

**Society for Community Health Awareness, Research and Action**

## **SOCHARA ANNUAL REPORT - 2011 - 2012**

### **SOCHARA AT THE 20<sup>TH</sup> YEAR MILESTONE**



The SOCHARA LOGO is a new one developed during the 20<sup>th</sup> year, keeping in mind progress over the years and evolution of the SOCHARA School of Public Health, Equity and Action (SOPHEA). The colour yellow symbolizes optimistic hope and enthusiasm. The joyful figures symbolize community centredness and community participation as one of the core strengths supporting the work of the teams. The tag line ‘building community health’ captures in three words our mandate and direction. The intertwined design indicates the complex determinants of health that are interlinked and that need to be transformed as we progress as a society towards Health for All. The empty space within, suffused in yellow, indicates the creative inner space that all team members and members of the community can draw upon to get the energy to work for Health for All and to sustain this over long periods of time, through periods of struggle and achievement.

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## **I. THE OBJECTIVES OF SOCHARA**

- 1. To create an awareness regarding the principles and practice of community health**
- 2. To promote and support community health action**
- 3. To undertake research on community health and development**
- 4. To evolve educational strategies in community health**
- 5. To dialogue with health planners, policy makers and implementers and**
- 6. To establish a library, documentation and information centre in community health.**

The Objectives of the Society developed with thought and care in 1991 have been the steering axes for the work undertaken by the teams in the different units and sub-units over the year, as they have over the past two decades.

## **THE ANNUAL REPORT**

SOCHARA was registered as a Society with six key broad objectives (along with others) in its Memorandum of Association in April 1991. Ever since its formation (and since its inception as the Community Health Cell - CHC in 1984), these objectives have guided our action. With the expansion of its presence into Tamilnadu and Madhya Pradesh with the establishment of the Chennai CHC Extension Unit (CEU) in 2004, and the Center for Public Health and Equity (CPHE) with an office in Bangalore and Bhopal in 2008-9 during the silver jubilee of Community Health Cell the scope and levels at which we work have increased tremendously. However the focus continues to be the founding objectives under which the report is presented. In addition this year we add a section on our efforts towards the realization of the dream of establishing / evolving into an alternative, civil society based School of Public Health Equity and Action (SOPHEA).

While each of the units have one or two major projects that they are presently focusing on, all of the units are also working on a number of other processes and activities, which as reflected in the following report represents a significant body of work under all the six objectives.

## 2. OBJECTIVE ONE

### To create an awareness regarding the principles and practice of community health

#### CHC – Bangalore

The CHC team in Bangalore conducted a several training programs to create awareness regarding the principles and practice of community health. The following key trainings are described as being indicative of work done:

#### ***Training on “Health for All – Concepts, Challenges and Strategies”, (16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> Nov 2011)***

To strengthen the JAABU network, a 2 day capacity building workshop on “**Health for All – Concepts, Challenges and Strategies**” was organized by CHC. Thirty two members from various organizations working with urban slums on health related issues attended. The topics covered were Concept of Health, Social Determinants of Health, Alma-Atta declaration, Bangalore health system, People’s Health Charter (National and Global) and Millennium Development Goals.

#### ***Workshop on NRHM Organized by Grameena Mahila Okkuta (26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> March 2012)***

Wada Na Thodo Abhiyan, New Delhi and Grameena Mahila Okkuta, Kolar jointly organized a two day work shop on the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) to create awareness among elected representatives on the Health System, functions of NRHM, their roles and responsibilities in NRHM, the status of its implementation, and the gaps identified during the implementation. Fifteen District, Sub-district and Village Panchayat members, and Grameena Mahila Okkuta network partners attended. CHC Bangalore team members participated as resource persons.

#### **Community Health Cell Extension Unit – Chennai (CEU)**

The team members attended conferences / workshops where the work especially on the CAH project and the community health approach being explored through this were shared. The team also conducted trainings and workshops for other partners in Tamilnadu on the Community Health approach.

One of the conferences was the ***Convening of Practitioners of Community Monitoring*** that was facilitated by the Open Society Institute under their Accountability and Monitoring in Health Initiative (AMHI). In this conference held in July 2011 at Johannesburg Rakhal attended and presented the various aspects of the CAH project.

Rakhal attended the ***Third National Health assembly of Thailand*** in Bangkok between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> of February 2012. He was invited by the Government as one of nearly 20 foreign observers invited. The government had arranged translation into english for a few of the sessions that the observers attended.

Ameer and Rakhal made presentations on the Community Health approach as used in the Community Action for Health Project in the ***Annual conference of the Catholic Health Association of Tamilnadu..***

Rakhal and Ameer facilitated a ***two day workshop for the Sisters of the Holy Cross***. This was held at the mission hospital in Batlagundu in Dindigul district and explored ways in which the sisters who

were predominantly based in dispensaries and small clinics could begin working with communities.

As part of the capacity building of the various staff of the CAH project the Chennai team facilitated intensive *refresher trainings for the Block and District Coordinators* who are the key persons to support the project at the block and panchayat level. In the reporting period a total of 7 days of training was facilitated in July 2011 and February 2012

At present *journalists from three leading English and a few Tamil papers* are regularly in touch with CEU team members for a number of issues. The CEU team members see this interaction which is on a varied range of issues from Community involvement, vector borne diseases, information systems and health systems, immunization, health system etc.

### **Center for Public Health and Equity – Bangalore**

- A special session on “**Communication for Health**” was held in CPHE for all CHC /CPHE team members in May 2011 in which SOCHARA’s efforts at communication over the years was reviewed and some CD’s presented.
- A **Community Health Orientation** course was held for Sisters of Presentation Convent from all over India in Bangalore in July 2011
- TN chaired a session on **Community Health and Development** at a training for South India Partners of Basic Needs India (BNI) in Chennai in September 2011.
- TN was the key note speaker at the Annual General Body Meeting of the Sisters Doctors forum of India and presented a talk on “**Let the Girl Child Live**”
- TN was a key note speaker at the Tata Institute of Social Sciences Platinum Jubilee Conference in Mumbai in February 2012.

### **Center for Public Health and Equity – Bhopal**

A training workshop was conducted by Durbha Rohini Kumar and Bhagwan Verma on ‘*Chronic Energy Deficiency and Anemia in Women and Children*’ from 16<sup>th</sup> August to 18<sup>th</sup> August 2011 for the Ground level Health workers and staff of Spandana Organization, Lakhnadon, Seoni District. During this workshop there were a number of participatory methods used, the training was reflective and there was good correlation between the class room learning and field visits.

There was a one day orientation by Juned Kamal on *Health & the Health System and the role and responsibilities of Service Providers* at SAHMET on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2011. In this training the broader aspects of the definition / concept of health were discussed. In addition there was a discussion on the logic and structure of the health system as well as the roles and responsibilities of the various staff.

Prasanna Saligram gave a guest lecture on ‘*Corporate led neo-liberal Globalization and People’s Health Movement as a globalized response from below*’ for the Emmanuel Hospital Association’s Best Practice meeting at Pastoral Center on 07.11.2011. It was an interactive session. Powerpoint presentations were sparingly used to stress certain points. During the lecture Prasanna touched upon the Alma Ata Declaration and its principles of Health Rights, Equity and Social Justice and also the concept of Primary health care as a comprehensive health approach.

There was a *training of trainers* by Juned Kamal and Durbha Rohini Kumar on *Village Health and*

**Sanitation Committee** for SPANDANA Community Health and Development project, Lakhnadon Mission Hospital Block Lakhnadon, Distt. Seoni from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> December 2011. The primary focus of the program was to strengthen the communitisation components envisaged in National Rural Health Mission through the strengthening of Village Health and Sanitation Committees. This project will be implemented in 42 villages (field area of SPANDANA) of Lakhnadon block of Seoni district. Participants including the staff of Spandana and members of VHSC from few villages attended the session of 5 days

Bhagwan Verma participated in the **preparatory meeting for 2<sup>nd</sup> National convention on Children's Right to food** held at Bhopal on 5th December, 2011. The discussion happened on the issues of Right to Food angle for the prevailing malnutrition in the state and the role of the campaign for overcoming this. The other discussion was about the neoliberal political context of malnutrition and food policy in terms of corporatization of food, public-private partnerships, conflicts of interest in food supplements, malnutrition point of view of right to food and our role. Discussion happened as to who will present the malnutrition situation in Madhya Pradesh.

### 3. OBJECTIVE TWO

#### To promote and support community health action

##### **Community Health Cell – Bangalore**

Under the project titled “Community Advocacy to strengthen public health systems and the Right to health and health care”, the CHC team facilitated a **Public dialogue on Health, Sanitation and Malnutrition at Bagalkot -7 December 2011 to 08 December 2011**. The dialogue was organized by *Janarogya Andolana Karnataka* (JAAK) and supported by Headstreams organization. The event was chaired by CEO, *Zilla Panchayat* (Bagalkot) and officials from Rural Development Department, Women and Child Welfare Department, Education, and Health (Medical officers) department attended the programme. The issues discussed were on Services at Primary Health Centre, Rural Sanitation situation in Bagalkot district, and Malnutrition..

##### *Follow up*

- *Improvements at the Community Health Centre at Badami, Bagalkot: display of citizens' charter, improved sanitation facilities and reduction in the incidence of corruption.*
- *Improved inter-departmental communication between Health Officers and Executive Officers at Taluk and District levels.*
- *Two Taluk-level sanitation coordinators to work with Headstreams and CHC-SOCHARA to follow up on sanitation activities.*

Similarly in the urban areas the team helped facilitate a **Public consultation on “Healthcare in Bangalore – Need for a Master Plan”, 12<sup>th</sup> March, 2012**. This Public consultation was organized by *Janarogya Andolana Karnataka - Bangalore Urban group* (JAABU) and supported by CIVIC, was chaired by the Commissioner, Bangalore Municipal Corporation (BBMP) along with Joint Commissioner (Health), BBMP and officials from Health and Family Welfare department. Representatives from various organizations, including SOCHARA team members, field level activists,

and medical officers participated. JAABU members emphasized the need for coordination and planning of Health services between Health department and BBMP, and also shared information about shortages in staff, deficiencies in quality and infrastructure, issues with jurisdiction and location of health centres.

To improve rural sanitation, CHC with network partners from Haveri, Bagalkot, Raichur and Tumkur districts conducted a *series of district training programmes on Community Led Total Sanitation*. The objective was to facilitate positive hygiene behavioural changes and improve the health of the community through **Community Led Total Sanitation approach (CLTS) Method**. This is an approach with success in reducing prevalence of open defecation. CHC is working in 10 villages of 4 districts on this campaign. Regular field visits and meetings with district officials and network partners were conducted as a follow up on sanitation awareness and toilet usage. [Details in table in Annexe]

### **Community Health Cell Extension Unit – Chennai**

Under the overall objective of supporting Community Health Action, the CEU team was involved in the following activities

The **Community Action for Health (CAH) initiative** has been the main focus of activities of the CEU team during the year. It is an integral part of the communitization efforts of the NRHM. SOCHARA team members have been involved in various stages of the evolution of the CAH process at the national level (as members of the Advisory Group on Community Action and of the Technical Advisory Group), at the state level (as State nodal NGO for Tamilnadu). This initiative is one that is taken to scale covering 450 Village Panchayat's in 14 Blocks within six Districts in TN.

The steps in the project include the expansion of VHWSC committees, their orientation, training and support for monitoring activities and the evolution of a panchayat level report card. The using of this report card to evolve a *panchayat* level health action plan, and the repetition of this cycle once in six months.

Having established the model and having conducted one round of monitoring and training in the first phase of the project, this year the project was to concentrate on building up the capacity of the community level as well as enhance the interaction between the system and the community and work towards sustainability of the project. During the year the project team facilitated VHWSC committee meetings every month in all the 450 *panchayats*, in a number of *panchayats* it has been reported that the VHNS have started taking responsibility for conducting the meetings and in a number of *panchayats* the members take the responsibility of calling the meeting without any goading from the project staff. Apart from this regular activity there were two rounds of monitoring held during the year.

In the first round (this reporting period, and second in the whole process) it was decided to focus only on 4 of the 8 services and see that the fully monitoring is done by the committee members. In the second round the remaining services were done again with the committee members doing the full data collection. With these two rounds the ability of the community members to collect this data seems to have been achieved. Once this data was collected it was collated into a Village Health Report card and one *Panchayat* Health Planning exercise was held. Similarly PHC level plan disseminations were held. Apart from the activities at the *Panchayat* level a number of activities at the PHC and Block level federation took place that helped support the VHWSCs. The block federation has gradually evolved into a forum for capacity building and support.

To facilitate the smooth functioning of the project there were monthly routine block level reviews, district level reviews, district and state implementers meetings, discussions with the respective public health staff and with the State Health Society (at the state level).

An accounting workshop was also held to develop admin and accounts capacities as well as developing standard operating procedures for the project.

The project team met with officials of the state health society on a number of occasions. There were meetings with the DDHS at each district and the District collectors. The team has also developed a rapport with the MLAs representing a few of the blocks. They have also established a working relationships with the panchayat functionaries at all levels.

In addition the team has brought out one **newsletter in Tamil** and updated the **website** of the project.

The CAH process has developed into a deep learning site for the Tamilnadu government to experiment and study the implementation of programs attempting to increase and enhance community participation.

Team members of CEU have also been *supporting Rural Women's Social Education Center*, a grass roots Dalit Women's organization based in Kanchipuram district, in its various activities. The Reproductive Health Clinic of the Rural Women's Social Education Center (RUWSEC) serves a population from nearly 50 panchayats in Thirukazhukundram and Madurantakam Blocks of Kancheepuram district.

Meetings were held to plan the AYUSH services / studies. One of the team members has been actively involved in the setting up of AYUSH services in the RUWSEC hospital. Apart from this there were also meetings to plan joint or comparative studies between the Siddha and the Allopathic treatments for Osteoarthritis and Diabetes.

### **Center for Public Health and Equity – Bangalore**

- Several meetings including skype meetings were held to review and plan for the Community Action for Health project in Tamilnadu which is being facilitated by the CHC team as a partner of NRHM in Tamilnadu. The CHC team functions as a state nodal agency and facilitates the work through five district partners in the districts of Dharmapuri, Vellore, Thiruvallur, Perambalur, Ariyalur and Kanyakumari. Further details in CHC Tamilnadu section.
- Adithya, returned to CPHE after completing his Masters in Public Health at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. He is working on a report bringing together the work of SOCHARA on Environmental and Occupational Health from 1984 onwards. He is also responding to a number of requests received by CPHE for a variety of public health and community health initiatives from Tobacco control to women's health issues.

### **Center for Public Health and Equity – Bhopal (see [www.cphe.sochara.org](http://www.cphe.sochara.org))**

The MP team was part of a *follow-up meeting held at Bhopal on maternal deaths audit conducted in Barwani* attended by Prasanna Saligram on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2011. This meeting was held as a follow-up to an earlier meeting held in February when the findings of a maternal death study in Barwani. The idea



was to find out the progress that has happened following an earlier dialogue held with the health department. This meeting was convened under the National Alliance for Maternal Health and Human Rights. Prasanna Saligram from the team represented CPHE and actively participated in the discussions. A core committee to plan follow-up actions was formed

As part of the Community Health Fellowship Program based in Bhopal 20 Fellows are undergoing training. As part of their field placement all of them are involved in a number of activities that contribute to the strengthening of community action for health.

### **Jan Swasthya Abhiyan (JSA) and its state units JAAK and MNI**

All the teams in Bangalore, Chennai and Bhopal are actively involved in the support of the networking and strengthening of the People's Health Movement at the national and state level

### **JAAK ( State level Peoples Health Movement Chapter) meetings in Karnataka**

CHC and CPHE team members participated very regularly in several meetings and campaigns organized by Jana Arogya Andolana, Karnataka and JAABU during the year. CHC continued to host the Secretariat of JAAK this year.

State Working Group meeting on 22.11.2011 Twenty four JAAK members including three from CHC attended this meeting organized by SPAD. Major issues discussed were on the Right to Primary Health Care campaign and malnutrition in Karnataka state.

JAAK-North Karnataka forum meeting on 31.01.2012 This meeting was organized at Headstreams office, Bagalkote, and was attended by participants from Bagalkote, Raichur, Haveri, Belgaum and Bellary districts.

JAAK State committee meeting on 26.03.2012 & 27.03.2012 This meeting was organized by SPAD, Bangalore and attended by 40 participants from 9 district committees, including 5 SOCHARA team members. The issues discussed were as follows:

#### District Committee meetings

District meetings were held in Tumkur (3-01-12 and 4-01-12), Chitradurga (11-01-12), Davangere and Bellary (14-02-12), each organised by local network partners and attended by 6 to 13 representatives.

### **Strengthening Bangalore Urban Health Network (Janarogya Andolana Karnataka Bangalore Urban)**

JAABU core group meetings These meetings were organised by various network partners on 18-10-11, 30-11-11 and 6-1-12 in Bangalore, and each were attended by up to 26 representatives.

### **Makkal Nalavazhvu Iyakkam (MNI) the Tamilnadu chapter of the People's Health Movement**

The steering committee of the MNI met on three occasions during the reporting period. In July and October in 2011 and during February 2012. The Participatory Assessment and Network Strengthening (PANS) process initiated by JSA was discussed.

In February 2012 there was a meeting in which the discussions and follow up of the Nagpur meeting were shared and preliminary discussions for a proposed state level meet later in the year were discussed.

### **Madhya Pradesh Jan Swasthya Abhiyan (MP JSA)**

Meeting held at Pastoral Center in Bhopal on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2012. In MP the activities were started from 2000 and it is almost 10 years from then. JSA is not an NGO but is common platform to discuss issues.

### **National level JSA activities**

Ravi, Ameerkhan and Venkatesan and some Community Health Fellows from MP CPHE participated in the JSA National Coordinating Committee (NCC) meeting held in Nagpur between 08<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> November'11.

On 22<sup>nd</sup> March'12 the JSA-NCC committee met in Delhi to discuss Universal Access to Health care (UAHC).

### **People's Health Movement (International level)**

- CPHE was visited by Ms. Deepa Venkatachalam of SAMA, who was a member of the Global PHM evaluation group. She interviewed various key informants for the evaluation of PHM India as a case study and a component of the global evaluation.
- CPHE supported the evolution and facilitation of the Participatory Assessment of Network Strengthening (PANS process) which was an effort to make JSA and the state circles initiate a learning process through internal reflection and social audit of all the activities and campaigns as a preparatory process towards the next global health assembly. (RN and VR were actively involved in the facilitation and compilation process.)
- RN and VR attended the Jan Swasthya Abhiyan reflection and networking meeting in Nagpur in November 2011 and presented a draft summary of the PANS process and findings from all the reports and feedback that had been collected to date.
- RN visited Frankfurt and facilitated a informal dialogue with PHM partners on PHM and mobilization for the 3<sup>rd</sup> assembly ( PHA3) in February 2012
- RN visited UK for the annual meeting of the BMJ editorial advisory committee. He also facilitated a series of seminars on "People's Health Movement and the mobilization for the 3rd People's Health Assembly ( PHA3)" in London ( School of Oriental and African Studies), Oxford ( Department of Primary Health Care ) and Nottingham – Department of Social Medicine, University of Nottingham in March 2012

## **4. OBJECTIVE THREE**

**To undertake research on community health policy issues, including strategies in community health care, health personnel training, integration of medical and health systems**

## CEU, Chennai

During the year the team was involved in two major research initiatives. One was the “Participant observation study” to assess the extent to which the village committee members had internalized the various skills and concepts of the process and thus assess the quality of the training and give a direction for the future steps of the project.

The other aspect was the support to research on various aspects of the CAH process by TISS students, who were interning with Tamilnadu Voluntary Health Association the district nodal NGO for Thiruvallur district, as well as one of the interns of the last batch of the fellowship.

## Center for Public Health and Equity – Bangalore

- The research project initiative entitled “**Social Justice in Health: Research, Advocacy, Training, and Action on Realizing Health Rights**” was continued during the year. The research team continue to study the health movements in the country with a historical perspective; and also continued to observe and participate in the process in Tamilnadu (*Makkal Nalavazhu Iyakkam*) and Karnataka *Jan Arogya Andolana*. In addition a capacity building workshop for field partners and mentors in Madhya Pradesh was held. ( see CPHE MP report)
- TN undertook an evaluation of EnAble India, Bangalore an organization offering unique training programs and livelihood options for Persons with Disability. This was done for the SDTT as a solidarity measure with a supporting partner in April - May 2011
- TN completed the report of the Review of the Research Partnership between the Tata Institute of Social Sciences and the London School of Economics for the Tata Trusts in partnership with the colleague from the Institute of Education, London.
- RN was invited to be a member of the Governing body of the newly created Institute of Ayurveda and Integrated Medicine in June 2011 and Chair the Trans-disciplinary research committee of the I-AIM as well.
- RN is a member of the executive committee and steering group of the 2<sup>nd</sup> World Health Organisation sponsored Health Systems Research Symposium (WHO HSR) to be held in Beijing, China from 1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> November 2011. He is specifically involved in enhancing the participation of health system researchers from the Global south and young voices in research as well. Apart from this he has been invited to chair a special group – SPAG to enhance the participatory and interactive nature of the health systems research symposium.
- RN was invited in October 2011, to chair the concluding session organized by OXFAM, PRAYAS, SAMA and other members of civil society on short term research projects undertaken linked to the evolving concept of Universal Health Coverage.
- TN/RN participated as key informants in two studies organized by the centre CSER in Mumbai. These were (i) **History of Bio Ethics in India** ( Ms. Maithreyi, Reseracher) (ii) **Ethics of Clinical trials** ( Dr. Sara from UK and Mr. Anand Iyer)
- RN presented a talk at the National Institute of Malaria Research as part of the Indo-American Research faculty development program in January 2012. The theme of the lecture was “**Beyond Bio-medicine; the Challenge of Socio Epidemiological Research**”

- TN was invited to be a member of the **PRIME Consortium Technical Advisory Group** which is supporting a multicountry study over five years (including a site in Sehore district, MP) on Mental Health interventions through the public health system and with a community approach with a focus on a few conditions. This is an international study supported by DFID with the Principal Investigators from South Africa and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.
- RN was invited to be the facilitator of the special track on “**Social Change and Health Promotion**” in the 8<sup>th</sup> **Global conference on Health Promotion being organized by WHO** and other partner organizations including the Ministry of Health, Finland in Helsinki in June 2013. He is also a member of the organizing committee and attended a preliminary planning meeting in Geneva in February 2012

### **Publications from the various units:**

- *Balancing rational care with consumer beliefs: Tightrope walking.* Vijayprasad Gopichandran, Subhasri B, Rakhal Gaitonde. The National Medical Journal of India Vol. 24, No. 3, 2011.
- *Exploring a roadmap for health care for ALL/ UAHC* (Framework Paper for the 39th Annual meeting of the medico friend circle). Rakhal Gaitonde as part of the Organizing Committee.
- *Community Monitoring in Health. A Global Literature Review.* Gaitonde R. Sheikh K, Saligram P. Background paper prepared for the High Level Expert Group on UAHC. [[http://uhc-india.org/background\\_papers.php](http://uhc-india.org/background_papers.php)]
- Community Monitoring in Health. The National Landscape, GaitondeR. Sheikh K, SaligramP, Nambiar D. Background paper prepared for the High Level Expert Group on UHAC ( [http://uhc-india.org/background\\_paper.php](http://uhc-india.org/background_paper.php))
- Key policy related papers were published by RN and TN during the year. These included; Universal Health Coverage in India, BMJ- March 2012 and WHO SEARO Journal of Public Health.
- CPHE and CHC team members brought out three special publications during the twentieth year of SOCHARA (1991-2011). These include:
  - (i)The ‘Red Book’ titled – “*Community Health: In Search of Alternative Processes*” which is a reprint of an early CHC publication.
  - (ii) The ‘Blue Book’ titled – “*A Journey of a Thousand Lives: Building Community Health through Fellowships*”. This synthesizes the learning from the Community Health Learning Program.
  - (iii) A SOCHARA Brochure titled – “*Celebrating Twenty Years of Community Health Journeys and Public Health Action*” .
- AP and RN work on the preparation of the draft manuscript of a report on a review of all environmental health related action initiatives organized by CHC/SOCHARA since the inception of the experiment in 1984 and the society in 1991.

## **5. SOCHARA OBJECTIVE FOUR**

### **To evolve educational strategies in community health & development**

**Community Health Cell – Bangalore**

**No Cost Extension (NCE) of CHLP Phase Two, 2011-12.** This structured community health learning program was offered for six months and twelve months. The first phase was called The Community Health Internship cum Fellowship Scheme (CHFS) (2003-06-07) and the second phase was termed Community Health Learning Program (CHLP) (2008-2010) A total of five paid full time interns and four flexi (unpaid) interns completed this phase.

### **Community Health Cell Extension Unit - Chennai**

The Chennai unit provided support for one of the interns in the last batch Mr. Santosh to complete his internship. He was posted in Pazhaverkadu area of Thiruvallur district, in which the CAH project was being implemented..

Dr. Lalit Sarode an MPH student from National Institute of Epidemiology similarly is doing various aspects of his field placement in the State Health Society, Tamilnadu but is studying the CAH process in detail and is thus being supported by the CEU team.

### **Center for Public Health and Equity – Bangalore**

- CPHE was involved actively with the CH Learning Program (CHLP) organized by CHC as a no cost extension of phase II of CHLP project. RN/TN took various sessions for the fellows.
- Suraj Sarvode and K.Oblesha were mentored by RN for their project work from July 2011, on “HIV/AIDS – the new paradigm” and “History and evolution of JAAK” respectively.
- Three flexi fellows were linked to the CPHE during the year. (i) Sanket Ullal- Bachelor of Life Sciences from McMaster University, Toronto, Canada in May 2011 (ii) Sangeetha Kamath- pursuing Masters in Occupational Therapy in McMaster Canada in May 2011 (iii) Christopher Boyle - A qualified physiotherapist from UK, planning to study medicine in June 2011, (iv) Akiv Jirhad a young student from Canada spent three weeks doing a vacation project on community health action in Karnataka and visited various field projects along with CHC team members. (v) Dr. Mahantu, a dentist from ACCORD, Gudalur, did his internship in community health with us after completing his Masters in Public Health at the Achuta Menon Centre for Sri Chitra University in Trivandrum, (vi) Jonathan Currie, final year medical student from the UK.
- Dr. Sriram Shamsundar, a Fulbright fellow from University of San Francisco was linked with CPHE for a few months during his field study on **Primary Health Care orientation of Community hospitals in South India** from September 2011 This study was part of the planning for a special fellowship on community health for physicians, planning to volunteer in the Global south. TN was his local mentor.
- During his trip to UK in Feb 2012, RN gave two teaching seminars at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (**Public Health Challenges and Opportunitites – South East Asia**) and at the Department of Primary Health Care – University of Oxford, (**Challenges in Comprehensive Primary Health Care**).
- RN and AP participated in the evolution of core and cross cutting public health competencies in India and the process of classifying them into different levels of courses – MBBS; DPH; MPH; and MD. This was a project initiated by the Indian Public Health Association, Ministry of Health, WHO India Office, and brought together around 12 public health experts in the country supported by research associates to evolve competencies relevant to the Indian situation. The consensus evolving out of this dialogue process was presented at the 55<sup>th</sup> annual conference of IPHA in Kochi, in February 2012 and a dissemination meeting at AIIMS New Delhi in Nov 2011

- RN was invited to participate in the Continuing Education program of senior IAS officers in the country at the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration ( LBSNAA) in Mussoorie in October 2011. In a two session he covered the “**Challenges of Health Promotion**” and gave “**An overview of health policy development in India**”.
- RN facilitated the first week of the 2<sup>nd</sup> batch training of fellows in Bhopal Madhya Pradesh which began in the first week of February in 2012.
- CPHE and CHC supported the projects of two Jnana Ayoga research fellows- Dr. Ravi Shekar (**Barriers to Community Access**) and Roopa Rajesh – (**Challenges for intersectoral collaboration for health action**)
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- **Center for Public Health and Equity – Bhopal**

The CHFP program has been the mainstay of activities in the Bhopal cluster of SOCHARA. This year not only did the first batch successfully complete their two year program, but the next batch also started out their two year program.

During the year the team saw the usual hectic schedule which included a round of cluster meetings during the month of July 2011, and the final collective teaching session during the month of September 2011.

One of the highlights of the this years activities of the CPHE-Bhopal was the *Final Assessment of First Batch of Community Health Fellows from 17<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> October 2011,*

The Third Advisory Committee meeting of the Madhya Pradesh Community health fellowship program held at Bangalore on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2011, Mentors’ Meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> November 2011 at Pastoral Center, Bhopal and again on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2012. Based on the Advisory Committee recommendations there was a gap of a few months for the team to reflect and plan before the intake of the next batch.

The Valedictory Function of the first batch of Madhya Pradesh Community Health fellows held on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2011 at Pastoral Centre, Bhopal.

After advertising the intake of the second batch 117 applications were received in CPHE, Bangalore. These were shortlisted and selection interviews were conducted in Bhopal in January 2012.

The activities for the next batch of fellows began with the *Induction training for the second batch of fellows from 1<sup>st</sup> Feb 2012 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012.* This nine week long residential teaching program is part of the intensive core teaching provided to the Fellows.

## 6. SOCHARA OBJECTIVE FIVE

### To dialogue with health planners, policy makers & implementers on community oriented health policy issues

Community Health Cell Extension Unit - Chennai

*Support to the Government of Tamilnadu,* The members of the CEU team have been consulted on a

number of occasions to help the government evolve plans for the extension of the CAH processes as well as the ASHA program. One of the members of the CEU team is on the TN State Health Society “NGO committee”. This committee advises the SHS on policy to involve NGOs and also on reviewing various NGO proposals received by the SHS.

***Support and interaction with the High Level Expert Group on Universal Health Care, of the Planning Commission, GOI.*** One of the team members is on the support group for a subgroup of the HLEG on Universal health care. As part of this he evolved two background papers for the subgroup as well as the final recommendations of the subgroup. Prasanna of the CPHE Bhopal team was also a member in this group. Two papers that were submitted during the last year were published and put up on the HLEG website.

***Involvement in a Round Table on Public Private Partnerships initiated by IIT-M and GoTN.*** The CEU team has been invited to the ongoing Roundtable discussions on PPPs in Tamilnadu. This is a process initiated by IIT-M and is supported by the GoTN.

## **Center for Public Health and Equity – Bangalore**

### **Karnataka Knowledge Commission**

- ❖ RN was invited to be a member of the reconstituted Karnataka Knowledge Commission (Jnana Ayoga) in Jan 2012 and has been attending the monthly discussions of the KJA since then.
- ❖ He was invited to chair a **special Mission Group on Public Health** for the KKC – Jnana Ayoga with a mandate to review public health systems and challenges in the state and recommend systemic and policy changes. A eight member mission group including the Principal Health Secretary, Director AYUSH and six public health resource persons
- ❖ The mission group is evolving a public health charter, holding stake holder consultation and will evolve a draft report by September 2012

### **National Rural Health Mission**

SOCHARA continued to support the National Rural Health Mission at different levels through the involvement many team members.

- TN was actively involved as a member of the following Committees and meetings
  - Advisory Group for Community Action (AGCA), a Standing Committee of the NRHM with meetings in July 2011 and Nov 2011 .
  - National ASHA mentoring group (NAMG) in July 2011
  - Attended National Consultation on reviewing NRHM in New Delhi on 11 and 12<sup>th</sup> July 2011.
- In Tamilnadu the CHC team through the CAH project was involved as a state resource centre to strengthen the community monitoring and community action for health process. ( see details elsewhere)
- In Madhya Pradesh the CH Fellows being trained by CPHE Bhopal are involved in supporting NRHM at field levels - district and below during their field postings in mentoring institutions. ( see details elsewhere)

### **Mental Health Policy Group, MOHFW, GOI:**

- TN was invited to be a member of the Mental Health Policy Group set up by the

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, GOI. During the year meetings were held in Delhi, May 2011; Ranchi- July 2011; and Delhi – September 2011 and Chennai in Jan 2012. The District Mental Health Program (DMHP) is being revised for the 12<sup>th</sup> Plan and a draft Mental Health Policy is being evolved through review of literature, field visits together with regular discussion and stakeholder consultation. Minutes of meetings are uploaded on a website [www.mhpolicy.org](http://www.mhpolicy.org)

### **AYUSH and Public Health**

- RN was invited to be a member of the AYUSH Steering Group of the Planning Commission for the 12<sup>th</sup> Plan document which began its deliberations in June 2011. He attended various meetings of the steering group in Delhi.
- The Planning Commission set up a special sub-committee on health services, public health, insurance and accreditation of the steering group to evolve a national AYUSH Mission advancing health for all over the 12<sup>th</sup> plan. Dr. Ravi was invited to chair this sub committee and evolve a draft mission report with six key components which included Public Health Orientation of AYUSH personnel; AYUSH orientation for Non AYUSH Practitioners; Promoting Integrated District Planning and Campaign in Pilot districts; AYUSH campaigns in six areas of health care; National AYUSH integrated educational working group; and National Accreditation working group. These are under consideration.
  - SOCHARA organized an AYUSH /TCAM public health policy workshop in collaboration with Governance Hub of the Public Health Foundation of India in January 2012 in which 16 policy researchers and AYUSH /TCAM practitioners participated. The workshop was facilitated by RN.
- A policy presentation on AYUSH and Public Health with a focus on Homeopathy was presented at the Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences by RN, at the Inauguration of a Integrated Homeopathic Research Centre linked to the Dhawale Research Centre of Mumbai.
- RN continued to be a member of the Advisory Committee of the Centre for Excellence in AYUSH and Public Health hosted by the Maharashtra Association of Anthropological Sciences (MAAS) in Pune

### **Planning Commission 12<sup>th</sup> Plan – Health Sector Document**

- The Planning Commission organized a special session bringing together the Health and AYUSH steering groups to discuss cross cutting themes and systemic challenges to the goal of universal health coverage to be operationalized in the next plan. RN participated in this discussion and facilitated a special sub group to evolve the “Frame work of MoU’s between state government and central government to strengthen public health systems” as part of the 12<sup>th</sup> plan initiative.

### **Other Policy Initiatives**

- TN continued to be a member of the Technical Advisory Group of an IIM-B initiative on Knowledge Implementation Linkages for Health Policy and participated in a policy meeting on maternal mortality and in TAG meetings.
- There was a dialogue with the UNICEF team in April 2011 from the Hyderabad Office which supports and supervises work in Karnataka as well.



- TN participated as a resource person in a three day policy and networking consultation organized by the Medical Mission Sisters and the World Council of Churches organized in the CHAI Office, Hyderabad in March 2012.

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## **POLICY- INTERNATIONAL**

- TN and RN were consulted during the development of the consultation in Delhi in May 2011 on Global Health Governance, organized by Medico, PRAYAS and other SOCHARA partners.
- TN was an invited participant in a Nuffield Council - Global Health Symposium in London, UK in June 2011. She was a speaker in the session.
- RN attended the International consultation on “**Universal Access to Health**” policy meeting organized in Tokyo Japan in September 2011 to commemorate the release of the LANCET Japan series and spoke on the theme of “Challenges for Universal Health Coverage in India”
- TN was invited by WHO to the World Conference on Social Determinants of Health in Rio Brazil in which she chaired a session on “**Institutionalizing Participation in Policy Making**” in October 2011. During the conference she also attended a meeting organized by the Government of Brazil on the theme “**Politics of Health - Lessons from the AIDS movement**” and also a meeting organized by PHM Global on “ **Protecting the Right to Health through action on Social Determinants of Health**”.
- TN attended the 2<sup>nd</sup> Development Forum for G-8/G20, on the theme “**Exploring Alternative Development Strategies**” She was a speaker on the theme “**Innovative Development Strategy II – Universal Social Protection System**” in October 2011

## **7. SOCHARA OBJECTIVE SIX**

### **To establish a library, documentation and information centre in community health**

#### **Community Health Library and Information Centre (CLIC)**

CLIC is utilised by SOCHARA staff and associates at units in Bangalore, Chennai and Bhopal. Several institutions such as Bangalore University, Oxford Dental College, St. John’s College of Nursing, HCCPHC, Oxford Nursing College, Siddartha Medical College, State Health Resource Centre, Karnataka Knowledge Commission, Public Affairs Centre, Institute of Public Health, ISST, JAABU/JAAK, CEHAT, Holy Cross Convent, St. John’s Medical College, SPAD, Belaku Trust, Headstream, Bangalore Medical College and HOSMAT have enrolled with CLIC to access material for reference work. CLIC like the Admin and Accounts section is part of the central unit, Bangalore and provides technical support to the CEU, Chennai and CPHE, Bhopal.

<b>No.</b>	<b>Items</b>	<b>Numbers</b>
<b>1</b>	Books	14,120
<b>2</b>	Journals and Newsletters	135
<b>3</b>	Resource files	556

4	CDs	473
5	Posters	1139

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### **Health Round up**

A monthly '**health round-up**' is produced and sent to 136 registered subscribers. This publication is an index of health related books and journal articles identified and acquired during the previous month. Subscribers can request for these articles by email. They can also request CLIC to acquire and provide other articles of interest. Eleven issues were produced in the previous year.

### **Health Digest**

CLIC regularly produces '**Health Digest**' which is sent to 616 registered members. This publication is a summary of news paper and magazine articles on issues of Health, Vulnerability, Environment and Social Development. A summary and the links to the articles are provided. A positive response has been received from users. Thirteen (13) issues were produced last year.

### **Community Health Cell Extension Unit - Chennai**

All the books have been fully accessed. At present the library has 700 books and receives 18 journals weekly / monthly. A large number of books and reports were received from well wishers and this has given a great boost to the library.

### **Center for Public Health and Equity – Bangalore**

- Several meetings were held on the CHC website
- Large number of books have been received as donations. The books and resource files are arranged in the CPHE office as well as in the SOCHARA Annexe.

### **Center for Public Health and Equity – Bhopal**

- The collection particularly in Hindi is growing and is organized and accessed

## **8. Catalyzing the metamorphosis of SOCHARA School of Public Health, Equity and Action (SOPHEA)**

- SOCHARA organized a **full team retreat** for a week at the Annex in April 2011 to plan various activities for the year 2011-12 and start the metamorphosis process of SOCHARA becoming a School of Public Health, Equity and Action. ( SOPHEA)
- A three day **learning facilitation workshop** was conducted for all the technical team members of SOCHARA in July 2011 which included a special reflective session on the Civil Society School for Scholar activist.
- A '**brain storming meeting**' was held on the School of Public Health with the members of the evolving Academic Research Council in September 2011.

- A **curriculum development workshop** for all technical team members was held in CHC Madiwala in December 2011.

## **9. Supporting internal governance and staff development**

- A new SOCHARA logo was evolved during the year as part of the 20<sup>th</sup> year celebration.
- Mr. K. Gopinathan, treasurer of SOCHARA continued to provide substantial support to supervision of Financial Management and Accounting systems to the Bangalore, Bhopal and Chennai teams.
- SOCHARA initiated an active multicluster planning process with the team now spread out in three states ( in Bangalore, Chennai and Bhopal through regular skype meetings with the Bhopal and Chennai teams and regular local staff meetings with the Bangalore team spread in three clusters – Koramangala, Madiwala, and Jakasandra.
- There were dialogue meeting with funding partners during the year
- Ms. Jayeeta Chowdhury of SDTT visited in May 2011
- Ms. Aneka Paul of SRTT visited in September 2011
- Ms. Aneka Paul of SRTT visited in January 2012
- Dr. Nina Urwanzoff of Misereor visited CHC in February 2012.
  - TN visited Bhopal in January 2012 for the selection of 20 fellows for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Fellowship program which began in Feb 2012.
- As part of regular staff development program in SOCHARA technical discussions were also held with team members during the year.
- The annual general body meeting of SOCHARA was held on 10<sup>th</sup> August 2011.
- Mr. As Mohammad, former faculty member of Department of Community Medicine, St. John's National Academy of Health Sciences, joined CHC SOCHARA as a Consultant in Community Health from October 2011 and to coordinate CHC Madiwala
- The administrative and accounting practices of the CEU team was reviewed during a supervisory visit by Mr. K Gopinathan and Mr. Victor in January / February 2012.

### **Staff development**

- Dr Adithya attended a 15 day workshop titled “Where Journalism meets Environment” at the Centre for Science and Environment in New Delhi between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of December. This short course focused on discussing environmental issues, the role of journalists in covering these issues, and some skill development for fulfilling these roles. Adithya also wrote an article based on the data he collected during a field visit that was organized to the sandstone mines in Jodhpur ([http://www.cseindia.org/bootcamp/resilience\\_thar.htm](http://www.cseindia.org/bootcamp/resilience_thar.htm)).
- A Curriculum Development workshop for select members of the technical team was organised from December 27-29, 2011 by CPHE.

## **10. Solidarity**

As in earlier years SOCHARA team members continued to support the following organizations in solidarity with Health For All and Public Health /Community Health.

**Thelma** continued as:

- Chairperson of Basic Needs India (BNI) which works on community mental health and development in parts of the southern Indian states and Maharashtra and Orissa.
- Member Ethics Committee of National TB Institute, GOI in Bangalore
- Member Ethics Committee of ROHC/ National Institute of Occupational Health, ICMR, Bangalore.
- Member of AGCA of NRHM, New Delhi
- Member National ASHA Mentoring Group, NRHM
- Member MP State ASHA Mentoring Group
- Support to Rajasthan state ASHA Mentoring Group.

#### **Ravi continued as:**

- Governing body member of Public Health Foundation of India, New Delhi,
- Governing body and Academic Council Member of Institute for Health Management Research Bangalore
- Scientific Advisory Committee of Regional Occupational Health Centre / NIOH, ICMR, Bangalore
- Editorial Advisory Committee and International Public Health Speciality Advisor of British Medical Journal, UK
- Invited as advisory committee member and resource person for the Karnataka State Health Systems Resource Centre ( KSHSRC) and Karnataka State Institute of Health and Family Welfare ( KHSIFW) and participated in various meetings and interview committees.

#### **Rakhal**

- Co-convenor of the medico friend circle. 2009 – 2012.
- Member, Project Review Committee, SATHI, Pune.
- Member, Medical Advisory Committee, Rural Womens Social Education Center (RUWSEC).
- Member, NGO Committee, State Health Society, Government of Tamil Nadu.
- Member, State ASHA mentoring group, Tamilnadu.

#### **Ameer**

- Member, Executive Committee, Tamilnadu Health Development Forum.
- Member, General Body, RUWSEC

## **11. Other activities**

- SOCHARA celebrated the long standing support of Fr. Claude D'Souza, a SOCHARA member since its inception by organizing a special full day seminar on “**Social Action and Social Activism over the Decades and the Challenges of Today**” on his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday in June 2011. Social activists from the 1980's working in different regions who had been inspired by him to start their work were invited to reflect on their experiences. It was a great learning experience for the current younger team of professionals linked to SOCHARA.
- Participation of Juned Kamal in a National Consultation on ‘Using Law for Public Health’ on 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> December 2011 at Yuvak Samvad Kendra, New Delhi.
- Workshop on “Enabling community action to promote accountability for maternal health’ attended by Bhagwan Verma and Dheerendra Arya conducted by CommonHealth at Baroda from 14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> March 2012.
- Participation by Durbha Rohini Kumar and Bhagwan Verma in a ‘Workshop on Adolescent Reproductive Health: Challenges and Opportunities’ in Bhopal on 12-13 December, 2011.

- Participation by Bhagwan Verma in the Workshop on 6 and 7<sup>th</sup> ASHAs module training planning on 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 2011 at NRHM office in Bhopal

## **12. OPEN HOUSE - Visitors**

As part of what was called an ‘open ended role’ of SOCHARA there are several visitors to CHC and CPHE in Bangalore as well as in Chennai and Bhopal. Several interactions occur over the phone and email as well. As an example:

- Students from Oxford College, Bangalore visited Community Health Cell – SOCHARA on 07.07.2011. They were oriented on Concept of Right to Health, Public Health System and Structure, Health rights and CLIC.
- Staff members from IDPMS organization Bangalore visited CHC-SOCHARA on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2011. The purpose of their visit is to get to know about CHC-SOCHARA work on networking, training, advocacy in health rights at state, national and International level.
- 3 M.D postgraduate scholars from M.S.Ramaiah Medical College visited CHC-SOCHARA on 08.11.2011 to know about the work done by SOCHARA-CHC on Health and Human Rights, Environmental sanitation and Other Activity.