About SEARCH

Society for Education, Action and Research in Community Health (SEARCH) is a voluntary organization working in rural and tribal regions of Gadchiroli district, Maharashtra. Gadchiroli district is situated on the eastern border of Maharashtra, bordering Chhattisgarh in the east and Andhra Pradesh in the south. The district headquarter, Gadchiroli, is about 175 km south of the nearest city Nagpur.

Gadchiroli is one of the poorest and least developed districts in India. While rest of the Maharashtra and India is marching ahead, Gadchiroli district with nearly one million populations, 36% of which are tribal is lagging behind in various parameters of human development index. The problem is compounded by the emergence of Maoist movement. Inspired by the social philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi, Drs. Abhay and Rani Bang founded SEARCH in 1986 after completing their public health training at Johns Hopkins University, USA.

“*I shall give you a talisman. When faced with a dilemma as to what your next step should be, remember the most wretched and vulnerable human being you ever saw. The step you contemplate should help him!*”

- Mahatma Gandhi

Our Vision and Mission

SEARCH’s vision is ‘Aarogya-Swaraj’ or putting the ‘People’s health in the people’s hands.’ By empowering individuals and communities to take charge of their own health, SEARCH aims to help people achieve freedom from disease as well as dependence.

This is done by way of:

- Community based healthcare and tribal friendly hospital
- Research
- Training and education for health
- Public Awareness
- Policy shaping

Our programmes:

SEARCH strives to achieve its objectives through following eight key programmes:

- Tribal-friendly hospital
- Home-based maternal, newborn and child care
- Tribal health
- Tobacco and alcohol awareness generation and control
- Life skill education
- Training and education for health
- Community health research programme
- Rural chronic non-communicable diseases programme
- Shaping policy

NIRMAN

Our Website:

www.searchgadchiroli.org

Write to us on:

SEARCH
Po, District Gadchiroli,
Maharashtra,
Pin - 442605,
India.

Contact us on:

Phone: +91 7138 255407
Fax: +91 7138 255411
E-mail address: search.gad@gmail.com

To contribute please click here for bank details.
On the morning of 15th August 2014 as the country was celebrating its 68th Independence day, Rasika delivered her first, weak, fragile and premature boy child, at her father’s house in Munjalgondi. Munjalgondi, a village of 230 population, is located in a remote tribal area. However, Rasika and her family chose to carry out the delivery in a traditional hut, in spite of the village health supervisor advising the family to take the mother to the nearest hospital. The baby was born with 5 signs of serious illness: fast breathing, low temperature, low birth weight of 1.8 kgs, lethargy and inability to breastfeed.

The supervisor of the tribal health team of SEARCH, told the Village Health Worker trained by SEARCH to administer antibiotic, taught the mother how to breastfeed, and advised to do so every two hours. He showed her how to use the shawl and the blanket to wrap the baby and keep him warm. The family was also provided health education. Eventually, after one and a half months the mother went back to Fulbodi with a healthy child of 2.6kgs.

This approach of saving newborns is called Home-based New born Care. With such small steps SEARCH strives to make a difference in the lives of the population that it works with.

Implementing HBNCC in Jharkhand:
SEARCH has also been helping in the implementation of the HBNCC programme by community health workers under the National Rural health Mission (NRHM) in the rural and tribal regions of Saraikela block of Jharkhand. SEARCH has provided technical assistance in planning, training of project personnel, providing training material and monitoring tools, monitoring of the implementation of the project on a sample basis, analysis of data collected and advice for course correction as per need. This year SEARCH helped in planning of the impact evaluation of the project.

Home-based maternal Care:
SEARCH has developed a maternal component and tested its feasibility and impact by way of a field trial and thus expanded the HBNCC to HBMNCC. In 2014-2015, they provided services to 1,225 pregnant mothers and 875 neonates.

Maa Danteshwari Dawakhana (SEARCH’s Rural Hospital)
The tribal-friendly hospital of SEARCH provides healthcare to the tribal and rural population of Gadchiroli, and other neighbouring districts.

The laboratory at SEARCH in addition to providing the routine biochemistry services provides services in cytology and histopathology.
SEARCH trains local tribal and non-tribal youths as nursing assistants and laboratory assistants. Currently six nursing assistants, mainly from the tribal area around SEARCH, are under training in the hospital. This year the construction for a new dental clinic and an additional clinic room was completed, and the dental clinic has started offering services. The dental chair and other equipments were donated by Mr. Ranga Chari.

The hospital has also started implementing electronic medical records system for registration, billing and the laboratory with help from the software company ThoughtWorks.

The Tribal Health Programme

The Tribal Health Programme of SEARCH works in 48 remotely located villages in forested areas in the Dhanora block of Gadchiroli district.

Providing village-level care through trained healthcare workers:

In order to reduce the dependence of tribal villagers on healthcare providers outside the village, SEARCH has trained local youth as village health workers called Danteshwari Sevaks (messengers of the tribal Goddess Danteshwari). They provide primary health care services for selected ailments such as malaria, diarrhoea, pneumonia, anaemia, fevers, scabies and back and limb pain.

Last year, SEARCH has trained these workers in the use of Rapid Diagnostic Kits to detect Malaria. They can now diagnose malaria infection (falciparum) within minutes, give treatment and advise immediate referral for high risk patients. SEARCH provides ambulance services in these hard to access areas for transporting high risk and serious patients.

Danteshwari Jatra:

During the annual tribal health Jatra, SEARCH’s tribal health team carried the palanquin of the Goddess Danteshwari to 48 villages. After the villagers worshiped the idol, meetings to discuss priority health issues of the community were held and health education through puppet shows and role plays was provided.

Our Healthy Ashram School' programme:

This year, SEARCH launched a new programme ‘Our Healthy Ashram School’ in three selected residential Ashram schools for tribal students from the field area of SEARCH. Currently the programme is helping close to 800 students. The programme targeted 10 selected health priorities like malaria, diarrhoea, anaemia, tobacco use and scabies. These were identified based on prior experience and consultation with school teachers. The activities included health education, training of teachers about common ailments, examination of children by MMU physician, oral evaluation of children by a dentist, checking haemoglobin levels and screening for sickle cell anaemia and providing treatment, where necessary.
Tobacco and Alcohol Awareness and Harm Reduction Programme

Tobacco use is very common in Gadchiroli and one out of two individuals in the district use tobacco. SEARCH has been working on the problem of tobacco and alcohol use for close to 25 years. Tobacco use often starts very early in rural and tribal areas due to social acceptance.

'Tobacco Free School' programme:
This programme focused on increasing the awareness about the ill effects of tobacco, motivate students to quit tobacco and promote implementation of anti-tobacco law COTPA by schools. Fifty schools were selected from the Dhanora and Gadchiroli blocks, where this programme was implemented.

Tobacco free women's self-help groups' programme:
For the last three years SEARCH has been working with women members of the self-help groups (SHGs) of Mahila Arthik Vikas Mahamandal (MAVIM), the Government of Maharashtra’s Women’s Economic Empowerment Corporation. The activities included measuring tobacco use among SHG members by trained SHG members (Muktidoots), providing information on the harmful effects of tobacco and evaluation of tobacco users by dentists to identify oral diseases due to tobacco, counselling to quit as well as providing earthen money saving pots to save the money spent on tobacco.

'Tobacco Free Gadchiroli':
SEARCH conducts periodic sample surveys to estimate the expenditure on tobacco in Gadchiroli district. Last year people spent an estimated Rs 200 crores on purchase of tobacco products, posing a potential threat to the economic development of the district. Last year SEARCH started working with the district administration to reduce tobacco use in Gadchiroli district. Selected NGOs and faith-based groups also participated in the programme. On the Independence Day programmes were held in government offices and schools with the theme being 'Tobacco Free Gadchiroli,' under the supervision of district collector of Gadchiroli, Mr Ranjit Kumar.

Daru Mukti Parishad (A conference to promote freedom from alcohol):
To promote implementation of alcohol ban in Gadchiroli district and discuss the planned implementation of forthcoming alcohol ban in the neighbouring Chandrapur district, SEARCH brought together politicians, civil society members and administrative officials from these districts. At the end of the conference a joint manifesto was released with a plan to work together to reduce the use of alcohol in Gadchiroli, Chandrapur and Wardha districts and create an alcohol free zone.

Representative surveys in three districts to measure alcohol use and economic expenditure:
In order to generate good quality population level data on alcohol use to help administrators and policymakers to implement the ban on alcohol effectively, SEARCH conducted a random sample survey of 3 districts to estimate the prevalence of alcohol use with the help of National Service Scheme (NSS) students from the Gondwana and Nagpur Universities, in Chandrapur, Gadchiroli and Wardha. The result of this study was provided to the Chief Minister of Maharashtra and District collector of Gadchiroli and Wardha.

Tarunya-bhan (Life Skill Education)
In order to increase awareness about reproductive health among adolescents and youth in Maharashtra, Tarunyabhan (which literally means awareness about youth hood) programme was started by SEARCH in 1995. This year, 7 Tarunyabhan camps were conducted in Gadchiroli district, and 14 in other neighbouring districts. A total of 8,827 youth participated of which 5,958 were girls.

Youth Sports Programme
SEARCH’s youth sports programme was started in year 2000 in the tribal villages to promote health through sports and keep youth away from addictions.

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- Youth Sports Programme SEARCH’s youth sports programme was started in year 2000 in the tribal villages to promote health through sports and keep youth away from addictions.
Tribal and Non-tribal area youth sports

713 youth from 44 tribal villages participated in the Dr. Chari Memorial Tribal youth sports event. 218 teams participated in Kabaddi and Volley ball games. Youth sports were also held in non-tribal villages in the field area of SEARCH. 30 teams with 178 youth participants from 18 villages participated in these games.

Rural Chronic Non-communicable Diseases Research Programme

This programme was started to address the emerging problem of non-communicable diseases in rural areas of India. SEARCH collects information on causes of death in 134 villages. Stroke has emerged as a leading cause of death in rural Gadchiroli. In order to reduce the deaths due to stroke SEARCH has developed a community-based programme. The programme will be tested in a field study.

Cancer Registry:

In order to understand and tackle the emerging problem of cancer due to heavy use of tobacco SEARCH has collaborated with the Tata Cancer Hospital, Mumbai in order to start a Population-Based Cancer Registry in tribal and rural Gadchiroli. Through this registry population-level information on cancers will be collected. This is the first population-based cancer based registry collecting information on cancers from tribal area in India.

Public Health Research Programme

Currently, SEARCH is conducting research in the following key areas:
- Maternal, newborn and child health
- Reproductive health
- Demography
- Causes of child and adult mortality
- Malaria
- Tobacco use
- Alcohol use
- Chronic non-communicable diseases

NIRMAN

NIRMAN is a youth initiative started by SEARCH in 2006 to identify, nurture and organize young social change makers to address various societal challenges.

NIRMAN 6 batch:

The camps for the medical and non medical youth were conducted and were based on the theme ‘from self to the society’. The activities included community life in the camp, living with the rural and tribal families, Tarunya-bhan debates and talks by social changemakers, group exercises, and discussions on selected books and articles.

Other highlights:

On the request of Tata Center for Technology and Design, IIT Bombay, a workshop on the theme of ‘Technology at the Bottom of the Pyramid’ was organized by the NIRMAN team at SEARCH for 33 fellows.

A workshop was organized for the NIRMAN youth working full time on the social issues. ‘How to be an effective social changemaker’ was the theme of the workshop wherein 34 youth participated.

In order to facilitate entry of NIRMAN youth into the social sector, NIRMAN is starting ‘Kar ke dekho’ fellowship.

Amrut Bang, coordinator of NIRMAN, was invited to participate in a national level brainstorming workshop at New Delhi by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports to discuss the design of the Prime Minister’s Youth Leadership Program that they plan to launch.

- 176 youth have worked full time in social sectors
- 129 currently working full time
- 8 working at SEARCH
- Contributed for more than 300 person years
### Programmes of SEARCH

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Services provided</th>
<th>Rural hospital</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Health care provided to patients</td>
<td>105,226</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Awareness programme</td>
<td>29,406</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training</td>
<td>410</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Programmes of SEARCH - Village health care programme

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Services provided</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of pregnant women who received care under the home-based neonatal care programme</td>
<td>1,225</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of neonates who received care under the home-based neonatal care programme</td>
<td>874</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of treatments provided by the female health workers other than HBNC</td>
<td>12,560</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of treatments provided by the male health workers</td>
<td>13,762</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Programmes of SEARCH - Tribal health programme

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Services provided</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of treatments provided by the tribal village health workers</td>
<td>19,461</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of tribal residential school students who were a part of the ‘My Healthy Ashram-school’</td>
<td>771</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of clinic consultations by the mobile medical unit</td>
<td>20,605</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of pregnant women who received care under the home-based neonatal care programme</td>
<td>174</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Programmes of SEARCH - Tobacco and alcohol awareness and cessation programme

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Services provided</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Students in the school health programme</td>
<td>7,564</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women self-help group members</td>
<td>12,124</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Programmes of SEARCH - Tarunyabhan (Adolescent sexual health education programme)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Services provided</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of students who attended the camps</td>
<td>8,827</td>
</tr>
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</table>

### Programmes of SEARCH - Youth sports programme

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of youth who participated in sports in tribal area</td>
<td>713</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of youth who participated in sports in rural area</td>
<td>178</td>
</tr>
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### Programmes of SEARCH - Training

<table>
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<td>Training of teachers for the school tobacco cessation programme</td>
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<td>28</td>
</tr>
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<td>Training of state trainers for the home-based neonatal care programme</td>
<td>78</td>
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<td>Public health practice workshop</td>
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<td>Training of medical officers for the management of alcohol withdrawal in Chandrapur district</td>
<td>43</td>
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<tr>
<td>Visiting interns and fellows</td>
<td>13</td>
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### Beneficiaries’ matrix

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Other Educational Activities

Public Health Practice Workshop:
In order to share its experience in public health, SEARCH holds a workshop for the Post Graduate students of preventive and social medicine and public health every year. This year this workshop was held for post-graduate students from Gujarat. 39 participants from various medical colleges in Gujarat participated in this workshop.

Memorial service
A conference was organized on 27th January, 2015, on the occasion of the 3rd death anniversary of late Thakurdas Bang, an eminent Gandhian and father of Dr. Abhay Bang. A Samadhi with the Charakha represents his memory. A prayer was organized in his memory, in which the Gandhian leaders and workers assembled from different parts of India.

Community Life in Shodhagram
A close-knit community of around 100 people living in Shodhagram, the campus of SEARCH, meets regularly for evening prayers, 6 days a week and provides service to the community by means of cleaning the campus (shram-yoga), 2 days a week. All religious festivals are celebrated in the campus as SEARCH believes in the principle of ‘Sarva Dharma Sama Bhava’ (equality of all religions). There are two grounds for physical activities and a gymnasium.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total full time workers</th>
<th>102</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Part time Female Village Health Workers</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part time Male Village Health Workers</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part Time Danteshwari Sevaks</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SEARCH team

Shaping policy
SEARCH directors, Dr. Rani and Dr. Abhay Bang have been contributing to the development of health policies in India by serving on several national and state level committees and commissions.

Dr. Abhay Bang:

**At the national level, these include:**

Member, High Level Committee on Tribal populations in India, Prime Minister’s Office, 2013
Member, Audit Advisory Board, Controller and Auditor General, Government of India

**At the state (Maharashtra) level:-**

Member, Kelkar Committee on ‘Regional Imbalance and Balanced Regional Development’ (https://www.maharashtra.gov.in/site/upload/WhatsNew/KCR-23122014.pdf)
Member, Tribal Advisory Council (TAC) of the State
Chairman, Committee on Tribal Health, The TAC
Member, The Chief Secretary Committee on Malnutrition and Child Deaths in Tribal Areas
Member, Committee on the Issue of Alcohol Policy in Chandrapur District

Dr. Rani Bang:

Member, Pre Conception and Prenatal Diagnostics Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Committee
Member, Violence against Women committee
We are thankful to...

**Awards:**

**Dr. Abhay Bang:**
- Desasnehi Award from India Development Foundation, Bangalore, (2014)
- Kesharilalji Bordia Smruti Sanman from Jeevan Rakshak Charitable Trust, Udaipur, (2014)
- Sanjeevani Sanman, from Sahyadri Doodarshan, Mumbai, (2014)

**Dr. Rani Bang:**
- Vidarbha Ratna Award from Ramkrushna Paikuji Samarth Smarak Samiti, Nagpur, (2015).
- Kesharilalji Bordia Smruti Sanman from Jeevan Rakshak Charitable Trust, Udaipur, (2014)
- Sanjeevani Sanman, from Sahyadri Doodarshan, Mumbai, (2014)

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**Article published**


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**Our Programme Partners (alphabetical order)**

- American India Foundation, USA
- Dist. Administration, Gadchiroli, India
- Government Dental College, Nagpur, India
- Gondwana University, Gadchiroli, India
- Integrated Tribal Development Programme, India
- Mahila Arthik Vikas Mahamandal, India
- Maharashtra Knowledge Corporation Limited, India
- Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India
- National Health Systems Resource Centre, New Delhi
- National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), India
- Nagpur University, India
- Navajbai Ratan Tata Trust (NRTT), India
- Sangath, Goa, India
- Tata Steel Rural Development Society (TSRDS), India

**Our Funding support for projects (alphabetical order)**

- American India Foundation, USA
- Cognizant Foundation, India
- Dalal Foundation, India
- Indians for Collective Action, USA
- Indira Foundation, USA
- Infosys Foundation, Bangalore
- MacArthur Foundation, USA
- Maharashtra Knowledge Corporation Limited, India
- Mahila Arthik Vikas Mahamandal, Gadchiroli
- National Rural Health Mission, Government of Maharashtra
- Navajbai Ratan Tata Trust, India
- Tribal Development Department, Government of Maharashtra
- Wipro Cares, India

**Our well wishers (alphabetical order)**

- Anand Gokhale, Sangmner
- Anjali Yewalkar, Mumbai
- Charms Group, Mahasul, Nagpur
- G Corportion Pvt ltd, Mumbai
- Kanhayalal Shardul, Aurangabad
- Kishore Parsuram Patil, Bangaluru
- Madhukar Bholanath Pathare, Mumbai
- Maharashtra Foundation, USA
- Mahesh V Balsekar, Mumbai
- MSS India VT Ltd, Mumbai
- Pushpalata P Bidwai
- Reliance Leap Lectre Honorarium
- Saroj Kamat, Mumbai
- Signet Chemical Corporation Ltd , Mumbai
- Shekhar Nargudkar, Mumbai

**Our trustees**

- Shri. Chandrashekhar Dharmadhikari
- Dr. Prakash Amte
- Dr. Upendra Vedpathak
- Dr. Sudha Joshi
- Dr. Rani Bang
- Dr. Abhay Bang

**Awards from**

- Jivan Rakshak Chritable Trust, Mumbai
- India Development Foundation, Bangalore

And many more...
We are thankful for

2014–15 Income
Rs. 598.82 (In lakh i.e. hundred thousand)

1. Grants 210.65 37%
2. Interest on Investment 72.96 12%
3. Donation 37.24 6%
4. Program income 43.97 7%
5. Hospital Receipts 29.58 5%
6. Training 21.74 4%
7. Award 1.25 0%
8. Project reimbursement 173.43 29%

Expenses 2014–15
Rs. 598.82 (In Lakh i.e. Hundred Thousand)

Capital Expenditure 105.02 18%
Administrative and office 81.5 14%
Hospital 90.34 15%
Community Health care program 86.34 14%
Research 37.27 6%
Training Programs 66.55 11%
H.Q and staff quarters, building maintenance and agriculture 30.94 5%
Depreciation 100.3 17%
Dear Friends,

We hope that you have gone through the salient features of various aspects of work of SEARCH. Perhaps now you would like to

Visit SEARCH and observe the work of SEARCH

Explore possibility of partnership with SEARCH for implementing the proven models developed by SEARCH

Obtain training in specific field where SEARCH has training to offer

Invite Adolescent education team to hold camp/programme at your institute

Contribute to the efforts of SEARCH by offering your expertise or services

Send your students for a study tour to experience the methods of community service

Participate in dissemination of the information on the work of SEARCH through your writings such as articles for newspapers or periodicals

Obtain copies of publications published by SEARCH itself or by other agencies (books, research papers, reports, information brochures)

Contribute by way of donation in cash or kind (Bank details)

Bank Details :

Account title - SEARCH Central A/c
Bank Name - Bank of Maharashtra
Branch - Gadchiroli
Account No. - 20132954389
IFS code - MAHB0000940

There are many other ways in which we can establish and develop the partnership. Please feel free to contact us and obtain further details on specific matters of interest. We are looking forward to friendship with you.

Best wishes,

"Go to the people Live among them Love them Listen to them Learn from them Begin with what they know Build upon what they have"

- Lao Tsu (Founder of Taoism)