

SEARCH in Nov'15—Feb'16

AWARDS



Mother Teresa Memorial International Award for Social Justice

The Harmony Foundation on November 22nd, 2015, conferred the prestigious Mother Teresa Memorial International Award for Social Justice 2015 on Dr. Rani and Dr. Abhay Bang for working for maternal and infant healthcare. Among the others honoured were Pakistan's Bilquis Bano, Medecins Sans Frontieres, Gladys Staines, Drs. Nandakumar and Shylaja Menon, Rural Healthcare,

Auto Raja, Harakchand Savla, Narayanan Krishnan and, South Asia Foundation.

Tenth Nani A. Palkhivala Award for Civil Liberties

Dr. Abhay Bang was presented the Tenth Nani A. Palkhivala Award for Civil Liberties, by the Nani A. Palkhivala Memorial Trust, on 4th February 2016, in Mumbai, and the organizational award was given to Anandwan, Warora founded by late Baba Amte. This was on the occasion of the 13th Nani A. Palkhivala Memorial Lecture to be delivered by Dr. Raghuram G Rajan, Governor, Reserve Bank of India. The panel of judges involved in the selection comprised of Mrs. Justice Sujata Manohar (Retd.), former Judge, Supreme Court of India (Chairperson); Mr. Justice S. N. Variava (Retd.), former Judge, Supreme Court of India; and Mrs. Sudha N. Murthy, Chairperson, Infosys Foundation, Bengaluru.

CAMPS



An answer to pandemonium inside

Mental Health camp was held in the campus of SEARCH, on 25th of December, 2015, by Dr. Anand Madhusudan Nadkarni, the pioneer of Institute for Psychological Health and Founder & Trustee of Muktanagan De-addiction Centre in Pune. He also conducted a workshop, the day before, for the professionals and residents of SEARCH, on "Addiction and Depression" and "VEDH" (Vocational Education - Direction and Harmony). The other doctors involved were Dr. Sushil Gawande, Dr. Sagar Chiddarwar, Dr. Nikhil Pandey, Dr. Sachi Bhede, Dr. Pravin Navkhare and Dr. Pravin



Varma. The camp saw 98 patients from the districts of Gadchiroli, Gondia, Chandrapur and Bhandara.

Let's spine it right

Spine Camp, held in SEARCH had 6 major surgeries and one epidural block on 27th December, 2015 and check up for 198 patients, the next day. The patients were from Gadchiroli, Gondia, Chandrapur and Bhandara. The major diagnoses during the check up were arthralgia, osteoarthritis, musculoskeletal pain, lumbar radiculopathy, lower back pain, cervical radiculopathy, cervical spondylosis, lumbar spondylosis and spinal TB. The spine surgeons offering their kind services were Dr. Shekhar Bhojraj, Dr. Raghu Varma, Dr. Sidharth Badwe, Dr. Hrushikesh, and Dr. Premik Nagad from Mumbai, and Dr. Sameer Kalkotwar from Nagpur. The anaesthesiologists were Dr. Anand Isarka from Godia and Dr. Sonal Rambhad from Nagpur.

Super savings for everyone

Here is how much Superfan saves when used for different durations at various speeds:

Savings per year in Rupees*

Fan Speed	Hours used per day				
	8	10	16	20	24
Low	128	161	257	321	385
Medium	402	502	803	1004	1205
High	642	803	1285	1606	1927

*Based on Rs. 5.50 per Unit

Above table illustrates huge savings possible with Superfan for a variety of users like hospitals, educational institutes, commercial establishments, factories and individual households.

Electricity saving

India is presently the sixth-greatest electricity generating country and accounting for about 3.5% of the world's total annual electricity consumption. SEARCH is now in the process of working out a strategy to use the power efficiently, for the year 2015-2016, with the financial support from Dr. M. P. Patil, a reputed Medical Doctor from Sangli, Maharashtra who also happens to be a supporter and well wisher of SEARCH. The traditional ballast using tube lights have been replaced with the LED power efficient ones and simple fans with Superfans in the offices, mess and staff quarters of SEARCH. The picture, alongside, shows the details of the approximate Power Savings per year.



SEARCH

Society for Education, Action and Research in Community Health, Gadchiroli

Surgical hope

Ma Danteshwari Dawakhana of SEARCH organised 2 general surgery camps. Dr. Rani Bang heads the management and organisation of the camps:

1) **A General and Gynaec Surgery Camp**, with Dr. Milind Shah and his team from Satara and Sangli, on 8th and 9th of January, 2016. The doctors who brought in hope for 86 patients were, General surgeons Dr. Girish Pedharkar, Dr. Shrikant Pawar and Dr. Sandeep Shrotri; Paediatric Surgeon Dr. Sanjay Raut; Gynaec surgeons, Dr. Vilas Pramane and Dr. Shah; and Anaesthe-

tists Dr. Mahavir Choughuley, Dr. Jayvanth Patil and Dr. Aruna Rasad. We had three more doctors lending a helping hand along with their partners - Dr. Prashant Rasad, Dr. Charulata Shah and Dr. Swati Shrotri. The major surger-

ies conducted during these two days were Histerectomy, Hydrocele, Hernia and parotid tumours.

2) **General Surgery Camp** (20th and 21st February, 2016) for 29 patients with hydrocele, hernia, tonsillitis, parotid tumours, lipoma and sebaceous cysts, was carried out by

Dr. Rajesh Singhavi and his group - General surgeons Dr. B. S. Gedam, Dr. Rajeev Sonarkar and Dr. Prathamesh More; an ENT surgeon Dr. Ajay Deshpande; and Anaesthetists Dr. Sanjeevni Lanjewar and Dr. Sonakusre.



NRTT - Annual External Evaluation Visit

NRTT Trust has conducted its first 3 day Annual Review for the year 2015-16 from 18th to 20th November, 2015; through its external evaluators Dr. Dileep Mavlankar, Director, and Prof. Mayur Trivedi, IIPH, Gujarat and Dr. Amar (observer from NRTT).



An affordable relief

Looking into the mirror she felt queasy. Everything had gone into a stand still since a year. She had to give up farming, couldn't carry baskets on her head, had to avoid social gatherings, her routine life had gone for a toss, and even worse, she had lost confidence in herself! "You will need a cosmetic surgery," they said. Sure, but could she afford to pay an arm and a leg?

Sunanda, 45, from a village called Mudholi, was one of the 86 patients that were operated in the January

General and Gynaec Surgery Camp at SEARCH. Her story, however stood out as an 8x7x7cm, infective sebaceous cyst that had grown suddenly within a year was surgically removed by Dr. Sandeep Shrotri, general surgeon from Satara, along with anaesthetist Dr. Mahavir Choughuley.

On the last day as they clicked her 'after' picture she looked happy and content. Her operation was more than affordable and enough to not be embarrassed anymore!

PROGRAMMES



Train, empower...GOAL!

Out of 44 contestants twenty youth volunteers, in December, were selected from 14 tribal villages to be trained as coaches for village sports, by Life Skills Education department. These volunteers from Dhanora block of Gadchiroli, were sent to Nagpur for advanced-training by Dr. Dhananjay M. Welukar, Director, Physical Education, Nagpur University. Imbibed with the qualities of a good sportsman they became an asset to the teams that played in the Dr. Chari Memorial Tribal Youth Sports Events at Yedampayli and Vadgao.

Sports - a healthy pill

To keep youth away from addictions and to promote health through sports in the tribal villages SEARCH introduced youth sports programme in the year 2000.

Accordingly, Dr. Chari Memorial Tribal Youth Sports Events, a combined effort of Tribal Health Programme and Life Skill Education Programme, were conducted in two hosting tribal villages, Yedampayli and Vadgao, of Gadchiroli with participation of 23 other villages in each. Games like Volley Ball, Tennikoit, Kabbadi and Catapult were played. They were provided a health check-



up and health education on sickle cell. Chief guests included Dr. Rani and Dr. Abhay Bang, Mr. Hiranman Warkhede (ex-MLA), and Charity Commissioner Mr. Satao, from Gadchiroli, and Prof. Sanjay Jagdale, Nabira College, Katol, Nagpur.

Youth sports were also conducted in the non-tribal village, Bodhli, with participation from 15 villages. SEARCH also encouraged the host villages to endorse presentations on Youth and Road Accidents.

Addiction free schools

Within the Tobacco Cessation Programme that was started in October 2015, at 25 schools, under the Alcohol Tobacco Awareness Programme, SEARCH's team conducted disparate activities from November 2015 to January 2016. While a role play sketched out the disadvantages of tobacco in student life, a documentary called "Akeli" and a drawing competition on "My dream" empowered a take-home message, to inspire and spread the word. A Parent Post Card provided in every visit, too. Their understanding of it was evaluated by conducting group and mass

discussions.

The students were provided with information on hand hygiene and various forms of tobacco such as *kharra*, *ghutka*, snuff, plain tobacco, cigarettes, *beedi* and *gudaku* and were made to take an oath of complete cessation. A self-help booklet provided to the kids using tobacco tracking of their activities, was checked during every visit. The anti-tobacco committees that were formed in each school were advised to encourage the implementation of COTPA Act.

Turning the tables

The *Aamchi Nirogi Aashramshala* programme that has been launched in 5 schools to improve the health and hygiene knowledge and habits of tribal and rural children continued in its stride. The

SEARCH team strived to educate them about ill effects of alcohol and tobacco addiction, about anemia, sickle cell and importance of nutrition as well as first aid in emergencies like snake bites and injuries. A



questionnaire will reveal the analysis of their response. However, some of the changes noticed are really heart warming and encouraging. For instance the girls of Sode Aashramshala, for the republic day function, scripted and enacted a play about addiction that brought tears to the eyes of the people gathered. SEARCH is planning to encompass more schools in the ambit of this programme.

Candle in the dark

At a time when tobacco and alcohol are becoming the leading cause of cancer and stroke in Gadchiroli, Rakhi's resolution and her father's surrender is a testimony worthy of applause. Rakhi from Neemgaon, Gadchiroli is a child of 6th grade. After hearing the disadvantages and the diseases caused by tobacco during the Deaddiction Intervention by Alcohol and Tobacco Deaddiction Control group of SEARCH, Rakhi made up her mind to get her dad, who spent Rs. 60 a day on tobacco (*kharra*), to get rid of it. Her mother too supported and was resolute. She firmly insisted the days he spent on tobacco he would pay Rs. 10 to each member of the family. That surprised the father and caused him to think. He began to see the downsides of his monthly expenditure and health. His gums had swollen and were burning. Eventually, he put an end to his habit.

Rakhi has become an advocate discouraging the consumption of tobacco and alcohol. She also, reprimands the people who visit her house to watch TV, from *kharra* consumption, and shares her knowledge of its ill effects.



PROGRAMMES



Danteshwari Sevika Training

The shy tribal villages are known to be marginalised and most affected by diseases, with high rate in maternal, infant and child

mortality. Accordingly, 25 Female Health Workers (FHW) were short-listed for Home Based Newborn Care in tribal villages, under the name "Danteshwari

Sevika" which literally means female messengers of the tribal Goddess Danteshwari. They will be covering 48 villages of the tribal-study area of SEARCH. A training workshop

was conducted from 9th to 11th February, 2016 by the Home-based Newborn Care Department and the health educators and an intense peer group learning by FHWs from the non-tribal villages (19th-24th February, 2016).

The HBMNCC project is being funded by Navajbai Ratan Tata Trust (NRTT), India.

TRAINING



Our Website:

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To contribute please click [here](#) for bank details.



NIRMAN - IITB

Building on the dialogue started last year, 20 students (MTech and MDes) from TATA Centre for Technology and Design, IITB participated in the second NIRMAN workshop at Shodhgram, Gadchiroli. The theme of the workshop was 'Technology at the Bottom of Pyramid'. They stayed at villages in Gadchiroli to experience and understand the real life problems in rural and tribal people, questioning 'What are the

to SEARCH to know in details about it, its projects, Gadchiroli district etc. The brainstorming between SEARCH and IITB teams brought out a list of various real life research problems on which both SEARCH and IITB (faculties and students) teams can work on, by collaborating together.



PROGRAMMES

From uncertainty to clarity

A select 25 medical and non medical youth from the sixth batch of NIRMAN, who decided to work full time on social problems, gathered together in Shodhgram to sharpen their

saw. The camp addressed the following goals-

- To have philosophical clarity about why to work on a social problem
- To learn few tools and skills to improve efficiency at work-

place and address insecurities

To address the doubts about work choice, finance, life partner and parents

For the first time in NIRMAN three sessions were conducted on video conferencing from Nashik, Hyderabad and USA, opening doors for distant resource persons. The focus of the camp was on soft skills like diary writing, financial management and goal analysis. In the light of growing discussions on religious intolerance, there were sessions on Bhagwat Gita and the Holy Quran for the first time in the NIRMAN camp. Dr. Abhay Bang appealed to the participants to build friendship with people from other religions.



perceptions of the people about the problem I am working on? Is it a priority for people? What is their priority?' The team of seven faculties from IITB followed up the above workshop with a visit

From Lost to 'SEARCH' via NIRMAN



No clinical post graduation, no private practice, no job in central healthcare system. Pondering over these decisions, confused he entered NIRMAN, a process that was initiated over a year ago. Undertaking it made Dr. Hrishikesh Munshi, from Wardha, ask questions to himself. First Camp made him ask WHY? Second was all about WHAT? And the camps concluded with a HOW? Three fundamental questions. None alien. Nirman acquainted him with these questions he had been trying to escape, along with Social Reality and the connection between his answers and their social relevance. It pointed out the difference between 'Want' and 'Need'. Nirman didn't give him answers, but instead the questions to the answers he already possessed.

He was given three job opportunities on the last day of the first camp. The recent learnings made him ask - Where am I needed the most? The Mobile Medical Unit was the answer. Going to the tribals of Gadchiroli and sharing the burden of obstacles in everyday life and of health, the real question being, "What am I going to do for those problems?"

Over the last one year, he is trying to become one of them. What distinguishes man from animals is empathy. *Ability to understand and share feeling of others...* - a small addition to this definition is what his learning is - *...and act to*

SewaRural, Gujarat

- 1) The process behind developing of their mobile application, named "ImTecho", advantages and disadvantages of the application
- 2) Invisible cost is involved in the development
- 3) Demonstration by ASHA
- 4) Reporting system and data management
- 5) Solution to technical problems in the remote areas

National Institute of Research in Tribal Health, Jabalpur

- 1) Working, management and spectrum of NIRTH work in research
- 2) Socio culture, economy and livelihood of Baiga tribes
- 3) Methods and strategies implemented in Malaria Awareness Programmes, in Dindori District
- 4) Expenditure, human resources and infrastructure of a vertical programme
- 5) Novel and innovative ways of delivering IEC

MITRA, Christian Hospital Bissamcuttack, Odisha

- 1) Outreach activities and pioneer work done in the last 60 years
- 2) Socio cultural background, economy and livelihood of Kuvi tribals
- 3) Their Malaria Control Programmes, the innovative ways and strategies provided in programme implementation
- 4) Nurse managed Mobile Medical Units at block level, sub centres
- 5) Their educational activities and its impact, and demand generation

Clairvoyance 2015, School of Health Systems Studies, Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Mumbai Maharashtra

Dr. Abhay Bang was invited to speak on "Sustainable Health Systems - the Relevance of Primary Healthcare. The theme of Clairvoyance 2015 was Sustainability: The Pursuit in Health and Healthcare

SEWA Rural, Jhagdia, Gujarat

He addressed 35th Anniversary Celebrations of SEWA Rural.

Torrent Pahraceuticals Ltd., Ahemadabad, Gujarat

He was honoured as the Chief Guest for Annual Founder's Day celebration, by Torrent Group, a leading conglomerate founded by Shri U N Mehta.

Kolkata Group Workshop, Kolkata, West

He participated in the Kolkata Group Workshop, where the theme this year was Democracy and Development. The workshop also dealt with the future of democracy in India and Bangladesh, the emerging role for Bihar and the progress of India's children.

Deshpande Foundation, Hubballi, Karnataka

Dr. Abhay Bang was in the Keynote Panel discussing "Ideas Impacting Millions", where he addressed the ideology he believed in and the approach that led to a fundamental change in millions of lives, and in the panel that discussed on "Last Mile Delivery in Preventive Health"

IIT Bombay, Mumbai

He visited IIT Bombay in regard to the collaboration between SEARCH and healthcare group at Tata Centre for Technology and Design. He presented a dialogue to a large audience, followed by a discussion with the Healthcare faculty group.

International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS), Mumbai

He was invited to the Prof. Asha A Bhende Memorial Lecture, instituted at International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS), Mumbai from 2012, for his outstanding contribution to the advocacy of women's rights and Adolescent Reproductive Issues, where he presented on "Research with the people".

Sevagram, Wardha, Maharashtra

Dr. Abhay Bang spoke on:

- 1) From Sevagram to Shodhagram - a Personal Journey
- 2) Community-based Research - from Gadchiroli to Global, as lectures for Masters in Community Development, Future Generations Graduate School, US

World Health Organisation, Delhi

Dr. Abhay Bang participated in the National Meeting on Malaria Elimination in New Delhi, organised by World Health Organisation and presided a session on Malaria.



Cancer Registry

Dr. Yogeshwar Kalkonde, Team Leader of Non-communicable Diseases, from SEARCH presented Cancer Registry programme imple-

mented by the organisation in rural and tribal areas of Gadchiroli, at the Annual conference of Association of Cancer Registries, organised in collaboration with Tata Cancer Hospital in Mumbai. Cancer registry in Gadchiroli is the first of its kind working in rural-tribal and backward areas of our country. Almost 80% deaths caused by cancer happen in rural areas, but no information is available due to lack of documentation. Researchers from over the world presented their work in cancer registration

domain in this conference.

ICNE

He also presented in International Conference on Neurology and Epidemiology (ICNE) at Gold Coast, Australia, on "Prevalence of stroke in Gadchiroli" and "Healthcare seeking of stroke in rural Gadchiroli." Stroke is an emerging problem in the rural India there has been no study on it, in the last 20 years. Thus, making it a matter of high concern.