

Jamkhed, India—home of the CRHP

The highlight of every LWR study tour through India is a visit to Jamkhed to meet Drs. Rajanikant and Mabelle Arole to learn about the work of their Comprehensive Rural Health Project.

Founded in 1970, and supported by LWR from the earliest years, the CRHP serves a region of India that was never reached by government health workers or private physicians.

Over the years scores of women have acquired knowledge and skill in health and development, which in turn helped improve the lives of a

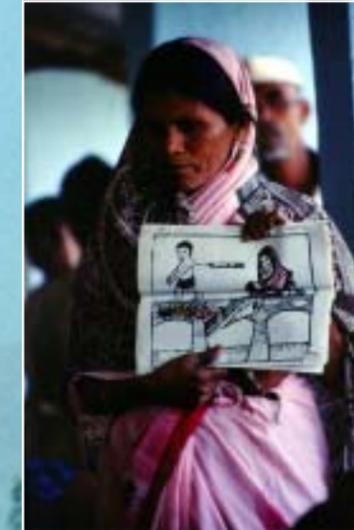
quarter million people living in 175 villages. Infant mortality has been drastically reduced. Formerly poor, illiterate women now work as highly skilled and greatly respected village health workers.

Land that only 20 years ago was left eroded and barren by the monsoon rains now produces bumper crops since the villagers learned to organize and cooperate with each other to build dams, dig irrigation wells, and reforest the hillsides by planting over 200,000 trees.

Today the Aroles share their

formula of empowerment, education and cooperation with people in Latin America and Africa, convinced that the principles they learned in Jamkhed can be applied elsewhere.

However, they caution donors who are looking for quick fixes that the pace of life in developing villages is slow. Villagers carefully weigh all the options before deciding what to do. And yet, through the process of recognizing and sharing the resources of everyone in the village, communities can claim their right to health.



YAMUNABIA HAS WORKED AS A VILLAGE HEALTH WORKER IN GHODEGAGON for the past 17 years. Here she uses flash cards to teach young mothers how to keep their children on the road to good health. The bridge—built of nutritious foods and an immunization against childhood diseases—keeps the youngster on the right track. According to a village woman,

“Yamunabia is more than a doctor to us. She has taught us home remedies for illness like coughs, fevers and diarrhea. But more than that she teaches us how to keep from falling sick.” In past years 10 to 15 village children died every year. “Now hardly a baby dies.”

SINCE 1994 LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF HAS PROVIDED MORE THAN \$40,000 to the CRHP's mobile orthopedic appliance unit. Every year 600 people get new limbs which enable them to walk, ride bicycles and even climb trees. The limbs are designed to be flexible enough for Indians to sit in their favorite cross-legged positions, and affordable enough (between \$14 and \$28) so that all who need them can get them



EVERY YEAR TWO MILLION INDIAN CHILDREN DIE from dehydration—a complication of diarrhea. Yet a simple mixture of water, sugar, salt and the juice of a lime could prevent every one of these deaths.

At the CRHP preschool all the children learn the recipe for this medicine through the words and actions of a melodic children's song.



A STUDENT AT A CRHP SCHOOL MAKES a design with powdered chalk on the floor outside her classroom.



DR. SHOBHA AROLE CARRIES ON THE WORK BEGUN BY HER PARENTS as the current director of the CRHP/ She is also a surgeon and a renowned authority on snake bite treatment. At the CRHP Hospital, Arole introduced the group to a man bit by a cobra while harvesting sugar cane. After a few days of treatment he returned to work. Note the LWR quilt. Patients at the CRHP Hospital take the quilts home with them after they recover from their illness or injuries.