

1st DONATION PROGRAMME FOR LEPROSY PATIENTS

Dated:-2nd April, 2016

Leprosy, also known as Hansen's disease (HD), is a long term infection caused by the bacilli *Mycobacterium leprae* and *Mycobacterium lepromatosis*. Initially, infections are without symptoms and typically remain this way from 5 to as long as 20 years. Symptoms that develop include granulomas of the nerves, respiratory tract, skin, and eyes. This may result in a lack of ability to feel pain and thus loss of parts of extremities due to repeated injuries or infection due to unnoticed wounds. Weakness and poor eyesight may also be present.



Discussion with Leprosy Suffering People

In the beginning Government runs a hospital especially for Leprosy patients. Government is taking care of their boarding and lodging. At that time people from different districts, states as well as from different countries come to get the treatment and due to non-recovery in their wounds their families abandoned them because they think they are untouchable. But after a long time period governments fails to operate the hospital properly, so the authority decided to close the hospital permanently. At that loneliness time they want to support each other, most of them lived together or married with each other and starts their life. These people are very poor and in this critical time period they are unable to move from that area. So they started to live in tents and steady-steady made mud houses for themselves with the help of social workers and donors. But after a long time period they are unable to fulfill the basic needs of their families. Those people are residing with their families: wife, sons, daughters and their grandchildren in this slum area. Some of them are suffering with the diseases (Leprosy) and some are living simple life

without any diseases. But rather than they are living together without transferring any of the diseases. It means they are not untouchable.



Donating Shawls and Fruits

To help these kinds of patients, NSS-Unit, IIT Mandi organized a donation programme on dated 2nd April, 2016 for Leprosy suffering people who are living Raghunath Ka Padhar, near Mandi town. Most of them are from different-different districts of Himachal Pradesh and some one's are from Uttrakhand, Bengal as well as from Nepal, outside the country.



A Group Photo

NSS volunteers met these people and heard their problems and assure to do something for this community of our society. As per part of donation NSS-Unit donated food, fruits and shawls. All of them are very happy and thanks to IIT Mandi community to take a step to uplift their life. With that commitment we will do something for them all volunteers came back to campus. After donation event all volunteers gets together future planning for them and in the end refreshments were served to all volunteers.