



E-SOCHARA

Vol. 2 (1), January

News and updates on community health

Editorial

'Note from Bengaluru' by Thelma Narayan

Practicing community health is exciting and also challenging in ordinary circumstances, as there is a need to deal with the human condition, socially embedded hierarchies and barriers as well as with macro policy related impacts on day to day life of people and communities. This challenge is greater in current times when large populations are faced with the impact of climate change and person made disasters. This New Year issue of the e-SOCHARA newsletter brings you greetings for Sankranti, Pongal, Bihu and 2016 from the team, as well as some thoughts from our work involvements.

<http://www.sochara.org/node/1242>

HIGHLIGHTS - Climate Change



Response to Chennai floods by SOCHARA

SOCHARA team members in Chennai led by D Suresh reflect on work done during the recent Chennai floods through mobilising communities, providing relief material and networking with NGOs. He explains how SOCHARA, whose Chennai office was also affected, worked with partners on a post disaster approach including a mental health response. He shares experiences and lessons learnt. <http://www.sochara.org/node/1229>

Paris agreement on Climate Change

Paris Agreement on Climate Change : A preliminary reflection

Adithya narrates how the Paris summit of December 2015 created an atmosphere that generated widespread awareness on the issue of climate change, and an acceptance by all governments that action is needed, even among previously hostile quarters. From a community health perspective, the Agreement mentions the importance of involving civil society organisations (besides other non-state actors) in the quest for addressing climate change. There is a need for further sensitisation within the health

community about the issues. <http://www.sochara.org/node/1230>



Resilience of livelihoods and food systems in drought-prone areas

Adithya in his write up on Resilience of livelihoods brief how grassroots women community members across drought affected areas take initiatives to address water scarcity, livelihoods and climate change through women's leadership.

<http://www.sochara.org/node/1231>

Sanitation

Health in Slums

Health in Slums

Anusha Purushotham and Prahlad IM report on a Health in Slums project meeting held in Bengaluru to discuss health care issues of urban poor communities. The program is part of an exchange program that provides students and young professionals from Maastricht University an opportunity to visit India and work with local partner organisations through a collaborative approach that is demand-driven, multi-disciplinary, co-beneficial, and

sustainable. <http://www.sochara.org/node/1234>

Community Health Training



Malaria Awareness Cycle Rally in Kalahandi, Odisha

Kuleswar Majhi, a current CHLP Batch 12 fellow writes of his experience of a Cycle Rally in Odisha to raise community awareness about Malaria. He points to the importance of drama and other cultural activities in creating awareness among communities in villages in India. <http://www.sochara.org/node/1233>

Health as a Social Movement



South-North Dialogue

Thelma and Ravi writes about how a vacation-cum work related tour to Europe and US evolved into an eventful South-North dialogue apart from providing opportunity to meet some SOCHARA fellows and friends. <http://www.sochara.org/node/1235>

At last, this is the only letter I am getting to write...

Homage



"I always wanted to be a writer. A writer of science, like Carl Sagan. At last, this is the only letter I am getting to write.

I loved Science. Stars, Nature, but then I loved people without knowing that people have long since divorced from nature. Our feelings are second handed. Our love is constructed. Our beliefs colored...The value of a man was reduced to his immediate identity and nearest possibility. To a vote. To a number. To a thing. Never was a man treated as a mind." - Dalit scholar Rohith Vemula

Dissemination Workshop 2015 - Phototoons by Samar Khan, CHLP Fellow 2015-



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