

Founder
T. Saraswathi Devi

“Teaching is an act of Love and Affection”

Play Therapy

Mental retardation knows no national boundaries.
That is why LEBENSHILFE-Germany gave initial support to start Lebenshilfe-Visakhapatnam in India. The German Lebenshilfe was founded in 1958 by Mr. Tom Mutters, a dutchman with 15 members. Today it is spread all over the country, receiving support from many parents and wellwishers. In German 'Leben' means life and 'Hilfe' means help. 'Lebenshilfe' thus means Life Help.

Lebenshilfe-Visakhapatnam

was started in 1980 with 12 children by Mrs. Saraswathi Devi, a special educationist (USA) and an intensive trainee of Lebenshilfe, Germany, as a voluntary, private and non-profitable organisation. It was inaugurated by Mr. Tom Mutters. Today it is looking after 425 mentally handicapped persons of all ages, hailing from poorer sections of the society. Lebenshilfe is located on the beach road, opposite Appu Ghar, in a building allocated by the Municipal Corporation of Visakhapatnam. This organisation has 120 well trained and most dedicated staff. The managing committee is headed by Sri V. B. V. Reddy.



Family Counselling



Speech Therapy

Main Objective
To support the mentally handicapped to become useful human beings without being a burden either to the society or to their families.

Aims

1. To drive the mentally handicapped towards economic independence.
2. To provide moral support to their parents and families.

Areas of Operation

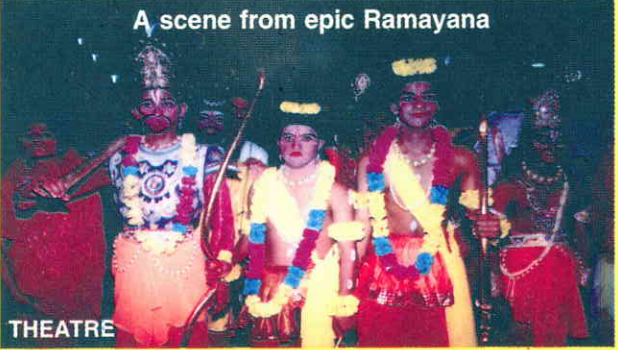
1. Special School
2. Upadhi – Pre - vocational Training Unit
3. Parent Counselling
4. Staff Orientation
5. Siblings Education and Recreation



Tabla - Instrumental Therapy

Mode of Training

1. Each child is taught under methodical guidance in a homely atmosphere.
2. Lebenshilfe special school initiates simplest thinking process in the children and prepares them for an emotional participation.
3. Constant repetition to master the skills is given.
4. Definite goals are set and each child is encouraged to complete a given task as per the individual ability.
5. Steps for necessary social integration are taken right from the beginning.



A scene from epic Ramayana

THEATRE

Therapies Involved

1. Speech Therapy
2. Physiotherapy
3. Play Therapy
4. Yoga Therapy
5. Dance Therapy
6. Music Therapy
7. Instrumental Therapy
8. Tiger Dance Therapy
9. Theatre
10. Group Therapy
11. Spiritual Therapy
12. Sports & Games

Academic Skills

Children are taught Alphabet, Arithmetic, concept formation, drawing and painting, self-help skills, general knowledge etc. as per their capability to learn.



Carpentry: Making Wooden toys – Vegetables, etc

'UPADHI' - Pre-vocational Training Unit Offers:

1. Carpentry
2. Book-binding
3. Envelope-making
4. Kitchen-management
5. Cafeteria
6. Candle Making
7. Horticulture - Vegetable growing,
8. Sewing
9. Handicrafts - Toys, Woollen Mufflers, Telefon Mats
10. Leaf Plate Making,
11. Tailoring - Embroidery
11. Screen Printing: T-Shirts, Visiting, Wedding and Greeting-Cards etc.
12. Cleaning Material: Phynyl, Washing Powder etc.

Tiger Dance Therapy



TIGER DANCE THERAPY PRESENTATION

This therapy was developed by T. Saraswathi Devi the founder with a research value utilising the folk form of art of Andhra Pradesh to improve the mentally handicapped both physically and mentally. She tried to translate the irregular movements of the mentally handicapped into meaningful gestures through this therapy. It is yielding wonderful results and drawing rapid global attention. Papers presented on this therapy in various International Conventions were greatly applauded and highly appreciated.

Lebenshilfe Sports Club

Encourages each child for fullest participation in both indoor and outdoor games. Several hundreds of medals won by Lebenshilfe kids during the Special Olympics at District, State and National levels speak on the strength of this sports club.

Siblings Education and Recreation

Lebenshilfe organises seminars for siblings to educate them focusing their responsibility. It also conducts sport events encouraging integration of handicapped and non-handicapped.

Transport

Lebenshilfe has a mini bus to transport a few children to the Spl. School and also to organise field trips to educate them in an open environment.

Hostel Facility

105 Mentally handicapped, age ranging from 2 to 40 years and above are residing in the hostel. More than 100 are wait-listed for a placement due to lack of sufficient accommodation.

Future Plans

1. To start a Sheltered **WORKSHOP—“CHALLENGE”** to promote income-generating activities.
2. To expand the hostel facility.
3. To construct a model Lebenshilfe Institute providing reasonable facilities to train the mentally handicapped of all ages.
4. To set up homes for the aged disabled.
5. To start Lebenshilfe centers in rural and tribal areas.
6. To develop physiotherapy and Speech Therapy units with full equipment.
7. To start a **TOY LIBRARY.**



On the way to
PHYSIOTHERAPY

Whose responsibility?

It is the collective responsibility of families concerned, professionals committed and government elected. Everyone in the society should shoulder the responsibility and work together for the potential development of the mentally handicapped without leaving them to their fate.

Help us to become self sufficient

1. By purchasing the products of Lebenshilfe.
2. By adopting a Child, costing Rs. 800/- or \$20 per month.
3. By adopting a Teacher / Therapist / Ahah (helper), costing Rs. 4000 (\$100) 3000/- (\$75) 2000/- (\$ 50) per month respectively.
4. By supporting construction of buildings and the proposed sheltered workshop — **“CHALLENGE”**
5. By donating liberally to Lebenshilfe's corpus fund.



Lebenshilfe extends free training facilities together with good food and reasonable accomodation to the kids. Strengthen our hands economically by making generous donations. All donations made to Lebenshilfe are exempted from Income Tax under Section 80 G of Income Tax Act 1961. Names of donors are prominently displayed at the centre and acknowledged gratefully.

Lebenshilfe's Services are recognised world wide.

Contact Person: **T. Saraswathi Devi**

**Founder, Secretary General & Executive Director
Lebenshilfe for the Mentally Handicapped**

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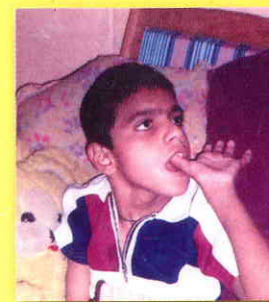
They too can lead a meaningful Life

Space Donor

Great humanitarian,
SRI V. B. V. REDDY
President, *Lebenshilfe*
Visakhapatnam - 530 002



**Am I really
Useless?
what about my
Future?**



**Am I really
burdensome?
Who takes care
of me after my
Parents?**



**Why worry ?
when we have
Lebenshilfe!**

In 21 years of selfless and sincere services

Lebenshilfe (regd.)

Association for the Mentally Handicapped

Visakhapatnam AP INDIA

