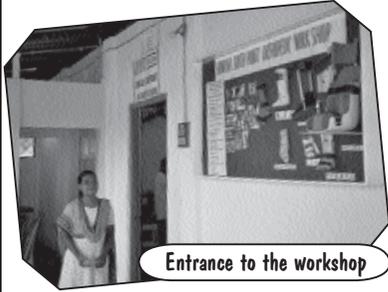


## A FACE-LIFT FOR



Entrance to the workshop

## AN ORTHOPAEDIC WORKSHOP

Twelve years ago, in 1992, MIBLOU created its first workshop in Mogradanghi Centre. Residents are children struck down with polio or with other disabilities. So, early in 2004, we restructured the workshop adding new equipment better adapted to modern working methods.

MOGRADANGHI



Brand new leg supports

With Mobility India of Bangalore's technical assistance, MIBLOU undertook the cost of refurbishing. Mariam, who looks after the new workshop, recently obtained her ortho-technician's diploma from MI after one year of intense study. MIBLOU sponsors can be doubly proud of Mariam and her brand new workshop.



Mariam at work

## VILLAGERS NORTH OF BANGALORE APPRECIATE THE SUPPORT THEY GET

Gramina is yet another NGO that appreciates MIBLOU's help. They focus their energies on getting disabled children and parents integrated into village life. Such as making sure local schools accept these children with special needs.

In a small village house, Gramina opened a place where young disabled girls can stay, study, and go to local schools without travelling hassle. Here they are safe from whatever fate could befall them in the outside world. The families of these girls realise, as school results showed, how important it is to also educate them. Especially as it helps them to be independent.



Gramina helper visiting a village

MIBLOU too has invested in the future with Gramina too. We are financially participating in the construction of a small rehabilitation centre to be used for physiotherapy. This includes an ortho-repair workshop. Another room will be used for CBR meetings, medical dispensary, office and conferences.

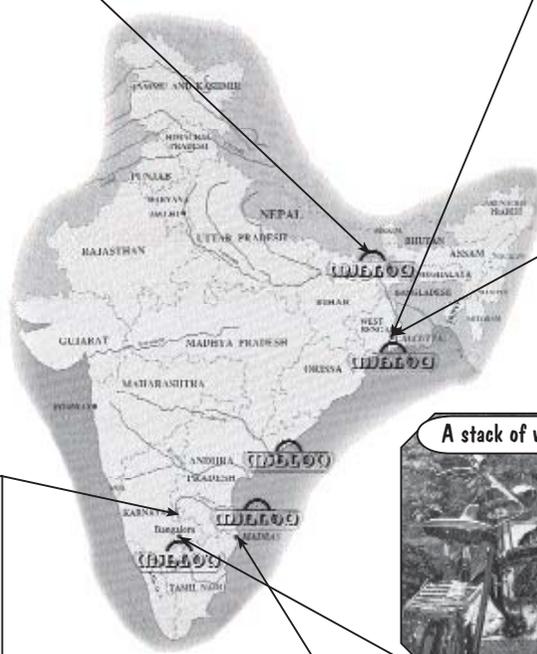


Proud of her new hearing aid

KARNATAKA - GRAMINA



## IN INDIA



KOLKATA - SANCHAR

## TRAINEES COME TOGETHER TO FORM A COOPERATIVE

The foremost and innovative organisation in Kolkata is Sanchar. Our partnership goes back more than 20 years. But over the past four years MIBLOU has been financially supporting a group of 15 young adults, most are hearing impaired. And in that time they've learnt the techniques of embroidery and sewing. Today the quality of their work is of such a high standard they have been selling it very successfully. With the help of some parents, these young people have set up a cooperative. Meanwhile another group has started on the same training scheme. When ready they will join the first group in the cooperative.



The first group on their way to autonomy

## WOMEN FIGHTING FOR THEIR RIGHTS

Subhi is a young women's organisation, it's been just three years since they set up and MIBLOU has helped finance them from the outset. Their work is situated in a rural area south of Kolkata, where green nursery plants are the main income. The Director herself has some disability, and has decided to help other young girls and women in the same predicament. Disabled women in Indian society and elsewhere are without doubt the most vulnerable. Abused, subject to violence – sexual or moral, then left to fend for themselves. Thanks to Subhi's programme, these women have come into the sunlight. Today parents are now convinced they should no longer hide these girls, but help get them accepted by their own and village folk. Subhi is forming strong self-help groups, have organised the acquisition of Disability Cards, have managed to get bus passes, railway concessions and other government aids as small pension. Unfortunately a large majority of disabled people are totally ignorant of their rights. It's only when associations like Subhi start agitating that things finally begin to happen. Another facet of Subhi's work is organising skill training and wire brush making. A training programme which 20 – 22 disabled girls including mothers of disabled children attended. Micro-credits are then given to allow them to set up a workplace in their homes with their parents help.

KOLKATA - SUBHI

A stack of wire brushes ready to deliver



## CHENNAI - THE BANYAN

### RETURN TO THE VILLAGE

Four hundred young girls and women, all with mental health problems, have found some place to go where help is at hand. Yes it's the Banyan Home in South India. Police in Chennai who find an errant woman, know where to send her. Here they are medically treated with the ultimate goal of sending them back to their native villages. That's if investigators find some clues after a long research process. If not the Banyan finds other solutions to help them become independent. It's nothing short of miraculous. The Banyan manages to reinsert at least fifteen women each month back in their home village. MIBLOU is so impressed with the work done here that our support and yours continues.

## BANGALORE - "ASSOCIATION OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY"

### SUCCESSFUL EXPERIMENT "HELP TO STUDY" SPONSORSHIPS

This summer the batch of 30 students sponsored by MIBLOU finished their year's training with flying colours. Twenty-five have already found jobs and five will continue their studies. Our hearty congratulations from us and sponsors. MIBLOU, happy that this experiment has been successful, is more than willing to repeat it. Twenty-five new students are already enrolled in this chance-of-a-lifetime bursary. A chance to learn a trade. A chance to earn a decent salary. A chance for independence. But most important a chance to show they can overcome their disability. A great example.

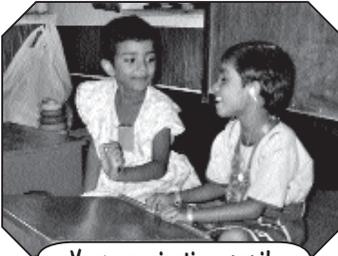


The new 2005 students

**KOLKATA - HOOGHLY**

**SUPPORT GIVEN TO DISABLED CHILDREN IN VILLAGES**

Muktadara, a MIBLOU partner in Hooghly District, West of Kolkata, look after 475 disabled children aged from 0-18 years throughout the forty villages. Muktadara in its CBR work offers a wide variety of assistance, such as getting disabled children integrated in the local school system, physiotherapy, speech therapy, ortho-appliances, hearing aids, or eyeglasses. Vocational training, and small loan programmes allow young adults to open a shop or small workshop.



**Very conscientious pupils**

**Tutoring class**



Families have formed self-help groups that empower them to tear down socio-economic barriers. Once the presently helped villages are autonomous, Muktadara will focus on another group of villages where support is awaited.



**MIBLOU WHAT? WHO? HOW? WHY?**

**At the start of it, a young anglo-swiss couple: Brian & Jo Millar. Unlimited love and respect for children everywhere. They had four "home made" children.**

**Marika, Michel, Martin and Melany.** Then decided to adopt 6 more. All orphans, all from India. Mina, Bablou, Mouni, Mitsi, Joseph and Savita. Now there are 8 grand children too!

Immediately on return of their first trip to India Jo & Brian decided they must try to help its children. MIBLOU was born out of the name of their first adopted **Mina** and **BaBLOU**.

First 50 then 500 and now for 25 years tens of thousands of children have been looked after, nourished, had medical care, orthotics, education and vocational training.

These children are destitute, untouchables, from rural or slum areas living with their downtrodden families.

In 1994, when Brian & Jo retired, their eldest daughter Marika became Executive Director supervising a small committee of voluntary workers.

MIBLOU is a Non Governmental Organisation and assists many local organisations all over India with expertise and financial support. All fighting for the respect of the physical and mentally disabled children, to avoid parents abandoning their offspring. Worse, a child dying due to lack of assistance.

Each partner organisation uses locally employed Indian directors and personal, and is constantly in touch with MIBLOU Geneva, thanks to today's communication systems. MIBLOU is an officially recognised charity in Switzerland and India.

[www.miblou.org](http://www.miblou.org)

**NEW**

Visit our new web site created for us by Mr. Massimo, to whom, our thanks, for his fine work and time graciously offered to Miblou.

**Miblou Greeting Cards**

A local disabled artist in Mogradanghi home paints our greeting cards. The benefit of the sale is destined to renovate the ortho-workshop opened by Miblou.



**MIBLOU IS...**

- ...a brighter tomorrow for disabled children
  - ...support to become self-supporting and autonomous.
  - ...telling the Indian public about disabled children and their rights.
- Thanks to our generous sponsors who allow MIBLOU to assist so many children to lead a better life day after day, for the rest of their lives.

**What your donation can do...**

- \* Cover the cost of an appliance
- \* Buy a wheelchair
- \* Sponsor a disabled child for one year (education and medical)
- \* Sponsor the vocational training for a young disabled adult ...and give support in so many other ways...

**CONTACT US**

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**Behind Miblou – the Millar family**

Founded in 1980 by Brian et Jo Millar



INFO N° 24 December 2004

**2004... TWO HUNDRED SPONSORSHIPS HELP MIBLOU PUT SMILES BACK ON THEIR FACES**

Miblou, working hand in hand with Mobility India has moved into a new and rapidly expanding shantytown outside Bangalore. A first survey not only discovered there were many disabled children but also no infrastructure was available to help. Now 50 of these are sponsored by Miblou.



Today physiotherapists and social workers are searching house-to-house trying to identify those families hiding away any child with a disability. A terrible deep-rooted habit, which still persists

But happily, slowly and surely, these children are coming out the shadows. They will become educated, get healthcare, have operations and if needed be fitted with appliances, or other mobility aids thanks to Miblou's sponsorships. Part of the programme is that parents meet regularly to discuss their children's progress and listen to talks on nutrition, hygiene and money matters.



**Thanks to your help Sweetha before and now**

Micro loans can be obtained to enable parents or disabled young adults to invest in their future.

As always, MIBLOU's objective is to help those sponsored to become socially independent adults whose constitutional rights are respected.

**2005 MIBLOU CELEBRATES 25 YEARS HELPING CHILDREN – WITH YOUR LOYAL HELP.**