



GLOBAL FRIENDSHIP MISSION-TRIPURA (INDIA)

Darchawi, Kumarghat 799264, Unakoti Tripura, India

Special Project Report Second Quarter FY - 17

1. Name of the Project: "Hearing Aid - make them hear again"
2. Target groups: Those people who are suffering from hearing problems due to an old age or some medical problems, etc., These people are really in a very sad mood as someone has rightly said:

"I am just as deaf as I am blind. The problems of deafness are deeper and more complex than those of blindness. Blindness separates me from objects. Deafness separates me from people." - Helen Keller

GFM Hearing Aid Project Objectives:

- Sustainable Hearing improvement and development
- Social Impact
- Agent of change in society

Introduction:

- The situation and problem
- The activities
- The outputs
- The outcomes
- The impacts

Situation and Problems:

Over the last 15 years or even more GFM Tripura has started addressing the sad situation and life experiences of deafness of many people in Tripura State by offering them Hearing Aid Machines either used one or brand new ones donated by many brothers and sisters from Germany which was organized and collected by Rev. Uwe Schaal and Mrs.Elke Schaal with their hearts touched when they saw those people who are in acute needs of this type of machines to be able to hear once more time. According to WHO-2001, there are 300 million people need hearing aid, 220 million of them in developing countries. When we look at this statistic of the needy people for having enough hearing aid instruments in the whole world, we realized that it could be in Tripura alone many who are in acute circumstances of having hearing problems. They were unnoticed and really not identified officially. However, when this situation has been identified by GFM through the above mentioned visiting man and women of God, it was the beginning of extending a helping hand to those who are really suffering from such hearing problems, in other words, deafness with many people in Tripura. We could touch and given out at least 30 to 50 Machines so that they could hear once more time.

Meister Hoerakustik's Ear Mission By Miss Stefanie Thuma:

We are really thankful to Miss Thuma who has just got fully devoted herself to the Mission of "Hearing Aid-Make them hear Again" Project starting from beginning of this year 2017 who by herself personally came to Tripura and given all the technical necessities and assistances. She personally met more than 200 needy patients and donated the best Hearing Aid machines to those needy patients. As a result, most of them are now able to hear once more time. The following activities were carried upon during such camp at Darchawi GFM Hospital OPD:

1. Provided proven high quality affordable hearing aid machines.
2. Offered hearing test to young and old deaf people.
3. Provided deaf education or something like that.
4. Showing the community the special abilities of deaf, thereby creating more awareness.
5. New method to deliver sustainable hearing health.

Follow-Up Programs:

After the implementation of such project, we the GFM staffs felt that the need of conducting follow up programs in checking those patients who have received their Hearing Aid Machines free of cost from Ms.Thuma during the month of January, 2017. We have visited those all registered recipients of such high cost Hearing Aid Machines and inspected if their machines are in proper usage and if they are useful for them in their villages and at homes or even wherever they are living. Especially Pastor Roia Darlong was given full responsibility in looking after all those patients who got the hearing aid at free of cost. He has covered meeting all those people who were deaf before but now they can hear and talk to people like ever before with the help of these wonderful apparatus or hearing aid machines. Thanks to Steffi, on behalf of these happy people!

Outputs:

- Provided an affordable hearing aid
- Through affordability of the hearing aid project from Meister Hoerakustik
- Through quality workmanship and rendering servicing of their machines
- Through excellent customer service though not really trained personnel. Yet Mr.Roia was instructed by Steffi how to clean the machines, how to operate and change the batteries, etc.
- The patients who were provided with these machines come to GFM Office when they needed the batteries or for servicing if we do not go to them.

Impacts:

- The patients are able to hear successfully and could speak openly and have access to the normal life style of the community who received the hearing aids
- Changed Civil society perception of skill of people who are deaf
- Developed model for sustainable business and works
- Deaf empowerment program started in the villages
- Person with disability to person with disability



Her name is Ramhuali Darlong from Saikar village who is so happy and thankful to receive the Hearing Aid Machine because she is now fully able to talk to her child and she hears what the child tells her and so on.

Some of the selected people who can hear and speak because of the hearing aid machines they got from GFM Project:



GFM Hearing Aid-Structure

	<i>Mission for Ear</i>	<i>Certified Center</i>	<i>Micro entrepreneurs</i>
G	<i>Hearing Screening & Testing</i>	<i>Hearing Screening at GFM OPD</i>	<i>Hearing Screening</i>
F	<i>Collecting information</i>	<i>Collecting Information</i>	
M	<i>Battery Powered Hearing Aids & Rechargeable Batteries And ear Moulds</i>	<i>Distribution of equipment what we have in Stock</i>	<i>Body Wore & Rechargeable Batteries</i>
H	<i>Health Program</i>	<i>Maternal Health & Communicate with your child</i>	<i>Communicate with your Child</i>
A	<i>Speech Language Therapy & Training Capacity building</i>	<i>Speech Language Therapy</i>	

Activities –Education

Develop and distribute brochures and other information tools on the prevention and early identification of hearing loss targeting healthcare workers, teachers and families.

Activities – Training

- To implement auditory, speech, language (audio-verbal therapy) for hearing aids to be effective
- To teach proper use & care of hearing aids
- To train parents, teachers and health care workers on the development of communication skills.
- To use audio-verbal therapy and training software

Partners in our success:

1. Rev. Uwe Schaal and Mrs.Elke Schaal, who have helped us initially to have the Hearing Aid Machines from Germany. Our thanks to them on behalf of those who are able to hear again!
2. Ms. Stefanie Thuma, Meister Hoerakustik, Grunbach, Germany.

The Present Needs:

1. Battery of the Machines going to be exhausted.
2. Some hearing aid machines are not functioning and needed some servicing which have to be performed by experts.
3. Hearing Testing Machines if available.

These are our present stock of Hearing Aid Machines which are some not functional, or could be damaged.. The Batteries are well and good and we keep them for reserved for those badly in need.



By: GFM Hearing Aid-Make them hear again Project
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