



# POLIO CHILD RELIEF

## MUMBAI

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### Progress Report of Polio Patient Mr. Rajpal (23), from Haryana, North India

Rajpal is from a small village in Haryana; northern India. At the age of 7 he contracted Polio-virus, and has been suffering ever since from severe deformities from his hips on down, both legs. When his family got word of our 'Free Correctional Treatment' project, they brought him all the way to Mumbai.

His condition was pitiful, crawling to his first medical check-up on all fours. Surprisingly Dr. Desai worked out a step by step plan of correctional surgeries for him to correct the many deformities. To begin with, Rajpal received massive surgery (4 operations in one) with simultaneous traction and stay at the hospital for 2 months. This was a difficult stage for him, during which he needed lots of encouragement, comfort and positive coaching. Then the next stage recuperation and care at home became even a bigger test. Rajpal was placed on a cot, which was over a gutter of the slum area where his family temporary resided. With just a plastic sheet overhead, blankets and clothes from us he made it through the heavy monsoons of 2005. His younger brother came to help with his daily care, making life easier for him. Many hours we spent with them, transporting them to the hospital, supplying food and medicines, arranging a professional Physiotherapist for daily exercises. Finally a special caliper was made for him, but the 1<sup>st</sup> trial was a setback. Swelling still being present in the patient's legs, the Orthotist was unable to fit on the appliance. Rajpal was so discouraged, he cried and was about to give up altogether. That's when he needed a moral boost and prayer to keep on fighting! Daily Physio was again continued and two months later; - Rajpal was on his legs for the 1<sup>st</sup> time! An awesome feeling, he was shaking all over. Then, slowly and steadily he gained mobility with practise. His mother requested if he could return to his village, which we arranged later on. There he continues his exercises and communicates with us on his progress.



**Left:** Rajpal's difficult condition prior to his treatment.

**Dr. Desai** carrying out a thorough check up of the patient at Shradha Hospital.

**Right:** After a major surgery Rajpal is recuperating under a makeshift roof during the heavy monsoons of 2005.

After many trials and a prolonged fight, Rajpal is taking his first steps with a caliper and the help of PCR-Manager Josef. Happy Smiles - Rajpal is boarding the train for his hometown, assisted by his brother and PCR Coordinator Jyothi.

