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, Yamunanagar, 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 outputand exercise of brainstorming to develop material was appreciated.

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

Next steps:

- 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:

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<tr>
<th>Sr No</th>
<th>Training Course</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Meeting Sexual &amp; Reproductive Health</td>
<td>Sept 23-24, 2015</td>
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<td></td>
<td>needs of survivors of Gender Based Violence</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Use of Social Media</td>
<td>Oct 7-8, 2015</td>
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<td>Social Responsibility</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Counselling in Trauma, Guilt &amp; Self Esteem</td>
<td>Oct 28-29, 2015</td>
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For more details on courses please contact us at 022-40863101 or email training@fpaiandia.org

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, and 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 Mr. Bindu Nema, Director, Advocacy and Training.

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 Organisations (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 Cook, CEO, Marie Stopes International; Mr. Tewodros Melesse, Director, International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF); Ms. Poonam Mathur, Executive Director, Population Foundation of India; Ms. K. C. Mishra, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India. Youth volunteers of FPAI-New Delhi also took part.
CONSULTATIONS ON POST 2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA WITH PARLIAMENTARIANS AND KEY STAKESHELDERS

PPAF 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. K. Kurien, Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha, said: “We have made considerable achievement in MDGs... 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.

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.”

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 PPAF Panchkula Branch, was also attended by Agra, Ahmedabad, Yamananagar, and Mihali Branches. Dr. Kalpana Arora, 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, PPAF 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.

At the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), South Asia Regional meeting, held in Bangkok to discuss the strengthening of MDGs 4A and B in South Asia and creating champions to garner support for SRHR, Mr. Amrita Dhavan, Director, Adolescents, and Ms. Bindya Nima, Director, Advocacy and Training, prepared a work plan for political mapping/findings, prioritizing issues, framing 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.

Bhubaneshwar Branch organized a programme at Patherbandha 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.

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.

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.
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.

BELGAUM
An Adolescent project training was conducted for resource Persons with the theme ‘Growing up is fun’.
An Orientation Programme on Safe Abortion for chemists/druggists was organised to build linkages and increase safe abortion referrals.

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 of 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 DAPCI was held for an audience comprising of 49 men and 16 women.

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 PMNs, 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.

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.

MYSORE
An awareness programme on FP and SRH organised.

NILGIRIS
Menstrual Hygiene and Pregnancy Health Awareness was conducted for tribes.
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.
The first issue of the Branch’s Newsletter was released.

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.

DHARWAD
Newcomers’ meet, organised to welcome 19 new members.
Counselling Centre at CSI College, conducted for students. Around 200 enrol 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.
Gynaecological Camp, attended by women of which 13 were sent for further investigations.
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.

ACTION FROM OUR BRANCHES