



FREEDOM TRUST

... adding life to years since 1997



ANNUAL REPORT 2020-21

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Message from the Founder Trustee

May 1, 2021

The year that has just passed has been unique in history. Not only has the pandemic impacted entire countries, their economies and health infrastructure, it has touched the very core of our inner selves, and made us wonder what is the real meaning of life. It has made us introspect and reach out to the less fortunate; it has made us resilient and realistic.



It has also impacted the handicapped too. Freedom trust had to close down the outreach camps during the lockdown both in the first wave and the second. Nevertheless, this did not deter our team from conducting smaller camps whenever the windows of opportunity opened. During the months of December January and February, when there was a respite from the infection, we were able to conduct camps in Haridwar and Patna. The camps sponsored by the Governor of Tamil Nadu covered the districts of Chennai Chengalpattu Tiruvallur and Kanchipuram. We have thus been able to provide appliances to 1172 persons with disability in remote areas of India. Our team has stayed in the torrid winter of Uttarakhand and Bihar and provided artificial limbs to the poor amputees of the respective regions.

Looking back on the year, I am pleasantly surprised that we were able to conduct 90 camps, given the cap on the number of beneficiaries that could attend a single event, the difficulty in getting them to the venue, and general reluctance to venture out. Our field officers Stephen and Rishi did an excellent job of conducting these camps with all social distancing, masking and hygienic measures in place. Usha Bharadwaj did a yeoman job in ensuring that the camps were conducted smoothly and effectively.

One of the highlights of the year was the distribution camp that kicked off the Governors campaign at the Raj Bhavan on January 12th where His Excellency the Governor of Tamil Nadu, Thiru Banwarilal Purohit distributed appliances as part of the Pongal celebrations.

Freedom Trust received a shot in the arm by Mr. Ravi Ayyangar joining us as Hon. Advisor and Mrs. Sumathi Iyer joining the core team.

All this has been made possible because of the spontaneous outpouring of support from all of you. Service organizations like Mission Samriddhi, the Rotary clubs, Philanthropic groups like the Freemasons lodge, corporates like Dymos, Rane Group, Savex, CavinKare and the Governor's household office, crowd funding platforms like Fueladream and Ketto and individuals who have dipped into their savings for a good cause ... to all of you I can only say a big Thank you! Our team which works day and night for our projects and our board of trustees and SOFT members are a bulwark of support for Freedom Trust. We still have a lot more to go in these uncertain times, and we intend to restart our camps once it is safe enough to do so.

Dr. S. Sunder

MD [Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation]

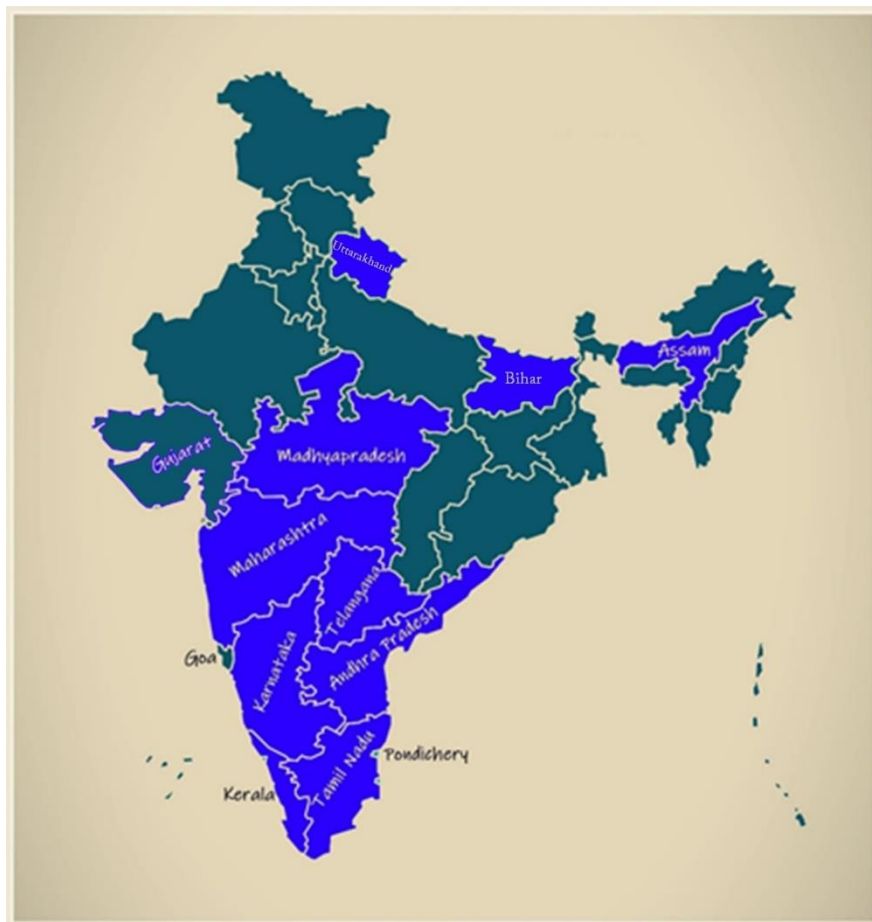
Freedom Trust

Foundation for the **Rehabilitation Education and Empowerment of the Disabled of Madras (FREEDOM TRUST)** was founded in the year 1997 to cater to the needs of the physically challenged in terms of their mobility and livelihood by Dr. Sunder, a renowned rehabilitation professional.

The main objective of the trust is to provide mobility aids like wheelchairs, tricycles, artificial limbs and orthoses to the rural physically challenged. Physically challenged persons form the lion's share of the nearly 10 per cent challenged people throughout the world. Over the years the foundation has distributed mobility aids and appliances to about **26,000** physically challenged and has conducted **716** rural camps across India.

In the last two years we have marched across the country, providing artificial limbs and mobility aids to rural physically challenged, even in remote inaccessible areas in Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Assam, Uttarakhand and Bihar.

Our Presence



- States where we have conducted camps.

Condition of Patients in Rural areas

Persons with locomotor handicap need mobility aids to mainstream themselves in society. Some need wheelchairs, others need calipers, and some need artificial limbs. Those in rural areas cannot afford to come to the city or towns where qualified rehabilitation teams are situated; they neglect their handicap and later develop deformities which are difficult to correct, except by surgical means. Persons in rural areas have hardly any access to crutches, wheelchairs and tricycles which enable them to move from one place to another. Mobility is very important; to make a child go to school, to enable a student travel to college, and to make a worker go to office.



Children affected with Cerebral Palsy & having Multiple Disabilities



***Bilateral Lower Limb
Amputee from Patna,
Bihar***



***LowerLimb Amputee from
Haridwar, Uttarakhand***



***Symes Amputee from
Chandrapur, Maharashtra***

Our Projects

GRAM VIKALANG PUNARJANMAM (GVP)

Freedom Trust has been relentlessly working for the cause of such physically challenged persons and has helped them with mobility aids. We thus give mobility which is a fundamental need.

Patients with residual polio or cerebral palsy need orthoses, or calipers, which are custom made appliances given to paralyzed or weak limbs fit to the patients, enabling them to walk erect. *An orthosis is a mechanical device fitted to the body to maintain it in an anatomical or functional position. Each mobility aid is custom made to the beneficiaries and the processensures fitment.*

WALK INDIA

It's a dream come true project of Freedom Trust, conceptualized by Dr. Sunder, our founder. It is his long-term vision to make people with lower limb amputation across India to get back on their feet with appropriate customized prostheses.

Among the various types of physical disabilities, people with lower limb amputation benefit the most when fitted with a prosthesis [artificial limb]. An artificial limb is essential to make an amputee get back his life and to resume livelihood and work independently. A sizeable number of physically handicapped are amputees.

Freedom Trust conducts special camps for limb fitting at various towns and villages all over India and enable the amputees to walk with their newly fitted limbs.

SISHUPUNARJANMAM

Sishupunarjanmam refers to giving a fresh lease of life to differently abled, exceptionally talented children in the fields of music and arts. Launched in 2003, the project has enabled chosen students to establish a career for themselves in their respective fields. The scheme of providing scholarships and training has been so successful that five differently abled scholars have bagged the Most Creative Individual Award in the field of arts from the President of India on World Disability Day, December 3rd.

Due to the current pandemic, special schools remained shut whole of the academic year 2020 - 21 and therefore the training process both in music and visual arts has been put on hold.

Our Music Forum activities has also been put on hold and should resume very soon once the pandemic is under control.

Camp Process

Field Visit - Each project begins with field visits by our field coordinator. A local organizer in the village or town is identified, usually an NGO or a voluntary association working in the field of disability. The need from the local physically challenged community is identified through them and data of persons needing appliances is collected before conducting the camp. A venue for organizing the camp in the same village or town which will be easily accessible and has disabled friendly amenities is chosen.

Assessment - On the day of the camp, a team consisting of a physiatrist [doctor trained in physical medicine and rehabilitation], a physiotherapist, and prosthetic/orthotic engineers visit the venue where the disabled persons are assembled. Usually, the numbers of persons assessed ranges from 50 to 200 per day. The physiatrist assesses each beneficiary; and based on the physical condition, socio-economic background and condition of the existing appliances used by the beneficiary, a suitable mobility aid is prescribed.



Dr. Sunder assessing children in an assessment camp

Measurement - Following the prescription of the appliances by the doctor, the beneficiary is moved to the orthotist-prosthetist section in the camp venue where appropriate measurement for the orthosis is taken by professionals.



Trial Camp - A trial camp to check if the prosthesis fit the beneficiary properly is conducted on the day of the camp or a day before it. The prosthetic team trains the beneficiaries on how to wear the device and maintain it.

Gait Training - It is a training given to the users of artificial limbs to walk with their new limb. Such training is a vital factor in prosthesis fitment that will help the beneficiary use the appliance properly.

Distribution - Distribution of the appliances is done at a function in the town or village where the measurements were taken. The appliances are given away free of cost to the respective beneficiaries. The function usually involves the sponsor for the camp, the team from the trust, the local organizer and the beneficiaries of the camp.



Thiru Banwarilal Purohit, Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu celebrated Pongal Festival at Raj Bhavan and distributed mobility aids to differently abled persons on Jan 12, 2021. Nawab Mohammed Abdul Ali, Prince of Arcot, Thiru Anandrao V. Patil I.A.S., Secretary to the Governor were also present.



Artificial limbs Lined Up for Distribution at HD Kotte

Follow Up - Repair or service for the distributed items is provided free of cost to the beneficiaries at our workshop in Chennai.



Trustees Profile

Dr. S. Sunder – Founder & Managing Trustee

Dr. Sunder holds an MD Degree in Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation that has been awarded by the Tamil Nadu Dr. M.G.R. Medical University. He has been recognized with “The Best Doctor in the Field of Social Service” by both the Central and State Governments. He has also been bestowed with “Lifetime Achievement Awards” by both the Government institute of Rehabilitation medicine and the Lions Host International in 2017 for his outstanding service to the differently abled community.



Mr. Hariharan Sankaran - Trustee

Mr. Hariharan is an engineer with post-graduate engineering degree in Computer Science and rose to become the Head (Infrastructure) of i-flex solutions. He has been instrumental in getting corporate sponsorships for Freedom Trust to Sishupunarjanmam project and participates extensively in the disability camps organized by the trust. He is very empathetic about the cause of the trust and brings to the trust his vast experience in management and networking.



Mr. Sankaran Annaswamy – Trustee

Mr. Sankaran Annaswamy is currently working as Senior Vice President in Standard Chartered GBS Pvt Ltd. He is an alumnus of Alagappa University, Karaikudi. With 27 years of IT industry experience, has played significant leadership roles in various organizations. Apart from his profession, he is very much concerned about environmental issues and social divides. He uses his spare time to help the underprivileged in society through actively working with NGOs. He is a fitness enthusiast and participates in a running group called ‘Dream Runners’.



Core Members

Mrs. Usha Bharadwaj - Director CSR & Administration

Mr. Ravi Ayyangar - Hon. Advisor

Mr. Chandrasekar - Co-ordinator, Social Media, Logistics

Mrs. Sumathi Iyer - Media & Communication

Mr. Rishi Kumar - Field Officer

Mr. Sundararajan - Accountant



Members Patrons and Donors

• SOFT Members

Mr. Arun Jain - Patron
Mr. E. N. Murthy IAS (Retd.)
Mr. T. R. Venkataraman
Dr. R. Sanjeevi
Mr. Ganesh GSK
Mr. Suresh
Dr. Annamalai - Medical Advisor
Mrs. Vidya
Mrs. Aruna Ranganathan
Ms. Saravanan
Mr. Jayavelu Kaliyamurthy
Mr. Ram Pappu
Mrs. Jayalakshmi Sekhar
Mr. Prasanna
Mr. R. Ranjith
Mr. N. L. Rajah - Legal Advisor
Mr. Ram Pappu
Mr. Suneel Ananthanarayanan - Auditor

• Patrons and Individual Donors

Mrs. Angachi Atthai
Mrs. Kalpana Palaniappan
Mrs. Jayalakshmi Sekhar
Mr. N Ananthanarayan
Mrs. Bindi Ravi
Mr. Lakshminarayan
Mr. Hariharan Sankaran
Mr. Maya Hariharan
Mr. Ashok Sethuraman
Mr & Mrs. V L Kumar
Mrs. Mythili K
Ms. Dhakshayani B
Mrs. Sudha Hariharan
Mr. Kumaran Sugumaran
Mr. R Chandarasekaran
Mr. Shanmugam
Smt. R. Sudarsanam
Mr. D Vijayagopal Reddy
Mr. Sundar N
Mr. Sankaran S V
Mr. Janakiraman N
Mr. Srikanth V
Mr. A L Radhakrishnan
Mr. R Ram
Mrs. Aruna Prabha Ranganathan
Mrs. Preethadevan
Mrs. Mena Seetharaman
Brothers Of OLPS, North America

SOFT is an acronym for “**Supporters Of Freedom Trust**”. Like minded friends who have been associated with Freedom Trust and lend a helping hand when and wherever possible are essentially SOFT members. SOFT members meet once every month to get themselves updated about the activities of the Trust and guide the way forward.

Supportive Corporates & Organizations

Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd
Build All Madras Pvt Ltd (MADHAVI - ROUND TABLE)
Cambium Retail Pvt Ltd
Cavinkare
Coromandel Beach Properties Pvt Ltd
Dodla Parthasarathy Reddy And Lalithamma Trust
Dream Runners Half Marathon
Inner Wheel Club of Madras
Inner Wheel Club of Madras
Lennox India Technology Centre Pvt Ltd
Madras Central Ladies Circle 73 & 82
MADRAS CENTRAL ROUND TABLE
Rane Holdings Ltd
RCCM Rotary Charitable Trust
Regional Grand Lodge of Southern India Charitable Trust
Rotary Club of Chennai Beehives
Rotary Club of Chennai Capital Charitable Trust
Rotary Club of Chennai Mitra
Rotary Club of Chennai Thiruvanmiyur
Rotary Club of Madras Central Charitable Trust
Rotary Club of Madras East
Rotary Club of Madras Northwest
Rotary Club of Madras Temple City Trust
Rotary Club of Meenambakkam
Rotary E - Club of Chennai
Rotary Madras Cosmos
Savex Technologies Pvt Ltd
Sri Jayendra Saraswathi Golden Jubilee Matriculation School
Tamil Nadu Governor Household Funds
The India Cements
Thirumalai Chemicals
United India Insurance

• Online Campaigns with fuel a dream

Agents of change
Deen's Academy
CPS Global School

Activities Overview

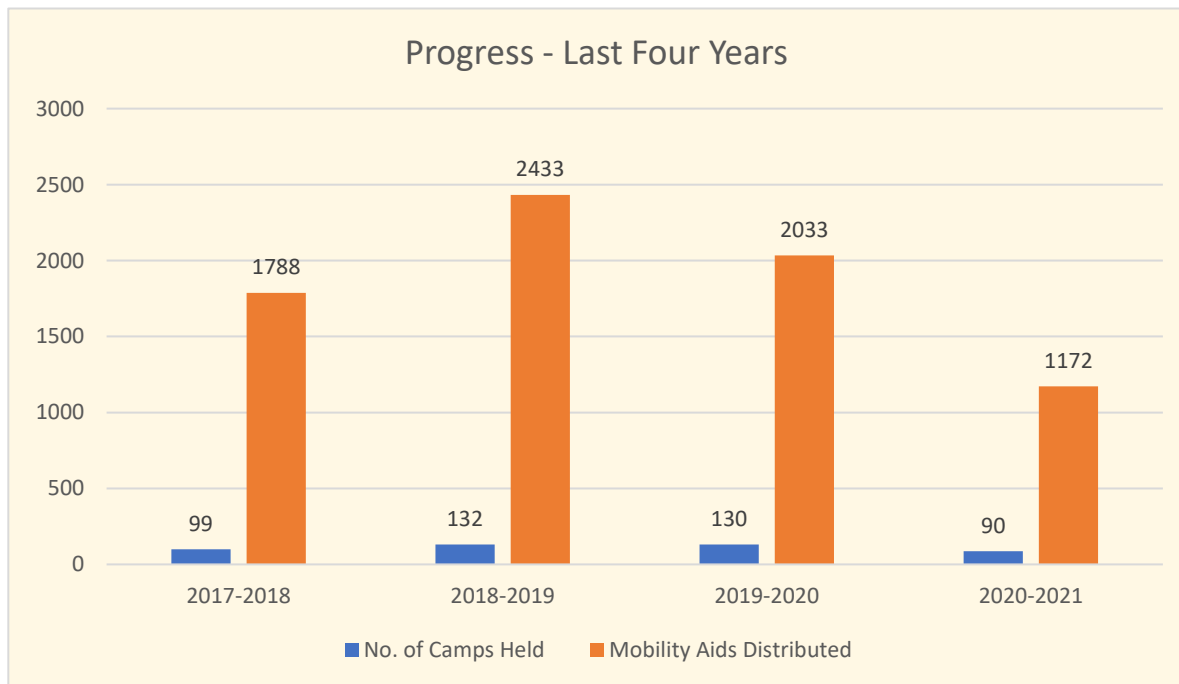
Camps at a glance	
Total No of Limbs distributed	532
Total No of Walk India Camps	46
Total No of Gram Vikalang Punarjanmam beneficiaries	640
Total No of GVP camps	44
Total No of Limbs distributed in Walk India since 2017	4150

Gram Vikalang Punarjanmam

No.	Assessment Date	Distribution Date	Venue	Sponsor	# Beneficiaries
1	17-07-2020	27-07-2020	Chennai	M/S Coromandel Beach Properties Pvt. Ltd	09
2	25-07-2020	25-07-2020	Chennai	Mrs. Kalpana Palaniappan	01
3	27-07-2020	08-04-2020	Chennai	M/S Dodla Trust	13
4	18-08-2020	27-08-2020	Chennai	M/S Coromandel Beach Properties Pvt. Ltd	08
5	11-09-2020	29-09-2020	Thirutani	Lodge Ram Prasad No.228	28
6	06-10-2020	12-01-2021	Raj Bhavan, Chennai	TN Governor's Household Office, Chennai	50
7	08-10-2020	18-01-2021	Bala Vidya Mandir School, Chennai		56
8	15-10-2020				
9	16-11-2020	03-12-2020	Chennai	Rotary Club District 32/32	70
10	17-11-2020				
11	18-11-2020				
12	19-11-2020				
13	28-11-2020	28-12-2020	Red Hills	Mr. & Mrs. VL Kumar and Mrs. Mythili	36
14	08-12-2020	28-12-2020	Red Hills		
15	24-12-2020	19-02-2021	Tiruchirappalli	Rane Expanding Horizons	70
16	27-01-2021	12-04-2021	Vellore	TN Governor's Household Office, Chennai	67
17	29-01-2020		Kanchipuram		40
18	05-02-2021	27-02-2021	Thiruporur		48
19	18-02-2021	18-02-2021	Chennai	Inner Wheel Club	05

Gram Vikalang Punarjanmam ... Contd

PROJECT GRAM VIKALANG PUNARJANMAM - CAMP DETAILS - 2019 – 2020					
No.	Assessment Date	Distribution Date	Venue	Sponsor	Number of beneficiaries
20	12-03-2021		Chennai	Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited	51
21	23-03-2021		Padianallur	TN Governor's Household Office, Chennai	56
22	25-03-2021		Chennai	TN Governor's Household Office, Chennai	32
Total Beneficiaries					640
Total No GVP of Camps Organized					44



Project Walk India - Camp Details

No.	Assessment Date	Distribution Date	Venue	Sponsor	Number of limbs
1	29-05-2020	05-06-2020	Chennai	Round Table Ladies circle	07
2	09-07-2020	27-07-2020	Chennai	M/S Coromandel Beach Properties Pvt. Ltd	05
3	17-08-2020	21-08-2020	Chennai	Rotary Club Chennai, Mambalam	03
4	14-09-2020	01-10-2020	Ranipet	Lennox International	28
		06-11-2020	Chennai		
5	16-09-2020	12-11-2020	HD Kotte	Deens Academy & Mission Samridhi	68
6	06-10-2020	22-11-2020	Chennai	DRHM, Hexaware, Ketto (Online Crowd funding Partner)	25
7	11-10-2020				
8	06-12-2020	25-12-2020	Tirunelveli	Mr. Hariharan Sankaran Mrs. Maya Hariharan M/S Cambium Retail Pvt. Ltd Mr. Ashok Sethu Ram Mr. Joydeep Brothers of OLPS, North America M/S India Cement	48
9	07-12-2020				
10	09-12-2020	20-01-2021	Erode	DRHM, Hexaware, Ketto (Online Crowdfunding Partner)	84
11	10-12-2020	12-12-2020	Chennai	Round Table Ms. M. Madhvi & Mr. Ramesh	02
12	11-12-2020	19-01-2021	Thalavadi	DRHM, Hexaware, Ketto (Online Crowd funding Partner)	08
13	16-12-2020	22-01-2021	Pudukkottai	CPS & Fuel A Dream (Online Crowd funding Partner)	49
14	17-12-2020				
15	09-01-2021	07-03-2021	Patna	Savex Technologies Pvt. Ltd	92
16	10-01-2021				
17	11-01-2021				
18	12-01-2021				
19	28-01-2021	19-03-2021	Haridwar	CavinKare Pvt. Ltd	100
20	29-01-2021				
21	30-01-2021				
22	31-01-2021				
23	01-02-2021				
24	02-02-2021				
25	05-02-2021	27-02-2021	Thiruporur	CPS & Fuel A Dream (Online Crowd Funding Partner)	13
Total Beneficiaries					532
Total No of GVP Camps Organized					46

Partnering NGOs

We would like to place in record our sincere thanks and appreciation to the partnering NGOs who have helped us immensely in gathering the beneficiaries, in organizing the camps and take care of the local hospitality. It would have been impossible to run the camps but for the dedicated help from these organizations. **A BIG THANK YOU.**

- Amar Seva Sangam - Ayikudi
- Annai Charitable Trust - Aranthangi
- Bala Vidya Mandir School
- December 3rd movement (Perumbakkam chapter)
- District Welfare Office - Chitradurga
- District Welfare Office – Erode
- Madhuras Narayan Center for Exceptional Children, Chennai
- Malar Trust, Chennai
- Ramakrishna Mission Sevashram, Haridwar, Uttarakhand
- Schiffelin Institute of Health – Research and Leprosy Center, Karigiri
- Spastic Society of Tamilnadu
- Spastic Society of Tiruchirapalli
- Sri Jayendra Saraswathi Golden Jubilee Matriculation School, Tirunelveli
- Swabhimana Trust Bangalore
- TAMBRAS
- Vanavil Association for the differently abled - Kannagi Nagar
- Worth Trust - Vellore