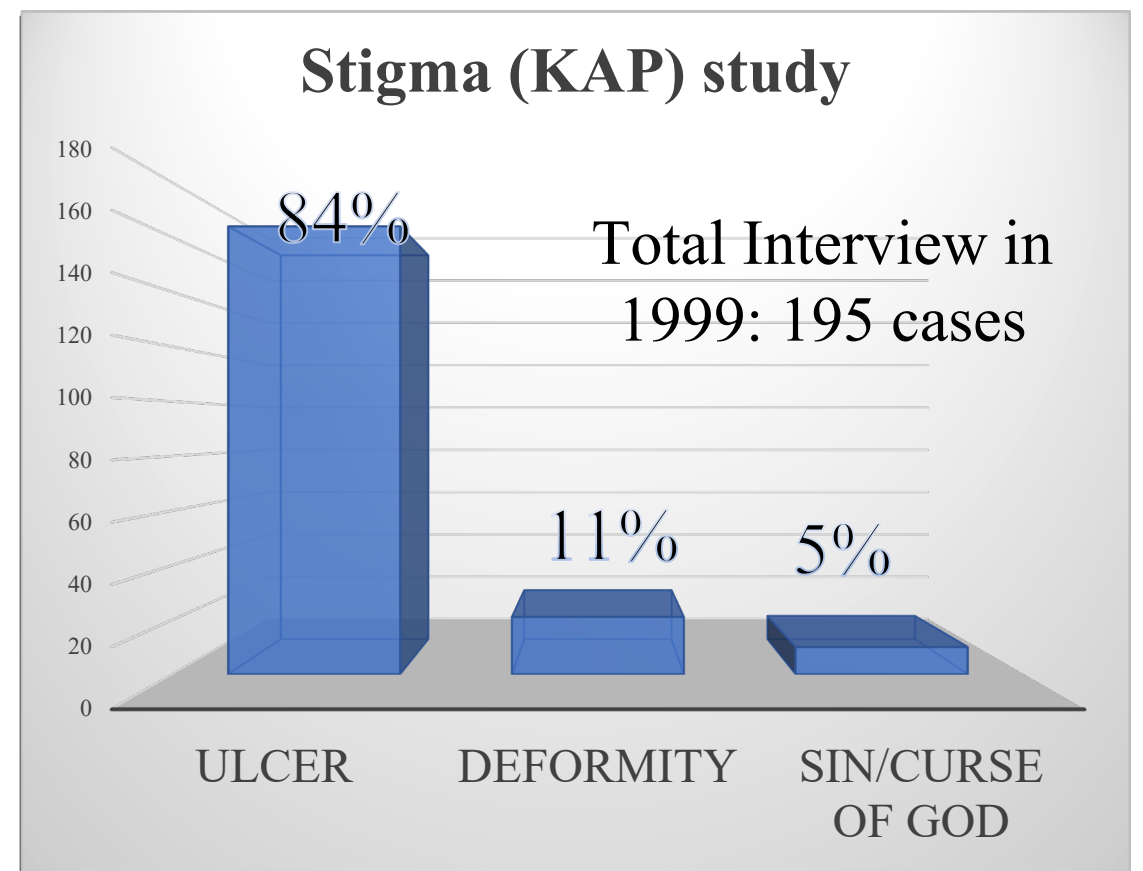


ISSUES TO ADDRESSED

- One of the foremost concerns is the management of ulcers and disabilities that are common among those affected by leprosy. Proper management of these issues is essential for the well-being and quality of life of these individuals.
- In addition to medical management, there is a need to eliminate the stigma surrounding leprosy throughout the community. This can be achieved by raising awareness about the condition and promoting a more inclusive and accepting attitude towards those affected by the disease.
- Creating opportunities for the upliftment of people affected by leprosy is also crucial. This includes providing access to education, vocational training, and employment opportunities. Empowering individuals affected by leprosy can help eliminate conditions surrounding them and promote social inclusion.
- It is essential to raise the voice of those affected by leprosy to ensure that their concerns are heard. This includes advocating for their rights and promoting their inclusion in society.
- Leprosy is often associated with poverty, so making poverty reduction an integral part of any leprosy management strategy is crucial. Providing economic support and promoting sustainable livelihoods can help improve the quality of life for those affected by leprosy.



- Finally, it is important to dignify the lifestyle of those affected by leprosy. This means providing them with the necessary resources and support to live a dignified life and promoting their human rights. By addressing these issues, we can work towards eliminating leprosy and promoting social inclusion for all.

MEASURES TO BE TAKEN

- Training
 - Self-care practice – 2 weeks home based training.
 - Continue self-care (group practice) – follow group rules.
 - Appropriate developmental training.
- CBR Approach
 - 115 SHGs were established (A platform of unity).
 - Saving – enhanced practice (over 3 million saved).
 - Empowerment – skill development/ exposure / responsibilities given
 - Livelihood activities for financial uplift



Self Care Training Centre



Lalgadh's community activities

MEASURES TO BE TAKEN (CONT.)

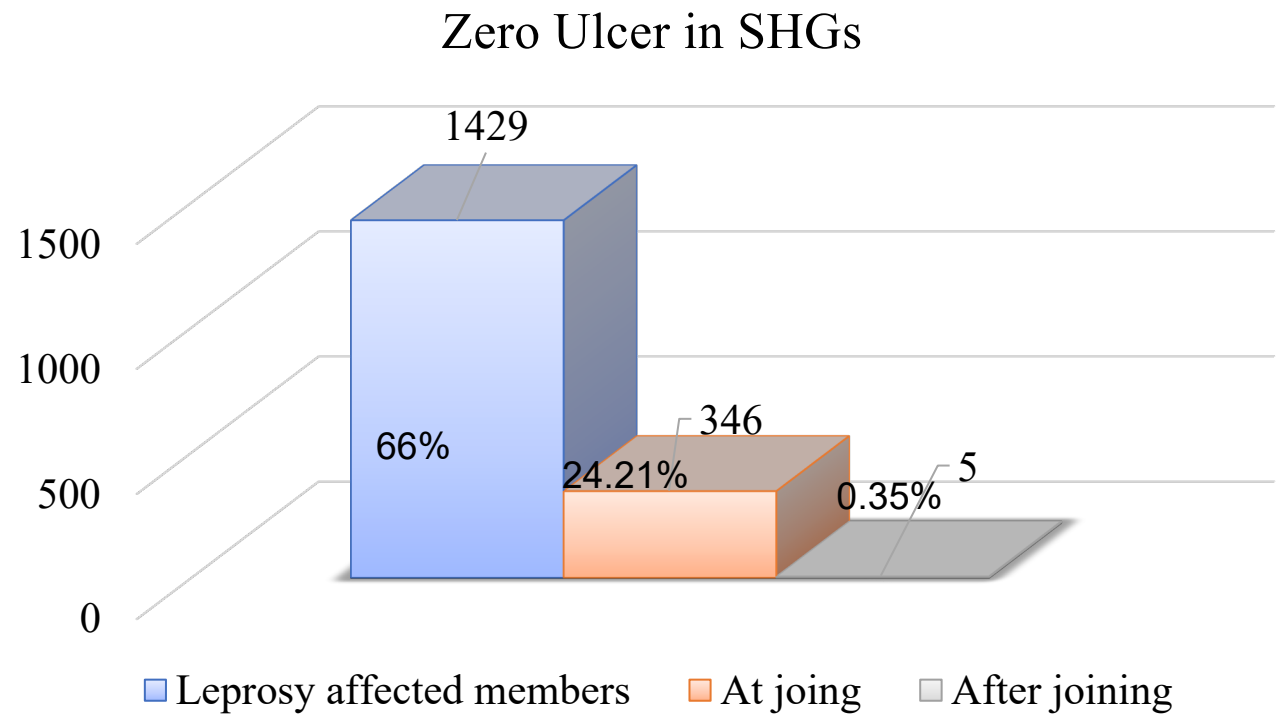
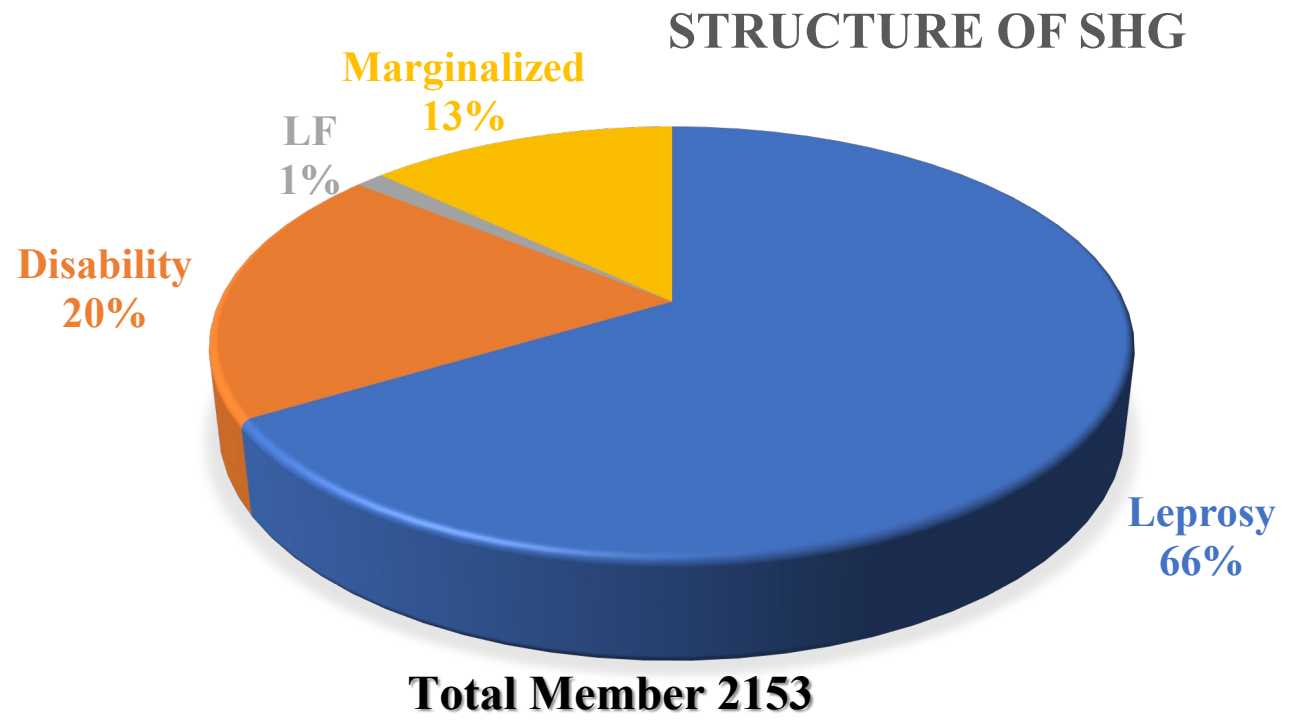
- Advocacy/Linkage
 - Social awareness about leprosy, NTDs, COVID 19.
 - Petition to government for rights, support & fund.
- Catalyst for community
 - Social work like changing agent.
 - Social development activities (construct road, encourage to make toilet, distribute mask & pump let during COVID 19 etc.).
- Social Inclusion Activities
 - Common feast to community people by SHGs.
 - Integrated literacy program
 - Blood donation by people affected by leprosy.



Street cleaning (hygiene) organized by SHG

RESULTS / ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Physical/Personal
 - No more ulcer in SHGs - ulcer healed (Before 346 & after 5 people)
 - Physical/Mental/Financial well being.
 - Individual saved money.



- Social
 - Regained dignity – participating in all social events
 - Social inclusion – 11 people elected at the local governments
 - Hearing voices of people affected by leprosy
 - Respecting decisions of people affected by leprosy

RESULTS / ACCOMPLISHMENTS (CONT.)

- Medical – Leprosy
 - 1,365 new leprosy case diagnosed by facilitators
 - 7 peoples' life were saved – blood pressure checked by facilitators; referral to hospitals were made on time
 - Participating in leprosy control program
- Mental health
 - Strong confidence level was observed
 - People affected by leprosy were able to articulate their thoughts better– listening to their voices are significantly important
 - Open on their disease - leprosy
- Employment
 - Over 200 people were offered jobs after technical and non technical trainings and courses



LESSONS LEARNT

- After years of experience in the field of CBR, it has become apparent that an integrated approach is one of the best practices to adopt. CBR programs that have integrated approaches in their implementation have yielded better results and greater impact. However, it is essential to expand this approach to other areas as well. This will help to ensure that the benefits of CBR are not limited to a specific group of individuals or region.
- Another aspect that we have learned is the significance of self-care practices in groups. When individuals participate in group activities, there is a positive competition that arises, and this motivates them to take better care of themselves. Self-care practices are essential, especially for people living with disabilities or chronic illnesses. Encouraging these practices in a group setting can help to create a supportive network that provides encouragement and motivation to its members.
- It is also worth mentioning that people affected by leprosy can be great mentors for the elimination of the disease. They have personal experience and insights that can be invaluable in educating others about the disease and helping to remove the stigma in society. Furthermore, they can be a source of hope for those who are currently dealing with the disease, showing them that it is possible to live a full and happy life.
- In addition to the above-mentioned points, it is crucial to think about the welfare of facilitators as well. Facilitators play a vital role in the implementation of CBR programs, and their well-being should not be overlooked. Supportive measures such as regular training, feedback sessions, and opportunities for professional development can help to ensure that facilitators are motivated and committed to their work.
- Lastly, the ownership of the government should be taken to ensure the sustainability of CBR programs. Governments must recognize the importance of CBR and allocate resources and funds to support it. This will help to ensure that CBR programs continue to make a positive impact on the lives of people living with disabilities and chronic illnesses.

LESSONS LEARNT (CONT.)

- Peer educator approaches are more effective
- Partnership with government is essential
- Cross cutting studies & integrated programs are needed
- Learning by doing – a sense of interest is key
- Literacy programs are essential. There is also a need of empowerment of the people concerned



NEXT STEPS

- Build partnership for leprosy elimination at each community level.
- Strengthen cooperation with SHG and prepare an expansion in other areas.
- Develop peers/educators in collaboration with leprosy organizations such as SHG, donors and governments.
- Prepare for the establishment of a federation.
- Put more focus on rights based advocacy activities
- Conduct research and relevant studies
- Launch social development and inclusion activities.
- Promote education champions – support for the best & poor affected people
- Facilitate group business (factory/cooperative).
- Develop documentary videos about SHG/leprosy/LF - NTDs
- Continue leprosy campaigns - a leprosy dedicated flag will be shown on top of Mt. Everest

