

SJMAP Archives (13/9/2016)

THE FORMATION OF SOCHARA

(A Chronological Journey)

1ST JANUARY, 1984,

Start of Community Health Cell (CHC) initiative which was a study reflection action experiment on Community Health in India.

The initiative was based in 326, Fifth Main, First Block, Koramangala (RN/TN's residence) till it moved later in the year to C/o Holy Cross Brothers, St. Marks Road, Bengaluru. It was supported as a health project of the Centre for Non-Formal and Continuing Education (CNFCE) in the initial years.

During CHC Phase – a three member Wise Council consisting of Dr. C M Francis- retired Dean of St. John's Medical College; George Joseph, retired Professor of Centre for Community Medicine, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi; and Fr. Claude D'Souza, Executive Trustee of CNFCE, met the team regularly, every six months and reviewed the experiment as an informal governance mechanism.

8TH JUNE, 1990

Six years after the start of the experiment a final Wise Council meeting was held along with some special invitees – health professionals who had keenly supported the CHC experiment.

The group consisted of C M Francis, Paresh Kumar, D K Srinivas, H Sudarshan, Maria Zilloli, Prabhu, Shirdi Prasad, Mani, Thelma and Ravi. Four others were unable to attend including Valli Seshan, M J Thomas, Gerry Pais and Mario D'Souza.

Two important decisions were made at this meeting:

- a. The CHC process initiated needs further nurturing
- b. A independent, autonomous Trust or Society with built in flexibility should be explore

(Over the next few months a Memorandum Of Association for the new society was evolved with consultations with legal and other resource persons. C M Francis, Gopinathan, A Arumugam (Auditor) and others were involved.

2ND NOVEMBER, 1990

A letter was sent to potential Society Trustees or founding members

14TH NOVEMBER, 1990

A list of potential trustees was drawn up based on the response which included C M Francis, Valli Seshan, Mohan Isaac and M J Thomas

8TH DECEMBER, 1990

The first formal meeting on the formation of the society was held in the office of the Director, C M Francis, St. Martha's Hospital. It was decided to call the society - CHARAKA Society (Community Health Awareness, Research and Action, Karnataka)

(4, 8, 20 and 21st December 1990 and 31st Jan 1991 - follow-up team and committee meetings were held to evolve the memorandum and other matters related to the formation of a society. Discussions with the society registration office led to the need for changing the name since CHARAKA was not available for registration. After some discussion the new name and acronym SOCHARA was decided upon. Some members felt that SOCHARA should be national in its outlook and not only Karnataka oriented.)

9TH FEBRUARY, 1991

At 3 pm in the CHC office a Society Registration meeting was held attended by C M Francis, Valli Seshan, Mohan Isaac, M J Thomas, Gopinathan, Shirdi, Thelma and Ravi. Three other founding members – Claude D'Souza, Mani Kalliath and Arumugam could not attend but their approval and signatures were got as a follow-up.

8TH MAY, 1991

The first meeting of the Society's Executive Committee was held after the registration was completed on 16 April of 1991. All the general body members were also invited as special invitees. 20 important matters on the agenda were discussed and more formal general body meeting for 1991 was planned. (see Minutes Register)

11TH JUNE, 1991

The Bank Accounts for the Society were opened.

18TH JULY 1991

The finance sub-committee to evolve the Society's salary policy and related matters met at St. Martha's Hospital.

29TH JULY, 1991

The second Executive Committee meeting was held (see Minutes Register)

3rd DECEMBER, 1991

First meeting of Society's Finance Committee consisting of C M Francis, Mohan Isaac, A Arumugam, Ravi was held at St. Martha's Hospital.

13th DECEMBER, 1991 (Postponed to 20th JANUARY, 1992)

First Annual General Body Meeting of Society was held at No. 367, Srinivasa Nilaya, Jakkasandra, I Main, Block, Koramangala, Bangalore – 560 034. 8 founding members – C M Francis, Valli Seshan, Mohan Isaac, M J Thomas, Shirdi Prasad, Mani Kalliath, Thelma and Ravi were present. Three founding members - Fr. Claude, Gopinathan, and A Arumugam had informed their inability to attend. Four of the five special invitees were present – Prof. S V Rama Rao, Prof. V Benjamin, Fr. John Vattamattom and Prof. P Zachariah. Prof. George Joseph was unable to attend. (see Minutes Register)

(Compiled from Minutes Books, files and notings from RN's Diaries)