About SEARCH

Society for Education, Action & Research in Community Health (SEARCH) is a voluntary organization set up by visionary Drs. Rani and Abhay Bang in 1986 at Gadchiroli, one of the most impoverished districts in India with tribals constituting 40% of its population. For the past 30 years, SEARCH has been working relentlessly among the poor and marginalized rural and tribal population of Gadchiroli spanning over 134 villages. SEARCH works together with the community to find relevant solutions to health problems. It has developed a bond with the community based on trust and equity, a bond that is central in the pursuit of its grand vision – Health Empowerment.

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. Empowerment for SEARCH is more than the mere involvement, participation or engagement of individual or communities. It implies community ownership and action that explicitly aims at social and political change. This, SEARCH tries to achieve by means of its four pillars of action –

1. **SERVICE** to prevent and treat the existing health problems
2. **EDUCATION** to impart knowledge on health promotion and disease prevention
3. **RESEARCH** for the pursuit of knowledge and its application in problem solving
4. Shaping **POLICY** to disseminate our successful methods / strategies / interventions

SEARCH, today, is recognized as a global leader amongst public health institutions. Our Community-based Participatory Approach has made path-breaking contributions in the public health problems of not just Gadchiroli, but also globally.

Our Approach

"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"
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"I will give you a talisman. Whenever you are in doubt, or when the self becomes too much with you, apply the following test. Recall the face of the poorest and the weakest man [woman] whom you may have seen, and ask yourself, if the step you contemplate is going to be of any use to him [her]. Will he [she] gain anything by it? Will it restore him [her] to a control over his [her] own life and destiny? In other words, will it lead to swaraj [freedom] for the hungry and spiritually starving millions?

Then you will find your doubts and your self melt away."
Thematic Areas of work

**HEALTH CARE**
- Tribal Friendly Hospital
- Surgery camps
- Mobile Medical units
- Community Health workers
- Specialized OPDs

**COMMUNITY-BASED RESEARCH**
- Home-based mother, New-born, and Child care
- Stroke, Malaria, Anemia
- Population based Cancer Registry
- Mortality Surveillance
- Alcohol and Tobacco District-wide wide surveys

**EDUCATION**
- Health education
- Training Workshops
- Adolescence Sex Education
- Action Based Learning

**YOUTH EMPOWERMENT**
- Nirman
- Tribal Sports & Coaching
- Tribal Youth Festival
- YLDP (Youth Leadership Development Program)

**REDUCING TOBACCO AND ALCOHOL**
- Muktipath (District Alcohol and Tobacco Control Program)
- DE - Addiction Center
Beneficiary Matrix (2016—17)

Tribal Friendly Hospital

43261 Outpatient Consultations

1279 Inpatient Admissions

625 Surgeries

Village Health Care Program

134 Villages, 105,358 Population, 181 Village Health Workers in rural area

21900 Treatments by female health workers

13563 Treatments provided by male health workers in rural area

802 Pregnant Women, 589 mothers, 576 Neonates received the HBMNCC

Tribal Health Program

48 Villages, 12586 Population, 80 Village Health Workers in tribal area

21574 Treatments provided by tribal village health workers

29848 Clinic consultations by Mobile Medical Unit

192 Pregnant Women, 187 Neonates received the Home based Mother - Neonates and Child care

Reducing Tobacco and Alcohol

51 Police personnel treated in two de-addiction camps

188 Women screened by Dentists in SHGs

12 village committees and 277 Gram Panchayat Committees were formed under Muktipath

Youth and Adolescent Education

2304 Students attended Tarunyabhan camps

209 Students attended NIRMAN camps

199 teams participated in sports in tribal and rural area

223 volunteers participated in action learning module

40 sportspersons received advanced volleyball training from Nagpur
SEARCH Hospital

SEARCH’s tribal friendly hospital with peoples chosen name Maa Danteshwari Dawakhana is aesthetically built to accommodate the health care needs of tribals.

Outpatient consultations of 43261 patients Gynecology and obstetrics, Infertility clinic, Internal medicine, Neurology, Dental care, psychiatry.

Total 625 surgeries performed in Surgery Camps (general, spinal, urological, gynaecological, plastic and pediatric).

1046 patients benefited in Specialist outpatient consultations are conducted for Spinal, Urology and Mental Health.

Maternal and Neonatal Care

The home-based maternal, neonatal and child care programme (HBMNCC), a path breaking intervention developed by SEARCH, has significantly reduced infant deaths in rural Gadchiroli. HBNCC is part of India’s National Rural Health Mission, the 11th and the 12th Five Year Plan, to reduce infant mortality. The Government of India under NRHM made HBNCC a part of ASHAs work. 11 million rural neonates and mother received HBNC delivered by 800,000 ASHAs.

CASE STUDY: LOW BIRTH WEIGHT

Mrs. Manisha Prakash Sonule of Bodli started having labor pains when she had completed 8 months and 10 days of her gestation. She delivered at the Civil Hospital, Gadchiroli on 8th December 2016. The birth weight of the baby was 1.5 kg. After discharge, the family called for Mrs. Anjana Uike, Female Health Worker, for examination. Anjana examined the mother and baby and diagnosed the baby as High Risk. The weight of baby on the 9th day was 1.6 kg. Anjana visited the baby thrice daily for 8 days and counselled the family on the precautions to be taken to prevent hypothermia. That included placing burning coal below the bed, lighting a 200 W bulb above the bed, closing the windows and doors all the time, avoid contact with people coming from outside and breastfeeding the baby every 2 hours.

Anjana visited daily to check if the mother was following her instructions or not. The mother being primigravida had no prior experience of neonatal care. Because of Anjana’s role, the weight of the baby started increasing. On the 28th day, weight of the baby was 2.5 kg and the baby is perfectly healthy now.
Tribal Health

Tribal programme’s participatory approach’ has been helping 48 tribal villages to care about their own health.

SEARCH organises Jatra, or Tribal Youth Health Assembly which helps youth to take ownership of their health, engage in change initiatives and feel responsible for a programme’s continued success.

Mobile Medical Unit and Mobile Dental Unit provides totally free of cost, efficient and quality Diagnostic, Curative and Preventive health care services to a tribal population of 12500 in 48 tribal villages.

Total clinical consultations - 29848
Treatments by Tribal community health workers - 21574

Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) was established in 1989, to catch 100% data for the ongoing research works in 134 villages in 4 blocks, tending to nearly 110,000 population.

Demographic Surveillance System/Vital statistics of the population

Cause of death analysis of all deaths through verbal autopsy and ICD-10 coding.

The team has well-trained 48 tribal and 39 non-tribal Village Health Workers, and their supervisors maintain the data quality by extensive monitoring at two different levels in the field.

Data management and analysis for HBMNCC, Stroke control study, District-wide alcohol and tobacco surveys and tribal health department.
Alcohol and Tobacco Control Program

SEARCH has been working against alcohol and tobacco since past 27 years. SEARCH in collaboration with the Government of Maharashtra, and Tata Trusts has initiated the district-wide program ‘MUKTIPATH’ in all 12 talukas of Gadchiroli working through following 4 strategies:
2. Deaddiction   4. Enforcement of ban

For this, committees at the level of Gram Panchayat, Taluka and schools are formed.

Sankalp Kendra  De-addiction Centre for Police Personnel - 2 camps – 51 participants
Dental/Oral health Check-up of women’s SHG (Self Help Groups) – 188

SEARCH conducted a random sample District-wide Tobacco and Alcohol Survey to measure tobacco and alcohol use and expenditure of entire district to help administrators and policymakers to implement the ban on alcohol effectively.

Research on Non-Communicable Diseases

SEARCH’s director, Dr. Abhay Bang developed coronary heart disease in 1995 followed by stroke death of a CHW. These events, and village surveys in 2006 revealed rise of chronic diseases such as high blood pressure, diabetes, tobacco use, mouth cancers. SEARCH started studying them and piloting interventions since 2006.

Stroke trial is started to reduce the deaths due to stroke in rural Gadchiroli. A cadre of young 39 female village health workers from 32 villages is selected. A Mobile Medical Unit visits a village each day and treats hypertensive patients.

SEARCH has started a Population-Based Cancer Registry in collaboration with the Tata Cancer Hospital, Mumbai. This was second year of the registry.
**Life Skills Education**

Team Tarunyabhan arranges co-learning camps for students with aim to increase awareness about reproductive and sexual health and sexuality among adolescents.

Every year Tribal Sports competitions are organized to unite, energize and promote the leadership qualities among youth.

To promote sports 40 youngsters were sent to Nagpur for sports training.

Teams participated in Volleyball and Kabaddi tournaments – 199

**NIRMAN - Youth for Purposeful life**

NIRMAN is a youth leadership development initiative to identify, nurture and organize young change makers to solve various societal challenges. Currently ~180 NIRMAN participants are working full time in social sector.

163 new youngsters participated in NIRMAN batch 7.

Krutee NIRMAN provided action learning opportunities to 211 young students.

Kar ke Dekho Fellowship facilitated the journey of 5 fellows in social sector.

Alumni Workshop - A 4 day workshop for NIRMAN participants who are working full time in social sector is organized in the month of October.
Other Activities

Solar Campus:
SEARCH took one step in the direction of environment friendly campus by establishment of 50KW solar power plant with the help of Wipro Care.

Malaria Workshop:
SEARCH organized a workshop on ‘How to Control Malaria in Gadchiroli’ in collaboration with NIRTH (National Institute of Research in Tribal Health) Directorate of Health Maharashtra and Tata Trusts.

Award list 2016 - 2017

- Janseva Puraskar Late Nemgonda Dada Patil, Sangli (2017)
- Jijabai Achievers’ Awards, Women’s Development Cell, Shivaji College Delhi (2017)
- ‘Yashaswinee Puraskar’, Sanwad Sanstha Wai (2016)
- Janseva Puraskar Late Nemgonda Dada Patil, Sangli (2017)
- Sahyadri Lifetime Achievement Award, Sahyadri Pratishthan Maharashtra, Pune (2017)

Our Trustees
- Sh. Chandrashekhar Dharmadikari
- Dr. Prakash Amte
- Dr. Upendra Vedpathak
- Dr. Sudha Joshi
- Dr. Rani Bang (Co-Director)
- Dr. Abhay Bang (Director)

Executive Committee
- Dr. Abhay Bang
- Dr. Rani Bang
- Sh. Hiramani Warkhede
- Sh. Tushar Khorgade

SEARCH Team
- Full Time Workers – 142
- Part time Female Health Workers in rural area – 32
- Part time Male Health Workers in rural area – 39
- Part time Female Health Workers for Stroke Trial – 39
- Part time Danteshwari Sevaks in tribal area – 48
- Part time Female Health Workers for HBMNCC in tribal area - 30
- Total - 330
Program Partners

Our Program Partners (alphabetical)

- 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, GoI
- 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)

Funding Support

Our Funding Support (alphabetical)

- Cognizant Foundation, India
- Dalal Foundation, India
- Indians for Collective Action, USA
- Indira Foundation, USA
- Infosys Foundation, Bangalore
- MacArthur Foundation, USA
- Maharashtra Knowledge Corp. Ltd, 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 Care, India

Our Esteemed Donors (alphabetical)

- ADAM Fabriwerk PVT Ltd, Kandivali
- Anjali Yawalkar, Mumbai
- Chhaya Prakash Shah, Mumbai
- Indian Medical Association, Jaysingpur
- Janta Sah.Bank(Late.P D Bhagvat-Will Letter)
- K D Shardul, Aurangabad
- Madhukar Bholanath Pathare, Mumbai
- MSS India Pvt Ltd, Nasik
- R B Bhave, Pune
- Suhasini Desai, Karwar
- Sumita Walke, Nasik
- Upendra Somani, Naupada, Thane
- Vijya Bhagwat, Talegaon Dabhade
- Yeshwant Adhye Pvt Benefit Trust, Pune
- Ulhas P paymaster, Mumbai
- Medha Arun Shete, Mumbai
- Chandrasekhar D Seth, Pune
Income and Expenditure Sheet

**Income 2016-17**
Total Rs. 702.65 lakh ($1 million)

- Grants from Donors: 387.2
- Individual Donations/Awards: 67.1
- Grants from Government: 36.9
- Income from Activities: 88.2
- Interest on corpus and savings: 123.2

**Expenditure 2016-17**
Total Rs. 702.65 lakh ($1 million)

- Project Operating Expenses: 247.6
- Salaries and Benefits: 146.3
- Depreciation: 154.4
- Shodhgram Maintenance: 27.3
- Agriculture: 5.1
- Surplus transfer to Balance Sheet: 121.9
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Partnership with SEARCH

Invite Tarunyabhan Team

Training Programs

Offer your expertise

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Donations

Participate in Dissemination

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SEARCH
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