



The Leprosy Mission
Trust India

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Sapna, the Leprosy Awareness Campaign Mascot Speaks...

'Did You Know' awareness series on
leprosy - #SapnaSpeak

DID YOU KNOW?

Leprosy is not a hereditary disease. It does not pass from a parent to a child. Leprosy is an infectious disease caused by a bacterium, *Mycobacterium leprae*.

Leprosy is one of the least infectious diseases and it is completely curable.

#SapnaSpeak

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DID YOU KNOW?

Leprosy is not the result
of past sins or immoral
behaviour.

Leprosy is caused by a bacterium
called *Mycobacterium leprae*.

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DID YOU KNOW?

Leprosy is not a disease of the past.

Leprosy is still prevalent in 125 countries where 2,08,619 new cases were detected in 2018.

Over 345 people are diagnosed with leprosy every day in India.

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DID YOU KNOW?

Leprosy is caused by a slow-growing type of bacterium called *Mycobacterium leprae* (M.leprae).

M. leprae multiplies very slowly and the incubation period of the disease is considered to be about five years.

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DID YOU KNOW?

Leprosy is transmitted by air through droplets from the nose and mouth during close and frequent contacts with untreated cases.

Leprosy is one of the least infectious diseases.

Over 99% of the population has adequate natural immunity.

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DID YOU KNOW?

Leprosy usually starts as a painless skin patch that may be slightly red, darker or lighter than the normal skin.

The skin patch will have reduced/loss of sensation. It can be anywhere on the body.

It is important to see a health worker or a doctor as soon as one notices any of these skin changes.

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DID YOU KNOW?

Leprosy mainly affects the skin, peripheral nerves, mucosa of the upper respiratory tract, and also the eyes.

Untreated, leprosy can cause progressive and permanent damage to the skin, nerves, limbs and eyes.

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DID YOU KNOW?

Leprosy is curable with multidrug therapy (MDT) within 6–12 months.

MDT taken regularly ensures complete cure, prevents deformities, and stops transmission to other individuals.

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DID YOU KNOW?

Disability due to leprosy is not just a physical problem. It leads to social stigma and discrimination as well.

Early diagnosis and treatment can prevent disabilities due to leprosy.

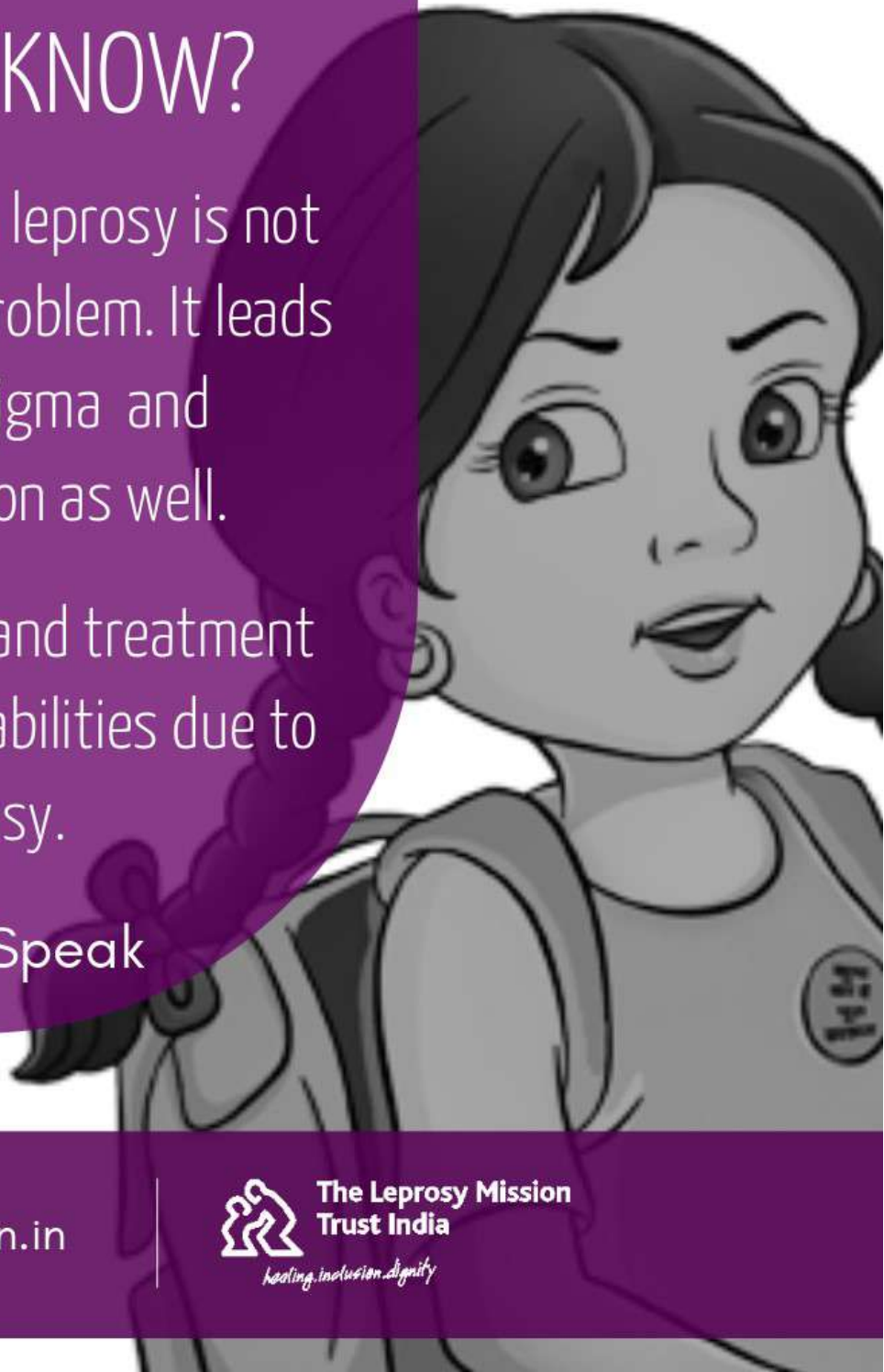
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DID YOU KNOW?

People affected by leprosy often experience rejection, shame and social exclusion because of the stigma associated with the disease.

Leprosy robs them of their health, social life and human rights.

This, even when the Constitution of India guarantees them right to life, equality and non-discrimination.

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