

Challenging Positions in Disability Research

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Baba Amte's Anandwan Leprosy Project shows world making potential

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Key words: India, Mahatma Gandhi, Disability, Leprosy, Baba Amte, Anandwan

Introduction: “Once in a while you will stumble upon the truth
but most of us manage to pick ourselves up and hurry along
as if nothing had happened”

Aim: Lepers want parity not charity

“Do not mourn for what you have lost
And do not insult what you still have
Make the best and most of it” – Baba Amte

Method: Working with and drawing on their narratives during four long stays in the
field

“Memory is like a bud,
Its petals are tightly curled;
Open one, and the others loosen slowly.
One detail leads to another, until you get completely lost
Each memory clamours for inclusion”

Findings: Muslim, Christian and Hindu leprosy affected guys forget their past and
come together to draw a new road map for themselves in the Indian village of
Anandwan in the State of Maharashtra.

Sheikh Karim Mohammed and Salima
Govindrao Fulzile and Bhagirathi
Mahadev Kond and Leela

“Life has taught us that love does not consist in gazing at each other
But in looking together in the same direction”

Conclusion: “I sought my soul, my soul I could not see
I sought my god, my God eluded me
I sought my brother, I found all three” – Baba Amte