MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT
Mr. Umesh Aradhye

This issue of ASPIRE is dedicated to our historical participation in Standard Chartered Mumbai Marathon on January 13, 2017. The Standard Chartered Mumbai Marathon (SCMM) 2017 was evidently the best platform for creating visibility and fundraising for FPAI for the years to come. In our very first year, we generated enthusiasm and visibility of the issue amongst our branches and peers. We created many new logos and launched the first ever #RUNAFP campaign. Among all new events and initiatives we launched some things stand out:

1. I was privileged to participate in the Dream Run of 6 KMs, along with six other Volunteers and staff in Standard Chartered Mumbai Marathon. The Run Team was led by Dr. Vivek Bellampelli, Volunteer FPAI Pune Branch who completed the Full Marathon Run of 42 KMs. In the name of FPAI! Dr. Sonali Tank and Ms. Preeti Mutta also ran the Half Marathon of 21 KMs for the cause of Family Planning and FPA India.

2. A very significant amount was mobilized from the SCMM 2017 from sale of bibs, fundraising pages, corporate team

3. Mylan supported FPA India as the Corporate Partner and CEOs from other Civil Society Organizations committed to the cause of Family Planning donated as well as participated in the Dream run and in Social Media campaign.

4. High visibility among marathon runners through the Motivational Zone setup on Marine Drive, FPAI won the runner up prize of INR 25,000.

5. Whole hearted support from our Patrons Dr. Nina Puri and Ms. Sujatha Natraj who donated generously and participated in the Dream Run and Dr. M N Tavergiri who cheered the group and donated generously.

6. The members of Central Executive Committee and Audit Committee wholeheartedly supported this endeavour. Generous donations were received from Ms. Frency Tarapore, Prof Shrikant Velegaonkar, Prof. Poonlima George, Prof. U. Natraj, Ms. Madhura Ashok Kumar, Ms. Sujatha Natraj and Mr. Vinod Kapoor (Audit Committee Member).

7. One of our Online Donation Pages managed by our SG. Dr. Kalpana Apte was declared Change Maker, a coveted fundraising title in the SCMM, resulting in a free additional charity bib for FPAI. Ms. Neelam Dutt, Branch Manager Gwallior Branch was awarded that Bib to celebrate her effort of being the top Fundraiser in 2017.

8. Pres Meet & Online Visibility: Pres meet resulted in phenomenal visibility for FPAI with articles across English, local print media and online media. The Press meet was attended by celebrities like Mr. Tom Alter, Dr. Mahinder Watia and others who supported FPA movement.

9. Privileges: FPAI invited to the marquee zone, Ms. Anita Dharu received an invitation to the Corporate Tent

10. FPA India HQs Team worked hard behind the scene, enthusiastically and wholeheartedly to ensure that all preparations were done impeccably. The Cheer Zone was in place through hard work done overnight and excellent brunch was provided to everyone after the Run ended!

11. Last not the least, the super powerhouse behind this was the VIVA Team, who helped FPA India to make a mark in this Marathon. Led by Ms. Vinitha Venkatraman and Varadanjan Rajagopalan, VIVA Team handled the back operations smoothly and ensured that FPA India made a mark on SCMM scene.

It is noteworthy that branches participated enthusiastically and raised resources. A total of 12 fundraising accounts which helped raise an amount in excess of INR 3,50,000, of which 7 fundraisers with over 10,000/- raised on their page. The Fundraising Star Branches were Bangalore, Bellary, Bidar, Bijapur, Dharmapuri, Gwallor, Hyderabad, Mumbai, Panchkula, Pune, Chennai, Jalpuri, Yarnamangal, Jaipur and Kalkhini.

Further, we successfully initiated a new and exciting venture "Sunehari Shaam" dedicated to Women's Empowerment and Health! This was an innovative Fundraising and issue Based Event dedicated to Women of India! FPA India reached another milestone with the first Musical Evening on 24th February, 2017 in Mumbai. It was a resounding success. Similar evenings are planned in Kolkata and Ahmedabad on 1st April and 7th April respectively. We are totally sure of the success of these events. Besides this, we organized an interesting Advocacy meeting with Members of Parliament where MPs committed to support Family Planning. An Advocacy Kit was released during this meeting.

We are delighted with such phenomenal achievement. We are sure that this is a beginning and we would achieve even better success next year. There are many opportunities for everyone to be a part of this exciting journey of Fundraising. I appeal to each and every one to contribute their efforts in raising resources and funds for the growth and stability of our Organization.

MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL
Dr. Kalpana Apte
FPA INDIA’S PARTICIPATION IN THE MUMBAI MARATHON

Interface with the media

FPA India had enrolled for the Standard Chartered Mumbai Marathon (SCMM), which was held in January. This is the first time that the Association had taken part in the Marathon and it had decided that the focus would be on support for family planning.

To help augment this cause, FPA India was able to mobilize individual runners as well as other NGOs. This is the first time that an NGO focused on family planning in a sports event in order to enhance visibility and sensitize people towards the need for family planning.

An interface with media was organized a day ahead of the marathon. During the meeting, media representatives were present with whom FPA India representatives shared the benefits of family planning which is an integral part of SRHR.

In addition, FPA India has tied up with SRH experts to propagate the message of family planning through an initiative called ‘Run4FP’. Representatives from Population Foundation of India, International Planned Parenthood Federation – South Asia Region and others were present in the meeting. Apart from this, FPA India Volunteers and friends of FPA India who were supporting the cause were present.
The year 2017 began by keeping everyone at FPA India up on their feet, with their soon-to-be big break in the Standard Chartered Mumbai Marathon (SCMM) on January 15, 2017.

SCMM is Asia’s largest sporting event held on the third Sunday of January every year in the city of dreams - Mumbai. It also allows people to run for a select cause and gets the largest mass participation from all over the world. FPA India made its debut in this very grand event with the message, ‘Family Planning - A Smart Choice for Health and Happiness’ and it was branded as ‘RUN4FP’.
TO PARTICIPATE IN THE MARATHON, WE FOLLOWED A THREE-PRONGED APPROACH

**STEP 1**

FPA INDIA & SCMM PARTNERSHIP

To begin with, FPA India enrolled itself in the SCMM in September 2016 while the preparation had already begun in August. However, the task was not as easy as it seemed. Everyone at FPA India was working towards getting the required documents and information in place for the tedious enrolment process. This step was successfully completed and we geared up for the next.

**STEP 2**

FUNDRAISING STRATEGY

Our team put their best foot forward in order to raise funds for representing our cause in the marathon. We successfully partnered with Mylan Inc. – a global healthcare company, who sent their 15-member team to RUN-FIP. Indias best-known sexual and reproductive health experts, members of the fraternity, CEOs of organisations working in Family Planning ran in support of our cause.

These included Mr. Anand Sinha from The David and Lucile Packard Foundation (India), Denny John from International Centre for Research on Women’s (ICRW), Asia Regional Office, Dr. Nisha Gupta, Public Health Consultant, Ms. Poornam Muttreja, from Population Foundation of India (PFI), Ms. Sujeetha Natarajan, from International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), and Dr. Kalpana Apte, Ms. Anita Dhanu, Dr. Nina Puri, Mrs. Neelam Dixit, and Mr. Umesh Aradhye from FPA India. Ace runners such as Dr. Vivek Billimelpally ran the full marathon, while Dr. Sonali Tank and Ms. Preeti Uchil ran the half marathon for FPA India.

**ACHIEVERS**

We thank you for your contribution to RUN-FIP. Family Planning is a Way of Life.
In Bangalore, an awareness programme was organized to highlight the different forms of violence among young people, the Juvenile Justice Court, child rights and child Helplines. Mrs Gunaseela, a senior worker with Child Helpline, was the Resource Person. Participants: 120

In Belgaum, a programme was organized at the KLS Gopala College of Commerce, Prof G K Khakadab, President, FPAI India, inaugurated the programme Participants: 65

In Nipal, the celebrations culminated at the Providence College for Women, Coimbatore. The highlight was a Placement Skills Training Games conducted by Mr G Lakshmi Narayanan, Programme Committee Chairperson. Mr S Ramanathan, Hon Treasurer delivered the keynote address while Mr G L Ravi, PO gave the vote of thanks.

An awareness programme was organized in Panthakula supervised by Mr. Deep Shams, PO, and Mr. Jaswinder, youth leader. Around 70 students from Punjab Model School Sector 21, took part in the rally motivated by the slogan ‘Yuva Shakti Auge Badhho, Yuva Vah Jor Boldi Duniya’.

Consultant, Ms. Poonam Multitja, from Population Foundation of India (PFI), Ms. Sukhdev Narayan, from International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), and Dr. Kalyan Apte, Mr. Amita Dhanu, Dr. Nina Puri, Mrs. Neelam Dixit, and Mr. Umesh Arudhya from FPAI India. Annu runners such as Dr. Vivek Diller played the full marathon while Dr. Sonali Tank and Mrs. Preeti Unni ran the half marathon for FPAI India.

In Belgaum, FPAI India branch managers and volunteers also provided immense support by raising amounts for the run and making it a great success. The top 10 branches to raise maximum funds for the marathon were Bangalore, Guskar, Hyderabad, Mumbai, Pune, Panthakula, Balleri, Bider, Vijayapur, and Dharward.

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Our volunteers and participants made the cheer zone a happening one by showcasing our programs and services through banners, interesting games like Snakes and Ladders on SBHR, skills and dances, and even a flash mob by the youth volunteers of our Mumbai Branch. To top it all, expert doctors on our panel also interacted LIVE with our audience and answered their queries on SBHR and Family Planning – A sight unusual for other participating NGOs. FPAI India managed to interact with over 15,000 people at the cheer zone.

Participation in the marathon not only helped in raising funds for the cause, but also gave our team and our cause great exposure with the press meets before and after the marathon and a #RUNForFP social media campaign which ran across Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram with tweets from runners, donors, stakeholders, and fundraisers. FPAI India got featured in various mainstream media for all the efforts undertaken. Among all NGOs who participated, FPAI India proudly bagged the 2nd place for the Motivational Cheer Zone because of its content, design, and range of activities to engage the audience.

After putting in tremendous efforts over days and many nights too, every member of the FPAI India team, though exhausted, stood smiling at the finish line, enjoying their sweet success in the Standard Chartered Mumbai Marathon 2017.
In this project, FPA India had meetings with Members of Parliament (MPs) and developed an Advocacy Resource Kit on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights for them. The Kit was released by Shri Sharad Bansode, Shri Shantaram Naik, Shri Arjunlal Meena, Shri Ananda Baskar Ropulu, Mr. Shri. Anand Balaker, Mr. Shri. Hitesh Salvi, MP, Prof. Shri. V. B. Kamble, Chief, Development Officier. The Co-operative Bank of Rajasthan, was the chief guest.

The programme was held in collaboration with Mahila Balika Vikas Samiti and the Liceness Club of Sagar. Dr. Reena Bajaj, Deputy Director, Population Resources Centre (PRC), was the chief speaker.

He felt that “it is compulsory to change the approach of society for women’s empower- ment” Mr. Gyaneshwar Bhardwaj, BESC Member, Mrs. Rajesh Trivedi, Principal of the college and Mrs. R visible Kesaria, Raja Chante Trust were the resource persons. Participants 175 girls.

Later in March, the Resource Kit was shared with Dr. Subhash Bhamre, Minister of State for Defence, Dr. Shashi Tharoor and Mr. M B Rajesh, Members of Parliament.

FPA India has been implementing the project – Strengthening MDG 5a and 5b in South Asia: Creating Champions and Gaining Momentum for Progress in SRHR funded by EU through IFFAT-SAR.

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A rally was conducted in SAS Nagar, with around 150 students participating in it. It was flagged off by Dr. Harish Kumar, Principal, Khalha College. The college staff, volunteers and FPA India staff also took part in the rally. The event got widespread coverage in the media.

In a related event, an Awareness Programme—Signature Campaign was conducted at the Industrial Training Institute for Women at SAS Nagar. Dr. (Mrs) Sunej Kaar Sandhu, Patnit, FPA India; Ms. Ash Preet Kaur, Youth Volunteer; Mrs. Harsh Bajaj, PG; and Mr. Keren, Backdash, Principal, ETI, were the resource persons. Participants: 200.

He underlined the importance of frequent testing and self-examination of the breast. Mrs. Sant Lata, Branch Manager, and Ms. Manju Gouda, PO, were the other resource persons. Participants: Over 150 women from remote areas.

Another Awareness Programme was organised in a slum colony in Sector 25. Mr. Goved Singh, Project Manager, TM Project for TWAD, Chandigarh; Mrs. Sarabjit Sarma, Counselor; Mrs. Bhavana Sapp, MEA; were the resource persons. Participants: 47 (including 9 from the area).

Mr. Babir Singh Sidhu, MLA, visited the FPA India branch office on the occasion of the Women’s Day. The humble MLA addressed the gathering, sharing the theme of the day before tapping off the rally.

In Nigdi, the Day was observed with an address on gender equality and women empowerment. The speech on the year’s theme for Women’s Day was given by Mrs. Parveshwar Parihar, Hon Secretary. Mr. J. Varaharajan, Branch Manager, delivered the keynote address. Participants: 47.

A rally was conducted in Sampoorn, and a general checkup of clients was held in the Mobile Clinic at Devli Village. Mrs. Sudha, Counsellor, informed the audience about how they can utilize the services of the Domestic State Level Partnerships

This two-day meeting was organized in collaboration with White Ribbon Alliance India in Mumbai. In her opening remarks, Dr. Kalpana Apte, Secretary General, FPA India, said that the recent past has seen many strong voices being raised for the betterment of women.

She said that the one thing that all NGOs had in common was that they worked for the economically poor. She stressed the need to work together on the issue of maternal health. Dr. Apte also said that in Maharashtra, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) could be a strong partner with FPA India for promoting the WRA India. The session on reproductive health and family planning issues in Maharashtra was facilitated by Dr. Arif Qureshi.

Ms. Deepa Jha from White Ribbon Alliance India explained the campaign Hamara Swasthya Hamara Azad. Later, sessions on Advocacy Planning were conducted for the participants.

It was emphasized that FPA India would help the Maharashtra Chapter to gain ground, but the participants need to show a deep interest and a willingness to work for both the Alliance or State Level Chapter — even without the possibility of any funding. The Maharashtra State Level Chapter was able to get about 1,600 forms filled already.
Media meetings on Family Planning

Family Planning is an essential component of primary health care and reproductive health. It plays an important role in reducing maternal and newborn morbidity and mortality, as well as transmission of HIV and reducing unwanted pregnancies. There is a need for increased efforts to advocate for the recognition of the role of family planning in achieving health and development objectives at all levels.

PFA India Panchkula, Kolkata, Japur and Bhurbanwara branches organized a series of media meetings on family planning. As part of these meetings, GIDs also participated in some of the branches.

Media representatives suggested that such sessions should be conducted prior to the State budget so that the government can be pressed to consider an increase in budget to strengthen family planning services. Many branches encouraged media personnel to make video-cum-media tours to further understand the work of PFA India.

The media asked several questions related to total fertility rate, quality of care and modern spacing methods. Mr. Umesh Awadhya, President, was present in all the media meetings and spoke about the Association and its work.

In the Headquarters, a musical evening was organized as part of the International Women’s Day celebrations. Sunehar Sharm, as the evening was called, was dedicated to every woman in India. It promoted women empowerment so that women can live freely with a sense of self-worth, respect, dignity and access to all their rights.

The event was inaugurated by Dr. Neelgandha Wal, activist, women’s worker for women empowerment, and Mrs. Virenda Rajkumar, National President, Mahila Manch. Ms. Virenda Awadhya, President, PFA India, and Member of National Commission of Child Rights was present, along with other luminaries – Mr. Dev Dutt Dwivedi, Dr. R. P. Saxena, and Mr. Kamal Nath with over 800 people comprising the audience, including officials from corporate, NGOs and students.

A procession was the highlight of the celebrations at our Kaluchna Branch.

PFA India Boat Club, National President, Dr. K. V. Awadhya, President, PFA India, delivered his presidential address.

From Left to right: Dr. Jitendra Dutta, Secretary Treasurer, PFA India Kolkata Branch; Dr. Subhas Ray, Vice-President, PFA India, Secretary, PFA India Japur Branch; Mr. Subhas Ray, General Secretary; Dr. Sunil Kumar Bose, President, PFA India; Dr. Ashok Roy, Secretary, PFA India Kolkata Branch; Dr. Rohan Jha, President.

Prof. K. V. Awadhya, President, PFA India, addressed the gathering.

The rally was led by Mrs. Nirmala Mahi, Sec-Vic, Kaluchna Panchayat, Santal Government of West Bengal.

The discussion covered SRH, adolescent abortion, violence against women and girls, sanitation, work and forced child marriage, and institutional bias. Though “women’s rights are human rights” according to Dr. Chomy Bose, “they are still being denied to them.” The event was received well and enjoyed excellent coverage in the media.

In Murdah, a training session for capacity building was conducted for clinical staff with regard to cervical cancer screening. Dr. Mahabub Ali, Professor & H.O.D., Department of Oncology at the Government Rajiv Gandhi Hospital gave a special address covering all types of cancer. Participants 40.

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The Chief Guest, the dashing Dr. Mallika Sarabhai, was impressed by the range of entries and commented on the work being undertaken by Population First. The evening glittered with performances by Ms. Sunanda Rao, pop diva, and a dance rendition by Dargan.

Dr. Ashok, President, Lions Club, and Mrs. Arati Sebald, Coordinator, Mahila Sangh, were present. The key people who addressed the audience. Their message was simple and clear: “Equal opportunity should be given to women, Be Bold For Change!” The audience included women from the community members of the Lions Club, and PFA India staff.

An AB5-working group of women, which included sex workers, tea garden workers and advance workers, walked on the streets. This was followed by an Open Discussion on women empowerment, rights and gender equality, and a cultural program in front of an audience around 800 women.

In Kolkata, a panel discussion was organized focusing on women’s equality and emancipation, centering on the theme ‘Be Bold for Change.’

The panelists included Dr. Chomy, Kumar Bose, President, PFA India; Dr. Dipanwita Hazarika, Hon Secretary; Dr. Sunil Ray, Economist; Dr. Ashok Roy, Social Worker; Mr. Jitendra Dutta, Journalist; and Mr. Sandip Banerjee, Social Worker.

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Sunehari Shaam is a series of musical evenings organised by Family Planning Association of India (FPA India). It was launched in Mumbai on the occasion of International Woman’s Day, on February 24, 2017 at 7 pm at Ravindra Natya Mandir, Dadar. This initiative is dedicated to every woman and promotes women empowerment so that women can live freely with a sense of self-worth, dignity, and access to all their rights.

The event in Mumbai, was inaugurated by Dr. Nishigandha Wad, eminent worker for women empowerment and Mrs. Vyjayatimalakar, National President, Mahila Morcha, Mr. Umesh Anadhye, President, FPA India, and Member of National Commission of Child Rights was present, along with other luminaries – Mr. Dev Dutt Dewoolkar, Dr. R P Sonawane and Mr. Kamal Nathan.

More than 900 people from corporates, NGOs, and educational institutes, participated in the event. The audience also comprised of many music lovers who believe in women power. The Sunehari Shaam team included eminent singers and a band of 10 musicians equipped with 12 musical instruments, world class sound and lights. The evening was indeed made nostalgic with many classic romantic film songs sung by Mr. Lalit Parashar, a singer and actor of ‘Sunil Babu’ fame.

In Aga, a meeting was conducted in which 31 women took part, including CSOs, ASHAs, ICDS workers and members of Self Help Groups. The objective of the meeting was to empower women so that they can use their rights, to enhance their decision-making power in the family, and to improve knowledge of women in social and political sectors. The participants were imparted knowledge on SRHR as well as cervical cancer screening.

Another session was organized focusing on gender equality, safe abortion and contraceptives, SRHR rights, ST/RTI and HIV/AIDS, and health and hygiene.

In Bangalore, the day was observed by conducting 9 health camps. The activities included cervical cancer screening, ST/RTI screening, HIV, colposcopy services, gynaecological services, HIV services, GVB Screening, VCD, blood group test, HIV rapid test and hemoglobin test.

In Ahmedabad, a street play was organized in association with HK Arts College. Gender equality and men’s role in society were highlighted. Around 550 people watched the play.

To mark the occasion, a cervical cancer screening camp was conducted for FSW and PLHIV women. During the session, 276 women received SRHR services. 48 were screened for cervical cancer, and 19 PAP and 29 VHB tests were done. One woman was referred to the civil

FPA India had invited thought leaders representing academicians, clinical experts, social scientists and the civil society for a ‘Round Table on Family Planning’ at Hotel Lalit, Mumbai. The objective of the meeting was to analyze the current trends, examine the latest demographic and clinical evidence with reference to the national commitments, think out-of-the-box to deliberate on the efficacy of current strategies, and the need to innovate to achieve timely gains.

The main sessions during the meeting were: Emerging demographic evidence – Emerging clinical evidence – findings of clinical trials on Implants and PVR Ring and panel discussion to improve Family Planning (FP) programmes in India.


It was strongly felt that CSOs working for family planning must come together and develop effective implementation strategies to improve the programme in India.
A meeting on Women’s Network was organized by FPA India Singhbhum Branch at the Reproductive and Family Planning Centre (RHFPC) Hall. The purpose of the network meeting was to encourage eminent women to become catalysts of change and mobilize their peers for sexual and reproductive health for all.

Women from diverse fields working in the area of empowerment were invited to participate in the meeting. There were discussions on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and its crosscutting impact on SRHR and other human rights. There were sessions on advocacy planning which included the concept of advocacy, components of advocacy, qualities of a successful advocate, tips of advocacy practices and understanding the advocacy planning model.

A declaration was signed by the women who participated in the meeting, the network was formed and roles and responsibilities were discussed. There were representatives from government, CSR, Panchayati members, peer educators and CSOs.

Some of the roles and responsibilities include:
1. Support for the advocacy on SRHR for all
2. Promote and continue to create a demand for SRH including family planning and rights in different forums
3. Work with the rest of the women’s team to communicate and plan strategies for sharing the views and opinions, and
4. Attend in person at least two out of the three meetings each year and if not present, continually communicate with the team to ensure a clear understanding of all current affairs.

The topics of the course were: Micro-skills in Counseling, Overview of HIV/AIDS in India, Pre-HIV Test Counseling and Post HIV Test Counseling. It included role-plays, group discussions and simulation exercises that helped participants to understand HIV Counseling better.

A one-week training course was organized on ‘MVM Counselling’ at Breach Candy Hospital Trust by FPA India Headquarters. 26 participants including medical officers, staff nurses, medical social workers and lab technicians, blood bank managers, and microbiologists took part in the training. These personnel were from hospitals across Mumbai: Breach Candy, Nanavati, Prince Aly Khan, Holy Spirit, Bombay and Worli.

The feedback received from participants was positive. They appreciated the content and participatory methodology of the course. Participants were awarded a Certificate of Attendance from FPA India. This was the third such course organized in association with Breach Candy Hospital Trust.

A health camp was organized on 1st December in collaboration with Spandana Health Foundation Trust, Sangamvinta Blood Bank and Kambh Narotra College. Mr. Umesh Aradhya, National President, spoke on awareness among Indian women. Ms. Reema Bhati, President, and Mr. Ashok Kumar, Secretary, were also present. Blood testing was done on 72 people, while 11 people donated blood. Beneficiaries: 82. Spandana Health Foundation Trust donated Rs. 6,000 for the event.

Prof. Dr. Nachiket Kalede, President, hoisted the flag in the Branch Office. Dr. Madhuri Varadekar, Vice President, Mr. Sugat Gayakwad, Branch Manager, and other senior dignitaries were present.

SRHs special service sessions organized

In association with Jayasani College, Solapur, these camps were organized at Mandup Village. Prof. Dr. G. Dorse, BEO Member, spoke about the SRH Services available at the branch. Mr. Sugat Gayakwad, Branch Manager and others were present on the occasion.

Safe abortion and AIDS awareness programme conducted

This programme was arranged for self-help groups at Shigdi, in collaboration with the District AIDS Control Prevention Unit, Solapur, and the Dhan Foundation. Dr. Kishor Hingoli, Head of Microbiology Department inaugurated the event and spoke on the occasion. Mr. Sugat Gayakwad, Branch Manager and other dignitaries were present.

Blood donation camp held

The camp was organized in association with Lions Club of Solapur Central and the Dhan’s Blood Bank. The event was graced by Prof. Dr. Shriram Yedeogoonkar, Vice President, Dr. Nachiket Kalede, President, and others. Another Hemoglobin and blood donation camp was organized at Kasturba College of Education.

Two-day training programme for ASHA and Link Workers

Mrs. Kalpana Gadapade and Mrs. Shubhangi Naikwadi were the resource persons at a training programme organized in association with Mahila Anugya Samiti (MAS).
Sensitization Meetings on Status of Family Planning in Madhya Pradesh

FPA India is implementing a project in the state funded by the Population Foundation of India. Evidence Based Advocacy for Expanding Contraceptive Choices in Madhya Pradesh. As part of this, two sensitization meetings were held in March on the ‘Status of Family Planning in Madhya Pradesh’ exclusively for MIAs and MPs. The objective was to share key findings with the elected representatives.

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A health check-up camp was conducted at RIMS, Raipur for PHIs by Dr. S. Suman Babu, Assistant Professor, RIMS, examined the patients. At a Cervical Cancer Screening Session in the Suryaban Slum Community, Dr. Rajeshwar Verma, DGO, spoke to the audience. She also personally examined the patients. A day-long session on female sterilization was conducted by Dr. Anuradha, LMC of RPHRC, Raipur. It was attended by women from the local community.

Among the attendees was Mr. Vishwas Sarang, Minister for Bhopal Gas Tragedy, Panchnayat Gamp, Rural Development, Government of Madhya Pradesh. All the MIAs were appreciative of the work done by FPA India in the words of one of them: “Family Planning is a life planning and one should understand the importance of it.” RBA is a key driver of all the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which are a must for overall development and wellbeing of all peoples and countries... (BRA) a topic like Family Planning is still a taboo, even politicians avoid talking on such issues.”

The meetings were also attended by state officials and representatives from the National Health Mission. On behalf of FPA India, Mr. Umesh Aradhya, National President, spoke about Family Planning as “an essential component of primary health care and reproductive health.” Dr. Kishna Agar, Secretary General, said “Family Planning plays an important role in the development of India.” Citing the example of the UN’s fund- ed project on Addressing Adolescent Fertility in Barwani district of Madhya Pradesh, she outlined the key activities of FPA India.

An important outcome of these meetings was the recommendation to reach the unreached sections of society, and to improve the quality of service. Representatives from Indore, Gwalior and Jabalpur branches also participated in the meetings. Dr. (Mrs) Mamtata Mithra, President of the Bhopal branch, welcomed the gathering in both meetings.

RAICHUR
Wrap-up of sessions and events at the branch

A session was organized to give training in Mehendi and Bead-making course. It was inaugurated by Dr. Y.A. Malad, Branch President, in the presence of Secretary, Treasurer and BIC Members. Dr. Malad gave the inaugural address.

A health checkup camp was conducted at the Government High School Yamaha for adolescent girls. Dr. Y.A. Malad, Branch President, spoke on the occasion. Dr. Anuradha, L.M.O., examined the students.

On Republic Day, January 26, a flag hoisting ceremony was organized at the branch. Dr. Y.A. Malad, Branch President, unfurled the tricolour and addressed the gathering on the occasion. He exhorted the staff of FPA India to continue providing honest, selfless service to the community.

Dr. Y.A. Malad, President of the Branch at his speech at Government High School Yamaha Camp

Dr. Anuradha, LMO, of the Branch, health check up camp for female adolescents in GHS Yamaha Camp

Dr. Rajeshwar Verma, DGO addressing at Cervical Cancer Screening Session in the Suryaban Slum community & participants

Dr. Anuradha, LMO of the Branch, speaking at the inauguration of Mehendi and Bead-making camp at Government High School Yamaha

PUNE
Training programme for field staff

This programme focused on life skills was conducted by Dr. Dhamadhikari, Dr. Mahajan and Mrs. Vaishali Joshi. The objective of the programme was to help remove inhibitions at workers at the grassroots level, so that it results in an increase in demand for SRH services. Communication skills, problem solving, assertiveness and self-awareness were some of the topics covered. Participants: 51.

PUNE
"MOBILE CLINIC" in MV at Devari Village

RAICHUR
"MOBILE CLINIC" in MV at Devari Village
How FPA India is helping to change the society – slowly but steadily

This story of courage comes from Bhubaneswar. Ms. Sunita Das (name changed) is 23, a graduate and pursuing her post-graduation. She’s the eldest among five girls, so her parents were in a hurry to get her married. They found a match – a teacher – but a man addicted to alcohol and gutkha.

Ms. Das was not interested to marry a person with such bad habits, but the family under societal pressure went ahead and had an engagement ceremony. Suspecting that she was avoiding him, the man called her friends to find out the reason. When he realized that she was not keen on marrying him, he started sending her abusive messages on the phone. He also threatened her, so in case she avoided meeting him. One day, he went to her hostel and created a scene there, trying to convince her to marry him.

When she was still adamant, he started shouting at her much to her embarrassment. Feeling humiliated, she started getting into a depression. That was when she came into contact with FPA India, Bhubaneswar Branch.

The Counselor at the branch briefed Ms. Das about SRHR and gender equality. She was made aware of her rights and was informed about the agencies that dealt with women’s issues. This knowledge strengthened the confidence of Ms. Das. She now spoke to her family, informing them that she would, if needed, approach the Women’s Commission or even lodge an FIR with the Mahila PIs.

That sent a strong message to her family who then got in touch with the boy’s family. The marriage was called off to the relief of Ms. Das – she’s now able to continue her studies without interruption.

PANCHKULA

Awareness programme about family planning and safe abortion

The Branch organised an exclusive awareness session for ASHA workers focusing on safe abortion and family planning. Dr. Nitya Goyal and Dr. Jhaveri were the resource persons. The workers were also introduced to – and oriented on – the new ultra sound equipment acquired by the branch.

Refurbished USG Centre inaugurated

Mr. Umesh Aradhyaa, President, Dr. Kajbana Apte, Secretary General, FPA India, Mrs. Kalpana Sardhava, President, Yamunanagar Branch, Mr. P.P. Bajaj, Vice President, Mewal Branch, Mr. Praveen Sharma, Branch Manager, Agargaon Branch and Mr. Suresh Manjhi, Branch Manager, Ahmadabad Branch, graced the occasion. The refurbished boiling offers better facilities and convenience to clients and has increased their numbers. Participants: 27.

Media meet to announce new and improved services

Thanks to increased budget allocation and better engagement with civil society organisations, the quality of care and family planning services have been enhanced at the Branch.

To announce this, a media meet was organized in which senior dignitaries like Mr. Umesh Aradhyaa, President, Dr. Kajbana Apte, Secretary General, FPA India and Mr. Gyan Chand Gupta, Govt. Chief Whip (State Minister) Haryana, Dr. Madhu Gupta, Assistant Professor, School of Public Health PGIMER, Dr. Ruchi Gupta, MCF, Family Welfare DGHS, Haryana and Dr. Sanj Aggarwal, Deputy Civil Surgeon, Panchkula, Minister and Chief Whip, Government of Haryana, were present. Representatives of the media and NGOs in the Panchkula area attended the event. Participants: 72.

Medical sub-fertility case study

In our Panchkula Branch, the sub-fertility of Mrs. A was treated successfully. Mrs. A is 25 years old and her husband works in the private sector. She was curvaceous at the 8th visit and was converted into an ANC client. This change from sub-fertility to ANC is a confirmed success story for FPA India.

Important visitors at the branch

Mr. Gyan Chand Gupta, Minister and Chief Whip, Government of Haryana, had a word of praise for FPA India commending its role as an important factor that helps to control the population at an all India level. Mr. Gupta wished the Association success in all its endeavours.

Dr. Sanj Aggarwal, Deputy Civil Surgeon, Panchkula, said that the PRI is privileged to be associated with FPA India for the last 29 years. She appreciated the Association’s dedicated service to the marginalized and needy.

NILGIRIS

Training on child care and crèche management

This programme was conducted across two days and as many batches. Mrs. Ramanaswari Parpanathan, Hon Secretary, Mr. Harishkumar, Hon Treasurer, Mr. J. Senthilraj, Branch Manager, Nilgiri Branch, Mr. Lakshmi Narayanan, BCC, and Dr. Malavika Singh, MD, Yuvaraj PHC, were the resource persons.

Topics included effective communication with mothers, nutrition and its importance, sexual and other abuse of children, health and hygiene at preschool level, crèche management, formal education for 5-5 year old children, feeding practices, immunization and fist aid.

The branch mobilized 28,300 from Cragmore Plantation India Pvt. Ltd, which the FPA India gratefully acknowledged. A key outcome of the event was that 25 crèches spoke were identified as Branch CBOs. Participants: 46.
MADURAI
Capacity building training programme conducted

The programme was conducted for Youth Volunteers and Peer Educators. Mr. Ganeshan from AID Trust, an NGO, was the trainer. The training was on the skills and techniques of street play, to tackle the theme of Comprehensive Sexuality Education.

NORTH KANARA
Gynecological and contraceptive camp

A special camp offering gynecological and contraceptive services was held at Kasarkod for both men and women. The event was held in collaboration with Snehasunja, an NGO, and laid emphasis on awareness and examination. Mrs. Santan Louis, Branch Manager, delivered a speech about family planning. Dr. Suma Bhat examined the patients. Participants: 40 women from remote areas.

SRH awareness sessions and services for adolescents

The special session focused on awareness and examination. Mrs. Santan Louis, Branch Manager, Dr. Anchana Bhat, CEO, Member, and Mrs. Manjula Goswa, PO, were the resource persons. Mrs Louis spoke on the occasion, highlighting the importance of SRH awareness “Student health has to be treated as wealth.” she said. Participants: 87.

MOHALI
Donations received

To mark the World Health Day 2017, Larsen & Toubro Limited, Chandigarh, donated a Urine Analyzer worth ₹ 42,000 for the clinical laboratory and medicines worth ₹ 4,650. The donations were gratefully acknowledged by FPA India.

AGRA
One-day training programme for Peer Educators

Youth, identified for the role of Peer Educators, were given specialized training. They were imparted critical knowledge on SRH and were prepared to conduct CSE sessions in their locality. Participants: 15.

AHMEDABAD
‘Good health’ competitions held

Two competitions – ‘Healthy Antenatal Mother Competition’ and ‘Healthy Recipe Competition’ – were conducted in Thakkarwadi. The event was inaugurated by counselors of the Ward, Mrs. Bunuban Kalada, Mrs. Anuriben Shab and Mr. Dattatray Panal, Dr. Deepak Mishra, MD at the UHC, spoke on the occasion. Participants: 48.

Capacity building programs for ASHA

Gender Based Violence was the subject for training sessions in capacity building for 253 ASHAs in different wards of Ahmedabad. Across 7 sessions, different forms of violence, signs, and symptoms of violence, the female cycle in the violence and the role of ASHA, and tools to be used were discussed.

BELGAUM

Health checkup camps

Two health checkup camps were conducted for adolescent boys and girls belonging to two high schools. Dr. Umesh Channath and Dr. Jayasheela Bagi, of JNMC Belgaum, examined the participants and distributed free medicines. Participants: 126 (58 male, 68 female).

Gender and empowerment programme

This programme was organized for the staff and volunteers of the branch. Prof. G K Khadabdi, President, presided over the programme while Mrs. Sadhana Patil, Officer, Employment Exchange was the Resource Person. Participants: 21.

Youth Centre inaugurated

The Centre was inaugurated by Prof. G K Khadabdi, President, FPA India with Mr. K N Gutmara, PO as the Resource Person.

Cervical cancer awareness and screening programme

The programme was conducted for female sex workers. Mr. S. M. Patil, Chief Executive Director, RBSSV-Yagpur was the Guest of Honour. Prof. G K Khadabdi, President, and Mr. K N Gutmara, PO, addressed the gathering. Beneficiaries: 95 female sex workers.

DHARWAD

Community and youth programme

The event was organized in association with Deshanede Foundation, Hubballi. Senior dignitaries from the Foundation and government officials were present at the programme. Achievers were felicitated towards as the programme concluded. Participants: 420, comprising of health partners and NGOs.

Arogya Prerana programme organized for workers

Deshanede Foundation, an important partner and donor of the Dharwad branch, felicitated the link workers and the best youth member of the branch under the Arogya Prerana programme. The Foundation organizes the programme every year in support of health workers in partner organizations.

HBSAG sensitization and vaccination drive

Approximately 90% of new HBV infections occur among adults. Unvaccinated adults with behavioural risk factors of those that are household contact or sex partners of HBsAg-infected persons remain at risk. Beneficiaries: 36.

Colposcopy camp

A cervical cancer awareness and detection camp was organized to enable early treatment. Such camps are crucial because local women are more prone to contact cervical cancer and they also tend to be secretive about it. 24 people benefited from the camp. The branch also conducted these camps in collaboration with Ashirwa, under the guidance of Dr. Rama Dixit. 40 women were examined, and 11 cases were referred for colposcopy checkup.

Training programmes for local doctors

With the objective of orienting local doctors to detect cervical cancer early, 6 BAMS doctors were trained in anatomy and physiology of vulva, vagina and cervix, screening to detect precursors of cervical cancer, and so on. By the end of the programme, all participating doctors were capable of performing the VIK test.

BIJAPUR

‘Anti Criminal Day’ observed

The branch was involved in the ‘Aarada Tade Mahasangram’ (Anti-Criminal Day), which was held in association with the Police Department and IRCDC. It was inaugurated by Dr. Shreemata Guar, Additional SP. Everything from awareness to the need to avoid drunk driving to the role of NGOs was discussed. Mr. V N Kotawal PO, was one of the speakers. He spoke on ‘Adolescents: Their Role and Rights.’ Participants: 182 males, 79 females.

Programme on reproductive health, mother and newborn care, children’s health and adolescent awareness conducted

This programme was organized in Sindagi in collaboration with the Field Publicity Office (Government of India), Zilla Panchayat, Women & Child Development Department and the Department of Education.

The local MLA, Mr. Ramesh Bhusur, inaugurated the programme. Mr. V N Kotawal PO, spoke about Reproductive Health, Mother and Child Care, Adolescent Health Issues, and Health and Community Involvement. Beneficiaries: 260 males, 110 females.

A similar programme was held at Basarakan Village in Muddebihal Taluka. The local MLA, Mr. C S Mandouguda inaugurated the event.

Mr. V N Kotawal PO, addressed the gathering. Beneficiaries: 195 males, 120 females.

GWALIOR

Youth guidance meeting on Adolescent Health and Life Skills

Young people are often confused about health, life skills, decisions on life and career, parenting, family issues etc. The meeting, aimed to tackle these problems, was held under the guidance of Mr. Ashtendra Singh Kushwah and youth worker, Mr. Ankit Pragpati and Mr. Deepak. The session was headed by Mrs. Nidhi Dixit, while the Chief Guest was the Honorary ADM (Pirvai) Singh. Participants: 68.

Sensitization rally on women empowerment

A rally was organized with the objective of sensitizing the community on women empowerment and highlighting girls’ education and health. It was inaugurated by Mrs. Sambhika Gupta, ex-Mayor. Participants included 80 young people and around 100 women workers from ASHA and UDA. Speakers like Beca, Poorna, Shikha, Shivani, Parvan and Mahi, and Nirmal, danced, sang and danced to raise funds. The rally was covered by both print and electronic media.

Training in skill development

Today’s competitive world demands high-quality education as well as finely honed skills among the youth. To help address this requirement, the branch organized a two-month skill development training programme for girls and women.

Participants were invited especially from outreach areas, those that never attended school. The objective was to help them become aware and self-reliant. They were taught relevant design making and were supplied the required stationary to learn the skill. Beneficiaries: 47 girls.
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Health checkup camps

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A similar programme was held at Basaradak village in Muddibihal Taluka. The local MLA, Mr. C. S. Nandagouda inaugurated the event.

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Mr. V. N. Kotawal, PO, addressed the gathering. Beneficiaries: 195 males, 120 females.

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Young people are often confused about health, life skills, decisions on life and career, career planning, family issues etc. The meeting, aimed to tackle these problems, was held under the guidance of Mr. Arshendra Singh Kushwah and youth worker, Mr. Ankit Pragya and Mr. Deepmal. The session was headed by Mrs. Neelum Dhir, while the Chief Guest was the Hon’able ADM (Divvy) Singh. Participants: 68.
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Capacity building training programme conducted

The programme was conducted for Youth Volunteers and Peer Educators. Mr Ganeshan from AID Trust, an NGO, was the trainer. The training was on the skills and techniques of street play, to tackle the theme of Comprehensive Sexuality Education.

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Gynecological and contraceptive camp

A special camp offering gynecological and contraceptive services was held at Kasarkod for both men and women. The event was held in collaboration with Snehakuna, an NGO, and laid emphasis on awareness and examination. Mrs Santan Louis, Branch Manager, delivered a speech about family planning. Dr. Suma Bhat examined the patients. Participants: 40 women from remote areas.

Anemia awareness and testing

This programme was organized in association with Canara Health Care Centre and aimed to eradicate anemia in adolescent girls. The programme concluded with testing of Hb for the girls, recommending follow-up treatment where required.

Dr G G Hegde, President, spoke on anemia and other health issues among adolescent girls. Mrs Santan Louis, Branch Manager, spoke about family planning. The girls were tested for Hb with the follow-up treatment where necessary. Participants: 260 students of New English High School Honnavar.

MOHALI
Donations received

To mark the World Health Day 2017, Larsen & Toubro Limited, Chandigarh, donated a Urine Analyzer worth ₹ 400,000 for the clinical laboratory and medicines worth ₹ 4,500. The donations were gratefully acknowledged by FPA India.

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One-day training programme for Peer Educators

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Two competitions – ‘Healthy Antenatal Mother-Competition’ and ‘Healthy Recipe Competition’ – were conducted in Thakkarbagh nagar. The event was inaugurated by Councillors of the Ward, Mrs Bunkrat Khalad, Mrs Anubhav Shab and Mr. Dattatray Pandit. Dr. Deepak Mishra, MO at the UHC, spoke on the occasion. Participants: 48.

Capacity building programs for ASHAs

Gender Based Violence was the subject for training sessions in capacity building for 253 ASHAs in different wards of Ahmedabad. Across 7 sessions, different forms of violence, signs and symptoms of violence, the female lifecycle in the violence and the role of ASHAs, and tactics to be sought were discussed.

How FPA India is helping to change the society – slowly but steadily

This story of courage comes from Bhawanipore. Mr. Sartaj Das (name changed) is 21, a graduate and pursuing her post-graduation. She is the eldest among five girls, so her parents were in a hurry to get her married. They found a match – a teacher – but a man addicted to alcohol and gutkha.

Ms. Das was not interested to marry a person with such bad habits, but the family under societal pressure went ahead and had an engagement ceremony. Suspecting that she was avoiding him, the man called her friends to find out the reason. When he realized that she was not seen at the wedding, he started sending her abusive messages on the phone. He also threatened her. In case she avoided meeting him. One day, he went to her hostel and created a scene there, trying to convince her to marry him.

When she was still adamant, he started shouting at her much to her embarrassment. Feeling humiliated, she started getting into a depression. That was when she came into contact with FPA India, Bhawanipore Branch.

The Counselor at the branch briefed Ms. Das about SRHR and gender equality. She was made aware of her rights and was informed about the agencies that dealt with women issues. This knowledge strengthened the confidence of Ms. Das. She now spoke to her family, informing them that she would, if needed, approach the Women’s Commission or even lodge an FIR with the Mahila PS.

This sent a strong message to her family who then got in touch with the boy’s family. The marriage was called off to the relief of Ms. Das – she’s now able to continue her studies without interruptions.

PANCHKULA
Awareness programme about family planning and safe abortion

The Branch organized an exclusive awareness session for ASFA workers focusing on safe abortion and family planning. Dr. Nidhi Goyal and Dr. Sharma were the resource persons. The workers were also introduced to – and oriented on – the new ultra sound equipment acquired by the branch. Participants 14.

Refurbished USG Centre inaugurated

Mr. Umesh Aradhya, President, Dr. Kallabha Ale, Secretary General, FPA India, Mrs. Kamal Sadhdev, President, Yamunanagar Branch, Mr. P.P. Sajal, Vice President, Mehdi Branch, Mr. Prag Dutt Sharma, Branch Manager, Agra Branch and Mr. Surendra Manjha, Branch Manager, Ahmadabad Branch, graced the occasion. The refurbished unit offers better facilities and convenience to clients and has increased their numbers. Participants 27.

Media meet to announce new and improved services

Thanks to increased budget allocation and better engagement with civil society organisations, the quality of care and family planning services have been enhanced at the Branch.

To announce this, a media meet was organized in which senior dignitaries like Mr. Umesh Aradhya, President, Dr. Kallabha Ale, Secretary General, FPA India and Mr. Gian Chand Gupta, Govt. Chief Whip (State Minister) Haryana, Dr. Madhuri Gupta, Assistant Professor, School of Public Health, PGIMER, Dr. Ruchi Gupta, M.C. Family Welfare, Hisar and Dr. Sanj Aggarwal, Deputy Chief Surgeon, Panchkula. Minister and Chief Whip, Government of Haryana, were present. Representatives of the media and NGOs in the Panchkula area attended the event. Participants 72.

Important visitors at the branch

The Panchkula Branch welcomed key dignitaries from the Headquarters and other chapters of FPA India, all of whom shared their thoughts and views.

Mr. Umesh Aradhya, President, spoke about the comprehensive range of services offered by FPA India to the different and marginalized sections of the society.

Dr. Kallabha Ale, Secretary General highlighted the need to enhance the role of family planning and increase awareness of SRHR.

Mr. Gian Chand Gupta, Minister and Chief Whip, Government of Haryana; had a word of praise for FPA India commending its role as an important factor that helps to control the population at an all India level. Mr. Gupta wished the Association success in all its endeavours.

Dr. Sanj Aggarwal, Deputy Chief Surgeon, Panchkula, said that the unit was to be associated with FPA India for the last 29 years. She appreciated the Association’s dedicated service to the marginalized and needy.

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In our Panchkula Branch, the sub-fertility of Mrs A was treated successfully. Mrs A is 29 years old and her husband works in the private sector. She was curative at the 8th visit and was converted into a ANC client. This change from sub-fertility to ANC is a confirmed success story for FPA India.
**RAICHUR**

Wrap-up of sessions and events at the branch

A session was organized to give training in Mahendi and Beasudra course. It was inaugurated by Dr. V.A. Malapati, Branch President, in the presence of Secretary, Treasurer and BIC Members. Mr. Malapati gave the inaugural address.

A health checkup camp was conducted at the Government High School Tamata for adolescent girls. Dr. V. A. Malapati, Branch President, unfurled the tri-colour and addressed the gathering on the occasion. He exhorted the staff of FPA India to continue providing honest, selfless service to the community.

On Republic Day, January 26, a flag hoisting ceremony was organized at the branch. Dr. V. A. Malapati, Branch President, unfurled the tri-colour and addressed the gathering on the occasion. He exhorted the staff of FPA India to continue providing honest, selfless service to the community.

FPA India is implementing a project in the state funded by the Population Foundation of India. Evidence-based Advocacy for Expanding Contraceptive Choices in Madhya Pradesh. As part of this, two sensitization meetings were held in March on the ‘Status of Family Planning in Madhya Pradesh’. The objective was to share key findings with the elected representatives.

Among the attendees was Mr. Vishwanath Sarang, Minister for Bhopal Gas Tragedy, Parshad Gamp, Rural Development, Government of Madhya Pradesh. All the MLAs were appreciative of the work done by FPA India in the words of one of them: “Family Planning is (like) life planning and one should understand the importance of it”. It is a key driver of all the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which are a must for overall development and wellbeing of all peoples and countries. (But) a topic like Family Planning is still a taboo, even politicians avoid talking on such issues.”
A meeting on Women’s Network was organized by FPA India Singhbhum Branch at the Reproductive and Family Planning Centre (RHFPCC) Hall. The purpose of the network meeting was to encourage eminent women to become catalysts of change and mobilize their peers for sexual and reproductive health for all.

Women from diverse fields working in the area of empowerment were invited to participate in the meeting. There were discussions on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and its cascading impact on SRHR and other human rights. There were sessions on advocacy planning which included the concept of advocacy, components of advocacy, qualities of a successful advocate, tips of advocacy practices and understanding the advocacy planning model.

A declaration was signed by the women who participated in the meeting, the network was formed and roles and responsibilities were discussed. There were representatives from government, CSR, Panchayati members, peer educators and CSOs.

Some of the roles and responsibilities include:

a) Support for the advocacy on SRHR for all
b) Promote and continue to create a demand for SRHR including family planning and rights in different forums
c) Work with the rest of the women’s team to communicate and plan strategies for sharing the views and opinions, and

A day was dedicated to the capacity building initiative: Training course at Breach Candy Hospital, Mumbai.

The topics of the course were: Micro-skills in Counseling, Overview of HIV/AIDS in India, Pre-HIV Test Counseling and Post HIV Test Counseling. It included role-plays, group discussions and simulation exercises that helped participants to understand HIV Counseling better.

A depleting training course was organized on ‘SRHR Counselling’ at Breach Candy Hospital Trust by FPA India Headquarters. 26 participants including medical officers, staff nurses, medical social workers and lab technicians, blood bank managers, and microbiologists took part in the training. These personnel were from hospitals across Mumbai: Breach Candy, Nanavati, Prince Aly Khan, Holy Spirit, Bombay and Wockhardt.

The feedback received from participants was positive. They appreciated the content and participatory methodology of the course. Participants were awarded a Certificate of Attendance from FPA India. This was the third such course organized in association with Breach Candy Hospital Trust.

A health camp was organized in association with Spandana Health Foundation Trust, Gangaveshi Blood Bank and Kendriya塑造, National President, Mr. Umesh Aradhya, National President, spoke on the importance among Indian women. Mr. Ramesh Babu, President, and Mr. Ashok Kumar, Secretary, were also present. Blood testing was done on 72 people, while 71 people donated blood. Beneficiaries: 82. Spandana Health Foundation Trust donated Rs. 5,000 for the event.

Prof. Dr. Naba Kakade, Vice President, organized the flag at the Branch Office. Dr. Madhuri Valkekar, Vice President, Dr. Sugat Gokhale, Branch Manager, and other senior dignitaries were present.

SRHR special service sessions organized

In association with Jayaram College, Solapur, these camps were organized at Mandup Village. Prof. Dr. S. D. Dixit, BEO Member, spoke about the SRHR Services available at the branch. Mr. Sugat Gokhale, Branch Manager and others were present on the occasion.

Safe abortion and AIDS awareness programme conducted

This programme was arranged for self-help groups at Shinguli, in collaboration with the District AIDS Control Prevention Unit, Solapur, and the Dharm Foundation. Dr. Kishor Hegde, Head of Microbiology Department inaugurated the event and spoke on the occasion. Mr. Sugat Gokhale, Branch Manager and other dignitaries were present.

Blood donation camp held

The camp was organized in association with Lions Club of Solapur Central and the Dhan’s Blood Bank. The event was graced by Prof. Dr. Shrikant Yeolekar, Vice President, Dr. Naba Kakade, President, and others. Another Hemoglobin and blood donation camp was organized at Kasturba College of Education.

Two-day training programme for ASHA and Link Workers

Mrs. Kalpana Gadade and Mrs. Shubhangi Naikwadi were the resource persons at a training programme organized in association with Mahila Anuyog Samiti (MAS).
Sunehari Shaam was a series of musical evenings organised by Family Planning Association of India (FPA India). It was launched in Mumbai on the occasion of International Women’s Day, on February 24, 2017 at 7 pm at Ravindra Natya Mandir, Dadar. This initiative is dedicated to every woman and promotes women empowerment so that women can live freely with a sense of self-worth, respect, dignity, and access to all their rights.

The event in Mumbai, was inaugurated by Dr. Nishigandha Wad, eminent worker for women empowerment and Mrs. Vijaya Rahatkar, National President, Mahila Morcha, Mr. Umesh Anandh, President, FPA India, and Member of National Commission of Child Rights was present, along with other luminaries – Mr. Dev Dutt Dewoolkar, Dr. R P Sowahana and Mr. Kamal Nath.

More than 900 people from corporates, NGOs, and educational institutes, participated in the event. The audience also comprised of many music lovers who believe in women power. The Sunehari Shaam team included eminent singers and a band of 10 musicians equipped with 12 musical instruments, world class sound and lights. The evening was indeed made nostalgic with many classic romantic film songs sung by Mr. Lalit Parashar, a singer and actor of ‘Sunil Babu’ fame in Asian Paints ad, along with a mesmerising performance by his band.

The main sessions during the meeting were: Emerging demographic evidence – and Emerging clinical evidence – findings of clinical trials on Implants and PVR Ring and panel discussion to improve Family Planning (FP) programmes in India.


FPA India had invited thought leaders representing academicians, clinical experts, social scientists and the civil society for a ‘Round Table on Family Planning’ at Hotel Lalit, Mumbai. The objective of this meeting was to analyze the current trends, examine the latest demographic and clinical evidence with reference to the national commitments, think out-of-the-box to deliberate on the efficacy of current strategies, and the need to innovate to achieve timely gains.
Media meetings on Family Planning

Family Planning is an essential component of primary health care and reproductive health. It plays an important role in reducing maternal and newborn morbidity and mortality, as well as transmission of HIV and reducing unwanted pregnancies. There is a need for increased efforts to advocate for the recognition of the role of family planning in achieving health and development objectives at all levels.

PPA India Panchkula, Kolkata, Jaipur and Bhubaneswar branches organized a series of media meetings on family planning. As part of these meetings, NGOs also participated in some of the branches.

The media asked several questions related to total fertility rate, quality of care and modern spacing methods. Mr. Umesh Aradhya, President, was present in all the media meetings and spoke about the Association and its work.

The media representatives suggested that such sessions should be conducted prior to the State budget so that the government can be pressed to consider an increase in budget to strengthen family planning services. Many branches encouraged media personnel to make their virtual-media tours further understand the work of PPA India.

In Bhubaneswar, a sensitization meeting was organized to observe the important day Dr. B.N. Pandey, OCG Specialist, and Dr. Basudev Nayak, MD-RHIFPC emphasized the role of women in society and highlighted the need for SRHR. Participants of the event were conducted in which 20 women were examined. Eight of them were found positive and were counseled for possible cases. Mrs. Santulika Das, Treasurer, was the guest of honour.

The rally was led by Mrs. Nirmala Mahi, Savabati, Kalchiti, Panchavati, Surat, Government of West Bengal.

The discussion covered SRHR, adolescent abortion, violence against women and girls, sanitation, and shared child marriage, and institutional bias. Though “women’s rights are human rights,” according to Dr. Chinmay Bose, “they are still being denied to them.” The event was received well and enjoyed excellent coverage in the media.

In Madurai, a training session for capacity building was conducted for clinical staff with regard to cervical cancer screening. Dr. Mahalakshmi, Professor & Head, Department of Oncology at the Government Rajaji Hospital gave a special address covering all types of cancer. Participants 40.

The Western Regional Event Awards ceremony in Gujarat was organized in February. The event was conducted with the support of UNFPA and with Colors Viacom 18 as the Cause Partner.

The Chief Guest, the donatees Dr. Malika Sarabahi, was impressed by the range of entries and commended the work being undertaken by Population First. The evening glittered with performances by Ms. Sunena Rao, pop diva, and a dance rendition by Darpam.

A health checkup camp was organized in Mahab at the special day. In the camp, 60 women were examined for incidence of breast cancer and other related issues. Among them, 17 women were identified as having PCNP with gynecological problems and 6 with anastomotic cases. Medicines were supplied to the patients.

Western Regional Event Awards

The Western Regional Event Awards ceremony in Gujarat was organized in February. The event was conducted with the support of UNFPA and with Colors Viacom 18 as the Cause Partner.

The Western Regions Awards were held at Gujarat Sahitya Parishad, Ahmedabad. The 250-strong audience included jury members, media professionals, freelancers, students of journalism and representatives of NGOs. In addition, there were award winners from Gujarat, Rajasthan and Maharashtra.

Media Most Bhubaneswar

A cervical and breast cancer screening and awareness session was organized on the occasion. Mrs. Subha D. Prabhulalakar, Hon. Secretary and M. D. B. P. M. Member, were the key dignitaries. Mr. K. N. G_MSG, and PO, explained the objectives of the programme, while Dr. Arati A. Kolarkar, MD-RHIFPC and Dr. Shivani D. Patil, MD-OGS, examined the women who attended. Participants 40.

In the Headquarter, a musical evening was organized as part of the International Women’s Day celebrations. Sunehar Sharm, as the evening was called, was dedicated to every woman in India. It promoted women empowerment so that women can live freely with a sense of self-worth, respect, dignity and access to all their rights.

The event was inaugurated by Dr. Nishigandha Wad, eminent lawyer for women empowerment, and Mrs. Vissaya Rahatkar, National President, Mahila Mantra; Mr. Utpal Aradhya, President, PPA India, and Member of National Commission of Child Rights is present along with other luminaries — Mr. Div Dutt Dwivedi, Dr. R. P. Senawas and Mr. Kamal Nath. Over 900 people comprised the audience, including officials from corporates, NGOs and students.

A procession was the highlight of the celebrations of our Kalchiti Branch.

The parade included Dr. Chinmay Kumar Bose, President, PPA India; Dr. Dipanshu Rastogi, Hon. Secretary; Dr. Suman Roy, Economist; Mr. Ashok Ray, Social Worker, Ms. Jhimm Pandey, Journalist, and Mr. Sandip Banerjee, Social Worker.

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The western regional event awards 2015-16

The 8th edition of Laadli Media Awards for Gender Sensitivity, 2015-16

PPA India had supported the event for the Western Region Awards through the small grants initiative. The event, Strengthening MDG 5a and 1b in South Asia Creating Champions and Generating Momentum for Progress in SRHR funded by EU through IPF-P & S.

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Dr. Ashok, President, Lions Club, and Mrs. Priyanka, Secretary, Mahila Samaj were the key people who addressed the audience. Their message was simple and clear: "Equal opportunity should be given to women, Be Bold For Change." The audience included women from the community members of the Lions Club and PPA India staff. Participants 100, who were administered the VKII test and gynecological checkup.

An 850-strong crowd of women, who included self-help groups, female sex workers, tea garden workers and dock workers, walked on the streets. This was followed by an Open Discussion on women empowerment, rights and gender equality, and a cultural programme in front of an audience of around 900 women.

In Kolkata, a panel discussion was organized focusing on women’s equality and emancipation, centered on the theme of ‘Be Bold for Change.’
The key takeaway from the programme was that a woman with a voice is definition a strong woman. Participants around 150 students of the Kalaburagi Institute of Health and Science, Pangharna.

A cervical cancer camp was organized by the Indian Association of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (IAOG) in collaboration with the Government of Karnataka and the Rural Health Corporation, Gokak.

Mrs. Vijaykumari Tulshikak, Branch Manager, Mrs. Geetanjali Deshpande, Treasurer, Mrs. Rohini Dixit, P.P.O., Mrs. Subhada Badshah, Senior Social Worker, Urban Community Development Programme, and Mrs. Vasvada Marathe, Corporator, PMC, were the key resource persons. Mrs. Dixit wrote the script for the street play, which was followed by a healthy discussion on women’s rights.

In Panjim, an awareness programme was organized to spread awareness about the health services offered and to spread awareness about the Domestic Violence Centre.

In Indore, the City Collector’s office, on the occasion of the Women’s Day, the Hon’ble M.A addressed the gathering on the theme of Women’s Day before flagging off the rally.

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Mr. Mohan, Member of Parliament (MPS) addressing the train on the importance of reproductive health and family planning. He stressed the need to work together on the issue of maternal health.

In Mumbai, a two-day meeting was organized in collaboration with the White Ribbon Alliance India in Mumbai. In her opening remarks, Dr. Kalpana Apte, Secretary General, FPA India, said that the past recent past has seen many strong voices being raised for the betterment of women.
In this project, FPA India had meetings with Members of Parliament (MPs) and developed an Advocacy Resource Kit on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) for them. The Kit was released by Shri Sharad Bansode, Shri Shantaram Naik, Shri Arjunlal Meena, Shri Ananda Baskar Ropulu, Shri Hussain Dalwai, all MPs.

FPA India has been implementing the project — Strengthening MOHSE Is and ISs in South Asia: Creating Champions and Generating Momentum for Progress in SRHR funded by EU through IPPS-SAR.

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Mr Umesh Aradhyya, President, gave the welcome address and Dr. Kabara Apte, Secretary General, spoke on FP 2020. A panel discussion on ‘Linking SRHR and Women’s Empowerment to Sustainable Development Goals’ (SDGs) was moderated by Mr. Mamohan Sharma of the Indian Association of Parliamentarians on Population and Development. All the MPs agreed to give their commitment to Women’s Empowerment, SRHR and Family Planning by signing the declaration.

Dr. R P Sahaywala, Patron, Dr. Usha Krishna Chairperson of Medical Advisory Panel and Dr. Neeraj Shriram, Member were present. Also present were some members of the Central Executive Committee. They urged that health and education are important and the focus on maternal health is essential.

Later in March, the Resource Kit was shared with Dr. Subhash Bhamre, Minister of State for Defence, Dr. Shashi Tharoor and Mr. M B Rajesh, Members of Parliament.

Violence Centre Participants: 30, including 30 Link workers. A two-day training programme was conducted for Link Workers as part of the day’s celebrations. Mrs. Vijayalakshmi Tulip, Branch Manager, Dr. Mahesh, Member, BIC; Mrs. Manjiri Sabale and Mrs. Lotabar who spoke on the occasion and shared their experiences.

The training covered SWOT Analysis (Role Play), and the management of time, emotions and stress.

In our Rajkot Branch, an awareness programme on women empowerment and SRHR, and a special vaccination camp for young girls were the key highlights of the Day.

The programme was held in collaboration with Abhinavithyadh Malwa Bal Vikas Samiti and the Loniya Club of Sagar. Dr. Renuka Bajaj, Deputy Director, Population Research Centre (PRC), was the chief speaker.

He felt that it is compulsory to change the approach of society for women’s empowerment. Mr. Gyaneshwar Joshi, BIC Member, Mr. Rajesh Tomar, Principal of the college and Mrs. Rupali Joshi, Riva Chantal Trust were the resource persons.

In our Solapur Branch, a cancer sensitization and awareness programme was organized at Mr. Iravkar Vasant, President, Mr. Iravkar Vasant, Vice President, inaugurated the programme.

Mr. Sugat Gairola, Branch Manager, Dr. Kaivaly Chaudhary and Mrs. Sangeeta Bhawani, President, Bhoir Wadi of Solapur, and others were present on the occasion.

Mr. Mrinal Chiplunkar, in his address, spoke about the different types of cancers, the symptoms and causes, and the need for regular testing and timely treatment. An Art activity was successfully carried out at the venue. Mr. Mrinal Chiplunkar, in his address, explained cancer in detail through a PowerPoint presentation.

In another event, Mahila Arogya Samiti organized a Training Programme at the Akshobh Hospital. The beneficiaries were ASH workers. A programme on Income Generation Activities was conducted at IPSM College. Prof. Dr. Yogesan, President, inaugurated the programme in the presence of Prof. Dr. Nabhla Kakade, President, Mr. Sugat Gairola, Branch Manager, and other dignitaries.
In Bengaluru, an awareness program was organized to highlight the different forms of violence among young people. The Justice Law (JL) Justice, Child Safety and Women's Rights, Mr. Gunaseela, a senior worker with Child Welfare, was the Resource Person. Participants: 120.

In Belgaum, a program was organized at the KLS Gopala College of Commerce. Prof. G.K. Khadad, President, FPAI India, inaugurated the program. Participants: 63.

In Nigam, the celebrations included at the Providence College for Women, Coimbatore. The highlight was a Placement Skills Training conducted by Mr. G. Lakshmi Narayanan, Programme Committee Chairperson. Mr. R. Ramkumar, Hon. Treasurer delivered the keynote address while Mr. G. L. Raval, PO gave the vote of thanks.

A rally was organized in Pandhurwa supervised by Dr. Deoj. Shatam, PO, and Mr. Jayalander. Youth Worker. Around 70 students from Pranab Model School, Sector 21, took part in the rally. Motivated by the slogan “Yusa Shakti Aaye Baath, Yusa Vah Jo Bade Duha”.

In Selapur, a celebration was organized at Mynagoodur Institute of Management. Dr. N. M. Natarajan, Vice-Chancellor, Solapur University, hit the lamp to inaugurate the event. Prof. Dr. Pravin Kulkarni, Vice-President, Prof. Dr. N. Satish, President, Mr. Sugat Gakhkar, Branch Manager, and other dignitaries were present.

Our volunteers and participants mades the cheer zone a happening one by showcasing our programs and services through banners, interesting games like Snakes and Ladders on SRHR, skills and dance, and even a flashmob by the youth volunteers of our Mumbai Branch. To top it all, expert doctors on our panel also interacted LIVE with our audience and answered their queries on SRHR and Family Planning – a sight unusual for other participating NGOs. FPAI India managed to interact with over 15,000 people at the cheer zone.

Participation in the marathon not only helped in raising funds for the cause, but also gave our team and our cause great exposure with the press meets before and after the marathon and a #RUN4SRF social media campaign which ran across Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram with posts from runners, donors, stakeholders, and fundraisers. FPAI India has featured in various mainstream media for all the efforts undertaken. And among 16 NGOs who participated, FPAI India proudly bagged the 2nd place for the Motivational Cheer Zone because of its content, design, and range of activities to engage the audience.

After putting in tremendous efforts over days and many nights too, every member of the FPAI India team, though exhausted, stood smiling at the finish line, enjoying their sweet success in the Standard Chartered Mumbai Marathon, 2017!
In Dharwad, an awareness-cum-health-check-up camp was organized in association with Rotary Club, Dr. Jayashekar Deshpande, Treasurer, FPA India, and Dr. M A Muniragatti, President of Rotary Club Dharwad spoke on the occasion. Participants 90 women from the community.

In our Nilgiris Branch, an awareness programme was conducted for SRH and cervical and breast cancer screening. Mr. J Varatharajan, Branch Manager, Mr. Bayani, EO, and Mr. G Lakshmi Narayanan, BEO Membar, were the resource persons. Speaking to the audience, Mr. Varatharajan underlined the importance of timely screening for cervical and breast cancer. Participants 54 (female 41, male 13).
In Pune, as part of the Yardi Slum Welfare Project, as many as 346 children were administered polio vaccine in Upper Depot. This was a trial programme conducted at the Satellite Clinics at Rajiv Gandhi Nagar and Pawan Nagar. Kudos to the team that conducted this programme successfully.