

**SOCHARA – A start-up in Community Health in 1984/1991 and  
incubator of several innovations and networks  
(An Alternative Construct)**

**Background**

In today's context of social innovation and social entrepreneurship, an alternative construct of the SOCHARA story can be, by describing it as a 'start-up' in Community Health in 1984 – probably the first of its kind in the civil society sector. This term Community Health was used by JNU for its Centre for Social Medicine and Community Health (CSMCH) and by Asian Community Health Action Network (ACHAN) in 1992 and CHAI and VHAI in their manifesto and vision document in 1983-84. As a resource center however we were the probably first introducing it in our initial functional unit – CHC.

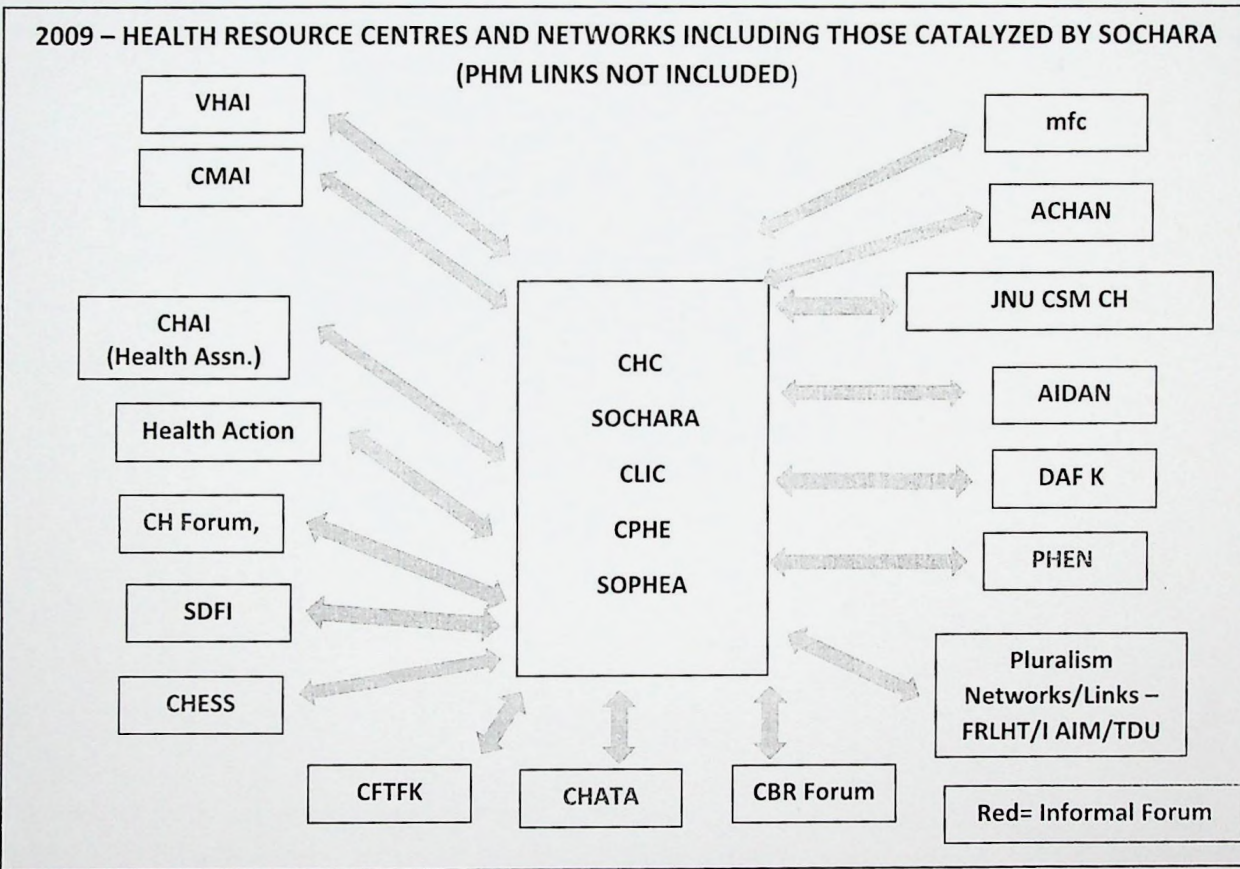
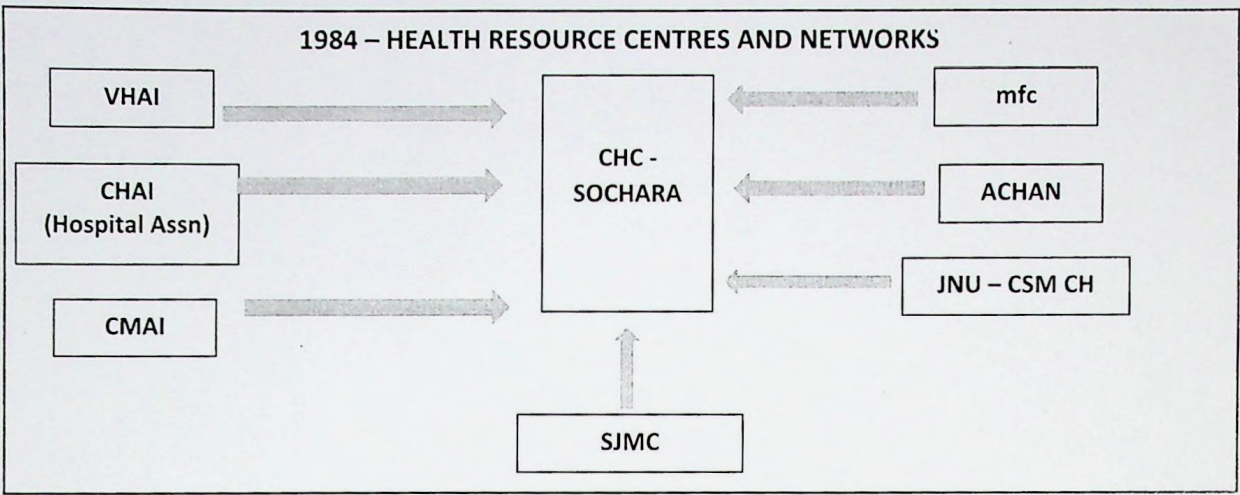
- A group of faculty members from a community medicine oriented medical college (SJMC, Bangalore) decided to move beyond the department to explore a new community / social model of health rather than medicine. Initially described as a 'study – reflection – action' experiment.
  - Over 5-6 years, they banded together with six other health and development professionals, leading to a collective decision to register a formal society called SOCHARA – Society for Community Health Awareness, Research and Action in May/June 1991.
- Since 1991, over 25 years, this start-up society explored community health action, awareness building, training strategies, action research, policy engagement and action and built-up a community health library and documentation centre.
- While doing so it primarily remained a small space of interaction, incubating innovation, and providing environment for sustenance, solidarity, companionship and a meeting place for dialogue and discussion.
- SOCHARA then became an inspiration for community health oriented innovation and people health oriented networking and collective action.
- In other words, even as it institutionalized very gradually and evolved and formalized some internal, governance and management system it remained primarily a learning space without formally metamorphosing into a very institutionalized NGO or centre.

- We have often used the term catalyst – to express this aspect of the SOCHARA experiment, which is often misunderstood in today's, increasingly formalizing, institutionalizing, ethos – often strengthened by commercialization and commodification of medicine and health action.
- This check list is a compilation of 15 networks and linkages that SOCHARA has established in its now well known 'campus without walls' for its learning initiatives and around 10 networks and linkages that it is part of a social movement in health – often referred to as people's health movement. These networks act as a countervailing power on health policy in the country and elsewhere.
- What is significant is that all these 25 entities are independent of the SOCHARA experiment now, with their own separate existence – some separate NGOs and others registered or informal networks but in which SOCHARA continues to play a significant, catalyst role.
- In addition, SOCHARA has created six other terms to describe everyone who has been associated with this experiment apart from team members and Society members. These include extended team member; associates; field mentors; fellows; partners and friends. Taken together they represent a large network of Community Health professionals, practitioners, activists, advocates and enthusiasts.
- SOCHARA, therefore in over three decades of its existence (1984 till 2019) is both a Community Health Resource Centre (legally registered as an NGO) but also a large informal network.

*'The attainment of Health For All goal depends upon three things:*

- *The extent to which it is possible to reduce poverty and inequality and to spread education;*
- *The extent to which it will be possible to organize the poor and underprivileged groups so that they are able to fight for their basic rights; and*
- *The extent to which we are able to move away from the counter-productive, consumerist Western model of health care and to replace it by the alternative model based in the community...'*

Source: Health For All – An alternative strategy, ICSSR & ICMR, 1981



## SOCHARA – A CHECK LIST OF INCUBATED INNOVATIONS AND LINKED ORGANISATIONS

A checklist of organization, networks and initiatives that are linked to SOCHARA history (first twenty-five years) which are now independent and have their own systems of functioning and governance. Notes on the links with SOCHARA and the SOCHARA team members and fellows involved with these have also been indicated.

### PART ONE

#### LINKS WITH NATIONAL HEALTH NETWORKS

##### 1. MFC - medico friend circle (1983)

- Many SOCHARA members and fellows are members of mfc.
- CHC was the national office of the convenor and editor of mfc from 1984 to 86 (RN & TN supported by CHC team)
- SOCHARA team members hosted the mfc convenorship again in 2000 - ? (Rakhal Gaitonde, E Premdas and Sukanya Rangamani)
- Presently Ravi D'Souza is coordinator of egroup and Adithya Pradyumna is a member of the EC
- The following key report / reflection are available on the net. These focus on CHC/SOCHARA involvement with mfc
  - a. At the 100<sup>th</sup> milestone, Ravi & Thelma Narayan - <http://www.mfcindia.org/mfcpdfs/MFC100-101.pdf>
  - b. Medico Friends Circle - Anecdotes from a journey of thirty five years (1977-2012) <http://www.mfcindia.org/mfcpdfs/history2.pdf>
  - c. A room full of friends (Narayan Blog) <http://narayanblog.blogspot.com/>
- Website: <http://www.mfcindia.org/>

##### 2. VHAI – Voluntary Health Association of India (1983)

The links with VHAI are very old and for Ravi and Thelma started even during the pre CHC / SOCHARA phase, as faculty of Department of Community Medicine at St. John's. Ravi was involved from 1974 when VHAI was known as the Coordinating Agency for Health Planning (CAHP) which was started by Fr. James Tong, a Jesuit and had Dr. P K Doraiswamy, Ex DGHS of India as President. This then became registered as VHAI and Ravi supported VHAI as a resource person in the South in various initiatives and training programme with Fr. James Tong, Dr. Murray Laugeson, Sr. Anne Cummins, Ruth Harner and later with the younger team that included Mira Shiva, C Sathyamala, Nirmala Sundaram, Renu Khanna, Chinu Srinivasan and others. In 1983-84, when CHC was being planned after 1982 Bharat Darshan and exploratory visits by Ravi and Thelma, there was an early effort for them to join VHAI. From time CHC started and for many years as SOCHARA as well we supported many initiatives of VHAI because of this early, historically association.

- **Towards an Appropriate Malaria Control Strategy, 1997**
- **State of People's Health in Karnataka, 1997**
- **Perspectives in Medical Education, 2001**

- **Perspective in Health Human Power Development in India – medical, Nursing and Paramedical Education, 2004**
- **Special issues of Health For the Millions – Karnataka**

### **3. CHAI - Catholic Health Association of India (1983)**

- **Hospital Association to Health Association:**

After a jubilee evaluation and participatory research study facilitated by Thelma Narayan and team, SOCHARA in 1991 for Catholic Hospital Association of India (CHAI), the association legally reregister as the Catholic Health Association of India with a new set of objectives and goals based on the recommendation of the study. This was based on the key finding that more than 50% of the CHAI membership were involved in community Health Action through small centre and dispensaries and were no longer mission hospitals but mission health centre. The report creatively written by the research team was extensively discussed in 9 different regions and by 9 different clusters of health professionals, religious, lawyers nurses etc., This was a very significant shift inspired and facilitated by a SOCHARA study.

#### **Seeking the signs of the times –**

[http://sochara.org/clic\\_publication/detail/214](http://sochara.org/clic_publication/detail/214)

- In 1983, CHAI initiated its Community Health department at headquarters, originally in New Delhi and later its new HQ in Secunderabad, Andhra. SOCHARA helped this department in the following ways:
  - a. Working definition of Community Health
  - b. Advisory role to Department of community Health for the first decade
  - c. Supported courses CHOPAM; Herbal Medicine and other courses
  - d. Supported community health forum
  - e. Supported Community Health Oriented Training and retreat in different reasons.
  - f. Involved CHAI in AIDAN and JSA Network.
- SOCHARA members were closely associated with CHAI in different capacities over the years (Thelma Narayan, Shirdi Prasad, Ravi Narayan, K Gopinathan, Mani Kalliath etc.,) Fr. John Vattamattom, Executive Director of CHAI was an honorary member of SOCHARA.
- Presently, the Director General of CHAI is one of our first batch of CHLP fellows from 2003 - Fr. Mathew Abraham,

### **4. CMAI – Christian Medical Association of India (1983)**

- SOCHARA has had close association with CMAI from the very beginning of its formation since the CMAI hospital network was inspired and influenced by the Alma Ata declaration and its primary health care mission. In the early years, CHC/SOCHARA associated with CMAI informally ever since its vision document in 1986 emphasised its commitment to community health (see page 10 of Community Health – In Search of Alternative Processes, SOCHARA book).
- C M Francis, V Benjamin, Thelma Narayan and N Devadasan participated as SOCHARA representative in the evolution of the CMAI primary health care vision in the 1990s.
- Ravi Narayan, initially and later Devadasan wrote the Health Advocate column in Christian Medical Journal of India for several years when Johny Oomen was the editor.

- Thelma Narayan involved CMAI leadership in the policy Delphi study on the role of mission institutions and civil society in health for all in India in 1991-92.
- The medical education studies on strategy for social relevance and community orientation and the curriculum development through graduate doctor feedback was a CHC-CMAI-CHAI project initiative in 1993.
- SOCHARA involved CMAI leadership locally especially Sukanth Singh and Shobha Yohan in the Janaarogya Andolana Bangalore Urban Network (JABU) coordinated by S J Chander. He also involved them in many of our urban health initiatives.
- SOCHARA was responsible for facilitating involvement of CMAI in the Jan Swasthya Abhiyan and People's Health Resource book and other initiative.

## **5. ACHAN – Asian Community Health Action Network (1983)**

- CHC/SOCHARA was involved with ACHAN from the very beginning when ACHAN vision document of 1982 emphasised community health and included it in its name its self (Page 8 of Community Health – In Search of Alternative Processes, SOCHARA book).
- SOCHARA became a member of ACHAN since its registration in 1991.
- We were regular contributors to the ACHAN newsletter – LINK for many years.
- SOCHARA was responsible for facilitating involvement of ACHAN in the Jan Swasthya Abhiyan and People's Health Resource book and other initiatives.
- SOCHARA participated in several ACHAN initiatives including the Kathmundu Declaration of 1988; the Consultation on Self-sufficiency in Financing Community Health Programmes – rhetoric or reality held at ECC, Whitefield in Jan. 1983; and the Consultation on Renewal of Health For All in Bangkok in 1999.

## **6. AIDAN – All India Drug Action Network (1989)**

- CHC/SOCHARA was involved with issues of Rational Drug Use and Rational Drug Policy from the early 80s initially as the mfc secretariat and later also when SOCHARA was registered.
- We were actively involved in the networking of the institutions and associations that came together to form the All India Drug Action Network in India (AIDAN)
- We contributed to various special issues of Health Action, Health For the Millions, CMJI and LINK on Rational Drug Policy issues.
- Later we facilitated the formation of the Drug Action Forum – Karnataka (DAF – K) to focus more specifically on Rational Drug Policy Education and Legal cases towards policy action.
- A film – Ramakka's story was prepared adapting from the book – Rakku's story with the focus on irrational prescribing and rational therapeutics. This film was used extensively to promote reflection on rational and irrational drug policy issues.
- We also participated in the development of the CMAI /CHAI joint formulary and later standard guidelines of Karnataka State Pharmacy Council.
- Rational Drug Policy workshop were also held for Medical Colleges and Civil Society groups all over Karanataka involving colleagues from St. John's Medical College and other associated institutions.
- All these activities were done to support AIDAN, in which Shirdi Prasad, V Benjamin, Thelma Narayan, Ravi Narayan, Prasanna Saligram, Naveen Thomas were involved along with Gopal Dabde and Prakash Rao who have been long standing associated in the work.

- <https://ijme.in/articles/a-network-for-the-rational-and-ethical-use-of-drugs/?galley=print>

## SOCHARA FACILITATED RESOURCES AND NETWORKS

### 7. Health Action (1993)

- As a result of the study mentioned above (see 2), CHAI decided to change its in house magazine – Medical Service to a popular journal Health Action promoting Health in a secular context
- Dr. C M Francis, Senior SOCHARA member was the founding editor of this popular journal and set the standards and tone of the journal for many years.
- Various members of SOCHARA have been editorial board members including Ravi Narayan, Ravi D’Souza and...
- SOCHARA has facilitated several special issues of the journal to promote Community Health, Rational Drug Policy and health as a Social Movement in partnership with Health Action
  - a. Towards a Rational Drug Policy
  - b. Community Health: Towards Health for All – July 1999
  - c. Community Health: Search for a new paradigm – Nov. 1999
  - d. Reshaping Medical Education to People’s Health Needs – Aug. 2007
  - e. People’s Health Movement – November 2008?
  - f. Community Health Action to People’s Health Movement – December 2008 (Celebrating CHC / SOCHARA 1984-2009)

### 8. SDFI – Sister Doctors Forum of India (1993)

Before 1992, when CHAI was preparing for its golden jubilee a evaluation study, a Delphi policy study and other related studies were facilitated by SOCHARA under the leadership of the Dr. Thelma Narayan. The key findings from all these studies were put together in a discussion document entitled –

#### **‘Seeking the Sign of the Times’**

([http://sochara.org/clic\\_publication/detail/214](http://sochara.org/clic_publication/detail/214)). This included a section on 20 important issues relevant to the future of the CHAI. One of these – the seventh was reflection on the evidence that **‘Women Religious - the Backbone of CHAI’** and therefore CHAI’s history is actually her story. Two questions were reflected upon by religious sisters from members hospitals which included i) has initiative and leadership of women religious in CHAI gone down in recent decades? If so, what are the reasons?; ii) How can initiatives and confidence among the women religious be further fostered so that they may play their rightful role at the national level?. From these reflections the idea of starting a Sisters Doctors Forum of India was initiated and SDFI was registered in 1994

(<http://www.sisterdoctorsindia.org/history/1993-2000/>)

with the following vision and mission

(<http://www.sisterdoctorsindia.org/sdfi-vision-and-mission/>).

The website of the SDFI also records this historical link with the SOCHARA study by noting the following – **‘An inspiration to organize a forum of Sister-Doctors originated in a Golden Jubilee evaluation of CHAI. Fr John Vattamattom who was**

the executive Director of CHAI played a major role in this formation process. Finally, Sister Doctors Forum of India (SDFI) was formed in 1993 during the National convention of CHAI at Kaloor, Ernakulam with Sr Dr Lillian as the President. As of now, the forum has more than 800 members who are working for the rural and urban poor as Sister-Doctors.'

## 9. DAF K – Drug Action Forum - Karnataka (1991)

Drug Action Forum – Karnataka is part of Janarogya Andolan Karnataka (a state unit of People's Health Movement – India <http://phm-india.org/>), member of AIDAN (All India Drug Action Network <http://aidanindia.org/>) and HAIAP (Health Action International Asia Pacific [www.haiap.org](http://www.haiap.org)). Drug Action Forum – Karnataka is a registered, not for profit and independent organisation campaigning for Rational use Drugs and Vaccines.

DAF – K was formed many years ago when SOCHARA as one of the founding member of the AIDAN felt the need to have a separate network in Karnataka to focus on rational prescription and ration drug policy issues. A small sub-group including Dr. Shirdi Prasad Tekur, Dr. V Benjamin, Dr. Gopal Dabde, Dr. C M Francis and CHC team, Dr. H Sudarshan, Dr. Vanaja Ramprasad, M A Sebastian – Advocate, Dr. Prakash Rao and others initiated a process of Health Promotion, Informal Orientation and Training Programmes; Drug Policy Action Research and Legal challenges to irrational drug policy and initiatives. Resource persons from Medical Colleges and other institutions were mobilised for this campaign. Younger members of SOCHARA team especially Naveen Thomas and Prasanna Saligram helped the process in later year.

Some of these are included in the following list:

- Problem Drugs; Children and Drugs; and Women and Drugs - DAF K Handouts
- Nishedita Oushadhagalu haagu haanikaaraka oushadhagalu – Booklet
- Marketing Health: Multinational way, 1991
- Patents and access to medicines (Mimeographed handouts), 2005
- Study of Pain Killers - Analgesics & Antipyretics and NSAIDS (Mimeographed handouts), 2004
- A study on drugs for treating Anaemia – A campaign for access to essential drugs, 2006.

Many newspaper and media report have been also facilitated throughout the campaign. Presently DAF – K and its activities can be reached through the following links with Dr. Gopal Dabade, long time SOCHARA associate.

- <https://aidanindia.wordpress.com/membership/>
- <http://daf-k.blogspot.com/>  
More recently the DAF K campaign has been linked to another larger global campaign – nofreelunch with it becoming the India chapter of that campaign
- [http://nofreelunchindia.org/index.php/daf\\_k\\_kannada\\_bulletin](http://nofreelunchindia.org/index.php/daf_k_kannada_bulletin)



## 10. CHESS – Community Health Environment Survey Skill Share (2000)

At the request of an environmental activist – Nithyanand Jayaram from Chennai and later in response to some preliminary discussions with him and other environmental activist, SOCHARA decided to explore the formation of an informal network of activists and civil society representatives who would learn about relationship of environmental hazards to human health and get competence in exploring the relationship between environmental pollution and health of the communities affected by them. A series of meeting were held with groups working on different types of pollution including industrial waste, pesticides, mercury and heavy metals, mining etc., and 'a lay epidemiology' network called CHESS evolved. This stands for Community Health Environment Survey Skill Shares which were held in Bangalore and in other gatherings all over the country. The story of CHESS has been documented in a SOCHARA – SOPHEA publication – July 2012 by Adithya Pradyumna and Ravi Narayan.

### **Examining Environment Health Interaction – Responding with communities to the challenges of our times**

#### **Chapter 4 – Story of CHESS**

[http://sochara.org/uploads/publicationuploads/DeemRx\\_examining\\_environment\\_and\\_health\\_irs\\_0\\_1.pdf](http://sochara.org/uploads/publicationuploads/DeemRx_examining_environment_and_health_irs_0_1.pdf)

also visit SOCHARA Website section on Environment and Occupational Health in What We Do –

[http://sochara.org/what\\_we\\_do/Environmental\\_and\\_Occupational\\_Health](http://sochara.org/what_we_do/Environmental_and_Occupational_Health)

## 11. CFTFK – Consortium For a Tobacco Free Karnataka (2000)

One of the public health challenges of today is the increasing use and addiction to tobacco. Starting with the involvement of Thelma in the processes and Indian participation in the Framework Convention for Tobacco Control (FCTC) at the request of Chitra Subramaniam from WHO unit working towards FCTC, we began gradually expanding our activities by dialogue and discussions with various civil society and key academic institution in Bangalore, supplemented by tobacco use reduction training and advocacy for schools and colleges, street children and other special groups and some special initiatives like facilitating production of counter advertisements as a poster competition with Karnataka Chitrakala Parishad Students etc., This work was primarily facilitated by S J Chander, a team member and others under the guidance of Thelma. After a few years including regular advocacy and mobilization around World No Tobacco Day on 31<sup>st</sup> May each year a network of organization evolved which was called Consortium For a Tobacco Free Karnataka (CFTFK). Some further details of this network and action against substance abuse is available on our website –

See section in SOCHARA website – **What We Do – in Substance Abuse**

[http://sochara.org/what\\_we\\_do/Substance\\_Abuse](http://sochara.org/what_we_do/Substance_Abuse)

Some years posters and booklets for advocacy were produced. See the following -

### **Are you being manipulated –**

[http://sochara.org/uploads/healthuploads/wntd-tobacco-booklet-by-sochara-atc\\_0.pdf](http://sochara.org/uploads/healthuploads/wntd-tobacco-booklet-by-sochara-atc_0.pdf)

### **Tobacco and Poverty – A Vicious Cycle**

[http://sochara.org/uploads/publicationuploads/DyDBvg\\_WNTD2004%20Eng.pdf](http://sochara.org/uploads/publicationuploads/DyDBvg_WNTD2004%20Eng.pdf)

## **12. CHATA – Community Health Approach to Tackle Alcoholism (2000)**

Related to our work on substance abuse another initiative evolved in collaboration with the National Institute of Mental Health, Department of Psychiatry, specially the unit on Substance Abuse which explored a Community Health Approach to Tackle Alcohol (CHATA). The lead in this initiative was taken by S D Rajendran in the SOCHARA team supported by S J Chander, Dr. C M Francis and many others and Vivek Benegal, Pratima Murthy and others from NIMHANS. This initiatives included tackling the social and community determinants of chronic alcohol use by tacking deeper determinants of lack recreation, unemployment, and the need for family counselling and community support. This was done by organizing youth activities in these areas and tackling issues that were leading to alcohol use. The community based project was experimented with in Rajendra Nagar area but unfortunately the project was short lived and only reported.

CHATA Report – Community Health Approach to Tackle Alcohol Related Problems (CHATA) – a documentation. Sowbhagya Somanadhan in consultation with others. 2004

See section in SOCHARA website – **What We Do – in Substance Abuse**

[http://sochara.org/what we do/Substance Abuse](http://sochara.org/what_we_do/Substance_Abuse)

## **13. CBR FORUM – Community Based Rehabilitation, Forum (Now renamed as Collective action for Basic Rights Foundation)**

In 1994, Misereor, a German Development Organisation and a long term SOCHARA partner invited SOCHARA to review the full range of Misereor Partnership in India and critically reflect on current and future challenges in Health and Development to which they should respond in support an solidarity. In this report by Ravi and Thelma Narayan, entitled '**Promoting Health in India: Quo Vadis?**' the identification of support to people's with disabilities through community based approaches emerged as an urgent need and challenge. This was followed up by a seminar in Bangalore at Indian Social Institute in in which SOCHARA actively participated. Following this when the idea to start a Community Based Rehabilitation Forum (CBR Forum) was initiated, SOCHARA agreed to host it in its premises in Jakkasandra and Dr. C M Francis agreed to be the first convenor and facilitated the initial early phase of the CBR Forum till the first full time coordinator, Nicolas was appointed and the unit moved to its first independent location in B T M layout. Since then SOCHARA has continued to play a major supportive role with Dr. C M Francis earlier as President and more recently Dr. Thelma as President of the governing body. Ravi, Premdas, Ameer and others have regularly been resource persons at CBR Forum Training and Staff Meeting. Recently CBR Forum has changed its name to **Collective action for Basic Rights Foundation** and has had several meeting to evolve from a forum, gradually to a social

movement of and by people with disability to be a countervailing power towards enhancing services and policy support to people with disability.

- Website CBR Forum - <https://cbrf.in/>

#### **14. Health Pluralism Partnerships - FRLHT/I – AIM/Public Health Unit of TDU/ Vikalp Sangam / Politics of Health Group (19**

SOCHARA has promoted pluralism in health and health systems from the very beginning because one of the early pioneers Shirdi Prasad was a practicing plural child health professional with skills in Acupuncture, Homeopathy and various alternative systems of health care and well-being. After some initial experiment in

- dialogue among practitioners from plural systems;
- training health workers at community level with simple alternative healing methods including herbal medicine, acupressure etc.;
- partnered with CHAI in a six month herbal medicine course;
- we initiated a medical pluralism dialogue in the medico friend circle to take forward its own agenda for **'a open minded scientificity to non-allopathic therapies so that they be encouraged to take their proper place in the modern system of medical care'**.

Since the establishment of FRLHT – the Foundation for Revitalisation of Local Health Tradition in 1993, SOCHARA has played a public health / community health partnership role with FRLHT and continued this partnership even as it became I-AIM (Institute of Ayurveda and Integrated Medicine) and more recently TDU (Transdisciplinary University). This partnership has included working together in various initiatives:

- RITAM (Research Initiatives in Traditional Anti-Malarials);
- Chair of Scientific Advisory Committee of I – AIM;
- Community Health orientation of some of the FRLHT / I-AIM initiatives;
- South Asian Regional Conference on Traditional Medicine and Right To Health For All, Bangalore, 2006.
- Stakeholders workshop on AYUSH intervention in Public Health for AYUSH Department, MOHFW, 2008
- AYUSH Steering Group for 11<sup>th</sup> Plan (Public Health Expert Group), 2009
- AYUSH Steering Group for 12<sup>th</sup> Plan (Member), 2011
- 12<sup>th</sup> Plan AYUSH Sub-committee for Health Services, Public Health, Insurance and Accreditation evolving a national AYUSH mission – advancing HFA, 2011
- AYUSH/TCAM Public Health Policy Workshop, 2012 (for PHFI team)
- Karnataka Jnana Aayoga – Public Health Mission Group which included Promoting Plural Public Health system through a convergence mission with AYUSH, 2013

In recent years, SOCHARA has worked closely with the evolving Public Health and LHT Unit of TDU as one of its important Public Health partner. This has included

- Development of Module on Plural Public Health Systems Competency (five credit, three weeks teaching and learning) for MPH Honors Course of RGUHS, run by Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Public Health, Bengaluru.

- Support to QCI initiative (Quality Control of India) to recognize traditional healers and their competency (Voluntary Certification Scheme for Traditional Community Healthcare Provider (VCSTCHP))
- Interaction with APU, Faculty on Traditional Healing Systems and Healers
- Member of task force set up by AYUSH Department on recognition and involvement of traditional healers

### **15.PHEN – Public Health Education Network, Bangalore (2013)**

RN of SOCHARA chaired the Mission Group on Public Health of the Karnataka Jnana Aayoga in 2012-13 and one of the key chapters of this report entitled 'Towards a community Oriented Public Health System Development in Karnataka' was focused on Strengthening State Public Health Capacity and HRD. In this chapter, it was suggested that a state school of public health should be evolved drawing upon a network of Public Health System Development and Policy, Advocacy, Resource Centre in Bengaluru which included SOCHARA, IPH, PHFI – Bengaluru Campus, IHMR, ISEC, NLSUI, NIMHANS, KACH and others. Following the publication of the report SOCHARA organized a meeting in 2014, bringing together representative of some of these institution and initiated an informal network called PHEN – Public Health Education Network, Bangalore. Meeting have been hosted of this network in RGIPH, SOCHARA and other centre over the years and this network has been involved in all types of evolving collaboration.

- Many members of PHEN are resource persons for various modules of the RGIPH MPH Honors Course.
- The PHEN network was invited for SOCHARA Jubilee Meetings on Public Health in September and October 2016 and in the consultation on Public Health Ethics at the World Congress of Bio-Ethics in 2017
- PHEN network members have participated in the IPH facilitated EPHP Conferences; Task Force on Public Health Policy by Karnataka Knowledge Commission and other policy initiatives
- PHEN Network members have been inviting each other for seminars, teaching sessions, consultation and panel discussion at various events organized by the different members
- While PHEN has remained an informal network supporting each other in various ways there may be a case for some formalization so that collaborative training, research and policy action may be undertaken collectively.

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**Part II – a check list of Health as Social Movement and associated network linked to SOCHARA history including PHM, JSA, MNI, JAA K, JABU, WHO – Advocacy Circle/WATCH, IPHU, GHW and COPASAH is being prepared and will be forwarded separately.**