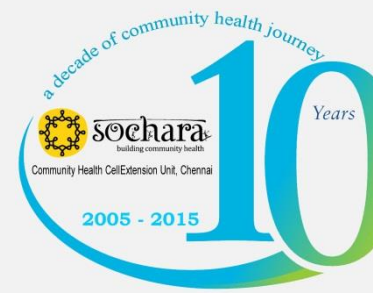


Creating critical mass for achieving Health for All



Support to Environment and Occupational Health Groups (EOH)

During 2006–2007, SOCHARA team supported EOH movements in Tamil Nadu on a court case for former workers of a thermometer factory and demanded compensation. The team member was a panellist in the public hearing on the impacts of industrial pollution around the villages near SIPCOT industrial estate, Cuddalore. The team also initiated an action research with a group of former workers of PVC factory, Mettur, Salem. In 2007–2008 the team constructed community toilets and water purification plant for communities in Pazhaverkadu. During 2008–2009, the team supported a community based initiative, SIPCOT Area Community Environmental Monitoring (SACEM), in 21 villages affected by industrial pollution in Cuddalore to monitor both pollution levels and health impacts of pollution. Through community engagement the team identified that primary school children in Echangadu had symptoms of toxic exposure from a nearby factory and conducted research on it. The team also supported a Trade Union of unorganised workers to conduct a pilot surveillance on acute injuries among stone sculptors.

Support to International Organisations on building Community Processes

From 2012 onwards, the team provided technical support to Health Rights and Advocacy Forum (HERAF) and National Tax Payers Association (NTA) to design and implement community monitoring and planning process funded by Open Society Foundation. Input sessions on rights based community mobilisation process, participatory community engagement process, design and implementation of community monitoring process, documentation, and importance of public health system's role in strengthening accountability process were conducted.

Community based training in Tamil Nadu

Between 2006 and 2008, the team was involved in developing leadership among youth of Pazhaverkadu to act as agents for critical change through providing social, political, economic and movement based perspectives. This pronounced the campaign against water privatisation and addressing local transportation issues. The Unit also conducted training to 25 community health workers from disaster affected communities to build their perspective on determinants of health, critical issues in disaster affected communities and to impart communication skills. The Unit also conducted training for health activists on HIV/AIDS, child health, adolescent health, diarrhoea management and de-addiction including a visit to TTK de-addiction centre. Between 2008 and 2012, SOCHARA – CEU conducted various training sessions like “achieving the right to health” for Catholic Health Association of Tamil Nadu (CHAT), “Dalit Women Activists training on accountability in health” and “Anti-Alcohol campaign” for Rural Women’s Social Education

Centre (RUWSEC), “a campaign Wada Na Thodo Abhiyan (Don’t break your promise campaign) for DHVANI. In 2013, SDNB Vaishnav College students organised an awareness camp on health and hygiene in Gummidipundi, in which the team sensitised community and VHWSNC members on community action to protect health and hygiene.



Technical support to Civil Society Organisations (CSO) and Government Bodies

Between 2010 and 2012 the team supported CSOs technically to strengthen their initiatives such as “RUWSEC - to form AYUSH services / studies for osteo-arthritis and diabetes”, “Haryana Government – setting up Task Force on Health”, “Thirumalai Chemical Hospital - to conceptualise their long term goal and activities”, “Buds of Christ - visualising future work”. From 2013 a team member was the Chairperson of Community Advisory Board, National Institute of Research in Tuberculosis and reviewed all the research projects. During 2014, the team conducted training on health system governance for senior coordinators of International Justice Mission for larger advocacy. The team also developed an awareness material on Universal Health Coverage and Clinical Establishments Act to strengthen the understanding of civil society members.



Training on Community Processes and Health Rights

The team conducted several trainings on community processes and health rights in the state. During 2008 – 2010, the team conducted trainings on, “health and human rights” to various partners of CHAT, for children and chaired a panel discussion for Children’s Parliaments, “Evolution, training and orientation of review Committee on Rogi Kalyan Samiti” formed by RUWSEC. In 2012–2013, the team trained “volunteers from Positive Women Network on community participation and action, health as human right, accountability, governance and understanding of health system”, “national level Program Managers of World Vision on community action for health perspective”, “TRIOS to conceptualise community action process in Uttar Pradesh”. In 2013–2014 the team supported Rural Workers Development Society, Ramnad to strengthen their engagement with health system through working on communitisation and strengthening VHWSNC functions. A CEU member also addressed the district level meeting organised for district level panchayat president, civil society organisations in the district and community members. UNICEF invited CEU to be a part of coalition on ‘Call to Action for improving child health’. The team supported EKAM foundation in planning their community initiative to strengthen VHWSNC and oriented its staffs. The team trained 20 national coordinators from World Vision on governance, accountability and monitoring of health services. They also adopted the community monitoring tool for their work on nutrition security throughout the country. Along with the State Health Department the team was involved in developing a state specific model for CAH and also continued its support to active VHWSNCs in 6 districts. The team trained folk health practitioners from Tamil Nadu on Primary health care and community processes facilitated by FRLHT, health rights training for community leaders and staffs for TNVHA. The team gave a talk in Ted X on Community Action for Health in Chengalpattu, to help communities and individuals to spark conversation and connection through local experiences.