

# Winnipeg-Delhi: Reflections on a Twinning Partnership

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**From 2010-2013, the Hemophilia Society [Delhi] (HSD) and the Manitoba Pediatric Bleeding Disorder program participated as partners in a treatment center twinning. At the outset, we recognized the need for increased awareness and advocacy in Delhi, as well as capacity building within the HSD outpatient clinic.**

## Outreach and infrastructure

Our activities were planned to address the needs of the patients of HSD, focusing both on large scale outreach activities and small scale infrastructure support. Our inaugural International Symposium on Hemophilia in 2010, directed at physicians, nurses, and patients, was followed in 2011 by our International Introductory Course on Hemophilia, aimed at smaller groups of front-line physicians. Complementary with these events were mentorship and training events focusing on laboratory diagnostics and physiotherapy support.

## Changing mandate with evolution of care providers

Over the course of our partnership, the provision of hemophilia care in Delhi changed substantially, with the emergence of a strong, government-supported day care clinic. With this well-resourced multidisciplinary clinic and the availability of government-funded factor replacement, the role of HSD in clinical care declined. The focus of our twinning moved to assisting HSD in transition to a patient support organization, which was their original founding mandate. The development of a youth group in 2012 was a key step in this transition, and their ongoing activities are key to the successful future of HSD.

## Benefits back at home

The benefits of twinning to the Manitoba program were less direct. Through ongoing updates of the challenges and realities of hemophilia care in India, the patients in Winnipeg have hopefully learned a greater appreciation of the value of their therapy, and a deeper respect for their access to treatment products and prophylaxis. The role of physiotherapy and supportive care, which is so obvious when there is limited factor replacement, was also clearly reinforced.

**At the end of four years, our efforts have led to better opportunities for patients and caregivers in both Delhi and Winnipeg, and should continue to yield benefits to both centers beyond the conclusion of our partnership.**

