The FPA India held its All India Council (AIC) and Triennial General Meetings on December 14-15, 2017. These meetings were attended by 77 branch representatives. The first day of the meeting saw the Council take up different agendas as stated in the Constitution. Whereas, the Triennial General Meeting (TGM) was held the following day in which the Governing Board for the year 2018 - 2020 was elected. The process for electing new Office Bearers and Elected Members started by sending a Circular to the branches mentioning details and eligibility criteria to invite nominations from volunteers for different positions like - The President, the Vice-Presidents, the Hon. Treasurers and the elected members. The nominations received were further scrutinized at the Headquarters and the shortlisted members were notified. A Returning Officer and six scrutineers were appointed for overseeing the election process and counting the votes.

Following are the Members elected for the ensuing term 2018 – 2020.

**ALL INDIA COUNCIL**

**PRESIDENT**
Mr. H. R. Umesh Aradhya Shivamogga

**VICE PRESIDENTS**
Prof. (Dr) U. Natarajan Dindigul
Dr. (Mrs) Roza Olyai Gwalior
Dr. Shirish Malde Mumbai
Dr. (Mrs) Janaki V Desai Mumbai

**JOINT TREASURERS**
Mrs. Madhura Ashok Kumar Bengaluru
Prof. (Dr) Shrikant D Yelegaonkar Solapur

**ELECTED MEMBERS**
Dr. (Mrs) Rathnamala M. Desai Dharwad
Dr. (Mrs) C. Ambuja Hyderabad
Dr. Chinmoy Kumar Bose Kolkata
Mr. Vinod Kapoor Panchkula
Ms. Raman Sachdeva Yamunanagar

**YOUTH MEMBERS**
Ms. Dyuti Krishnan Bengaluru
Mr. Rohan Pashte Belagavi
Mr. Bhusan Thapa Kalchini

We congratulate the incoming team and wish them a productive, collegial term.

**Orientation on Female Condoms for the All India Council Members**

According to the NFHS – 4, approximately 13 percent of currently married women between the age of 15 and 49 in India have an unmet need of Family Planning. Of the 13 percent of women with unmet need nationwide, about 6 percent have an unmet need for spacing methods and 7 percent for limiting methods.

Limited access to contraception particularly among young people, poorer sections of the population or unmarried people is an issue that many in India still face.

The Indian Government is committed to meet the FP 2020 goal of ensuring access to family planning services to 48 million (4.8 Crore) additional women by 2020 (40% of the total FP 2020 target) and to sustain the coverage of over 100 million (10 Crore) women currently using contraceptives. Expanding the basket of contraceptive options is one of the key strategies to this end.

The Government of India has now included injectable contraceptives, progestin only pills and non-hormonal pills (Centchroman) to widen the choice. Female condoms are a safe, reversible user controlled barrier method to widen this choice further.

Although not yet a part of the National Family Planning Programme, Female Condoms are available in the private sector today and have been offered to potential users across FPA India on a pilot basis since the last few years. A sustained demand has been noted.

With support from CUPID Limited, FPA India organized an orientation on Female Condoms for the All India Council (AIC) of the Association convened in Mumbai during December 2017. The AIC is constituted by elected members of the Association who are prominent members of the society. About 84 members of the AIC participated in this orientation. Participating members also included some eminent gynaecologists and obstetricians and doctors from other specialities from Agra, Ahmedabad, Bellary, Dharwad, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Mumbai, North Kanara and Pune to mention a few.

The orientation by representatives of CUPID Limited focused on technical information about female condoms, an animated video demonstrating mode of use and a discussion on programmatic aspects of increasing access to female condoms. The presentation was very well received by the learned audience, as noted from the lively interactive session that followed.

CUPID Limited has also supplied Female Condoms to some FPA India Branches. A total of 2078 female condoms have been distributed through FPA India SDPs during the year 2017.
International Planned Parenthood Federation, South Asia Region (IPPF-SAR), in collaboration with FPA India, organized a study visit for South African delegates. The 12 delegates included senior officials from the Department of Social Development (DSD) and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) working with youth and issues related to sexual and reproductive health (SRH). The purpose of the visit was to learn about SRH activities in India, in the context of the RMNCH+A (Reproductive Maternal New Born Child Health and Adolescent).

The delegation was keen to understand how India mediates the diverse cultural aspects in India with the human rights aspects of SRH. The focus was also to appreciate how the country addresses the socio-cultural barriers towards gender equity and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Intersex (LGBTQI) - issues – plus related advocacy and IEC (Information, Education and Communication) mechanisms. There are common challenges faced in both countries including gender based violence (GBV), teenage pregnancies, underage marriage, termination of unwanted pregnancies and sexually transmitted infections; and all the concomitant health and psychosocial issues. The visit helped them learn about effective approaches and strategies that they could use in their own work.

The delegates visited FPA India Headquarters, a Project in Thane/Bhiwandi and Bengaluru branch, and also Reproductive Health and Family Planning Centre’s (RHFPCs) in Thane and Bengaluru. Other field visits included the Hum Safar Trust, Primary Health Centre-Kharbav Village, the Karivali Panchayat Office to meet the Sharda Mahila Mandal (SHG) members, and the Family Welfare Research and Training Centre. Each visit was followed by open discussions.

As part of their induction, the health scenario in India was discussed with emphasis on Reproductive Maternal New-born Child and Adolescent Health (RMNCH+ A). Mr. Umesh Aradhya, President, FPA India and Dr. Kalpana Apte, Secretary General, interacted with the delegates on volunteerism, and sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR).

In Bengaluru, the first meeting was held at the Directorate of Health and Family Welfare Services in the presence of Mr. Manoj Kumar Meena, IAS, Commissioner, Health and Family Welfare Services; Dr Rathan Kelkar IAS, Mission Director, National Health Mission (NHM); P R Nataraj, Director; Dr Deepa, IAS, Director of the Department of Women and Child Welfare; and other Health Department officials. Dr Raj Kumar N, Deputy Director, Family Welfare, ASHA & Maternal Health, addressed the common issues in Karnataka and South Africa pertaining to SRHR.

The next meeting was at Vidhana Soudha with Mr. D H Shankaramurthy, Chairman, Karnataka State Legislative Council; Mrs. Ratna Prabha, Chief Secretary, Government of Karnataka, and officials from NHM, Department of Health and Family Welfare and Women and Child Department.

In the words of Ms. Manogrie Golden, Director Population Advocacy, Information & Knowledge Services and Lead of the Learning Exchange Study Tour Visit to India: “...This study tour was very positive. It was a very comprehensive and intensive study tour. We learnt a great deal about India, about collaboration between the CSOs and the government... We are very happy about this visit and... We would like to tailor the lessons we learned to the conditions in South Africa.”
A two-day technical update workshop on second trimester abortion care was conducted in seven clinics across India. Clinics in Ahmedabad, Bidar, Dindigul, Dharward, Gwalior, Kolkata and Pune currently provide second trimester abortion care. The workshop was an interactive session with open discussions, case sharing, role-play and group activities. The participants reviewed job aids and IEC material developed by the GCACI HQ team and gave their feedback. Dr. Nozer Sheriar was the guest speaker who guided the participants on a smooth, hassle-free second trimester abortion service delivery within the legal framework. Mr. Deepesh Gupta from IPPF-SARO acknowledged FPA India’s exemplary work, promising support for such future workshops.

Women’s Perspectives on the Quality of Care in Abortion - A Qualitative Study in India

The GCACI team, in collaboration with IBIS Research Foundation and IPPF, conducted a qualitative study to develop indicators for the Quality of Care in Abortion in PSK and KNAC clinics in Mumbai. As part of the study, 11 in-depth interviews and two focus groups were conducted.
GLOBAL SAFE ABORTION DAY - OCT 4

PANCHKULA
An awareness programme and street play were organized to mark the special day. The audience comprised of community people from Rajiv Colony. The key resource persons included Mrs. Anita Batra, BEC Member; Mr. Manoj Kumar Garg, General Manager; and Dr Deena Kakaria, MO. Participants: 150.

INTERNATIONAL GIRL CHILD DAY - OCT 11

Theme: Stop Rape, Abuse and Violence Against Women
The important occasion was observed by 26 branches highlighting issues of the girl child, girls' education, sexual gender based violence, abuse and gender discrimination. To garner public support for “Zero Tolerance to Violence Against Women”, 10 branches launched campaigns, seven silent protest rallies, five speak-out sessions, four street plays and four panel discussions in which women shared their experiences. Other activities included three signature campaigns, eight awareness sessions and 11 ‘I Decide’ oath-taking events in the outreach. In schools and colleges, 22 drawing competitions and six essay competitions were held. The AIDS Healthcare Foundations (AHF) supported ten branches to organize these events.

AGRA
An elocution contest was organized on self-protection from crime and domestic violence at the Children’s Progressive High School, Sikandara, in which ten girls took part. Mr. Dileep Kumar Sharma, principal, and Mr. Vipin Sharma, Manager, were the key speakers. Participants: 95.

AHMEDABAD
A street play by the Branch youth volunteers marked the Day at the Branch. Dr Neha Panchal, PO, welcomed the participants and elaborated on the importance of the occasion. Another street play was performed by six girls, who also created a poster about sanitary napkins. Participants: 200.
BALLARI

A symposium was conducted for girls of the 1st grade at Indirani Women’s College and was presided over by the Principal. The event, which was organized by S Vijaya Lakshmi, was a forum to discuss destructive social practices in the society as well as gender issues.

BENGALURU

A series of events was organized to observe the day, in association with Smt. VHD Central Institute of Home Science, Canara Bank Institute of Information Technology and Radio Active 90.4 FM. The activities included a silent protest, signature and ‘I Decide’ campaigns, ‘Speak Out’ sessions and a community radio campaign. Dr. Sheela Mane, obstetrician and gynecologist, spoke on the radio about anemia, menstrual hygiene, access to medical care and healthcare. Five beneficiaries shared their experiences. Participants: 659.

BIDAR

The day was observed at Babu Biradar PU Science College. At the awareness programme, Dr. Aarti Raghu, Branch Vice President, was the Chief Guest and Mr. Chandrashekhar Biradar, Principal of the college, presided. Mr. Srinivas Biradar, Branch Manager and Mr. Raghavendra Biradar, College Administrator, were also present and spoke on the occasion. Participants: 114.

DHARWAD

The events on the special day included a radio talk, awareness programme, signature campaign and ‘I Decide’ oath taking – in association with the community radio station UAS Dharwad and Srushti PU Science College. Mrs. A R Sabarad, District Programme Coordinator, Mahila Samukhya, Dharwad; Mrs Seema Masuti, Ex-MLA, who inaugurated the event; and Mrs Prafulla Nayak, Advocate were the key influential persons. Mr N F Madilawar, PO, highlighted the importance of the day in achieving gender equality. Participants: 250, including students.

HYDERABAD

Four programmes were organized in the urban and rural areas around the theme: ‘Zero Tolerance to Violence Against Women’. A painting competition was conducted for students of Raj Bhavan Government High School. The General Manager and the programme staff evaluated the artworks and selected winners. Participants: 91.

An essay-writing contest was organized at the Government High School, Vengal Rao Nagar, by Youth Volunteers from Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University. The topic was ‘Save the Girl Child’. Participants: 25.

A session was conducted on the theme of ‘Save the Girl Child’ at the Rural Centre, Jinnaram. The Rural Coordinator briefed the students on the importance of the day. Participants: 72.

A seminar on ‘Young Concepts and India Incorporated’ was organized at the Annie Besant Women’s College. Dr C Ambuja, Joint Honorary Secretary spoke on ‘polycystic ovary syndrome’. Participants: 200.
INDORE
A series of activities spread across three days marked the important occasion. A sensitization meeting for adolescent girls was organized at Valmiki Nagar. Participants: 57.

On the same day, an exhibition was held at the same venue. Participants: 70.

A health check-up was conducted for adolescent girls at Maharana Pratap Nagar. Participants: 68.

An exhibition-cum-signature campaign was organized near Malwa Mill Square. Participants: 150.

KOLKATA
A rally and street play were organized around the theme: 'Because I am a Girl'. The play was performed by a team of 16 artistes. Participants: 50.

NILGIRIS
An awareness programme based on the theme ‘The Power of the Adolescent Girl: Vision for 2030’ was organized at Pragathi Institution, Coonoor. Mr Manogaran, Retired Headmaster and BEC Member, and Mrs Puvaneswary P, Honorary Secretary, were the resource persons. Mr Rajesh, PO, proposed a Vote of Thanks. Participants: 58.

PANCHKULA
A series of events including a debate, painting, awareness programme and health camp was conducted – all based on the theme ‘Girls’ Progress: A Global Girl Data Movement’. The audience comprised of the students and lecturers of DIET College. Among those present were Mr Mukul Kumar, Addition-
CHILDREN'S DAY - NOV 14

INDORE

A signature campaign and exhibition was organised near Polo Ground, Indore. Participants: 125.

SOLAPUR

A plethora of events marked the special day – including a press conference, lecture by experts, drawing competition, silent protest rally, ‘I Decide’ campaign, signature campaign, and an elocution competition. All activities were based on the theme ‘The Power of the Adolescent Girl: Vision for 2030’.

Among the eminent personalities who attended the events were Dr Shrikant Yelegaonkar, Vice President; Dr B G Ahire; Dr Shivkumar Ganapur, Principal; Dr B N Kamble; Advocate Teja Kulkarni, Mr. Sangram Chawan, Principal; Mr. Ramanlal Soniminde; and Dr N B Telli, Hon. Secretary. The event, which was funded by the Headquarter, was attended by school and college students. Participants: Over 1,600.

YAMUNANAGAR

An awareness programme was organized in collaboration with AHF India on the theme ‘Zero Tolerance to Violence’. Key resource persons included Mrs. Sarita Chauhan, District Program Officer, ICDS Department; Mrs. Parveen Chhabra, CDPO; Mrs. Raman Sachdeva, President; and Mrs. Indu Kapoor, Vice President. The event was held at Shadipur village. A signature campaign, rally and health check-up camp were the other highlights. Participants: 72 girls, 205 community people.

RAICHUR

The day was observed with essay and debate competitions on GBV and child marriage in a slum area in Raigamangada Taluka. Dr V A Malipatil, President, delivered the speech, while Mr Venugopal, Social Worker, conducted the competitions.

SHIVAMOGGA

The celebrations were held in collaboration with Lalita Mahila Sangh and Chaitanya Women’s Association, on the theme ‘Empower Girls Before, During and After Conflict’.

An awareness session and competitions in debate and essay writing for young people marked the day. Dr Sandhya Kaveri was the Chief Guest at the event, which was organized at Katil Ashok Pai Memorial College. Mr Ramesh Babu, President, was present on the occasion. Dr Vidya was the resource person. In another event, conducted at Basaveshwara College, renowned author Kiran Desai was the Chief Guest. Mr Ashok Kumar, Secretary, was present. Participants: 108.

Yet another celebration was organized at a rural community where Mrs Pushpa Shetty was the key speaker. In the audience were gram panchayat members and local leaders. Participants: 35.

ASPIRE - DEC 2017 07
MUMBAI

The day was celebrated with underprivileged children at the YWCA. It began with the children drawing charts in colour. This was followed by a health check-up, after which cupcakes and nutritional powder were distributed. The day culminated with the children singing and dancing and partying. Participants: 41.

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN - NOV 25

AGRA

Women from CBDs, SHGs and ASHAs participated in the programme at Nagla Basuva. The Programme Officer explained the importance of the Day, focusing the participants' attention to every woman's right to a life free of violence. Participants: 42.

WORLD AIDS DAY – DEC 1

Theme: Everybody counts / Right to Health

AGRA

Elocution and quiz competitions were conducted on the special day at Vijay Bal Bharti Junior High School in which students between 8th and 11th standards took part. HIV/AIDS, protection from it, behavior with PLHIV and STI were the key topics. This was followed by Sankalp Patra, or oath taking by the boys and girls against violence and sexual harassment. Participants: 45.

In another event, students took part in an interactive session about AIDS at MRI Junior High School, Azampara. Participants: 48.

AHMEDABAD

The day was observed in association with HK Arts College. Mr. Mohan Bhai Parmar, PO, NSS, welcomed the participants to a sensitization programme on HIV/AIDS related issues. Mr. Suresh Maratha, GM of the Branch, gave the keynote address, while Dr Neha Panhal, PO, FPA India, explained the significance of the theme. Drawing and slogan contests were held, placards with messages displayed, and red ribbons were distributed.

BALLARI

A procession was organized in the city to spread awareness about HIV/AIDS, in association with the Health & Family Welfare Department, Zillah Panchayat, DAPCO, and other CSOs. A huge condom tableau was fabricated on a vehicle and decorated with posters and banners.

Later, a stage programme was inaugurated by Nagveeni Mayor. Dr V Ramesh Babu, DHO, and Dr K V Rajendra, CEO, Zillah Panchayat, spoke to the audience. Participants: 250.

A seminar was organized for SHG women at Bevinahalli and Gonal villages. The focus was on cervical and breast cancer, procedures and treatment. Participants: 84.
INDORE

The important day was celebrated with several activities at different venues.

A sensitization meeting for adolescent boys was organized at Tilak Nagar High School. Participants: 36.

Another sensitization programme, for girls, was conducted at the same venue. Participants: 49.

A street play was organized in collaboration with the Social Work Department and members of the youth forum at the Government Arts & Commerce College. Participants: 250.

MOHALI

A rally was flagged off, in association with the Government Senior Secondary School for Girls, Sohana, by the Principal, Mrs. Usha Mahajan. Mr. Mohinder Singh Dhillon, Hon. Secretary, spoke about the significance of the day. A special medical camp on SRH was conducted by two doctors, in which 110 students were examined. Participants: 79.

An interactive session on HIV/AIDS for students of 9th standard was held at the Raj Bhavan Government High School. One student was detected with severe anemia and was referred to RHFPC. Participants: 56.

Two sessions were conducted for students of two schools in Jinnaram and Nallalingayappalli. The PHC Supervisor and the teacher elaborated on the importance of the day. A rally was also organised. Participants: 190.

HYDERABAD

The special day was observed through a series of programmes. A health camp for men was conducted at MS Maktha Raj Bhavan. Dr G Himashriyamsha, MO, checked the patients and distributed medicines. Blood samples were collected from 18 patients. Participants: 79.

An interactive session on HIV/AIDS for students of 9th standard was held at the Raj Bhavan Government High School. Participants: 56.

BENALURU

A silent protest rally, 'Speak Out' sessions and a sensitization programme on HIV/AIDS for adolescents were organised on the occasion – in association with the Karnataka State AIDS Prevention Society and Members of the Bengaluru HIV/AIDS Forum. The students of Sathagiri Medical College were also involved in the rally, in which over 1,000 people took part. Dr Asha, District AIDS Prevention Council Unit Officer, spoke to the audience. 'Speak Out' sessions were organised at Panchajaya Vidya Peeta, Rajajinagar, where Mrs. Sridevi, outreach worker, spoke to the 78 students who were present. Total participants: 1,350.

BIDAR

The important day was observed with an awareness programme and exhibition stall at the Central Bus Stand, with the support of the NEKRTC, Bidar Unit. Prof Poornima George, Hon. Treasurer, FPA India, inaugurated the programme, with Mr. Chandrakanth Phulekar, Divisional Traffic Officer, NEKRTC, Bidar Division, as the Chief Guest. Mr. Bhadrappa, Depot Manager and Mr. Srinivas Biradar, Branch Manager, were also present. Participants: Over 500.

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An awareness programme was organised at the Branch. Complete and comprehensive information about HIV/AIDS was provided to the audience. Participants: 30.

A street play was performed at Kolagal village to spread awareness about HIV/AIDS. Participants: 300.

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Another rally was organised at Balongi village, in collaboration with Smarth the Professionals, an NGO and the Kailash Mount Public School. IEC material was distributed and slogans were chanted during the rally. Participants: 100.
MUMBAI

The Avabai Wadia Health Centre organised a HIV testing camp at the Tilak Nagar Police Station.

A session was conducted by Dr Shirish Malde, with the aid of an audiovisual presentation, for easy understanding by the audience. A questionnaire was distributed and was discussed by everyone, followed by condom distribution. Participants: 56 (52 males, 4 females), 43 tested for HIV.

NILGIRIS

An awareness programme and SRH camp were conducted at RK Trust, Gudalur. Mrs. Puvaneswary P, Hon. Secretary, delivered a speech. Mr. Rajesh, PO; Mrs. Leela Krishnan, Managing Trustee, RK Trust; and Mrs. Vijay Kumar and Mrs. Reeta of RK Trust, were the resource persons. Participants: 43.

In another event, a programme to spread awareness based on the theme ‘Right to Health’ was organised at the RHFPC. Mrs. Puvaneswary P, Hon. Secretary, and Mr. J Varatharajan, Branch Manager, were the resource persons. Participants: 22.

PANCHKULA

The events included awareness programmes, games at Elante Mall and a special service session in Colony No 4, Chandigarh. The Chandigarh State AIDS Control Society was the collaborator. Key resource persons were Dr Deena Kakaria, MO; Mr. Manoj Kumar Garg, General Manager; and members of the Chandigarh State AIDS Society. Participants: 530 (130 from Colony No 4, 400 at Elante Mall).

RAICHUR

A rally was organised on the occasion, and was flagged off by Mr. M Mahadevaya, District Sessions Judge. The rally was held in association with colleges, other NGOs and the District Health and Family Welfare Office, Raichur. Mr. V A Malipatil, President, delivered a speech addressing students of Gayatri PU Science College, elaborating on the importance of the day.

SHIVAMOGGA

The day was observed with an awareness programme, and quiz and essay competitions in association with Lions Club, Spandana Health Foundation Trust, JCI Shivamogga Bhavana, and the NSS Units of Kasturba College and the Government High School. Dr Uma Nandi spoke on the occasion. Participants: 361.

SOLAPUR

An awareness rally was organised around the theme ‘Right to Health’ in association with MSACS, DAPCU, Civil Hospital, Dr V M Government Medical College, the Lions Club of Solapur Central, Ashwini Hospital, and Ashwini Medical College. The event was attended by Dr Rajendra Bharud, CEO, Solapur Zillah Parishad; Justice Ajay Kulkarni; Dr Shrikant Yelegaonkar, Vice President; Dr Sunil Ghate, Dr Madhavi Rayate and Dr Sonali Bogde, Dean. Donation to conduct the event was received from Ashwini Hospital, Civil Hospital, Medical College and the Lions Club of Solapur Central. Participants: 1,500 students.
Income generation training programmes

FPA India conducted income generation training programmes between July and September at 19 selected branches. Skill building was imparted to young girls and women from poor and marginalized sections, including key population and People Living with HIV (PLHIV), to make them self-reliant. Simple vocations with easy availability of raw materials were taught – including making artificial jewelry sets, tailoring, beautician, mehendi designing, candle, jam, pickle, paper bag, incense and phenyl making. In total, 43 sessions were conducted benefitting 1,312 young girls and women. Among them, 56 have already started using these skills to enhance their economic status.

PMPs training session

In this session, PMPs were trained on social franchising at the Branch. An increase in referral clients and better coordination between FPA India and PMPs were the key objectives. The MO explained about STI management, infertility, sexual dysfunction and common sexual problems, plus counselling. Participants: 19.

Meeting to promote SHG awareness among women

The meeting was conducted at the Youth Friendly Centre (YFC), with the objective of increasing awareness of SHG activities, especially loans for the needy. Knowledge of STI/RTI, safe abortion and contraceptives was also imparted. Participants: 22.

Session on developing partnership with NGOs and CBOs

The venue was the YFC and the agenda was finding ways to enhance interaction with NGOs and CBOs to increase referral clients for the Branch. Participants: 22.
South African delegates arrive on a study tour
A 12-member delegation came to the Branch on an exchange visit from South Africa (see lead story). Officials from the Department of Social Development, departments like Population Advocacy, Youth Development and Communications, members of NGOs and the National Youth Club were part of the team. The delegation interacted with FPAI staff and other project participants and understood the way programs are implemented in India despite cultural barriers. They were extremely appreciative of the efforts being done in the country and are now keen to implement what they learnt in South Africa.

Across two sessions, the delegation met up with senior officials in the Government and Health Department. They also visited the Branch, where an interaction was arranged with Youth Volunteers and CSO representatives. Ms. Rekha, General Manager, initiated the proceedings. The delegates were taken to Sriramanahalli, a village on the outskirts, in association with People’s Trust, an NGO. Ms. Indira, PO, took them around the Youth Centre and gave details about the facilities available at the Centre. The trip concluded with a Q&A session with the youth.

Awareness programme on gender equality and empowerment
This IEC programme was conducted for the vulnerable and marginalized sections, with the focus on gender equality, women empowerment, HIV/AIDS and STI. The accessibility of services related to these at the RHFPIC at low costs was also emphasized. Participants: 29.

AHMEDABAD

Comprehensive sexual education for SI students
A CSE session was organised by the Branch for Sanitary Inspector students. Dr Neha Panchal, PO, elaborated on seven topics of CSE for their benefit.

BANGALORE

Training for Master Trainers and resource persons
The session was conducted at the Branch, in which Master Trainers and resource persons underwent training and orientation. Participants: 15.

Exclusive health camps for women, adolescents and the elderly
In association with Tata Power Community Development Trust, Mumbai, the Branch initiated a new project in Gadag district. Special camps were conducted for women, adolescents and those over 50 to cover anemia detection, gynecological and cervical cancer, diagnostic testing and general health. Beneficiaries: 2,482.

AHMEDABAD

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A CSE session was organised by the Branch for Sanitary Inspector students. Dr Neha Panchal, PO, elaborated on seven topics of CSE for their benefit.
GWALIOR

Seminar on ‘Youth and Family Planning’
The seminar was organised for youth between 16 and 20 years of age. Mr. Yogeshwar Sharma, Additional SP, Gwalior was the Chief Guest. Dr S S Bhaker, Director of the College; Mrs. Neelam Dixit, Branch Manager; Dr H S Sharma, Secretary; Dr Roza Olyai, Gynecologist and CEC Member; and Dr Veena Agarwal, Gynecologist and ex-Dean, GRMC College, were present on the occasion. Participants: 117.

Interactive session for adolescents
An event comprising of interaction, group activities, quiz competition and presentation was organised for adolescents. Members of the youth forum and BEC were the resource people. The highlights were access to information about family planning, prevention of adolescent pregnancy, and awareness about family planning as a reproductive right. Participants: 31 (16 males, 15 females).

MOHALI

One-day training session for PMPs
The training was organised by Mr. Achendra Singh Kushwa, PO. Dr Raj Chandra Lekha Rana and Dr Alok Purohit trained the PMPs. Mrs. Neelam Dixit, Branch Manager; and Mr. G R Ramesh, M&E Officer, were the other speakers. Participants: 20.

Training for ASHAs
A one-day training programme was organized for ASHA workers, with the objective of upgrading their knowledge levels. Mr. I P Nワtwa, PO, CHMO Office; Dr Sunil Buchke; Mrs. Pooja Sharma, Counsellor; Mr. Achendra Singh Kushwa, PO; Mr. G R Ramesh, M&E Officer; Mrs. Neelam Dixit, Branch Manager and Dr K K Dixit, were the resource people. A kit for social marketing was presented to the ASHAs. Participants: 25.

HYDERABAD

Youth meeting organized
To commemorate the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda, a youth meeting was conducted at Valilala and Dadigudam villages, Jinnaram Mandal, Medak district. Mr. M Ravindar, Sarpanch of Valilala, and Mr. J Shiva Raj, Sarpanch of Dadigudam, spoke to the youth about celebrating the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda as National Youth Day. Mr. Prashant, of the Hyderabad Branch, elaborated on the role of youth in health and social welfare. Mr. Venkat Reddy, MPTC Member, urged people to safeguard their health. Participants: 43.

Staff deputed to Lifeline Express
Two staff members of the Branch were deputed to be part of the legendary Lifeline Express, at its health and family planning camp at Kazipet, Warangal. The camp provided counseling and health education in family planning, safe abortion, mother and child healthcare, anemia, adolescent health and other issues of a general nature. IEC material was distributed for common benefit. Participants: 423.

Session on population and its causes
Dr Renu Kapoor, General Manager, conducted a session on population in India, its causes and related topics at the Maulana Azad National Urdu University. An interactive session followed, with the participants getting their queries answered and doubts clarified.

Mega health camp organized
The camp was conducted at Balpan Play School in coordination with Lions Club of Bhagyanagar. Wing Commander M V N Rao, Hon. Secretary helped to arrange the camp. Dr Dorothy Solver, MO, and staff from RHFPC, checked the patients. Participants: 67.

MOHALLI

Special medical camp on SRH
The camp was organised with financial support from HQ. As many as 15 special camps for school students were conducted in the villages and slums. Doctors examined men and women. RTI and counselling on GBV were the other highlights. Beneficiaries: 1,148 females, 348 males.

Programme on AEP+ for NSS volunteers
The programme was organised at the Post Graduate Government College for Women, Chandigarh. Dr. Surjit Kaur Sandhu, Patron and Dr. Veena Gupta, Vice President of the Branch, delivered lectures on AEP+. A camp was also conducted for the students. Beneficiaries: 177.

MUMBAI

QOC Training session conducted
The training was organised at the Mumbai Godrej Auditorium Hall, Tilak Nagar, and was facilitated by Ms. Jugnu Doshi and Ms. Sambhavi Mahadik. The session started with an introduction about QOC in outreach, after which unit-wise points were discussed. An interaction segment followed. The audience included the Medical Officer in-charge, the Clinic’s Secretary, Counsellor, Nurse and ORW. Participants: 14.
A special session on menstruation was also conducted for the adolescent girls of the village, followed by free distribution of sanitary pads. Participants: 97.

**New Project on Social Franchising initiated**

This new project is being implemented for a period of one year, from November 2017 to October 2018. A social franchising clinic was established to deliver SRH and family planning services in Panchkula with a special grant from IPPF. A target of reaching 25 CBP and 20 PMPs, 30 CBP and 19 PMPs were covered.

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**PANCHKULA**

**Blood donation camp organised**

The camp was conducted in association with Rajkiy Prathmik Siksha Sangh and the team from PGIMER. Key resource persons included Mr. Harminder Saini, District Education Officer, Mr. Vinod Kapoor, President, Mr. Manoj Kumar Garg, General Manager, Dr Nitika Goyal, Consultant and Dr Deena, MO. Participants: 100 (49 donated blood).

**Training in social franchising for ASHAs**

ASHA workers from different operations areas were trained in social franchising by resource persons Mr. Vinod Kapoor, President, Mr. Manoj Kumar Garg, General Manager, Dr Nitika Goyal, Consultant and Dr Deena, MO. Participants: 28.

**PMP interaction for social franchising**

Mr. Vinod Kapoor, President; Mr. Manoj Kumar Garg, General Manager; Dr Nitika Goyal, Consultant); and Dr Deena, MO were the key personnel involved in the session. PMPs from various areas in Panchkula district were present, and they agreed to work with FPA India on referrals. Participants: 19.

**Special service session in Himachal Pradesh**

With the objective of reaching out to non-FPA India states, the Branch conducted a special service session in Manpura village, Solan, HP. The focus of the session included SRH, RTI, STI, VIA screening and VCT. Mr. Satya Pandey, District Industrial Cell BJP President; Mrs. Kuldeep Kaur, Pradhan of the village and Mr. Manoj Kumar Garg, General Manager, were the key resource persons. Participants: 203.

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**NILGIRIS**

**Training in child care and crèche management**

The two-day session was held at the RHFPC, in which crèche caretakers from tea gardens in the vicinity were trained. Mrs. Puvaneswary P, Hon. Secretary; Mr. Harimohan, Hon. Treasurer, Mr. Lakshmi Narayanan, BEC Member, Mr. J Varatharajan, Branch Manager, Mr. G Sundararaj, Account Officer; and Mr. G L Rajesh, PO, were the resource persons. Participants: 16.

**Programme on women’s empowerment**

The programme was conducted, in collaboration with Jyoti Care Clinic at Mumbai Godrej Auditorium Hall, Tilak Nagar. Prevention of cervical cancer through VIA and treatment, and cervical screening by undergoing simple tests to identify the disease were the key points. Participants: 49 (of which 42 were examined and 1 was reported positive).

**Training in income generation activities**

Two programmes were conducted at RK Trust and Pragathi Institution. The income generation activity taught to the audience was candle making. Mrs. Ponnambuli, outreach worker, was the resource person. Participants: 83.

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SHIVAMOGGA
Social franchising project launched
The initiative was launched with the objective of testing a pilot project in social marketing and franchising – with funding from HQ and support from IPPF. Training was imparted to 20 PMPs and 25 ASHAs, after which contraceptive kits, reproductive health products and an FPA India badge each, were distributed.

Dharwad
Successful recanalization – and a convinced client
Savita (name changed) is a mother like any other: 28 years old, married with two children, and already underwent family planning operation. Unfortunately, her five-year-old boy died and she was distressed beyond words. She approached FPA India’s Dharwad Branch for a solution. The Branch suggested recanalization and Savita was subjected to a thorough examination, investigation and scanning. With the reference of the Branch, an honorary surgeon took the initiative and operated her at the district hospital. The recanalization procedure was successful and now Savita is pregnant – and a regular client of FPA India!

KOLKATA
Counselling leads to economic independence convinced client
Banu (name changed), a young woman living near the Lake Gardens Satellite Unit, approached FPA India within a few weeks of pregnancy. The examiner observed assault marks on her body and when asked about it, she broke down. She admitted to being beaten up by her husband – for giving birth to two girls and not a boy. Now she was pregnant for a third time and the mental and physical torture continued. Banu was referred to the RHFPC for abortion, and after the successful procedure, a job was arranged for her. Now she lives peacefully with her two daughters. She not only comes for check-ups but also helps the Branch by doing voluntary work.

PANCHKULA
From tears to happiness – how FPA India handled domestic violence
Reeta (name changed) is a 27-year-old housewife with one child and an alcoholic husband who assaulted her regularly. She approached the Branch with this problem and was persuaded to bring her husband for counselling. She succeeded in bringing the man to the Branch and he was referred to Alcoholic Anonymous to cure his addiction. Now he’s responding to his treatment well and the couple is living happily with their child. Their happiness is the ultimate reward for FPA India.

PUNE
Choosing NSV: A wise decision
Mrs. Jyoti Dalvi (name changed), 35 years old, came to RHFPC with a 7-week pregnancy accompanied by her police officer husband. The couple has a 7-year-old daughter and were not in favor of having more children. They were counselled about the various methods of abortion available but the woman was afraid of surgical procedures. So they chose pills and NSV – a very easy method that’s not invasive. Also, it wouldn’t interfere with their day-to-day activities and their confidentiality would be maintained. Eight days later, the woman returned for follow-up, happy that they had chosen MMA and NSV. She was so impressed that the couple are now spreading the message of NSV.

SOLAPUR
Mahatma Gandhi Jayanti Seva Saptha observed
Lecture by experts, and camps for sterilization, abortion and health check-up were organised on the occasion – all in association with the Lions Club of Solapur Central. Dr Shrikant Yelegaonkar, Vice President, FPA India; Prof Dr Naresh Badnure; Dr Gulabchand Shaha; Lion Chandrakanth Yadav; and Mr. Ramanlal Soniminde, Vice President, were the key personnel who attended the event. Participants: 1,500.

Training programme for ASHAs and PMPs
The programme was conducted at the Branch. Dr Manjushir Kulkarni, Gynecologist; Dr Shrikant Yelegaonkar, Vice President, FPA India; Dr Nabha Kakade, President; Dr N B Teli, Hon. Secretary; and Mr. Ramanlal Soniminde, Vice President, were the resource persons. Participants: 30 ASHAs and 15 doctors.
Yes or no – counselling helps decision in favor of pregnancy

A couple is happy that they could conceive after five years of marriage. Then they discover that they are both HIV positive. Should they be happy about their impending child or sad about their HIV status?

This was the dilemma Mrs. Kanchan Shinde (name changed) and her husband found themselves in. She’s an advocate, her husband is equally well educated, and now that were facing the biggest dilemma of their lives. They had contacted dengue in the past and had blood transfusion which led to them testing HIV positive. Now should they go ahead with the child?

They had decided to terminate the pregnancy and go for adoption. The FPA India counsellor, sympathetic to their situation, informed them that adoption was not permissible if both parents were HIV positive. The couple was given all the important information about PPTCT, and were counselled on MTP and ANC. They were also referred to centers where the woman could give birth to the child with complete confidentiality. This led to them accepting their situation and continue with the pregnancy. Now they’re awaiting their future with new hope.

Two decisions, one goal

Mrs. Meera Jadhav (name changed), 37, came to RHFPC to access abortion services. The couple has a girl who’s 11 years old. But the woman had a lot of doubts and fears about abortion and tubal litigation operation. The counsellor gave her detailed information about MTP as well as all the available contraceptive methods. But she got confused even more and started feeling guilty about the termination of pregnancy.

Later, she came and was given MTP services by MVA. Her husband accompanied her, feeling equally guilty. He was counselled, and he decided to undergo vasectomy as well. The same day, the woman availed of abortion services and Depo Provera injection, and the man got vasectomy performed on him. The couple was happy to have taken their decisions for a common goal.

Link worker prevents child marriage

Meena (name changed) is a 16-year-old dropout from school. However, she wanted to continue her studies and create a career for herself, but her parents planned to get her married – so that they felt relieved of their ‘responsibility’. Ms. Manisha Gade, a link worker, came to know of this situation and tried to convince Meena's parents. She explained to them the side effects of child marriage but to no avail.

Then she threatened to proceed legally on the case. She told Meena’s parents that she would complain to the police. She then educated them about the legal implications; only then did the girl's parents decide to postpone the marriage. They let Meena continue her education and concentrate on building a career.

A donation of Rs 1 lakh: FPA India - Panchkula banks on SBI

FPA India gratefully acknowledges the donation of Rs 1,01,800 received from State Bank of India. The funds were utilised for buying a new computer for the Branch.

Solapur bags three prestigious awards

Solapur also won an award for ‘Impressive Work in HIV/AIDS’ for 2017. The award was given jointly by the Maharashtra State AIDS Control Organisation, Mumbai; District AIDS Prevention & Control Unit (DAPCU), Solapur, the Civil Hospital, Solapur; and Dr VM Government College, Solapur. It’s a district level award, and was presented by Ms Praniti Shinde, MLA, and Dr Sunil Ghate, Dean, at the Civil Hospital, Solapur. A third award was won by the Branch for its ‘Impressive Work in HIV/AIDS’ for 2017. The Maharashtra State AIDS Control Organisation, Mumbai; and Targeted Intervention Project, Solapur.

Another district level award was given away by Dr Sunil Ghate; Dr Kishor Hingole, Dean; Mr Bhagwan Bhusari and Mr Nagesh Ganji, DPO at the Dr VM Government Medical College, Solapur.

State Award for Member, FPA India, Bengaluru

Dr Leelavathi Devdas, Member, Ex-Treasurer, FPA India Bengaluru Branch, was awarded the Rajyotsava Award 2017 in the medicine category.

It’s a prestigious award given away by the Government of Karnataka for meritorious service in medicine. The memento and citation were presented to Dr Devdas by the Hon’ble Chief Minister of Karnataka, Mr Siddaramaiah. A highly deserving award for a veteran of FPA!!

OTHER NEWS

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