

Project No. 36

DHANJURI LEPROSY CONTROL CENTRE, DINAJPUR

Principle:

Providing free treatment for leprosy patients in order to remove social stigma of the disease and wipe out it from the country with the new multi-drug therapy.

Objectives of the Project:

The project has the following main objectives:

- To find out leprosy patients and to provide free treatment;
- To reduce occurrence of new patients by awareness building; and
- To provide socio-economic support for poor leprosy patients.

Background:

Dhanjuri Leprosy Control Centre started in 1927 by the PIME Fathers. The project was reorganized in 1974 as a full-fledged Leprosy Control Program after the approval of government. Since then the project has been taking care of the leprosy patients of all 13 *upazilas* (sub-district) in Dinajpur district. Once Khulna Leprosy Control Centre was a part of this project, which is now a separate project as Khulna Leprosy and TB Control Centre.

Staff Strength:

Regular : Total-52 (Male-41, Female-11)

Volunteers : Total-16 (Male-02, Female-14)

Donors:

Damien Foundation-Belgium; PIME Society-Italy and St. Francis Leprosy Guild-UK.

Expenditure: Foreign Partner's Contribution: Tk. 8,400,192

Beneficiaries : Direct: Male: 255,315;Female: 170,210; Total: 425,525
Indirect: Male: 1,170,194; Female: 957,431; Total: 2,127,625

Targets and Achievements:

The targets and achievements of the major activities under this project during the reporting period are furnished in the Table below:

Sl. No.	Items/Activities	Achievements as on June'08	Performances in FY 2008-2009			Cumulative as on June 2009
			Target	Achievement	% of Achievement	
A	Hospital					
01	No of Beds	85	85	85	100	85
02	No. of Admissions	5,433	250	214	86	5,647
03	No. of Discharges	5,184	230	192	83	5,376
04	No. of	1,280	40	26	65	1,306

Sl. No.	Items/Activities	Achievements as on June'08	Performances in FY 2008-2009			Cumulative as on June 2009
			Target	Achievement	% of Achievement	
A	Hospital					
	Operations					
05	No. of Neuritis – Reaction	1,424	70	57	81	1,481
06	No. of Ulcers/ Wounds	2,886	250	157	63	3,043
07	No. of MCR Sandals Supplied	2,636	200	196	98	2,832
08	No. of Spring Elevators Supplied	438	15	11	73	449
09	No. of Laboratory Services	32,737	1,200	1,109	92	33,846
10	No. of Physical Services	7,588	800	770	96	8,358
11	No. of Skin Smears Examined	6,918	200	130	65	7,048
12	No. of Splints and Slabs	1,342	50	27	54	1,369
13	No of Wax Bath	75,433	5,500	4,506	82	79,939
B	Clinic Service					
01	No. of Clinics	18	18	18	100	18
02	No. of Clinic Days	13,605	1,000	852	85	14,457
03	No. of Patients Provided Treatment	56,706	300	260	87	56,966
04	No. of New Patients	19,773	500	342	68	20,115
05	No. of MDT Patients Tracing	64,709	2,500	1,925	77	66,614
06	No. of Visits to Defaulters (times)	35,619	200	116	58	35,735
07	No. of Healthy Contacts Checkup (times)	125,512	6,500	5,633	87	131,145
08	No. of RFT and RFC Examined	34,235	3,500	2,504	72	36,739
09	No. of MCR Sandals (Pairs) Supplied & Repaired	11,468	800	616	77	12,084
10	No. of Spring Elevators Supplied	220	2	2	100	222
11	No. of Skin	33,628	500	377	75	34,005

Sl. No.	Items/Activities	Achievements as on June'08	Performances in FY 2008-2009			Cumulative as on June 2009
			Target	Achievement	% of Achievement	
A	Hospital					
	Smears Examined					
12	No. of Physiotherapy Services	59,589	2,500	2,641	106	62,230
13	No. of Ulcers Care	22,066	1,300	1,406	108	23,472
14	No. of People got information	1,439,074	150,000	141,199	94	1,580,273
15	No. of People Examined	100,368	6,500	6,958	107	107,326
16	No. of Leaflets Distribution	872,746	70,000	68,062	97	940,808

The Table above shows that the activities under the project are divided into two categories. The activities of the Dhanjuri Leprosy Hospital are shown in category A and the activities conducted through the 18 clinics in 13 *upazilas* are shown in category B. The activities of the clinics have brought the services of this project closer to the leprosy patients.

Impacts:

- Social stigma towards the leprosy is gradually disappearing in the working areas.
- The patients appreciate getting medical treatment near their homes at affordable prices.
- The number of new leprosy cases remains steadily low.
- Awareness level has increased in the community on leprosy disease.

Conclusion:

The project of Dhanjuri Leprosy Control Centre is a hospital with 85 beds where patients get admission for minor and major operations, neuritis related reactions, healing for ulcers or wounds and all kinds of pathological tests. Besides, patients are being provided eighteen-day treatment through Clinic attached with the *upazila* Health Complexes, which remain open weekly or fortnightly depending upon the load of patients. Awareness program and treatment for particular diseases are also provided through the hospital and the Day Clinics.

Still now there are many hidden new cases in society but they do not come to the Clinics due to their ignorance and unawareness of the disease or absence of early signs and symptoms. Therefore, awareness-building program is being strengthened at the field level. Day by day the project is extending its work and seeking cooperation from all levels to reduce the prevalence of the dreadful disease of leprosy.