



Building social sector alliance to realise health - Workshop



Workshops

As a matter of solidarity SOCHARA – CEU has conducted many workshops during this tenure on behalf of MNI and they are as follows. The team supported the organising committee of People's Health Assembly – 2000, in mobilising the communities and civil society across Tamil Nadu and supported printing of People's Health Resource Book of PHM. SOCHARA delivered the key note address on World Health Day 2002 workshop on “Pharmaceutical Policy”. With support from MNI, the then global secretariat of PHM – SOCHARA, held a solidarity dialogue with Tsunami affected people on “Humanitarian Aid to Community Empowerment” in 2005. PHM delegates globally participated in this event held in Chennai. In 2006, MNI organised Second state level People's Health Assembly with 85 participants across Tamil Nadu to elicit ideas for future campaigns, mobilisation at state and national health assemblies and events to run the assemblies.

In 2013, the team organised a state level discussion on Clinical Establishments Act and related issues of private sector regulation. The civil society felt that the CEA enacted by Union Government should be modified to the specific context of Tamil Nadu with more power to government agencies to regulate the private health care providers with commercial interests. It was also concerned about the lack of mention of patient's rights, lack of community representatives in redress mechanisms, lack of capacities and human resources in the public health system to monitor the private hospitals. Hence MNI demanded for a Tamil Nadu specific act with more power to the public health system along with patient's rights. MNI also resolved to support the government to re-draft the act. In 2013, SOCHARA organised a meeting with few private medical practitioners and MNI Steering Committee members to discuss the issues related to CEA and strategies to initiate the campaign. SOCHARA team members along with 7 other MNI members had attended the regional level workshop on “Private sector regulation” organised by SAATHI to build a campaign on CEA 2010 and private sector regulation in Tamil Nadu.

In 2014, SOCHARA – CEU organised a consultation on the role of civil society in UHC along with Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI). Multi-disciplinary participants from civil society, academia, elected representatives of local self-government, trade unions and private health care providers participated in the consultation to discuss on strengthening public health system and regulation private health care providers as major components towards achieving UHC. Following this the Health department of Tamil Nadu has organised a consultation meeting on the same topic along with SOCHARA, PHFI and other civil society organisations to discuss the essential steps to be followed by government while piloting UHC in Tamil Nadu. SOCHARA team along with TN-FORCES organised a discussion on National Mental Health Bill 2014 and National Health Policy

2015. MNI and TN-FORCES members discussed the pros and cons of both the bills and the opinions of the participants were put together and disseminated.



Publications

People's Health book Series and materials (Makkal Nalavazvu Nool varisai)

During the last ten years SOCHARA team published the following materials on behalf of MNI under the title of “People’s Health Series (Makkalukkana Nalavazvu Nool varisai)”

1. Tamil translated version of 25 questions and answers on Health and Human rights
2. Tamil translated version of PHM and JSA declarations
3. Translation of Executive summary of “Blind Optimism” a report by OXFAM on private health care providers
4. Translation of Global Health Watch I – Chapter 1 into Tamil
5. Translation of Global Health Watch II – Chapter 1 into Tamil
6. Translation of Health Action article on the Journey of Community Health by Ravi Narayan into Tamil



Other articles which are written to support the Movement's activities

- The life imprisonment of Dr.Binayak Sen. Editorial in the British Medical Journal 2011.
- Towards Universal Access to Health Care in India - Concept note for MFC annual meet 2011. MFC bulletin Vol 342-344.
- Binayak Sen what he means - Building Blocks, Newsletter by SOCHARA Jan 2011 issue.
- Sex Ratio and Sex selective abortion. A position paper. Rakhal Gaitonde and Ameer khan.

Awareness materials:

- SOCHARA team developed popular pamphlets on Universal Health Care & Clinical Establishments Act. These materials were prepared in Tamil and English to strengthen the understanding of the civil society members on the issues.
- SOCHARA team developed a pamphlet on H1N1 virus issue with collaboration of RUWSEC.
- A pamphlet on position of pentavalent vaccine.