

# Society for Community Health Awareness, Research and Action

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## ANNUAL REPORT April 1997 - March 1998

### 1. INTRODUCTION

The Society entered the seventh year since its final registration in Apr 1991. While the process of consolidation and transition continued, the two key thrusts that emerged were

- A. Initiatives of **dialogue and collaboration with the 'mainstream'** including government health and training programmes and interaction with Universities.
- B. **Involvement in the evolution of a global health policy process** by WI towards Renewing Health for All in the 21 century.

While many regular initiatives in training and networking continued, these two key thrusts and the completion of the doctoral study on the **Public Policy Analysis of the National Tuberculosis Control Programme in India** helped to establish CHC as an alternative health policy research and training centre in sectors beyond the traditional voluntary sector. This was a significant development and an important pointer for the future of CHC.

### 2. ORGANISATION AND TEAM

#### i. Governance

- a. CHC is governed by the Society and its Executive Committee. The Society met for its Annual General Body meeting in May 1997, at which the annual report for 1996-97; the audited statement of accounts for the year 1996-97; the plan of action for 1997-98 and the budget estimates for the year 1997-98 were passed.
- b. Dr. CM. Francis and Fr. Claude D'Souza — founding President and Vice-President stepped down after completing two terms. Dr. C.M. Francis was designated as an 'extraordinary' member and invited to be on the Executive Committee. Fr. Claude D'Souza was made an Honorary Member of the Society.
- c. Dr. V. Benjamin and Dr. Mohan Isaac were elected as President and Vice-President for the next term July 1997 — June 2000.

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Registered under the Karnataka Societies Registration Act 17 of 1960, S. No. 44/91-92

d. Dr. D.K. Srinivasa and Dr. Paresh Kumar were elected as new Executive Committee members.

e. Three meetings of the Executive Committee took place during the year on 19 June 1997, 23<sup>rd</sup> September 1997 and 10th January 1998.

f. Dr. Ravi Narayan continued as the Coordinator / Secretary for the transitional phase, which would end when Dr. Thelma Narayan returned.

## **ii. Staff Changes**

a. Dr. Rajan Patil, a young graduate Homoeopath joined as a Research Assistant in November 1997 and Dr. Denis Xavier, a postgraduate in Pharmacology joined as a Research Associate in January 1998.

b. Dr. Madhukar Pai completed his associateship in May 1997; Dr. Rakhil Gaitonde in July 1997 and Dr. Devadasan in June 1997. Dr. Devadasan was re-appointed as Research Associate for a WRO project for a short term between December 1997— February 1998.

## **iii. Staff Development**

a. Dr. Thelma Narayan continued her doctoral studies at the Health Policy Unit of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. The final period which was to extend till December 1997 was extended due to health reasons beyond March 1998 (she rejoined on 1 June 1998).

b. Ms. Aparna Chintamani was supported to do a six month computer course (Office Automation course) at N from July to December 1997.

c. Mr. C.Jarnes did a short course in photography at Media Centre in October 1997.

d. Drs. A.R. Sreedhara and Rajan Patil attended the annual meeting of the medico friend circle as part of staff development for the year.

## **iv. Management Policies**

The salary policy was reviewed by Dr. Vatsala Nagarajan (ex-Dean, Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore) and a Society member, particularly looking at the emoluments for technical staff, primarily second line. Suitable changes in grades and increments were introduced and a special Book Allowance was introduced for all team members. In addition, House Rent Allowance was increased from 20% to 30% and Conveyance Allowance from 15% to 20% for all team members.

Saturdays were reconverted into half working days from 1 July 1997.

## **3. CHC ACTIVITIES BY OBJECTIVES**

1997-98 was a very busy year for CHC with varied types of requests, interactive responses and initiatives covering all the objectives of CHC. The salient activities were:

## **A. CREATING AWARENESS IN COMMUNITY HEALTH AND ALL ITS DIMENSIONS**

CHC facilitated orientation sessions in the following areas:

### **i. Community health**

Drs. SPT & ARS conducted a two day training programme for grass root workers of the Nagarika Seva Trust, Guruvayanakere, on 13 of May 1997.

For staff and postgraduates of department of Community Medicine of Kempegowda Institute of Medical Sciences, Bangalore in September 1997.

For community health workers from THREAD, Orissa, during their study tour in September 1997.

Dr. VB took a session on community health care at Prajyoti Niketan, Pudukad, Kerala, at the International Seminar on “Holistic Life and Total Health Care as Global, Medical and Self Care” in October 1997.

An orientation programme for nine community health workers of the Association of People with Disabilities, Bangalore on 22 October 1997.

RN took a session on community health for University and college teachers as part of a course by the National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bangalore.

SPT took a session on community health awareness for school children at Kendriya Vidyalaya, Bangalore, in December 1997.

Dr. ARS spoke on “mother and child health and the right to survival for children” on 18 March 1998, at the Child Rights Workshop, organised by CRY.

## **ii. Rational Use of Medicines**

SPT and ARS took a two day session on Rational Use of Medicine and Alternative Therapies for community health workers of the Association of People with Disabilities in Bangalore in July 1997.

For Government PHC Doctors at Gadag organised by Dr. Rajkumar Khatri, Deputy Commissioner, Gadag, on 21 December 1997.

CHC team members are on the committee of Drug Action Forum — Karnataka and the library provided support to its work.

## **iii. Environmental and Occupational Health**

RN & VB took a session on Environmental Health at ECC as part of a 3 day programme on “Environment, Economics and Health” in February 1998.

CMF & RN attended meetings relating to the Ross Society of Occupational Health at St. Joim’s Medical College, on 13 January 1998, 14 of February 1998.

## **iv. Health and Health Care in India**

Orientation for 2 groups of visiting teams of French University students on a work camp exchange programme at Ashirvad in July 1997 and August 1997.

## **v. Special themes**

Dr. RN spoke on education situation analysis on 19 July 1997 at the Twin College Meet organised by Jyothi Nivas College, Bangalore.

CHC facilitated along with Citizens Action Group, Public Affairs Centre, St. John’s Medical College and M.S. Ramaiah Medical College department, a workshop on Citizens Participation in the Management of Public Hospitals at Victoria Hospital in September 1997.

CMF inaugurated the Medical Education Cell at Devaraj Urs Medical College, Kolar, with a talk entitled “Make Medical Education More Fun”.

SPT spoke on “The Impact of Globalization on People’s Health” organised at St. Martha’s Hospital in October 1997.

SPT took session on Family Counseling for the Sisters of St. Joseph's at Bangalore in November 1997.

VB made a presentation on 'Globalization Effect on Health' at the consultation on Medical Mission Perspectives and Priorities facilitated by Academy of Ecumenical Indian Theology, Chennai.

## B. COMMUNITY ORIENTED TRAINING STRATEGIES

CHC facilitated the following training programmes

### i. NGO Sector

A three day training programme from 19-21st May, 1997 by CHC team and associates for grass root level workers of the Child Survival and Child Development programmes of Christian Medical Association of India in South India.

Course on Prevention of Disability and Promotion of Health for rural Primary School Teachers Training course organised by Divine Light Society of Whitefield.

CMF took a special session on student selection procedures at Institute for Rural Management, Anand, Gujarat, in November 1997.

Orientation course in Community Health for Deacons at Saccidananda Centre was held from 3-6 November 1997.

For community organizers of Organization for the Development of Rural Poor in Mysore in February and March 1998.

### ii. Continuing Medical Education Programme on Rational Drug Use (in collaboration with DAF-K)

- At Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College, Belgaum, in July 1997
- At Sri. Devaraj Urs Medical College, Kolar, in October 1997
- At J.S.S. Medical College, Mysore, in February 1998

### iii. Medical Colleges

CMF/RN participated in the Community Health Action programme for II year Medical students at St. John's Medical College, Bangalore. This is an innovative teaching initiative of the Department of Community Medicine, St. John's in January 1998. RN took a sessions on "The role of NGOs in Health Care in India" for IV year medical students of St. John's Medical College (Community Health Action Programme), on 9 anti 18 of January

1998, and CMF/RN participated as judges in some Health Policy debates.

Dr. VB attended a meeting, organized by Department of Community Health, St. John's Medical College, to develop a module on "Quality Care on STD for Community Health Workers" on 4 of March 1998.

#### **iv. Government Sector**

- RN visited Jaipur in August 1997 at the request of the Health Secretary and Directorate to discuss Rajasthan Vision —2011 Health Action Plan.

- CHC team and its associates organised 4 short courses in Management for 90 Medical Officers of Bangalore City Corporation under Indian Population Project - VIII programme at IPP-VIII training centre in Bangalore in September / October 1997. The course was coordinated by Dr. CMF.

- CMF delivered a lecture on Hospital Administration at State Institute of Health and Family Welfare, Bangalore, for Medical Officers of Rural PHCs under IPP IX programme — CME in December 1997.

#### **v. Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences (RGUHS)**

- CHC team had a dialogue with Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences (Dr.S. Kantha, Vice Chancellor and Dr. D.K.Srinivasa, Medical Education Consultant) on the CHC — Medical Education projects and exploring how to work together.

- RN was resource person at a RGUHS workshop on 'Restructuring the MBBS Curriculum' in August 1997.

#### **vi. Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU)**

RN participated in the Advisory Committee Meeting for ANM upgradation distance education course hosted by IGNOU in collaboration with the Foundation for Research in Community Health, Mumbai and Ministry of Family Welfare at IGNOU in New Delhi, in January 1998.

### **C. UNDERTAKING RESEARCH (POLICY AND ACTION ORIENTED)**

#### **i. Health Policy and TB Control**

TN continued her doctoral study on Public Policy Analysis of the National TB Control Programme in India at the Health Policy Unit of the London School throughout the year.

## **ii. Jan Swasthya Rakshak Review**

CHC and Associates undertook a review and field evaluation of the Jana Swasthya Rakshak Scheme of Madhya Pradesh Government in 1997. The field work was done in August 1997 and the final review meeting was held at Manipal Hospital in September 1997. The report was submitted to Government of Madhya Pradesh in January 1998.

## **iii. Malaria (Interactive Research linked to Action)**

CHC facilitated a Study Reflection Action Group in Bangalore throughout the year — which consisted of NGOs, academics, researchers and governmental organizations interested and concerned about the ‘Malaria’ problem in Karnataka. The regular meetings and initiatives included the following:

A three day training in innovative methods in Health Education for Malaria at Bangarpet for health workers was organized by Dr. Uma (a CHC associate) in April 1997.

A CME programme on Rational Malaria Treatment was organized for post-graduates from all the medical colleges in Bangalore, in May 1997.

A training in Malaria diagnostic skills for 10 laboratory technicians from 8 voluntary agencies / hospitals in the State was organized at Regional Office for Health and Family Welfare, Bangalore, in June 1997.

A meeting on 13 July, 1997 to review the Bangalore mosquito control master plan submitted to Government of Karnataka by Vector Control Research Centre (VCRC), Pondicherry, in the mid-90s.

RN presented a paper on ‘Emergence of Communicable Disease : Issues of Concern’ at VHA-Karnataka GBM in July 1997, at which the Alternative Strategy Report on Malaria facilitated by CHC for VHAI was also released.

RN was requested to give an invited lecture at the Second Global Meet on Parasitic Diseases at Secunderabad (Ross Centenary Celebration) in August 1997. The topic was ‘Recognizing the Social Paradigm in Malaria Control Beyond Techno-managerialism’.

The SRAG met a few times in December 1997 — February 1998 to help CMAI plan the training programme for NGOs and GPs in Orissa, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar as part of a follow up pilot initiative (post CHC-VHAI MEG report) being undertaken through a Memorandum of Understanding between Christian Medical Association of India and National Malaria Eradication Programme.

iv. Some other research projects and initiatives with which the CHC team were involved included:

a) CMF / RN and RRP participated in the NIMHANS Workshop on Psycho-Social Consequences of Disasters in December 1997. CHC wrote the chapter on Epidemics as Disasters as part of the evolving India Disables Report 1998 (an Oxfam facilitated project).

b) RN, VB and ARS attended a meeting in August 1997 of Karuna Trust and Vivekananda Foundation at Ramakrishna Vidyashala Mysore, to discuss the process of Documentation and Action Research of the take over of Government Primary Health Centres by these trusts.

c) RN participated in the Scientific Advisory Committee Meeting of the Regional Occupational Health Centre (ICMR) at ROHC, Bangalore, in December 1997.

d) Dr. Denis Xavier started a cross sectional — multilevel study on “How Doctors Choose their Drugs” from January 1998. The sample included doctors from primary, secondary and tertiary health care institutions — from both government and NGO sectors.

e) RN participated in the review meeting of the NIAS Women’s Policy Unit study on “The Status of Rural Women in Karnataka” in January 1998.

f) RN was invited to be the chairperson of a Review Committee to review the Healing Ministry of St. Martha’s Hospital, Bangalore. The process is ongoing.

g) CMF, TN and RN attended the workshop on Global Burden of Diseases study and its implications on Health at the National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences in March 1997. RN presented a critique of DALY.

h) Dr. Rakhal Gaitonde of Kilpauk Medical College, Chennai, joined CHC as a Research Assistant to explore Healing Traditions in the Alternative Systems of Health / Medicine, in June 1997.

i) About 20 first year management students of the Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore, did 4 community oriented field project studies (in groups of five) on the themes : street children; AIDS; urban health, as part of the field work associated with their first year module on Indian Society. The projects were facilitated by the CHC team and the data was gathered from various NGOs in Bangalore, who are CHC associates.



j) Mr. Ritesh Patel, Health Management resource person from the USA, interacted with CHC to plan and review an observational study on health care and hospital care projects by NGOs in India for a workshop to be organized by the Association of American Physicians of Indian Origin (USA) in Secunderabad, later in the year.

k) Murali of CHAI-Karnataka was a short term Research Associate of CHC for a month to evolve a Perspective Plan on Health Action for the Karnataka region through field visits, interactive discussions and literature review.

#### **D. NETWORKING AND SOLIDARITY**

- i. CHC facilitated a meeting of the southern Medico Friends Circle on the theme “Re-emergence of Infectious Diseases” in April 1997.
- ii. Dr. CMF and RN attended the final reporting session of the CMAI evaluation team at CMAI in July 1997.
- iii. VNNR attended Annual General Body Meeting of Voluntary Health Association of Karnataka in July 1997.
- iv. Dr. CMF attended the CHAIKA meeting on AIDS policy at Indian Social Institute, Bangalore, in November 1997.
- v. RRP attended the National Seminar on ‘Hospital Waste Management — Strategy for Implementation’, organized by the Centre for Environment Education — South, in November 1997.
- vi. CHC team members attended monthly meetings organized by CBR Disability group in Bangalore.
- vii. RN attended some NIAS Associates meetings including one on ‘Towards a Better Bangalore’, in November 1997.
- viii. CMF attended CHAIKA planning meeting at St. Martha’s Hospital, in November 1997.
- ix. Drs. Brian and Cynthia Haynes visited CHC to facilitate an informal session on ‘Relevance of Cooperative Health Systems in the Indian Context’ in December 1997.

- x. ARS, RRP and Umesh, a CHC associate, attended the mfc annual meeting at Sewagram, Wardha, on the theme — ‘Re-emergence of Infectious Diseases and Indian Society’ in January 1998.
- xi. MK participated in the Annual General Body Meeting of the VHAI held at Mamallapuram, Tamil Nadu, between 29 September to 1 October 1997, as Treasurer of VHAK.
- xii. During the year, MK gave substantial time for improvement of accounting and reporting methodologies of VHAK which was appreciated by all members of the executive of VI-JAK and was minuted accordingly. He also attended the Governing Body meetings held during the year (2-8-1997, 8-11-1997; 31-01-1998 and 14-03-1998) held at VHAK office in Bangalore.
- xiii. In addition, CHC team members continued to support the governance of other NGOs / groups - INSA (VB & TN); DAF-K (VB & SPT).

## **E. DIALOGUE WITH POLICY MAKERS I POLICY EVOLUTION**

### **a) Bangalore / State level**

- v. RN and CMF attended the Seminar on Infrastructure Development in Karnataka, organized by the National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bangalore, in June 1997 and presented a paper on “Health Care infrastructure for Development in Karnataka”.
- vi. Interactive Dialogue on WHO Policy Process towards ‘Renewal Health for All for 21 Century’ at Ashirvad, in October 1997.
- vii. RN attended CMAI Annual Meeting at Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai and took a special session on ‘Health for All beyond 2000 AD — A New Global Health Policy’ for the 21 Century, in November 1997.
- viii. CMF and RN attended the Seminar on ‘Population Trends in Karnataka — Policy Implications’ held at the Institute for Social and Economic Change, Bangalore, in February 1998. CHC presented a paper on “Community Perspectives for State Population Policy”.
- ix. CHC in collaboration with the Department of Community Medicine, St. John’s Medical College facilitated a days workshop for DANIDA on ‘Public Health in India Crisis, Challenge and Opportunities’, with specific reference to Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh.

x. CHC team visited Karnataka State Council for Science & Technology (KSCST) to initiate a dialogue on the Health Agenda of KSCST for 1998 which included working towards A State Health Policy Document.

b) National Level

i. CHC organised a one day National dialogue on ‘Public Health in India — Crisis and Challenges’, at the National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad, as part of a Ross Centenary get-together of the Indian alumni of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine in August 1997.

ii. CMF made a presentation on ‘Industries and Voluntary Organizations Partners in Community Development’, at a symposium organized by the Confederation of Indian Industries at Chennai on the theme, Corporate Initiatives for Community Development.

c) International level

i. CHC organized 5 dialogue meeting on the WHO Draft policy paper regarding Renewing of Health for All — Global Policy for the 21 Century. These were in Secunderabad (with the Catholic Health Association of India); in Mumbai (with the Centre for Enquiry into Health and Allied Themes); in New Delhi (with the Voluntary Health Association of India and Christian Medical Association of India); in Chennai (with the Asian Community Health Action Network); in Bangalore (by CRC).

ii. The key concerns and issues identified by this interactive dialogue process was presented in Geneva, at the World Health Organization, by Dr. RN at a consultation with NGOs organized by WHO on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> May 1997.

iii. RN attended the Annual General Meeting of the NGO Forum for Health at World Health Assembly on 5 May 1997;

iv. RN & TN attended the meeting on Policy Oriented Monitoring of Equity in Health and Health Care at WHO, Geneva in September 1997.

v. RN & TN participated in a meeting organized by WHO-ICO on Poverty and Health at the Royal college of General Practitioners, London, on December 1997.

vi. RN participated in a meeting organized by WHO-ICO on “Business and Health” at the Royal Society of Medicine, London, on 17 December 1997.

vii. RN and TN attended WHO Policy meeting on “Building Sustainable Health Systems” at Helsinki, Finland, organized by WHO and Ministry of Health and Social Welfare of Finnish government, in November 1997.

## **F. Review Process**

The consolidation / review process continued

- i. A 14 year review of CRC was completed and circulated for comments.
- ii. The staff completed a detailed SWOT analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) for the March Review meeting.
- iii. A review of the research done by CHC was completed by TN and circulated.
- iv. An analysis of the scenario building questionnaire sent to a wide variety of CHC associates and contacts was completed.
- v. All these were presented at a two day review meeting organized in the first week of April 1998. An eight member Review Committee consisting of four senior peers (Dr. P. Zachariah, Fr. John Vattaniattom, Ms. Sujatha de Magry and Dr. Chakraborty) and 4 junior peers (Drs. Anand Zachariah, Madhukar Pai, Ravi D'Souza and Prabir Chatterjee) attended along with CRC Society members and a few associates.
- vi. The Review proceeding coming out of the Review will be instrumental in helping CRC find a new direction and framework for action for the future.

## **G. Library and Documentation**

- i. Computerization of books in the library was completed in October 1997.
- ii. The library team presented an update on the CHC library for the Review Committee meeting, an updated handout on the library, and a complete CHC publication list.
- iii. The Raja Rammohun Roy Trust sanctioned a grant for the CRC library as a 'special interest' public library.
- iv. Many papers were published in national journals (see addition to publication list).

## **H. The Information and Advisory Service**

- i. As in the past, the Information and Advisory service of CHC continued actively with numerous requests coming in the post and a host of visitors from very varied backgrounds and experience visited CHC to discuss issues, experiences and initiatives of common interest. As usual, this took a lot of time of the coordinator and some members and continued to meet a growing expectation for interactive dialogue and field oriented action planning.

ii. As usual many of the visitors were also those, who at personal level were shifting paradigms in vocation, profession, action and response and so the peer support and informal counseling, and exploratory and interactive dialogue around opportunities, approaches and alternatives continued to meet an increasing need and remained a special feature of the CHC experiment.

1. CHC developed a small garden as part of its greening effort. It includes a herbal garden with common medicinal plants and a small fish tank with gambusia and guppies, which are very effective in the bio-environmental control of malaria.

### **In conclusion**

This transitional year of CHC proved to be a multidimensional challenge. CHC continued partnerships with a diverse group of health action initiators and policy developers ranging from grass root NGOs, to state and national level support and coordinating NGOs to University departments, government programmes, medical colleges and international organizations like WHO. In all these interactions, CHC promoted the collective, participatory and interactive dimension of the process and stressed the enabling, empowerment and equity oriented nature of the response. The review process and the overall trend of requests and initiatives helped to establish CHC as an action oriented health policy research group — a trend that augurs well for the future.

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