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**CASE STUDY SERIES**

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## Jaipur Foot: Challenging Convention

At age 14, Sudha Chandran, an aspiring dancer, lost her right limb in a car accident. Devastated and convinced she would never walk, let alone dance again, she spent several months on crutches. Then one day in 1984, she read about Jaipur Foot.

There are five and a half million amputees in India just like Sudha Chandran. In addition, each year, according to one estimate an additional 25,000 people lose their limbs due to diseases, accidents or other hazards. The majority of these people are well below the poverty line and cannot afford healthcare or medical services.<sup>1</sup> In a world where prosthesis is a complicated and expensive industry, there is hope for these patients. However, nestled in the desert of Rajasthan is an operation of impressive scope that offers hope to the some of the most impoverished citizens of India and maybe even the world. It offers these handicapped citizens a chance to return to their livelihoods and pursue their dreams. This operation is called Jaipur Foot.

### THE INNOVATION. . .

**A prosthetic foot in the U.S. averages \$8,000. The Jaipur Foot is tailored to the active life styles of the poor and costs only about \$30 - and it is given away free to the many handicapped poor who have lost a limb.**

Developed in 1968, Jaipur Foot is a hand-made artificial foot and lower limb prosthesis.<sup>2</sup> It has revolutionized life for tens of thousands of amputees around the world. This foot was originally designed to meet the needs of a developing country lifestyle such as squatting, barefoot walking and cross-legged sitting. Primarily fabricated and fitted by Bhagwan Mahaveer Viklang Sahayata Samiti (BMVSS), a non-governmental, non-religious and nonprofit organization, Jaipur Foot is fitted on approximately

This report was written by Scott Macke, Ruchi Misra and Ajay Sharma under the supervision of Professor C.K.Prahalad. The reports are intended to be catalysts for discussion and are not intended to illustrate effective or ineffective Strategies.

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