

Disabled children and their future in India / Aim and focus of our work among them

We started our activities and Charity project with the Disabled by participating in a city-wide Polio camp in 1997. At that time Poliomyelitis was a widespread epidemic India, with thousands of crippled children and young adults in Mumbai alone. Through renowned Orthopaedic surgeon Dr. Paresh Desai we came to know firsthand the plight of crippled children living among us, and immediately started our correctional surgery treatment project jointly with Dr. Desai.

Much has changed since then. Though the living standard of the poor of the country improved only a little, widespread immunization campaigns by the government and other organizations were successful in steadily bringing down new cases of Polio year by year. Yet today there are still lots of young people between the ages 15 and 30 (like Manjula below), who approach us and register for free Medical Treatment and Orthopaedic aids. The current trend, however, is that 60% of our patients are diagnosed with disabilities not caused by Polio, as is the case with cerebrally disabled seven year old Tanay. He benefited from a set of release operations and gains mobility with the aid of a special walker made for him.



THE TIMES OF INDIA, MUMBAI  
**India keeps polio at bay for 11 months**

Just 1 Case In 2011, Mumbai Virus-Free For Over 3 Yrs

Sumitra Deb Roy | TNN

**Mumbai:** After concerted efforts of nearly two decades, eradication measures finally seem to have gained an upper hand over the wild poliovirus. This year just one case was reported from across India and, more importantly, zero cases were reported in the last 11 months.

Mumbai, on its part, has achieved polio-free status ever since the last case of P3 strain was detected in February 2008 and that of P1 in November 2006.

Even the sewage samples have not shown any traces of the virus for the last few years now. However, the city continues to be one of the high-risk districts in the state due to high migration.

At the state level too, it has been more than a year since the last case was detected in Beed in September 2010.

State immunization officer Dr V N Kulkarni said that though it was one of the most exciting phases in the history



**NUMBERS SPEAK**

Year	Cases
1998	1,934
2002	1,600
2004	134
2005	66
2007	874
2009	741
2010	42
2011	01

(till Dec 15)

ry of the battle against polio, it may be a little early to rejoice.

"We have to be vigilant as chances of importation of the virus from other countries

is always there," he said. As for eradication, India will have to ensure that no polio case is detected for three consecutive years.

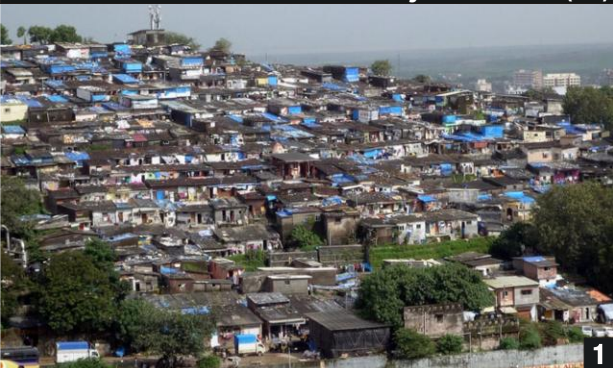
Regional team leader, WHO Dr Ravindra Banpel said that the most difficult phase has actually begun and adequate surveillance has to be maintained.

Banpel also added that introduction of the bivalent vaccine—that targets the P1 and P3 strains in high-risk areas, contributed majorly to bringing down the cases.

India has already eradicated the third strain, P3, in 1999. On Thursday, the Unicef launched its new communication campaign for polio, urging parents to take advantage of this unique opportunity to make 'polio history in India'.

Goodwill ambassador for polio eradication actor Amitabh Bachchan said that the new member in his family, Abhishek and Aishwarya's daughter, would also be given "two drops of life".

**The Treatment and Life of Manjula Jankar (20)**



(1) Manjula presently lives in this typical 'Slum-Town' in the east of Mumbai. (2) Manjula with her mother and CFWF-worker Bandu. After the first set of correctional surgeries, her left foot (see arrow) is completely straight! (3) Kushi(4) is a girl, crippled by Cerebral Palsy. She is only able to stand upright with assistance.

Since her early childhood 20 year old Manjula has been disabled due to Polio. For the first stage of her treatment in mid 2012, she received simultaneously several correctional surgeries in her left leg. Manjula lives in the above slum area of eastern Mumbai and recovered quite well after the surgery. Her crippled left foot has become normal and straight! This is great progress! As is often the case with Polio patients, her afflicted left leg is considerably shorter than the right one, by almost two inches. She requires a limb-lengthening surgery, after the Ilizarov-method. It will help her to be able to walk normally in the future and also relieve her back as she progresses



in age. Manjula would like to go through with the procedure. The total cost for surgeries, medicines, stay at the hospital, and post-operative care is INR35000/-. On the right is Kushi(4), suffering from deformities due to Cerebral Palsy. Only with continual assistance can she move about; life is difficult for her. She needs various orthopaedic aids and possibly surgery too, which will be determined in an upcoming medical exam. We'd like to help Kushi (name means happiness) to a brighter and happier future. CHILD & FAMILY WELFARE FOUNDATION appreciates your giving towards our cause and in particular for the needy patients listed here.