK



Medical Volunteer Dr. Vineeta Singh counselling patients on Epilepsy in the Auditorium of the Lifeline Express



Dental treatment on the Lifeline Express

every project mainly sponsored by business houses, trusts and foundations. The LLE has completed 125 projects (upto June 2011) having medically served about 600,000 patients with the 'donated' services of about 100,000 specialists, doctors, medical students and other volunteers from India and abroad.

Volunteering on the LLE is a fulfilling experience. At a typical project Orthopaedic, Cataract, Hearing and Cleft Lip surgeries are conducted. The train also offers Dental and Oral Health Hygiene services and treatment of Epilepsy and Neurological disorders. The Lifeline Express is listed as a National resource in times of disaster by the Government's National Disaster Management Authority.

The LLE has been the subject of several films in India and abroad. BBC's recent one-hour film titled "The Magic Train of India" is an

inspirational coverage of the miracles achieved for the rural poor with support from well wishers.

The LLE has inspired three LLE trains in China, one in Central Africa, the "Jiban Tari" floating hospital in Bangladesh and the Lake Clinic boat in Cambodia.

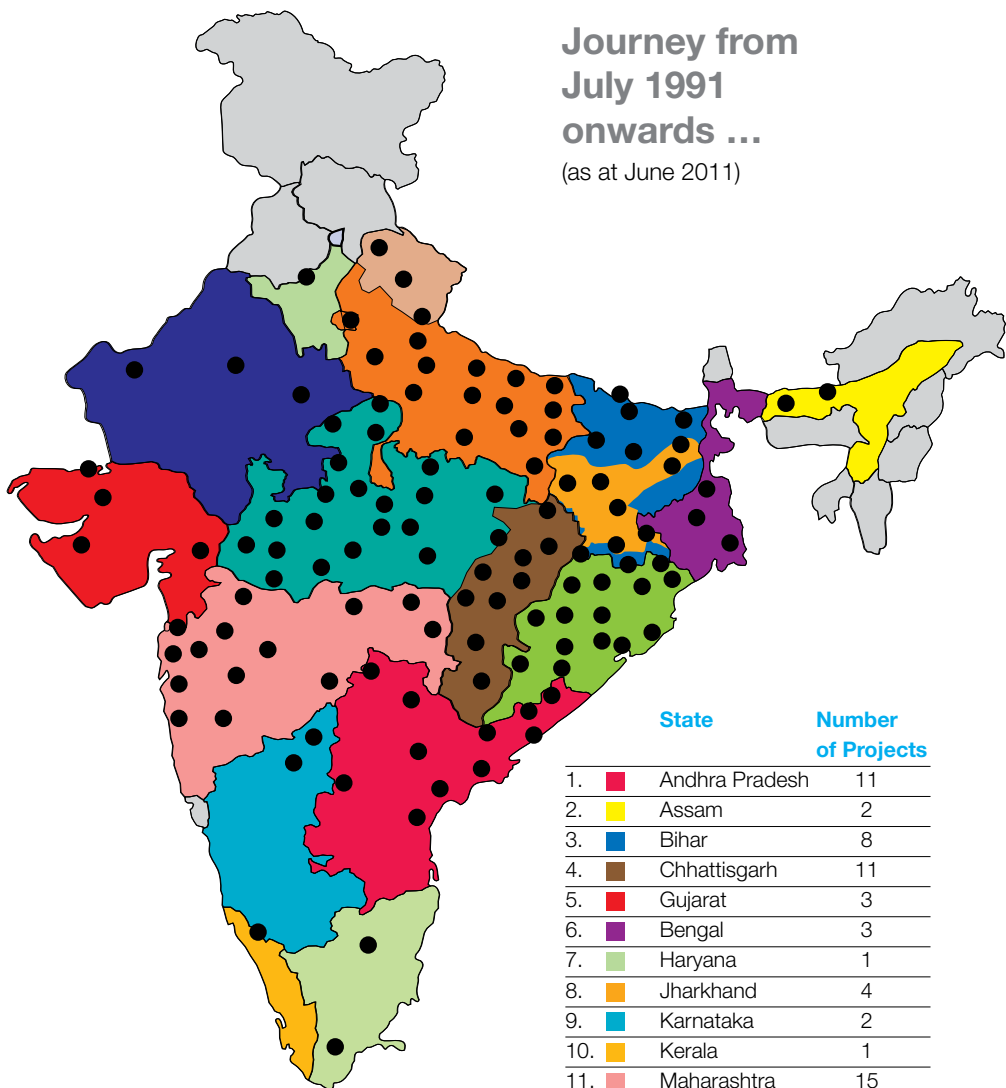
*In one of the two
Operation Theatres of
the Lifeline Express.*





Journey from July 1991 onwards ...


(as at June 2011)



State
Number
of Projects

1.	Andhra Pradesh	11
2.	Assam	2
3.	Bihar	8
4.	Chhattisgarh	11
5.	Gujarat	3
6.	Bengal	3
7.	Haryana	1
8.	Jharkhand	4
9.	Karnataka	2
10.	Kerala	1
11.	Maharashtra	15
12.	Madhya Pradesh	20
13.	Orissa	18
14.	Rajasthan	4
15.	Tamil Nadu	3
16.	Uttar Pradesh	18
17.	Uttarakhand	1
Total		125

● locations served by the Lifeline Express



*Surgeon comforting
patient*

*Photo courtesy:
THE WEEK*

Creating Rainbows!... every project

Together with top medical professionals from India and abroad who donate their time and experience, **Impact India's** dedicated staff manage the logistical challenges of the Lifeline Express, and help assess, prioritise and advise the thousands of patients who arrive at every project.



Case Studies

Mr. Vijay Chander Satpute “Impact India Threw Me a Lifeline”

“I’m pursuing a Bachelors Degree in Arts at a college run by the Gokhale Education Society in Jawhar, Thane District, Maharashtra.

*On October 7, 2008, I attended an eye camp organized by **Impact India Foundation** at Jawhar. I was examined and advised corrective eye surgery by the ophthalmic surgeons of Tulsi Eye Hospital, Nasik.*

*I was scared of surgery but was reassured and encouraged by the Principal of my college, Dr. Anil Patil, and by **Impact India’s** dedicated staff who said it would make a difference to my life.*

*After the surgery I was looked after very nicely by the staff of Tulsi Eye Hospital. My heart was full of hope. Before the surgery I had been teased by many as “the squint-eyed one.” **Impact India** literally threw me a lifeline!*

Invariably, people with whom I was in eye contact and in conversation with, would accuse me of not paying attention but looking elsewhere. This hurt me and I subsequently became a social recluse and avoided participating in any college programme.

*Now that my squint is corrected I am really thankful and extend my hearty good wishes to **Impact India** for their contribution to social work through so many activities. Mr. Pravin Londhe of **Impact India** came to our college and addressed the girls regarding the prevention of the birth of disabled babies. I will also participate and help support **Impact India’s** efforts to the best of my abilities.”*



Vision testing inside the Mobile Bus



One of Impact India's five Lifeline Express Mobile Clinics



Dr. Rajendra Jain

A gentleman was in Mumbai to attend a Medical Seminar and was walking down the road. He looked up at the board “**Impact India Foundation**”. Without hesitating a moment he entered and requested to meet Mrs. Zelma Lazarus, Impact’s CEO.

Dr. Rajendra Jain, General Surgeon, said he was in charge of the 10th Lifeline Express Project at Gondia (in Eastern Maharashtra,) in 1993-1994. Amazingly, he had the statistics of the numbers of patients treated at instant recall: 5,511 registered; 238 underwent polio surgery, 59 mid ear surgery and 320 cataract surgeries.

While driving through a remote village in Gondia recently Dr Jain stopped at a shop and was surprised to see the shopkeeper prostrate in front of him in salutation. It turned out that Mr. Katre (the shopkeeper), had been operated upon by Dr Jain on the “jadoo ki gaadi –(Magic Train)” when he was only 12 years old. He had come to the train dragging his polio-ravaged legs by propelling himself with his hands on the ground. After the treatment given by Dr Jain he was able to stand up and walk upright. Mr. Katre said, “Thanks to you I now own this shop. I am married and have lovely children.”

Mr. Katre led Dr Jain to his village home where to his surprise Dr. Jain saw a photograph of himself in the Katre’s Puja (prayer) Room – one amongst the many pictures of Gods and Goddesses that were deemed worthy of worship!



Dr Rajendra Jain, medical volunteer, thanks Mrs. Zelma Lazarus, CEO, Impact India

With tears in his eyes Mr. Katre said he owed his life to Dr Jain and the Lifeline Express and thanked him once again.”

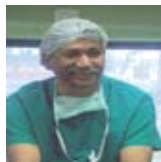


Patients desperate for treatment on the Lifeline Express

Photo courtesy THE WEEK

Dr P.P. Easwaran, Orthopaedic Surgeon,UK

"Both my son Akshay and I wish to thank you and your fantastic organisation for the wonderful opportunity to work as a volunteer at the Lifeline Express project at Morena in Madhya Pradesh which served 19,904 patients from March 26 to April 16, 2011. This tremendous facility is a real boon to the people of India who would otherwise have very little hope of having their avoidable disabilities



addressed. The rare ability to reach out to the rural population and provide them with such expert treatment at their doorstep is amazing.

It is truly ground breaking that **Impact India** recognised this need all those years ago and has been tireless in its efforts to ensure that such amenities continue to be provided in areas where they are much needed. I was fortunate to be able to spend a week with the Lifeline Express.

I was happy that I was given an opportunity to be part of this wonderful family of **Impact India** and play a small part in the Morena project. I now understand the tremendous effort that goes on at and behind the scenes for every project undertaken by the Lifeline Express and I salute all the people who make this possible. My special thanks to the Colonel and the staff of the Lifeline Express."



Baby with multiple operations in Surgeon's arms



Lifeline to India's disabled, rural poor







Impact India Foundation's Community Health Initiative – a replicable model

In 2005 **Impact India Foundation** (IIF) launched an ambitious project in Thane District of Maharashtra, the **Community Health Initiative** in eight, remote, tribal blocks covering an area of over 6000 square kilometers and a population of almost two million. The project aims at reducing the incidence of disability through prevention and curative means as well as developing appropriate systems and methodologies.

Impact India is creating a replicable and sustainable model for the Government's National Rural Health Mission using available delivery systems and existing infrastructure. The project is in line with the Government's intent to set up a sustainable, fully functional, community-owned health delivery system. After an independent Evaluation and a professionally prepared Process Document the project is planned for replication by the Government throughout India.



A Nurse depicting Health Messages in Warli Art on her sari



Solar power provided by Impact India lights up rural homes

Curative programmes for the Poor

Vision: IIF offers medical services on the Lifeline Express mobile bus clinics for diagnosis and treatment of vision-related disabilities; it also distributes spectacles and refers patients to partner-hospitals for further treatment.

Clefts: IIF provides correction of facial deformities and coordinates with partner-hospitals for surgery and follow up.

Orthopaedic: IIF helps the community to avail of diagnosis, treatment and surgery for persons with orthopaedic-related disabilities. It holds screening camps and also distributes aids and appliances to the patients.

Hearing: Besides rendering medical aid for hearing disorders, IIF arranges diagnostic camps with professional Audiologists. It also distributes hearing aids and promotes aural hygiene.

Dental: IIF offers dental services such as extractions, fillings, and encourages oral health hygiene particularly targeting children.

All services at Government and partner hospitals are free of cost to the beneficiaries.

*Impact India encourages
children in schools to grow
their own vegetables.*





Preventive Programmes

Immunisation: On an ongoing basis IIF's field force is engaged with the community to spread awareness of immunisation against all childhood diseases to achieve 100% coverage of the programme conducted by the Government health staff.

Information, Education & Communication (IEC): IIF imparts Mother and Child Health education using diverse media such as posters, films, street plays in the local Warli art form for change of behavior.

Home Gardens: This programme focuses on low-cost nutrition, distribution of seeds and saplings and horticultural training to promote the use of fresh vegetables in schools and households for much-needed micro-nutrients to control Anaemia.

Health check-ups for school children: The School Health Monitor programme fosters health awareness in school children and helps recognize the symptoms of illness. The findings of periodic medical check-ups, including Body Mass Index, are noted in the Health Cards developed by IIF. De-worming tablets are given to anaemic adolescent girls, in addition to conducting Haemoglobin estimation and holding talks on Nutrition and Health.

Water Management: Availability of water for household and farming purposes, as well as clean potable water, is essential for good health and hygiene. With community participation IIF builds check dams, trenches, repairs wells, cordons springs etc. to raise the ground water table and provides drinking water systems.

From an independent Evaluation of the Community Health Initiative (CHI)

“Considerable progress has been made towards achieving the goal of reversal of existing disabilities. Cases for corrective interventions are identified through the mobile diagnostic bus clinics and special screening camps held periodically. CHI has established excellent partnerships with many private hospitals where corrective interventions are carried out free of cost...The health check up cards introduced in some Ashramshalas in 2008 was a good initiative. It was not just a health monitoring tool but was also a powerful educational tool that helped children and teachers to understand different aspects of health monitoring and promoting much needed life skills.”

Centre for Development & Leadership, 2011, headed by Gopinath Menon, ex Unicef



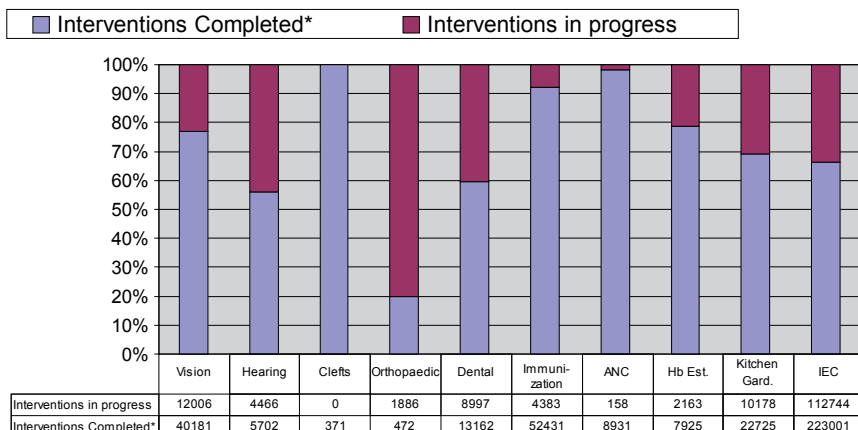
Community Health Initiative: Maharashtra



Coverage: Over 2 million persons in 8 tribal blocks of Thane district

Achievements are reflected in the Graph

Community Health Initiative - Thane, Maharashtra Status of Interventions (Number of Beneficiaries) as at March 2011





Case Studies

A brighter outlook for many...

Monica Ketu Suttar,

a one year old baby girl was born to poor parents. Her face being very disfigured at birth her parents thought of abandoning the baby girl. "Who would marry her, let alone be able to look at such an ugly child," they despaired. Impact came to their rescue and suggested that plastic surgery could help restore her facial features. Accordingly, Monica was operated for Cleft Lip in September 2010 and later for Cleft Palate in Nasik, all free of cost. Till



Monica, disfigured at birth.



Monica after her first surgery.

that period she could hardly drink or eat and was low on energy.

Today, Monica is sprightly and full of mischief. Her parents, Ketu and Savita are expecting their third child, and have registered at a Primary Health Sub Centre for its birth. Impact Field Workers remind Savita to take her iron and vitamin supplements regularly and attend ante natal clinics to understand the benefits of planned parenthood.



Pratik before his left eye cornea transplant.



Pratik just after surgery.

Pratik Naresh

Mahalunge, a 12 year old primary school student of Shirgaon village in Palghar, Pratik lost sight in his left eye due to an injury. His grades began to slip and he lost interest in his studies. An eye operation in a Mumbai hospital failed to restore



his sight. **Impact India** took him to a partner hospital which diagnosed a badly damaged retina. Only a cornea transplant which was possible in a super speciality hospital could save him.

Impact India made the impossible dream come true when specialists from the Vision Foundation of India operated on Pratik and transplanted his cornea in Mumbai. Today, Pratik can see with both his eyes and is back in school. He thanks **Impact India** and the Gods he prays to daily for this wonderful miracle. Says Pratik, “**Impact India** is like a God to me.”



Impact India improves the health of students in Ashramshalas (tribal residential schools) to maximize their potential.



Uplifting a village with water and power

Water: Karoli, a tribal village in Maharashtra, has a dam built by **Impact India** supported by the Rotary Club of Mumbai, Borivali East, which turned the desolate dry summer landscape into paradise. The dam serves a population of



Before: a barren landscape



After: water available 12 months of the year



about 1000 from three nearby villages and the water collected recharges the ground water table of two wells nearby. Today the villagers not only benefit from a regular supply of water but the flat top of the dam wall is also used as a walkway connecting two villages. Karoli dam has water 12 months of the year – a rare sight in the Summer when most wells have run dry. Similar projects were conducted by **Impact India** in other water starved villages.

Power: Till 2010 Karoli village did not have electricity, even though it is located, not more than 3 hours away from Mumbai city. People would use lanterns lit by kerosene; children would go to bed early and adults sought fulfillment in alcohol. But all that has changed now, thanks to **Impact India** and its partners **Rotary Clubs of Bombay – Borivali East, Sion, Dahisar and Bandra.**

Karoli has solar street lamps and every house a Light Emitting Diode (LED) light and a solar bulb charging machine. The villagers rejoice, “From the time of our birth we have used

kerosene lamps. Now, thanks to solar lights, snake bites can be prevented and we can see the water we drink at night to ensure that insects do not fall in and so prevent stomach ailments. Children can now study in well-lit surroundings.”



Impactful Volunteering

Ms. Kate Higgins – Graduate with history Honours, Interest in Community Development, Australia



Kate in the field in the CHI.

“I wanted experience in a reputable and dynamic NGO although at first I was apprehensive about what I could achieve having no medical background.

I have helped improve the computer skills of the Community Health Initiative (CHI) staff in computing and administration, helped to coordinate the implementation of a Management Information System (a partnership between **Impact India** and Tata Consultancy Services) and participated in a disability survey of 1.5 million tribal population.

Not speaking Marathi, requires some creative problem solving to overcome the language barrier! However the rewards are worth it. Not only have I gained most valuable work experience, I have made some wonderful friends and received lots of Indian hospitality. I would recommend volunteering to any person because you will inevitably get back far more than you give.”

Mr. Sebastien Audureau, France

A young professional from France, volunteered at the Community Health Initiative (CHI) for 5 months upto May 2011. His background in Project Management and Information Technology, enriched his analysis of the sustainability of the CHI. His contribution has added value to the Process

“I am proud of having been a part of your great family and I wish Impact India all the best in the future programmes.”

Mr. Sébastien Audureau

Document being prepared by Mr. Mehernosh Bulsara of Tata Consultancy Services for replication of the CHI throughout India.

Sébastien’s bright smile, soft spoken and charming ways, endeared himself to all **Impact India’s** staff. He was totally at home in the rural countryside, despite the electricity break-downs, the noise and jostle of the crowds. He enjoyed spicy Indian food and was ever ready to offer a helping hand.



Sébastien relating to school children



Visitors' Remarks

"I am personally aware of the fine work of the Lifeline Express in remote parts of rural India through the involvement of Rajiv Gandhi Foundation in its projects. ...It is a matter of particular satisfaction to me that Impact India Foundation is now embarked on a comprehensive project intended to significantly improve the health and welfare of over one million tribals – with special attention to women and children in the least developed areas of Maharashtra"



– **Mrs. Sonia Gandhi**, Chairperson, United Progressive Alliance and President, Indian National Congress, February 28, 2008.

"The Lifeline Express is rendering great service and I am sure the people will benefit very much."



– **Mrs. Meira Kumar**, Speaker of the Lok Sabha, India's Lower House of Parliament

"Dreams come true but seldom; the arrival of Lifeline Express in Farrukhabad is definitely such a moment. A big step for me and a big leap for Farrukhabad...I too leave my heart behind but move on with a fortified soul. Thank you."

– **Mr. Salman Khurshid**, Member of Parliament, Minister for Water Resources with additional charge of Minority Affairs, November 20, 2010.



"Human sufferings can be remedied by the efforts of philanthropic organizations. As long as we don't see the image of God in every individual, human sufferings shall continue. I hope Impact India Foundation will continue in the compassionate service of the people."



– **Mr. S.C. Jamir**, Governor of Maharashtra, May 12, 2009



“A pioneering effort in the area of health care! Our country needs more pioneers such as these in the area of social health care. Thank you for all your efforts.”

– Mr. Jyotiraditya M Scindia, *Member of Parliament, March 10, 2008.*

“We admire the Lifeline Express (LLE) so much that we did not hesitate to help with equipping of the new LLE. With our friends in British and Irish Rotary International, and the people of the Channel Islands we contributed some \$600,000 to the new train. We believe that to be a really worthwhile investment in the future well being of thousands of people and we congratulate Impact India on their achievements and their hundred not out!”

– Mr. David Walker, *CMG, CVO, Chairman, United Kingdom IMPACT Foundation, April 26, 2008*



“I really admire the excellent health care being provided by the team of the Lifeline Express to the poor and under-served masses of Jasidih, Jharkhand. The amount of service, motive and the dedication of the Lifeline Express staff and the medical and surgical team is worth mentioning. My sincerest suggestion to the Lifeline Express team is to do “Intra-Ocular Lens” implantation of all the poor eye patients suffering from cataract as it gives a much better visual restoration.”

– Dr. (Mrs.) Rachel Jose, *Dy. Director General (OPH), Ministry of Health, Government of India*

“I am at a loss for words to express the generosity, the dedication and charisma of the surgeons, sisters, anesthetists and all the medical workers. Not only are they excellent professionals performing technical feats, but they are also so caring and compassionate for their little patients and their families. In this troubled times of war, corruption and selfishness it is heartening to meet people giving away time and skills for no other reward than the smile of a child able at long last to walk and play as any other child.”

– Ms. Claudine Rimattei, *Volunteer, Marseille, France*





Awards & Accolades

Impact India has created award-winning replicable projects. These have established **Impact India** as an action-oriented catalyst not only in India but throughout the world. **Impact India's** internationally acclaimed Lifeline Express hospital train has become a model for transfer of Indian appropriate technology to setting up similar projects in China, Africa, Bangladesh and Cambodia. It has won numerous accolades including those listed below.

1993: The United Nations Grand Award and the IPRA Golden World Award for Excellence in Public Service worldwide.

1994 : Rotary Club of Bombay honours **Impact India's** Mrs. Zelma Lazarus with a Public Award for her leadership in creating India's first mobile hospital on track – the Lifeline Express.

2000: Expo Award Hannover, Germany

2001: **Impact India's** website awarded "Golden Web Award" for website design and content by International Association of Webmasters and Designers.

2007: Bombay Chamber of Commerce & Industry (BCCI) felicitated Mr. A. H. Tobaccowala (**Impact India's** late Founder Chairman) for his contribution to trade and industry and yeoman social service through **Impact India Foundation**.

2009: National Postage stamp and First Day Cover released by the Government of India honouring the Lifeline Express. British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) produced a widely acclaimed one-hour film on the Lifeline Express, "The Magic Train" for worldwide viewing - an inspirational coverage of the miracles that can be achieved for the rural poor.

2010: Honoured with the AmeriCares Spirit of Humanity 2010 – Jury's Choice Award for outstanding contribution towards improving healthcare and empowering a healthier and stronger society.

Several, films and documentaries have been made on **Impact India's** projects including those by NHK Japan, ZDF Germany, NewsX and Films Division India.

and more...



प्रधान मंत्री
Prime Minister
MESSAGE

I am happy to know that a postage stamp on Impact India's Lifeline Express, the world's first hospital on train, is being released on 12 May, 2009.

This mobile hospital on train – a unique partnership between the Impact India Foundation and the Indian Railways – has extended valuable medical services free of cost to over 500,000 disabled poor in the most remote tribal areas of our country. It is laudable that this noble work is being done free of cost by about 80,000 medical professionals from India and abroad. Their contribution has resulted in restoring vision, correcting hearing impairment and rectifying cleft lips of those who lack access to doctors and hospitals. I congratulate all those who have worked to make the project a success.

On the occasion of the release of a postage stamp on the project, I have great pleasure in extending my greetings and best wishes to all those associated with the hospital on train.

Manmohan Singh
(Manmohan Singh)

New Delhi
18 April, 2009



First Day Cover with a National Postage Stamp honouring the Lifeline Express, the world's first hospital train





Impact India Foundation's Trustees

Mr. Ramesh C. Sarin, Chairman. Served as Director and Chairman of several companies including ITC Ltd., Voltas Ltd and Carrier Aircon.

Mrs. Pheroza J. Godrej, Gallerist, Art-Historian and Environmentalist.

Mr. Yezdi H. Malegam, former Managing Partner of S. B. Billimoria & Co., and Co-Chairman of Deloitte Haskins and Sells, Chartered Accountants

Mr. Sunil Wadhvani, Chairman and Co-Founder of iGate Corporation, based in the USA, with branches in 34 countries including India.

Mrs. Usha Thorat, retired as Dy. Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), was on the boards of Bank of Baroda, Indian Overseas Bank and the Securities Trading Corporation of India, and also on several committees of RBI.

Impact India Foundation's Medical Advisory Board

(in alphabetical order)

Dr. Ninad S. Gaikwad, MBBS, DORL, MS (ENT), DNB, Professor and Head Department of ENT & Head - Neck Surgery, T.N. Medical College & BYL Nair Charitable Hospital, Mumbai.

Dr. Kulin Kothari, MS and DOMS (Gold Medalist), Senior Ophthalmic Surgeon, Chairman & Medical Director, Bombay City Eye Institute & Research Centre, Mumbai, and Managing Trustee, Vision Foundation of India.

Dr. Taral Nagda, MS (Orth), DNB, D'Ortho. Paediatric Orthopaedic Surgeon, Hinduja Hospital Mumbai. Director, Institute of Paediatric Orthopaedic Disorders, Mumbai.

Dr. Mansing Pawar, MDS (Mumbai). Joint Director Medical Education, Government of Maharashtra, Dean, Professor and Head, PG Teacher, Government Dental College and Hospital, Mumbai; Dean, Faculty of Dentistry, Maharashtra University of Health Sciences, Nashik.

Dr. Vinita Puri, MS (General Surgery), MCh. (Plastic Surgery). Professor and Head, Department of Plastic Surgery at Seth G. S. Medical College, King Edward Memorial Hospital, Mumbai.

Professor R. Rangasayee, Director, Ali Yavar Jung National Institute for the Hearing Handicapped, Mumbai.

Dr. G. Subbulakshmi, MSc. PhD. Post Doctoral work in CFTRI, Mysore. Senior Nutrition Consultant, Mumbai.



*"The education you have earned and received,
Give you unique status and responsibilities.
That is your status and burden.*

*If you choose to use your status and influence
To raise your voice on behalf of those who have no voice;
If you choose to identify not only with the powerful, but with the powerless;
If you retain the ability to imagine yourself
Into the lives of those who do not have your advantages,*

*Then, it will not only be your proud families who celebrate your existence,
But thousands and millions of people whose reality you have helped change"*

JK Rowling

You Can Make an Impact by your contribution to make a difference

Impact India is confident that disability can be reduced, if the Government, the corporate world, professionals and the community at large come together and make a concerted effort to consider health a National priority.

While thousands of medical professionals, community workers and volunteers donate their time and services, **Impact India** seeks partnership with corporate houses through their Corporate Social Responsibility programmes (CSR) and other generous persons.

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