

Madhya Pradesh Blind Welfare Association, Indore, Madhya Pradesh, INDIA, Vocational Training and Income Generation in Physiotherapy for the Blind (\$11,201 total funding)

- a. **Project Context:** The role of physiotherapy in society is increasing day by day owing to increasing life expectancy and awareness for fitness in the larger community; leading to mushrooming growth in the number of fitness centers, nursing homes and rehab clinics. This provides increasing job opportunities for the blind since the relevant skills are not predicated on sight, and also because blind physiotherapists are more willing to serve in rural areas. There are only few centers in India imparting training on physiotherapy to the blind At present more than 150 duly qualified blind physiotherapists in India are earning their livelihood through this profession either working in the government and /or private hospitals or as private practitioners. ***ASHRAYA and AIF jointly funded a similar project for BPA (Ahmedabad) to upgrade existing equipment.*** At MPWAB, the physiotherapy technician training Unit has been functioning for the last two years. It runs a two-year certificate course which is recognized by the body of NCERT known as PSSCIVE, Bhopal; and are in process of recognition with Board of Secondary Education (M.P. Government); and currently the second batch consisting of 6 trainees is undergoing training in this center. Two qualified physiotherapists are engaged in managing this training center with 3 visiting faculty from reputed hospitals and schools. 2 students have graduated from this program to date and are employed. Most of the equipment has been procured through various resources.
- b. **Project Objectives**
- i. To upgrade outmoded equipment with state-of-the-art PT technology
 - ii. Provide candidates better skills and increase their earning capacity (by around 25%)
 - iii. To facilitate employment for blind physiotherapists in government hospitals and reputed private clinics
 - iv. Provide physical therapy to disabled persons onsite

c. **Project Expenditure**

- i. Capital Expenditure (please note that most of the equipment have been purchased already through a previous grant)

#	Equipment Description	Total in Rs.
1	Traction with table	23,000
2	IFT (Interferential therapy)	28,000
3	Medicine Ball	1,000
4	Suspension Frame	6,000
5	Finger grip Set Supinator, Broxator, Spring &Sling	0
6	Ankle Exerciser	1,500
7	Suspension Frame	6,000
8	Floor Mat	3,000
Totals		Rs. 68,500
		\$1,539

- ii. Recurring Expenditure (Annual)

#	Description of Item	Amount (Rupees)
1	Salary of Project Coordinator @ Rs.8,000/- per month x 12	96,000/-
2	Salary of Physiotherapist @ Rs.6,000/- per month for x 12	72,000/-
3	Honorarium of visiting faculty @ Rs3,500/- per month x 12	42,000/-
4	Intermediaries	5,000/-

	Total Amount (per Year)	Rupees	2,15,000
		Dollars	\$4,831

- d. **Impact Summary:** The PT school intends to train 15 blind/low vision candidates per year for a two year certificate course. The minimum qualifications of candidates are: SSLC, blind or low vision, admission on an All-India basis with 50% seats reserved for Madhya Pradesh. For diploma courses, the minimum qualification is prior completion of a 2 year certificate course. The blind graduates in PT will be empowered with added skills to treat patients on latest technology PT equipment. This would facilitate easier employment in government hospitals & other reputed clinics and earn more. Each graduating candidate can obtain a job making an average salary of Rs. 4,000-6,000 per month, leading to a total income potential of $\text{Rs. } 4000 \times 12 \times 15 = \text{Rs } 72,00,000$ per year = \$ 1,067 per year. This project also serves another purpose of providing physiotherapy for disabled people free of cost.