

Aspire

*A Quarterly Insight into
the Association's Activities*



For Internal Use

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WELCOME TO THE NEW SECRETARY GENERAL DR. KALPANA APTE

We welcome FPA India's young and dynamic leader Dr. Kalpana Apte as the Secretary General. She is a postgraduate in Hospital Management, has an Executive Education from Harvard Kennedy, Boston and is pursuing Master of Public Health in Human Sexuality (offline), From San Francisco, USA. In 1991, Dr. Apte joined FPA India as Medical Officer at the Planned Parenthood Centre, Mumbai. Since then there was no looking back for Dr. Apte as she moved from strength to strength. In 2006 she became the Assistant Secretary General (Programme Implementation).

During this time, she led three Strategic Plans (2005-2009); (2011-2015) and (2016-2022) and was responsible for ensuring developing aligned annual activity and budget plans and its implementation; led the donor funded project development and implementation. Her strong connect with the grassroots ever since her formative years in the Association as well as her deep understanding of the national and international discourse make her an opinion leader on the issue of SRHR across local and global platforms.

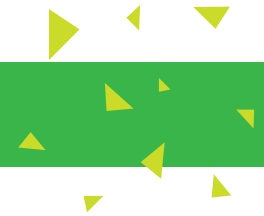
She has a number of presentations and publications to her credit and has also been a part of various National level expert committees and Task Forces formulated by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Notably, she was honored for the outstanding work ('Woman Achiever') in the field of Family Planning and Sexual & Reproductive Health on 8th March 2009, International Women's Day by The Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai (Brihan Mumbai Municipal Corporation - BMC) by Dr. Shubha Raul, the (then) Mayor of Mumbai. She also participated at a Breakfast meeting on 'FP priorities of India' with Ms. Melinda Gates, BMGF, in New Delhi, in 2013. Dr. Apte's multi-faceted personality, enthusiastic approach to take on challenges, a constant zeal for innovation, forward thinking and excellent communication skills lend herself naturally to this highest executive position of leadership. FPA India looks forward to organizational growth and sustainability under her able stewardship.



Shri. Bhupendrasinh Chudasma, Honorable Education Minister of Gujarat, National President, Mr. Umesh Aradhya, National President, FPA India, Dr. Kalpana Apte, Secretary General, FPA India, Mr. Purshottambhai Patel, President, FPA India, Ahmedabad, Mr. Suresh Maratha, Branch Manager, FPA India, Ahmedabad and Mr. Subhashbhai Brahmbhatt lighted the lamp and inaugurated the programme



NEWS FROM OUR BRANCHES



AHMEDABAD

Awareness programmes and SRH camp

Conducted as part of the 'National Nutrition Week' for young people, this session was attended by almost 160 students of HK Arts College. Mr Suresh Maratha, Branch Manager, spoke about healthy diets, nutrition and supplements. HB/blood group/HIV testing was also organised. Another session was held for KPs at RHFPC, Madhupura. Mr Suresh Maratha and Ms Neha Panchal, Program Officer, were among the key speakers.



Special service sessions

As many as 25 special service sessions were organised during a three month period for men and other special groups. The recipients included migrants, construction workers, ANC/PNC, KPs and young people. Participants: 1,289.



BELGAUM

Training our master trainers

Selected high school teachers were trained on the theme 'Growing up is fun' on August 4. Mr SY Haliangli, DDPI, Belgaum (South), inaugurated the training session while Mr Magdum, Inspector DDPI, Belgaum was the Chief Guest. Prof GK Khadabadi, President, presided over the training, which was attended by 25 participants (20 female, 5 male).



Shri. S. Y. Haliangli; DDPI, Belgaum inaugurated the training.

BELLARY

Special service camps

A series of six special service camps was organised to boost spacing contraceptive methods in coordination with government PHCs and PMPs in different areas. The initiative saw the participation of private gynaecologists who helped to conduct these camps successfully. The injection Depo-Provera was introduced in two PHCs and the response was positive. The gynaecologists promised to help conduct more such camps in the future. Contraceptive services offered:

Oral contraceptive	105
Depo - Provera injection	103
IUD insertion	102



BHOPAL

New building inaugurated

Since the last 50 years Bhopal Branch has been operating through rented premises much to the inconvenience of the clients. Through the efforts of Ms Saroj Naolekar, Chairperson, Branch Adhoc Committee, a suitable building of the Government which was lying vacant was selected and allotted to the Branch.

The building was inaugurated on June 15, on the occasion of the Branch Golden Jubilee by Shri Narottam Mishra, Honorable Health & Family Welfare Minister, Madhya Pradesh and Shri Alok Sharma, Mayor of Bhopal Municipal Corporation. Mr. Mishra in his inaugural address stated "FPA India is rendering services specifically to the poor, deprived and underprivileged people of the society which is appreciable". Present among the dignitaries was FPA India President, Mr. Umesh Aradhya.



Inauguration by Shri Narottam Mishra, Honorable Health & Family Welfare Minister, Madhya Pradesh

BIJAPUR

Session to train teachers organised

An advocacy meeting with stakeholders was held at the branch on September 29. The master training programme was conducted for teachers chosen from government schools in Bijapur taluk. Mrs Sujatha Kallimani, ZP Member, inaugurated the programme and spoke to the gathering. The topics included 'Growing up is fun', adolescent health issues, relationships, gender based violence, pleasure - life skills, abuse - rights and responsibilities, sexual and reproductive health and FPA's objectives. The session ended with a discussion where participants got their doubts cleared. 70 people took part (43 male, 27 female).

DHARWAD

'Happy Family Day' - Celebrating 46th anniversary of the branch

October 15 was the 46th branch day at Dharwad, and it was celebrated as 'Happy Family Day'. Mr Prahlad Joshi, MP, inaugurated the event, and congratulated the branch team - present and past - for doing great service to the people for over four decades. Dr Rajendra M Doddamani, DHO-Dharwad, was the Chief Guest. Dr Ratnamala Desai, President and Mrs Sujata, Branch Manager also spoke to the gathering.



HYDERABAD

Mata Shishu Samrakshana Kendra set up with Bharathi Cements

As part of their Corporate Social Responsibility, Bharathi Cement Corporation Private Ltd set up a mother-child care centre in Nallalingayapalli, Kamalpuram mandal, Kadapa district with the assistance of our Hyderabad Branch. The staff was involved at every stage, from identifying a suitable place for the centre to running it efficiently.

The project involved training outreach workers and ANMs in reproductive health issues. The session on SRH was conducted from 4-6 August. Dr Renu Kapoor, Wing Comdr MVN Rao and Mr Venkataiah were the key resource persons from FPAI. Topics included the health of mother and child, reproductive health, family planning, HIV/AIDS and STI.

KOLKATA

Free eye checkup camp

A free eye checkup camp was organised in association with GKB Lens Private Ltd as part of their CSR effort. The camp was held on July 5 and the free checkup facility was offered to 100 poorest people between 15 and 55 years old. Some of the participants also got free spectacles provided by the company.

MADURAI

Knowledge management – how to use a fire extinguisher

In an effort to increase general awareness, an orientation session was conducted for staff in the Branch regarding fire safety. The usage of a fire extinguisher was demonstrated and all members were given practical training, as a matter of better preparedness in an emergency.



MOHALI

Visit by UK student delegation

A delegation consisting of 30 students from the UK came visiting the Branch. They belonged to across section of universities and were visiting India between July 17 and 31 as part of Generation UK – Study India Programme I on Gender and Gender Relations. The students were briefed about FPAI's activities related to Gender and Empowerment. This was followed by a brief discussion in which their queries were answered. IEC material used to spread awareness was also viewed by the visitors.

NAGALAND

Medical and counselling camp

A camp focussing on Sexual and Reproductive Health, voluntary counselling and testing for HIV and Hepatitis was conducted in Kezo Town. Mr Umesh Aradhya, National President; Ms Amita Dhanu, Director Adolescent; and Ms Anjali Sen, Regional Director for South Asia, IPPF visited the camp site. Before the camp commenced operations, an introductory session on FPAI and a programme on Naga cultural folk songs were presented to the visiting senior officials. IEC material was also distributed to the 214 participants.



NILGIRIS

HIV / AIDS awareness programme

The event was conducted in association with USSS, an NGO. Mr J Varatharajan, Branch Manager, spoke about HIV, and went on to talk about the facilities extended by the branch to the community. Participants: 60 members from Self Help Groups.



Food festival organised

A 3-day food festival was held in collaboration with ICDS, Coonoor Block. Mr J Varatharajan, Branch Manager, and Ms Vijayalakshmi, ICDS Officer, were the resource persons. The importance of traditional and nutritious food was underlined. IEC material was distributed, and the services of FPAI were explained to visitors. Participants: 106.

NORTH KANARA

Anemia eradication awareness programme

This programme was conducted among adolescent girls in collaboration with Kenara Health Care Centre. Dr GG Hegde, President, spoke on anemia and related health problems affecting the girl child. Dr Ashok Kumar, DHO for Uttara Kannada district, addressed the issue of anemia and its eradication. The programme concluded with HB testing of the participants, who were girls of the Konkan Education Trust. 133 girls took part in the programme.

SAGAR

Healthy baby show

In a unique event of its nature, a programme was organised for mothers with infants below six months of age. Conducted in collaboration with UNICEF, the objective of the programme was to give a strong message on SRH. Among those present were Dr Meena Pimpalapur, Treasurer; Dr Kiran Maheshwari, President, FOGSI; Mr Tarekeshwar, Coordinator, UNICEF; and others. Several topics including family planning methods, ANC and PNC care, and benefits of breastfeeding were discussed. 52 people participated, apart from 42 mothers who came with their babies. The uniqueness of the programme was appreciated by all.

SOLAPUR

Free eye testing and cataract operation camp

FPAI, in association with Valvekar Medical & Research Centre, Lions Club of Solapur Midtown, and Dr Dilip Apte and family organised this camp. Prof Dr Shrikant Yelegaonkar, National Vice President, and Mr Sugar Gaikwad, Branch Manager, were present during the event.



Awareness session on abortion and family planning

This session on safe abortion and family planning services was organized for different groups, including Solapur Shop Owners, PMP, CBP, RMP, government healthcare providers and Vidi Company Managers. Dr Madhuri Valvekar, Branch Vice President, spoke about safe abortion services. The dignitaries present included Prof Dr Shrikant Yelegaonkar, National Vice President; Prof Dr N Kakade, President; Mr Sugat Gaikwad, Branch Manager; and others.



CELEBRATING IMPORTANT DAYS & OCCASIONS

JULY 1 WORLD DOCTORS DAY

In **Bijapur**, the World Doctors Day was observed in coordination with the Lions Blood Bank. The Chief Guest was Dr Premananda Ambli, Vice President, All India Medical Council. Among the other speakers were Dr PK Bhavishetti, Principal, Ayurvedic Medical College; Dr SR Patil, HoD, Department of Community Medicine, BLDE Medical College; Miss Anjali Talikoti, Secretary, Lions Blood Bank; and Mr VN Kotawal, PO. The importance of doctors, their dedication and the role they play in the community, were among the topics discussed.



Our **Bijapur Branch** observed the day at a Youth Friendly Center in the Government Polytechnic College Campus. Mr D Randeep, Deputy Commissioner of Bijapur gave the inaugural address. Dr S Gundappa, DHO; Mr D Dayanada, District Coordinator, Nehru Yuva Kendra, Government of India; and Mr VN Kotawal, PO, were the other speakers. The celebrations ended with an elaborate discussion among the participants and resource persons. A total of 104 people took part (61 female, 43 male).

In **Dharwad**, the branch organised various programmes on World Population Day to involve adolescents, community stakeholders, parents and teachers. The event was conducted in association with schools, NGOs and ASHAs. The programmes ranged from WPDs for adolescents to awareness sessions for SHGs, interactions and a radio talk. The activities were covered by a local television channel, apart from coverage in newspapers and radio. Over 500 took part in the celebration.



JULY 11 WORLD POPULATION DAY

Theme: Investing in teenage girls

Awareness programmes, plays and competitions marked the celebrations at our **Belgaum Branch**. Prof GK Khadabadi, President, inaugurated the event. Sixteen students from selected schools took part, and six prizes were given away. In the awareness event organised at the Chandragiri Mahila BEd College, Parampujya Shri Gurusidda Mahaswamiji Karanjimath blessed the programme. Students from the college enacted a play on the benefits of having a small family. Participants: Over 150.



In our **Bellary Branch**, IEC material was distributed through an exclusive stall in an exhibition that was going on in the municipal ground in the city. The stall caught the attention of visitors and the branch staff was able to educate people on HIV/AIDS, TB and family planning. Messages on safe abortion, and services available with the RHFP (including HIV and RNTCP programmes) were highlighted for the benefit of visitors. A total of 1,548 participants (900 female, 648 male) benefitted from the initiative.

In our **Hyderabad Branch**, the day was observed with a meeting among local leaders, PHC staff and ASHAs. Dr Supriya, MO, was the chairperson and she spoke about the theme, 'Investing in teenage girls'. She informed the audience that one maternal death takes place every 15 minutes in India – hence the need to provide high quality maternal health services to all ANCs without delay. In this context, the government's programme for Mother and Child Health, 'Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritya Abhiyan' was mentioned and its objectives elaborated. Participants: 31.

Our **Kalchini Branch** observed the special day in association with the Department of Health, Government of West Bengal and the Family Welfare Samiti. The theme was: 'Zimmedri Nibhao: Plan Banao'. The celebration was in two phases: In the first phase, a tableau with messages and hoardings was covered the whole block to generate awareness. In the second phase, a spectacular rally by ASHAs and CBPs was organised. As per the plan, several Minilap Tubectomy and NSV operation camps were arranged between July 7 and 23. Outcome: 345 Minilap Tubectomy operations and 54 NSV operations were conducted. 57 clients used IUCD at the RHFP. Participants: 112.

In **Kolkata**, a rally was organised to celebrate the World Population Day, in association with the District Family Welfare Office (DWFO). The 5km rally took off from the DWFO office in Sealdah at 10:30am, and went on till 11:30am. IEC material was distributed along the route of the rally, meeting the objective of spreading awareness about family planning and the advantages of having a small family.

Our **Madurai Branch** celebrated World Population Day with competitions in essay writing, drawing and elocution around the theme, 'To protect and empower youth'. 78 students took part in the drawing competition (with 9 winners) and 50 students participated in essay writing and elocution. Mr S Parthiban, Branch Manager, distributed the prizes.

To observe the World Population Day, in **Mohali**, an awareness-cum-health check up camp was organised at different venues. Several aspects of population growth and controlling population were highlighted. Around 150 people took part in the proceedings.



The highlight of the celebrations marking the day, in our **New Delhi Branch**, was a drawing competition in which over 40 youths took part. Mr Manish Tiwari, Secretary of Vivek Manthan Foundation, was the Chief Guest. In his address to the audience, Mr Tiwari highlighted the role played by FPAI to encourage youth. Mr Surender Singh Chauhan, Branch Manager, spoke about the importance of observing World Population Day. A five-member jury declared the winners of the competition, while all other participants were awarded consolation prizes.

The Branch Manager of our **Nilgiris Branch**, Mr J Varatharajan, and Executive Committee Member Mr S Manogaran, participated in a live discussion on television on World Population Day. An event was held at the Government Girls High school, Manjur. Mr G Lakshmi Narayana, Executive Committee Member, spoke about population and the need to control it, focusing on the theme 'Investing in teenage girls'. An essay competition on the theme was organised in which 20 girls participated.



In our **North Kanara Branch**, the special day was celebrated in association with government authorities and staff. Dr Azna S Nayak, Taluk Health Officer, welcomed the gathering and spoke about the importance of observing World Population Day. Mrs Santan Louis, Branch Manager, proposed the involvement of teenagers in population control – based on the theme 'Investing in teenage girls'. Around 70 people, including doctors, ASHA workers, ANMs, staff nurses, health workers, CBOs and AWW workers from Kumta taluk participated in the event.

Our **Panchkula Branch** organised an awareness programme and multipurpose health camp to observe this special day. Mr Gain Chand Gupta, MLA and Chief Whip, was the Chief Guest. Mr Gupta emphasized on the challenges faced by teenage girls around the world, appreciating the efforts of FPAI in alleviating the situation. Mr Vinod Kapoor, President, and Mr Manoj Kumar Garg, Branch Manager, also spoke on the occasion. The health camp was organised in collaboration with BRS Dental College & Hospital and Titan Eyeplus. 276 clients were given consultation, checkup, treatment, counselling and free medicines. An exhibition on HIV/AIDS, STI and RTI was installed at the campsite, and IEC materials were distributed among the visitors.

In **Shimoga**, a 5km rally was organised – from IMA Hall to the District Commissioner's Office – to spread awareness about population and its

implications. An exhibition and elocution competition were also held to mark the occasion. It was a collaborative effort, organised in association with the DHO, Spandana Health Foundation Trust, JCI Shimoga Bhavana, paramedical colleges and NGOs like Rotary Club and Lions Club. Mr HB Ramesh Babu, President of the branch; Mrs Jyothi Kumaraswamy, Zilla Panchayat President; Dr Rajesh, DHO; and Prof BM Kumaraswamy were among the speakers. In the audience were students, people from the community and health department officials. Around 250 participants benefitted from the programme.

Our **Solapur Branch** saw the participation of around 1,500 students who created slogans, posters and charts to celebrate the World Population Day. The event was inaugurated with a rally being flagged off by Mr Sharad Bansode, MLA, in the presence of Mr Umesh Aradhya, National President; Prof Dr Shrikant Yelegaonkar, National Vice President; Dr N Kakade, President; and other dignitaries. Mr Aradhya presented Appreciation Certificates to Social College NSS professors in front of the august gathering.

JULY 27 67th FOUNDATION DAY

Theme: Sustainability and Resource Mobilisation

Our **Ahmedabad Branch** celebrated the 67th Foundation Day of FPAI with CEC Members, Branch Representatives, Volunteers and staff. Mr Umesh Aradhya, National President, was the Chief Guest. Dr Kaplana Apte, Secretary General; Mr Purshottambhai Patel, Branch President; and Mr Pravinbhai Patel, Standing Committee Chairman, Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation also spoke on the occasion.



Mr Feroz N Sait, local MLA, appreciated the work of our **Belgaum Branch** at a celebration to mark the occasion. Prof GK Khadabadi, President, presided. Mr Sait planted a sapling during the event, which was attended by members, staff and NGO representatives.

The celebrations in our **Bellary Branch** were inaugurated by the District Family Welfare Officer (name?). She was highly appreciative of the branch's contribution to the community in the district. Sustainability and resource mobilisation were the key focus of the proceedings. Mrs Vatsala Bhat, a senior staff member, was felicitated on the occasion.

In our **Bidar Branch**, the celebrations were inaugurated by Mr Eshwar Khandre, Honourable Minister for Municipalities, Local Bodies and Public Enterprises, Government of Karnataka. Mr Raheem Khan, MLA, was the Chief Guest. Mr Khandre not only had a good word for FPAI's work but also promised a special grant for the branch. Mr Shaik Mustaq Ali, ex-Branch Manager, presented a report on the reach of the branch, which has touched more than 1 lakh beneficiaries in the district.

The celebrations started with a prayer song and puja by ASHA and Aanganwadi workers at our **Bijapur Branch**. Dr BS Patil, Honorary Director, Al-Ameen Medical College, Bijapur, lit the lamp and inaugurated the event. Other speakers included Mr BR Kulkarni, I/C BM; Mr VN Kotawal, Programme Officer; and Mrs Sucheta Dharawadarkar, Honorary Vice President. Local leaders, senior citizens, staff, social workers, women, out-of-school youth and media personnel took part in the event.

Our **Kalchini Branch** observed the Foundation Day by arranging a seminar on the theme 'Sustainability and Resource Mobilisation'. The seminar was attended by 87 participants, including higher officials in the health department, senior managers of tea gardens, volunteers and self-government members. Mrs Mamta Ghising, President, and Mr Tushar Chakraborty, Branch Manager, were the key speakers. Both the government officials and managers from the tea gardens expressed their desire to collaborate with the branch for future endeavours. After the seminar, a health camp was conducted for members of the local community.



The FPAI Foundation Day was celebrated in a simple but innovative way in **Mohali**. Brig Harwant Singh (Retd), a social worker, was the Chief Guest and he spoke about Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, appreciating the efforts of FPAI in this aspect. This was followed by a series of cultural programmes – a skit on eve teasing, songs and poems on social evils, folk dance and so on. A panel discussion on youth v/s parents was also organised.

In our **Nagaland Branch**, the day was celebrated with speeches by personnel as well as programmes presented by volunteers. Mr Vincent Belho, Branch Manager, spoke about the importance of volunteerism to enhance the knowledge and skills of the youth. Sexual and Reproductive Health in connection with the state of Nagaland was also discussed.

Our **Nilgiris Branch** conducted a seminar to observe the special day. Mr T Rangaiah, Lifetime Patron; Mr Premanand, President; Mr G Lakshmi Narayanan and Mr Manogaran, BEC Members were the resource persons. Mr Rangaiah traced the history of FPAI and thanked the staff for their commitment and support.

In **North Kanara**, Mrs Santan Louis, Branch Manager, spoke about the history of FPAI, befitting the occasion. Dr GG Hegde, President, had a discussion with the press and a tax consultant on the subject of resource mobilization. Over 30 people took part in the event.

In **Solapur**, the programme was inaugurated with the lighting of a lamp by Dr MY Kulkarni, ex-President; Prof Dr S Yelegaonkar, National Vice President; Prof Dr N Kakade, President; Dr V Homkar, MO; Dr NB Telli, Secretary; Dr K Chandak, MO; and Mr Virendra Pardeshi, Programme Officer. Dr Yelegaonkar offered guidance to the staff at the Branch.



AUG 6 WORLD BREASTFEEDING DAY

A sensitization programme was organised in **Solapur** in collaboration with Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS). Mr Sugat Gaikwad, Branch Manager, spoke about breastfeeding practices and child healthcare. The branch team, Anganwadi workers and other participants were present on the occasion. Another sensitization programme was held in association with the Inner Wheel Club of Solapur. Free nutritional support was provided to the mothers and children who participated in the programme.



AUG 7 BREASTFEEDING WEEK

Our **Bellary Branch** observed the breastfeeding week with the main objective of promoting the practice in the first six months of an infant's life. This yields tremendous health benefits, providing critical nutrients, immunity and protection from deadly diseases like pneumonia, and of course fostering growth of the child. A series of programmes was organised in different areas, and many myths about colostrums milk and giving honey to babies were busted. Over 200 PNCs benefitted from the programme.



In our **Nilgiris Branch**, an event was organised around the theme 'Breast-feeding: A key to sustainable development'. Dr Mahalakshmi, Medical Officer, spoke in detail about the importance of breastfeeding. She emphasized that solid food should be given to babies only after six months, while also highlighting the necessity of immunization. A 'Well Baby' show was conducted, with 26 mothers taking part with their babies. Participants: 45.

This special week was held in **Shimoga**. An awareness programme was organised, followed by quiz competitions, in collaboration with Spandana Health Foundation Trust, JCI Shimoga Bhavana and the DHO. Mrs Hema Appaji, Vice President; Mrs Archana Bellekere, Corporator from Ragidudda; and Mr Satish, Corporator from Hanumantapura were present at the occasion. The audience consisted of pregnant women, couples and PNCs. Around 150 women benefitted from the event.

AUG 12 INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY

The day was celebrated by watering the plants at our **Beglaum Branch**, by the MLA from Yamakanmardi, Mr Satish Jarikholi. Mrs Sarala Herekar, City Corporator, was the Chief Guest. Prof GK Khadabadi, President, was the other speaker. A total of 25 youths participated in the programme.



In our **Nilgiris Branch**, an event was organised with the theme 'The Road to 2030: Eradicating poverty and achieving sustainable consumption and production'. Mr G Premanand, President, spoke about the 'leading role of young people in ensuring poverty eradication and achieving sustainable development through sustainable consumption and development'. Games were conducted among girls to enhance their decision-making skills and self-confidence.

AUG 13 ORGAN DONATION DAY



A rally was organised by our **Solapur Branch** in association with several hospitals, the Municipal Corporation and the Police department. Mrs Sushilatai Abute, Mayor of Solapur, was the Chief Guest and she flagged off the rally. The dignitaries present included Dr S Yelegaonkar, National Vice President; Mr Sugat Gaikwad, Branch Manager; and Mr V Pardeshi, PO. The nursing staff of Civil Hospital performed a street play on the occasion. The event saw the participation of around 1,000 people.



SEPT 10 WORLD LITERACY DAY

Our **Bijapur Branch** observed the day with 51 participants – 42 male and 9 female. Mrs Sujatha Kallimani, ZP Member of Sarawad Village presided over the event. Among those present and spoke were Mr IG Nyamagond, Director of Rud Set (NGO); Mr BT Choukimath, DySP; and Mr VN Kotawal, PO. Topics included the Importance of Literacy, Women's Involvement in National Programmes, Know Your Health, Adolescent Information, and the Need for Awareness in Health and Health Education. The event concluded with the distribution of IEC material on 'Adolescent Health and Comprehensive Sexuality Education' in the slums and out-of-school youth.



Two programmes were conducted in **Mohali** to observe the International Youth Day. Over 150 students participated in a special session at the Government Post Graduate College, SAS Nagar and around 50 youths took part in the second programme, which was held at the Government Senior Secondary School, Sahauran.

SEPT 26 WORLD CONTRACEPTIVE DAY

At our **Sagar Branch**, the day was observed in collaboration with FOGSI, and the programme was organised at the GNM Training Centre of Bundelkhand Medical College. Dr Jyoti Chouhan, senior gynaecologist, spoke about offering people different options in population control and better SRH services so that pregnancy happens by choice and not by chance. Participants: 62.



SEPT 28 GLOBAL SAFE ABORTION DAY

Ahmedabad Branch organised a sensitization meeting with healthcare providers under the stewardship of Mr Suresh Maratha, Branch Manager. The theme was: Let's challenge abortion stigma and gender stereotypes: Step into our stories and step into our shoes. And the key message was: "Know your rights, take decision and be safe and healthy." All participants took a pledge to eradicate unsafe abortion and spread the message of safe abortion. Participants: 88 Aanganwadi and link workers.

The special day was observed in our **Gwalior Branch** with the objective of 'sensitizing girls on the legal aspects of abortion care'. A seminar was conducted at the Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Vidhya Pith. Those attended included Mrs Neelam Dixit, Branch Manager; Dr Sujata Bapat, Medical Officer; and Mr Achendra Singh Kushwah, PO. Dr Bapata highlighted the fact that a whopping 19.7 million unsafe abortions occur a year worldwide, of which 68,000 end up in the death of the woman concerned. Mrs Dixit emphasized on the services offered by FPAI. A health camp was also organised for the girls. 170 girls and 20 female teachers participated in the programme.

Our **Kalchini Branch** observed the day on the theme: Let's challenge abortion stigma and gender stereotypes: Step into our stories and step into our shoes. A 450-strong rally was organized, followed by a slogan to help fight abortion stigma. This was followed by a seminar in which over 350 women were sensitized about stigma and gender stereotypes. A mid media campaign was used to break the myths and misconceptions surrounding abortion among 500 people from the community.



OTHER NEWS

DONATIONS RECEIVED

In our **Solapur Branch**, an Automated Hematology Analyzer Machine was donated by Dr Madhuri Walvekar and Mrs Manjiri Paranjpaye, in the presence of Mr Umesh Aradhya, National President; Prof Dr Shrikant Yelegaonkar, National Vice President; Prof Dr N Kakade, Branch President; and other dignitaries. Dr Beena Joshi, **Thane District Project** member and Dr Nitin Joshi donated a new Laparoscope set for use at the PSK clinic at Bhiwandi. Our layout designer and printer Mr. Jitendra Patil of M/s Monk Design, designed a standee banner and poster for the Mumbai Marathon free of charge. We gratefully acknowledge all their donations / contributions towards our cause.

APPRECIATION

Our **Kalchini Branch** has received a memento and Appreciation Certificate from the District Magistrate and Zilla Sovadhipati or Alipurduar District on the second anniversary of the formation of the district at a function organised by the Government of West Bengal. We humbly accept this honour as a token for our dedication and commitment to serve the poor and marginalized people of Alipurduar district.

Posted at General Post

BOOK POST

DONATE TODAY TO ENSURE A HEALTHY TOMORROW!

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