



Child & Family Welfare Foundation

A Project for the Disabled & Polio Affected

Yogesh Patil ♦ 2003-2009 Progress Report



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We strolled along the lovely beach, facing the Arabian Ocean, when we came across Yogesh's hutment in a fishing village in Mumbai uptown. The poor family, parents with five children lived all in the one room home. His disability, due to Polio, tied him for much of the time to his home, where he helped his father mending fishing nets. Yogesh could not stand nor walk, on his trips to the neighbourhood he moved around tiresome in an old 3-wheeler bicycle. He suffers from deformities in both legs, the left one being weaker than the right one.

PCR-Mumbai volunteers brought Yogesh for a medical checkup, during which Dr. Desai gave a positive diagnosis to improve his condition. By means of correctional surgeries the aim was to strengthen his stronger right leg and, if needed, perform a limb-lengthening surgery. Yogesh responded to the initial surgeries in right knee and foot very well. Much of the deformity and stiffness could be corrected. There were two follow-up 'Release' surgeries carried out, after which the proposed limb-lengthening operation was cancelled. The shortening on his left side had reduced and could be adjusted with a higher shoe. Yogesh went through a good amount of Physiotherapy, which again helped consolidate his progress. Then a special lightweight caliper with a pelvic band, along with crutches were made for him by our Orthopaedic specialist, Mr. Solat of OAALMAC. Nothing could stop Yogesh now. He was very happy about his newfound mobility, he went about everywhere and has even gone out of station by train all on his own with his caliper and a shoulder bag.

Then sometime later Yogesh took a basic course in typing and computers. He loved learning a new skill, caught on real well and learned more and more. Then he got bold and started to look for a job in an institution to train youngsters in basic computer skills. And he got a job in his part of town, where he's been teaching for two years. Congratulations Yogesh!

Picture-Log: 1) Yogesh in his condition before treatment in 2003. No chance of standing up! 2) Yogesh recuperating at home after first stage corr. surgeries. 3) PCR volunteer Jyothi distributing clothes to Yogesh's family. In the back is Yogesh with two children of PCR-volunteers present. 4) A happy day! PCR-volunteer Savio with Yogesh in front of OAALMAC Ortho

appliance manufacturer shop, trying on for the 1st time his new caliper. 5) PCR-Mumbai Project Manager Josef with Yogesh in front of the computer institute, where Yogesh took training. 6) Yogesh with brothers and villagers helping sorting fish outside their home, facing the Arabian Ocean. 7) Yogesh, now an instructor, teaching basic computer skills to trainees.