PINGALWARA: IN LETTER & SPIRIT

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THESIS PLANS

- Summer of 2016
- Six weeks
- Stayed mostly at Pingalwara
- Experience
PUNJAB, INDIA
AMRITSAR, PUNJAB

Overpopulated City

Busy Poverty
THE INDIAN CASTE SYSTEM

- India is structured with the caste system
  - Higher castes
    - Honor, respect, purity
  - Lower castes
    - disgust, untouchable
  - The influence and result of this caste system is used as the foundation for discrimination, selectivity, and helplessness for those belonging to a lower caste.
India is one of the least inclusive countries with regards to individuals who have a disability (Isaac, 2005).

For the elderly in India who have a disability, there is limited availability of health facilities (Lahariya, Khandekar, Pradhan, 2012).

Individuals aged 50 or older in lower castes experienced poorer health and higher levels of disability than those belonging to a higher caste (Kowal, Afshar, 2015)
Children born into lower castes are more vulnerable to obtain infections and diseases than individuals in a higher caste (Vart, Jaglan, Shafique, 2015).

Suggests that the longer an individual is exposed to poverty and poorer conditions, the more likely the individual will experience a future disability or illness.

Individuals with disabilities have a greater risk of physical, sexual, and emotional abuse and violence (Dawn, 2013).

Specifically, women with disabilities were the greatest at risk population for physical, sexual, and emotional abuse and violence (Dawn, 2013).
India is known for its stigma towards individuals with diseases and/or disorders.

In a study of perceptions of people who had contracted tuberculosis, individuals still stigmatized patients even after completion of the treatment and being cured of tuberculosis. (Rajeswari, Muniyandi, Balasubramanian, Narayanan, 2005).

In fact, the stigma was still so relevant that some patients gave wrong names and addresses to avoid being connected to the conducted study (Rajeswari, Muniyandi, Balasubramanian, Narayanan, 2005).
STIGMA OF DISABILITIES

- Many factors:
  - Little to no knowledge
    - Limited awareness of mental illness
  - Little to no recognition for disabilities
  - Lack of governmental aid
  - Limited facilities and hospitals for this population
  - Social “embrassement”
WHAT IS PINGALWARA?

- Pingalwara
- Pingal = disabled
- Wara = house
- A house for the disabled
- An orphanage for individuals abandoned because of their disability, age, or sex.
PINGALWARA FACILITIES

- 8 Branches
- Organic Farm & Research Center
- Ambulances and Trauma Vans
- Prosthetic Centre
- Physical Therapy Centre
- Dental Care
- Eye Care
PINGALWARA FACILITIES

- Elderly Care Facility
- Typically Developing School
- School for the Deaf
- Special Education School
PINGALWARA’S RESIDENTS

- Houses more than 1,000 residents:
  - Cognitively impaired
  - Polio, paralysis
  - Unable to hear
  - Elderly
  - Physically impaired
  - TB
PINGALWARA’S RESIDENTS

- Blind
- AIDS/HIV
- Epilepsy
- Cancer
- Diabetes
- Typically developing children
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REFERENCES


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THANK YOU!