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Jaipur Foot Camp Brings Renewed Hope to Landmine Victims in Kabul

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Help Handicapped International

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Faribo, a 23-year-old girl and resident of Kabul, Afghanistan, lost both of her legs in a landmine explosion. After an advertisement on television, Faribo heard about the Jaipur Foot Camp. She visited the camp in Kabul, realizing her dream of walking again.

The Jaipur Foot Camp is a unique experience both for Help Handicapped International (HHI) as well as the amputees. HHI staff went to some health centers around Kabul and requested that they send their handicapped patients for free fitting of the prosthesis. The multi-media coverage helped to mobilize beneficiaries and over 400 limbs were fitted at the camp within a one-month period.

The camp was a unique experience both for HHI as well as the amputees. Indo-Afghan relations have always been warm, so the HHI team was well-received, and they built a rapport with the local officials, beneficiaries and the technicians.

Conclusion

The experiences related by some of the amputees were heart-wrenching. The joy of being able to walk again within a few hours of entering the Jaipur Foot Camp was a sight worth seeing. Dr. Najeeb, a practicing medical doctor in Paghman (about 40 km from Kabul) came to the camp on a Friday when his clinic was closed. Being a landmine-ambusher himself, he understood the plight of the hundreds of thousands of his countrymen waiting for prostheses. He said, "I am really grateful to this team from India carrying out such humanitarian work."

The concerned ministries of the government of Afghanistan were also very cooperative and requested that HHI organize more camps, especially in the provinces where humanitarian activity has been very limited. After the severe Afghanistan winter, HHI plans to conduct additional camps in Gharm, Kohat, Jalalabad, Mazar-e-Sharif and Kandahar provinces.

Faribo, a landmine-ambusher herself, was overjoyed to receive her new prosthesis. She was able to walk again and was grateful to the team from India for their efforts.

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