

Amici News

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To
Friends,
Everywhere,
Under one Sky, 2010

To love is to help another to live, you must make others happy to be happy.

: - The Book of love, Raoul Follereau

North East India:



Mid Term Conference of Indian Association of Leprologists: Guwahati, Assam (2nd and 3rd October 2010)... Lepcon Guwahati.

For the first time ever, a regional Mid-term Conference IAL was held in the North East Zone. More than a hundred participants attended the conference, with a good participation from Guwahati Medical College. During the conference about 25 papers were presented. Dr. Manimozhi attended the conference.

Dr. Mrs. A. Lalu, former SLO- Meghalaya.

Meghalaya (6th to 8th October-2010)

Dr. R.R. Lanong, Zonal Leprosy Officer takes over charge as State Leprosy Officer, from Dr. Mrs. A. Lalu who now takes over charges as Additional Director Health Services – Meghalaya.



L-R: Dr. Mrs. K. Lyngdoh – MO PHC/Smit, Dr. Mrs. Raneer- DLO East Khasi Hills, Dr. R.R. Lanong – SLO Meghalaya.

Missionaries of Charity – Shantivan, Leprosy Rehabilitation Centre, Nangpoh started collaboration with the state NLEP. Dr. Lanong through his initiatives made MDT available to the project including other logistics support. There are about 70 inmates with other out patients utilizing services from North East areas, thus operating as a Secondary Referral Centre providing quality leprosy services in turn supporting the State NLEP.

National Sample Survey –

Validation exercises were carried out in East Khasi Hills district, Suspect cases where validated and no case of Leprosy was detected. Dr.Lanong, Dr. Ranee, Mr. Durga Rao – Programme technical Officer- AIFO and Dr.Manimozhi carried out these exercises as a team. And Mr.DurgaRao with DLO – carried out validation exercises at Garo Hills district/Tura Block.



The field workers engaged in the Sample survey had suspected these cases which were found to be cases of Ainhum and TAO (thrombo angina obliterans – also called as Buerger's / Raynaud's disease at the East Khasi Hills.

Sr.Sarika, Sr.Gerose and Sr.Stanley In-charge of leprosy programme, briefed about their mission and vision during which they expressed some of their needs. They wanted some of their staff/inmates to undergo training in Physio – therapy and foot wear techniques.

Assam:

In the State of Assam four districts (Darrang, Dibrugarh, Cachar, Kamrup-Metro) were selected to carry out National Sample Survey and the survey was started from the 1st of August 2010. Dr.Porichha Medical Coordinator – LEPRO Society/ Orissa carries out validation exercises. North Cachar Hills and Kamrup Districts survey exercises still under progress.

And as on date a total of 141,579 populations were covered with 276 suspected cases and 36 cases confirmed as leprosy.

Consequence upon the increase in new Leprosy case detection during the recent National Sample Survey, during the Executive Meeting of State Health Society Assam it was decided that a State Sample Survey be carried out in all the district within a period of 3 months. The Joint Director – State Programme Officer NLEP will be initiating this activity in due course.

A glimpse of National Sample Survey (NSS) in Assam



Dr.D.Porichha

To devise a national policy, the 131st report of the committee on petition of Rajya Sabha, 2008, recommended to have the realistic figure of Persons affected by leprosy. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare undertook a study for the purpose. A Workshop for the Sample Survey was held on 9th May 2010 for the first batch of officers, Dr N Manimozhi, AIFO and Dr D Porichha, LEPRASociety attended as Central Supervisors. AIFO as the ILEP coordinator took the responsibility

of Survey (NSS) activities in Assam, Meghalaya and Aunanchal States. On 29th May a meeting was held at Guwahati in the office of the Jt. Director looking after leprosy. It was presided by the Joint Director and attended by four District Leprosy Officers/ Medical Officers of the four districts selected for NSS, the Central Supervisor and other officials of the head quarter involved in the leprosy control activities.

The training and Action Plan of all the DLOs were reviewed. The survey would be completed by September end, followed by submission of the report to Central JALMA Institute for Leprosy and Central Leprosy Division.

The things did not move as planned. The survey work encountered series of challenges from the initial days. Joint Director under whose central command survey activities would have progressed retired on 30th June 2010. After some gap, the new Jt. Director joined but again transferred after a short spell of office. A court order stayed the transfer and uncertainty continued. The Senior Medical Officer (State), who was coordinating leprosy activities in the state HQ, was also transferred further hampering the leprosy work. Dr N Manimozhi, Medical Coordinator along with the Central Supervisor, met the DHS and the Regional Director more than once. They requested for alternate arrangement and push NSS activities from various angles. In spite of all efforts the success was not expected partly due to interrupted guidance and support from the State Leprosy division and inadequate time given by Zonal Leprosy Officer, in survey in the urban area due to his dual charge.

Natural calamities mostly flood, continuous rain, hilly and inaccessible terrains had their share of obstacles resulting in the low coverage of survey. The geographic factors seem to make rainy season quite unsuitable for field survey activities. The DLOs with their survey teams are trying their best to achieve their targets with the support from State Surveillance Officer and Sr. Medical Officer for the state HQ and a highly enthusiastic AIFO-Medical Coordinator. The latter has also contributed in modifying the format to elicit information on stigma and discrimination.

From the survey result available, Assam appears to have considerable leprosy problem with very weak POD service and almost nonexistent RCS and protective foot wear facilities. A streamlined quality patient care including POD services needs strong NGO support. AIFO has volunteered to shoulder this responsibility and deserves to be cheered and supported from all corners.

SPARK CBR and SPARK Research activities



SPARK CBR Research: Thematic meeting on health (CBR Matrix): Three days meeting held at MOB Mandya in the second week of October 2010. Around 23 persons belong to various categories (Male / female) participated in the discussion. Similarly, Thematic meeting on learning disability and visual impairment were held at TRDC, in the last week of October and second week of November 2010. For the learning disability, Persons with learning disability and children with same difficulty along with many parents participated in the three days discussion. For the theme of visual impairment, a very few accompany person along with person with vision disability (Both male and female) took part in the discussion.

As one of the major activity, three days reorientation programme was facilitated by Jayanth and Parthipan for Research core core members and facilitators of Emancipatory research. The main purpose of the reorientation programme was to reorient Emancipatory methodology, concept, principle, reorganizing the research core group.



CBR Activities:



Three days workshop for GLRA partners was supported by AIFO, Which was held from 21-23 oct 2010 at Bangalore. Mr. Jose, Dr. Jayanth and Dr. Parthipan participated as resource persons. Around 25 representatives from GLRA Partners actively participated in three days meeting and discussed various topics including field visit in AIFO Mandya CBR Project.

Dr. Jayanth and Dr. Parthipan presented AIFO in a two day meeting on situation of DPOs in India organized by LCD South Asia at Bangalore. There were nearly 20 organizations from south India exchanged information of DPOs.

AIFO CBR coordinator Dr. Jayanth visited Mudhol CBR Project In the month of Oct 2010. The main purpose of the visit was to discuss and to facilitate the project to prepare their future action plan.



A I F O Sponsored one day NGO Meeting conducted by Disability commissioner Karnataka which was conducted on 10 Nov 2010 at Bangalore. Mr. Jose, Dr. Jayanth and Dr. Parthipan and all AIFO Supported Karnataka projects were participated in the meeting.

One of the out was state coordination committee formed to ensure the proper of implementation of disability census 2011 and recommendation for new PWD act.

Management - Accounting (17.to 23.9.2010)

The Accounts – Manager/AIFO Bangalore visited three partners, St.Catald- Project, ADC-Pedana and St.Joseph Leprosy Rehab-Centre – Niddadavole to assist the project in better Accounts management, documentation and record keeping, following the Bangkok/Bi-annual meeting resolutions related to Accounts Management.

St. CATALD -THIRUVOOR PROJECT:

The Project continued undertaking NLEP, Exclusive School for children with Cerebral Palsy, Mental Health activities and CBR with support from, AIFO (Leprosy/ CBR), Hilton Fund Sisters, Holy Childhood Germany and Stitching Lilian foundation for the School and others. For administrative and operational convenience of funds transactions it was decided that the project would collaborate with ADC Pedana, since both projects belong to the same congregation.

Sr.Prasanna, is the superior of the house, maintains the accounts of AIFO funds, for CBR/Leprosy projects.

A.D.C.- PEDANA: GUDIWADA.

Sr.Pavana Mother Superior manages the Projects Administrative, accounts and other operational issues, while Dr.Sr.Prasanthi Mary manages the clinical and hospital administration. The project continues undertaking NLEP, CBR and HIV/AIDS related activities effectively providing quality holistic health services.

ST. JOSEPH LEPROSY REHABILITATION CENTRE: NIDDADAVOLE:

Sr.Angelina Superior of the house manages the programme in this centre, while their funds and other higher level decisions take place at their Provencial – HQ at Bangalore. AIFO and Aktion Kanchanabury – Germany that enables them to run the rehabilitation centre for about 25 elderly persons affected by Leprosy, support the project. The project also undertakes activities such as candle making, Book binding, vocational training programmes in tailoring and training in spoken English for the marginalized and underprivileged women.

It was an interesting interaction with the accountants who had shown immense interest to upgrade their knowledge & skills in Accounts Management , preparation of monthly, quarterly statements/budget versus actual statements –

Sr.Prasan – St. Catald: I had received good and effective training from the manager Accounts (AIFO) to maintain the books of accounts in a proper way.

Sr. Pavana- I am enriched and learnt systematic way of preparing vouchers, writing accounts books, upgraded knowledge in accounts management.

Sr. Angelina-Nidadavolu: This effective and enriching training made me to maintain the books of accounts, by myself only, without the help of any other person.

-Mr. Patrick. A :Manager Accounts

Forth-coming programmes:

23 to 25 November 2010:

CBR Research the second scientific advisory meeting (SAG) of Emancipatory research under SPARK . Mr. K.V.Rajanna, State Commissioner for disabilities will be participating in the meeting on 25-11-2010.

28th November to 5th December 2010:

Dr. Manimozhi and Dr. Sunil will be visiting Assam NLEP Project.

29th November 2010:

DLO's quarterly Review meeting – Meghalaya, during which Socio-economic rehabilitation of Persons affected by leprosy will be initiated.

2nd to 20th December 2010:

Mr. Jose & Dr. Jayanth will be visiting Bologna to participate in the AIFO International Disability day testimonial, Country Co-ordinators refresher training, AIFO/DPI seminar and related events to be held in Italy.

2nd to 8th December 2010:

Ms. Bindu Joseph from Cochin Project will be attending The workshop on Community Mental Health and Development (CMHD collaboratively organised by TISS Mumbai and Basic Needs India at Mumbai.

3rd December 2010:

Dr. Jayanth Kumar will be visiting Brussels-Belgium to attend the conference invited by IDDC to participate in a panel discussion called "keeping the promise Mainstreaming disability in the Millennium Development Goals towards 2015 and beyond"

10th & 11th December 2010:

From AIFO partner project MOB – Mandya, Sr. Leela will be attending the CBR National Seminar which will be held in New Delhi.

Your contribution will make our News Letter rich and keeping in touch, looking forward for your contributions

-Editor



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