



sochara
building community health

Society for Community Health Awareness, Research and Action
(SOCHARA)



Our 24th year on a community journey towards Health for All

ANNUAL REPORT
April 2014 – March 2015

Community health is: *“enabling and empowering people to take care of their own health which includes conscientisation and political action”*

- Community Health Cell, 1987

Cover Photograph: A cheerful encounter with children at an Child care centre in Bhopal during the fellow's CHLP field placement. Picture taken by Ms. Balentina Lamare, CHLP Batch 12 Fellow, 2015.

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Introduction

Building on our past experiences, we at SOCHARA, as an interdisciplinary resource group of community health professionals, have utilised the past year, 2014-15 to create, facilitate and enhance our efforts through multiple strategies with a Community Health approach towards achieving Health for All.

Our work from across all three SOCHARA clusters (Bengaluru in Karnataka, Chennai in Tamil Nadu and Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh), aims to address the complex social determinants of health and foster equity and social justice, using a community centred approach, towards building Community Health.

In continuation with a priority focus on the development of the **School of Public Health, Equity and Action (SOPHEA)** and implementation of **Phase 3 of the Community Health Learning Programme (CHLP)**; our Bengaluru cluster expanded its ongoing work on policy engagement, research on environmental health and climate change and regulation of private sector and sanitation. During the year, the CHLP has had three overlapping batches of full-time fellows; batch 10 (June 2013 to June 2014), batch 11 (January 2014 to January 2015) and batch 12 (February 2015 to February 2016). We have had a total of fifty full-time fellows (duration of twelve months), seven flexi-interns and eleven block placements (duration ranging

from one to three months) at SOPHEA. We thus worked with 68 young persons this year. Furthermore, the SOCHARA Institutional Scientific and Ethics Committee (SISEC), since July 2014, has (together with the Academic Research Council (ARC)) supported the building of scientific and academic rigor within the learning and research activities undertaken by SOCHARA-SOPHEA.

Another highlight this year was SOCHARA's role in organising the **5th National Bioethics Conference (NBC)** in collaboration with St. John's National Academy of Health Sciences, Bengaluru and the Forum for Medical Ethics Society (FMES), Mumbai. The conference in December 2014 brought issues of **integrity and corruption in healthcare and research** into focus. There were 750 delegates from across India with some from ten countries.

SOCHARA organised another national level meeting, the **Young Environmental Health Researchers Meet**, which served as a new platform for addressing various environment-related issues from across the country.

The year has served as an *important milestone for our Chennai Extension Unit (SOCHARA-CEU), as we celebrated its 10th year anniversary*. CEU has continued its focus on strengthening the initiatives related to **Community Action for Health (CAH)**, has provided support to the

VOICES study and the Tamil Nadu Hunger Project; and participated in a fact-finding exercise in relation to the neonatal deaths that occurred in Dharmapuri, in November 2014; among other efforts detailed later in this report. CEU has also hosted students from other academic institutions in support of their continuous education.

Our Bhopal cluster, **SOCHARA-MP Centre for Public Health Equity (MP CPHE)** focused on under-nutrition within the slums of Bhopal, maternal health and mental health; in collaboration with other non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in Madhya Pradesh. The team has also facilitated collective action by the fellows who have completed SOCHARA-CPHE's Community Health Fellowship (CHF) in Bhopal through the Fellows Collective.

In addition, our Chennai and Bhopal clusters have continued to provide mentoring and field placement support to our CHLP fellows.

Collectively, we have continued our work in community health awareness, research and action as defined under SOCHARA's six core objectives. This Annual Report outlines activities undertaken over the year in line with these core objectives. Here, we report on our work with other institutions; our participation in various conferences, workshops and training programmes in addition to networking, other activities and initiatives undertaken across all our three clusters.

The Annual Report is arranged according to the SOCHARA Objectives. Team clusters contribute to all Objectives.

Figure 1: The Paradigm Shift – relevant today, more so than ever.

The Paradigm Shift		
Focus	Individual	Community
Dimensions	Physical/Pathological	Psychosocial, Cultural, Economic, Political, Ecological
Technology	Drugs/Vaccines	Education and social Processes
Type of Service	Providing / Dependence Creating/Social Marketing	Enabling/Empowering/ Autonomy building
Link with people	Patient as Passive Beneficiary	Community as active participant
Research	Molecular biology Pharmaco - therapeutics Clinical Epidemiology	Socio-Epidemiology, Social Determinants Health Systems and Social Policy

I. Build Community Health Awareness

TO CREATE AWARENESS ON THE PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICES OF COMMUNITY HEALTH

Our work on creating awareness about the principles and practices of community health with additional attention to specific public health challenges, as one of SOCHARA's core objectives, continued during this year across all our units. The Bengaluru unit focused in Karnataka on areas concerning rural sanitation and environment. The Chennai unit focused on 'Community Action for Health (CAH)' in Tamil Nadu, a key strategy introduced under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM); and our unit in Bhopal focused on maternal health and malnutrition in Madhya Pradesh.

Karnataka

Awareness on environmental sanitation

Field-based intervention:

Subsequent to an environmental sanitation intervention carried out by Mr. Mallikarjun, a resource group member of the "Sanitation Network" initiated by SOCHARA; a follow up visit was made to the implementation site located in Badami block of Bagalkot district, Karnataka between 3rd and 4th July, 2014. The purpose of the visit was to observe the progress of the work in the village. The work undertaken was supported by training obtained on Community Led

Total Sanitation (CLTS) methodology and the construction of low-cost toilet models through the 'Training of Trainers' (TOT) Programme co-organised by Headstreams and SOCHARA in 2012. Following this training, seventy individuals from Sulla village came forward to participate in constructing toilets, out of which twenty-two toilets have been completed and the remaining have been partially completed.

Community Led Total Sanitation training at Chikkaballapura:

On 27th October, 2014, a visit was made to AYUSH Gram of the Foundation for Revitalisation of Local Health Traditions (FRLHT) - Institute of Ayurveda and Integrative Medicine (I-AIM) in Chikkaballapura. Meetings were conducted in AnnemadaguKotturu, Itepanalli and Bereganalli villages of S.Gollahalli *gram panchayat* (GP) to improve the sanitary conditions through training the community on CLTS, masonry training, forming a *Swachatha* (sanitation) Committee for monitoring sanitation activities, and training FRLHT field staff for the same. Participants included an *anganwadi* worker, a village health resource person of the AYUSH Gram project, and a few community members. Team members from FRLHT prepared a plan of action for the future.

Community Led Total Sanitation training at Hampi:

On 17th December, 2014, we conducted a CLTS training programme on a visit to the Hampi *gram panchayat*, organised by Sakhi Trust. Twenty community members, the *panchayat* Development Officer (PDO), the *gram panchyat* President, and Sakhi team participated in the training programme. Animated films on water and sanitation were used to enhance the training. The programme concluded with preparation of a joint three-month plan of

action by the community members, PDO and *gram panchayat* president.

Community Led Total Sanitation training at Papanayakanahalli Village:

SOCHARA team members visited Papanayakanahalli on 18th December, 2014 where thirty-two women participated in the CLTS training organized and were oriented to the ill effects of open defecation, using the CLTS '*triggering*' method. Masonry training was conducted with 3 community members in January 2015, for

Photograph 1: Mason training on toilet construction at Chikkaballapura - October 2014.



the construction of low-cost toilets in the village.

A visit to Malur and Bangarpet in Kolar district:

At the request of the Department of Social Work of a government college in Bangarpet Taluk of Kolar district, orientation training on environmental sanitation was conducted for forty-two post graduate students on 10th January, 2015. The training included aspects of sanitation and personal hygiene. Also, masonry training was conducted in Malur and has been detailed later.

Tamil Nadu

Strengthening of Pazhaverkadu Government hospital

We are supporting *Panchayati* Raj Institutions (PRIs), community members and Village Health Water Sanitation and Nutrition Committee (VHWSNC) members from four *panchayats* to strengthen the

Pazhaverkadu hospital. As part of the process, community opinion was collected through four focus group discussions (one in each *panchayat*), on the functioning of the hospital and availability of facilities as against the Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS). Multiple rounds of dialogue between the public health system and PRI members were organised based on which community members planned to meet the district level authorities to improve the status of the hospital. A detailed status report is available with us.

Madhya Pradesh

Under-nutrition awareness programme

Aspects of childhood under-nutrition were addressed by involving and empowering the community through health education of mothers on nutrition, child care, common problems of children and related issues of sanitation and prevention of common diseases by immunisation.

II. Community Health Action

TO PROMOTE AND SUPPORT COMMUNITY HEALTH ACTION

Promoting and supporting community action for health is another key area of focus for us. We encourage and advance action by the community, as part of our efforts. Community action for sanitation has been one of our key activities in Karnataka, as highlighted earlier. In addition, other efforts involving community action across our three cluster areas have been summarised below.

Karnataka

Community Health and Environmental Survey Skill-share (CHESS) 5

CHESS 5 on 'Energy and Health' was organised by Community Environmental Monitoring, Chennai, as a three-day residential workshop held in Bengaluru between 19th and 21st February, 2015. Dr. Adithya Pradyumna participated as a resource person on behalf of SOCHARA. The workshop had sixty community representatives belonging to eight communities from across India and one from South Africa. Issues pertaining to the impact of coal mining and thermal power on health and environment, were discussed.

CLTS and Masonry Training

Malur: 'Aa Foundation' is one of SOCHARA's network partners and has been engaged in working on sanitation in Malur block, Kolar district. Masonry

training, demonstrating the concept and construction of low-cost toilets, was organised in the Chatanahalli village, Aralere, on 2nd September, 2014.

AnnemadaguKotturu village: FRLHT organised masonry training on building low-cost toilets at the AYUSHGram project in AnnemadaguKotturu village, Chikkaballapura taluk on 30th September, 2014. Two masons from the local village participated in this training.

Kallatege village: The SOCHARA team visited Kallatege village, Hospet taluk, Bellary district on 6th November, 2014; with the objective of facilitating CLTS and masonry training for local community members. Mr. Mallikarjun (Alumni of CHLP), Mr. Srinivas from Punyakoti Foundation., Ms. Yashodha and Ms. Asma (CHLP fellows) also attended this training.

Kallatege village: Punyakoti foundation organised a CLTS training for the community members of Kalatagi village. Most of the community members are fishermen. None of the families in the village have a toilet facility. Through the CLTS 'triggering' process, 10 individuals came forward for the masonry training. The masonry training held on 7th November, 2014, was attended by two masons and four community members.

As part of an initial demonstration, a pit was constructed using a locally available rock. Two of the masons from the same village were trained on types of pits, technical specifications on super structure and construction based on low-cost technologies. A plan for toilet construction was also created. In addition, school children were oriented on personal hygiene practices.

addressing energy choices and health. CEU participated in an initial Chennai-based meeting in July 2014, which focused on planning for the first Round Table Conference themed "Climate Change and Health Impacts of Energy Choices – Coal". The team participated in both Round Tables held at the state and national level.

Strengthening of selected VHWSNCs

We collaborated with the Tamil Nadu public health system to develop a state-specific model of CAH and simultaneously continued our activities related to strengthening the 'communitisation of health' at various levels, including providing support to the active VHWSNCs and their presidents.

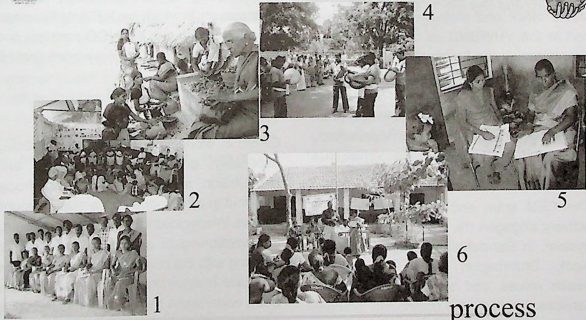
Tamil Nadu

Coal and Health Initiative

We are supporting the Community Environment Monitoring (CEM) of The Other Media, in addressing environmental health issues, particularly with initiatives



community action for health in tamilnadu



- 1 Village Health, Water and Sanitation committee (VHWSNC) community members 2 Orientation to VHWSNC members and community members 3 Rapport building among the community 4 "Kala Jatha" (Cultural Street Theater play) performance at village 5 Data collection 6 Panchayat level Health Planning Day

process

The team made several visits to the project districts (Vellore, Dharmapuri, Ariyalur, Perambalur and Thiruvallur) with the objective of strengthening the community process by revitalising the VHWSNCs. *Panchayat* presidents, VHWSNC members and health system employees were mobilized towards the communitisation process which was supported by the successful learning experience gained during the pilot phase. The district and block nodal organisations in these areas have extended their support to strengthening CAH initiatives.

Photograph 2: A pictorial poster created to exemplify the processes involved in Community Action for Health (CAH).

The team also identified potential voluntary members in the Pazhaverkadu region of Minjur block and motivated them to take part in the VHWSNC as a move towards strengthening the functioning of the public health system in that region. During the last *Gram Sabha* held on 15th August, 2014, a resolution was passed in four *gram panchayats* to strengthen the Pazaverkadu Government hospital and the VHWSNCs located in those *panchayats*.

The CEU team and CAH implementers actively engaged the PRIs and the health system, in Bandahalli village, Nallampalli block, Dharmapuri district, to identify health issues and to strengthen health services. Similarly, the community process is being strengthened with support from the CAH district and block level partners, in Thirumalapadi, Varanavasi and

Mananthankulam *panchayats* of Ariyalur district.

Fluorosis Mitigation Programme

The Fluorosis Mitigation Project was to be executed by the Tamil Nadu Water Supply and Drainage Board (TWAD), using Tamil Nadu's share of Cauvery river water. The Dharmapuri Voluntary Agencies Network Initiative (DHVANI) however, has expressed concerns regarding large gap in implementation of the same. In order to activate the system and enhance capacity for the fluorosis mitigation strategy and action among its members, we were invited to prepare a preliminary report providing a brief outline of the mitigation process underway in the district. The CEU team disseminated the report findings at a meeting held on 23rd June, 2014, in Dharmapuri, in which the National Fluorosis Mitigation team and the NGO partners and experts in the field of fluorosis participated.

Madhya Pradesh Child Malnutrition

CPHE is working on child care, focusing especially on growth monitoring and malnutrition, in selected slums of Bhopal city, and in other parts of the state through fellows. We decided to work on strengthening the functioning of *anganwadis* along with working with the communities as strategies to tackle malnutrition. Several steps have been undertaken as a part of this including getting acquainted with the community, *anganwadi* staff, Auxillary Nurse Midwives (ANMs) and Urban Social Health Activists

(USHAs); visiting *anganwadis* during routine days, weighing sessions and Village Health and Nutrition Days (VHND); reviewing *anganwadi* registers and records, including growth charts and cards, along with the *anganwadi* workers; health education sessions for mothers of under-five children – covering such subjects as breast feeding, complementary feeding, feeding of older children, immunisation; training of MUSKAAN (partner NGO) staff as detailed later under '*Training and Capacity Building*'.

Maternal Health Rights Campaign (MHRC)

The CPHE team worked on issues related to maternal health in Madhya Pradesh through involvement with the Maternal Health Rights Campaign. The MHRC is a coalition of civil society organisations working at the community level on issues of maternal health across eighteen districts of Madhya Pradesh and has been functioning for the last two years in collaboration with civil society organisations. SOCHARA is the nodal agency at the state level along

with the CHSJ and Support for Advocacy and Training to Health Initiatives (SATHI). Our work in this area is detailed later under '*Networking Initiatives*'.

Bhopal Gas Tragedy

In remembrance of the Bhopal Gas Tragedy on its 30th anniversary (3rd December 2014), SOCHARA participated in commemorative activities under the banner of Medico Friend Circle (MFC). These included:

- An exhibition showcasing the efforts of NGOs in Bhopal active in the relief and rehabilitation of tragedy victims
- A procession to the Union Carbide factory site along with other organisations to express solidarity with accident victims
- Publishing, printing and distributing a special commemorative issue of the 'medico friend circle' MFC Bulletin
- Participation in the inauguration of a new museum on the gas tragedy.

III. Research Initiatives

TO UNDERTAKE RESEARCH IN COMMUNITY HEALTH POLICY ISSUES, INCLUDING STRATEGIES IN COMMUNITY HEALTH CARE, HEALTH PERSONNEL TRAINING, INTEGRATION OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SYSTEMS

The focus of our research has been on health care, health policy, health human resource and integration of other systems of medicines. The research work during this year focused on reviews of institutions for higher education Environmental Health and Community Action for Health. The research work undertaken by our units is detailed below.

National

a) St. John's National Academy of Health Sciences (SJANHS)

Dr. Thelma Narayan was invited by the Governing Board and Director of St. John's Academy of Health Sciences to Chair an Evaluation Committee to undertake the Golden Jubilee Evaluation/Review of the SJNAHS on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of St. John's Medical College which was established in 1963. The group was tasked to revisit the Vision and Mission of the Institution and evolve a future road map for its growth and development. The group became known on the campus as the Vision Mission group. As an alumnus of the St. John's Medical College this was indeed an honour and a responsibility. The SOCHARA EC and AGBM agreed that Dr. Thelma could give the necessary time required to undertake this task. The

Terms of Reference and membership of the Committee were finalised through an iterative process of discussion with the Director SJANHS. A 16-member committee was established with a convenor and a 7-member core group. A hub and spokes approach was tried with different persons or groups taking responsibility for different components. A multi-pronged evaluation methodology was adopted reviewing previous evaluation reports; reviewing the history of the institution in the context of its vision and mission; a detailed review of the 'community health decade' 1973-83; reviewing important social teachings of the church regarding health and education; a brief contextual background; getting feedback through questionnaires from Sister Doctors; interacting with students (UG and PG) and staff through in-depth interviews and questionnaires; and undertaking an environmental assessment. A Vision Mission Workshop was organised with wide participation of staff. All this was done in a participatory manner and at no extra cost. Time and labour was provided free for the evaluation in gratitude to a great institution which had provided us an excellent undergraduate education. A fair amount of time in 2014-15 was spent on this.

Dr. Ravi Narayan undertook a detailed ten-year history of the Community Health Decade in St. John's Medical College 1973-1983 for the Vision /Mission team of the college. A presentation on this theme was made in the Vision Mission workshop organised following the jubilee year of the college. This document has been circulated more widely.

b) Tata Institute of Social Sciences

Dr. Thelma Narayan was invited to be a member of the Academic Review Committee reviewing the major changes including expansion of courses offered and campuses that had been introduced by the Tata Institute of Social Sciences by the Director since he took over together with the Academic Staff Committee. The Committee met several times and developed a methodology including the reading of documents provided; interaction with staff and students in a systematic manner; visits to campuses outside Mumbai; and interaction with governing board members.

Karnataka

a) Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences (RGUHS)

Dr. Ravi Narayan was invited to be a member of the Research Advisory Committee of the Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences (RGUHS) and reviewed over 40 project protocols systematically for approval and or improvement.

b) Environmental Health

Dr. Adithya Pradyumna participated as a resource person and technical expert for a Rapid Environmental Appraisal of St. John's (SJNAHS) which was performed during May-June 2014, in partnership with the Health and Humanities Division of St. John's Research Institute and Community Health Department of St. John's Medical College. This was a component of the golden jubilee evaluation mentioned above. The report was submitted to the Chairman of the Committee on 26th June, 2014 to be included in the overall report. This was shared with concerned people for action, besides being a chapter in the overall evaluation report.

Dr. Adithya was involved with understanding the health aspects of environmental policies in India. This work has been presented at workshops, conferences and has been published. In addition, some preliminary explorations were conducted in the field of environmental health ethics, which was presented at the 5th NBC. The issue of genetically modified food crops was presented as a case study.

c) Collaboration with the Foundation for Revitalisation of Local Health Traditions, Trans - disciplinary University (TDU), Bengaluru

Mr. SJ Chander and Mr. Ameer Khan provided technical support and training in the use of Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) and In-depth Interviews for a situation analysis as part of a study on the use of Local Health Traditions (LHTs)

for Mother and Child Health undertaken in three clusters through partner NGOs viz Tribal Health Initiative, Sittilingi, Tamil Nadu, ACCORD, Gudalur, Tamil Nadu and Swami Vivekananda Youth Movement (SVYM), HD KOTE, Karnataka. Some of our community health fellows also supported and undertook data collection through interviews in the community, facility surveys etc. This was the first year of a five-year study with Norwegian partners on "Sustainable Integrated Mother and Child Health in Rural India". Senior team members provided inputs and the study was approved by SISEC.

Research through the CHLP

a) Fellows' field studies

Fellows from batches 10 and 11 of the CHLP undertook field studies on various issues during their third field placement in different communities. The details of

the same have been mentioned under Objective 2 of the CHLP later in this report.

b) SOCHARA Institutional Scientific and Ethics Committee (SISEC)

We formed the SISEC the scientific and ethics committee to strengthen the scientific rigor and address the ethical aspects of the research studies carried out, primarily, by our team members, fellows and other associates in the area of community health and public health. The table below gives the details of the members of the committee. The first meeting of SISEC was held on 4th July, 2014. During the year the committee met three times to review five proposals of which two are PhD studies by its associates and two are research studies carried out in collaboration with other partner organisations. One proposal by a student from Nepal was recommended to seek the help of other committees due to nationality and other legal issues.

Table 1: Details of SISEC members

Sr. No	Name	Designation	Discipline Represented
01	Mr. Abhijit Sengupta	Chairperson	Administrative Services
02	Mr. S.J. Chander	Member Secretary	Community Health and Social Science
03	Dr. D.K. Srinivasa	Member	Public Health, Research
04	Dr. Arvind Kasturi	Member	Community Health- Academic
05	Dr. Maya Mascarehanas	Member	Community Health – Practice
06	Dr. ManjulikaVaz	Member	Social Science
07	Ms. Kathyayini Chamaraj	Member	Civil Society
08	Rev. Fr. Clement Campos	Member	Ethics
09	Ms. Aparna Ravi	Member	Law
10	Mr. AS. Mohammad	Member	Social Demography and Statistics



Photograph 3: Presentation of a research proposal at a SISEC meeting.

Tamil Nadu

a) VOICES research project

The VOICES research project, which involves using a 'realist evaluation' methodology regarding the functioning of VHWSNCs (Village Health Water Sanitation and Nutrition Committees) in 17 *panchayats* in Tamil Nadu is ongoing. The second arm is in Rajasthan. During the year we supported the project through providing a research assistant (to carry out the research wave 2) and conduct interviews. Between 20nd and 21st October, 2014, a team member attended the VHWSNC meeting and training program for members of the block federation. On 30th November, 2014, a team member met the other co-investigators in Chennai to discuss issues emerging from the research project. On 12th January, 2015, a team member attended a meeting at the Public Health Foundation

of India (PHFI), Delhi to plan for the future course of research activities. On 23rd and 24th February, 2015 a team member attended the tool development training program at D. Arul Selvi Community Based Rehabilitation (DAS-CBR) as part of the VOICES research.

VOICES implementation:

As part of the VOICES study, on 13th April, 2014 a team member trained seventeen *panchayat* presidents and other PRI members on their roles and responsibilities in improving health in their *panchayats*. On 21st March, 18th April and 16th July, 2014, a training of master trainers (health system and NGO staff) was held on concepts of VHWSNC, NRHM, VOICES research, committee formation and training strategies. As part of the study a team member conducted in-depth interviews with the Deputy Director of Health Services

of Tiruppattur, *panchayat* presidents, a few VHWSNC members and the community.

Across the team clusters

Public Health Foundation of India – National Workshop on Alcohol: A public health perspective – moving forward towards a national alcohol control policy.

All our three team clusters participated in a multi-centric study, conducted by PHFI, on alcohol policy and regulation which concluded that in India there are different alcohol policies in different states. There appears to be little political will for the prevention of this problem with the chief consideration being the amount of excise tax generated. The findings of the study included the need to formulate a strong policy on alcohol, and mobilisation of government institutions, civil society and NGOs to research the social side effects of alcohol. There is a need to increase awareness about this problem in the community, and to provide food, work and good housing i.e. development. There is also a need for vigorous implementation and strong monitoring of the policy at the ground level.

SOCHARA Archives

Dr. Ravi Narayan has taken responsibility for leading the work on archival documentation so that this material is available to staff and others. This work began primarily with CHC-SOCHARA history, but putting together documents around ten other areas/section of community health involvement were also initiated. These included medico friend circle, Jan Swasthya Abhiyan, People's

Health Movement, International People's Health University, Global Forum for Health Research, WHO Watch, Mission Sector in Health, Medical Education, Public Health Education and the Community Health Learning Program /Community Health Fellowship Scheme. He was actively involved with Mr. Chandran – the new SOCHARA website manager to review, compile and strengthen old/newer sections of the website with regard to archives as well as the overall development of the new look to the website.

Dialogue with and support to Researchers

- Discussions on Health Reforms in Karnataka with Fulbright Scholar – Prof. Kenneth Apfel from Maryland with NCAER and Dr. Arul (IPH).
 - Dr. Joe Sawyer – MPH student from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine did a placement at CPHE for a study on MDR TB and palliative care.
 - Fr. Nixon Joseph Palathara – doctoral student from the Biomedical Campus, University of Rome, Italy for discussions on his thesis on the teaching of Biomedical Ethics in India.
 - Dr. Olinda Timms on Public Health Ethics Chapter for her forthcoming book on Medical Ethics
 - Ms Rosalind Miller doctoral scholar from the LSHTM spent 9 months with SOCHARA for the field work of her study, which was approved by SISEC.
- Dr. Cassandra Thiel, Fulbright Nehru Scholar, post doctoral associate sustainable engineering, University of Pittsburgh, USA

IV. Training and Capacity Building

TO EVOLVE EDUCATIONAL STRATEGIES IN COMMUNITY HEALTH

Since inception we have promoted capacity building of various cadres in the health sector mainly working with civil society organisations and also with government. Each of these was designed based on the needs identified. Since 2003, the Community Health Learning Programme (CHLP) in Bengaluru and the Madhya Pradesh Community Health Fellowship Program (MP-CHFP) in Bhopal, supported by the Sir Ratan Tata Trust (SRTT) and the Sir Dorabji Tata Trust (SDTT) respectively, have emerged as major innovative educational strategies. Intensive work was undertaken for the CHLP this year. In addition to these, we are also involved in supporting training initiatives by both the government and NGO's. The activities undertaken are given below.

Community Health Learning Programme (CHLP)

Community health education, as part of our objectives and building on an organizational review in 1998, began in 2002 with eight pre-fellows who immersed themselves into the idea of 'community' through the Community Health Cell (CHC) and began their journey towards a deeper understanding of health and community leading to their participation in building community health. CHC's experience helped develop and test innovative learning methods which, in subsequent years, were

formalised into the Community Health Fellowship Programme in two phases – the Community Health Internship cum Fellowship Scheme (CHFS 2003-07) and the CHLP (2008-2011). The ongoing third phase of CHLP began in 2012 and will end by mid 2016. The CHLP has today, evolved into a semi-structured learning programme, under the SOCHARA-SOPHEA umbrella, and is progressing towards equipping young professionals in addressing the community health challenges in the country. Until now, the programme has seen an intake of over two hundred fellows and flexi-interns.

The objectives of the CHLP in Phase three are outlined below:

- 1. To build the capacity of ninety professionals in community and public health in India*** (intake of 20 per year over a three-year period and short-term internships 10 per year) for the Health for All goal and movement.
- 2. To conduct a post graduate level teaching program of a one-year duration in public health and community health*** with learning modules, resource materials, web based learning strategies, and field placements for experiential learning through community action.
- 3. To foster and develop core competencies in community health***

and public health among the faculty team of learning facilitators, and the interns /fellows, through theoretical and experiential learning.

- 4. To build a Community Health Resource Network** of practitioner scholar activists (a community of learning and practice) committed to an alternative Public Health paradigm based on a community health approach that has equity, rights, social determinants, and communitisation of the health system at its core.
- 5. To strengthen the Community Health Learning and Information Centre (CLIC)** into a knowledge centre which links and draws upon the rich resources of the community action, training, research, and policy advocacy

facilitated by the alternative sector of community health and public health practitioners committed to Health for All.

The CHLP as a 'community':

The CHLP has developed as a community in itself and is characterised by the diversity of its fellows, team members and resource persons; sharing common perspectives, sharing social ties and engaging in joint action towards achieving 'Health for All'. The CHLP provides a vibrant and stimulating learning environment that continues to give community health a voice and a future. Each of the objectives of CHLP are linked to the broad objectives of SOCHARA and the work done under CHLP by both the team members as well as fellows can be seen as fulfilling these larger objectives.

Photograph 4: CHLP Fellows of Batch 11

Jyothi lakshmi With tribal counselor in PHC, Gudlur



Mentoring:

To support the learning of fellows during the fellowship and ensure that they become committed to the learning process, peer support is arranged for each fellow under the programme. Through the mentoring process an experienced person in an institution / organization spends time with the fellows reflecting on his or her learning and providing guidance and support. The core role of the mentor is to facilitate the search for a deeper meaning that fellows are seeking through community health, while enhancing their functioning, facilitating their understanding of processes and concepts; and overall helping him / her to establish themselves as future practitioners of community health. To ensure this process a supportive, encouraging environment with some gentle direction is being provided.

CHLP Full-time Fellowship:

The full-time fellowship, in Phase three, has been conducted as a one-year teaching learning programme for each batch. The programme is semi-structured and flexible both in terms of the knowledge, skills

and experiences being shared as well as the time of intake of fellows while still ensuring all participants develop an in-depth understanding of community health and its various aspects, and complete the stipulated twelve-month duration of the programme. The CHLP team has worked extensively to accommodate and facilitate such flexibility throughout the past year.

The CHLP is distributed as follows 6 months of collective teaching-learning sessions interspersed with 6 months of field placement. Content development continues to progress using evidence-based experience, knowledge, skills and understanding of community health and public health that have been gained over several years; as a foundation. The core team and part-time team members have also been encouraged to contribute to this development.

During this past year (April 2014 to March 2015), the CHLP has had three overlapping batches of full-time fellows; batch 10 (June 2013 to July 2014), batch 11 (January 2014 to March 2015) and batch 12 (February 2015 to February 2016). (Fig. 2)

Figure 2: Timeline of batches of CHLP during 2014-15

Apr-'14	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan-'15	Feb	Mar

Batch 10



Batch 11



Batch 12



A total of twenty-seven fellows (batches 10 and 11) completed their fellowship during this time period and 17 joined the fellowship programme (batch 12). While all the fellows, except one of batch 10, are currently employed, a few fellows of batch 11 are in the process of finding employment.

CHLP Objective 1:

As a part of capacity building of professionals in community and public health, during 2014-15 through CHLP, a total of thirty-five scholar activists, both full-time fellows and flexi-interns, have been added to the pool of two hundred plus scholar activists from previous batches. As mentioned earlier, two batches (10 and 11) have completed their fellowship and the job profiles of these fellows includes working with public health resources groups, community based organisations, research organisations, academic institutions and non-governmental organisations. Batch 12 is currently undergoing the fellowship and will finish in February, 2016.

The fellows of batch 12 are from varied educational backgrounds such as business administration, dentistry, human development, economics and social work (Fig. 3), and from eight states and (Fig. 4). Some of the fellows have as much as eight years of experience prior to joining CHLP whereas others are fresher's after completion of their post graduate studies. Out of the seventeen fellows of batch 12, eleven of them are women; this pattern of gender balance has been seen in all the batches of phase three (Fig 5). This can be considered to be unique to CHLP when compared to other programmes. The areas of interest of the fellows include nutrition, mental health, health systems, social determinants of health, maternal health, child health, local health traditions, and disadvantaged and marginalised populations. Other than the full-time programme, we also offered short-term internships through the course of the year.

Figure 3: Percentage distribution of fellows of Batch 12 of CHLP (2015 -16) according to their educational background

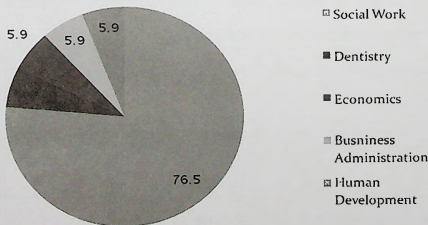


Figure 4: Map showing the places from where fellows of Batch 12 of CHLP (2015-16) have enrolled

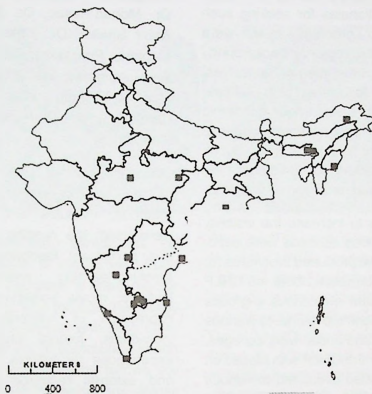
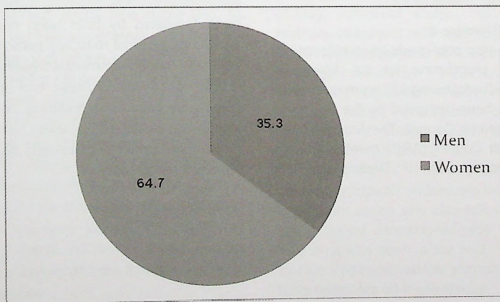


Figure 5: Percentage distribution of fellows of Batch 12 (2015-16) of CHLP according to gender



Seven interns joined us for independent short-term internships during the year. Interests and rationales for seeking such an orientation to community health were as diverse as the regional backgrounds and experience of the interns themselves. Apart from the fellowship both full-time and flexi, students from various academic institutions as a part of their academic courses undertake field placements with us and eleven such students completed their field placement with us during this period.

As part of efforts to increase the visibility of the CHLP, various methods were used. During this year we produced brochures for disseminating information about the CHLP which we circulated on various e-groups and have also sent the same to various medical, nursing and social work colleges. Advertisement for the CHLP was placed on our website and also circulated to various e-groups. Team members, during their field visits and field work have also disseminated information on the CHLP.

CHLP Objective 2:

The one-year post-graduate level teaching-learning programme for the fellows is facilitated by following a 52-week curriculum that has been approved by the Academic and Research Council. The Academic and Research Council (ARC) meeting for this year was held on 10th December, 2014,

at St. John's Medical College Campus in Bengaluru. The members present were Dr. Mohan Isaac, Dr. John Porter, Dr. Kabir Sheikh, Dr. Thelma Narayan, Mr. Magimai Pragasam, Ms. Aditi Iyer, Mr. As Mohammad, Ms. Jayeeta Chowdhury (from SDDT trust) and Ms. Kaaren Mathias (through Skype). Dr. Mohan Isaac chaired the meeting.

During this year, as a part of strengthening of the teaching-learning a variety of methods, modules and session plans were used; the reading list was redone and participant feedback obtained. The teaching-learning methods included lectures; movie screenings; discussions; expression of solidarity with affected individuals; journal clubs; sharing of experiences by fellows, team members and external resource persons; taking part in protests; undertaking visits to various organisations; and watching documentaries. The teaching-learning has been facilitated by both team members as well as external resource persons who were from nongovernmental organisations, academic institutions (India and abroad), community based organisations, research institutions (India and abroad), and from movements (India and abroad). Some of them are our associates.

Photograph 5 & 5: Fellows of CHLP Batch 11 learn about Participatory Action Research, facilitated by Sam Joseph.



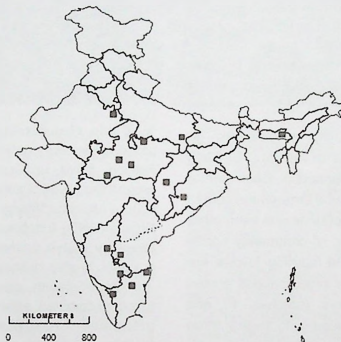
To enhance learning, participants go through the process of mentorship. Each participant was assigned a team mentor and a field mentor, who through the course of the programme, partner with each other to enhance learning of community health and of self. For field learning fellows are placed with partner organisations across the country. Fellows (batches 10 and 11) have been placed with twenty-three organisations across nine states (Fig. 6). During the field placements apart from the objectives that fellows are given, have also contributed to the organisations where they have been placed in various ways, and also have undertaken activities such as documenting local healing traditions and preparing seasonal calendars. During the field placement the fellows prepared district health profiles of the respective districts in which they were placed. This enhanced the learning of, not only of the fellows, but also the team members through sharing of experiences.

As a part of understanding the research process fellows conduct field studies. Fellows have undertaken field studies around the areas of sanitation (gender and cultural aspects), Village Health and Nutrition Days (VHND) functioning and challenges faced by ASHA workers, quality of care in public health institutions, mental illness and mental health, elder care, challenges faced by disabled, substance use, nutrition (Integrated Child Development Service (ICDS), nutritional status of lactating mothers, infant and child feeding practices, nutritional rehabilitation centres, nutritional challenges faced by People Living with HIV/AIDS), occupational health of miners, maternal health, immunisation coverage, functioning of Village Health Sanitation Committees (VHSNC), and health of working children. These field studies helped participants understand the realities in different states and also link what was learnt during teaching-learning sessions with what was seen in the field. The field studies also improved the understanding of team members on these issues.

The activities however are not limited to SOPHEA and team members facilitate teaching-learning in other institutions as detailed later.

These activities have helped in achieving the following objectives of SOCHARA: creating awareness, undertaking community health action; undertaking research and evolving educational strategies.

Figure 6: Map showing the location of field placements of fellows of CHLP during 2014-15



CHLP Objective 3:

Various activities were undertaken by us to fulfill the objective of *fostering and developing the core competencies in community health and public health among the faculty team of learning facilitators*, and the interns/fellows, through theoretical and experiential learning. As mentioned earlier the three stakeholders of CHLP are the participants along with the team and field mentors who form a triangular partnership through the process of mentoring. Since this is an essential process, in order to

enhance the capacity for mentoring, we held two workshops for mentors during the year.

The *first Mentors' Workshop* was conducted in Bengaluru between 16th and 17th June 2014 which saw the participation of forty-two mentors including the team mentors from various field mentoring organisations. Along with the mentors, fellows and team members from Bengaluru and Chennai clusters also took part in the workshop. There were discussion and presentations around the areas of history and evolution

of CHLP, community health learning experience of fellows and mentors, mainstreaming of CHLP, Community Health Movement in India, principles and practice in field mentorship in community health, ideas for improving CHLP and mentorship, understanding the 'Axioms of Community Health', Community Health Journey of Community Health fellows and alumni, mentors views regarding the mentoring process, and strengthening the teaching-learning process of CHLP. The mentors workshop was followed up by receiving feedback from the mentors regarding the workshop and also any other suggestions. Mentors workshop has resulted in better clarity on mentoring among both field and team members. One of the outcomes of the workshop has been that there is better contact between field and team mentors.

The *second Mentors' Workshop* for field and team mentors of the CHLP was conducted in Bengaluru on 10th December 2014 which saw the participation of fifteen mentors

including the team from SOCHARA. The concepts of mentoring, attitudes necessary for a mentor and challenges faced by mentors were discussed. The mentors' workshop also served as a platform for identifying and networking with newer mentoring organisations. The capacity building and development of team and fellows is ongoing as indicated by other activities and events which have happened during the year.

A half-day session was facilitated by Dr Ravi to improve capacity and understanding of staff on principles of teaching learning facilitation on community health. Fellows have been encouraged to and have attended seminars, conferences and lectures; taken part in workshops; been part of protests and movements. Since team members accompany fellows their development is also facilitated. Team members have also completed trainings, attended workshops, and participated in seminars and conferences independent of the fellows (Table 2).

Table 2: Themes covered as a part of CHLP staff development during 2014-15

TRAINING THEMES	
Sexuality	
Software and Technology: Epi-Info	
Social/community model of health	
SEMINARS, CONFERENCES, MEETINGS, WORKSHOPS – THEMES	
Public Health: Evidence in Public Health	Bangalore HIV & AIDS Forum
NIRBHAYA Centres	Medico Friends Circle Annual and Mid-annual Meet
Health Care for the People	Justice and Peace

Community monitoring and strengthening	Basic Skills in Counselling
Communitisation in NRHM and integration of mental health in NRHM	Sexual Harassment – Workshop
Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana as a socially inclusive programme	Alumni and Mentor workshop
5 th National Bioethics Conference	10 th year celebrations of SOCHARA-CEU, Chennai
Medical and Health Science Education System In India: The Emerging Paradigms	Community Health and Environmental Survey Skill Share 5: Coal and Health
Maj. Gen. S.L. Bhatia Memorial Oration: Dietary Fiber	International Women's Day Celebration
National Informatics Centre Seminar	A State of Emergency
Meeting with CHLP Funders and Reviewers	Health Rights and Private Sector Reform
Young Environmental Health Researchers workshop	Jana Arogya Andolana Karnataka (JAAK), the Karnataka Chapter of Jan Swasthya Abhiyan
VISITS	
Visit to field mentoring organizations	Translation provided for study on MDR-TB
Mid-line and end-line evaluations of a copper water purification device	Participatory Rural Appraisal training for researchers

CHLP Objective 4:

The CHLP plays a significant part in developing an extensive community health resource network. In the past year, the applications and subsequent intake of CHLP fellows for batches 11 and 12 encouraged newer ties with organisations not previously engaged with us. The profiles and interest areas of the CHLP fellows prompted elements of the 52-week CHLP schedule (both collectives and field placements) to be customised. The CHLP team and part-time staff were encouraged to enhance their own knowledge and skills; also, external

resource persons were invited as a means to enhance the learning experience of the fellows within community health.

The CHLP fellows and staff were presented with opportunities to create and expand their own resource networks through organising and participating in events that included protests, campaigns, workshops, conferences and meetings (Table 3). A wide range of resource materials including reports, articles and films was obtained through participation in these events which have added to the CLIC repertoire, as has CLIC contributed to the knowledge base of our network partners and associates.

Table 3: List of Meetings/Seminars/Exposure Visits/Specialised Workshops Participated in by the CHLP Fellows during 2014-15

1.	Workshop by Mr. Krishna on 'Low Cost Communication Technology'
2.	'March against Monsanto' organized by Greenpeace International
3.	Communicable diseases: HIV/AIDS and Sharing of Experience by Mr. Elangovan
4.	Visited Snehadaan
5.	Experience with the empowerment of sex workers by Swathy Mahila Samasthe
6.	"Principles of ethics and Human rights" by Dr. Amar Jesani
7.	Integrity and Corruption in Health Care services and research' by Dr. Amar Jesani
8.	Workshop on mentoring for community health
9.	Team retreat for the capacity building of the CHLP team
10.	Mid Annual Meet of meeting of medico friends circle at Hyderabad
11.	Public lecture on "In Search of Health Care for the People" by Dr. Abhay Bang organized by Azim Premji University
12.	State level meeting of Jana ArogyaAndolana Karnataka (JAAK), the Karnataka Chapter of Jan SwasthyaAbhiyan
13.	Bangalore Blind Walk organised by The Project Vision
14.	Visit to the Association of People with Disability (APD), Begaluru
15.	Workshop on "Access to Toilet, Gender and Mental Health Perspective's"
16.	Vigil in remembrance of Bhopal Gas Tragedy at Town Hall
17.	Visited Foundation for Revitalisation of Local Health Tradition (FRLHT) and attended session on AYUSH- Challenges and Opportunities including Local Health Tradition.
18.	CHLP Alumni meeting organised at St John's Medical College Annexe.
19.	5 th National Bio-ethics Conference jointly organised by SOCHARA, St Johns Medical College and FMES
20.	Visited KAIROSE in Kannur and attended the presentation and interacted with staff.
21.	Visited Shanti Pain and Palliative Care in Kalpetta and attended the Sharing of the staff
22.	Guest Lecture by Dr. Gopinath Shenoy on "Medical Negligence-Current Scenario" organised by the Department of Hospital Administration under St John's Medical College (SJMC) in association with SJMC Alumni Association

23.	Young Environmental Health Researchers Meet organised by Environmental Health Unit of SOCHARA at Bengaluru
24.	10th year celebrations of SOCHARA-Chennai Extension Unit at Chennai
25.	Community Health and Environmental Survey Skill Share 5 on Coal and Health organised by Corporate Accountability Desk at Bengaluru
26.	41st annual meeting of Medico Friends Circle in Pune
27.	Major General S.L. Bhatia Memorial Oration at St John's Medical College, Bengaluru
28.	'Anti sexual assault campaign and protest convention' organised by People's Movement Against Sexual Violence at Bengaluru
29.	International Women's Day Celebration organised by Student Christian Movement of India, Bengaluru
30.	Panel discussion on health rights and private sector reform co-organised by Society for People's Action for Development, SOCHARA and SATHI at Bengaluru
31.	Visit to the Primary Health Centre, Dommasandra

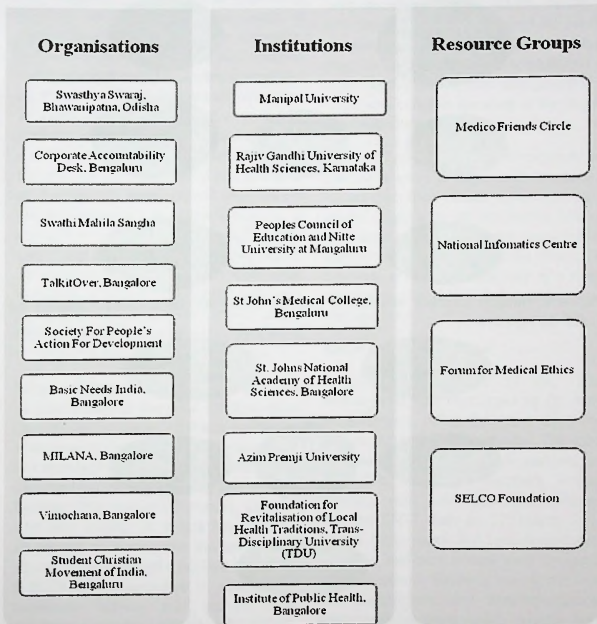
CHLP staff and part-time staff are encouraged to develop their own areas of work interests as well, in line with encouraging personal and professional development. Various conferences, meets, discussion forums, training and groups were developed and organised by staff members as a result, which not only served as an opportunity for staff training and development, but also as a platform for expanding their own and SOCHARA's network base. These events have been detailed under Objective 3 (Table 2 and Fig. 8).

The CHLP fellowship entails field placement that forms 50% of the twelve-month programme. The fellows hence spend an extensive period in the field with the support and mentoring of our field partners. As placements are planned with fellows based on their specific areas of interest within community health, we created new links through the CHLP during the past year which has in turn further expanded our network (Table 3).

Table 4: New Field Organisations Identified for the CHLP during 2014-15

1.	Kiran Society, Uttar Pradesh
2.	Prerana Community Health Development Project, Chhatarpur Christian Hospital, Madhya Pradesh
3.	State Health Resource Centre, Chhattisgarh
4.	Bethany Society, Meghalaya

Figure 7: CHLP Networking for Staff Development through Organisations and Resource Groups during 2014-15



The flexi internships and student block placements offered through the CHLP also greatly contributed to the development of

the SOCHARA network (Fig. 8 and 9). The process has also encouraged the revival of older network partners.

Figure 8: Network partners established through Flexi Fellowships offered through the CHLP during 2014-15

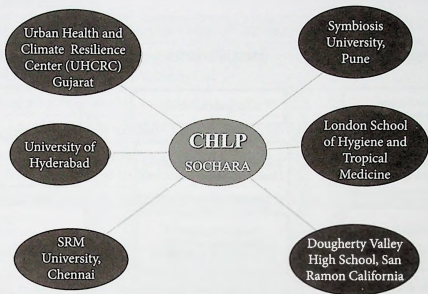
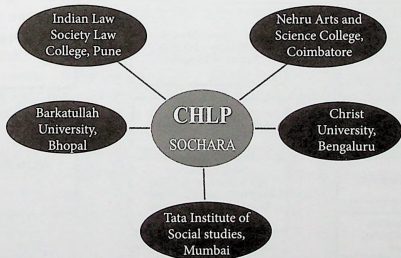


Figure 9: Network partners established through Block-placements offered through the CHLP during 2014-15



The efforts made through the CHLP, towards developing and sustaining such a rich network of resource groups and individuals have served SOCHARA'S overarching objectives namely creating awareness, promoting and supporting

community health action, undertaking research, evolving educational strategies, building dialogue with relevant stakeholders in health as well as creating a unique and resourceful information centre.

CHLP Objective 5:

The ongoing process of *strengthening of CLIC* resulted in increased usage of the library by fellows and team members. During the year our website was updated and a new look website became operational on 1st January, 2015. The website in relation to CLIC contains newsletters, resource material, publications, presentations, and a gallery with cartoons, photos, videos and posters. All our publications are available on the website (www.sochara.org) making the web repository of resource material a reality. There is a regular tracking of the hits/viewership of the website which has shown an increasing trend with users from India and other countries. The website will serve in the future as a platform for web based learning. The changes extend to the content produced for the CHLP documentation.

Photo documentation of CHLP has continued through the year. The first video documentation of the CHLP was completed after receiving feedback from the team over two rounds of viewing. The final version was launched formally at a meeting with Mr. Alan Leather, President-NGO Forum, Geneva who was visiting us. It has been shared on several occasions with the fellows and others. It has received a positive feedback. *E-SOCHARA Newsletters* to which team members, fellows and alumni have contributed to have been circulated widely as a part of dissemination about CHLP.

A new issue of 'DIMENSIONS' was published in September 2014 with articles from flexi interns, alumni, fellows and team

members based on their field experiences. The first **E-SOCHARA newsletter** was launched on 8th March, 2015, on International Women's day and the second issue was released on 1st May, 2015, Labour Day. E-newsletters will be brought out on a bi-monthly basis. The strengthening of CLIC was possible because of the regular team meetings.

The CLIC committee has met regularly and discussed ways to improve its functioning. Issues discussed include replacing missing books, digitisation of SOCHARA articles, annotated bibliography being developed for certain themes and updated for others. The Librarian of CLIC participated in a three-day training on KOHA Software for library management.

CHLP Mid-Term Review:

A participatory review of the CHLP phase three was conducted by Dr. Maya Mascarenhas (MYRADA) and Dr. Arima Mishra (Azim Premji University). The report has been shared with donor partners and Executive Committee members. A team meeting was held with the reviewers and the SRTT team on 27th March, 2015, where suggestions and recommendations from the mid-term review were presented and discussed. Below is an excerpt from the suggestions and recommendations summarised in the review:

"Based on observations and review of all documents and discussions, the review team feels very strongly that this program is worth continuing. There is a dire need for experiential learning

and the positives of this program cannot be ignored. There has been a very honest and significant attempt to inculcate very important values in the fellows on the understanding and practice of community health which will impact on people's lives in the field. Every fellow has benefited from this course in many ways and this kind of learning process is unique and an excellent example for replication and scaling. However, there are a few areas that need to be strengthened and improved upon. The review team has made an attempt to suggest certain paths that may help enhance the quality of the program."

Points from the review report: Echoing diversity in working towards Health for All:

'The CHLP, over its three phases of development (2003-2016) has evolved its uniqueness, flexibility and diversity through a process of careful reflection, review and evaluation. The programme presents our nation with exceptional opportunity to create an effective and efficient multicultural, multi-talented taskforce with the common goal of making 'Health for All' a reality.

The CHLP has been equipped to consciously maintain the balance of gender, culture and socio-economic background among the fellows and staff; and encourages the collaboration of professional effort from multiple academic backgrounds. As illustrated, the CHLP, through its objectives has succeeded in also meeting the overall

objectives of SOCHARA in this past year and continues to work towards 'Health for All' through strengthening community health."

5th National Bioethics Conference (NBC)

SOCHARA played a major role in organizing the 5th National Bioethics Conference (NBC) in Bengaluru, along with the St. John's National Academy of Health Sciences and Forum for Medical Ethics Society (FMES) Mumbai, between 11th and 13th December 2014. The theme for the conference was '*Integrity in Health Care and Research*' with an **International Symposium on 'Corruption in Health Care and Medicine'**. Our organizational involvement builds on involvement with earlier NBCs and with the theme of bioethics and public health ethics. This effort was part of building a wider movement for public health ethics and research ethics in the country. It had an educational, research, networking and advocacy component.

Dr. Thelma Narayan was the Organising Secretary together with Dr. GD Ravindran from St. John's. An Organizing Committee was formed with members from Bengaluru, Mumbai, Chennai and Vellore. The Committee met several times during the year. A 5th NBC website was set up and managed by SOCHARA through which participant registration also took place and some background papers were shared. A Twitter handle was set up during the meeting. SOCHARA helped actively with fund raising for the NBC. Management of some grants with narrative and financial reporting was

also handled. All communication with participants and speakers was undertaken by the Admin Team who did a commendable job with three rounds of communications to all participants sent individually.

A very rich programme was developed by the Organising Committee with keynote addresses, panel discussions, workshops with paper presentations by researchers, film shows, poster presentations, theatre and a doll's exhibition on the theme of the Conference.

In preparation for the NBC, fellows and team members presented articles related to ethics as a part of journal clubs through which team members and fellows were also oriented to ethical issues in health as well as in health research. Amar Jesani facilitated sessions for the team and CHLP participants on ethics whenever he came for Organising Committee meetings.

The conference saw participation of about 750 participants from fifteen states within India and ten different countries. The presence of 250 students – postgraduate and undergraduate was the result of a definite strategy to encourage young people to join. There were twelve keynote addresses, two panel discussions, forty-three oral paper presentations, fourteen workshops and eight posters presentations at the conference.

Dr. Ravi Narayan from SOCHARA gave a key note address on integrity, transparency and accountability in Public Health Policy

There were film shows, a dolls exhibition and plays produced specially on the theme.

The conference served to build links with researchers, activists and academics. Staff and fellows attended the conference and also helped in rapporteuring. The Indian Journal of Medical Ethics (IJME) carries the published report of the NBC which is also available on our website (www.sochara.org). The reference is Saligram P, Kurpad SS, Narayan T, IJME Fifth National Bioethics Conference: A summary report, Indian J Med. Ethics, 2015 Apr-Jun, 12 (2): 104-109.

There has been follow up to the meeting. Researchers from Chennai and Bengaluru have been in touch. The SOCHARA Institutional Scientific and Ethics Committee (SISEC) for review of research proposals has been formed and is functional. CHLP participants of Batch 12 have a much stronger grounding in research ethics.

Support to capacity building of organisations

a) Inputs to academic programmes and students:

Karnataka

Masters in Public Health (MPH) programme of the Interdisciplinary School of Health Sciences, University of Pune

Dr. Adithya conducted the module on Environmental and Urban Health, including 12 lectures and discussions, for 3rd semester MPH students at the Interdisciplinary School of Health Sciences, University of Pune, between August and October, 2014. The Community Health Approach was introduced through case studies from the CHES experience.

Master of Public Health (Hons) [MPH (Hons)] programme of Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Public Health and Centre for Disease Control (RGIPH and CDC), Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences (RGUHS), Bengaluru

As part of mainstreaming of CHLP, our team actively participated in developing the curriculum for a three-year MPH (Hons) program initiated by the RGIPH and CDC under the RGUHS (Karnataka State Health University). The curriculum developed has been adopted and published by the University. Team members were also involved in development of syllabus for various competencies. The course was launched in July 2014 and our team members have facilitated the 'Values in Public Health Competency' and 'Socio-cultural and Community Health Competency' for students of the course during the months of December 2014, and February-March 2015. Team members contributed to teaching facilitation, putting together resource materials, and preparing and facilitating discussions on case studies.

It was a unique experience of having to teach these subjects to MPH students. Till now, there was very little scope to teach these subjects to the government officers and there was only opportunity to teach these subjects to the community health fellows or some sessions for civil society partners but never as part of an accredited course. Also the feedback from the students was that they were now able to situate their own department's performance in the larger political economy context. Students

of MPH (Hons) visited us as a part of their curriculum.

Guest Lecture for students of St. John's Medical College, Bengaluru

Dr. Ravi and Thelma Narayan were invited to address and interact with students commencing their undergraduate medical studies during their induction programme.

In continuation of the engagement of last year, the humanities division of St. John's Medical College invited Mr. PrasannaSaligram for a two-part guest lecture on the Constitution of India, and Health and Human Rights on 7th November and 21st November, 2014.

Masters in Development Studies programme of Azim Premji University, Bengaluru

In continuation of the engagement which began last year, Azim Premji University invited Mr. PrasannaSaligram to give a guest lecture on societal Determinants of Health for the students of M.A. in Development Studies (Health and Nutrition stream) on 19th February, 2015. As a follow-up a session on JAAK was facilitated for the students during which Mr. Prasanna traced the evolution and development of JAAK, and outlined the current activities being undertaken in the state. Students of this course visited us to get to know more about our activities.

Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS)

The director of SOPHEA is on the Board of Studies of the School of Health Systems

Studies of TISS and is also part of their Academic Review Committee.

Other capacity building inputs

- Ravi and Thelma Narayan facilitated a Clinical Meeting at the Albert Einstein Medical College and Montefiore Hospital for Residents of Family Medicine and Internal Medicine on Community Health in India on 14th October 2014 during a personal visit to the USA
- They also made presentations and had an interactive meeting with members of AID Boston (Association for India's Development) held at MIT on 18th October 2014
- Discussions were held with the Sarathy Foundation on 20th October 2014
- They spoke at a lunchtime Seminar at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine to the Global Health and Development Group on 24th October 2014.
- They participated in and spoke at PHM – UK group meeting at Tower Hamlets, London on 25th October 2014.
- Dr. Ravi Narayan took a session on communitization for the Basic Needs India (BNI) team and some of its partners as a challenging policy process option in the future for civil society groups to engage with.
- He took a special session on Ethics and Health for Franciscan Seminarists at St. Anthony Friary in Bengaluru (Jan. 2015)
- He facilitated and participated in the First All India People's Medical and Health Science Convention in Mangalore hosted by NITTE University in collaboration with the People's Health Council and delivered a plenary lecture on "*Medical and Health Science Education System in India: The emerging paradigms.*" He helped evolve a collective statement on the theme – with pointers to an Action Plan for the People's Health Council.
- He facilitated discussion with visitors to SOCHARA
 - a) Prof. Rahul Mehra of Indian Health Alliance on Health Promotion
 - b) Mr. Alan Leather formerly from Public Service International and the NGO Forum in Geneva spent a few days in Bengaluru for discussions on Health and Mental Health.
- Kumar KJ participated in a training programme for a group of 45 participants at fr. Patrao Hospital, Puttur, Karnataka along with Dr. KR Anthony on 14th March 2016.
- Postgraduate students doing the MD programme in Community Medicine visited SOCHARA to understand the activities of SOCHARA.
- Students from Maastricht University spent half a day for an Orientation at SOCHARA

Tamil Nadu

As part of our continuous education programme we mentor young people

to increase their learning in the field of community health. During the year, we mentored three post-graduate public health students from SRM University, Chennai and a post-graduate student of social work student from TISS, Mumbai. They were placed in the CAH intervention area to learn about the concepts of communitisation and the responses of the public health system. Through these interns, continuous support to CAH process was also facilitated.

The students conducted studies on "Knowledge and attitude of care takers on Childhood Disability" and "ICDS in various caste areas in Kandali block of Vellore district". The student of social work placed in the field at Pazhaverkadu learnt about the fishing community and the role of the health system and the functioning of ICDS centers in the area to meet their needs.

Madhya Pradesh

Community Health Learning Programme

In Madhya Pradesh, 10 fellows of CHLP were placed in four districts (Bhopal, Khandwa, Chhatarpur and Hoshangabad). Fellows did their field work either in villages or slums with the help of field and team mentors. The fellows' areas of interest included adolescent health, HIV/AIDS, mental health and malnutrition. We mentor and provide field support, from Bhopal, to all these fellows. Regular sessions were organised to review learning and discuss challenges in the field. Inputs and feedback were given during these sessions. We also provided technical support, relevant literature, field area support; coordinated with mentoring

organisations and organised visits to public health institutions. In the case of nutrition, we provided technical inputs on weighing of children, plotting of growth charts and the interpretation of these charts.

Student placements

Students of Sociology and Social Work:

Four students from the departments of Sociology and Social Work of Barkatullah University, Bhopal were placed us. We provided inputs for improving their knowledge, skills and attitudes towards field work. We gave them field assignments for which we provided technical inputs, help in making survey formats and relevant literature support. The details of their work are as follows:

- Anganwadis were visited to observe/ monitor if they are functioning according to government norms. Children were weighed in these anganwadis and their nutritional status was determined using growth charts. Mothers and care givers of moderately and severely malnourished children were interviewed to find out causes of malnutrition.
- The solid waste management system of Bhopal was examined and ground level workers of waste disposal agencies were interviewed. A survey of rag pickers and garbage collectors was conducted.
- A door to door survey was conducted to identify persons suffering from scabies

or other related skin diseases and the details of the same were recorded.

- The health seeking behavior in a slum was studied, and the details of the health care providers in and around the slum were recorded. A door to door survey was done in the slum along with observation and interviewing of health care providers.

Appropriate feedback was given to the departments of Sociology and Social Work of Barkatullah University.

Student of Public Health:

We had one MPH student from the School of Medical Sciences, University of Hyderabad who worked on nutrition in a slum near the CPHE office. We provided technical inputs on child care, nutrition and malnutrition along with relevant literature, and also provided field support. She did a situational analysis of *anganwadis* according to the norms, weighed the children under 5 years of age and determined nutritional status of the children (according to weight for age). She undertook personal counselling and health education in the community.

b) Inputs to other organisations:

Karnataka

Training of Trainers (TOT) for Baptist Hospital Field Coordinators

As a part of knowledge enhancement for field coordinators of Kannamangala *gram panchayat* unit, the Community Medicine Department of Bangalore Baptist Hospital

with SOCHARA organised a training programme on 7th July, 2014. Eight field coordinators were oriented to an introduction to sanitation, history of sanitation, CLTS (community led total sanitation) method and SOCHARA's activities. A technical background note on toilet construction was distributed.

Tamil Nadu

Training for PRI members

We organised a two-day non-residential training for PRI members (twelve Presidents, eight Ward members and six NGO staff) from Pennagaram, Nallampalli and Palacode blocks of Dharmapuri district on "Role of PRIs in Health and Health Rights" on 4th and 5th November, 2014, at SMD Meeting Hall, Indur. Mr. Shankar, Mr. Ameerkhan, Ms. Dhanalakshmi and medical officers- Dr. Adiyaman of Bhandahalli Primary Health Centre (PHC) and Dr. Ranipriya of Indur PHC were the resource persons who covered the topics of health as a right, health of the *panchayat*, health indicators, role of presidents and people, community action as a political activity and non-communicable disease program. The training program was a part of the on-going process of strengthening VHWSCs in six *panchayats* of Dharmapuri district.

Training of various community committee members

We conducted training for members of various *panchayat* Committees (School Management, Village Health Water Sanitation and Nutrition, and ICDS

committees) on Accountability, Monitoring and Planning of public services. The training was held on 14th November, 2014, at Vinayaga School Meeting Hall, Pennagaram with fifty-five participants.

Support to Tamil Nadu Hunger Project

For the Tamil Nadu Hunger Project, a partner NGO in Dharmapuri was supported in advocacy with and skill development training of elected women representatives (around ninety members) from Pennagaram, Palacode and Thenkanikottai blocks who then formed a federation called "MUZHAKKAM". This process was based on needs assessment. They were trained to monitor local public distribution system, ICDS, health sub-centre (HSC), schools and other centers providing services in *panchayats*.

Community Accountability and Social Justice workshop

A team member, invited as a resource person, presented the Tamil Nadu experience and shared learnings at a workshop on accountability and social justice organised by Centre for Health and Social Justice (CHSJ) between 4th and 5th September, 2014.

Training support to various groups

As part of open catalyst approach, we supported and trained various groups to strengthen their understanding on the concepts of community health, health system and opportunities available to civil society to strengthen the system.

Team members were invited by alumni of Asian Health Institute, Chennai for a training session on 29th April, 2014, during which the group discussed on new health policies in the country.

Team members facilitated a session on village health committees, as a part of training for the project staffs, at 'ROOTS' workshop organised by Tamil Nadu Forum for Crèche and Childcare Services (TN-FORCES) on 22nd May, 2014. The team shared experiences with respect to community level voluntary members and the sustainability of community action programmes, and engagement with the health system and PRIs.

Team members facilitated sessions on health and its social determinants, and the role of PRIs in addressing health issues for women *panchayat* members in Palacode block of Dharmapuri at a training organised by Development Education and Environment Protection Society (DEEPS) between 4th and 5th June, 2014.

Team members conducted a training session for 300 school students on child health and hygiene, nutrition and disease prevention as a part of 'Health Day' observed by Balamandir Research Foundation, Chennai on 26th August, 2014.

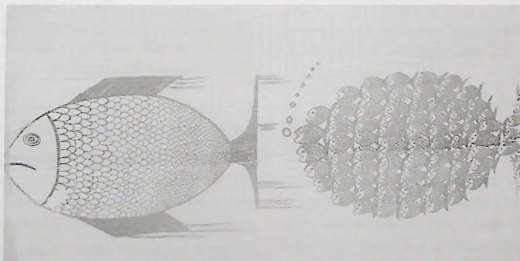
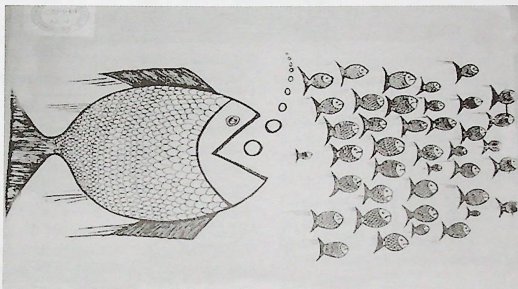
Madhya Pradesh

Training and field support to Muskaan

A three-day (22nd - 24th May, 2014) training was held for Muskaan staff covering child care, nutrition, malnutrition, diarrhea

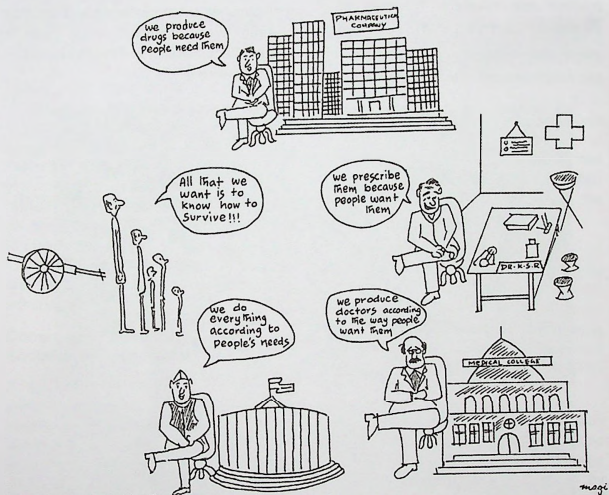
management, anemia and growth monitoring. The training was through PowerPoint presentations, verbal sharing, open group discussion, group work and practical demonstrations. The objective of the training was for the staff to be able to do growth monitoring of under 5 children and give health education to the community.

Field support – After the classroom training we provided field support for the growth monitoring process. We ensured that the children were weighed correctly and the weights recorded. Later malnourished (both moderate and severe) children were identified using growth charts. Demonstrations of health education sessions were held.



V. Policy Advocacy Initiatives

DIALOGUE WITH HEALTH PLANNERS, POLICY MAKERS AND IMPLEMENTERS



Source: Community Health Cell

Since policy, planning and a good implementation design are crucial for better health outcomes, we believe in having continuous dialogue with the planners, policy makers and implementers. Our teams in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu have dialogued with various governments and

stakeholders in the past year to change the stereotypical process to a more dynamic and participatory process with spaces for community voice in decision making, accountability systems and in affirmative feedback to strengthen the public health system with an equity lens.

National

- a) Dr. Thelma Narayan continued to be a member of the National Mental Health Policy Group set up by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India. Interactions continued through meetings and via the e-group. The **National Mental Health Policy** titled **"NEW PATHWAYS, NEW HOPE"** was launched by the Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of India, in New Delhi in October 2014. An electronic version is available and this was circulated widely.
- b) Dr. Thelma also continued as a member of the **Advisory Group on Community Action (AGCA) for Health**, which is a Standing Committee of the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM). This year with the launch of the National Urban Health Mission in Bengaluru the AGCA continues as part of the national Health Mission. Several AGCA meetings were held during the year with a national Consultation in October 2016 in which a CEU team member participated and presented the Tamil Nadu experience. The CAH (Community Action for Health) process is gradually expanding in the country. She participated in the MP and Karnataka State MGCA meetings.
- c) Dr. Thelma participated in a meeting in Delhi jointly organised by PHFI, the Norwegian Embassy and UNDP on **"The How of Universal Health Assurance"**.
- d) Dr. Thelma was an invited participant in the **"National Forum on Universal**

Access to Free Medicines and Free Diagnostics in India: Complexities and Prospects" organized by the *Jan Swasthya Abhiyan*, PRAYAS and OXFAM on 21st-22nd January 2015 in Delhi. She spoke at the concluding session. The proceedings of this meeting are printed and disseminated.

Karnataka

Workshop on Occupational Health Ethics

A workshop, on professional and civil society perspectives, on challenges and approaches in ethical practice of occupational health in India, was conducted by us (Dr. Adithya as the point person), as part of the 5th National Bioethics Conference. Dr. Shyam Pingle, Dr. Bobby Joseph, Dr. Naveen R, Mr. Jagdish Patel, and Mr. Amulya Nidhi were invited as panelists. The workshop was attended by over fifty participants including doctors, public health students and professionals, and representatives from civil society organisations.

Interactions with the Health Minister, Government of Karnataka

At the third Global Health Systems Symposium held at Cape Town, South Africa between 1st and 3rd October, 2014, nearly 20 Health Systems Researchers (one of whom was Mr. Prasanna Saligram) from Karnataka participated. Mr. Prasanna Saligram had two poster abstracts accepted for the Symposium. The Health Minister, Government of Karnataka, Mr. U T Khader participated at the Symposium and

attended a workshop organised by Institute of Public Health, Bengaluru. All researchers from Karnataka at the Symposium met the Health Minister on 2nd October, 2014 for a freewheeling discussion on ways to strengthen the public health system in the state. The Minister shared his experiences. The group presented a memorandum to the Minister with the following four main recommendations for strengthening the health system in Karnataka:

- Access to free essential medicines
- Strengthening of the public health systems and regulation of the private sector
- Improving urban health services
- Improving the Health Systems Research environment in the state

The Minister proposed regular meetings once in 3 months with the group.

Review/Reflection study of the consultations on the Role of Community Based Organisations in Universal Health Coverage

In January 2014, PHFI along with SOCHARA had conducted a state level consultation in Chennai, Tamil Nadu on the role of community based organisations (CBO's) in the efforts to realize Universal Health Coverage. A similar consultation was also held in the state of Kerala. Mr. Prasanna Saligram undertook a six-month review/reflection study of the consultations held both in Tamil Nadu and Kerala during the months of June - December 2014. The objectives of the review/reflection were:

- To understand the pathways of influence of the state level consultations that have been conducted in Tamil Nadu and Kerala
- To do a critical reflection on the role of CBO's in UHC that evolved during the consultative processes undertaken in the two states

Mr. Prasanna interviewed participants - both government and civil society representatives from both the states - and elicited their reflections on the processes held. He has since completed the report which is under review.

Tamil Nadu

Meeting on "Community processes in health and the status of health in Tamil Nadu - in the current context"

As part of the 10th year celebrations of the work by the SOCHARA-CEU team in Tamil Nadu over a decade, a two-day workshop on "*Community processes in health and the status of health in Tamil Nadu - Current Context*" was organised in Chennai on 3rd and 4th February, 2015. About 170 participants, including many who have been connected with SOCHARA over the past 30 years, discussed a range of topics including national and state level policy environment for community process in health, accountability measures built by civil society in key social sectors, corruption in health care and role of civil society and peoples movements in improving the situation. Participants from diverse backgrounds including senior bureaucrats, academics, activists from various sectors,

elected representatives, students and community members took part actively.

Consultation on CAH organised by the Advisory Group on Community Action (AGCA), New Delhi

The AGCA for NRHM organised a national consultation on CAH between 20th and 21st, October, 2014, in which a team member and adjunct faculty of SOCHARA attended. They presented experiences and learnings from CAH in Tamil Nadu. The consultation was attended by representatives of civil society, government officials and AGCA members.

Dialogue with Tamil Nadu public health system on continuation of CAH

AGCA members- Dr. Thelma Narayan and Ms. Poonam Muthreja, SOCHARA's board members- Dr. Chandra and Dr. Shanmugavelayutham along with a few other members met the Director of Public Health, Government of Tamil Nadu and NRHM Mission Director to discuss the continuation of the CAH process in Tamil Nadu on 12th February, 2015. A follow up meeting was convened by Additional Director NRHM in which a team member attended and discussed the way forward.

Engagement with the Tamil Nadu Public Health System for CAH

During the reporting period we have constantly engaged with the Directorate of Public Health and State Health Society to realise the CAH project which the state government has agreed to expand to six districts in the state. The CEU team has prepared and submitted all the required documents to the health system in order to hasten the process. Dr. Chandra, Vice President of SOCHARA and member of State Mentoring Committee of CAH project along with team members met the officials of the health department to discuss the progress of the project.

Continuation of 'Universal Health Care' agenda in Tamil Nadu

As part of follow up to Universal Health Care workshop held in the month of January 2014, we interacted with civil society and health system officials. In order to bring out a report on the follow up process of the workshop a CEU team member and Mr. Prasanna SOCHARA team member interviewed State Health Society officials, Dr. Shanmugavelayutham, Ms. Saulina Arnold, Dr. Subha Sri and Dr. Muraleedharan between 25th and 26th August, 2014.

VI. Community Health Library and Information Centre (CLIC)

ESTABLISH A LIBRARY, DOCUMENTATION AND INFORMATION CENTRE IN COMMUNITY HEALTH

As a part of efforts to promote debates, discussions and reflections on current and relevant issues in community and public health, the Community Health Library and Information Centre (CLIC) hosts resource material some of which are publicly available through different mediums. The CLIC evolved gradually in response to the priorities and emerging issues. CLIC today functions through our website, CLIC units in all our centers, and also provides regular updates through Health Digest and

Health Round-up.

CLIC has a rich collection of resources on community health and development as well as on a range of related classified thematic areas (Table 5) which are available to team members, CHLP fellows, other institutions and the public. A variety of registers (including a Utilisation Register) and files are maintained as part of the CLIC management system. The CLIC committee guides its work.

Table 5: Resource material available at CLIC as of March 2015

S. No.	Items	Numbers
1	Books	15365
2	Newsletters	15
3	Journals	38
4	CDs	509
5	Posters	1300
6	Slide sets	54
7	Resource files	564

A monthly 'Health Round-up' is produced and sent to around 1100 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. Twelve issues were produced during the year.

CLIC also regularly produces 'Health Digest', a summary of news paper and magazine articles on issues of Health, Vulnerability, Environment and

Social Development, which is sent to a similar number of registered members. A positive response has been received from users for Issues (32 – 41) produced during the year. CLIC has continued to collect paper clippings from 2 news papers (one English and one regional language "Kannada") on health, environmental, marginalised communities' issues etc. and organises it in a subject wise manner.

The librarian provided specific inputs, based on areas of interest, to CHLP fellows and flexi-interns. CLIC has also helped in collecting the required background materials for the fellows.

The *CLIC Committee*, comprising of Dr. Thelma Narayan, Mr. As Mohammad, Ms. Janelle De Sa, Mr. Prassanna Saligram and Mr. Mahadeva Swamy H R, met each month to discuss the various issues about the CLIC, mentioned earlier.

Dr. Ravi Narayan, Mr. Mahadeva Swamy H R and Dr. Rahul attended the '*National Informatics Centre Seminar*' organised by Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences, Karnataka at Bengaluru on 19th March, 2015.

Publications

1. SOCHARA. SOCHARA Annual Report 2013-2014.
2. SOCHARA. DIMENSIONS – A SOCHARA – SOPHEA Newsletter. September 2014.
3. Pradyumna A. An illusion of past tense. MFC Bull. 2014 Dec;361-362:12–3.

Pradyumna A. The Bhopal anniversary & World Aids Day coming up [Internet]. IHP. 2014 [cited 2015 Feb 27]. Available from: <http://www.internationalhealthpolicies.org/newsletter/world-aids-day-coming-up/>

SOCHARA. SOCHARA E-newsletter. Vol. 1 (1), March 2015.

Pradyumna A. Health Aspects of the Environmental Impact Assessment Process in India. EPW. 2015 Feb 21;L(8):57–64.

Prahlad I M with team SOCHARA. Environmental Sanitation – Reflections from Practice: A Manual for Community Health Practitioners. 2015.

Pradyumna A, Prahlad I, Ganesh C. Moving beyond sanitation's diarrhoea fixation. Lancet Glob Health. 3(1):e16.



Photograph 6: The Community Health Library and Information Centre (CLIC)

Conference presentations

1. Pradyumna A. Genetically Modified Food Crops: An ethical enquiry into policy process and stakeholder concerns. Poster Presentation. Bengaluru, India: 5th NBC; 2014.
2. Pradyumna A. Neglect of health and health systems in the Environmental Impact Assessment policy and process in India. Cape Town, South Africa: Health Systems Global; 2014. p. 130. Available from: <http://hsr2014.healthsystemsresearch.org/sites/default/files/Poster-Presentations.pdf>
3. Pradyumna A. Status of evidence from the eco-epidemiological paradigm - a case study of coal and health. Kolkata: 14th WCPH; 2015.
4. Pradyumna A. 'Vulnerability as an approach to addressing health inequity. Kolkata: 14th WCPH; 2015.

VI. Networking Initiatives

NETWORKING TO STRENGTHEN THE PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEM

Associating with other organisations, networks and individuals towards strengthening the public health system has been one of SOCHARA's key activities over the years. Ever since the Peoples' Health Movement (PHM) emerged, much of SOCHARA's efforts have been directed towards building and strengthening the PHM. Additionally, SOCHARA has also been working with organisations and individuals on other issues of mutual concern.

Karnataka

Public Health Network Group

We facilitated a meeting of the Public Health Education Network Group on Integrated Public Health Education at RGIPH on 12th September, 2014. Representatives from six institutions participated. The discussions focused on collaboration between various public health institutions located in Bengaluru along with brainstorming for ideas on ways these institutions can contribute to RGIPH.

The Young Environmental Health Researchers Meet

The Young Environmental Health Researchers Meet (YEHRM), a two-day networking and deliberation meet was organised by SOCHARA at the Indian Social Institute, Bengaluru, between 29th and 30th January, 2015. Fifteen delegates

from eleven institutes and seven states in India and twelve delegates from SOCHARA participated in the meet. The main areas of discussion included a sharing of the work being done on environmental health by the various institutions represented, the challenges faced in this field, the status of environmental health in various states in India, and the way forward for the group of environmental health researchers.

Tamil Nadu

Involvement with and support to People's Health Movement

CEU and *Makkal Nalavazhvu Iyakkam* (MNI) members organised a regional meeting in Ooty, to discuss existing health issues in the Nilgiris district on 2nd August, 2014. The CEU team reported on the People's Health Manifesto adopted by JSA at the national level, sought support to the campaign for people-centered universal health coverage and raised the important issue of implementation of the Clinical Establishment Act and private health sector regulation.

(MNI) - the Tamil Nadu chapter of the PHM, and TN-FORCES jointly organised a meeting to discuss the National Mental Health Policy (NMHP) in Chennai on 23rd October, 2014. The group, including academicians in mental health field, discussed the highlights of the NMHP 2014.

The group came up with many points to improve the policy. The recommendations were circulated to various groups at the state and national levels.

SOCHARA in its role as the MNI secretariat, organized a day's discussion to initiate a campaign on strengthening the outpatient department services in PHCs on 26th November, 2014. A broader discussion was also held on mental health policy.

In November 2014, in response to an adverse incident involving fourteen neonatal deaths in the ICU ward of the Dharmapuri district hospital, MNI sent a fact-finding team of experts to interact with the community and the health system to understand the possible reasons for the incident and to identify ways to make improvements. The team interacted with twelve mothers, visited the district hospital and found that in most of the cases the basic primary health care delivery had a major role in the children's deaths.

Team members from SOCHARA and MNI attended the meeting organised by JSA on National Coordination Committee and Social Movement Convergence Meeting from 29th November to 1st December, 2014, at Delhi.

MNI and TN-FORCES organised a discussion on the National Health Policy 2015 in response to a call for comments on the draft national health policy from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Recommendations made as an outcome of this discussion were submitted to the government.

Community of Practitioners on Accountability and Social Action in Health (COPASAH)

JSA and COPASAH co-organised a meeting for community accountability practitioners on network building in Nagpur on 19th-20th September, 2014. A SOCHARA team member participated and shared the Community Action for Health experience in Tamil Nadu.

SOCHARA and MNI members participated in a workshop on Innovative use of Information Communication Technologies (ICTs) for Community Monitoring in Health Capacity Building organised by CHSJ, on behalf of the COPASAH network at Bhopal from 8th-10th January, 2015. Thirty community practitioners from six states discussed the CAH process, and use of technology as an aid for advocacy and accountability processes. 'Photo-story' as a supportive tool in monitoring, for evidence collection, was highlighted. CEU contributed to the learning process through promoting logical understanding and technical skill building.

A subsequent meeting organised by COPASAH on the use of ICT in community accountability on 20th February, 2015 discussed the merits and demerits of using ICT. Further to this, Nallmapalli, Thirupattur and Pennagaram blocks in Tamil Nadu were areas identified to pilot this technology. A two-day residential training on ICT and 'Photo story' was conducted for selected committee members from these areas at DAS-CBR, Tirupattur on 17th-18th March 2015.

Madhya Pradesh

Fellows' Collective

The *MP Fellows' Collective* developed by the Fellows themselves is an open network for all community health fellows/alumni from Madhya Pradesh who have been trained by SOCHARA, with forty-seven members at present working in Madhya Pradesh with NGOs and government projects. Fellows are encouraged to use the group as a platform to share their work, and ideas, strategies and plans for the future. Further to a series of meetings, the fellows decided to work on nutrition and prepared a project proposal for the same. SOCHARA provided the technical inputs. The plan entails work in 21 districts, with intensive field work using the Positive Deviance/Hearth Approach.

Six fellows met with Dr. Thelma Narayan, in Bhopal, where they discussed the Fellows' Collective formation, objectives and future plans on 17th September, 2014. They gave an official letter to Dr. Thelma, SOCHARA regarding the nutrition project proposal. There was a discussion about the work, strategy, funding and coordination of the same. Following this, Rahul (SOCHARA-SOPHEA team member) participated in the Fellows' Collective meeting at Synergy Sansthan, Harda district between 11th and 12th October, 2014. He provided inputs on the project proposal and the proposal was submitted to Dr Thelma Narayan on 26th November, 2014. The MP CPHE team will be supporting this group in nutrition work with children based on a practical and workable approach.

Maternal Health Rights Campaign (MHRC)

Our efforts have involved networking with other NGOs in the state to lobby with the public health system for an improvement in maternal health through MHRC as mentioned earlier. As a part of this a state-level public dialogue was held on 19th February, 2014, followed by a State Coordination Committee meeting with the members to discuss follow up action taken by the government after the state-level public dialogue. At the state level, the NRHM director conducted a meeting to discuss the implementation of the campaign. Later there was a discussion about campaign strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and challenges, and appropriate strategies. Future plans were made for new members; creation of a resource group for training; development of Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials; formation of an Advisory Committee; and preparation of a vision document. Responsibilities were subsequently assigned to members. Further activities planned included more state level meetings, collection of Village Health and Nutrition Day (VHND) status data, birth and death (maternal or infant) registration data, representation and participation in Dead Women Talking meeting/workshop at a national level and preparation of a paper on maternal health.

The MHRC's second round of community based monitoring began on 25th November, 2014, with training of the field staff. More than fifty organisations in twenty-two districts have volunteered their

support to the campaign. The community based monitoring process has helped bring into focus the quality of health services being provided, availability and condition of equipment, and the behaviour of service providers. A group discussion on social exclusion and discrimination in health rights was held with disadvantaged sections of the community (including Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe, and other minority groups of each district at least in one PHC, two HSCs and eight villages).

COPASAH (Community of Practitioners on Social Accountability for Health)

SOCHARA team members from Chennai and Bhopal participated in the COPASAH workshop on ICTs (Information and Communication Technology) in Bhopal from 8th to 10th January, 2015. The Bhopal team is coordinating this activity at a state level across four districts of Sehore, Chhindwara, Sidhi and Morena in Madhya Pradesh. These efforts aimed at understanding the status of maternal health services within these regions, entailed specific observation of Antenatal Care (ANC), Postnatal Care (PNC) and referral services in slums and public health institutions.

The MP CPHE team conducted seven meetings with pregnant and lactating mothers in six different slums; including a few personal interviews and observation of a few immunisation sessions. In this regard, the team found that not all services were being provided, both, during the

immunisation day and at the *anganwadi*. ANC and PNC services were found to be inadequate and there was lack of proper counseling. Referrals made to the district hospital for full ANC checkups by the ANM was overwhelming service provision and accessibility at the district hospital. As a result, community members preferred to seek care at private clinics instead. In addition, many home deliveries have been reported.

The MP CPHE team visited the district hospital in Bhopal to learn about ANC, PNC and delivery services. Information and instructions relating to schemes and services was well displayed. Though well-equipped, the hospital services were found to be overwhelmed. The team encouraged the community to monitor public health services with an emphasis on the fact that improvement of services requires that they be utilised by the public, and this should serve as a driver for change.

Networking with other NGOs

MP CPHE expanded its network base through visits to organisations like Angan Trust, Action Aid and Madhya Pradesh Lok Sangarsh Sajha Manch (MPLSSM) with an emphasis on understanding their work with communities. The CPHE team discussed their objectives, approaches and future plans, and is currently in the process of strengthening relations with these organisations to establish a common mechanism for helping the community on different issues.

VI. Dissemination, Linkages to Professional Bodies and Mainstreaming

PARTICIPATION IN CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS, SEMINARS, TRAINING AND CONSULTATIONS

Mainstreaming alternative approaches in community health education

1. Participated actively in the deliberations of the **Institutional Advisory Committee of the Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Public Health of RGUHS** to develop the MPH – Honours three-year Course. This included

- i. Evolving framework of the 6 semester curriculum
- ii. Developing 8 modules out of 24 modules introducing SOCHARA perspectives and experience with the participation of SOCHARA faculty
- iii. Participation in training sessions for the batch that started in July 2014.

The eight modules developed by the SOCHARA team for the MPH (Hon) course included the following

- a. Values orientation in Public Health (Ravi Narayan)
- b. Socio-cultural and Community Health Competency (Thelma Narayan, Arima Mishra)
- c. Ecological Sensitivity (Adithya

Pradyumna, I M Prahlad)

- d. Capacity Building (Ravi Narayan) Universal Health Policy (Ravi Narayan, Prasanna Saligram)
- e. International and Global Health (Ravi Narayan, Prasanna Saligram)
- f. Plural health system (SOCHARA & FRLHT)
- g. Research methods (As Mohammad)

An innovative feature of the curriculum development was the active participation of Dr. Rahul ASGR of SOCHARA as one of two younger professionals in the advisory committee to enhance context and include current generation needs and context

Participated in the Foundation Course organised by MPH – Honours Students at RGIPH – First Batch of 2014

2. Participated actively with inputs into the MA – Rural Development of Azim Premji University (APU) which has a public Health and Nutrition Track. Four team members were invited to make inputs – Ravi Narayan, Thelma Narayan, Prasanna Saligram and Adithya Pradyumna.

Karnataka

Photograph 7: Participants at the Young Environmental Health Researchers Meet organised by SOCHARA.



- Dr. Ravi Narayan was a member of the *Results Framework Document – Adhoc Task Force (RFD – ATF)* set up by the Govt. of Karnataka, Planning Department to dialogue and review the work of the Department's of Health and Medical Education every six months. He participated actively in these meetings. The Chair was Mr. Abhijit Sengupta –former Principal Secretary, Health & FW, GoK, who is also a member of SOCHARA.
- Dr. Adithya attended a workshop on "*Ward Committees roles and responsibilities for a greener, cleaner, safer and healthier Bengaluru*" conducted by Environment Support Group, and other resource persons on 22nd May, 2014 to discuss issues of urban governance in management of wastes, water, healthcare, urban planning and other issues relevant to health.
- Dr. Adithya participated as resource person for prospective MPH students at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, conducted in Bengaluru on the 19th of June, 2014.
- Dr. Adithya participated at the dissemination workshop arranged by Grassroots Research and Advocacy Movement (GRAAM), on the findings of

their research projects documenting the disparities in access to health services in various districts of Karnataka, and an evaluation of their intervention in community monitoring of health services using mobile phones. Technical feedback was provided. This was organised in Bengaluru on 20th June, 2014.

- Dr. Adithya participated in the *Pesticide Action Network India (PAN-India)* steering committee meeting held on 24th July, 2014 in Bengaluru. Previous year's activities were discussed, and decisions were taken about some projects being planned.
- Dr. Adithya made a technical presentation for a *Workshop on Energy and Health*, organised by Coal and Health Initiative, India, for health professionals from Tamil Nadu state, at Chennai on 26th of July, 2014. This is the first of such meetings being organised in an effort to increase the involvement of health professionals in environmental and energy policy. Findings from the technical reports prepared earlier at SOCHARA, including: Health evaluation of Environmental Impact Assessment Notification of 2006, and review of literature on health impacts of thermal power, were presented.
- Dr. Adithya made a technical presentation for a *Workshop on Energy and Health*, organised by Healthy Energy Initiative, India, for health professionals from all over India, at the India Habitat Centre, New Delhi on the 14th of September, 2014. It was an effort to increase the involvement of health professionals in environmental and energy policy. Participants included professors and deans of several national schools of public health (PGIMER, SRM University, MAHE, JIPMER, AIIPH, IIPH etc).
- Mr. Ameer Khan and Dr. Adithya attended the 3rd *Global Symposium on Health Systems Research*, held in Cape Town, South Africa, between 1st and 4th of October, 2014. Ameer presented a poster from the VOICES study. Adithya also participated in a side event on the thematic group of climate change and health systems.
- Dr. Adithya attended the *International Workshop on Climate and Health* – organised by KEM Hospital, Pune and Umea University, Sweden at Pune between 14th and 16th October, 2014. He participated and presented his work and SOCHARA's work in the field of environmental health and climate change.
- Dr. Adithya was an organising committee member for the 5th National Bioethics Conference co-organised by SOCHARA, St. National Academy of Health Sciences and Foundation for Medical Ethics Society, in Bengaluru between 11th and 13th of December, 2014.
- Dr. Adithya attended the 14th *World Congress on Public Health on the theme "Healthy People, Healthy Environment"*, organised by the World Federation of

Public Health Associations, at Kolkata, India. He also participated as a resource person in a workshop on healthy energy, organised by Health Care without Harm as part of the conference.

- Apart from these the team members of CHLP attended various conferences, workshops, seminars, training and consultations as detailed under Objective 3 of CHLP.

Madhya Pradesh

Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) Workshop

This workshop was a part of SAMA's current initiative towards enhancing adolescent SRHR, particularly in the context of national Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health (ARSH) strategy, through engagement with the health system, and was organised by SAMA and Madhya Pradesh Jan Swasathya Abhiyan between 9th and 10th, May 2014 at Bhopal. Through this initiative, we got the opportunity of meeting different groups and organisations. We examined and discussed recent initiatives towards adolescent health such as the ARSH and Rashtriya Kishor Swaasthya Karyakram. In the workshop plans were made to take forward these discussions to build a collective understanding and advocacy around issues of ARSH.

Workshop on Fluoride and Fluorosis

A workshop on Fluoride and Fluorosis in Madhya Pradesh was held on 30th May, 2014 at Gandhi Bhawan in Bhopal.

Dead Woman Talking

A two-day workshop, "Dead Women Talking", was organised by Common Health on maternal health between 26th and 27th June, 2014, at Mumbai where Dr. Subha Sri presented the highlights of the findings from the Shadow Report (124 maternal deaths). There were discussions about recommendations on emergency obstetric care, quality of care, referral and transport, and anemia.

Ms. Renu Khanna made a presentation on advocacy following which participants prepared state-wise advocacy plans according to programmes, services and conditions at the state level. Mr. Dharendra from SOCHARA shared the experiences of MHRC, and advocacy issues at community level and with health system. He discussed the future plans of MHRC and also pointed out some national level advocacy issues.

Future plans that emerged at the workshop include corrections or additions to maternal death review (MDR) tools, release of national and state level Shadow Report, advocacy plans, national event on shadow reports, and second round of MDR.

Workshop on Community Health

Dr. Ravi Narayan and Mr. Bhagwan attended a workshop on community health at the Ramkrishna Mission, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh organised for their health workers and staff members between 31st August and 1st September, 2014. Dr. Ravi shared about his and Dr. Thelma's community health journey, origin of SOCHARA, movements

in community health, and community health paradigm. Orientation was held for youth volunteers on community health, people's health in people's hands, swasthyaswaraj and community health fellowship. Participants wanted to be associated with the SOCHARA organisational work as well as fellowship programmes.

Health Rights for socially excluded communities: Building campaign strategies to address design and delivery of health programmes under NRHM

Mr. Dhirendra attended a one-day state consultation organised by the National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights (NCDHR) – Swadhikar and Poorest Areas Civil Society (PACS) on 18th September, 2014 which saw more than 50 participants from different organisation and networks like All India Dalit Mahila Adhikar Manch, Dalit Arthik Adhikar Andolan etc.

In this consultation problems and challenges of socially excluded communities to access health rights, gaps in the 2014 budget allocation, expenditure with respect to health schemes and programmes under NRHM were discussed. Experiences of addressing intersectional discriminatory practices on the ground and findings of the budget analysis of Madhya Pradesh were shared. The future plans include state planning for the Special Component Plan (SCP) and Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) legislation and linkages with Members of Legislative Assembly (MLAs) and Members of Parliament (MPs) from Madhya Pradesh.

Mr. Dhirendra expressed support, solidarity and participated in making future plans.

National Consultation on Maternal Health

The consultation was organised by Common Health and Oxfam India on 5th - 6th January, 2015 with 48 participants from different states. Dr. Shubasri gave an overview of the "Dead Women Talking" process, findings and recommendations. Some of the participants also shared their experiences. A dialogue for policy consensus on the role of trained birth attendants (TBAs/ dai's), availability of blood and strengthening the cadre of midwives was held. Recommendations for policy were made on the issues of: addressing anaemia, MDR, referral systems, availability of safe blood, human resources-professional midwives and dai's.

National Mental Health Policy (NMHP) and State Mental Health Plan – Technical Workshop

The newly developed NMHP and State Mental Health Plan were discussed in the workshop on 30th March, 2015 which had with around 25 participants. Working groups discussed the dissemination of the NMHP, the implementation of the NMHP and District Mental Health Programme (DMHP) and their integration with general health services, reduction of stigma and discrimination, needs of vulnerable groups, and monitoring of governmental and societal action.

VIII. Inter-organisational Support

MEMBERSHIP WITH VARIOUS COMMITTEES / GOVERNANCE OF OTHER GROUPS

- Dr. Thelma Narayan continues to be a member of the National Advisory Group on Community Action for Health (AGCA) a Standing Committee of the National Rural Health Mission (2005-12), later the National Health Mission.
- Dr. Thelma Narayan continues her involvement with the Madhya Pradesh Mentoring Group for Community Action (MGCA), as a part of the state NRHM community monitoring mechanism. Dr. Ravi D'Souza joined the MGCA in March 2015.
- Dr. Thelma is a member of the National Mental Health Policy Group.
- Dr. Thelma is a member of the Research Ethics Committee of the National TB Institute (NTI)
- Dr. Thelma is a Joint Convener of the *Jan Swasthya Abhiyan*
- Dr. Adithya is involved as Steering Committee member at Pesticide Action Network – India
- Trustee at Let's Integrate For Environment Trust
- S J Chander is the member of the ethics committee of Institute of Public Health (IPH) Bengaluru.
- Dr. Adithya was selected for the Emerging Voices in Global Health programme: a training programme associated with the 3rd Global Symposium on Health Systems Research held in Cape Town, South Africa between 21st September- 5th October, 2014. This platform brought together over 50 young researchers from all over the world working on health systems research. The candidates were trained in presentation and communication skills.
- Dr. Ravi Narayan participated in Governing Board meetings of the Institute for Health Management Research, Bangalore during the year

IX. Team Building

STAFF DEVELOPMENT



We at SOCHARA, also encourage the professional and personal development of our own staff; providing space and support for every team member to pursue his/her specific area of interest. Professional development taken up by the core CHLP team has been detailed earlier under CHLP Objective 3 of this report.

Regular team meetings are held in Bengaluru and skype meetings with the teams in Chennai and Bhopal. The Admin Team has initiated and internalized brief daily team meetings which help greatly in day to day planning and coordination of work.

Team members participate and facilitate **Journal Clubs** with the CHLP participants.

Staff members of all the three SOCHARA units attended the **Mentors's workshop** organised by SOCHARA in Bengaluru, from 16th-17th June, 2014. Participants shared their mentoring experiences and together celebrated the 10th year anniversary of the CHLP programme. The group affirmed the idea of mainstreaming the programme.

As a part of capacity building we hold retreats for the staff, annually, in which team members from all our units SOCHARA participate in. The **Annual Team Retreat**

was held between 11th and 13th August, 2014 with team members from all units participating. The staff retreat was planned to enhance and develop the knowledge of team members in certain areas which included- **health policy process; politics of health; communicating community health; community health approaches; admin, finance and management; strengthening our community health work; research and ethical issues in research.** Learning at the staff retreat was facilitated by team members and external

resource persons. The team retreat not only facilitated knowledge and skill addition for team members but also provided avenues for further discussions on collaboration between team members from different clusters.

Mr. Mahadeva Swamy H R attended a three-day national workshop on **“KOHA: An intensive hands-on-training”** which is an open source library management software from 23rd July 2014 to 25th July 2015 at BMS Institute of Technology, Bengaluru.

SOCHARA - Executive

Committee Members – 2014-15

1. Dr. Mohan Isaac – President
2. Dr. Chandra. P – Vice President
3. Mr. Gopinathan.K- Treasurer
4. Dr. Thelma Narayan – Secretary
5. Mr. As Mohammad – Member - EC
6. Dr. Ravi Kumar - Member - EC
7. Dr. Sunil Kaul- Member EC

General Body Members – 2014-15

1. Dr. M.K. Vasundhara
2. Dr. Sr. Aquinas
3. Fr. Claude D'Souza
4. Dr. Ravi Narayan
5. Mr. Edward Premdas
6. Ms. Padmasini Asuri
7. Dr. Devadasan.N
8. Dr. Denis Xavier
9. Dr. Madhukar Pai
10. Dr. Ravi D'Souza
11. Dr. Mani Kalliath
12. Dr. Neela Patel
13. Dr. Shirdi Prasad Tekur
14. Ms. Valli Seshan
15. Dr. H. Sudarshan
16. Dr. Susanta Ghosh

17. Dr. Muraleedharan
18. Mr. Abhijit Sengupta
19. Mr. Sam Joseph
20. Dr. Kishore Murthy
21. Dr. Pruthvish
22. Dr. Anand Zachariah
23. Prof. Shanmugavelayudham

Honorary Members -2014-15

1. Dr. D.K. Srinivasa
2. Fr. John Vattamottam
3. Mr. Arumugham.A.

Team SOCHARA- 2014-15

- | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Dr. Thelma Narayan | 14. Dr. ASGR. Rahul |
| 2. Dr. Ravi Narayan | 15. Ms. Janelle D'Sa |
| 3. Mr. As. Mohammad | 16. Ms. Nidhi Shukla |
| 4. Dr. Ravi D'Souza | 17. Mr. Sayeed Ali |
| 5. Mr. Chandler.S.J | 18. Mr. Mahadevaswamy |
| 6. Mr.Prasanna Saligram | 19. Mr. Victor Fernandes |
| 7. Mr. Ameer Khan | 20. Mr. Naveen Pinto |
| 8. Mr. Suresh.D | 21. Mr. Mathew Alex |
| 9. Dr.Adithya Pradyumna | 22. Ms. Maria Dorothy Stella |
| 10. Mr. Prahlad.I.M | 23. Mr. Hari Prasad Ojha |
| 11. Ms. Shani John Sequiera | 24. Mr. Tulsi Chetry |
| 12. Mr. Kumar .K.J | 25. Mr. M.S. Joseph |
| 13. Mr. Sabu K.U | |

X. Association and Partnership

PARTNERS, ASSOCIATES AND FRIENDS OF SOCHARA

The partners of SOCHARA provided their support for its different activities during the year 2014-15 in the following areas:

1. Core support
2. Community Health Action
3. Community Health Training Programs
4. Community Health Research Program

We thank all of them for their support and continued solidarity with our work

Exploring and promoting new partnerships

- **SELCO Foundation, Bengaluru:** The ideas of documenting health impact of improved chimney designs, and supporting work on improving healthcare access in urban slums (their field areas) was discussed. Field visits were conducted to visit their Energy Kiosks in an urban slum of construction labourers near Outer Ring Road, Bengaluru. Meetings were held with them on 3rd and 10th of July, 2014.
- **Bansuri Foundation and Tara Mobile Creches (TMC), Pune:** Meetings were held with these two groups and field visits were made to construction sites where TMC has established crèches. Work on maternal and child health is being planned.
- **KEM Hospital's Research Centre at Vadu, outside Pune City:** Mr. Vijendra Ingole is conducting quantitative research on mortality due to temperature and rainfall in rural settings here. It was useful to learn about various other programs on improved cook-stoves and healthcare services being provided by KEM in the area. The visit was on 17th November, 2014.
- **Chest Research Foundation, Pune:** It is a centre working specifically on respiratory health, and they have done some work in the field of air pollution. There is potential to collaborate with them on the issue of air pollution. The visit was on 20th January, 2015.
- Other than these as mentioned under Objective 3 of CHLP, team members undertook visits to both existing and potential field mentoring organisations to strengthen existing linkages and build new ones. These visits have led to fellows being placed with newly identified field mentoring partners. Some of these organisations were invited and have participated in Mentoring Workshops.
- Dr's Ravi Narayan and Thelma, Mr Mohammad and Chander supported review of the field partner organisation – Association for People with Disabilities in their ongoing organisational review and evolution of new directions and framework of action

XI. Organisational Strengthening

Annual General Body Meeting and Executive Committee Meeting

The **Annual General Body Meeting** of the Society was held on 24th July, 2014. Thirty-three people attended the meeting including society members, SOCHARA associates and team members. The Annual Report of 2013-14, Annual Action Plan for 2014-15 and Annual Financial Statement were presented to the General Body.

The **Executive Committee** of the Society met three times during the year, 19th April, 16th June and 25th November, 2014, to review various aspects of the activities of the Society and provided guidance and support to the work of the SOCHARA team.

Members of SOCHARA play an active role in the organisation.

Skype meetings between clusters

Regular Skype meetings are held with the team members of both Tamil Nadu and Madhya Pradesh clusters. This helped in regular monitoring of activities, sharing of ideas, and providing feedback on both

In Conclusion

The year has been exciting and very busy. We look forward to the silver jubilee year of SOCHARA in the next year. This report has been put together with inputs from all team SOCHARA members. The team provides the backbone to the work undertaken by the Society and Society members provide guidance, support and encouragement in all our work. We are grateful to all donor partners who have accompanied us in this journey during the year.

programme and administrative issues.

Strengthening financial and administrative capacities

A **Project Management Unit (PMU)** has been meeting regularly to review the project and financial aspects of SOCHARA. The **procurement policy** is followed in purchase of goods and services.

The audited Annual Statement of Accounts for the financial year 2014-15 is available on the Website www.sochara.org

Evaluation/monitoring and Review of SOCHARA initiatives

A participatory mid-term review of the CHLP Phase-III was conducted by Dr. Maya Mascarenhas (Community health specialist with MYRADA) and Dr. Arima Mishra (Anthropologist and Senior Faculty Member, Azim Premji University). The team is working on the recommendations of the report which was presented to the team and shared with donor partners and EC members.

Back Cover Photograph: SOCHARA's Alumni meet prior to the National Bioethics Conference in December 2014, at St. John's National Academy of Health Sciences, Bengaluru.



The community health journey continues...

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