

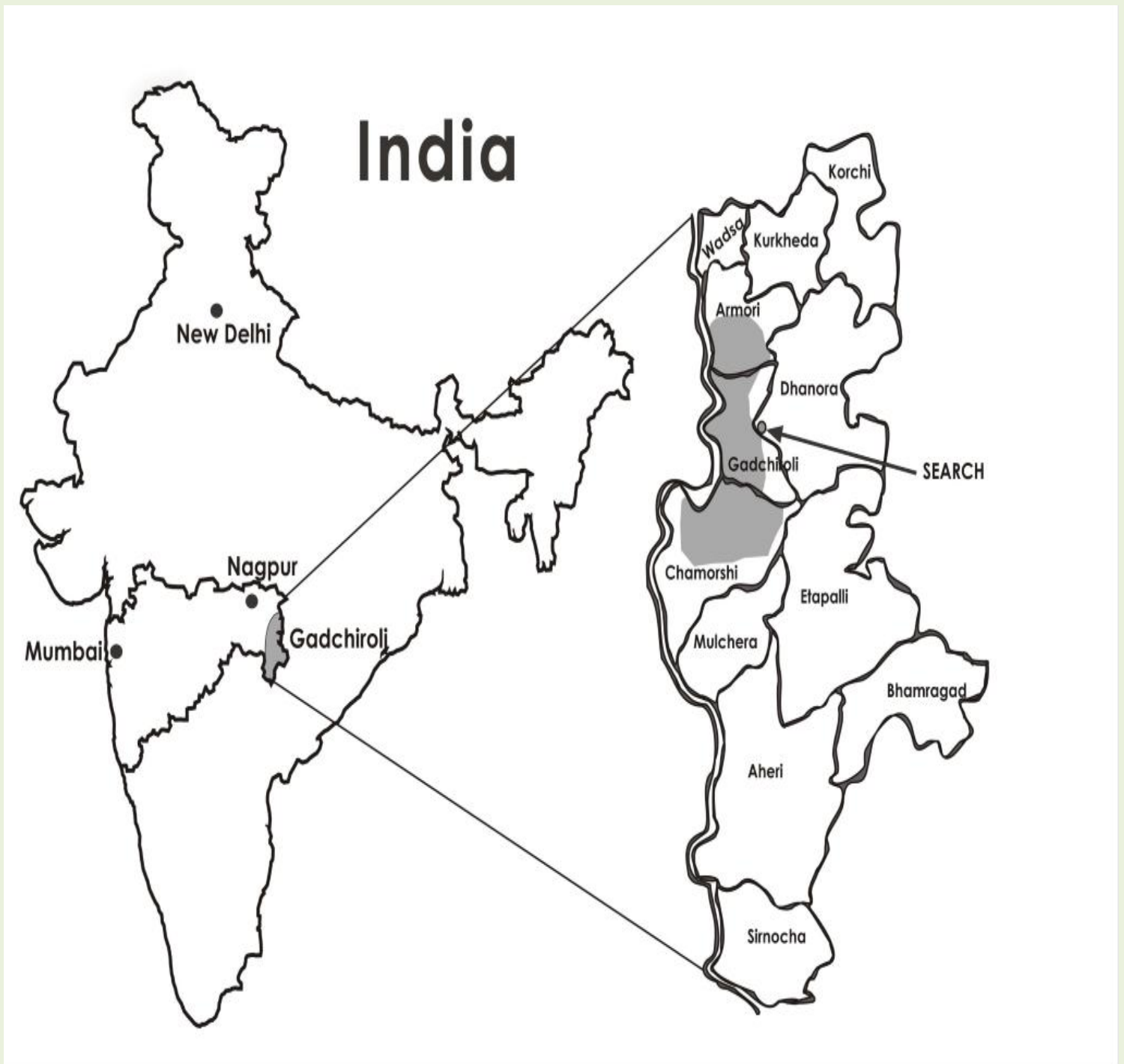
Annual Report 2019-20



SEARCH

Society for Education, Action and
Research in Community Health

Where we Work-



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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 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”

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 four strategies:

1. SERVICE to prevent and treat the existing health problems
2. EDUCATION to impart knowledge and training
3. RESEARCH for the pursuit of knowledge and its application in problem solving
4. Shaping POLICY

Hospital

The mission of the *Maa Danteshwari* Hospital is to provide compassionate, high quality, affordable, culturally appropriate, scientific and ethical medical and surgical care to the tribal and rural patients from Gadchiroli and adjacent districts.

We provide outpatient and inpatient care along with surgical care which is provided by volunteer surgeons and anaesthetists in a well-equipped operation theatre. Diagnostic care is provided through 24x7 emergency laboratory services. Besides regular Specialist OPDs like Gynaecology OPD, Psychiatry+ Deaddiction OPD & Neurology OPD, this year we successfully added specialty clinics for Spine, ENT and Reconstructive surgical cases (Plastic surgery) on periodic basis.

We get patients from three adjoining states and eight districts every year given the growing increase in popularity of our health care services.

Our Indoor services have expanded to deal with complex cases of cardiovascular, neurological, renal & respiratory diseases apart from common general disorders that require ICU care. In the forested terrain of Gadchiroli, snakebite is a major cause of death. This year, a total of **58 poisonous snakebite cases** were treated and lives saved in the SEARCH Hospital.

In 2019-20, we provided:

47430 OPD consultations,

1190 IPD admissions

399 surgeries

Under a new initiative, a **Plastic surgery camp** was conducted this year with the association of renowned plastic surgeon Dr. Shrirang Purohit and team. A total of 15 rural and tribal patients received super specialty surgical care for burn contractures, polydactylyism, gynecomastia among others at SEARCH Hospital.



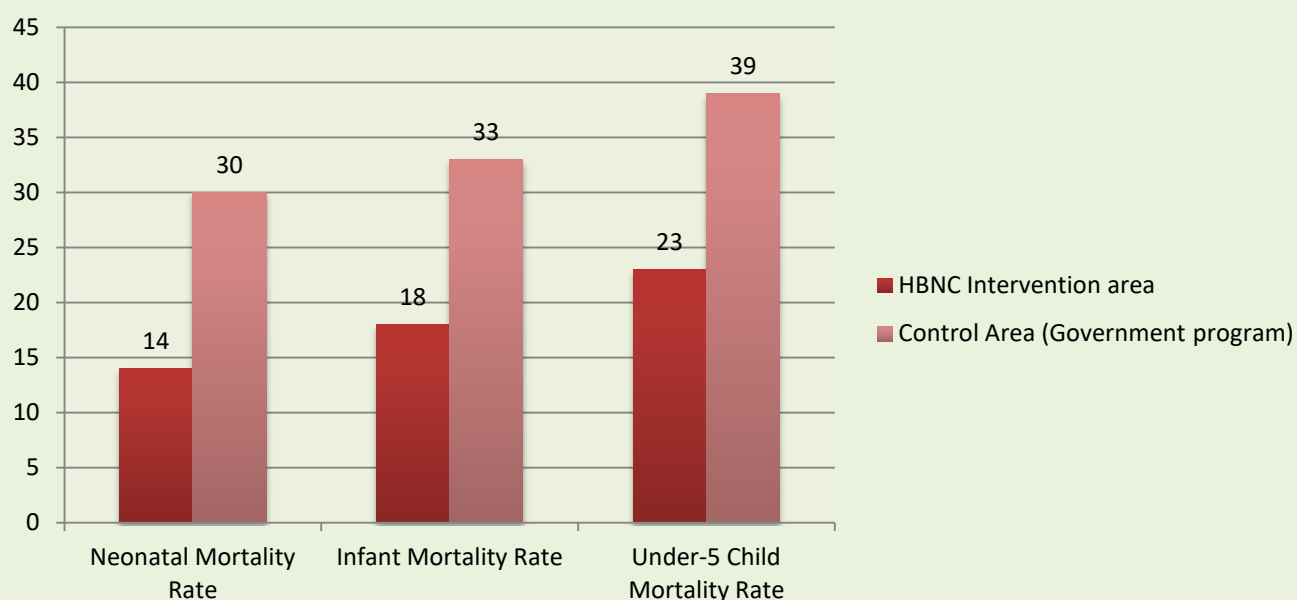
Hospital Team



Home-Based Maternal and Neonatal Care Programme

The programme has been implemented in 39 villages of Gadchiroli district, through 31 *Aarogyadoots* for 25 years now.

Aarogyadoots are the backbone of the programme as they are responsible for listing and identifying pregnant women and new mothers, tracking their progress throughout the gestation period, aiding in delivery and then caring for the newborn's health, during its first 28 days of life.

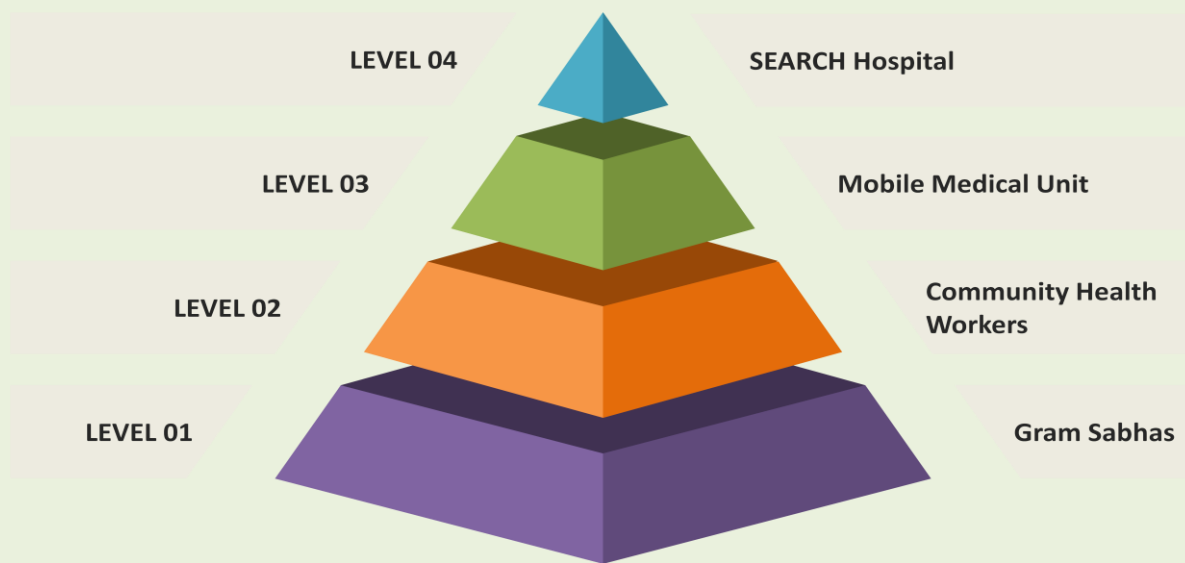


546 neonates including **29** **high-risk neonates** were medically managed by *Aarogyadoots* with only one neonatal death.

321 and **57** under-5 children were treated for **pneumonia** and **diarrhea** respectively by the *Aarogyadoots* with no fatality.

Tribal Healthcare and Research

Nearly **40%** population of Gadchiroli district is tribal. Health seeking behavior from modern health facilities remain low, because of lack of access to these facilities. There is also a lot of dependence and belief in the ability of traditional healers. SEARCH is working with the **13,000 tribal people in 48 villages** to improve their health by providing health services, increasing health awareness and conducting research.



Local youth trained by SEARCH known as community health workers (CHWs) provide care for selected ailments such as fever, malaria, pneumonia, diarrhea, scabies using standard protocols and under close supervision. This year, CHWs provided **29,879 treatments** at the village level. Gadchiroli district is endemic for malaria. CHWs treated **81%** of the total 222 cases of malaria that occurred in 48 villages.

In collaboration with the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), SEARCH operates a Mobile Medical Unit (MMU) to provide diagnostic, preventive, curative and referral services in 58 villages. This year the MMU has provided **27,250 consultations** and medical care.

2692 students across six tribal residential school (*ashramshalas*) benefitted from periodic health screening and health education sessions. Entertainment-based awareness material was used.. Health education was provided in the villages to benefit 3796 individuals.

Tribal Health Research: Two research studies were conducted this year by SEARCH. These include a qualitative study to understand perceptions regarding diagnosis and treatment of tuberculosis and a quantitative study to find the occurrence of oral health problems among tribal population. The findings of both the studies suggest that among tribals, awareness on tuberculosis is very low and oral health problems are very common.



Muktipath

Problem: Tobacco and alcohol are two of the top seven causes of death and disease globally. District sample surveys by SEARCH (2015 & 2016) revealed that-

- **44%** men drink
- **40%** population consumes tobacco products
- Annually **Rs. 393 crores** is spent on purchase of alcohol and tobacco

Launched in the year 2016, Muktipath is a joint initiative by SEARCH with Government of Maharashtra, Tata Trusts and the People of Gadchiroli to create awareness and an environment of prohibition and resistance against alcohol & tobacco with a four-pronged strategy. The program is headed by a task force that is chaired by the Chief Minister of Government of Maharashtra, with Dr. Abhay Bang being the advisor to the task force and chairman of the steering group.

FOUR PRONGED STRATEGY:

- 1) MASS AWARENESS,
- 2) COMMUNITY ACTION
- 3) DEADDICTION
- 4) BAN ENFORCEMENT.

So far, **1376 (92%)** villages of the districts have formed *Gaon Sanghatan*, which is at the core of community-led actions to ban and reduce the consumption of alcohol and tobacco in the villages. Through the community-led initiative, a major operation to seize large amount of illicit alcohol coming from the neighboring Chhattisgarh district was conducted this year in the Murumgaon village of Dhanora block. Such operations in nearly 600 villages were handled and conducted by the

women of the villages.

This was the year of both the national as well as the State assembly elections in Maharashtra, a time when alcohol is a mean to woo the voters. On the occasion, Muktipath launched a district-wide campaign of **Alcohol free Lok Sabha and Assembly Election**. As a result for the General and Assembly election, **280** and **275** villages respectively passed resolution through *Gram sabhas* to conduct an alcohol free election. Villages vowed to not vote for candidates who distribute alcohol or against the alcohol ban in the district.



Alcohol-free Election Campaign

Tarunyabhan

Tarunyabhan means 'Consciousness of Youthfulness.' Set up in the year 1995, Tarunyabhan works with youths and adolescents across Maharashtra to build knowledge and awareness on reproductive and sexual health.

10 Tribal Residential schools i.e. *Ashramshalas* from the 4 blocks of the district benefitted from the program in 2019-20. Pre and post workshop knowledge scores of the students is measured and a 165% increase in the knowledge of the participants with regard to reproductive and sexual health was observed.

Tribal Youth Sports: To unite the youth and involve them in purposeful community work and ultimately envision village empowerment through healthy life and participatory approach is the goal of this activity.

Along with the regular competitions of volleyball, kabaddi, and slingshot, this year a new 10 km run was organized in two tribal villages. 130 tribal youth participated in the run which had a theme of 'Dhava aaplya aarogyasathi' (Run for Health).



202 teams of 40 villages sports club in 48 tribal villages were created.

More than **90000** youth across Maharashtra have benefitted through **425** camps and workshops.

200 sports clubs in 48 tribal villages have been created.

NIRMAN is SEARCH's youth leadership development initiative to nurture young students and professionals into budding social changemakers. The program encourages the youth to find a broader purpose to their lives beyond simply earning money. It inspires them to mobilise for social action and cultivates a vibrant and supportive community of likeminded youth.

Since its inception, a total of **1232** participants have received NIRMAN Fellowship in 9 batches. Fellows have worked in the state of Maharashtra and 18 other states in India. Around 380 NIRMAN alumni have worked full time on specific social challenges with over 90 different social organizations. In 2019-20, for the 10th batch of NIRMAN, 187 participants were selected from 967 applicants from **129** colleges of the country.

'Krutee NIRMAN', a forum for social action- based learning was organized for 296 youth volunteers. This is an avenue for experiential learning for the participants with eminent social organizations. Through 'Kar ke Dekho' program, NIRMAN implemented a fellowship and an internship program for five fellows and interns.

As part of the MoU between NIRMAN and **Maharashtra University of Health Sciences (MUHS)**, a two hour sensitization module for medical college students was designed and facilitated across 23 medical colleges. The module reached 2100 MBBS, BAMS and BDS students.

A Case Study on NIRMAN was included in the book '**Adolescent Psychology in Today's World**' authored by Prof. Mike Nakkula (University of Pennsylvania) and Prof. Andre Munoz (Harvard University).



"From a naïve, raw, confused boy with unclear goals, I have transformed into a person who is having great conviction and a fire inside. NIRMAN made me fearless."

- Mayur Pawar, MBBS, GSMC Mumbai



Mental Health Program

According to the National mental health survey (2016) conducted by NIMHANS, 10.6% Indians suffer from some psychiatric co-morbidity (excluding tobacco use disorders). As per the Global Burden of Disease Study, alcohol and tobacco are among two of the top 10 risk factors for mortality and morbidity according to the Global Burden of Disease study.

In the year 2019, SEARCH has started a novel community program across Gadchiroli district to address alcohol dependence. Besides the development of a one day village-based addiction management module some new approaches were adapted that were found to be effective in motivating individuals to quit alcohol & tobacco. A total of **2637 patient consultations** were provided along with mental health (clinic & in-patient based) treatment including psychometric assessments, pharmacotherapy and counselling.

Block de-addiction counselling clinics have been established at **six talukas** of Gadchiroli, Chamorshi and Wadsa, Armori, Sironcha and Aheri and 1182 patients were provided consultations. Besides, **1308 patients** were provided addiction management services through **71 village-level addiction-management camps**.

A **comprehensive Tribal Mental Health Survey**, the first of its kind in India, was conducted in Gadchiroli district by SEARCH to study the prevalence of five mental disorders among tribals, namely, Depression, Panic attack, Generalized anxiety disorder, Alcohol use dependence, Tobacco dependence (smokeless) and Suicidal ideation. A research team has been established for conducting a trial on “reducing the problem of smokeless tobacco dependence in the rural communities of Gadchiroli”.



Study of Mental Health of Tribal People

Research on Chronic Non-Communicable Diseases

SEARCH is working to address the emerging problem of chronic non-communicable diseases in rural areas of Gadchiroli. With epidemiological transitions, non-communicable diseases such as stroke have become a leading cause of death.

Stroke Trial: Under a community-based prevention programme, a field trial was started in 2016 with funding support from the Department of Biotechnology (India)/Wellcome Trust (UK). This is the first of its kind field trial on stroke prevention in a rural area of a developing country. Under this programme individuals over 50 years of age in 32 villages were screened, diagnosed, treated and followed up monthly for medicine compliance and health education.

Observation: In **>70%** of patients, blood pressure and sugar were at controlled level.

‘Freedom from stroke’, a community-based, awareness campaign was conducted. An animation [video](#) in Marathi to explain stroke was developed in collaboration with IIT-Bombay.

Cancer Registry: In collaboration with **Tata Cancer Hospital**, Mumbai, SEARCH maintains a Population-Based Cancer Registry in tribal and rural Gadchiroli. The first biennial report was published in April 2019 at Tata Cancer Hospital.



Release of Cancer Registry, Gadchiroli Report at the Tata Cancer Hospital, Mumbai

Back Pain Study: To develop solutions to reduce suffering and healthcare spending due to back pain, SEARCH in collaboration with the **University of Sydney**, completed a qualitative study to understand people's perceptions about this problem.

Statistics, Monitoring and Evaluation

Established in the year 1989, the department documents and updates data from 134 villages having a total population of over 1 lakh.



✓ Validation and Analysis of the data

✓ Conducting population-based surveys

✓ Independent Monitoring and Evaluation of the programs

✓ Developing and Generating MIS

✓ Research Publications

✓ Training and Development

A Knowledge sharing and dissemination event for the **MANSI Evaluation Report** (Jharkhand) was organized in Ranchi in September 2019. The report is based on an independent, mixed-methods evaluation, headed by Dr Abhay Bang. The outcome of MANSI's on-ground implementation was presented by Dr. Abhay Bang (Director-SEARCH) in the workshop organized in Ranchi by the American India Foundation and the Tata Steel Ltd. [Click for Brief Report.](#)

Major studies and surveys in the year:

Vital Statistics collection and estimation of mortality rates in 134 villages

Census in 48 tribal villages

End-line survey for stroke trial

Cancer registry data analysis

Data Analysis of Dental and Oral health survey in tribal villages

Tribal Mental Health Survey

Analysis of Tuberculosis survey in tribal villages

7 Research papers on Back pain study submitted to the Global Health Journal

Research papers published in 2019-20:

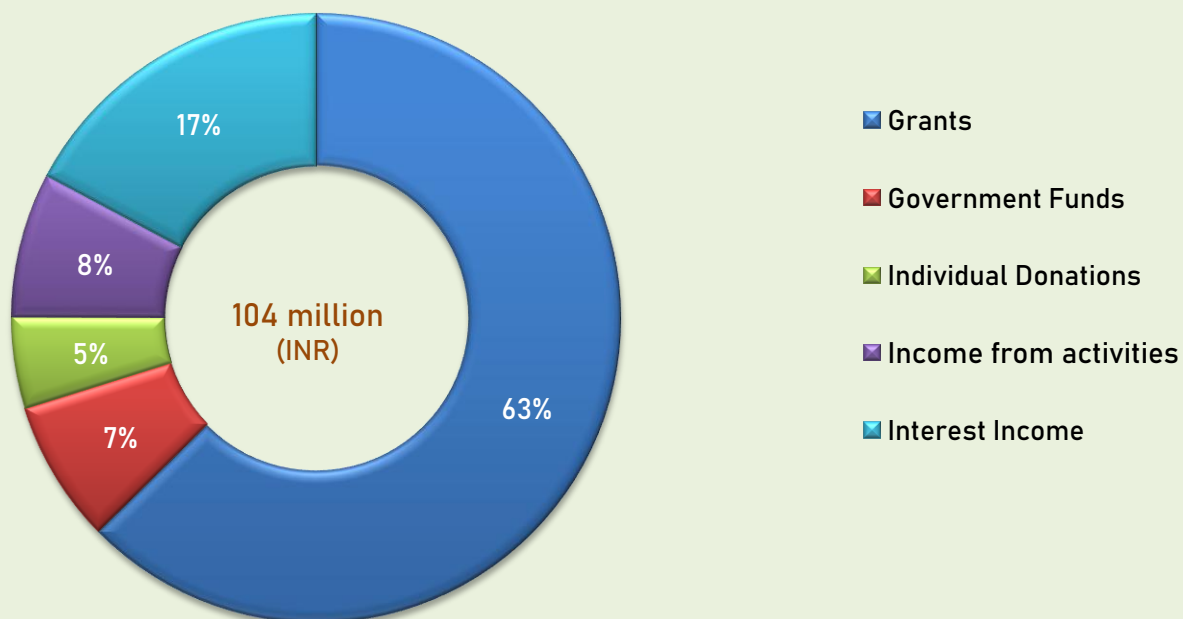
1) Direct estimates of disability-adjusted life years lost due to stroke : a cross sectional observational study in a demographic surveillance site in rural Gadchiroli , India : British Medical Journal - [Link here](#)

2) Effect of a community-based intervention for cardiovascular risk factor control on stroke mortality in rural Gadchiroli, India: study protocol for a cluster randomised controlled trial- BioMed Central Publisher- [Link here](#)

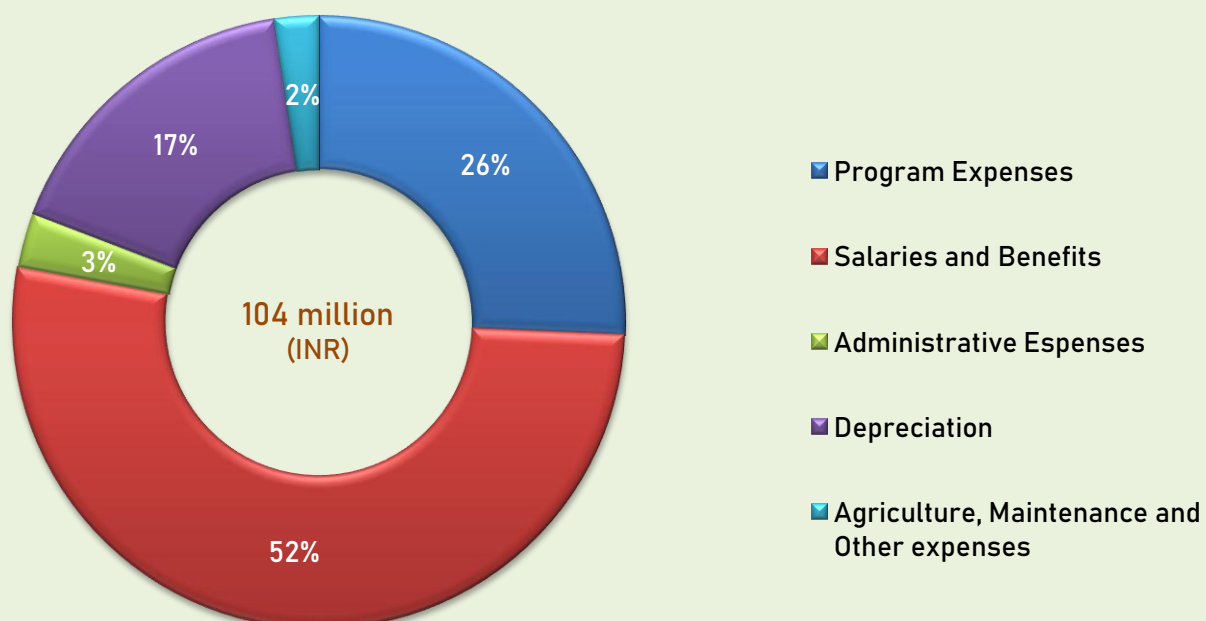
3) Causes and Consequences of Pregnancies in Vasectomy Failure: Newsletter of Indian Society for the Study of Reproduction and Fertility, Issue 25 , February, 2020.

Financial Highlights

Revenue



Expenses



**The figures are as per the 2018-19 audited Income-expenditure statement.*

Awards and Achievements



Photo: Mr. Ratan Tata conferring on Drs. Rani and Abhay Bang the first JRD Tata award for Excellence in Public Service instituted to commemorate 50 years of Population Foundation of India in New Delhi.

1. **JRD Tata award for Excellence in Public Service** by Ratan Tata from Population Foundation of India, New Delhi (2020)- To Drs. Abhay and Rani Bang
2. **D.Lit.** Honoris Causa from Maharashtra University of Health Sciences, Nashik at Mumbai by Hon. Chief Minister Maharashtra (2019)- To Drs. Abhay and Rani Bang
3. **Hon. D.Sc.** from Pravara Institute of Medical Sciences (Deemed to be University), Loni, Dist. Ahmednagar (2020)- To Dr. Abhay Bang
4. **Achievement Award in Science Field** from Vanita Samaj, Mumbai (2020)- To Dr. Rani Bang
5. **Shahu, Phule, Ambedkar, Award** (2019)- To SEARCH
6. **Mahatma Gandhi ManavSeva Puraskar**, M. G. College, Armori (2019)- To Dr. Rani Bang

Events/Lectures/Conferences

In June 2019, Dr. Abhay Bang was invited to deliver a keynote speech for plenary session at the Lowitja Institute's **International Indigenous Health and Wellbeing Conference** at Darwin, Australia. He delivered an address on Tribal Health in India and the findings of the Expert Committee Report on Tribal Health in India -2019.'

Drs Rani and Abhay Bang were invited as distinguished speakers by **Consulate General of India in Frankfurt**, Germany to commemorate the 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi in October 2019. On the occasion, Dr Abhay Bang gave a lecture on '**Mahatma Gandhi in 21st Century**.'



Dr. Abhay and Rani Bang with Ms. Pratibha Parkar, Consul General of India in Frankfurt, Germany

Drs. Abhay and Rani Bang, delivered a keynote speech at the 2019 Annual Meeting of The **American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene** held in Maryland, USA in November 2019. While Dr. Abhay Bang spoke about 'Research with the People-From Gadchiroli to Global,' Dr. Rani Bang delivered a lecture on 'Listening to Women.'

During his visit to USA in November 2019, Dr Abhay Bang also delivered a lecture at **Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore** on 'How to reduce tobacco and alcohol use in population- A district pilot in Gadchiroli.'

In November 2019, under the Stanley O. Foster Lecture Series of **Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University, Atlanta**, USA, Dr. Abhay Bang gave a lecture on 'Research with the People.'

People and Leadership



Trustees

- Dr. Abhay Bang (Chairman)
- Dr. Rani Bang
- Dr. Shekhar Bhojraj
- Dr. Upendra Vedpathak
- Mr. Vivek Sawant

Governing Body

- Dr. Abhay Bang (Chairman)
- Dr. Rani Bang
- Mr. Ashutosh Dharmadhikari
- Mr. Hiranmanji Warkhede
- Dr. Shekhar Bhojraj
- Dr. Upendra Vedpathak
- Mr. Vivek Sawant

Executive Committee

- Mr. Amrut Bang
- Dr. Anand Bang
- Mr. Digambar Deotale
- Mr. Mahesh Deshmukh
- Mr. Tushar Khorgade
- Dr. Yogesh Kalkonde

Our Team

SEARCH Human Resource- **345**

Full time staff- 160

Community Health Workers (Female)- 99

Community Health Workers (Male)- 86

Donor Acknowledgements



Our Program Partners (Alphabetically)

American India Foundation, USA
Dist. Administration, Gadchiroli, India
Gondwana University, Gadchiroli, India
Government Dental College, Nagpur, India
Government of Maharashtra, India
Integrated Tribal Development Programme,
Gadchiroli
Maharashtra Knowledge Corporation Limited, Pune
Maharashtra University of Health Sciences, Nasik
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, India
National Health Systems Resource Centre, India
National Rural Health Mission, India
Nagpur University
Navajbai Ratan Tata Trust, Mumbai
Sangath, Goa
Tata Education and Development Trust, Mumbai
Tata Steel Rural Development Society, Jharkhand

Our Funding Partners

Bajaj Foundation, India
Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd., India
Caring Friends, India
Dalal Foundation, India
Government of Maharashtra, India
Indians for Collective Action, USA
Infosys Foundation, India
MacArthur Foundation, USA
Maharashtra Knowledge Corp. Ltd, India
National Rural Health Mission, Maharashtra,
ONGC India Ltd., India
Sir Dorabji Tata Trust, India
Spine Foundation, India
Navajbai Ratan Tata Trust, India
Tribal Development Department, Maharashtra,
India
Wellcome Trust-DBT India Alliance, India

...and hundreds of individual donors

Participate in SEARCH



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Web: www.searchforhealth.ngo

Donate:

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

Society's Registration. No.- Mah 35/85 (Gad)
Public Trust Registration No.- F-224-Gad

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