

**A SHORT HISTORY OF COMMUNICATION AND  
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT IN CHC / SOCHARA  
(1984 – 2016)**

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Event / Instrument / System</b>	<b>Additional remarks if any</b>
	Jan. 1984	CHC was initiated as the study reflection action experiment in community health and the first few years it was linked to the Centre for Non-Formal and Continuing Education (CNFCE), Ashirwad, Bengaluru.	The four co initiators (RN, TN, KG & KC) were initially based in the Narayan's residence in Koramangala and later moved to Ashirwad. For communication needs and resources, they used the communication unit, team and facilities at CNFCE.
	March 1984	In April 1984, CHC took over as the <b>mfc national office</b> with responsibilities for <b>convenorship and editor and publisher of the mfc bulletin</b> . CHC also supported the response to the <b>Bhopal Disaster aftermath by mfc including the studies, advocacy and communications responses</b> .	<b>Dr. Ravi Narayan</b> was both convenor and editor of the mfc bulletin from April 1984 (Issue 102) and <b>Dr. Thelma Narayan</b> took over as publisher from June 1984 (Issue 103). Printing was done in Pauline Press, Bengaluru. This responsibility continued till issue No. 119 (Nov. 1995) and the additional campaign newsletter in Dec. 1985 and Jan. – March 1986. The communication efforts in the Bhopal response included <b>pamphlets / handouts on the disasters; epidemiological study reports; a M Sc., thesis and publication in EPW; a people's comic</b> with Eklavya.
	Oct. 1984	<b>The first audio visual material</b> (Slides set and VHS) was produced by the CHC team on the theme of Drug Policy and called Ramakka's Story.	For National Meeting on Rational Drug Policy organised by CHAI at St. John's. Produced in collaboration with communication Unit of CNFCE ( <b>Magimai Pragasam</b> and Fr. Francis Guntipally)
	1986	A team member trained in <b>low cost communication</b> methods including <b>poster making, puppetry and street theatre</b>	<b>Krishna Chakravarthy</b> , one of the co-initiator was trained in low cost communication techniques in different centres in the country during the gap year 1986-1987.
	October, 1987	The CHC team restarted CHC in CNFCE (Holy Cross Brothers) and the team gradually increased to 10 pioneers.	CHC team rejoined after a gap year when team members went for training in epidemiology, personnel management and low cost communication.

		<p><b>Red report “Community Health: the search for an alternative process”</b> – the report of the study – reflection action experiment by CHC, Bangalore (Jan. 1984 – June 1986) mimeographed by CNFCE and distributed to all associates and partners by CHC.</p> <p>A collection of books and documentation was organised into a <b>library at the CHC</b> Centre in CNFCE, Ashirwad, after two team members were sent for training.</p>	<p><b>Shivakumar</b> of CNFCE, proof read and produced this report on CHC’s behalf. A significant chapter in this report focussed on the movement dimension in 1986 – fourteen years before JSA / PHM evolved.</p> <p><b>John S Clarence</b> was the first volunteer Documentation Assistant (now librarian at St. John’s) supported by <b>M S Nagarajan</b>, Secretarial Assistant. Both of them were sent for training to VHAI Documentation Course organised by VHAK.</p>
	January 1988	<p><b>Overhead projector, slide projector and low cost communication aids</b> were used in Health Education and Teaching Programmes of CHC from this year.</p>	<p>The CHC team used <b>slide sets</b> prepared by CNFCE (two faces of India etc.). TALC-UK, VHAI, Delhi and other sets collected for health education. Also personal collection of team members. KC prepared a set of <b>animal cartoon charts</b> on development principles and later many other themes as well. Training in puppetry and street theatre were also introduced.</p>
	April 1991	<p>The CHC experiment was registered as a society called SOCHARA in April 1991 with one of the six objectives being to develop a <b>documentation cell as well as a library of education materials in community health</b>. Additional objectives included to <b>prepare and published papers, monographs, bibliographies and other materials related to community health</b>.</p>	<p>CHC moved from St. Mark’s road to Jakkasandra village (Now part of I Block Koramangala) before the registration SOCHARA. <b>Nalini Gururaj</b> was the first part time Documentation and Information Officer of a library that was developed in the functional unit of SOCHARA call Community Health Cell.</p>
	1992 - 1995	<p>Introduced <b>screen printing</b> in the centre</p> <p>Purchased <b>camera</b> for staff use in the centre</p>	<p>Team member trained to produce invitations, handouts, visiting cards and other materials</p> <p>Team member encouraged to learn photography as one of the option for staff development</p>

		<p>Introduced the now well known <b>cartoons</b> to animate and communicate community health principles.</p> <p>First CHC Occasional <b>Newsletter</b></p>	<p>programme</p> <p>The initial cartoons were made <b>Magimai</b> and later <b>Dr. Shirdi Prasad Tekur</b> also contributed many. These can be identified by their signature on the margins – magi and espetee</p>
1993?	<p>CHAI converted its in house journal - Medical Service to a popular public magazine called <b>Health Action</b> published by the HAFA Trust. SOCHARA played a major supportive role in the first few decades.</p>	<p><b>Dr. C M Francis</b> was the founding editor of Health Action and all team members contributed regularly to it. Several special issues were facilitated by SOCHARA as guest editors, of which five were very important contributions. 1. Community Health: Towards Health For All (July 1989) 2. Community Health: Search for a New Paradigm (November 1999) (2 issues); Community Health Action to People's Health Movement (CHC Jubilee, Dec. 2008); Empowering People for Health (JSA and PHM, Aug. 2009) and Rational Drug Therapy (August 1988).</p>	
1995	<p>Introduced <b>computers</b> in SOCHARA Office</p> <p>Later, all the computers were connected with <b>LAN arrangement..</b></p>		
June 1996	<p>First full time Library Assistant appointed.</p> <p>Fax introduced in SOCHARA</p>	<p><b>H R Mahadeva Swamy (HRM)</b> was appointed as Library Assistant. (Now Assistant Librarian)</p>	
January 1997	<p>First <b>pamphlet</b> of CHC produced for visitors, advocacy and fund raising</p>	<p>This pamphlet had the mango leaves as the welcome sign in SOCHARA and initially diya to represent spreading of Health For All. The designer was Shirdi Prasad Tekur, the then coordinator of SOCHARA.</p>	
1998	<p>Change of coordinator took place in this year after a participatory, review and reflection which led to identification of two key thrust areas for SOCHARA's future</p>	<p>Dr. Thelma Narayan took charge as the new coordinator and introduced many new systems after the 1998 review including a focus on Communications and Information Management Systems</p>	

		development – a Centre for Community Health and a coalition for health action. Change of name to <b>Community Health Library and Information Centre (CLIC)</b>	including computerisation etc.,  Suggested by partner – Cordaid to encourage us to move proactively to internet era
	November 1999	First <b>logo</b> introduced in Pamphlet showing thatched hut and family of four. Later introduced into letterhead ?Initiated <b>SOCHARA website</b>	The mango leaf design was continued and kolum design including CHC incorporated in it was added. By <b>Magesh Kumar</b> , secretarial Assistant before he left SOCHARA
	2000	Own <b>publications</b> were introduced with Women Health Empowerment Project (Kannada Manual)	Before this all publications were produced in partnership with other groups like mfc, VHAI, CHAI, CMAI, AIDAN and others. The SOCHARA team also had been an active contributor of articles to mfc bulletin; Health For the Millions; Health Action; Social Action; CMJI; LINK; and other NGOs journals, bulletins and magazines since 1984.
	2000	SOCHARA was actively involved with the creation of the five booklets of JSA (particularly booklet 4 & 5) which later became the People's Health Resource Book. The <b>Janaarogya Kalajatha</b> book was prepared by CHC for Janaarogya Andolana Karnataka	SOCHARA collaborated with BGVS and other groups in the evolving JAA-K to produce the JSA Booklets in Kannada.  After a series of workshop in collaboration with JAA-K partner, <b>Dr. Paresh Kumar</b> of SOCHARA designed Kalajatha books let published by us for JAA-K.
	2002	<b>Janaarogya Sannadu</b> (Kannada Translation of People's Charter for Health)– International and National were prepared by CHC. <b>PHM / JSA posters</b> were prepared by SOCHARA team for display in various events for PHM / JSA advocacy.	International charter was translated by <b>A Prahlad</b> and National charter by A Prahlad, Paresh Kumar and Aradya.  These posters were displayed at the WHO, Geneva (Lunch time seminars by RN; at the Asia Social Forum and other key events as a mobile exhibition displayed with plastics rope and clips.

	?	<p><b>?SOCHARA Archives</b> including documents / old files collated and classified.</p> <p>?SOCHARA's involvement with anti tobacco advocacy and FCTC started and a key communication initiative was the preparation of around 125 <b>posters (counter advertisements)</b> by Karnataka Chitrakala Parishat Students</p>	<p><b>V N Nagaraj Rao</b> who was Office manager earlier, rejoined part time basis to facilitate this.</p> <p><b>TN &amp; S J Chander (SJC)</b> evolved the anti tobacco advocacy including public meetings and events; sessions for students, street children and special groups; evolution of the CFTFK – Consortium For Tobacco Free Karnataka; Policy engagement and advocacy. <b>small booklets, pamphlet and posters</b> were produced during World Tobacco Day celebrations in subsequent years.</p>
	January 2003	<p>Took over <b>PHM Global Website</b> during the phase SOCHARA hosted the Global PHM Secretariat</p>	<p>PHM website was initiated by Andrew Chetley and <b>Nand Wadhvani</b> and moderated from Health Link, UK. It was transferred to the Global Secretariat in SOCHARA.</p> <p><b>Prasanna Saligram</b> joined as the first Communication Officer of PHM. During preparations for second PHA at Cuenca the secretariat added additional team member to help with content (<b>Nisha Susan</b>) and Networking (<b>Abraham Thomas</b>).</p>
	March 2003	<p>The first <b>annual report</b> of SOCHARA was <b>published</b> for the year 2001-2002.</p>	<p>Previous to that all annual reports were only mimeograph circulated to members and partners</p>
	2004?	<p><b>?EPABX system</b> connecting all telephone to units and staff internally was introduced.</p> <p>?By this year most team members began to use <b>power point presentations</b> and the earlier AV aids slowly became less popular and less used.</p>	

	Nov. 2004	Started <b>Health Round-up</b> for circulation – initially as printed document and later through e-google group	The first issue was produced in November 2004. HRM was helped by Naveen Thomas to initiate first few issues. As of now we have circulated Vol. 12 (9-10), 2016 issue.
	Dec. 2004	SOCHARA responded to the Tsunami disaster by sending teams from Bangalore and later focussing on two areas – Palavezhkadu (AK) and slums of Chennai (SDR). A special international meeting on Tsunami was organised at Chennai and later a <b>Tsunami watch</b> was also initiated in partnership with Misereor	A <b>special CD</b> based on the international meeting was produced by Magimai and team and was entitled ' <b>Goodwill is not enough</b> ' highlighting the challenges – technical, social and political of disaster relief and solidarity.
	2005	<b>PHM Archives</b> - Before the PHM Global Secretariat moved from SOCHARA Bengaluru to AHED, Egypt some PHM archives were initiated and collected / classified	The archives and bibliography were supported by 3 team members / fellows who helped RN the global secretariat coordinator in addition to the PHM team above. These were <b>Naveen Thomas, Vinay Vishwanatha and Sunil Mathew George</b>
	Dec. 2008	Several <b>publications and handouts</b> including those of CHC, CHLP and CLIC Publications were produced for the <b>Silver Jubilee Celebration</b> of CHC. A <b>special CD compilation</b> of all reports papers and documents was also produced and released at the Jubilee.	4 Kannada; 5 English was prepared by coordinator <b>E. Premdas</b> in collaboration with all the team member and some associates of SOCHARA.  <b>Dr. Deepak Kumarswamy</b> and Magesh Kumar collated the CD of publications.
	Dec. 2008	<b>SOCHARA Newsletters</b> were started with reflections by fellows primarily as part of CHLP programme. The first was called <b>Building Blocks</b> during Phase II of CHLP	This was occasional newsletter by interns and community health and development.
	2009	<b>Community health wikipedia</b> initiated (www.communityhealth.in)	This was developed by a flexi fellow <b>Dr. Lalit Narayan</b> , as a wikipedia independent of SOCHARA but supported in solidarity with this idea. Various other fellows and team members also contributed to developing some sections including Dr.

			Deepak Kumaraswamy, <b>Dr. Adithya Pradyumna and Dr. Prashanth N S.</b>
	2009	<b>CPHE wordpress website</b> for the new Centre for Public Health and Equity, in Bengaluru and its extension in Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh) was initiated.	This additional website was initiated by Dr. Lalit Narayan and supported by <b>Juned Kamal</b> and other members of the Bhopal Team and was updated when the CHFP programme started in Bhopal.
	March 2011	Started <b>Health Digest</b> for circulation through e-google group	The first issue was produced in 21 <sup>st</sup> March 2011. HRM is supported by the technical team to compile this regularly. As of now we have circulated 47 (31/8/2016)
	?	Introduced <b>WIFI</b> into SOCHARA campus	
	?	<b>Health Information Network Project</b> in Kanakapura Taluk. SOCHARA participated as a partner and also produced a series of <b>HIN Newsletter</b>	This project explored the role of IT in enhancing the management and communication in the PHC. SOCHARA was involved in enhancing the links with the community and taking the communication beyond the PHC to people including HIN Newsletters (see project report). Dr. Paresh Kumar and <b>Dr. Rajkumar Natarajan</b> were very involved.
	2010	<b>Kannada newsletters</b> produced for Janaarogya Andolana – Karnataka (JAA-K).	Documented and published by CHC which also hosted JAA-K Secretariat.
	Nov. 2011	<b>Bilingual (Hindi / English) newsletter</b> of CPHE Bhopal	A single issue of the newsletter was published at the end of the Phase 1 of CHFP programme – Nov. 2009 – Oct. 2011. The editorial team included <b>Anjali Noronha, Prasanna Saligram, Durbha Rohini Kumar, Prabhu Sharan and Preeti Verma.</b>
	Nov. 2013	<b>SOCHARA Newsletter</b> for CHLP Phase III was called <b>Dimentions</b>	This was newsletter of SOCHARA – SOPHEA (School of Public Health Equity and Action). So far we have produced 4 issues.
	Feb. 2014	<b>CLIC brochure</b>	The first CLIC brochure of 8 sides included sections on Background; collection; use of library and

			CLIC; Our philosophy; governance; and acknowledgements.
	2014?	SOCHARA Tamilnadu CEU 10 <sup>TH</sup> anniversary celebrations included release of some <b>publications and 2 CDs of music on health and social movements</b> . The 10 <sup>th</sup> year logo was also created.	Publications included a set of 10 fact sheets and posters on all aspects of CEU work produced by <b>Suresh and Ameer</b> and the music CDs were recorded by a fellow who is also a singer - <b>Venkatesh</b>
	2015	The SOCHARA website was redesigned and upgrated by appointing a <b>part time web manager</b> . After a few months the web manager also evolved a regular <b>SOCHARA E-Newsletter</b> .	The first part time web manager was <b>Chandran</b> , who also started E-newsletter with contribution from staff, fellows and associates of SOCHARA. KGLN were appointed as . We have just released the 5 <sup>th</sup> newsletter of Vol. 2 (2016).
	2016	<b>SOCHARA Silver Jubilee</b> was celebrated for the whole year with several workshops and <b>publications</b> . Silver <b>Jubilee logo</b> was also introduced.	Publications included annual report of 2014-15 and 2015-16; CHLP Phase III report and Community Health Dimention, No. 4, July 2016 (New Name for this newsletter)
	2016	<b>Silver Jubilee Museum and Archives Project (SJMAP)</b>	A process of archiving SOCHARA files, documents, gray literature and audio-visual materials had started in 2015 in CPHE by Ravi Narayan (RN), Community Health Advisor. In 2016, this was converted to the SJMAP Project with special space allotted in the SOCHARA annex and RN appointed as key Archivist. SJMAP was inaugurated informally at AGM 2016 by Dr. P Chandra, Vice-president of SOCHARA.
	2016	<b>SOCHARA Information Management System (SIMS)</b> Initiated in SOCHARA Silver Jubilee Year	During the jubilee year, it was decided to evolve <b>SIMS as a post jubilee initiative integrating CLIC, Website, SJMAP, Newsletters, publication, all communication systems internal and external</b> . D Suresh was appointed as the SIMS Manager and the SIMS plan is evolving with Swamy, RN and evolving SIMS advisory Group.



