

Address of Mukhya in Gramsabha

Today we have assembled here to discuss about leprosy. Our Bapu Mahatma Gandhi passed away on 30th of January 1948. He is known for his love and service towards persons suffering from leprosy. That is why 30th January is observed as anti leprosy day and today we are conducting SPARSH LEPROSY AWARENESS CAMPAIGN.

Gandhiji kept the leprosy patients in his ashram and cleaned their wounds with his own hands. He proved to the world that leprosy does not spread by touching.

Leprosy is a disease caused by bacteria. It is very easy to recognize the signs and symptoms of this disease. There are patches on the skin; persons with such problems should be sent to the nearest health facility for diagnosis and treatment. Health facilities provide diagnosis and treatment free of cost. Timely treatment cures the disease and prevents deformities. Any patches on the body should not be neglected and person should go to the hospital for diagnosis.

It is our collective responsibility to make our village leprosy free. Let us help people with signs and symptoms of leprosy to go to the nearest health facility for diagnosis and treatment. We shall now take a pledge to make our village free of leprosy and not to discriminate any person suffering from leprosy.

Dear brothers and sisters

As you are aware that Leprosy is still a problem in our district/country.

Leprosy is a common disease. It is caused by bacteria called Lepra bacilli. It is not contagious and treatment is freely available at all government hospitals and health facilities.

If Leprosy is identified and diagnosed early then it is completely curable and physical disfigurement can be prevented. The duration of treatment is either six or 12 months.

The early signs and symptoms of leprosy are:

- 1. Hypo-pigmented skin patches: One or more than one patch on the skin with loss of sensation, painless, pale and dry**
- 2. Loss of eye-lashes, nodules over ear and ear pinna, and face having oily skin**
- 3. Hand and feet having dryness, loss of sensation, and muscle wasting**

MDT is sure cure for Leprosy. Do not discriminate the person affected by Leprosy. Please give place to person affected by leprosy in family and society and let him lead a normal life.

In our district ----- number of Leprosy cases have been cured

I therefore appeal to all of you to cooperate in this awareness campaign. If you find any person with skin patches as mentioned in the aforesaid message, contact ASHA, Anganwadi worker or health worker and get the person examined.

Name:

District Collector

Name of the district

PLEDGE- Sparsh Leprosy Awareness Campaign

Today I affirm in the event of Mahatma Gandhi's martyrdom day, that I will take care of any persons found to be having patches on the skin with loss of sensation of touch and pain or visible deformity due to leprosy in my family/ neighbourhood / community by guiding him to take full treatment from any government institution near their place of residence.

I will treat them with love and care like my own family member will not discriminate them in any way and treat them with dignity. I will spread the messages of leprosy in the community. Leprosy is curable, early treatment cures leprosy and prevents disabilities and deformities and persons affected by leprosy should not be discriminated.

I pledge that we will work together and fulfil the dream of Mahatma Gandhi to create Leprosy Free India in the near future.