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An observant reader will note a few changes in this edition of the Newsletter. For one, we have combined two issues of the Newsletter. For another, our editorial board has changed. The earlier members completed their tenure and a new team is in place.

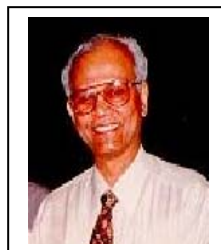
The Centre recently completed two major projects. Our RCH group successfully completed their project in June 2006 and we have just received word that the second phase of the project has been sanctioned and would continue for some more time. The IMPACT project on "Prevention, early detection and treatment of disabled/ diseased (D/D) children" which was being carried out in Maharashtra ended in February 2006. While carrying out this work we were struck by the fact that there are no provisions in the government or private sector schemes under which D/D children in the 0-6 years age group are covered. We therefore put up a proposal to IMPACT, UK and they agreed to sponsor a major part of the expenses. The same strategy of intersectoral collaboration and cooperation was to be followed but involving more agencies and NGOs.

The contributions of the staff of Chest & Allergy Department in the field of research, have been highlighted in this issue.

Dr. Deepak Prasher from the University College of London Ear Institute visited the Research Centre to explore the possibility of having a collaborative project on the effect of sound pollution on hearing among industrial workers.

Our colleagues from Vadu arranged a workshop on data collection

The Doctor's Club organised a guest lecture on "Hospital Associated (Noscomial) infections" by Dr. Pallavi Bhargava. The topic is very relevant in the present day scenario.



We take this opportunity to offer our felicitations to Dr. R. A. Mashelkar, our Chairman who was bestowed with the Godrej award.

On 24th September 2006, the new unit of Paediatric Intensive Care Unit was inaugurated.

The Research Centre lost two of its colleagues recently. Dr. N. H. Kulkarni, former Director of the Dept. of Community Medicine and an active member of the Centre passed away in Pune on 17th July 06 after a brief illness.



Late Dr. N. H. Kulkarni (second from left) actively participating in one of the programmes at Pabal

Mr. D. Hazare, Head Driver of the Centre passed away on 5th October 2006. Mr. Hazare had been working at KEMHRC for the past 23 years. May their souls rest in peace.

Dr. V. S. Padbidri

REHABILITATION OF THE DISABLED CHILDREN

For two decades now KEMHRC has entered a new field offering research cum service activities to the rural community where no government agency or NGO has been working actively, identifying its health needs and preparing replicable models. After establishing a strategy for the rehabilitation and prevention of disabilities in children of school going age in Maharashtra State, recently it extended this programme for the younger age group (0-6 years), a group which has remained unattended through the existing government and private sector programmes. Early intervention is advisable for prevention of disabilities and for the good health of our future generation. Due cognisance has been taken of unawareness of the community towards factors responsible for congenital disabilities.

A project on rehabilitation and prevention of disabilities in 0-6 years children started from 1st June 2006, following the principal of intersectoral coordination and integrated approach. IMPACT UK showed interest in extending help to cover a major part of the expenditure provided the local government /community participated in the programme. Zilla Parishad authorities (Local Self government) have shown keen interest in the programme and assured all necessary help to implement the programme in their districts. A few Trusts, Lions, Rotarians, Philanthropists are coming forward to participate in the programme in the respective districts. Voluntary agencies have consented to perform surgeries on disabled children at subsidised rates and to participate in "ad-hoc" Camps for facilitating the treatment to rural children.

Experts from District Hospital under the Civil Surgeon are prepared to extend their services at block level to assess the needs of disabled children. Medical Officers from Primary Health Centres have been motivated for their participation in the programme by arranging lecture series on Prevention and Rehabilitation of the disabled.

The programme has been initiated in six districts to start with. Training of Anganwadi workers (AWWs) has been completed with the help of ICDS & Health infrastructure by our project staff under the guidance and directives of Chief Executive Officer (IAS) of Zilla Parishads. Five adhoc camps for screening children were held at districts like Dhulia and Latur, with the participation of experts from Voluntary agencies. 18 surgeries on disabled

children for eye and orthopaedic disabilities (Cataract, Squint, Ptosis, CTEV) have been performed free of cost. 24 aids and appliances have been provided to disabled children. ICDS department from Zilla Parishad reimbursed the to and fro transport charges of disabled children and their parents, to the referral hospital.

Since there are large number of referral children awaiting experts' help, an invitation has been extended to voluntary agencies to join hands with KEMHRC for this Health Care Programme.

Dr. V. M. Tapshalkar

Academic activities of the Chest Unit , Department of Medicine

Asthma Diagnosis camp:

The Chest Unit, in collaboration with Chest Research Foundation (CRF) organized, a free asthma diagnosis camp in January 2006. The camp was inaugurated by Dr. B. G. Deshmukh, President of KEM Hospital. Around 50 patients participated in the camp. They underwent detail clinical examination, followed by Spirometry.

Asthma Education Programme:

The Chest Unit organised an asthma education programme for patients suffering from asthma in the months of February, May and August this year. Dr. Parag Khatavkar delivered a lecture on basics of asthma which included recognition and care to be taken during attacks of asthma; various inhalation devices and their inhalation technique; use of peak flow meter etc. This was followed by question-answer session in which the patients participated actively and their queries were answered by Dr. M. K. Kale and Dr. P. G. Khatavkar. The next programme is scheduled to be held on 1st December 2006.

Lectures for general practitioners at Borli Panchatan, Konkan in March 2006

- Diagnosis and Management of asthma - Dr. Parag Khatavkar
- Pitfalls in the diagnosis of Respiratory disease - Dr. Madhav Kale

Research Papers:

The following research papers were presented by the Chest Unit at the 16th European Respiratory Congress, held at Munich, Germany in September 2006

- a) Dr. Madhav Kale -
 - Study of lymph node tuberculosis
 - Study of tubercular pleural effusions
- b) Dr. Parag Khatavkar -
 - Utility of closed pleural biopsy in the diagnosis of pleural effusions
 - Role of bronchoscopy in the diagnosis of sputum smear negative cases

Dr. Parag Khatavkar was awarded Silver sponsorship and Dr. Madhav Kale Bronze sponsorship to attend the same.

Know your lung age campaign:

This campaign was organised at KEM Hospital by the Chest Unit, with CRF, Pune on the occasion of World COPD Day on 14th November 06. Spirometry was done free of cost and a lecture on Management of stable COPD was delivered by Dr. M. K. Kale

Lectures:

Following lectures were delivered as a part of CME programme for General and Chest physicians at the Indian Medical Association Hall, Miraj, on 19th November 2006: -

- COPD - Easy to diagnose, Easy to manage - Dr. Parag Khatavkar
- Pitfalls in the diagnosis of Chest diseases - Dr. Madhav Kale

Activities carried out under the project 'Involving Parents: As Vehicles Of Change In Adolescent Sexual And Reproductive Health In Urban And Rural India' between April to October 2006

1. House listing training for staff on 17th April 2006.
2. House listing of households in the project area completed in April 2006.
3. 5 days training of staff on baseline survey from 2nd to 6th May 2006.
4. Baseline survey from 8th May 2006 to 22nd June 2006.
5. Training of junior project staff 12th to 14th June 2006
6. Training members of Community Advisory Group (CAG) on 23rd and 24th June '2006
7. Retraining members of Community Advisory Group (CAG) - 13th to 15th July 2006, 21st September and 25th September 2006.
8. Retraining of junior project staff - 31st October to 2nd November 2006
9. Project Advisory Committee meeting consisting of Dr. Sanjay Mehendale, Dr. Siddhi Hirve, Dr. Mohan Deshpande, Dr. Sanjeevani Kulkarni, Dr. Nandita Kapadia, Dr. Anant Sathe, Mrs. Shanta Sathe, Dr. Rama Shivram and Dr. V.S. Padbidri. The Committee discussed the implementation of the project as well as provided insights into development of curriculum for the adolescents as well as parents.
10. Mass communication in the project area, in the form of culturally acceptable folk theatre as, part of the project is aimed at creating awareness as well as the need for communication between adolescents and their parents on Sexual and Reproductive Health issues as well as publicize the project activities in the community, have been organised. Street plays, puppet shows and one lavani programme have been organised.
11. Four Recreation cum Resource Centres (RRCs) where outdoor as well as indoor games as well as books are made available for the adolescents & parents in the project area were inaugurated by local opinion leaders of the respective areas.
12. Competitive activities for the adolescent boys and girls have been organised at the rural and urban project areas. Drawing competition with 'Myself and my parents' theme, rangoli competition and essay competition have been organised, Prizes and certificates have been distributed. The aim of this activity is to get the adolescents together and use the platform to create awareness about the project activities.
13. As part of the rapport building in the community, the staff took part in Ganpathi festival, local cultural programme during Dassera such as Bondla, etc.
14. Small Group Interactions for the adolescents and parents are being conducted at the field level by the trained field workers for a group of 8 to 10 adolescents and parents. A package of 3 days of 90 minutes each for the adolescents on communication and 6 days for the parents, initial three days for communication skills and 3 days for knowledge on SRH issues are being imparted to them through activity-filled training sessions.
15. Since October '06, a condensed version of the 6 days modules are being taken up at the home level, two to five in a session, for

those who couldn't attend the regular session.

the various rural health activities and social services research projects.

The following table shows the number of sessions taken at the rural and urban areas

Area	Adole scent boys	Adole scent girls	Fathers comm	Fathers knowled	Mothers comm	Mothers knowled
REGULAR SESSIONS						
Urban	25	31	4	2	12	12
Rural	18	17	5	5	13	13

Area	Adole scent boys	Adole scent girls	Fathers	Mothers
HOME SESSIONS				
Urban	--	--	21	21
Rural	--	--	34	37

Dr. Prasher's visit to KEMHRC

Between 9th and 12th August 2006, Dr. Deepak Prasher, Professor of Audiology, University College of London Ear Institute, London, UK and Dr. (Mrs.) Prasher, paid a visit to KEMHRC. Their primary objective was to explore the possibility of taking up a collaborative project on deafness prevalence with the ENT Dept. of KEM Hospital. On being informed about the Research Centre's collaboration with the ENT Dept. during the course of the IMPACT funded Pune District project, Dr. Prasher was eager that we also participate in the proposed project.



Besides discussions with the project staff, visits were arranged to familiarize him with our fieldwork. The Anganwadi and Primary school at Soundani Thakarwadi in Rajguru nagar, were visited. A meeting was also arranged with the Block level officials to demonstrate how the Research Centre Staff interacts with them. The Taluka Medical Officer described the health services set up in rural areas. Vadu Rural Hospital was also visited to see



At the end of the visit Dr. Prasher appreciated the work that is going on at Vadu and the Research Centre. He wanted us to explore the feasibility of studying the effect of sound pollution on hearing among workers in industrial units.

Dr. V. S. Padbidri

Inauguration of new NICU and expanded PICU at KEM Hospital, Pune

Seriously ill newborn babies need highly sophisticated medical care in special Neonatal Intensive Care Units (NICU). Such babies receive life support care and are monitored round the clock by expert nurses and doctors with the help of advanced equipment. NICU care not only enhances survival of tiny premies, but also strives for high quality of life.

Advances in neonatal care have helped in reducing neonatal mortality rate from 69 per 1000 to 40 per 1000 live birth in last 30 years. Survival of babies weighing just 500 grams is no more a news story! 40% of babies less than 1000 grams and 85 % of babies between 1001 and 1500 grams can now expect to go home. Survival of newborns with other problems has also improved remarkably. Survival rates from NICU at KEM Hospital, Pune have now improved from 72 % in 1980 to 90 %.

Department of Pediatrics, KEM Hospital, Pune started its first NICU way back in 1980 which grew to a 24-bed Level III unit catering for about 1000 babies every year.

With the help of generous donations by our well wishers, we have now shifted to the present magnificent premises built by the management of

KEM Hospital. The bed strength has gone to 40 with 9 'high dependency' beds.

Our 40-bedded Level III NICU is located on the 3rd floor of Dr. Banoo Coyaji building. It has been accredited by National Neonatology Forum and is one of the best units in the country.

We manage about 1,500 admissions in a year out of which nearly 125 babies weigh less than 1000 grams. Our survival rates are comparable to other top centres in the country.

All beds are equipped with central oxygen, compressed gas and suction and 9 high dependency beds with ventilators and multi-channel monitors.

We run neonatal transport ambulance service round the clock to get babies in a good shape. We offer this service to hospitals in Pune and around.

We conduct several research projects to advance scientific knowledge. We are a part of National Neonatal Database.

We also run a 10 bedded well-equipped PICU for older babies with about 800 admissions in a year. This unit caters for critically ill children suffering from various potentially life- threatening ailments.



We organized a function to inaugurate our upgraded NICU and PICU on 24th September 2006. All our donors and well wishers were invited to grace this occasion. We took this opportunity to thank all those who have helped us in achieving our dream of providing contemporary intensive care services to children.

The programme was inaugurated by Shri. P. P. Chhabria and Shri. G. P. Hinduja.

State Level Officers & NGOs Coordination meeting

KEMHRC has recently undertaken a new project "Rehabilitation of Disabled Children" which has been largely sponsored by IMPACT, UK. Under this programme, children in the age group of 0-6 years would be screened by experts and if found to be disabled, are offered appropriate corrective measures to help them get over their disability. In the earlier years a similar programme was being carried out for children in the 6-16 years age group. The disabled children in this group are being covered under several governmental schemes including Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan but there are no schemes for the 0-6 years age group.



The concept of intersectoral co-operation and collaboration needed to be explained to several government agencies and NGOs. A co-ordination meeting was therefore convened at the Research Centre on 25th September 2006 under the Chairmanship of Mr. Ujwal Uke, Commissioner ICDS, New Mumbai. The other members of the State Level Committee who attended included Mr. R. K. Gaikwad, Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, Mr. Narendra Kawade, Director Maharashtra Prathamik Shikshan Parishad, Mr. M. D. Borkhade, Dy. Commissioner ICDS, Mumbai and a representative from the Office of the Commissioner, Women & Child Welfare, Pune. Altogether 60 delegates attended the meeting.

The delegates were welcomed by Dr. Padbidri, Director, KEMHRC. The genesis of the IMPACT project was also traced. Dr. Tapshalkar, Project Co-ordinator, made a presentation on "Intersectoral Co-ordination and Integrated Approach: Achievements and Constraints". This was followed by a brief presentation on rubella vaccine by Mr. M. Honap, Area Sales Manager, Serum Institute of India.

During the discussions that followed, several important suggestions were put forth:-

- ❖ It is essential to prepare a simple checklist to enable the Anganwadi workers to carry out correct eye and ENT exam of children.
- ❖ Give lectures to the teenaged girls so that they are motivated to take the Rubella vaccine.
- ❖ NGOs should be motivated to actively participate in the rehabilitation programme.
- ❖ Surplus funds may be available in govt. agencies under different heads. These could be made available for this programme.
- ❖ At the moment, it is important to know the exact status of rubella infection in the country. This could be done by taking up some good research projects.

While summing up the proceedings, Mr. Uke suggested that an Advisory Committee of 7-8 persons be set up to prepare guidelines for follow-up action arising from the meeting.

Mr. Dudhane, Field Co-ordinator, proposed the vote of thanks.

The late Sarah Rao Fund for development of formal and informal education for girls in Pabal area.



Dr. Sarah Rao and her husband, Commodore S S Rao, VSM (Retd) joined the Research Centre around November 1988. Being used to the Delhi Circuit, people wondered how they would adapt themselves to the rural environment of Pabal and Vadu. They adapted themselves wonderfully to the changed environment. After spending several years here, they retired and moved to the US to be with their daughter and grand children. Dr. Sarah Rao passed away in the US in early July 2004.

Commodore Rao, his relatives and well wishers therefore decided to set up a fund in her memory, in October 2004. The amount donated has been set up as a Fixed Deposit and the interest earned given as scholarship to deserving girls towards their formal and informal education. In the first year eight girls from the Arts, Science and Commerce faculties were selected to receive the scholarship. This year the function was held on Friday, 18th August 2006. Ten girls from Pabal and the neighbouring villages were awarded the scholarships.

Developing a Prototype for Data Sharing – building capacity in data management across India, Thailand and Papua New Guinea

The First Cross Site Data Sharing Workshop was organized by the Vadu Rural Health Program at KEMHRC from 10th to 13th October 2006. This was attended by scientists from three demographic surveillance sites Vadu, Kanchanaburi (Thailand) and Wosera (Papua New Guinea) and the International Institute of Information Technology (I²IT) Pune. Dr Siddhi Hirve, Director, Vadu Rural Health Program elaborated on the project and emphasised that the Indepth Network's strength lies in its collective work.



The second day of the workshop organized at I²IT Pune, added to the IT skills of the participants. Dr Srikanth Tyagarajan made a presentation on "Impact of Embedded Systems in our Social Lives and Health". Prof. Suresh SS of I²IT talked on the Software Requirement Specifications (SRS) and Importance of meticulous documentation.

The minimum dataset for cross site data sharing includes four events, viz Births, Deaths, Marriage and Migration. Minimum common variable decided were age (both the reported as well as the derived

age would be included), sex, education, marital status, occupation, relationship with household head and the age at first marriage. The I²IT shall give quality checks such as checks to avoid duplication of Identification codes and missing values. This will help ensuring good quality data base for sharing within participating sites and outside this group, with others. It was decided that all independent datasets would be pooled into a central database after ensuring necessary security checks and ethical issues. I²IT has committed to host this central database on their server.

End Product

A prototype for data sharing- I²IT and Vadu leads
Software Requirements Specifications (SRS)- I²IT leads

Dr. S. Juvekar

Hospital Associated Infections

KEM Hospital Doctors' Club in association with the Department of Microbiology, arranged a lecture on "Hospital Associated (Noscomial) infections" on 13.11.2006 by Dr. Pallavi Bhargava, Infectious Diseases Physician at Deenanath Mangeshkar Hospital, Pune.

Dr. Bande welcomed the audience and invited Dr. M. Y. Bapaye, Director, Surgery Dept and Dr. V. L. Yemul, Medical Administrator, to chair the session. Dr. Vikram Padbidri, Microbiologist, gave an account of the antibiotic susceptibility pattern in our hospital during the last one year. Dr. K. B. Niphadkar, Head, Microbiology Dept. introduced Dr. Pallavi Bhargava. She shared her experiences with the audience with the help of an interesting set of case studies. It highlighted the importance of candidemia, its underdiagnosis and how it is important to have a high index of suspicion to pick up candida. She also commended the KEM Microbiology dept for their work in speciation of *Candida*. The second set of cases addressed the issue of ESBLs. Dr. Bhargava took the audience through management strategies for *E.coli* and *Klebsiella*. The problem of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* was also discussed; finally Dr. Bhargava wrapped up her talk by relating her experiences with bugs in the US and what new antibiotics, we could look forward to.

There was a healthy discussion with the audience. The vote of thanks was proposed by Dr. Deepali Rao.

RCH II project and Model RCH District programme

Dr.G.A.Panse

Date	Activity	Place
3 rd May 2006	Attended the Regional Review meeting for NRHM (RCH-II)	NIHFW, New Delhi
16 & 17 th May 2006	Attended the National Level Orientation workshop on Training of Skilled Birth Attendants(SBAs)	NIHFW, New Delhi
25 th May 2006	Participated and assisted the State Family Welfare Bureau, Pune, Govt. of Maharashtra to organize the RCH-II Training Review Meeting / workshop for the selected districts viz. Nagpur, Amravati, Thane, Nanded & Parbhani.	KEM Hospital Research Centre, Pune
26 th May 2006	Conducted visit of Smt. Sushama Rath, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of India to demonstrate Training and Field Activities in the EC-SIP Model RCH District Project by KEMHRC, Pune	KEM Hospital Research Centre, Pune and villages Malwadi & Mazgaon of Bhor Taluka, Dist. Pune
31 st August 2006	Training of NGOs on Adolescent Health	SOSVA, Pune
7 th Sept. 2006	Attended Meeting on drafting Maharashtra State Health Policy 2006-07, as a member of the Committee	State Family Welfare Bureau, Pune

Dr. Col.Hans Raj

Date	Activity	Place
25 th May 2006	Attended State level workshop on review of training of RCH-II training for 5 selected districts of Maharashtra.	KEM Hospital Research Centre, Pune

6 th & 7 th June 2006	On the Spot Monitoring visit of ISD Training of Municipal Corporation MOs	HFWTC, Kolhapur & CPR Hospital, Kolhapur
8 th June 2006	Monitoring of ISD Training of staff nurses of Municipal Corporation	DTT Centre, Kolhapur & CPR Hospital, Kolhapur
7 th & 8 th June 2006	Lecture / discussion on Violence Against Women and Gender Discrimination	CSM Govt. Medical College, MBBS students, Kolhapur & D.Y.Patil Medical College, Kolhapur Under Graduate and Post Graduate students & Nursing students
9 th June 2006	On the Spot Monitoring visit of ISD Training of Staff Nurses of Municipal Corporation	HFWTC, Aundh, Pune
16 th June 2006	On the Spot Monitoring visit of ISD Training of Staff Nurses of Municipal Corporation	YCM Hospital, Pimpri, Pune
20 th June 2006	On the Spot Monitoring visit of ISD Training of Corporation MOs & Lecture discussion on Bio Safety and Infection Control	HFWTC, Aundh Pune
20 th July 2006	On the Spot Monitoring visit of ISD Training of Corporation MOs	YCM Hospital, Pimpri, Pune & HFWTC, Aundh, Pune
14 th August 2006	Lecture / discussion on Nosocomial infection and prevention for Corporation MOs	HFWTC, Aundh
30 th Oct. – 4 th Nov. 2006	Attended WHO Sponsored Integrated Training Course on NRHM	NIHFW, New Delhi

Dr. Mallika Alexander attended the workshop “Programming For Young People: New Evidence On Young People’s Situation And Needs” organized by Population Council, New Delhi on 12th and 13th October 2006 as part of their dissemination activities. KEMHRC has just completed an exploratory study in partnership with Population Council entitled ‘ *Formation And Experiences Of Sexual Partnerships And Pathways In Resolving Unintended Pregnancy Among Youth In Selected Sites In Pune District*’. A paper from the project ‘Pre-marital relationships in a traditional setting in India: underlying factors’ was presented at the workshop. Since it was one of the first community based survey, the study generated a lot of interest and appreciation and KEMHRC’s contribution to the study was acknowledged in prominent newspapers like Delhi, Mumbai and Kolkatta edition of Times of India and Asian Age, etc.

The workshop covered a wide range of issues related to young people such as building social assets and livelihoods skills of unmarried adolescent girls, understanding the diversity of sexual experiences, measuring agency among young people, married adolescents and early marriage in India, addressing power differentials in sexual relations and parental perspectives on girls’ and boys’ opportunities and vulnerabilities. The workshop was attended by Deputy Health Secretary, officers from Planning Commission and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare as well as other NGOs working in the related field.

Obituary



Mr. D. Hazare

