

Annual Report of The Community Health Cell,  
functional unit of the  
Society for Community Health Awareness, Research  
and Action,  
April 1998 to March 1999

Contents

Particulars	Pages
<b>The late Dr. George Joseph - A Remembrance Note</b>	2
1. Introduction	2
2. Organisation and Team	2
2.1 Governance	2
2.2 SOCHARA - Organisational Issues	3
2.3 CHC - Team Changes	3
2.4 CHC -Team Development	3
2.5 Administrative Issues	4
3. CHC Activities by Objectives of SOCHARA	
3.1 Community Oriented training for better health and improved access to health care	5
3.2 Creating Awareness regarding Community Health	7
3.2.1 Meetings organised at CHC on Community Health / Public Health issues	7
3.2.2 Seminars / Conferences / Workshops attended by CHC team	9
3.3 Research in Community Health Policy Issues	12
3.3.1 Follow-up on Research Studies undertaken earlier	13
3.3.2 Alternative Systems of Medicine	15
3.3.3 Other Research Links	15
3.4 Library and Documentation Unit	16
3.5 Publications and Reports	18
3.6 Information and Advisory Service	20
4. Conclusion	20

**Annual Report of The Community Health Cell,  
functional unit of the  
Society for Community Health Awareness, Research  
and Action,  
April 1998 to March 1999**

At the outset the Society for Community Health Awareness, Research and Action records with profound grief the passing away of Prof. George Joseph in the USA while attending a meeting in November 1998. It records with gratitude the yeoman service that the Late Professor George Joseph rendered to the Society by being an inspirational friend, philosopher and guide in the initial experimental years of the CHC initiative and later as a Honorary Member of the Society after it was formally registered. We convey our heartfelt condolences to Mrs. George Joseph and his family and we renew our determination to continue to work for his cherished goal of Community Health and Health for All, especially for the underprivileged.

A resolution of condolence was passed by the Executive Committee at its meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> December 1998 and sent to Mrs. Joseph and the family. An obituary written by Dr. Ravi Narayan and Dr. C.M. Francis appeared in the NMJI (National Medical Journal of India), Volume 12, Number 1, January/February 1999, p.41.

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

The Society entered its eighth year since registration in April 1991. This year we took on board the findings of the Review which was completed in April 1998. A change of leadership took place in June 1998. The key thrusts during the year were (a) a follow up of major studies undertaken earlier - medical education, CHAI, TB, malaria (b) giving priority to health policy action in regard to these issues (c) continuing ongoing CHC involvements, based on the social paradigm of community health with an increasing focus on persons and communities who are impoverished or marginalised.

## **2. ORGANISATION AND TEAM**

### **2.1 Governance**

- a. CHC is governed by the general body of the Society and it's elected seven members Executive Committee. The Society met for its Annual General Body Meeting in August 1998, at which the annual report for 1997-98; the audited statement of accounts for the year 1997-98; the plan of action for 1998-99 and the budget estimates for the year 1998-99 were passed.

- b. Four meetings of the Executive Committee took place during the year on 29<sup>th</sup> April 1998, 18<sup>th</sup> July 1998, 21<sup>st</sup> December 1998 and 29<sup>th</sup> March 1999.

## 2.2 SOCHARA - Organisational Issues

- a. Dr. Thelma Narayan took over coordinatorship from Dr. Ravi Narayan on 1<sup>st</sup> June 1998.
- b. Six new members joined SOCHARA after the August 1998 AGBM. They are Dr. Ravi D'Souza & Dr. Ramani D'Souza from Bhubaneswar, Orissa, Dr. Roopa Devadasan & Dr. N. Devadasan, now in Bangalore, Dr. Madhukar Pai from Chennai (all the above are public health professionals) and Dr. Denis Xavier (pharmacologist) from St. John's Medical College, Bangalore. Later in the year Dr. Sr. Aquinas, MD (general medicine), from Hannur Rural Health Centre, Kollegal Taluk, also joined. We now have 26 members of the Society.
- c. The CHC Review Meeting took place on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> April 1998 and has been reported in the Review Proceedings circulated to all members.

Papers prepared and presented were the : (a) CHC 14 year overview (b) CHC Training Review (c) CHC Research Overview (d) CHC Management Review.

- d. CHC Annual Budget and Plan of Action was evolved using the Logical Framework Analysis approach.

## 2.3 CHC Team Changes

- a. Mr. S.D. Rajendran, with a training in Community Development and about twenty years of experience working with grass root organisations in Tamil Nadu, including working with Sri Lankan refugees, joined CHC from 1<sup>st</sup> February 1999 as Research / Training Assistant.
- b. Dr. Deep Philip Joseph, a young medical graduate joined CHC from 17<sup>th</sup> March 1999 as Research/Training Assistant.

## 2.4 CHC Team Development

- a. Dr. Thelma Narayan successfully completed her doctorate at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, London University, in May 1998.
- b. Dr. Rajan Patil attended a five-day training workshop for NGOs on the National TB Control Programme organised at NTI from 7/12/98 to 11/12/98. He also attended the mid-annual MFC meet with specific focus

on Infectious Diseases in July 1998 at Wardha along with Dr. Umesh, a CHC associate.

- c. Dr. Ravi Narayan attended an International Symposium on Cultural Psychiatry organised by NIMHANS on 12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup> December 1998.
- d. Mr. Mahadevaswamy started a six-month computer course in March 1999.
- e. The book allowance was utilised by all team members.
- f. Dr. C.M. Francis took a session on Logical Framework Analysis for the team and Dr. V.Benjamin shared about his shift from "Cardiology to Community Health" on 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> June 1998 respectively.
- g. Dr. Shirdi Prasad Tekur took three half day sessions on Neuro-Linguistic Programming (NLP) for the team and a few others from 7<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> December 1998.
- h. Fr. Joseph Chitoor took an informal, practical session on herbal medicine in CHC's herbal garden. C. James visited BR Hills for collection of medicinal plants.
- i. Participation in many meetings within and outside CHC provides an opportunity and environment for learning and growth.

## 2.5 Administrative Issues

- a. A Salary Revision Committee comprising of Ms. Padmasini Asuri and Dr. Mohan Isaac was formed and gave their recommendations. Salary Revisions were made effective from December 1998.
- b. A five day week was adopted from 1<sup>st</sup> February 1999 following findings and recommendations of a survey conducted by Dr. C.M. Francis. Respondents included the CHC team, EC members and some CHC users. However, team members will work whenever it is necessary for completion of assignments.
- c. After a series of four attempted burglaries at the CHC office, the safety measures undertaken include appointments of a Watchman, and taking a comprehensive office insurance policy.
- d. A mid annual audit was conducted by M/S Marulasiddaiah and Company and audited statements were provided on 9-12-1998.
- e. Income Tax Exemption Certificate u/s 80G was received on 22-2-1999 for the period 1-4-1999 to 31-3-2000.
- f. SOCHARA received a Permanent Account Number (AAA TS 3995A dated 18-1-99) from the Department of Income Tax in February, 1999.

- g. Grants of Rs. 6,06,650/- from Misereor and Rs. 13,24,470/- from Memisa were received for the financial year 1998-99.
- h. During the financial year, an amount of Rs. 45,500/- was received as donations for the Corpus Fund.
- i. In response to a project proposal sent by CHC in early February, Misereor, in their letter of 24<sup>th</sup> February 1999 informed of combined support with Memisa up to DM 2.30.000 to CHC for three years (April 1999 - March 2001). As part of our "own contribution", we have to locally raise Rs. 4.5 lakhs in 1999-2000, Rs. 7.2 lakhs in 2000-2001 and Rs. 10 lakhs in 2001-2002.

### 3. CHC ACTIVITIES BY OBJECTIVES OF SOCHARA

These have been broadly reported under the different objectives of CHC.

#### 3.1 Community Oriented Training for better health and improved access to health care [\*Initials of names are used. Full names are given on page 20]

1. SPT visited Human Service Society (HSS), Palakkad, Kerala from 18-21<sup>st</sup> April 1998 to help plan their project activities through individual and group discussions with HSS members.
2. CMF spoke on 'Globalisation and Health' at the Sister Doctors' Forum Annual Conference, held on 1-3<sup>rd</sup> May. Dr. Pankaj Mehta, a CHC associate, spoke on 'Equity in Health Care'.
3. SPT spoke on 'The Health Status of Children and Adolescents' on 29<sup>th</sup> May 1998 at the "Advanced Gender Training Programme" of the National Institute of Advanced Studies.
4. RN and Paresh Kumar facilitated a 2 day training in Community Health for the team and associates of the Centre for Non Formal Education in Bijapur (North Karnataka).
5. ARS & SPT to B.R. Hills to conduct training sessions on Community Based Rehabilitation for PHC workers from Karuna Trust and Tithimathi, on 29-6-98.
6. ARS and RRP visited Gram Vikas, Mulbagal Taluk on 22/7/98 for assessment and discussion on Community Health.
7. ARS and SPT conducted the third round of training on Community Health for workers of the Organisation for Development of People (ODP) in Mysore for 3 days, 1/7/98 to 3/7/98.

8. Dr. V. Benjamin represented CHC in a Review Consultation on The Health Management Course organised by the Institute of Rural Health Management, Pachod, 4<sup>th</sup> July, 1998.
9. VB held discussions with an NGO, 'BUILD' in Bombay.
10. SPT conducted a workshop on "Interpersonal Relationships" for the INSA-India team, Bangalore, on 7/7/98.
11. CMF and ARS took sessions on "Health and Health Care in India" for two groups of 14 and 17 French students respectively at Ashirvad on 9/7/98 and 17/7/98. TN took a session for a third group on 9<sup>th</sup> August. These students spend a few weeks living in Indian villages. It is part of a sensitisation programme of an Association called "India Hope" of which Fr. Claude D'Souza is the Indian counterpart.
12. SPT took a session for traffic wardens of Bangalore City Police on 18-7-98.
13. CMF took a session on Management for rural Medical Officers under the IPP (India Population Project) VIII programme on 20/7/98.
14. CMF gave resource inputs in a Management Programme for Hospital Administrators in Cochin - organised by CHAI-Kerala in July 1998.
15. ARS took a session on "Overview of HIV/AIDS : Indian & global scenario" for INSA-India's AIDS Awareness Programme for Trainers on 13-8-98.
16. CMF took a session for doctors in a CMAI Workshop on 18-8-1998.
17. TN took a session on "Globalisation & Health" at a training program "Globalisation and Liberalisation :Challenges for NGOs" organised by Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore, on 18/8/98.
18. SPT, RRP, AC & MS went to Gram Vikas, Mulbagal, for a day's session on "Community Health and Participation" on 29-8-1998.
19. RN and VB facilitated a review of a community exposure cum immersion experience for SVD Deacons in South India. This was a new innovation in training to help young theologians understand the realities of the lives of the poor and marginalised.
20. SPT, ARS & Dr. Prakash Rao went to Bagalkot, North Karnataka, for a CME Programme on Rational Drug Use for doctors of the local branch of the Indian Medical Association.  
They also took a health education session for school children.
21. The CHC team along with its associates conducted a 6 day orientation course at CHC on Community Health for the Divine Light Trust for the

Blind, Whitefield, Bangalore, as part of the course on "Teachers Training Programme for Integration of Children with Disabilities" from 12-10-98 to 17-10-98. CHC also set the question papers for the qualifying exam and evaluated the answer sheets.

22. RN and ARS facilitated a five day community health orientation course for Capuchin brothers at Kripalaya, Institute of Religious Studies in Mysore in November 1998.
23. A half-day session on TB and its care and control was taken by Drs. Deva and Roopa at CHC for Community Health Workers of APD on 14-12-1998.
24. RN, ARS, RRP conducted a training programme on 'Bio environmental methods of Malaria Control' with the Malaria Research Centre at Mangalore for the Mangalore Nagara Parisarasaktha Okkuta.
25. ARS & VB took a session for Adolescent girls from urban poor families on Health and Health Rights, organised by Women's Voice and AVAS, at ISI on 17-1-99.
26. RD spoke to medical students from St. John's Medical College on 7-1-1999 and 22-1-1999 of their experiences of working in a health and development project with indigenous people in ACCORD, Gudalur, Tamil Nadu.
27. RN, SPT, ARS facilitated a three day training for the INSA-India staff on Community Health and the Paradigm shift.

## 3.2 CREATING AWARENESS REGARDING COMMUNITY HEALTH

### 3.2.1 Meetings organised at CHC on community health/public health issues

1. An informal brainstorming on a health education project for pre-university students on 28-4-98 attended by 7 persons.
2. A planning discussion on a "Handbook on Rational Drug Use for General Practitioners" on 8-7-98 attended by 7 persons.
3. Dr. Amar Jesani, Director of CEHAT (Centre for Enquiry into Health and Allied Themes), Bombay, shared with the CHC team the organisational mechanisms and processes of CEHAT and its key areas of interest – as another research cum action health NGO.
4. A meeting of Drug Action Forum-Karnataka (DAF-K) was held at CHC on 8-9-98 to discuss / reflect about DAF-K's activities in the past and its role in influencing the drug situation. There were

several interactions with the DAF-K secretary at CHC over the year.

5. The Southern MFC group met at CHC on 20-9-1998 to plan for the next Annual Meet on "25 years of MFC".
6. A meeting was organised on 27/11/98 for CHAIKA, CHAI and a 3 member team from Medicus Mundi, Spain on Health Status & Health Care in Karnataka. This was in connection with the District Health Action Forum that was being considered for two districts of Karnataka.
7. The INSA – India team and CHC team discussed the presentation by ARS of his findings from the evaluation of the HIV/AIDS Prevention Education Programme on 25-3-99.
8. Meeting at CHC on 13-1-99 with GRID, CHAI, CHAIKA regarding the Review of CHAI's Comprehensive Plan.
9. Change in the Patent Law and its effects on Pharmaceuticals, Agriculture and the Poor: Mr. Nagaraj, agricultural scientist, who has worked extensively with farmers groups in Karnataka was the resource person. The Patents issue was again discussed at a meeting in CHC during the visit by a group of German journalists who were looking at the media coverage and debate on globalisation in India.

Some meetings led to a series of other meetings and initiatives in collaboration with CHC associates and other groups in Bangalore. Besides addressing the public health issue concerned, an additional purpose was also to strengthen the sense of community and working in solidarity for a cause among public health and related professionals and socially concerned groups in the city. The two meetings that led to this action were:

### **1. Dengue Haemorrhagic Fever (DHF) on 25/7/98**

Dr. K. Ravi Kumar, Medical Officer, Regional Office – Health and Family Welfare, i/c Dengue Fever for GOI, made a presentation and was resource person for the session attended by 38 health professionals.

Dr. Rajan Patil had collected secondary data on DHF in Bangalore, which was also presented. There was a lively discussion. It led to several subsequent meetings with MRC, Dr. Ravi Kumar, M.S. Ramaiah Medical College, Dr. Ambedkar Medical College (AMC); Department of Paediatrics, St. John's Medical College and development of protocols for short research studies. Students of AMC undertook a KAP (knowledge, attitude and practice) study. The purpose was to professionally and socially sensitise students and staff and to further government-NGO collaboration.



## 2. Hepatitis B

Dr. Harshad Devarbhavi, DM, Gastroenterologist, spoke on Hepatitis B on 20/6/98. There was a discussion on Public Health perspectives on current Hepatitis B vaccine promotion trends in Bangalore.

This later led to an intense documentation search and collection. Discussions were held within the CHC team and with Drug Action Forum-Karnataka. A press conference organised by the Environment Support Group, with the participation of DAF-K and CHC, received wide press coverage. Probably as a result of this and other reports the Government of Karnataka set up an expert committee to look into the unscientific and unethical promotion of Hepatitis B Vaccination. For sometime there was a decline in the media advertisement of camps. A technical note on Hepatitis B Vaccination was prepared by Dr. Rajan Patil of CHC. A memorandum to the Health Minister, Government of Karnataka, on behalf of DAF-K was personally handed over to the Health Minister with copies to the Expert Committee members. Work on this is ongoing.

### 3.2.2 Seminars / Conferences / Workshops attended by CHC Team

1. Dr. V. Benjamin attended a meeting at the Centre for Rural Health & Social Education, Yelagiri Hills, as a follow-up of the MM Thomas Memorial Dialogue.
2. CMF & TN attended the "Right to Health" one day session of a 4 day Workshop on "Implementation of Socio-Economic Rights in Karnataka", organised by National Law School of India University, on 9/9/98.
3. ARS participated in an AIDS workshop of Ford Foundation Partner Projects from 26/9/98 to 28/9/98 along with the INSA-India team.
4. RN and TN participated in a Regional Consultation on "Voluntary Organizations in the Coming Millennium" at Indian Social Institute, Bangalore, organised by the National Assembly of Voluntary Organizations, in September 1998. RN gave an address on 'Values for the next Millennium - Challenges before the Voluntary Sector'.
5. TN participated in a 3 day workshop on "Towards Comprehensive Women's Health Policies & Programmes", in Bangalore, organised by Voluntary Health Association of India, New Delhi,

in October, 1998. She made a presentation on a "Review of Womens' Issues in National Health Policies".

6. ARS attended an orientation workshop on 24-10-1998 at Pune for course writers/editors conducted by the School of Health Sciences, IGNOU, New Delhi.
7. CMF & TN attended a Consultative Meeting of CHAIKA (Catholic Health Association-Karnataka) on 30-10-98.
8. RN participated in a two-day South India Consultation : Paradigm Shifts in Development Cooperation and NGOs, in November, 1998, organised by Indian Social Institute.
9. TN attended a consultative Meeting at the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, New Delhi, on 19-20/11/98 to conceptualise and plan a training programme for Women's Health that is beyond reproductive health care.
10. RD attended a consultative meet on "Alternative strategies for reaching Adolescent Girls" organised at NIPCCD, Bangalore, from 23-11-98 to 25-11-98.
11. CMF gave key inputs on Medical Ethics and Health Rights to a large group of seminarians at Pune on 25-11-98.
12. TN made a presentation and participated in an International Conference on "Preventing Violence, Caring for Survivors – Role of Health Profession & Services" from 28-11-98 to 30-11-98.
13. TN participated in the core group meeting on HIV/AIDS organised by CHAIKA.
14. VB participated in a Consultation on "Female Foeticide in Tamil Nadu" organised by the Society for Integrated Rural Development, Madurai, in Madras from 2-12-98 to 3-12-98.
15. RN and TN gave talks on "The Role of the Voluntary sector in Health Care" respectively to two batches of the final year medical students of St. John's Medical College, Bangalore on 11<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> December 1998.
16. TN gave a talk on "Reproductive Health Rights of Women" in a panel discussion on the "Elimination of Violence Against Women", organised by Women's Voice, on 2<sup>nd</sup> January, 1999.
17. RN took a session on "The Crisis of Medicine - The Challenge of Health" at the 13<sup>th</sup> course for senior executives at the National Institute of Advanced Studies in January, 1999.

18. TN participated and made a presentation at the South Bihar Health Workshop in Ranchi organised by CHABI and Misereor. CHC helped with the planning and background preparation including a questionnaire and its analysis.
19. RN & TN participated in a Workshop on 'Science and Society', at the National Institute of Advanced Studies on 29-1-99. This was a preparatory meeting for the UNESCO Summit at Budapest.
20. RD attended a meeting from 2-4/2/99 at CHETNA-Ahmedabad, to discuss chapters for the Information Kit for the Women's Health Empowerment Training.
21. RN took a session on 10-2-99 on "Challenges of Agricultural Medicine for PHC Doctors" as part of the WHO sponsored training programme on "Occupational Health in the Agricultural Sector organised by the Regional Occupational Health Centre, Bangalore, of the Indian Council for Medical Research.
22. TN attended and made a presentation at the National Consultation "Towards a Comprehensive Women's Health policy and Programmes" in Delhi, organized by VHAI-WAH-DSE on 18-19/2/99.
23. RD attended the meeting to review the draft training module on women's health at the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, New Delhi on 5-3-99 and 6-3-99.
24. SPT was resource person for a session on 11/3/99 in a UGC sponsored continuing education programme for medical sociology for college teachers, organised by Academic Staff College of Mysore University.
25. SDR attended a panel discussion on "Is the Independence of the Judiciary in Peril" organised by the Vigil India Movement on 20-3-1999.
26. RN and TN were resource persons on 22/3/99 in a UGC sponsored continuing education programme for medical sociology for college teachers, organised by Academic Staff College of Mysore University. RN spoke on Community Health Paradigm and Socio-Epidemiology of Malaria. TN spoke on Gender and Health; and the Sociology of TB.
27. SDR participated in a meeting on World Consumers Day, organised by the Food and Civil Supplies Department, Government of Karnataka, at Yuvanika, Bangalore, on 25-3-1999.
28. CHC supported the "Interactive Dialogue between Consumers and Medical Professionals" organised by the Karnataka Chapter of the Indian Association of Pathology and Microbiology and the Banashankari Consumer Protection Society at IMA Auditorium, Bangalore, on 29-3-99.
29. CMF spoke on "Activity Based Costing in Hospitals" on 23-1-99 to a group of cost accountants and health management personnel.

## WHO Health Policy / South-North Dialogue

30. RN spoke at the General Assembly of Medicus Mundi International on 12<sup>th</sup> May in Geneva on 'Reflections on a Global Health Watch'.
31. RN and TN attended the Poverty and Health consultation at WHO-ICO (Department for Intensified Cooperation with the Least Developed Countries) at which the International Poverty and Health Network (IPHN) framework and WHO's role in Poverty and Health were explored. The group also interacted with the Transitional Team set up by the new WHO-DG designate Dr. Brundtland. RN had discussions regarding the malaria programme.
32. RN and TN presented a lunch time seminar at WHO, Geneva, linking local action to global policy.
33. CHC organised a meeting of associates in Bangalore and sent a letter to the DG elect of WHO Dr. Brundtland, sharing concerns and suggestions regarding health policy issues.
34. RN and TN did an informal 'email' survey of ideas and suggestions for an Agenda of Action for the IPHN which was later published in the newly initiated IPHN newsletter.
35. Dr. Mohan Isaac (EC and Society member) represented CHC at the Health and Poverty Dialogue, organised by WHO-HSD for the IPHN at Kisumu, Kenya (November 1998). Three other Indian participants suggested by CHC attended.
36. RN participated in a Seminar in London on "Regenerating Public Health" organised by the Kings' Fund and WHO.

### South - South Solidarity

37. Dr. CMF visited Myanmar from 26.09.1998 to 14.10.1998 on request from EZE, to help The Wesley Clinic, Myanmar, in its planning and in its community orientation.

## 3.3. RESEARCH IN COMMUNITY HEALTH POLICY ISSUES

### Evaluations

- a. VB chaired the evaluation of the Tamil Nadu Voluntary Health Association which was completed in November 1998.
- b. RN is chairing the team undertaking a Review of St. Martha's Hospital. The Review involves getting feedback from patients and from different

groups of staff. It looks at management and finance issues. It is also reflecting with those concerned on how closely hospital work matches with the vocation and charism of the Religious Congregation that is running it.

- c. ARS initiated the evaluation of INSA-India's HIV/AIDS Prevention Education Programme. He travelled to projects in Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Gujarat and Nepal for this throughout February 1999.
- d. VB is part of a two person team evaluating the Community Health Workers Training Programme of the Association of People with Disability (APD), Bangalore, and their linkage with Action Health, UK.
- e. TN initiated work on 'A Review of the Comprehensive Plan of CHAI'.

### 3.3.1 Follow-up on research studies undertaken earlier

#### i) Medical Education

- \* Interaction with the Parliamentary Sub-Committee on Medical Education included making submissions and participating in meetings.
- \* Interaction with (including giving reports to) the Medical Council of India regarding internship, with the Indian Medical Association regarding postgraduate education, with the Indian Council of Medical Research regarding medical ethics concerning experimentation on human subjects.
- \* Work with the Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences to which all medical colleges and colleges of allied health professionals in Karnataka State are affiliated. A 2 day workshop on the Challenges of Management in Medical Education was organised for the Deans of all medical colleges. A note on the introduction of Rational Therapeutics and Rational Drug Policy was accepted. Another 2 day workshop on Medical Ethics was held in end March 1999. A few medical colleges have subsequently been in touch for inputs concerning medical education cells, research methodology workshops, drug policy etc.

#### ii) Follow-up of work with CHAI

- \* RN & CMF helped with planning and production of special issue of Health Action on WHO; TN joined Editorial Board; and sent other material and suggestions for Health Action.
- \* TN was resource person for National Consultation of Regional Units and Stakeholders Meeting.

- \* TN agreed to Review Comprehensive Plan.
- \* Participation and support to CHAI – Karnataka's (CHAIK activities - CHAI day meetings, AIDS action, District Health Act Forum.
- \* Helped to plan and participated in a South Bihar Health Policy Workshop with CHA – Bihar.

### iii. Tuberculosis

- \* This will be taken up in 1999-2000, but in the meantime, micro-inputs into 2 NGO's and discussions with CHAI, CMAI, VHAI and several people have been held. Also three papers were written (see Publication List).
- \* TN attended the CI/CIDSE International Conference on the Challenge, Cure and Care of TB and HIV at the Medical Mission Institute Wurzburg, Germany, from 8<sup>th</sup> to 12th March, 1999.
- \* TN & DPJ participated in Karnataka State TB Association meeting on World TB day with NTI, State government TB officials, Bangalore Mahanagara Palika Doctors and NGOs.

## IV. Malaria

- a. A series of supportive interactions, visits and training programmes have been organised in Mangalore where a Citizens Initiative (Mangalore Mahanagara Parisarasktha Okkoota) to tackle the Malaria problem has evolved. Training for field volunteers at ward level to promote bio environmental control and health education in malaria; dialogue with Municipal Corporators; and supporting studies of vector dynamics done by the MRC visiting team have been key components of CHC's role. This was spearheaded by Dr. Rajan Patil, our enthusiastic young homeopath interested in communicable disease control.
- b. A presentation on "Beyond Bio-technology - The Challenges of Socio-Epidemiology in Malaria Control" was presented by RN at the National Conference of the Indian Association of Parasitology in a special ICMI sponsored Vector Control workshop for young scientists. CHC participated in the Exhibition at the meeting.
- c. CHC has now been requested to assist Dr. V.P. Sharma, Professor Emeritus, Malaria Research Control, in setting up a National Task Force on Social Economic Research in the country. Many members of our informal but growing malaria network will be participants of this.

v. **A new involvement that is linked to the work on Medical Education is Medical and Public Health Ethics.**

- a. RN attended the Southern Debate on ICMR's (Indian Council for Medical Research) latest Ethical Guidelines on Bio Medical Research involving Human Subjects organised at the National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad. He specifically facilitated the discussion on Ethics of Epidemiological studies (September 1998).
- b. RN gave a keynote address on Ethical Principles at the ICMR/WHO Dialogue on Ethical Research Guidelines at New Delhi in February 1999.
- c. CMF/TN/RN participated as resource persons in the Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences (RGUHS) workshop on Medical Ethics in Medical Education (end March 1999). CMF spoke on Teaching / Learning Ethics; TN on Public Health Ethics and RN was the chief rapporteur. All three were also on the organising committee of the workshop. Deans and senior professors from the seventeen medical colleges affiliated to the University participated.
- d. We have maintained informal contact with persons interested and involved in medical ethics.

### 3.3.2 Alternative Systems of Medicine

1. Dr. Rakhal Gaitonde completed his Research Assistantship on the project of Exploration of Health and Healing by different systems. His studies included Ayurveda, Yoga, Naturopathy, Herbal Medicine, Music Therapy. His report was completed and circulated.
2. Dr. Rajan Patil continued his explorative study of the potential of Homeopathy in Community Health.

### 3.3.3 Other Research Links

- a. Participation in a Health Economic workshop in NIMHANS on Economic Analysis of Health Care (Methodology workshop). Later a follow up workshop to review the findings of a cost of Mental Health Care study done by the NIMHANS team.
- b. RN attended the Research Advisory Committee Meeting of the Foundation for Research in Community Health in Pune (August 1998).
- c. Dr. Denis Xavier, Pharmacologist, who was a short term Research Associate with CHC completed preliminary analysis of his data on "A Cross-sectional Multilevel Study of How Doctors Choose Their Drugs". This was presented to a peer group of 35 persons, including those involved in the rational drug movement, on 5<sup>th</sup> October, 1998. A second presentation was also made at St. John's Medical College.
- d. Action follow up and advocacy on earlier research studies was undertaken.

#### 4 LIBRARY AND DOCUMENTATION UNIT

##### 1. New books acquired

Totally 529 books of which 522 were taken into stock during this year of which 83 were purchased from the library budget at a cost of Rs. 15,921.20.

##### 2. Several books (342) and journals (54) were received *gratis* from the following persons/institutions:

- a) Mrs. Sheshagiri Rao - publications on Family Planning, Population.
- b) Ms. Padmasini Asuri - publications on Food and Nutrition.
- c) BAIF Publications from Shri. Anil P. Tambay, Pune.
- d) Mrs. Rajam John, FRCH, Pune as requested by Dr. A.R. Sreedhara.
- e) ICMPP publications from Malaysia.
- f) Mr. Prasad Reddy - publications on Habitat and Housing.
- g) Mr. J. Pibouleau, WHO, Switzerland.
- h) Dr. Vinay Kamat donated a large number of journal articles on Anthropology / Ethnography.
- i) Ms. Deepa Dhanaraj - English & Kannada publications on Womens' Health and other issues
- j) Student project reports on NGOs from Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore, sent by Dr. Meera Bhakru.
- k) 14 books from World Health Organization, Geneva.
- l) 6 books from Karnataka State Tuberculosis Association, Bangalore.

##### 3. The new journals being subscribed to from January 1999 are:

- i) Bulletin of WHO
- ii) Drug Information
- iii) Technical Report Series;
- iv) Mankind..

##### 4. The following new journals were received *gratis* this year:

- i) Enviro News, Caritas India Quarterly
- ii) Environment Concerns of India;
- iii) NANWANI;
- iv) Perspectives in health;
- v) Self-Help News;
- vi) Health Watch;
- vii) Southern Asian Journal (Hospital Medicine and Public Health).

##### 5. The following new resource files started/acquired during this year were:

- a) Prevention of Drug and Substance Abuse.
- b) Patents/GATT/WTO/SAP.
- c) Tobacco Control.
- d) Private Medical and Hospital Management



- e) Papers from the Asia and Pacific Conference on Rehabilitation at Hong Kong, 20<sup>th</sup> November, 1998 .
- f) Papers from the National Consultation on Towards a Comprehensive Women's Health Policy and Programmes, organised by WAH - VHAI - DSE, New Delhi.
- g) Papers from the International Conference "Preventing Violence, Caring for Survivors: Role of Health Profession and Services in Violence" Nov. 28-30, 1998.

## 6. Raja Rammohun Roy Library Fund

Through grants from the Raja Rammohun Roy Library Fund, Calcutta, 104 books, 10 moulded chairs, 4 tables, Index Cabinet and a Kardex Cabinet were purchased.

## 7. Bibliographies and Searches

CHC Library team prepared bibliographies and gathered information on issues of topical interest and in areas relevant to our field of interest:

- i) Disability – circulated to NGOs working on disability.
- ii) Health consequences of Bhopal Gas Tragedy – this was on request from an NGO coalition.
- iii) GATT/Patents/WTO/SAP – as a priority area of CHC's interest.

## 8. Utilisation of the Information Centre

- a) The CHC team makes regular and intensive use of the library resources for all its activities .
- b) 272 times books and journals were borrowed by users during this period.
- c) Health Education materials were used by the CHC team and by St. John's Medical College and Hospital, St. Philomena's Hospital, a Leprosy and Community Health project, Nelamangala, Association of People with Disability, and by Dr. Kishore Murthy for school programs.
- d) **Special requests included :**
  - i) Information about World Health Day for Ms. Daksha Hathi, a journalist working with Deccan Herald;
  - ii) On Statistics of Indian Children for Dr. Sukanth Singh, CMAI;
  - iii) Ms. Shobha Chacko, Centre for Education and Documentation, Bangalore visited and had discussions about our library, its computerisation etc.
  - iv) Materials on Water and Sanitation, and archival material on the Medico Friends Circle for Dr. Anand Zachariah, Christian Medical College, Vellore.
  - v) Mr. S. John and Mr. Mahadeva Swamy visited the Association of the Physically Disabled on their request and gave suggestions to organise their book collection.

- vi) Ms. Anne, Asian Community Health Action Network (ACHAN), Madras visited our library and had discussions with the library team for guidance regarding their library.
- vii) Dr. Maya Thomas requested for disability articles, following the Disability Bibliography.
- viii) Action for Disability and Development used material for preparation of a manual.
- ix) Community Health Cell team took 14 books to NIMHANS on Health and Economics for display during a workshop.
- x) Dr. Ashok Kale, Pune requested us for information on Canine Tuberculosis. Mr. Mahadeva Swamy visited NTI and SJMCH and sent to him articles and addresses of institutions where the article was available in India.
- xi) Ms. Shamantha, journalist in Kannada, for material on Contraceptives.

These requests were among several others that we received.

Improvement of our documentation unit and making it an even more active Information Centre, using Internet, and focusing on grey literature that derives from grassroot experience in India, is an area of priority.

### 3.5 PUBLICATIONS and REPORTS

1. Chapter on '*Epidemics as Disasters*' submitted in May 1998 for the India Disaster Report to be published by OXFAM.
2. *ABC (Activity Based Costing) for Hospitals* by Dr. C.M. Francis for Seminar On Total Cost Management in Hospitals on 23 January 1999.
3. '*Acupressure Training*' by Dr. Shirdi Prasad Tekur for the Bethany Sisters of Mangalore.
4. "*Violation of Citizens Rights: The Role of the Health Sector, particularly of the State Health & Related Services, in regard to Tuberculosis in India*" by Dr. Thelma Narayan, presented at International Conference on Preventing Violence, Caring for Survivors, organised by CEHAT, Mumbai, November 1998.
5. Chapter on "*Educational Approaches in Tuberculosis Control: Building on the Social Paradigm*" by Dr. Thelma Narayan and Dr. Ravi Narayan, in a book titled "Tuberculosis - An Interdisciplinary Perspective" edited by Dr. John Grange and Dr. John Porter, published by Imperial College Press, 1999, UK.
6. Dossier on "*Socio-Economic, Political, Cultural and Health Background of Bihar*" compiled by Mr. S.D. Rajendran for South Bihar Health Workshop, 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> March 1999, organised by CHABI & MISEREOR, with CHC technical support.

7. *"Gender and Power Issues in Medical Education"* by Dr. Thelma Narayan, for WAH-VHAI-DSE workshop on "Towards Comprehensive Womens' Health Policy and Programmes on 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> February at New Delhi.
8. *"Right to Health and Health Care"* by Dr. C.M. Francis and Dr. Thelma Narayan for the journal Integral Liberation, March 1999, Bangalore.
9. *"A Submission to the Sub-Committee on Medical Education of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Human Resource Development"* at Bangalore on 14<sup>th</sup> November, 1998.
10. Note on *Internship* submitted to the Medical Council of India in March 1999.
11. Note on the *Teaching of Rational Therapeutics* in the Second MBBS by DAF-K and CHC on December 11<sup>th</sup>, 1998 at a seminar for Deans/Principles of Medical Colleges, on Management of Medical Education organised by Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences-Karnataka, Bangalore.
12. *"Human Resource Development - Processes and Challenges"* by Dr. Ravi Narayan, on December 11, 1998 at a seminar for Deans/Principles of Medical Colleges, on Management of Medical Education organised by Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences-Karnataka, Bangalore.
13. *"Vision, Mission and Management Challenge in Medical Education"* by Dr. C.M. Francis, on 10<sup>th</sup> December 1998 at a Workshop on Management of Medical Education, at Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences-Karnataka, Bangalore.
14. *"Medical Education Re-examined and Beyond - a Review of of Medico Friends Circle contribution to the process towards an alternative medical education strategy"* by Dr. Ravi Narayan, for the Medico Friends Circle, Silver Jubilee Meet entitled '25 Years of the Health Movement', January 1999.
15. *"Medico Friend Circle - MFC 1974-98: A Ready Reckoner"* of the 25-year history of the Medico Friends Circle for the Medico Friends Circle, Silver Jubilee Meet, January 1999.
16. Challenges of Agricultural Medicine for the PHC doctor by Dr. Ravi Narayan Presented at the WHO Sponsored Training Programme on *"Occupational Health in Agricultural Sector"*, organised by Regional Occupational Health Centre (Indian Council of Medical Research), at Bangalore, in February 1999.
17. *"Losing Battle?"* - an article on Tb by Dr. Thelma Narayan published in Health Action, February 1999.

18. "An Exploration of Health and Healing - with special reference to some alternative systems of health care" - a report by Dr. Rakhil Gaitonde in September 1998.
19. "Beyond Bio Technology : The Emerging Challenge of Socio Epidemiology" - a paper by Dr. Ravi Narayan at the 13<sup>th</sup> National Congress of Parasitology organised by Bangalore University and the Indian Society of Parasitology, January 1999.
20. CMF & RN planned the September 1998 special issue of Health Action on the theme "Renewing Health for All - A New Global Policy". RN was interviewed for the issue.
21. ARS planned, organised and compiled a Health Education Magazine for telecasting on Doordarshan 9 in August, 1998.

### 3. 6 INFORMATION ADVISORY SERVICE

As always, the CHC team has responded to requests that come by post. We have also had a number of visitors to CHC who come to meet and discuss issues, to share, to plan, to use the library etc. This is what we have called our open-ended role which we consider is a valuable and important role. It takes a fair amount of time and is often unexpected. One senior member is always available for discussions when it is needed.

Individual CHC team members support the governance of some organisations

- |     |   |
|-----|---|
| MK  | Treasurer, Voluntary Health Association - Karnataka                                 |
| VB  | President, Drug Action Forum-Karnataka (DAF-K); Vice-President -INSA-India.         |
| SPT | Member, DAF-K, Board member of RORES-Srinivasapura.                                 |
| RN  | Research Advisory Council/Committee of Foundation for Research in Community Health  |
| TN  | Governing Body Member, INSA-India; Editorial Committee - Radical Journal of Health. |

### 4. CONCLUSIONS

During this year, following the review, we have proactively followed up on our major involvements in the past. These included promotion of community health based on the social paradigm:

- social relevance of medical education which has led us to medical and public health ethics

- community approaches to malaria and TB which are major public health problems, the care and control of which is blocked by the breakdown of the public health system;
- using a health policy approach to some of the issues, building on our earlier networking linkages and increasing mainstreaming
- becoming more explicit about our commitment to equity and empowerment
- working on the internal mechanisms, motivations, relationships and dynamics within the CHC team, our associates and the membership of the SOCHARA.

---

CMF - Dr. C.M. Francis; VB - Dr. V. Benjamin; RN - Dr. Ravi Narayan; TN - Dr. Thelma Narayan; SPT - Dr. Shirdi Prasad Tekur; ARS - Dr. A.R. Sreedhara; RD - Dr. Roopa Devadasan; ND - Dr. N. Devadasan; RRP - Dr. Rajan R. Patil; AC - Kum. Aparna Chintamani; MS - Mr. H.R. Mahadeva Swamy; SDR - Mr. S.D. Rajendran; DPJ - Dr. Deep Philip Joseph.