



## Editorial

### 'Note from Bengaluru' by Thelma Narayan

We are overwhelmed by the response to requests by SOCHARA Information team to mentors, and community health fellows to write for the e-newsletter. The group decided to carry all contributions that came in. They have been clustered thematically under mental health, environmental health and sanitation, community health training, mainstreaming the alternative, health as a social movement, maternal & neonatal health and upcoming events. Your responses and comments are welcome. Read More <http://www.sochara.org/node/1181>

## Highlights - MENTAL HEALTH

### A Critique of the National Mental Health Policy

#### **A critique of the National Mental Health Policy of India 2014**

**'New Pathways, New Hope** by Dr. Mani Kalliath, Executive Director, Basic Needs India

Mani Kalliath from Basic Needs India, reviews the national mental health policy and comments that it is an inspirational document and some of the recommendations contained in the 'strategy direction' are steps in the right direction but at the same time he also points to some of the concerns regarding the systemic barriers that exist to foster better approaches to mental health.

<http://www.sochara.org/node/1168>

### Artist and activist...

#### **An encounter with Reshma Valliappan by Shangmi, *Community Health Learning Fellow***

Reshma Valliappan, an artist-activist on issues related to mental health, disability, sexuality and human rights was in SOCHARA on 25th June to interact with the team and fellows. Following this, some of the fellows attended the workshop conducted by her. Shangmi reports on the workshop and her own reflections.

<http://www.sochara.org/node/1169>

### Mental Health, Care and Rights

#### **A report of the medico friends circle Annual Meet**

The 41st Medico Friend Circle (MFC) Annual Meet was held in Pune from 20th to 22nd February 2015. The theme of the meeting was on Mental Health, Care and Rights as the theme. The meeting was attended both by the team members and fellows. They report on the various aspects of mental health that was discussed and share their reflections. <http://www.sochara.org/node/1170>

## Environmental Health



### **Workshop on "Community Culture and Sustainable Sanitation Approach"**

The report of the national workshop brings out the inter-linkages between sanitation and community culture. The social, economic, political, cultural and ecological impact on sanitation practices were highlighted during the workshop. The participants in the workshop were also encouraged to develop a plan of action on sanitation in their respective areas.

<http://www.sochara.org/node/1171>



### **Report on Environmental Sanitation and Waste Management, Thanjavur**

Thangavi Jana Seva Bhavan organization in Thanjavur promptly followed up on the plan of action it had committed during the sanitation workshop. There was a two day training programme held on 'Environmental sanitation and waste management' at Thanjavur, Tamilnadu on 19th- 20th August, 2015. Prahlad attended the programme and reports about it.

<http://www.sochara.org/node/1172>



### **Joining the dots: Health and Environment by Adithya Pradyumna**

As a panellist in a seminar organized by Institute for Public Health, Bengaluru, Adithya discusses about his journey in environmental health, the challenges he encountered and his engagement on the issues related to environmental health both as a fellow and later as staff of SOCHARA.

<http://www.sochara.org/node/1173>

## Community Health Training



### **My Fellowship Journey by Dr. Bharti Sahu**

Bharti Sahu, an alumni of phase-3 of Community health learning program (CHLP) shares her experience as a fellow of the CHLP program. She talks about how she, with a dentistry background, had a paradigm shift from the medical model to the social model of health. She also shares about her experience of being connected with ground realities through fellowship.

<http://www.sochara.org/node/1174>

## Learning from the field

### **Learning from field organisations in Kerala by Kumar**

As part of an ongoing engagement with the field mentors of the CHLP, Kumar reports from his visit to some field organizations in Kerala where he has explored the potential of some of the organizations becoming field mentors for CHLP fellows. <http://www.sochara.org/node/1175>

## Mainstreaming the Alternative



### **Engagement with Masters Students from RGIPH by Prahlad I M and Adithya Pradyumna**

As part of SOCHARA's continued engagement with M.P.H Honours students Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Public Health and Centre for Disease control (RGIPH-CDC) Bengaluru, Adithya and Prahlad report about the learning sessions they facilitated of the module 'Ecological sensitivity'.

<http://www.sochara.org/node/1176>



### **Second Annual Public Health Lecture: Bringing the Public back into Public Health by Shnkar Pirinja**

The Post Graduate Institute for Medical Education & Research (PGIMER) Chandigarh had invited Dr. Ravi Narayan, to deliver the 2nd annual public health lecture on the theme 'Bringing the public back into Public health'. Dr. Ravi Narayan was honoured with a memento by the Institute. During the lecture Dr. Ravi Narayan has espoused the cause of moving beyond Biomedicine and to develop people oriented approach to public health.

<http://www.sochara.org/node/1177>

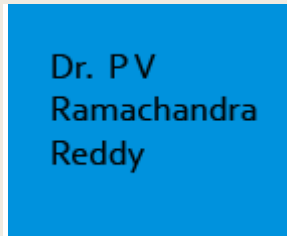
## Health as a Social Movement



Health Rights

### **National Human Rights Commission (NHRC and JSA Public Hearings on Health Rights by Ameer Khan and Prasanna Saligram**

The Jan Swasthya Abhiyan (JSA/People's Health Movement, India - [www.phmindia.org](http://www.phmindia.org);) is collaborating with the National Human Rights Commission to hold a series of Public Hearings on Health Rights across various regions of the country culminating in a national level dialogue in 2015-2016. SOCHARA along with the Tamil Nadu chapter of JSA, called Makkal Nalvazhvu Iyakkam (MNI) is hosting the southern regional hearing on December 15th and 16th 2015. The report outlines the processes happening in Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh. <http://www.sochara.org/node/1178>



Dr. P V  
Ramachandra  
Reddy

### **Centenary celebrations of Dr P V Ramachandra Reddy organised by People's Polyclinic by Rahul**

Rahul ASGR, along with Rakhil Gaitonde, attended the **Centenary celebrations of Dr P V Ramachandra Reddy** at Nellore on 12th July, 2015. Dr. Reddy was instrumental in setting up a people's polyclinic which is known for its community oriented health services. The meeting had wide array of topics discussed - from the origins of health and disease to the Universal health coverage debate happening in the country. <http://www.sochara.org/node/1179>



### **COPASAH –Community of Social Accountability Practitioners for Shared Practice and Grounded Knowledge**

The article by Premdas and Vinay talks about the growing cadre of global community of practitioners for improving the social accountability of health systems. The article also shares the learnings thus far, the challenges and about the potentials and possibilities of the network.  
<http://www.sochara.org/node/1167>

## Reporting from Bhopal

### Maternal & Neonatal Health

#### **Maternal and Neonatal Meeting-Bhopal by Dr. Ravi D'Souza**

CPHE Bhopal reports about the Maternal and neonatal health meeting jointly organized by SOCHARA and Common Health. The meeting had the Mission Director, National Health Mission, Government of Madhya Pradesh inaugurating it. The meeting had civil society participants from the different regions of central India. The meeting reviewed and discussed issues related to the mental health in the central Indian region. <http://www.sochara.org/node/1180>

## Upcoming Events

### Public Hearings on Health Rights

JSA & NHRC

#### **Main events**

- National Human Rights Commission and Jan Swasthya Abhiyan Public hearings on Health Rights - Karnataka State level consultation - 17th Nov 2015
- National Human Rights Commission and Jan Swasthya Abhiyan Public hearings on Health Rights - Southern regional hearing in Chennai – 15th and 16th Dec 2015

### SOCHARA Events

- Staff retreat: 6th–8th Oct 2015
- Fellows' Alumni and Mentors' Meeting: 7th Dec 2015
- Academic Research Council meeting: 7th Dec 2015
- Community Health Learning Program Dissemination workshop: 8th Dec 2015

#### **Society for Community Health Awareness Research and Action (SOCHARA)**

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