

Founded in 1980

by  
Brian et Jo  
Millar

Décembre 2007



...a brighter tomorrow for disabled children  
 ...support to become self-supporting and autonomous.  
 ...informing the Indian public about disability rights.

# 2007: 80 NEWLY SPONSORED CHILDREN

**The result of MIBLOU's program "150 children sponsored" in the slums of Bangalore has been more than satisfactory. Today, MIBLOU has succeeded in giving a relative autonomy to 80 of the sponsored children.**

They received the care adapted to their health situation plus are registered in schools and classes corresponding to their capacities. They can now continue to build their life without MIBLOU's financial support. Naturally, the partner organisation «Mobility India» will continue to visit the slums so as not to lose track of these children. To follow their social progress and respond to their future concerns in relation with their disability. Mobility India will also stay in touch with their parents who formed unions and self help groups over the last few years. The zone of activity of Mobility India and MIBLOU has increased to include two slums in new areas in Bangalore.



The poverty and the lack of access to clean water make living conditions precarious and difficult. Malnutrition and hunger are obviously also present, making children very vulnerable to infectious diseases and illness.

The lack of follow-up during pregnancy, lack of medical care and absence of hygiene during the birth considerably increase the number of children with cerebral palsy.

On the other hand, the cases of polio are finally in slightly diminishing thanks to the numerous vaccinations programs. The general health condition of this population is very bad but goes with its poor economic and social status.

**In these new areas, MIBLOU has taken over the support of 80 new children requiring precise care, medical and social rehabilitation as well as an adequate education.**

***THANKS TO ALL the sponsors concerned by the change over from one child to another we are sure you will open your heart to these new children who need your support.***

.....  
 : Miblou requires that in all its programmes, a particular attention is given to the registration :  
 : of births and deaths. Without any legal identity, children are not entitled to medical care, :  
 : vaccinations or schooling. This burden is even heavier when someone is afflicted with a :  
 : disability... :  
 : At long last, the UNICEF and WHO have finally launch a campaign on this subject in all the :  
 : developing countries, because, to date, 40 % of children born in the world are not registered, :  
 : depriving them of their fundamental right of an identity. A legal recognition of their existence :  
 : by everyone concerned from governments down will open up a better future for them all. :  
 : .....

**STUDY ON THE LIVING CONDITIONS OF THE DISABLED WOMEN IN WEST-BENGAL**

In Kolkata, Miblou has collaborated with an NGO partner for almost 30 years: **Sanchar**. Its priority has always been the improvement of the living conditions of the disabled children in rural environment through CBR support (Community Based Rehabilitation). It allows the parents to accept the disability of their children, to receive all the advice, necessary care and most importantly, helps them not to just abandon them. With its vast experience, «Sanchar» carried out the first in-depth research concerning living conditions of disabled girls and women living in ten districts (on 19) in the State of West-Bengal. Never such a subject of inquiry was taken forward, because disabled people are generally ignored, not having a birth certificate, and are not enough taken into account when there is a national census. Some 59 NGO's working in the villages of the state of Bengal cooperated in this "Sanchar"

survey. 45 of these NGO's did not even include "disability" in their health programmes. The results of this study on disabled women showed, among other results, they were very strongly discriminated. The woman in the Indian society is generally not valued enough, therefore, if she carries a disability, she's even more vulnerable, is rejected and is seen as a burden for her family who find it difficult, if not impossible, to get her married.



*Therapy in the village*

As for men, because of their social status, they are more able to face the life's difficulties, to work and to marry. It also appeared that only 1% of the

disabled people consulted, had any idea about the Government's Person with Disability Act of 1995. Still a lot of awareness is to do.... After these worrying investigation results, which will be shared with the West-Bengal government, a large-scale awareness program was established so that a maximum of disabled girls and women benefit from it. MIBLOU, naturally supports heartily & financially "Sanchar" in the second phase of this programme. Concretely, "Sanchar" has already organized training courses and workshops in order to recruit motivated disabled young women. In spite of their illiteracy, these women received a small awareness training on "all type of disability" which will enable them to organize groups of disabled people. They will be the reference person in the villages. Thanks to this system, rural areas will benefit from support, and in a first step, more than 1000 disabled beneficiaries, will be educated and accompanied in the recognition of their disability. The second part of this enormous survey including the last 9 districts of West-Bengal is now in progress.

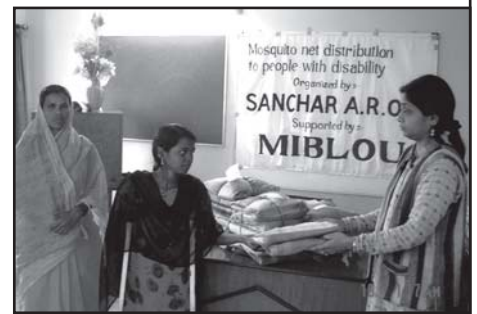
**DISTRIBUTION OF MOSQUITO NETS TO POOR FAMILIES OF KOLKATA**

It was a happy day in deed in the life of these disabled people when they received a mosquito net offered by Miblou!



Malaria has always had dramatic consequences. According to the World Health Organization, every year, more than 500 million people on this planet are seriously affected. And worse, every 30 seconds, a child dies of this disease across the world.

A simple way of prevention is the use of mosquito nets, that is why MIBLOU distributed a few hundreds of them to the families of disabled children of the various NGO partners in Kolkata



**KIRAN - VARANASI** **NEW POST-SURGERY CARE HOME FOR VARANASI CHILDREN**

«Kiran Village» is a centre for disabled children started 17 years ago at a few kilometres out from Varanasi (Benaras), famous town of pilgrimage on the shores of the river Ganges. The centre, arranged like a small village is a home to about fifty children, but also two hundred disabled children come from the neighbouring villages every day to go to special classes. For young adults, small vocational training like bakery, agriculture or animal breeding at the farm are available.

Certain children must undergo important orthopaedic surgery that will enable them to walk one day. This means a long period of convalescence with care and physiotherapy. It cannot be done in the family hut, generally due to



*The new home*

lack of hygiene and space, but also because of the distance from the centre that provides the post-op care and most needed physiotherapy. Each month, eight to ten operated children need to live on the spot with at least one family member and for this, a so adequate place is needed. It is with pleasure that Miblou modestly participated in the construction of a new home that accommodates these children during their convalescence. The children benefit from physiotherapy, medical care, orthopaedic devices and specialized classes.

## MIBLOU AND SPASTIC SOCIETY OF KOLKATA ADD MORE SLUMS TO THEIR WORK

The Spastic Society of Kolkata (IICP), which has 33 years of experience with spastic children continues to work in the slums of Kolkata, thanks to MIBLOU. They collaborate with local NGO's that support the population in the health field. Unfortunately, disabled children are still too often forgotten by these NGO's because ignorant of their needs. They are hundreds of children, teachers, medical and social workers to have already benefited from this programme.

After three years of collaboration, the results are so positive that Miblou decided to renew its support. Since then, the "Spastic Society" immediately extended its sphere of activity towards new slums, and were invited to take part in the vaccination camp organized by the local NGO's with which they work. The social workers met new children; identified the disabled ones and established a plan of treatment for each.

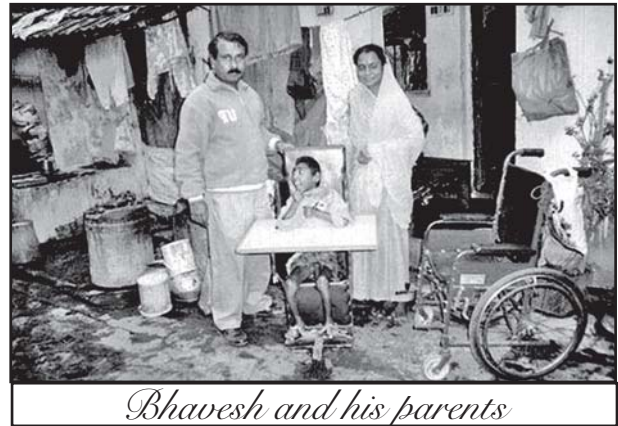
This first contact allowed the «Spastic Society» to meet with the dwellers of these new slums. This brought other parents concerned to the consultations, with the effect that about twenty new children have already benefited from care. Their parents, mainly illiterate and destitute, never knew where to go to apply for the right care for their children.

Then comes the important administrative phase

so that these children can be officially recognized, because more than one third of newborns in India are never registered at birth. They can neither, prove their birth date, their name, nor their nationality. Civil birth registration confers a legal identity and facilitates access to health and education systems. Once registered disabled children will receive, a disability card that allows them to obtain government support.



*Visit to the slum*



*Bhavesh and his parents*

Bhavesh, a 10-year-old spastic boy, is lying, naked, on a plastic sheet; his grandfather takes care of him as his parents have left for daily work. During their first visit, both medical workers of the «Spastic Society» showed the grandfather how Bavesesh could be easily supported to enable him to sit up. Bavesesh smiled because he realised that from now on, they were going to take care of him and that his life will take on a new meaning.

He is going to discover "the basic daily activities", like eating alone, washing himself, etc... If all goes well, this new life will lead Bhavesh towards integration in a specialized class.

## «SELF-HELP GROUPS»: WOMEN UNITE to IMPROVE their LIVING CONDITIONS



*The self help group*

In the slum, mothers of disabled children, generally illiterate and without any training organised a "self-help group". They benefited from microcredits, which will gradually enable them to step up from poverty. This is included in the "Spastic Society" the programme, which is supported by MIBLOU.

With the small sum allocated, they opened, a small snack and tea shop on the roadside. Their success unfortunately brought jealousy, and their stand was ransacked. Their courage intact, they set up a shop elsewhere, but in order to avoid future problems, they intend to buy a cart and hold a itinerant stand.

The profit from this activity will allow these mothers to borrow modest sums; either to pay for special care for their children (surgery, medicines), or for repairs and improvements to their homes (purchase of small furniture for the child, the repair of the roof of the hut, etc.). The improvement of their economic condition contributes to the wellbeing of all the family: while earning more, their children are the first to gain from it. Unfortunately the problem's with

their men, is that they tend to spend their wages in alcohol and in lottery tickets... rather than for self-improvement.

This experiment is so positive that five new mothers have already started tailoring training and soon will be able to open their own shop, with the obvious economic advantages resulting from it.



*The tea shop*

## HOME FOR DISABLED CHILDREN

Since four years, Miblou has supported in its various activities, NGO Gramina, based out of north Bangalore. A few months ago, besides their CBR work in the villages, Gramina opened a house for 30 children suffering from mental deficiency. All live in very remote places, far from any possibility of care and schooling. These children were often left alone at home, during the day, because their parents work in the fields. This home will certainly give them a better chance to evolve in life.

During the holidays, the children have to return to their family so that family tie does not break. Another major reason is that parents, sometimes overtaken by the problems of disability, might tend to abandon their child.

One can see with each passing day the positive evolution in the children's behaviour .

Thanks to a «fund raising campaign» set up in June 07, Miblou has been able to improve the living conditions of these children a little more. This financial support allowed fabricating beds by a local carpenter, so that the children do not sleep on a cold cement floor any more.

Miblou also contributes towards the purchase of medicines for children suffering from epilepsy. The high price of treatment makes it impossible for parents to pay for them.



**A big THANK YOU  
to the donors  
concerned  
by this campaign.**

*Paper bag workshop*

## CONTACT US

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## A NEW VEHICLE

Kolkata's new anti-pollution law's mean that «Sanchar» had to part with its only vehicle. Miblou financed the purchase of a new Tata Sumo which conforms to Indian new ecological standards. This will allow Sanchar to continue its work in rural areas where access is generally very difficult.



## 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...

## THANKS...

... to our generous sponsors who allow MIBLOU since 27 years to assist so many children to lead a better life day after day with dignity.

**www.miblou.org**

## MIBLOU...27 YEARS OF HISTORY

**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 have 9 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 Mlna and BaBLOU.

First 50 then 500 and now for 27 years tens of thousands of children have been looked after, nourished, had medical care, orthotics, physiotherapie, 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.