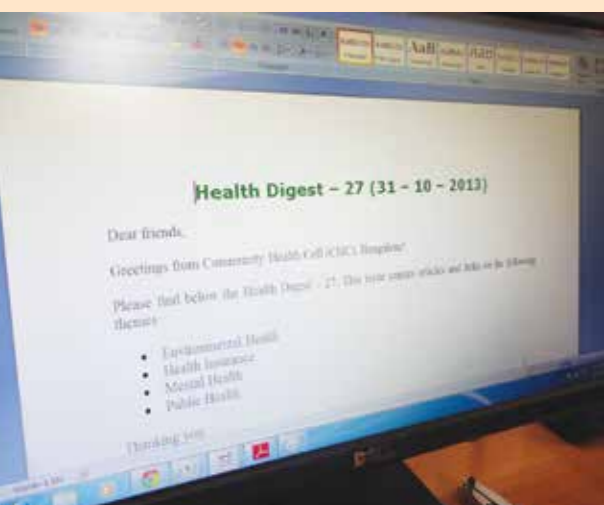


group of regular CLIC users and associates (over 700).

11a. Health Round-up

CLIC produces a monthly newsletter "Health Round-up" which is a bibliography of the monthly new arrival of books together with lists of articles related to health appearing in various



journals and magazines. This feature will be further customized to suit the user's interest and needs. Health Roundup is being sent to organisations, networks, campaigns, institutions and networks working in health via email, and is also uploaded on the website (www.sochara.org) for wider dissemination.

11b. Health Digest

CLIC produces a fortnightly e-publication "Health Digest", which is a collection of health related issues appearing in books, newspapers, journals and magazines. SOCHARA team members write summaries of articles and provide appropriate links. Health Digest is sent to over 700 persons through email.

12. The Website

A SOCHARA website was started in 2000-1 and further developed around 2004-05 primarily as an organizational archive and information centre. Over the years it is being also developed as a community health and public health learning centre and is an extension of the activities of CLIC.

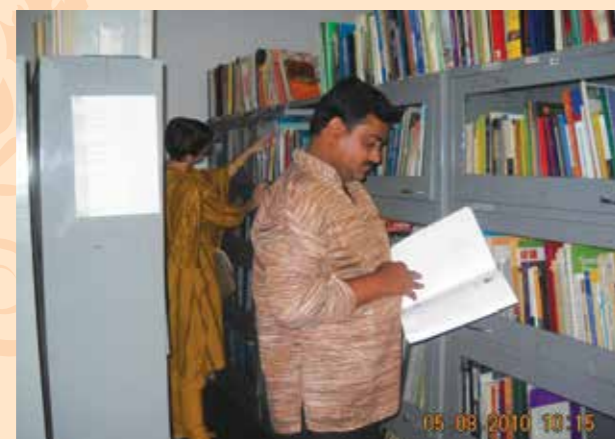
C. Use of the Library and CLIC

The Community Health Library and Information Centre is open for use by all our friends, associates, visitors and contacts. A facility for borrowing books and journals is available to associates and users of the unit with special permission from the coordinator or members in-charge of specific subunits.

The books / journals and other education materials can be referred in the library between 9.30 am and 5.30 pm on weekdays.

A card index (Author & Subject) and files with list of materials are available with relevant details for retrieval of materials in the library. The books section has been computerized. Our long term plan is computerization of the entire collection to enhance retrieval.

All potential users are requested to make prior appointment by post/phone indicating area of specific interest so that relevant materials for reference can be identified in advance. Since



most of senior core team is constantly on the move responding to various initiatives, they are not always available for discussion if visits are made without prior intimation.

D. Our Philosophy

The Community Health Library and Information Centre (CLIC) would like to help:

- Health action initiators focus on social change processes rather than only on medical / health interventions.
- Focus on information for enabling and empowering people rather than just providing technical services.
- Support the movement of the Primary Health Care philosophy not only to the grassroots but also to secondary and

tertiary levels of health care and also to policy makers.

- Reach key health information to health decision makers, academics, activists, researchers, journalists and the media, issue based movements and field projects of the government and voluntary sector and most of all to the general public to enhance their participation in health decision making.
- All users of the centre are therefore invited not to be passive clients of CLIC but be active participants to help us reach information to all concerned through creative communication processes.

Any suggestion or contribution towards enhancing the collection of materials towards these broader goals would be most welcome.



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E. Governance

A CLIC Committee guides the development of the Library and Information Centre and reports to the EC.

F. Acknowledgements

We acknowledge the support and solidarity of Misereor (Germany) and Cordaid (Netherlands) towards the development of the Community Health Library and Information Centre since 1992. We would also like to acknowledge with gratitude the many people who have donated their personal collections of books and journals to CLIC. Special thanks to the team who work in maintaining and sustaining CLIC and its outreach. This brochure is printed with support from the Ford Foundation, Delhi.

February 2014
Bengaluru

Community Health Library and Information Centre (CLIC)
SOCHARA

**SOCIETY FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH AWARENESS,
RESEARCH AND ACTION (SOCHARA)**
Bengaluru, India



**COMMUNITY HEALTH LIBRARY AND
INFORMATION CENTRE (CLIC)**
with units in CEU, Chennai and CPHE, Bhopal

A. Background - a brief story of the origin and growth of CLIC

The Community Health Library and Information Centre (CLIC) of SOCHARA evolved gradually over the 1980s and 1990s, in response to the community health needs and issues that emerged over the years. This was long ago..... in the pre-IT period!

- **The beginnings of a community health library:** From 1984-89, the Community Health Cell (CHC) was an informal study - reflection-action experiment focusing on community health initiatives in the voluntary sector in South India, particularly Karnataka. The role of CHC was primarily catalytic and facilitatory, working with organizations and networks, sharing knowledge and learning. The CHC team collected documents, background papers, books, reports, articles, educational materials and policy reflections as a support to their teaching, research, networking and supportive role. This was the origin of CLIC. The collections were also utilized by the groups and individuals with whom we interacted. Coming from a medical college background and in the face of complex social realities, an academic approach of enquiry and critical thought was considered necessary. Learning from the writings of others ie the written word, complemented learning from the community. Both textual and contextual knowledge were valued.
- **SOCHARA, its objectives and CLIC:** From 1990, the CHC experiment gradually metamorphosed into a registered, autonomous centre. The **Society for Community Health Awareness, Research and Action** (SOCHARA) was registered in April 1991 with six primary objectives. These were: a) to **create**

awareness about community health; b) to **undertake research in community health policy issues;** c) to **evolve educational strategies;** d) to **dialogue with health planners and decision makers;** e) to **promote community health action through voluntary and governmental initiatives;** and f) to **build a library and information centre in community health** to support our work. By 1990 a modest collection of published and unpublished literature and books from the growing community health network and movement in India had developed.

- **Expansion with an Outreach Function:** In 1991 it was decided that this unit, would not only support the information and documentation needs of the CHC team and its partners and associates in the field, but would be available for use by all those interested in community health – academics or activists, service providers, researchers, trainers, issue raisers, and policy makers. Since 1991 a few team members accessed, indexed, and classified all the material available. A simple retrieval system was evolved to allow for easy access to all the users of the library.
- **From collecting to a formal budget head for books and journals:** Till 1991 most of the materials for the unit arrived gratis



through the large network of active linkages that CHC had established over the years and from personal collections. Since then, a more active process of identification and accumulation of relevant materials and publication began. A budget head was introduced for purchase of books and subscription of important journals.

- **Diversifying the collection:** While the collection is a rather modest one, it represents a fairly good sample of the diversity and wealth of community health related resources in the country particularly those emerging from the civil society sector in India. There is a rich collection of grey literature. Over the year's reports from governments, institutions and departments at national, state and local levels grew. A basic representative collection of international publications have also been added. The collection covers diverse aspects of community health, primary health care, health systems, determinants of health, society, politics, culture and some fiction.
- **1998 - From Library to Information Centre:** With the growth of electronic communication and the internet, a change in ethos and method from 'a passive library' to an 'active information centre' took place, symbolized by a change in name from Library to CLIC. CLIC also increased its focus to digitizing the collection, while retaining use of traditional communication methods needed for rural and urban poor communities such as expanding the section of health promotion materials with posters, slides, videos and CDs.
- **Extension units in Chennai, Bhopal and multi-lingual collections:** With the development of the Chennai based Community Health Cell Extension Unit (CEU) in 2004 after the tsunami and the

Bhopal based subunit of the Centre for Public Health and Equity (CPHE, Bhopal) in 2008-09, CLIC units have also been established in these centres, with local language collections in Tamil and Hindi. CLIC in Bengaluru has a Kannada collection, together with a smaller collection of material in other languages.

B. The Collection

The CLIC collection can be broadly classified into the following sub-groups of health related materials

1. Books / Monographs / Booklets / Reports

The collection primarily includes health publications of local / regional / national origin predominantly in English. We have used a modification of the VHA (Voluntary Health Association of India) subject index code to classify them. An author, and subject based card index has also been developed. Short annotated bibliographies of some of the key resources on important topics have been compiled and will be updated. The current book collection in 2013-14 consists of 15,140 books up from 10,777 in 2009.

2. Newsletter / Bulletins / Periodicals

We presently receive over 16 newsletters, bulletins, periodicals and



38 journals representing a variety of health and development related themes and the diversity of regional, national and international sources. A much larger number have been received irregularly over the last few years for varying periods of time. Back issues are being obtained to build up complete collections.

3. Health Education Materials

Pamphlets, booklets, and handouts on a wide variety of health themes with a focus on lay readership have been gathered from a wide diversity of sources. As of 2013-14 we have posters (1191), slide sets (54), videos (486), and audio-cassettes (15) on health topics which are available for borrowing by CHC associates and CLIC users.

4. Resources / Documentation Reference Files

Resources files of published and unpublished papers, handouts, articles, reflections and short reports have been compiled and maintained on a wide variety of community health related themes and from a wide range of sources. Background papers of key health related workshops and meetings are also included in this section. Presently in 2013-14 we have 560 resource files.

5. DOC POST (Paper Clippings)

In the past for many years we received from the postal documentation service of the Centre for Education and Development, Bombay and Bangalore on 67 sections related to health. We have been collecting newspaper clippings on health related issues from The Hindu and Prajavani.

6. Directories / Reports on Health related projects in India

Directories of voluntary agencies in health care, lists of resource groups and reports

from ongoing health and development projects in India are available for reference. Apart from these, reports of research and training institutions in both the government and voluntary sector are also available. All these represent the live – web of linkages that CHC has established with the health network. Materials from some international training / resource centres are also available.

7. Special Collections

Some topics have been of special interest to SOCHARA during its last few years of experience and had led to special collections of materials focusing on these themes. Presently these include community health training manuals and educational materials; Indigenous and Alternative Systems of Medicine / AYUSH; Health and Agricultural Development; and History and development of Mission Health Services; Human Resource Development including training manuals; Primary Health Care; Public Health and Medical Education; more recently National Rural Health Mission; Social Movements in Health including People's Health Movement (PHM); Health Rights; Ethics and Public Health Law among others. Materials on these themes feature in all the subclasses mentioned earlier. Action is being initiated to build up bibliographies of available materials on each of these topics for ready reference.

8. SOCHARA - CHC Reports / Reflections / Publications

Compilation of SOCHARA-CHC reports, reflections papers have also been made on the following themes which broadly cover CHC widely ranging activities

- CHC Reports / Newsletters / Pamphlets / Meeting Minutes



- Community Health and the Community Health Movement in India
- Health Policy Reflections and Analysis
- Health Human Power Training
- Medical Education Project Related Handouts
- Rational Drug Policy and Rational Therapeutics
- Indigenous and Alternative Systems of Medicine / AYUSH (Traditional, Complementary and Alternative Medicine TCAM)
- Bhopal Disaster and its follow up
- Environment, Agriculture the Unorganized Sector and Occupational Health
- Family Health including Child Health, Women's Health and Family Welfare
- Health Advocacy and Health Promotion
- Development of Mission Health Services - Evaluation Project (background materials)
- Evaluation Reports and Process reflections
- Disaster Response and Policy Reflections
- Communicable and Non Communicable Diseases

- Public Health including New Paradigms
- Community Health Learning Program - Internship and Fellowship Reports
- People's Health Movement and related initiatives
- Bibliographies and Annotated Bibliographies
- Miscellaneous Papers and Reflections

A comprehensive publication list is available in the unit. Archival material related to all other initiatives is also being compiled. Most of these are also being gradually uploaded on the SOCHARA website with new methods for easy search and access.

9. Health Material in Indian Languages

Health Materials in Indian languages such as Kannada, Hindi, Tamil, Telugu have been kept in a separate rack. Chennai and Bhopal have their own special Tamil and Hindi based collections. Most of the community based training is in local languages of the state.

10. Bibliographies and Annotated Bibliographies

CHC has produced following annotated bibliographies:

- Medical Education – Stimulus for Change
- Resources and Information on HIV/AIDS
- Medical Ethics
- Disability
- Alternative Systems of Medicine
- Training Manuals of Community Health
- Malaria
- Government of Reports on Health and Development (Karnataka)

11. Additional e-bulletins

Since the development of CLIC two proactive regular informative e- bulletins are being emailed regularly to a large