

ENGAGING MEN IN SRHR: PRIORITISING ISSUES AND DEVELOPING CONTENT

The FPAI Headquarters, Access Unit, conducted a workshop on March 31 and April 1, 2015 at Panchkula. The objectives were to understand the role of men in SRHR, and to develop messages and material for engaging males to address Gender Based Violence (GBV) and enabling them to seek SRH services. Teams from Agra, Yamunangar, Mohali and Panchkula Branches participated in the workshop. The concepts covered include: Masculinity and its link with GBV, SRH for men and engaging men in SRHR. Key messages and slogans were developed through discussions, and they would be used in the IEC material.

The deliberations focused on the why, what and how of engaging with men to prevent GBV and encourage men to seek SRH services, while supporting their partners. Participants brought in their perspective of local situations and developed slogans. This collective exercise of brainstorming to develop material was appreciated.

The Panchkula Branch will sift through the session output and develop IEC material, which would be reviewed and finalized by the Headquarters. As next steps, two clear themes emerged: Engaging men to prevent GBV and encouraging them to seek SRH services. Common myths on sexuality, information on key components of SRH for men like contraception, prevention and management of STI/RTI/HIV, taking equal responsibility for SRH issues – all would be included in IEC material.

MEETING ON 'HIV STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT FOR NORTH EAST INDIA'

The meeting was organised by National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO) in Shillong, on April 22 and 23, 2015, to finalise state-specific plans. Ms. Nisha Jagdish, Director-HIV, made a presentation on HIV interventions initiated by FPAI. Outcome: NACO requested FPAI to provide them technical support in SRH and to expand our work in the North East.

LUCKNOW BRANCH PRESIDENT ATTENDS SEMINAR IN CANADA

Dr. Madhu Gupta, Branch President, Lucknow, and Vice President, CEC, attended the 12th Canadian Parliamentary Seminar of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association in Ottawa, Canada. At the Seminar, which was held from May 24 to 30, 2015, Dr Gupta spoke on 'Women Empowerment' in the Canadian Parliament, winning the applause of the MPs.

FPAI BECOMES GOVERNING COUNCIL MEMBER OF INN

Following the attendance of Ms. Nisha Jagdish, Director-HIV, at the AGM of the Indian Network of NGOs (INN) on June 17, 2015 in New Delhi, FPAI was selected as a Governing Council Member, INN. Consequently, a seminar on 'Children and HIV' was organised, on June 18, 2015, where she presented a snapshot of FPAI's work.

HRD FOR SRH CARE SERVICES

Under this project, seven training courses were conducted during April-June 2015. 129 participants – from Karnataka, Maharashtra, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat – received training in:

- Basic counselling skills • Family Planning for Civil Society Organisations • Use of social media • Leadership and Management • Sex and Sexuality Counselling

The courses were conducted in Hindi and English, using participatory training. The team got positive feedback from participants about the course, trainers and how it was organised.

Upcoming training courses:

Sr. No	Training Course	Date
1	Meeting Sexual & Reproductive Health needs of survivors of Gender Based Violence	Sept 23-24, 2015
2	Use of Social Media	Oct 7-8, 2015
3	Resource Mobilisation through Corporate Social Responsibility	Oct 14-15, 2015
	Counselling in Trauma, Guilt & Self Esteem	Oct 28-29, 2015

For more details on courses please contact us at 022- 40863101 or email training@fpaindia.org

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FP2020 - MEETING WITH CIVIL SOCIETY

A 'Meeting with Civil Society' was organized on April 22, 2015 at New Delhi. FP2020, an outcome of the London Summit held in 2012 on Family Planning, has the commitment of over 20 governments including India to address the policy, financing, delivery and socio-cultural barriers to women accessing contraceptive information, services and supplies. This was the first time the Reference Group (RG) met in an FP2020 committed country.

With leaders from government, civil society, private sector and donor organisations, the 18-member RG is tasked with steering FP2020 towards its goal by promoting the fundamental right of women and girls to decide, freely and for themselves, whether, when and how many children to have. FP2020 activities emphasise a rights-based approach to family planning programmes.

This meeting, attended by Ms. Geeta Sethi, Secretary General, and Mr. Sreedharan Nair, Director, External Relations, enabled Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to engage with the RG and share their experiences on implementing family planning at all levels; and to explain how CSOs can support better. Others present include: RG Co-Chair Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin, Executive Director of UNFPA; RG Co-Chair Dr. Chris Elias, President of Global Development at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation; Ms. Beth Schlachter, Interim Executive Director, FP2020; Mr. Simon Cooke, CEO, Marie Stopes International; Mr. Tewodros Melesse, Director, International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF); Ms. Poonam Muttreja, Executive Director, Population Foundation of India; Mr. C K Mishra, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India. Youth volunteers of FPAI-New Delhi also took part.

LEAD STORIES

'NOTHING ABOUT US WITHOUT US'

- NATIONAL MEETING ON CITIZEN'S PARTICIPATION AND ENGAGEMENT FOR IMPROVING WOMEN'S AND CHILDREN'S HEALTH

White Ribbon Alliance-India organised a national meeting in partnership with FPAI, IPPF-SARO, Centre for Catalysing Change, Plan India, Save the Children, and World Vision India with the objectives of drawing attention to safe motherhood and citizens' participation to achieve it; and appealing to citizens, governments and NGOs to develop an action plan to address the health of women and children. FPAI was represented by Mr. Sreedharan Nair, Director External Relations; Mr. Subhash Khake, Coordinator, Regional Resource Centre; and Ms. Bindiya Nimla, Director, Advocacy and Training.

70% in the period 1990-2012. Newborn deaths have reduced from 327/100,000 to 167/100,000. Child mortality is down to 52/1000 from 114/1000. He called for people to be more responsive and demanding for entitlements and quality health services. Mr. Amitabh Behar, Executive Director, National Foundation of India, spoke on the process and opportunities for citizen engagement. CSOs' engagement in Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) consultations has been limited. There is a need for a citizens' campaign to include civil society in discussions related to SDGs.

Mr. Raghav Chadha, Spokesperson, Aam Admi Party (AAP), spoke on participatory governance. Dr. Rakesh Kumar, Joint Secretary (RCH), Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India, who was the Chief Guest, mentioned that maternal mortality declined by

This was followed by a panel discussion and open forum, with recommendations on how citizens and government can engage on women and children's health.



CONSULTATIONS ON POST 2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA WITH PARLIAMENTARIANS AND KEY STAKEHOLDERS



FPAI and Indian Association of Parliamentarians for Population and Development (IAPPD) organised consultative meetings with Parliamentarians and other key stakeholders in New Delhi (June 9), Bhubaneswar (June 24) and Chandigarh (June 26). The objective was to initiate a dialogue with Parliamentarians and other stakeholders in articulating the Post-2015 development agenda with focus on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), and work on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

On June 9, Ms. Geeta Sethi, Secretary General, set the context: "These (Sustainable Development) goals were developed by a participatory process... Each one of us has an important role to play in getting what we would like to have... Sexual and Reproductive Health are not explicit in these goals and still they are (an) integral part of health... Various sectors need to be included to see the linkages... share the challenges and see what is achievable for a better world." The Chief Guest, Prof. P J Kurien, Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha, said: "We have made considerable achievement in MDGs but Maternal Mortality and Infant Mortality still exists. There is a need to examine to what extent we achieved MDGs and what are the impediments in our success... Let us not go for another set of goals after 15 years... Let's achieve these SDGs this time... One of the biggest impediments in achieving MDG targets including MDGs 4 and 5 is the exponential growth of population... It is important to encourage contraception, spacing of pregnancies, and access to information on sexual issues. I also welcome the step of Government of Karnataka for providing sexual education to young people."



In his keynote address, Dr. Rakesh Kumar, Joint Secretary (RCH), Ministry of Health, shared, "With an annual reduction of 6.5% in Maternal Mortality, India has performed much better than the global average. Against the MDG 5 target of 140, India at present is reporting an MMR of 167 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births. There are higher chances that India will achieve its target for MMR. But, what is important is that not a single woman should die giving birth. A pregnant woman gives nine months' notice and still she dies. With one-third of girls getting married before 18, child-marriage continues to pose one of the major problems for the country. India is one of the youngest countries with 2.3 million adolescents. To make the SDGs a success and address the unfinished agenda of MDGs, we have to focus on health and education of adolescents."

The MPs and MLAs agreed that making Parliamentarians aware of the post 2015 global development agenda is key. They are the link between people and the government and hence important to setting goals/policies and achieving them.



At the Odisha State Level Consultation in Bhubaneswar, Mr. Baijayant Panda, MP, said in his inaugural address: "Goals and targets are self-chosen. It serves as a marker. We have to create the journey to reach the goal... Need for operational planning and implementation. Challenge is to speed up, as we have diversity in our democracy. Economic growth depends upon all sorts of

development. Need to improve creation of jobs. In addition to economic growth, we need to be conscious about sustainable issues and renewable resources." The event was hosted by FPAI Bhubaneswar Branch, with attendance from Kolkata and Singhbhum Branches as well.

Mr. Kunwar Pal Gujjar, Haryana Vidhan Sabha Speaker, called for stronger laws to ensure SRH of women; and for all political parties to work collectively in the national interest. The Haryana State Level Consultation, hosted by FPAI Panchkula Branch, was also attended by Agra, Ahmedabad, Yamunanagar, and Mohali Branches. Dr. Kalpana Apte, Senior Secretary General, Programme Implementation, stressed: "Post 2015 development agenda must include the unfinished agenda from MDGs and ensure that 'no one is left behind' – maternal health, comprehensive sexuality education and reproductive rights are important."

Mr. Umesh Aradhya, President, FPAI opined: "Post 2015 development agenda in India should be focused on state level variations and priorities. We hope that our MPs and MLAs would raise these important issues in Parliament and legislative assemblies for formulating proper policies."

The consultations received wide media coverage (print and electronic) both in English and local languages.



JOINING VOICES FP2020

Joining Voices is an advocacy project initiated by International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) that aims to safeguard and strengthen financial commitments to reproductive health and family planning, and reinforce political leadership on universal access. Out of the four case studies (two each from Mumbai and Hyderabad Branches), one will be covered as a story and another as a blog:

ADVOCACY PROJECT MEETINGS

Ms. Jyotari Ray, External Consultant of IPPF-SAR, visited the CSO partners— Child In Need Institute (West Bengal), Srijan Foundation (Jharkhand) and Narayani Seva Sanasthan (NSS)—as part of the 'Building Momentum for SRH and HIV Integration in India' project to document best practices on integrating SRH and HIV. Factsheets were developed on: (i) Safe Abortion, (ii) HIV, (iii) Universal Access to SRH, (iv) Sexual and Gender Based Violence, (v) Family Planning, (vi) Climate Change and SRH, (vii) SRH-HIV Integration and (viii) Comprehensive Sexuality Education.

At the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), South Asia Regional meeting held in Bangkok to discuss the strengthening of MDGs 5 A and B in South Asia and creating champions to garner support for SRHR, Ms. Amita Dhanu, Director, Adolescents, and Ms. Bindiya Nimla, Director, Advocacy and Training, prepared a work plan for political mapping findings, prioritizing issues, preparing advocacy messages and developing success indicators. During the meeting, learnings were shared including the way



SPECIAL DAYS, SPECIAL EVENTS

CELEBRATING THE DAY DEDICATED TO HEALTH WORLDWIDE ON APRIL 7 WITH THE THEME: FOOD SAFETY – FROM FARM TO PLATE

At our Ahmedabad Branch, three awareness programmes were conducted with different groups, comprising 124 women.

Bangalore Branch organised an awareness programme highlighting Personal Hygiene, Nutrition and Prevention of Anemia, and the Importance of Nutritional Foods for an audience of students.

Bhubaneswar Branch organized a programme at Patharbandha slum with 30 participants, mostly women and adolescent girls. The importance of food safety was stressed.

It was a 5-day celebration at our Mohali Branch. Four events were conducted, with over 200 people participating.

Nilgiris Branch observed the day amidst children.



A DAY DEDICATED TO THE ENVIRONMENT. THEME: '7 BILLION PEOPLE, 1 PLANET, CONSUME WITH CARE'

Belgaum Branch inaugurated the programme by watering plants and singing songs on the environment.

At our Nilgiris Branch, a special address focused on the need to reduce, reuse and recycle.

It was a two-day celebration at our Mohali Branch, with 36 participants, including 22 women.



HIGHLIGHTING THE IMPORTANCE OF MENSTRUAL HYGIENE

Our Bangalore Branch organized a Menstrual Hygiene Day programme for adolescents.

Madurai Branch conducted a camp for general public.



COMMENDING THE ROLE OF FAMILIES

The International Day of Families was celebrated at our Bijapur Branch with the participation of 22 men and 39 women.

At our Mohali Branch, 45 men and women attended a special programme.

CELEBRATING SAFE MOTHERHOOD

28 participants took part in the Safe Motherhood Day celebrations at our Belgaum Branch.

At our Nilgiris Branch, the Day was observed with new mothers.

The topic 'Youth Population and Safe Motherhood' was chosen to celebrate the Day at our Sagar Branch.



AHMEDABAD

An awareness programme was organized on International Day against Homo Phobia and Trans Phobia. 29 Young MSMs participated.

SRH issues highlighted through stall at Vacation Mela 2015 which attracted around 50,000 visitors.

A 2-day training programme for Peer Educators was conducted; 17 PEs attended the training.

Municipal Corporation praises branch: The AIDS Control Society of Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation awarded a Letter of Appreciation for the Branch's dedicated support for HIV/AIDS and Adolescent Education Program.



ACTION FROM OUR BRANCHES

BELGAUM

An Adolescent project training was conducted for Resource Persons with the theme was 'Growing up is fun'.

An Orientation Programme on Safe Abortion for chemists/druggists was organised to build linkages and increase safe abortion referrals.



DHARWAD

Newcomers' meet, organised to welcome 19 new members.

Counselling Centre at CSI College, conducted for students. Around 200 enroll every year.

Cervical Cancer Detection Camp and Children's Camp organised.

Awareness and Health Checkup for youth organised, which was attended by 70 young people.



BIJAPUR

An Awareness Programme on HIV/AIDS was organised, which was attended by 41 POs/ Counsellors.

A Health Camp and Awareness Programme highlighting 'CD4 and PLHIV'.

At a Safe Abortion Awareness Programme, literature was distributed to the participants.

An Annual Meeting with POs and Counsellors was conducted where the partnership between DHO and NGOs was stressed.

An Adolescent Awareness Programme and Training for RPs for an audience comprising 12 men and 9 women.

An event that included CSE AEP + Sessions for Youth, and a Sensitisation Meeting with BEO and Teachers was conducted for students.

A Sensitisation Meeting with Grampanchayat Leaders was organised.

An Awareness Programme at DAPCU was held for an audience comprising of 49 men and 16 women.



Gynaecological Camp, attended by women of which 13 were sent for further investigation.

Cervical Cancer Detection Camp for FSWs and PLHIVs.

Awareness Programme for MTP Act and Safe Abortion, to enhance the partnerships between service providers, pharmacists and GPs.

Health Checkup and Awareness Programme for Adolescents.

HYDERABAD

A PE Training Programme was conducted for Anganwadi workers, Adolescent girls, health workers and youth club members.

A Safe Abortion Awareness Programme was organised for PMPs, MOs, Chemists and Community Health Workers.

A training Programme for Resource Persons was conducted, which was attended by 15 RPs.

A Consultation Visit to review JTF was organised, in which case studies were shared.

A Cervical Cancer Screening Camp was conducted in Warangal.



MADURAI

A Seminar on Sexual and Reproductive Health was organised with 200 students taking part.

A Life Skills Training Programme for Visually Challenged was conducted for 40 neo-literate visually challenged women.

Awareness Training for Youth was conducted, consisting of street plays, song and dance.

An Advocacy Meeting on SRHR for PLHIV was organised with widespread participation.

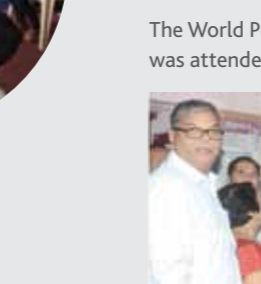
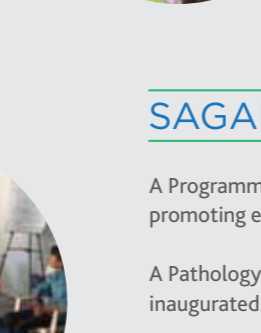
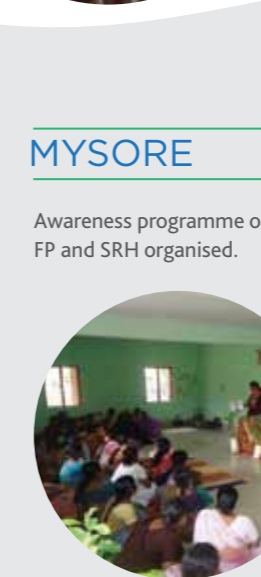
Skill Training for BPL Young Women conducted covering Tailoring, Embroidery, Fabric Painting and Printing.

An Anemia Camp for BPL Young Women was organised.

MOHALI

World No Tobacco Day was observed with over 100 participants.

A Programme on Role of Youth in Crime Prevention was organised with the participation of 39 youth and 8 police personnel.



NILGIRIS

Menstrual Hygiene and Pregnancy Health Awareness was conducted for tribals.

A Awareness Programme on Safe Motherhood was organised.

Sexual Education training conducted for teachers.

Adolescent Education Programme conducted for school students.

SRH Camp for Adolescents was organised.

An Adolescent Education Awareness Programme was conducted for parents and teachers.

The first issue of the Branch's Newsletter was released.



MYSORE

Awareness programme on FP and SRH organised.



NORTH KANARA

An SRH Programme for Adolescents from different high schools was conducted.



SAGAR

A Programme on the Girl Child focused on promoting education and progress of girls.

A Pathology Laboratory inaugurated was inaugurated.

The World Population Day was observed which was attended by many prominent guests.

