

# COMMUNITY HEALTH LEARNING PROGRAMME

## Snapshot of the Interns

### 2008 BATCH

#### Full-time Programme

**Varsha** is the President of the Positive Women's Network, Maharashtra. She has linked with the People's Health Movement and taken the learning from various Community Health initiatives in Maharashtra to build the PWN in Maharashtra. She works as Counsellor in the Community Care Centre of the Government Hospital in Nagpur. She strives to build the capacity of the Positive Women's Network, Maharashtra in addressing issues of people living with HIV-AIDS.

**Sr. Ria**, a Nursing professional, is working with the hospital of the Holy Cross Congregation in Chickmagalur to see how the community based health work can be expanded and to reach out to the most needy.

**Sudha** is an Electronics Engineer and her work in a Medical Device Factory exposed her to the larger politics of health care. She has been involved with Association for India's Development (AID), US and in environmental and political issues in Minnesota, US which taught her about community initiatives and social implications of government policy. She is presently associated with an organization called Sangtin, in Sitapur, UP and is interested in supporting community based development initiatives.

**Savitri** has been associated with the Vimukti Social Cell and Jagrutha Mahila Sangatan, Potnal as a volunteer. She was interested in expanding her knowledge on health issues and work on women's health issues. She worked in Raichur district to enhance capacities of communities and Village Health and Sanitation Committees in the project Community Monitoring of public health services. She is working in a rural organization in Chickballapur.

**Aditya** has completed his MBBS at St. John's Medical College, Bangalore. He is exploring the various dimensions and linkages of environment, development and health. He is working as a Research Assistant in the Regional Occupational Health Centre, Indian Council of Medical Research, Bangalore

**Jeyapaul** is a post-graduate in NGO Management from Madurai Kamaraj University. He is associated with the Positive Women's Network (PWN+) in Chennai. He is passionate about improving the lives of under privileged children, specifically children orphaned by HIV and AIDS. He is building a community based programme for children with HIV in Namakkal.

**Karibasappa** has completed his MA in Sociology. He had been working in Davangere as Teacher, Community organizer and Documentation officer for the past seven years on issues of Right to Food, Right to education and Right to Work with communities. After the CHLP, he has integrated the issues of Right to Health at the community level. He is associated with the People's Health Movement, Karnataka to enhance capacity of communities in Community monitoring of health services.

#### Flexible Programme

**Lakshmi** completed her six months of internship from August 2007 to January 2008. Her understanding of the social determinants of health, the role of People's Health Movement in realisation of health rights of people and the socio political divide in health status and policy between developed countries and developing nations were enhanced through the field visits and participation in different events during her internship. She completed her post graduate in public health with the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health and works with the Centre of Health and Social Justice, New Delhi.

**Catherine** was from Canada. She assisted some of the literature review on Comprehensive Primary Health Care for the project on "Revitalizing Health for All". She also broadened her understanding of community health and perspectives of 'equity' as an important determinant of 'health for all', by her visits to various community based programmes during her internship from September 2007 to February 2008. She is pursuing a post graduate programme in Public Health in South Africa.

**Vinay H.R.** is a medical graduate who are pursuing his postgraduate studies in Psychiatry in the National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences, Bangalore. He took up the flexi programme at CHC for six weeks to understand the social aspects of mental health by visiting a number of community-based organizations in Bangalore and in Karnataka to understand how community based activities facilitate mental health care.

**Keerthi Sundar** is a medical graduate who is also pursuing his postgraduate studies in Psychiatry in the National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences, Bangalore. He also took up the flexi programme at CHC for six weeks to understand the various dimensions of mental health by visiting a number of community-based organizations in Bangalore and in Karnataka to know the community level realities.

**Deepak** is an Ayurvedic graduate who had completed a study of CHC's initiatives on "Integration of Medical and Health Systems". He focussed on understanding and gaining hands-on experience of 'comprehensive primary health care' by visiting and working with some community based organisations and the People's Health Movement in Karnataka from mid March to mid June 2008. He is working with Centre for Public Health and Equity, a functional unit of SOCHARA, based in Bhopal.

**Sabyasachi** has completed his MSc. Biomedical Genetics at VIT University, Vellore. He joined the programme to understand how relevant models of technology can be appropriately used to bring a change in rural health care systems. He is working on similar issues with Rural Innovations Network (RIN), Chennai.

**Lakshmi** has done her MSW in Chennai. She is working as part of a collective - Corporate Accountability Desk (CAD), Chennai. Her work involves Community Environment Monitoring and Community Health Monitoring apart from providing support to a grass roots organization in Mettur (Gonur West Agriculturists Development Association). She wanted to expand her understanding of community perspectives, especially those of women while mobilizing communities on pollution and health issues.

**Sapna** has done her Masters in Public Health from Columbia University. She is also a dentist by training. Her objective in joining the flexible internship was to broaden her understanding of community health by visiting various community health and development projects. Presently she is working with a Bangalore based organization called BasicNeeds India.

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## 2009 BATCH

Full Time Programme

**Shivakumar** (Masters in Social Work (Medical and Psychiatry) understood the challenges of health care access for the mentally ill through his placements with Basic Needs, Bangalore; Swami Vivekananda Youth Movement, Sargur and Dr.Ajay, Puniyakoti Foundation, Hospet. He is planning to map out the district mental health programme focusing on community perspectives. He wishes to train further in psychiatric social work.

**Tanuja Sharmi** is associated with the Manipur Positive Women's Network for the last 5 years and is currently the General Secretary of the National Positive Women's Network. During the internship, she has gained an understanding of the women's movements in India and has been able to network with many groups working on issues like violence against women and women's health. She is keen to raise awareness of the reproductive health issues of all women in Manipur. She will also network with the women's movements in Manipur to increase advocacy efforts to access services through the NRHM.

**Snehalatha** has completed her BSW in Dharwad, Karnataka and has worked in the Karnataka Health Institute, Ghataprabha and in the Community Monitoring Project, Raichur district. She was with the SVYM to understand the community health programme for reproductive health. She undertook field visits in Raichur and Bagalkote districts to understand the health issues of communities affected by the floods. She will support the People's Health Movement in Karnataka in raising awareness about NRHM among communities in Badami taluk, Bagalkote district.

**Shelly** has done her Masters in Political Science and is from Guwahati, Assam. She has been volunteering with The ANT. She was placed in CINI, Kolkata and in Badwani district, with SATHI to understand the different strategies of communities in advocacy for health and the role of the state and civil society in this process. She has planned to work with the ANT, Assam in studying the role of ASHA as an activist and facilitate training to ASHAs in Bongaigaon district, Assam.

**Jaya** is a graduate of Arts. She has wide range of experience as a National Service Volunteer, field researcher, working with SHGs, research assistant, counseling and women's empowerment in Assam. She has learnt the challenges of community health work in the context of poverty and marginalization being associated with Jan Swasthya Sahayog, Ganiyari, Chhatisgarh. She was witness

to CINI's work in Jharkhand to mobilize communities in understanding their entitlements available through the NRHM. She is planning to work among the internally displaced people at Deosri, Assam and facilitate a process of training on health and NRHM and build linkages with ASHAs and the villages in Deosri.

**Mary Julie** has done her Masters in Social Work. She has been associated with the Positive Women's Network in Tamil Nadu providing training in life skills education, developing modules and event management for children affected by HIV/AIDS. She has gained perspectives on community health and also a much broader understanding of the issues of children with HIV/AIDS from their view point and therefore how children's rights has to be addressed. She and her husband Mr. Jeyapaul (alumnus of first batch) have started a children's centre in a village in Namakkal district.

**Bhavya** is a Bachelor of Arts in Development Studies. She was intern at the Public Health and Communication & Development (PHCD), Addis Ababa. She also worked with Dwarkanath Reddy Ramanarpanam Trust (DRRT) and Association for Voluntary Action and Service (AVAS) where she worked with the urban poor. She keenly pursued her exploration about population policies and reproductive rights of women through her placements in Tribal Health Initiative, Sittilingi, Tamil Nadu and RUWSEC, Chengalpattu. She will do a qualitative study to understand how women control their fertility in an urban poor setting. She will pursue postgraduate studies in Development.

**Tejaswini** has completed her MSW (Community Development) and has worked as counselor in AIDS Awareness programmes in Maharashtra. She was trainer and community organizer in the Drought prone Area Project of Hind Swaraj Trust in Ralegan Siddhi district, Maharashtra. She was placed with SATHI, Pune and VACHAN, Nasik and has documented case studies on malnutrition in Maharashtra. She has gained a deeper understanding of different approaches of addressing malnutrition in a community. She will work in Akola district, Maharashtra in training programmes that integrate health rights of communities through their participation.

#### Flexible Programme

**Deeksha** has done her PhD on Breastfeeding practices and mother & child health and nutritional status. She worked in the maternal & child health unit for the Solution-Exchange project of the UN. She could identify challenges in ensuring nutrition of communities, through a field based study in Sehore district, M.P. of identifying the gaps in the policies and programmes that could potentially tackle malnutrition.

**Divya** is a graduate in dentistry and currently pursuing her masters in Public Health from Birla Institute of Technology and Science (BITS), Pilani. She has authored a book on community dentistry. She conducted a study to understand the status of the ESI dispensaries in providing primary health care to organized workers in Bangalore.

**Prabha** was associated with the Community Monitoring Project, Karnataka. She took up the internship to broaden her understanding of health and be able to strengthen the People's Health Movement, Karnataka.

**Malavika** was working with the Belaku Trust facilitating the livelihood programmes. She was able to gain a broader understanding of how communities became marginalized and the challenges in accessing health care services through her interactions with migrant communities in Bangalore. She has joined for the Masters course in Infectious diseases at the London School of Health and Tropical Medicine.

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