



sochara
building community health

Society for Community Health Awareness, Research and Action (SOCHARA)

Annual Report April 2020 - March 2021

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Executive Summary :

The year begun with spread of COVID 19 and national lock down. As a resource group in community health, SOCHARA connected to many organisations, state governments and public institutions. SOCHARA started responding to the pandemic in different ways, using its resources either individually or collaboration with organisations including public health systems.

The areas of relief activities including dry ration support, transport support to the migrants from across the country and to other marginalised communities in three states (Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Tamil Nadu), provided psycho social support to large population, produced scientific materials, many community awareness meetings, produced national policy briefs, participated in research related to COVID and many other activities. In this context we had to alter our planned activities, mode of implementation according to the situation. We continued our regular functioning as much as possible along with the COVID related work.

We undertook new initiatives and expansion based on the need and to respond to the situation. SAHAY is one such initiative through which we provided psycho social support to many individuals through collaboration with Puducherry Government and training to staffs of various civil society organisations. This was done in association with volunteers and other network partners.

We are part of the Lancet citizen commission on reimagining India's health system with the aim of providing roadmap to achieve Universal Health coverage / care for India.

The nutrition security strengthening activities has been carried out in the slums of Bhopal and also expanded to Shahpur block of Betul district, Madhya Pradesh.

This year we were part of an multinational study on Equitable Access to COVID Technology as part of People's Health Movement's initiative and took responsibility to conduct a study in Tamil Nadu, apart from providing financial and administrative support to the Indian arm of the study.

We continued our Community Water, Sanitation and Health activities in Bangalore and expanded to Chennai also.

We are continued to be a part of committees setup by health systems including Advisory Group on Community Action to ministry of health and family welfare, Govt. of India and in District peoples health assemblies of National Health Mission, Tamil Nadu.

The Silver Jubilee Museum and Archival Project (SJMAP) and SOCHARA Sarai initiative which is aiming to collect various resources of SOCHARA to digitalise is continuing. The Sarai initiative which is providing guidance and orientation to individuals and groups interested in community health is ongoing.

During this year - inspite of the pandemic disruption we have hosted eight students for their internship as part of their post graduation studies from various institutions across India.

SOCHARA have started the Community Health Learning Program with the support of Miseroer - 35 fellows from various streams who are from different parts of the country. There are 30 modules and the sessions will be held online till the pandemic abates. We expect about 60 learning facilitators and mentors to participate.

Annual Report 2020-21

From the desk of Coordinator.....

Dear Friends and Well wishers,

Hope all is fine with you and your families amidst the COVID pandemic. Stay safe.

The ongoing COVID crisis not only challenged health systems worldwide, it also had widespread impact on various development activities. We also witnessed it. We lost a couple of near and dear ones including our past secretary Dr. Shirdi Prasad Tekur. We take this opportunity to pay homage to him and recall his services to the community through SOCHARA.

SOCHARA with all your guidance and support was able to rise to the occasion to support around us by various meaningful interventions and these are detailed in the report.

This year gave us the opportunity to revive our flagship Community Health Learning Programme and transform it to digital space.

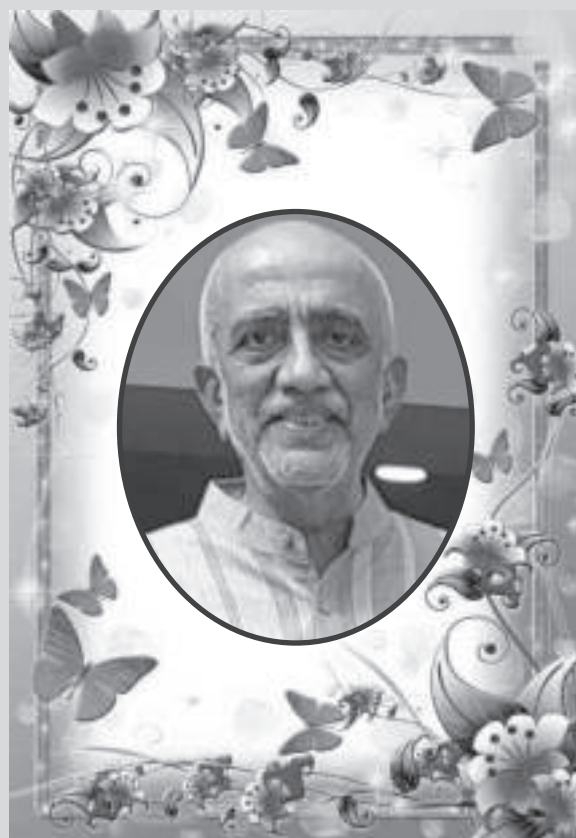
On the organisation side, we were also able to carry out measures to strengthen the financial situation and take care of long pending employee welfare measures.

We, at SOCHARA, sincerely and from the bottom of the heart thank everyone for your unconditional support and guidance during the journey towards 'Health For All'.

Sincerely,

- Gurumoorthy. M
Secretary-Coordinator

Obituary



Dr. Shirdi Prasad Tekur
22-11-1953 - 16-05-2021

Brief Summary :

The year begun with spread of COVID 19 and national lock down. As resource group on public health and connected to various organisations including state governments and public institutions SOCHARA started responding to the pandemic COVID 19 in all possible ways by using all its strength and resources either individually or with collaboration of organisations including public health system. The work majorly in the areas of relief activities to the migrants and other marginalised communities in Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, provided psycho social support to large population, produced scientific materials, large number of community awareness meetings, produced national policy briefs, participated in research related to COVID and many other activities. In this context we had to alter our planned activities, mode of implementation according to the situation. We continued our regular functioning as much as possible along with the COVID related work.

OBJECTIVE I :To create awareness on the principles and practice of community health among all people involved and interested in health and related sectors

In the middle of March 2020 India has taken many measures to control the spread of COVID 19 pandemic including lock down along with public health strategies. SOCHARA as a public health resource group has involved in various activities along with communities, civil society organisations and government machineries towards responding to pandemic. Few of the key activities are mentioned here.



SOCHARA prepared a Science Brief on COVID 19 in the early days of pandemic and it was widely disseminated.

SOCHARA provided technical support to a group in Mhow near Indore in Madhya Pradesh regarding preventive measures for COVID 19.

During the first wave of COVID 19 between July and December 2020, SOCHARA team with Makkal Nala vazhvu Iyakkam (MNI) partners conducted more than 100 awareness program on COVID19 covering more than 3000 community members from 35 panchyats of Tamil Nadu.

The team oriented more than 350 elected leaders from local self government across the state on the issue of COVID 19.

The volunteer team in Tamil Nadu was guided by SOCHARA to visit various public health hospitals including two tertiary care hospitals, 11 Primary health care centres, 7 Health sub centres and 20 Integrated Child Development centres to understand the public systems responses to COVID 19 and oriented the staff about the need of the community.

SOCHARA printed simple COVID related messages in Tamil and distributed more than 10000 handbills in various parts of Tamil Nadu.

A training module on COVID-19 for frontline health workers was prepared in association with Jan Swasthya Abhiyan (JSA), Madhya Pradesh. The module was for a one-day training session which covered symptoms of COVID-19, home care and isolation, and safety measures.



SOCHARA supported CBR Forum in reaching out messages through their 65 partner NGOs across India with health educational messages to 85,000 persons with disability they work with.

As part of creating awareness among community one of SOCHARA team members was interviewed by Radioactive CR 90.4 MHz (Community Radio) by Dr. Annapoorna Ravichandra, Executive Director, PAF on 19th June 2020 on key aspects that a person needs to keep in mind during COVID 19.

The following programs were conducted in various parts of Karnataka and in Chennai as part of community awareness during the year.,

- Organized Awareness programme for community (25) on COVID-19 (COVID 19, prevention, symptoms and primary care) from 27th to 30th May 2020.
- Organised Awareness programme for Sanitation workers (44) on COVID-19 (COVID 19, prevention, symptoms and primary care) on 02-06-2020.



- Conducted awareness programme to 40 sanitation workers at Maya bazaar on 05-06-2020.
- Conducted awareness programme for community from Anandpuram and demonstration of Liquid soap making in response to COVID 19 on 11-06-2020.
- Trained 9 community tailors from Maya bazaar on Stitching masks in response to COVID 19 on 15-06-2020.
- 12 Community Meetings at Mayabazaar on Health and Hygiene.
- 12 Awareness programmes at Anandapuram on COVID 19 and hand washing
- 12 Liquid soap making workshop at Mayabazaar
- 4 Mask Making workshops for community tailors
- Organised Inauguration and handing over ceremony of toilet blocks at Kodambakkam police Boys and Girls club, Chennai on 18-01-2021.
- Organized waste management awareness programme for children's at Chintadripet police clubs on 25-01-2021
- Organized waste management awareness programme for children's at Perumbakkam police clubs on 27-01-2021
- In response to COVID 19 on 05.01.2021 SOCHARA team provided 10 Contactless thermometers to 10 schools
- To build a team capacity Participatory Rural Appraisal(PRA) exercise conducted at Maya Bazaar on 07.01.2021
- Provided 2 push cart and inauguration happened on 13.01.2021, over 70 community members attended the program
- Two awareness program were conducted at maya bazaar on 13.01.2021 using germ and Ladder games conducted to raise awareness about clean environment in Bangalore
- On 28.01.21 one of the team members approached Bangalore electricity board to repair streetlights near public toilets and got them repaired, which helped 30 families.
- Conducted 14 street plays as a part of sanitation awareness campaign in project schools in Anekal and in two project communities in Bengaluru
- Conducted COVID19 vaccination awareness campaign in five slums (GD Mara, Anandpuram, Maya Bazaar, Sonnenahalli and Gurappanapalya) in Bengaluru.
- One of our team members did need based assessment on infrastructure development at 12 schools and 7 police clubs at Chennai on 9.09.2020, 11.09.2020 and 15.09.2020.
- Need Based Assessment - 14 Schools in Bangalore
- COVID 19 Poster distribution, Chintadripet police club on 06-01-2021
- COVID 19 Poster distribution, Muthialpet police club on 07-01-2021

SOCHARA's response to COVID 19 during the 1st wave

SOCHARA did numerous community awareness programme on COVID 19 in three states - Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Madhya Pradesh. Along with that SOCHARA also used social media channel and one to one communication to reach maximum people. In the initial days we started with awareness, clarifying misconceptions, authenticated online materials related to disease. Later it has extended to issues related to relief measures to the migrants, connecting the authorities to the civil society groups, explaining the health systems response, manifestation of disease and Govt response to that, building solidarity for front line health workers, victims of disease and discussion with other health networks in Tamil Nadu.

- Developed number of handouts and IEC materials in 8 different languages.
- SOCHARA field teams and associates worked on various interventions in the community - food supply, working with government officials on awareness creation etc
- SOCHARA along with AID Bangalore and Maara (a media and arts collective) were involved in Mahadevapura (Bangalore) Survey Report – where migrant workers affected by the lockdown.

Azim Premji Philanthropic Initiatives - APPI

Before the dry ration distribution, SOCHARA completed the community survey (with the help of Mr. Senthil from Aid India and others) at close to 1493 houses in GD Mara slum, J.P. Nagar. The survey was undertaken by community center students from GD Mara area itself. Totally 20+ students were involved and they did a survey of 1400+ houses in short duration. This included revisits for confirmation etc. Nearly 80% in the area did not have ration cards as they have no title. Many of them were daily wagers and hence are finding it very difficult to manage. The community includes people from Andhra, migrants from North India, Tamil and Kannada speaking people.

SOCHARA with the help of APPI provided dry ration kits as interim relief.

- On 28th April and 1st May 2020, SOCHARA distributed dry ration kits to 1634 families of GD Mara slum at J.P. Nagar, Bengaluru. Sri. Ramalinga Reddy, MLA (Member of Legislative Assembly) of BTM Layout constituency, Bangalore, inaugurated the distribution; also supported SOCHARA.

Dry ration support – Bengaluru:

Provided dry ration kits; supported 4500+ families (4000 in Bangalore and 500+ in Bhopal) with funding from APPI, AID US funds and from



- Distributed 3025 kgs of rice and 121 grocery kits (1 kg toor dal, 1 ltr. Dal, 1 ltr. Edible oil, 1kg salt, 1 packet sambar powder, 3 kgs onion and 2 kgs potato and 2 soaps), to Yelachenahhali community.
- Handed over 3000 kgs of rice and 121 grocery kits to Swaraj team for distribution to 300+ families in Yelachenahalli area of J.P. Nagar.
- Distributed dry ration kits to 80 migrant workers families at Anekal.
- Distributed 450 small kits (5kg rice, 1 kg dal, 1litre oil, 1 salt and one sambar powder packet) to migrants workers in Malur.
- Distributed 100 small dry ration kits to Pourakarmikas in Mayabazar, Ambedkar nagar slums.
- Distributed dry ration kits to 150 Odisha migrant families in Jayanagar, J.P. Nagar and BTM Layout, on 4th and 5th May 2020.
- Distributed 300 dry ration kits to One Billion Literates Foundation; they distributed the same at Byappanahalli.



PPE kits and Masks support:

- SOCHARA worked closely with community health hospitals and served the immediate need of 120 PPE kit; procured 15000 3ply masks and used them for emergency needs coming from Bangalore and rest of Karnataka. SOCHARA also provided 24 IR Thermometers, 1500 gloves, 2400 3ply masks to the people manning checkpoints in the state border. With association of our network partners Doctors For You and Yumetta, working on providing PPE and masks for Shaheed, Swaraj, KC Patty and other hospitals all over India. We are also getting support from a corporate company to provide 3600 PPE kits to 6 COVID-19 hospitals in Bangalore, Chennai and Pune.
- 3600 masks from SOCHARA sent to Mandya, K.R. Nagar, Mysore (400 to K.R. Pet; 600 to Malavalli and 2600 to Mysore).
- Sent 24 non contact thermometers; 1512 gloves; 5500 reusable face shields; 1550 3 ply masks to Bijapur (Mr. Gurushanth).

Dry ration support – Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh:

Distributed food rations to about 200 families in the Kotra Sultanabad and Rajiv Nagar slum areas in Bhopal on the 23rd of April - prioritised the following groups of people for the distribution:

- Migrant workers in Bhopal who cannot go back to their home villages.
- Daily wage workers without work (local).
- Elderly persons / couples without family or relatives.
- Handicapped persons - physically handicapped, blind, mentally challenged etc.



It was also a struggle to locate food supplies of this magnitude in Bhopal, as many of the large suppliers though functioning, had and continue to have, very low stocks. Each family package contained – 5 kgs Atta; 3kgs Rice; 1 kg Masoor dal; 1litre. Oil; 1 kg sugar; 1 kg salt; 250 gms tea leaves; 100 gms turmeric; 100 gms chilli powder; 1 bath soap; 1 washing soap; 1 toothpaste; 1 kg onion; 2 kgs potato.

SOCHARA team visited the Jamaat Islami organisation's facilities in old Bhopal, who distributed cooked meals once a day (usually in the evening) to 4000 persons, and dry rations to a smaller number of people. There are one large central kitchen, as well as six smaller kitchens in different parts of Bhopal. They distributed this food in a number of slums and other areas, among both Hindu and Muslim communities. The food was well received by everyone.

SOCHARA used the Jamaat's suppliers to procure the provisions, and their vehicles to transport the food packets to the different areas for final distribution. In Rajiv Nagar, the final distribution was through our worker Rekha Longre, and in Kotra Sultanabad the final distribution is through the volunteers of the Jamaat.

Followed up with individual families to check if the packages have actually reached them, and take their feedback on the quantity and quality of the contents. It has been a sad experience - no amount of help in that situation was ever enough. While reaching the areas we had chosen for distribution, people from surrounding and nearby areas stopped us and requested (and sometimes demanded) us to help them as well.

SOCHARA – Tamil Nadu

At community level

1. Chennai unit mostly concentrated in ensuring of safety of the migrant labours in and around Chennai. We did in two ways one through linking the workers with the Governments COVID response cells viz., temporary shelter homes, linking them with the zonal authorities (at least in 4 zones of Chennai and outskirts of Chennai including few parts of Kancheepuram district), amma canteens. These workers are mostly from Maharastra. Second direct food grains distribution in Tiruvallur district near uthukottai and Sathyavedu for Irular tribes (thorough local mobilisation).
2. At Health system level - Field level issues being continuously raised with health system-officials, VHN association president, key reporters from prime media channels on the Issues related to lack of PPE in public hospitals, unusual transfers of medical personnels, lack of masks, lack of proper facilities for health care personnels etc.,
3. The issue around the published data related to Covid in Tamil Nadu- Every day discussion with officials from National Institute of Epidemiology, Chennai. understanding data. raising the issues related to everyday data released by the govt and special focus of Tableq e jamat group related propaganda.
4. At network level - JSA has formed five different groups to respond to this situation. We are in health system and community based groups. Part of virtual discussions through Skype, WhatsApp and email. Brought out press releases.

Mental Health intervention - SAHAY initiative

The COVID-19 pandemic has led to high levels of distress and anxiety among the people in India across socioeconomic strata due to various reasons including fear of losing livelihood, shortage of essential lively goods, away from family and not able to support them as before,



sense of insecurity and panic induced by COVID news etc., All these affects one's mental health in multiple ways. In this situation SOCHARA Partnered with Montfort College, Bangalore and PSG College, Coimbatore to onboard their MSc Counseling Psychology students to be trained and offer Tele Counseling service beyond the pandemic context as well for a mutual value of creating community mental health programs in long run. The following activities were carried out under SAHAY initiative of SOCHARA.

Sahay - Why

The outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic has led to high levels of distress and anxiety among the people in India across socioeconomic strata. There are multiple reasons for the poor condition of mental health:

- Fear of losing livelihood due to isolation, Physical distancing, home quarantine, and restriction on travel.
- Stress due to shortage of essential items like food and groceries and a compulsive need to stock up food,

essentials, and medical supplies.

- Anxiety due to lack of contact with family members and friends living far away. For some, anxiety and stress may increase due to lack of one's privacy at home with all family members confined in a definite closed space at home.
- A constant sense of insecurity of losing one's loved ones to the infection.
- Extreme psychological stress and panic based on the news making rounds on television and social media, a majority of which are exaggerated and, in some cases, also fake



Felicitation to SAHAY team - by then Puducherry Chief Minister

Sahay - What

- Conducted webinars to demystify self-care for relief volunteers
- Organised in person self-care sessions for the COVID warriors
- Enabling Peer support circle/ Self support group for Grassroot organisations working with marginalised community

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- Partnered with Montfort College and PSG College to onboard their MSc Counseling Psychology students to be trained and offer Tele Counseling service beyond the pandemic context as well for a mutual value of creating community mental health programs in the long run.
- Partnered with Samvada Community college to offer psycho-social support for their staff.
- Partnered with Sangama - to offer regular psycho-social support for their staff and community members.

- Keeping the sustainability in mind we handholed care circles for 160 Puducherry teachers who are working with Puducherry govt.
- Along with association of MNI through hotline service we have reached about 1450 people across Tamil Nadu.
- We also provided psycho-social support for Samvada Community college staff.
- Along with Sangama we offered regular psycho-social support for their staff and community.
- SOCHARA associated with a Pan-India collective COVID response which includes Mindpiper and IAM
- We ran an in-person care session for frontline workers of various organisations (Action AID, Maarga, Mercy Mission, C-FAR, Sangama, SJS, LabourNet, SAMA etc) working in Bangalore slums.
- We also conducted Webinars for relief workers in Partner with regional civil society organisations working in migrant labourer relief in lockdown.

To reach out all of them and to general community we had conducted few webinars with multiple organizations.

Some of the sessions by Dr. Shirdi Prasad Tekur



Objective II: To promote and support community health action through voluntary as well as governmental initiatives and interested in health and related sectors

During this year along with other activities SOCHARA primarily involved in supporting and rebuilding the COVID infected and affected families through community led actions and supporting public health institutions. Especially in the three states where it has offices (Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Madhya Pradesh) involved in various activities helping the



migrants by distributing rations, arranging shelters, transport and connecting them with government machinery and institutions for their livelihood. Few of the key activities are:

Support to migrants travel : In the first week of May, lots of migrants started traveling back to their home. Many of them are crossing Chhattisgarh to reach Orissa, Jharkhand, Bengal and various districts of Chhattisgarh.

There are 2 check post between Chhattisgarh and Maharashtra.

Migrants from Telangana, Andhra, Tamil Nadu were reaching Gadchiroli and crossed through Manpur. (Kohka Check Post) Migrants from Northern Karnataka and various other parts of Maharashtra were reaching Gondia and crossed Chhattisgarh Border at Baghnadi Check post.

Government of Maharashtra started state transport buses to send migrant worker at various state borders. On 11/5/20, Around 10 buses from various parts of Maharashtra reached the Baghnadi Check post of Chhattisgarh Border. The Chhattisgarh government don't have its own public transport system.

(Baghnadi = Maharashtra – Chhattisgarh Border .;

Loharchuti = Chhattisgarh – Orissa Border ,;

Ramanujanj = Chhattisgarh – Jharkhand Border)

Date	No of Buses	Migrant Helped	From	To	Distance (KM)
21-05-20	4	220	Baghnadi	Loharchuti	400
29-05-20	3	273	Baghnadi	Loharchuti	400
3-6-2020	2	180	Durgam	Rajnandgaon	400
6-6-2020	1	24	Baghnadi	Rajnandgaon	1300
9-6-2020	1	70	Melwan, Hardoi, UP	Bilaspur CO	1800
16-6-2020	1	30	Melwan, UP	Bihar	400
13-06-20	1	40	Baghnadi	Rajnandgaon	1300
13-06-20	1	40	Baghnadi	Rajnandgaon	1300
21-06-20	From	4	Pune	West Bengal	
		Total			

- SOCHARA supported Dhvani Foundation in the setting up of shelters formigrant workers in Karnataka. This started with 2 shelters in Bagepalli in Chikkaballapur district. There are 50 migrant workers from Maharashtra in one and 30 workers from north Karnataka in another together with 18 cattle (as they had come in 9 bullock carts). They have rapidly expanded to 8 centres in total in 5 districts (Chikkaballapur, Mysore, Kalaburgi, Shivamogga, Bagalkote) in collaboration with local NGOs accommodating 385 migrant workers and 31 volunteers. These migrants were also linked up with the local government health facilities for regular health check up.

- SOCHARA distributed dry rations in slums of Bhopal city to the following vulnerable sections of the population:
 - a. Migrant workers currently unemployed.
 - b. Casual workers currently unemployed.
 - c. Physically challenged persons and their families.
 - d. Elderly living alone.
 - e. Families without ration cards.



- SOCHARA also provided cooked food, water and travelling home (on foot, by trucks, vans, cars and buses) on the highways outside Bhopal. These workers were travelling from cities in western India to their homes in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Jharkhand.

- SOCHARA also facilitated community meetings related to COVID issues and distribution of educational material on COVID 19.



- Along with the impacts of COVID19, in the month of November, due monsoon the coastal districts of Tamil Nadu were hit by cyclones and caused major damages. We supported along with the coordination of partners to 175 affected and needy people in eight districts (Dharmapuri, Krishnagiri, Coimbatore, Cuddalore, Karur, Erode, Tirupattur,

Tiruvannamalai) with dry rations, vegetables and groceries.

- In Dharmapuri, Tamil Nadu SOCHARA conducted five meetings to strengthen the health system observatory initiative where people monitor the functions of private health care system.



The following activities were carried out on the issue of Water and Sanitation in different parts of Karnataka and Chennai.,

- 2nd April 2020 : SOCHARA distributed Dry ration to 200 families from Maya Bazaar and 150 families from Anandpuram
- 9th April 2020 : Dry ration distributed to 90 families from Maya Bazaar community
- 13th April 2020 : Distributed dry ration kits for 40 families

- 15th April 2020 : Distributed Dry ration kits for 45 families
- 25th April 2020 : Distributed dry ration kits for 150 families
- 14th May 2020 : Distributed dry ration kits for 85 families
- 9th July 2020: in response to COVID -19 SOCHARA team provided masks, sanitizers, contactless thermometers, soaps and bleaching powder to police stations, schools, PHC and BBMP ward offices in its area of work.



- As to promote community livelihood support SOCHARA ordered and bought 13000 face masks to community tailors from our target community.
- 02.02.2021 : organized waste management awareness programme for children's at Muthialpet police clubs.
- 03.02.2021 : organized waste management awareness programme for children's at Kodambakkam police clubs.
- 04.02.2021 : organized waste management awareness programme for children's at MKB Nagar police clubs.
- 24.02.2021 : organized waste management awareness programme for children's at Chintadripet police clubs.
- 31 black spots were cleared with the support of local municipality at Maya bazaar and Anandapuram
- Conducted 10 Cancer Awareness Programs in Anandapuram, Mayabazar, Bangalore.
- Repaired Street lights at 4 Locations in 2 project communities.
- Ensured availability of Safe drinking Water to 450 Houses in Anandapuram community.
- 04.03.2021 : Organised Menstrual hygiene awareness programme at Muthialpet police club.
- 22.03.2021 : organized COVID 19 awareness at Chintadripet police club.
- 25.03.2021 : Organised menstrual hygiene awareness programme at Kodambakkam police club.
- 48 Black-spots cleaned in Mayabazar and Anandapuram.
- Inauguration and handing over of newly constructed toilet block to ThimmarayaSwamy school management.
- Women's day celebration in the two project communities with over 260 participants participated in the programme.
- Planted 20 saplings in Maya Bazar community.
- SOCHARA, local municipality and Maya Bazaar community formed 8 members monitoring committee to monitor waste collection process.
- Monitoring tool has been prepared for monitoring waste collection process for community and BBMP.
- Created WhatsApp group for monitoring of Waste collection.

- **Nutritional strengthening activities of SOCHARA:** We had to modify our approach in the nutritional strengthening activities in Madhya Pradesh due to disruptions and lock down by COVID. The Anganwadis were shut down for several months. Conducting meetings, visiting homes and interacting with mothers and families was difficult or not possible on a regular basis. However we continued the work in all possible ways. In Bhopal city with the association of field partner Muskaanand in association with Prasoon in five villages (covering 10 anganwadis) of Ganj Basoda block of Vidisha district SOCHARA continuing its nutritional strengthening activities with modified approach based on the field situation and realities, which is yielding expected results.

The field work in Shahpur block of Betul district, started in collaboration with the NGO Eklavya, is progressing very well. The work has expanded to 10 villages from 5 initially, with coverage of 20 anganwadis. We are also constantly looking out for newer areas to expand our nutrition work.

The new approach of using community level workers to collaborate with the anganwadi workers as well as to ensure community participation and involvement in the ICDS programme is yielding good results in the second year of its implementation. Despite the unfolding of the COVID pandemic, there has been a steady downward trend in the level of malnutrition in our field areas. The community based nutritional rehabilitation of severely malnourished children was introduced in our field areas on a limited basis. The results of this initiative have been encouraging so far. Likewise, the incorporation of the 1000 days concept in our nutrition work has also given good results. Unfortunately, due to the COVID pandemic these two interventions could not be developed and expanded further. We hope this will happen in the subsequent months after the COVID pandemic subsides.



Objective III : To undertake research in community health policy issues, including strategies in community health care, health personnel training, integration of medical and health systems

SOCHARA supported few research activities during this year to address broader issues of health systems, patients rights etc., SOCHARA apart from leading the study in Tamil Nadu also supported administratively to the Peoples Health Movement (PHM) led multi national study on Equitable Access to COVID Technologies (EACT) in India.

Institutional Ethics Committee of National Tuberculosis Institute:

As a member since inception of the Institutional Ethics Committee (IEC) one of the Team members of SOCHARA (Thelma Narayan) participated in the 25th Institutional Ethics Committee (IEC) meeting on **28th August** and 26th IEC meeting on **29th January** of the National Tuberculosis Institute (NTI) to review research protocols. She is also a member of a small sub-committee for review of Severe Adverse Events in a TB vaccine trial that is underway in India. This is a phase 3 randomised, double blind, three arm placebo controlled trial to evaluate the efficacy and safety of two vaccines in preventing tuberculosis (TB) in healthy household contacts of newly diagnosed sputum positive pulmonary TB patients.

The Lancet Citizen Commission on Reimagining India's Health System

One of the team members of SOCHARA (Thelma Narayan) was invited by the four Co-Chairs (Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, Vikram Patel, Gagandeep Kang, Tarun Khanna) to serve as a Commissioner in the Lancet Citizen's Commission. The primary purpose is to use a consultative and participatory approach involving all stakeholders to evolve a strategy to reach Universal Health Coverage/ Care within a decade. We anticipate that this Commission will ultimately lay out a citizens' roadmap for universal health coverage, with specific, ambitious but realistic, and time-bound recommendations for realizing a just, high-quality and accountable health care system for all Indians. There are different work streams – viz. on Financing, Human Resources for Health, Technology, Community Engagement, Stakeholders Consultations and District Case Studies. Evidence synthesis using Scoping Reviews and a Theory of Change methodology is also being used.

Study on ensuring Equitable Access to COVID19 Technologies (EACT) – The Peoples health movement has initiated multinational situational analysis study on the COVID 19 situation in which India also took part. SOCHARA played an important role including as host organisation and Tamil Nadu JSA, which is MNI become one of the study partner led by SOCHARA. Along with the support of SOCHARA's general body members, MNI collected case studies and conducted interviews across the state. In total we have collected data from 14 indepth interviews with pregnant women, sanitary workers, HIV positive cases, and five group discussions with front line workers, COVID affected family which reflected varied issues in the field.

The case studies were collected from following districts.,

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| a) Dharmapuri district | - 4 (Rural - 3 COVID - 1 Non COVID) |
| b) Chennai district | - 3 (Rural - 2 COVID - 1 Non COVID) |
| c) Pudukkottai district | - 3 (Rural - 3 COVID) |
| d) Dindigul district | - 3 (Rural - 3 COVID) |
| e) Krishnagiri district | - 1 rural case study of COVID patient |
| f) Tirupattur district | - 1 rural COVID case study |

The final report of this qualitative study is ready and overall study interim report for India is also available.

The following activities were done under the WASH initiative of SOCHARA

- Rapid assessment of COVID-19 response survey of 350 respondents at Mayabazar was done.
- Conducted Household survey of 750 households in Anandapuram

Objective IV: To evolve educational strategies that enhance the knowledge, skill and attitudes of persons involved in community health and development

Community Health Learning Program of SOCHARA (CHLP)

SOCHARA through the School of Public Health Equity and Action (SOPHEA) offers a unique Community Health Learning Programme (CHLP). Initiated in the year 2003, it has evolved and has grown in strength through a process of review and evaluation. In 17 years, 360 participants have transformed their lives and that of the communities they work with. Most of them have taken on senior and leadership positions in their organizations.

The programme is unique as it encourages participants to explore the social paradigm of community and public health, based on community needs and first-hand community experiences.

Established mechanisms such as Academic and Research Council (ARC) for curriculum design and SOCHARA Institutional Scientific and Ethics Committee (SISEC) for review of research proposals support the programme. Participants have access to the resource centre at SOCHARA, Bangalore as well as a wide range of partners and networks. Mentorship and a person-centered approach to learning with a justice orientation to health are the core components.

CHLP 2021 is an online collaborative phase of CHLP in context of COVID and commenced from February 2021. The objective of the programme is to build on to the understanding of impact of COVID-19 on communities and equip the participants to build appropriate strategies to tackle the emerging challenges. Duration of the programme is 12 months with 30 learning modules delivered through live online sessions and other teaching learning processes as well as a community-based project to enhance the learning experience.

The programme was announced on 5th February 2021 and the admission deadline was 28th February. The dissemination of information was done through SOCHARA networks. Along with their CVs the applicants had to submit a statement of purpose. We received 61 applications and 55 were shortlisted for interviews. A rigorous process was followed for selection and 35 fellows were selected. This process of selection was completed in March 2021.

The process of content development was done simultaneously with 2 ARC meetings conducted for advice on content creation and delivery (The 5th and 6th ARC meeting held on 24th February and 31st March 2021). Learning facilitators were contacted and oriented to the new online phase of CHLP 2021. Processes and mechanisms were put in place in February and March 2021 for smooth running of the programme.

Mentoring students from different stream and institutions

SOCHARA continued its mentorship to the PG students from various institutions. SOCHARA always adopted field based learning and mentoring however due to the restrictions caused by pandemic this year the mentoring was done mostly online but at the later part of the year we have supported them offline mentoring also. The following interns were mentored by SOCHARA and they are all from the institutions includes AchuthaMenon Centre for Health Science Studies, SreeChitraTirunal Institute of Medical Sciences & Technology, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, Christian Medical College, Vellore, Public Health School, Tamil Nadu, Prasanna Institute of Public Health, Manipal, Karnataka and Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai.

Sl. No.	Name	Period
1	Dr. Ayesha Mehar Shagufta, Final year MPH	11th May 2020 - 27th June, 2020
2	Dr. Anarita Agayakumar, Final year MPH	11th May 2020 - 27th June, 2020
3	Dr. Roselet Joseph, Final year MPH	11th May 2020 - 27th June, 2020
4	Anshuja Bagoni	Jul-20
5	Dr. Mehul Rana, Final year MPH	22/07/2020 – 22/08/2020
6	Dr. Priyanka Sridharan, Final year B.D.S	1 st Dec. 2020 – 31 st January 2021 (Bed intern)
7	Ms. Nandini S, Final year MPH	28 th December 2020 to 20 th February 2021
8	Dr. Manoj Subhashini, Final year MPH	January 2021 to April 2021
9	Ms. Manoj Subhashini, TISS, Mumbai	
10	Ms. Nandini S, TISS, Mumbai	

Learning facilitation sessions and interactions :

SOCHARA engaged in short discussions and interactions with individuals and groups interested in various aspects of community health. Depends upon the need of the visitor either a subject expert or a team of experts from SOCHARA and SOCHARA's associates together met and interact with them. Few such interactions are given below.,

- One of the team members of SOCHARA interacted with the final year postgraduate students, Department of Community Medicine, M.S. Ramaiah Medical College, on 02-02-2021 for external postings.
- RGUHS MPH students visited SOCHARA on 30th March for a session with Dr. Shirdi Prasad Tekur in the afternoon
- Discussions with Nishitha Bharati doctoral scholar IIT Delhi on a paper for 4 S (Society for Social Studies of Science) on “Technological interventions in Indian Healthcare: Knowledge making and the promise of digital transformations”.
- Supported Mr. Venkatesh Balakrishnan with Indian Forum on Rehabilitation for All (IFRFA). Joined their virtual consultation on a Policy Brief on the UN Disability Inclusion Strategy.
- Discussion with Tanisha Ranjit and Anya on Internet Democracy Project
- Discussion with Megha Reddy on survey of current Public Health teaching programs in India

SJMAP and SOCHARA Sarai initiatives

Since 2016, as the transition to a new phase of leadership and governance took place – two initiatives emerged on the SOCHARA agenda to capture and preserve the spirit of the first twenty five (25) years. As part of SOCHARA's role as learning centre the SJMAP and Sarai is effectively continuing its interactions, guidance to staff, associates, institutions, visitor and more to the field of community health. For the time being both SJMAP and Sarai are being facilitated by Ravi Narayan, who has been invited to continue as a Senior Adviser and has three responsibilities – 'archivist, key story teller and philosopher in residence'. He is often the first contact for the Sarai caller or visitor but through him they are able to connect with others in the SOCHARA network – other advisers, society members, team members and associates for further learning and solidarity.

1. The Silver Jubilee Museum and Archives Project (SJMAP)

One of the halls in the old building was made a learning space to bring a convergence of history, archives, audio-visuals, publications, mementos and memorabilia to celebrate the Community Health Journey of all in SOCHARA from 1982-2016 (45 years), which in many ways is also celebration of the Health For All movement in India.

The spirit of this learning space will be a self-directed learning and exploring space supplemented by storytelling by pioneers and reading!

Several materials available in the CLIC collection, and in various parts of the Centre, have now been transferred to this room for classifying, labelling, listing and evolving 'ease of access' through listing and developing other interactive mechanisms. A photographic exhibition of vignettes from the history of CHC and SOCHARA from the centre in CNFCE in 1984 to the CHLP till 2016 has been organised along the staircase leading to this unit.

1. The SOCHARA Sarai

This is complementary to the SJMAP initiative. The emphasis is on SOCHARA being a place where people on the Health For All journey can find support, solidarity and a meeting space for discussion and dialogue over a cup of tea. For some a destination and for others a point of departure - mid course or mid career; a place to share and rest in the middle of a journey. From 2016 till 2021 – the *Sarai* has been a place for solidarity and fellowship with a most diverse, eclectic, innovative, multidisciplinary, multi-sectoral group of people – young and not so young – who reached the '*sarai*' literally through just 'word of mouth' information; or visits to the SOCHARA website and www.communityhealth.in Wikipedia like site. A list of key callers and *Sarai* visitors would be rather long but when clustered into ten groups each group with similar orientation, purpose, needs and goals – give some idea of this widely diverse but hugely exciting group with most unusual backgrounds, interests and personal journey.

- a) Explorers of options in primary health care and community health from among health professionals and health care workers.
- b) Health systems researchers and doctoral students especially looking for grounded, community oriented published literature and reports.
- c) Senior scholars and colleagues in the health movement undertaking reviews, studies or writing assignments.
- d) Students doing MPH or M.Sc., post-graduate courses and seeking field posting for internship or community oriented field projects.
- e) Activist professions from non-health background seeking shifts into health, development and social sector opportunities.
- f) Under-graduate students seeking relevance in their career growth and exploring paths less travelled.
- g) Fellows and CHLP participants exploring community themes, initiatives or future community options.

- h) SOCHARA team members from all three clusters and many extended or former team members seeking new directions or exploring community oriented themes and options.
- i) Senior colleagues seeking peer support and solidarity and informal mentorship for academic and policy initiatives.

Finally, this provision of opportunity through the evolving 'SJMAP' and 'Sarai' initiatives of SOCHARA in recent years has become one of the most concrete and hopefully sustainable innovation celebrating the SOCHARA journey, the other being the CHLP which continues to remain the flagship initiative from SOCHARA history.

In the years ahead – SOCHARA will amalgamate a range of initiatives – the CLIC, the Website, the Social Networking initiatives, the SJMAP; the Sarai, and the ongoing CHLP and HFALC initiatives into a more planned and sustainable E-Learning Foundation initiative. These are the corner stones....



Objective V: To dialogue and participate with health planners, decision-makers and implementers to enable the formulation and implementation of community oriented health policies

During the last year SOCHARA took many initiatives to dialogue with the policy makers, elected representatives, opinion making house and to the health planners in the context of COVID19 and beyond the regular health system strengthening activities.

National Health Mission (NHM) – Advisory Group on Community Action for Health (AGCA)

One of the team members (Thelma Narayan) is member of AGCA and participated in the 41st AGCA meeting on 7th May 2021 which focused on priority areas for strengthening Community Action for Health (CAH) and developing a framework for rapid assessment of services during COVID 19. Joined a small group to work with the AGCA Secretariat in PFI, Delhi on developing a strategy note on community led approaches to COVID 19 response. This note was widely disseminated by the secretariat to all States. Accredited Social Health Activists' (ASHA) and Village Health, Water, Sanitation and Nutrition Committees (VHWSNCs) developed since 2005 as part of the 'communitisation' of the public health system played an important role together with Anganwadi workers, panchayat members etc in the COVID response. This 'social vaccine' continues to be important in the ongoing pandemic. Karnataka for instance developed Village COVID task forces with members from all the above. TN has joined some state level training of trainers meetings for district level staff in batches organized by the AGCA Secretariat and the State Health Resource Centre on VHWSNCs and Village Health and Nutrition Days (VHNDs) on 22nd October 2020, 5th and 10th November 2020.

Nuffield Council on Bioethics

One of the team members participated in a virtual meeting on 27th April 2020 with 12 experts, and together with email exchange, sharing of articles and review of the draft, joined in the development of a Rapid Policy Briefing on “Fair and Equitable Access to COVID 19 Treatments and Vaccines”. This 14 page document was released on 29th May and was widely disseminated in India and elsewhere. It is available on the website.

On World Spinal Injury Day 5th September APD initiated a series of webinars. One of the team members moderated a panel on Day One on “Recent trends and challenges in spinal cord injury rehabilitation”. Seven experienced panelists from SV National Institute of Rehabilitation, Training and Research; CMC Vellore; APD and IIT Madras participated. With a policy perspective the focus was on the current state of Spinal Cord Injury rehab in India; understanding gaps and challenges in current practice; and ways to drive effective rehab practice across India.

One of the team members delivered Keynote Address at the Vikas Anvesh Foundation (VAF) Annual Conference on **18th January 2021** on “*Journey towards Health and Development in India: Taking Stock*” taking into consideration worrying inferences from the recently released NFHS report. VAF is a Tata Trust Associate development research centre in Pune, with Mr. Sanjiv Phansalker as Director.

Health System observatory- As part of this SOCHARA conducted district level consultation in Dharmapuri, Tamil Nadu on 31st October 2021 to address the issues faced by people during COVID management in the public and private health systems. In this consultation the member of legislative assembly of dharmapuri participated along with officials from public health system, elected leaders from Panchayats, community members and civil society

representatives to discuss and take action on the issues. Public health system has responded positively to the challenges faced by the people and attempted to rectify for instance the reporting the status of the COVID test to the concerned family was improved.

Jan Sarokar: SOCHARA as part of the national secretariat group of JSA coordinated and supported an national online event of Jan Sarokar, in which different theme of the health issues been discussed and resolutions were adopted. Along with the civil society members, elected leaders including one state health minister, former bureaucrats also attended. The resolutions and proceedings were shared to the officials of health system and to the media.

Vaccine for all : On 23rd March 2021, SOCHARA supported MNI to convene a state level meeting on “safe and inclusive COVID vaccine for all in Tamil Nadu. Many Resource persons including Dr. A.R. Shanthi, from Doctors association for social equity, Prof. Andrew Sesuraj of Loyola college, Mr. Dillibabu of WOW foundation, Ms. Kousalya of Positive women's network, Prof. Mohana of Tamil Nadu science forum, Ms. Geetha from Puducherry, Mr. Shankar of Thozhi network, Mr. Ramesh, Mr. Varadharajan were shared their opinion and expectations in COVID vaccine distribution in Tamil Nadu. The thoughts were documented and shared with the government officials and media.

Peoples health manifesto 2021:

SOCHARA supported MNI to start working on Health manifesto from December 2020 by collecting facts from the field, demands of the peoples, opinions of the various unions and health professionals, key statistics from state reports and news papers to prepare the peoples health manifesto 2021. Apart from these meetings more than ten community meetings were organized in the month of Dec'2020 at Dharmapuri, Tirupattur, Thanjavur, Erode, Pudukkottai districts by MNI partners along interaction with public health officials in the districts, front line workers, civil society organisations etc. Based on all these interactions, meetings and documents, the state unit compiled all the demands and prepared “Peoples health manifesto of Tamil Nadu 2021”. The same was released on 31st march through online meeting to media and sent to bureaucrats and also to civil society organisations via social media.

Policy briefs on COVID 19 – During the first wave of the pandemic, Jan Swasthya Abhiyan (JSA) had issued series of policy briefs on different dimensions of the COVID19 situation. SOCHARA as part of the national convening organisations contributed to these policy briefs especially in the area of public health system strengthening and in the private health care sector issue.

Objective VI: To establish a library, documentation and interactive information centre in community health

Community Health Library and Information Centre (CLIC) is an integral part of the SOCHARA's activities. Every year the stock and usage of our books and documents are growing and we also focusing on the social and digital media to reach the readers and to disseminate.

CLIC has grown over the years. Currently it operates through its three units viz., Bengaluru, Chennai and Bhopal of SOCHARA. The activities of these three arms are as follows:

44 books received and many journals and magazines subscribed in the CLIC. Out of 44 books, 34 books received from Ms. Sangeetha for our library. Information retrieved for staff and readers from the internet, has been stored in the hard disk. Continuous updates of resource files and addition of new files. We collected PPTs from the staff that used during their sessions for health trainers saved in the hard disk.

Newsletters and Publications prepared regularly:

Newsletters: In total eleven (11) issues of Health Round-Up and 2 issues of Health Digest have been produced and circulated to SOCHARA network. These are all available on www.sochara.org/NewsLetter.

Publications:

1. An 18 minutes video of “PHM– Celebrating a 20Year Journey” was produced collaboratively.
2. You cannot touch taxes easily': making the case for tobacco taxation in India by Shreelata Rao Seshadri, Radhika Kaulgud and Prabhat Jha. Health Policy and Planning, 2020, 1–10
3. Nuffield Council on Bioethics, Rapid Policy Brief on “Equitable and Fair Access to COVID 19 Treatments and Vaccines”, 29th May 2020.
4. Story - Sustainability and Systems Development (1991 – 2016) by Dr. Ravi Narayan
5. The Story of SOCHARA in Small Doses (SJMAP) (The first 25 stories and reflections), prepared by Dr. Ravi Narayan and H R Mahadeva Swamy. P1-5
6. PHM Archives 1-8 received. Content listing of the each folder done for easy reference.
7. Dawa, Natasha, Narayan, Thelma and Narain, Jai Prakash. Managing Health at District Level: A Framework for Enhancing Programme Implementation in India. Journal of Health Management, 23(1) 119– 128, 2021.

Objective VII: Networking and Solidarity with Civil Society organisations

Along with our own initiatives and leading projects SOCHARA always supported many civil society groups, institutions and individuals to do meaningful work in the field of community health. This is keeping in view of solidarity building towards achieving “Health for all” goal. Few of the important interventions are given below.

- One of the SOCHARA team member was a panelist on behalf of SOCHARA and JSA during the release of a book titled “Political Journeys in Health – Essays by and for Amit Sengupta” on 5th July on the Late Amit's birthday organised by Jan Swathya Abhiyan and News click. She spoke on the crisis in the health system brought out sharply by the pandemic COVID 19. Co-panelists were Prabhat Patnaik and Satyajit Rath.
- Two of the team members of SOCHARA participated in the Misereor partners meet on 21st August and 1st September and followed up by development of the CHLP 2021-22 proposal
- One team member of SOCHARA Supported APD (Association of People with Disabilities) in developing a proposal for COVID Kits for Persons with Disability (about 50,000) reached by them in Karnataka
- One of the team members of SOCHARA supporting CBRF (CBR Forum) to develop proposals to donor partners on COVID 19 response with the CBRF constituencies. She also regularly share technical information with CBRF.
- One of the team members supported the St. Martha's Hospital Vision with a community health component for their Uttarahally Centre and other outreach programs in September-October 2020.
- One of the team members was part of reviewing committee was a reviewer in February for the Biju Mercy Prize on Social Consciousness open to all staff of the St. John's National Health Academy on COVID 19 response and acts of kindness beyond the call of duty. This was in the February 2021.
- One of team members of SOCHARA participated in an Advisory Committee meeting on 19th February 2021 of the Centre for Budget and Policy Studies for a Thakur Foundation supported 'Review of MPH programs in India' with Dr. Gayatri Raghuram as the investigator
- SOCHARA continuously support the media houses and reporters to enhance their knowledge and to write stories related to health. In Tamil Nadu the team frequently interact with visual media including “News 18 Tamil” channel, The New Indian Express and Vikatan groups of publications. And also on 29th July 2020 one of the team members of SOCHARA moderated a panel discussion on COVID 19 a first in the series on News click. Co-organisers were Pan African TV, Brazil Du Fato and Peoples Dispatch. The panelists were Dr. Yogesh Jain and Dr. Satyajit Rath.
- On the invitation of Dr. Soumitra Pathare, Centre for Mental Health Law and Policy, Indian Law Society, Pune, Thelma Narayan is an expert member since July 2020 of the India Mental Health Observatory (IMHO) which is developing a repository of data and information on mental health services in India.
- On 7th July 2020 few team members of SOCHARA visited MYRADA office and discussed about MYRADA activity on infrastructure development (toilet) in schools.
- One of the team members of SOCHARA made a presentation at PHM Webinar on 4th December 2020 on the occasion of the 20th year meeting which was widely attended.

Solidarity through membership in committees/governance of other groups

- a) SOCHARA is continuing part of the national coordinating committee of the Jan Swasthya Abhiyan and also one of the hosting organisation of the national secretariat. Currently Ameer Khan and Nidhi Shukla representing SOCHARA.
- b) Thelma Narayan continued as President of Collective Action for Basic Rights Foundation (CBRF) and Chairperson of the Advisory Committee of CBR (Community Based Rehabilitation) Forum. Organisational meetings and team meetings were held online. The team responded to the needs of Persons with Disability (PWDs) during COVID times. A rapid assessment was conducted with partner NGOs and PWDs on access to health care and rehabilitation services during COVID. This was shared with the NHRC on their request. She also joined in online meetings and supported them with information regarding COVID 19, as well as on organizational and HR issues, including transition processes. An internal evaluation of CBRF was undertaken on the advice of the Board.
- c) Thelma Narayan continues as a Governing Board member of the Association of Persons with Disability (APD), and attended board meetings and AGBM on 9th September 2020.
- d) Thelma Narayan is on the Board of Directors of the Public Affairs Foundation (PAF) and participated in all their meetings.
- e) Thelma Narayan is on the General Body of INSA India and joined the AGBM on 12th September
- f) Thelma Narayan is on the General Body of Swasthya Swaraj and joined the AGBM on 20th November
- g) Ameer Khan Continuing as general body member of the RUWSEC, Tamil Nadu
- h) Ameer Khan is part of the technical group set up by the Tamil Nadu Health system project for peoples' district health assemblies in Tamil Nadu.

Human Resources

SOCHARA has a committed, talented, inter-disciplinary team, presently based in three clusters in Bangalore, Chennai and Bhopal. The following team members based in CHC- Bangalore, CHC –Chennai and CPHE Bhopal were the human resources during this reporting period (as on 31st March 2020).

TECHNICAL TEAM

Mr.Gurumoorthy M	-	Secretary and Coordinator
Dr. Thelma Narayan	-	Senior Advisor - Academics and Health Policy Action
Dr. Ravi Narayan	-	Senior Consultant
Dr. Ravi D'Souza	-	Senior Consultant and Co-coordinator
Dr. Denis Xavier	-	Project Director - CHLP
Mr. Ameer Khan	-	Research and Training Associate and Co-coordinator
Mr. Prahlad I.M.	-	Research and Training Associate and Co-coordinator
Dr. Radhika Kaulgud	-	Programme Coordinator, CHLP
Ms. Nidhi Shukla	-	Training and Research Assistant
Mr. H.R. Mahadeva Swamy	-	Information officer
Mr. Suresh D	-	Website cum Communication Manager
Mr. Abu Huraira Shaikh	-	System Designer - SOPHEA
Mr. Azam Khan	-	Training and Research Assistant
Mr. Mallesh	-	Training and Research Assistant
Dr. Judyangel. D	-	Project Manager - WASH Chennai
Ms. Srilakshmi Santosh	-	Training and Research Assistant
Ms. Jyothi	-	Field Coordinator
Ms. Rajani	-	Field Coordinator
Ms.Prema	-	Field Coordinator

Administrative Team

Mr. V.N.NagarajaRao	-	Administrative Officer
Mr. Mathew Alex	-	Accountant
Ms. Maria Dorothy Stella	-	Office Supervisor
Mr. Kudiয়ারasu	-	Accounts Assistant

SOCHARA has additional support staff in Bengaluru.

Mr.Hari Prasad Ojha	-	Office Assistant
Mr. M.S.Joseph	-	Office Assistant
Mr.Tulsi Chetri	-	Office Assistant

And office helpers in Bangalore, Chennai and Bhopal

In Bhopal and Chennai offices admin, accounts and library work is managed by the technical team.

SOCHARA Members : Society members are also resource persons from multidisciplinary backgrounds with rich experience who are invited as and when required to support and advise regarding technical aspects and skill development of the new team. In addition some members actively support governance as members of the EC.

Governance and Administration

- During the year 2020-21 the Executive Committee meetings were held on : 17-6-2020 (113th); 14-08-2020 (114th); 25-09-2020 (115th); 10-11-2020 (116th EC Meeting); and 29-3-2021 (117th EC Meeting);
- Twenty Ninth Annual General Body Meeting was held on 25-09-2020.
- Following persons joined as members of SOCHARA : Mr. Prasanna Saligram; Dr. Ramani D'Souza, Dr. Adithya Pradyumna, Dr. Lalit Narayan; Mr. Ameer Khan; Mr. Prahlad I.M., Dr. Priyadarsh.

Executive Committee

Dr. Pruthvish. S	-	President
Dr. Denis Xavier	-	Vice President
Mr. Gurumoorthy.M	-	Secretary
Mr. As Mohammad	-	Treasurer
Dr. Maya Mascarenhas	-	Member
Dr. Mani Kalliath	-	Member
Dr. Susanta Ghosh	-	Member

General Body Members

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Dr. Thelma Narayan | 16. Dr. Anand Zachariah |
| 2. Dr. Ravi Narayan | 17. Prof. Shanmuga Velayudhyam |
| 3. Mr. Sam Joseph | 18. Rev. Dr. Sr. Aquinas Edassery |
| 4. Ms. Vali Seshan | 19. Dr. K. Ravi Kumar |
| 5. Mr. Abhijit Sengupta, IAS | 20. Dr. Muraleedharan V.R |
| 6. Dr. Sunil Kaul | 21. Dr. Arvind Kasturi |
| 7. Mr. K. Gopinathan | 22. Ms. Anjali Noronha |
| 8. Dr. H. Sudarshan | 23. Dr. J. Ganthimathi |
| 9. Dr. M.K. Vasundhara | 24. Mr. Ameer Khan |
| 10. Dr. Ravi D'Souza | 25. Mr. Prahlad I.M |
| 11. Dr. N. Devadasan | 26. Mr. Prasanna Saligram |
| 12. Dr. Kishore Murthy | 27. Dr. Priyadarsh |
| 13. Dr. Madhukar Pai | 28. Dr. Lalit Narayan |
| 14. Dr. Edward Premdas Pinto | 29. Dr. Ramani Atkuri |
| 15. Dr. Neela Patel | 30. Dr. Adithya Pradyumna |

Honorary Members

1. Rev. Fr. John Vattamattam – Honorary Member
2. Dr. D.K. Srinivasa- Honorary Member
3. Mr. A. Arumugham – Honorary Member.

Finance & Management Committee (FMC)

1. Dr. Maya Mascarenhas – Chair
2. Mr. As Mohammad – Member
3. Mr. Gurumoorthy. M – Member

Our Partners



**Friends of
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**Hemalaksa
Foundation**

:: Acknowledgements ::

1. We thank AID-USA for their immediate and timely financial support.
2. We thank APPI (Azim Premji Philanthropic Initiatives), Bangalore, for their financial support to supply the dry ration kits to GD Mara slum dwellers, migrant workers and others.
3. We thank Ms. Jyothirmayee of Doctors' Forum for the financial support during COVID 19.
3. A special thanks to Senthil, Aradhana, Deepa, Vignesh and many other community volunteers of their immense support the dry ration distribution.
4. Thanks to Sri Ramalina Reddy, MLA of BTM Layout, who not only inaugurated the distribution of dry ration kits at GD mara, but also supported us.
5. Thanks to Sri. GNR Babu, owner of GNR Kalyana Mantapa, Jayanagar 9th Block, who gave us the space for packing dry ration kits.
6. Thanks to all SOCHARA staff – especially Hari Prasad and Tulsi Chetri, who handled the loading and unloading of ration kits at SOCHARA.
7. Thanks to Balaji Kutty for setting up Learning Management System (LMS) on pro bono which has helped immensely to launch CHLP.
8. Thanks to Akshara, Aravind, Adithya Firdoush and host of student counsellors from MontFort College and PSG college for their voluntary efforts through Sahay.
9. Thanks to Srimi, Vignesh and Abu for setting up the Sahay helpline and Sahay portal
10. Thanks to Dr. Priyadarsh and friends of Yumetta for helping migrant workers to travel safely to their home states.



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