

Ekam USA Prosthetic Limbs Projects in Collaboration with Chetana Foundation Aug 2022–July 2023: EkamIndy engagement



Acknowledgments

This initiative would not have been possible without the generosity, leadership or engagement of the following:

- Many thanks to these generous donors who supported the EkamIndy campaigns to raise funds for the Ekam USA service projects for prosthetic limbs:
Ajay & Shivika, Aravind & Surekha, Bharat & Madhavi, Chandana & Ravi, Chetan & Mona, Jahnvi & Mounish, Mayuri, Prasanthi & Preetham, Shashikala, Shilpa & Ravi, Sukumar & Uma, Vijayanand & friends. And all those who donated to other EkamIndy fundraisers that enabled the match.
- Ekam USA team, especially, Nagasree and Neelima, for establishing the collaboration; donors from other Ekam USA chapters.
- Chetana Foundation
- Rotary Club Khammam and local Rotary Clubs, e.g., in Ongole and Chennai.
- Hosting venues: e.g., Royal Multispecialty Hospital, and Ananda Nilayam, Kakatiya Seva Samiti, in Ongole²

Summary of Ekam USA Projects – EkamIndy Participation

- Completed camps have been held in 5 venues. Dates of distribution camps are:

Aug 2022: Guntur, AP - **60 limbs**
Nov 2022: Komaram Bheem Asifabad, TG (Telangana) - **50 limbs**
Jan 2023: Ongole, AP - **72 limbs**
May 2023: Chennai, TN - **72 limbs**
Jun 2023: Khammam, TG - **45 limbs**
- The upcoming project is in Hyderabad, TG, with screening camp scheduled for July 23, 2023. **60 limbs** are being sponsored by Ekam USA
- Of the **360 limbs** summarized above, EkamIndy has sponsored a total of **~115 limbs**
- Note: Additional ~100 limbs supported by Ekam Boston, Ekam New Jersey

Ekam USA Project – Prosthetic Limbs (Jaipur Foot) in Collaboration with Chetana Foundation, USA

Key partners in India

- ❖ Chetana Foundation – overall coordination of project
- ❖ Rotary Club of Khammam- manages Rotary Artificial Limb Center (RALC) in Khammam, Telangana
- ❖ Local Rotary Club, Chamber of Commerce, etc.- help with project execution - venue identification, spreading word of the camps

Logistics

- ❖ Cost per limb: \$60, inclusive of all logistics
- ❖ These limbs are of good quality, meet majority of beneficiaries' needs and can last 5-8 years
- ❖ Typical prices in India range from \$30 (low quality) to \$1200 (state of the art)
- ❖ Each prosthetic limb project comprises two camps in the same town:
 1. “Screening Camp” and 2. “Distribution Camp”; meals are provided free of cost to all attendees at both camps.

Notes:

1. RALC manufactures the “Jaipur foot”
2. Sukumar and Uma from EkamIndy attended both the camps conducted in Ongole, AP.

The content in this slide-deck is largely based on this participation, discussions with Chetana/Rotary staff in India and additional research.

Prosthetic Limbs Project – Two camps per site

Screening Camp



Distribution Camp



Need and Causes of Amputation

The need is enormous

According to National Sample Survey Organization (Govt of India) ~1% of Indian population suffers from locomotor disabilities. This translates to e.g., ~ 1.3 million people in need in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana !

Primary causes of lower limb amputations are:

- Accidents, road or train
- Construction related, e.g., falling from height, equipment falling on the leg
- Other work-related injuries e.g., working in a factory or on agricultural land
- Medical related- Peripheral vascular diseases, e.g., diabetes; tumors; TB in bones and joints; congenital
- War related- injuries during war, owing to landmines or bomb blasts
- Natural disasters, e.g., earthquakes
- Sometimes as unfortunate as an abscess caused by a thorn (e.g.,Sarkaari Tumma or mesquite bush)

Jaipur Foot

- Jaipur foot was first developed in 1968 at the SMS Medical College Hospital, Jaipur, by a group of orthopedic surgeons and highly innovative craftsmen.
- Bhagawan Mahaveer Viklang Sahayata Samiti (BMVSS), established in Jaipur, has taken the initial design and established a robust manufacturing process. BMVSS also focuses on R & D, and have agreements with several leading institutions and companies and continue to refine the limbs.
- The Jaipur foot has been a game changer, particularly for the masses, has helped rehabilitate over 2 million disabled people in India and in 27 other countries. It has allowed the user to have mobility and earn a livelihood.
- The Jaipur foot also allows the user to squat, walk bare foot and is waterproof.

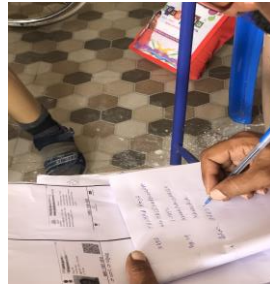
Anecdote: Sudha Chandran, a Bharat Natyam dancer lost her limb in a road accident and was fitted with the Jaipur foot and started dancing again. Her journey was the theme of Telugu film Mayuri in 1984, later dubbed into Malayalam and Tamil, and remade in Hindi.

Rotary Club Khammam, RALC, Chetana Foundation And Ekam USA

- **Rotary Club Khammam** established the Rotary Artificial Limb Center(RALC) at Kothagudem, Khammam in 1990, and they use the Jaipur foot technology to provide both above and below knee prostheses. They have a walk-in facility and in partnership with **Chetana Foundation** and other donors, also organize camps across Telangana and AP. They have distributed over 13000 limbs free of cost in the past 34 years.
- **RALC** also provides the beneficiaries free of cost assistance with minor repairs and replacement limbs. This is a huge benefit for young beneficiaries, who need more frequent replacements during their growing years.
- **Ekam USA** has begun partnering with Chetana Foundation since Aug 2022, and has raised funds for over 460 limbs to date. Majority have been joint service projects, where many chapters participate in fundraising.

Screening Camp

- Eligible beneficiaries are those who are deemed able to use a prosthetic limb. Criteria for selection are nature of wound (has it healed well?, is it a recent amputation?), location of amputation, muscle strength of remaining limb, person's weight, etc.
E.g.: Ongole camp- planned 50 limbs, over 120 individuals showed up for screening camp, 72 qualified to receive limbs
- Detailed measurements are taken to build custom prosthetic limbs. Measurements are taken of both legs, to ensure the beneficiary maintains good balance. A plaster cast is made. Additional details like beneficiary's contact info, address etc. are also gathered.



Measurements and beneficiary information being taken



Free meals being served

Screening Camp – Additional Pictures



Beneficiaries entering the camp



Waiting for the Plaster of Paris cast to set



Dried casts labeled & ready for transport to RALC

Distribution Camp

- Previously identified beneficiaries are fitted with their custom designed limb and are given some training on walking with the limb, proper use of the limb to extend its lifetime & encouraging pep-talk to help them along their journey of increased independence.



Limbs brought to camp via car and lined up at camp



Some of the young beneficiaries and images from other venues



Asifabad, Dec 2022



Chennai May 2023

EkamIndy at Ongole camps and Khammam project*



Ongole, Nov 2022



కృత్రిమ కాళ్లను అందజేస్తున్న ఎన్ఆర్ఐ ప్రతినిధులు

ఒంగోలు(రూరల్), జనవరి 8: కృత్రిమ కాళ్లు వల్ల వివిధ ప్రతిబాధలు తమ సొంతపనులు చేసుకోవటానికి ఎంతగానో అవయోగవడతాయని డాక్టర్ కామేశ్వర్ సీతారామయ్య పేర్కొన్నారు. ఒంగోలు మండలం మండపవారిపాలెం లోని కాకతీయ సేవాసమితి ఆనందనిలయంలో ఆదివారం రోటరీక్లబ్ ఒంగోలు సెంట్రల్ ఆధ్వర్యంలో చేతన ఫౌండేషన్ యూఎస్ఏ, ఏకం యూఎస్ఏ సహకారం తో వివిధ ప్రతిబాధపడుతున్న కృత్రిమ కాళ్లు పంపిణీ కార్యక్రమం జరిగింది. ఈ సందర్భంగా ముఖ్యఅతిథిగా హాజరైన డాక్టర్ సీతారామయ్య మాట్లాడుతూ చేతన ఫౌండేషన్, ఏకం యూఎస్ఏ వారి సహకారం ఎంతవరకు ఉన్నారో, అసలం తరం 72 మందికి కృత్రిమ కాళ్లు పంపిణీ చేశారు. కార్యక్రమంలో డాక్టర్ ఆలూరి ప్రభాకరరావు, తేళ్లపల్లి వెంకటేశ్వర్లు, గుడిపాడి సుబ్బారావు, రోటరీ క్లబ్ ఒంగోలు సెంట్రల్ ఆధ్వర్యం నాచెండ్ల శ్రీనివాసరావు, కార్తీకర్షణ మాకినేని మురళీకృష్ణ, కోకాదికారి గుండపనేని గోపీవీర్, గోపాలకృష్ణ, శ్రీశర్, ఆర్ద్ర శ్రీరామూర్తి, శేషారావు, కె.శ్రీనివాసరావు తదితరులు పాల్గొన్నారు.

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Ongole, Jan 2023



* Khammam, June 2023. Financed using Uma/Sukumar 1:1 matching funds for EkamIndy donations in 2023.