

bhavishyavani

A Monthly Newsletter of Bhavishya Alliance

15th November 2007

What's In...

Progress Report for November 2007

Our website
www.bhavishya.org.in

Updates November'2007

- Progress report for November'2007
- Learning Journeys
- Summary of the Baseline Survey
- Introducing Bhavishya Staff Team

Thought of the Month

14 NOVEMBER - Children's week



"Children are like the buds in a garden. They should be carefully and lovingly nurtured, as they are the future of the nation and the citizens of tomorrow. Children are the real strength of a country and the very foundation of society." - Jawahar Lal Nehru

The progress of the Alliance is summarized in the following paragraphs.

A.PROJECTS

a. **Strengthening the Government Systems**

i. **Nutritional Rehabilitation Centre – Nasik:**

9 NRCs are operational in Nasik. These are a joint endeavor of the Health and ICDS Sectors, under the leadership of the State Nutrition Mission. In Nasik, NGO partners (the Nasik Social Service Organization and VACHAN) are also involved in managing the Centers.

At Nasik a 3 days training has been conducted by Nasik civil hospital officials (Nutritionist and Pediatricians) and VACHAN to train the caretaker, cook, Anganwadi worker and the ANM on nutritious local recipes, feeding practices, hands on cooking demonstration, child psychology and record keeping. The concerned Medical officers were also present during the training.

ii. **Facility Based Care Centers- Amravati:**

In Dharni, Amravati 39 facility Based Care Centers were set up to treat severely malnourished children (Grade 3 and 4) who have no infection. Children diagnosed with infections were referred for treatment to the local public health centers. More than 300 children have benefited from this service, which was set up by medical officers, ICDS staff, local NGOs and community health workers during the monsoon period. These centers are not residential and make it easier for families to seek treatment for their children on a daily basis. Unfortunately, they have all closed due to lack of funds and BA partners are working together to seek additional funds to reopen the centers which have proved beneficial.

ICICI Bank is currently looking to continue the training held at the National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad with the Department of Health and ICDS staff in Chikaldera. This training is likely to take place in December.

iii. **Day Care Centers:**

There is an exploration underway with McDonalds, ICDS and NGO's to support development of 3 Anganwadi Centers in Mumbai and Thane. The operational working hours of the Anganwadi Centers would be extended to more than 4 hours so that it could also operate as a Day care center. An MOU will be signed with the partners.

Two Anganwadi centres have been identified in Dharavi for piloting Day Care Center jointly by SNEHA, ICDS and BA. The next meeting is planned by the end of this month.

iv. Supply chain management strengthening

The demand assessment for medicines using the software installed and manual systems is in progress in Nasik District. The Government's Procurement Policy has been released, and this document includes recommendations to ensure that the procurement for medicines is based on realistic demands.

These protocols are clearly laid out in the demand assessment section of the overall policy document. Along with Nasik, Thane and Satara have been identified as other districts to undergo similar capacity building process to improve the supply chain of medicines. A residential workshop involving the district level health managers and Hindustan lever Managers is planned to be organized jointly by Directorate of health services and HUL in the next month.

b. Empowering Communities

i. Promoting literacy

Tata Consultancy Services is working in partnership with the State Nutrition Mission, and NGOs in Nasik and Thane to set up 50 units in 3 blocks. These units will be provided with primers and computers, and the program will run in batches of 3 months. The project on adolescent girls will be linked up with these units. Proposal has been sent to government from the office of commissioner, tribal welfare.

ii. Addressing needs of Adolescents

We are in process of developing the research and monitoring indicators for the "Girls Gaining Ground" Project through meetings and discussions with ICRW and Institute of Health Management, Pachod and UNICEF Maharashtra. We are also reviewing the UNICEF module and exploring other components with other partners. Training of the Master trainers who would in turn train the facilitators for the program is currently planned for the month of December.

B. CONVENINGS:

a. District level convening at Nasik:

District level convening involving the officials from department of health ICDS and NGO was organized under the leadership of CEO, Nasik. Issues discussed varied from record keeping to management related issues in running the ongoing NRCs. 3 days training has been conducted by Nasik civil hospital officials (Nutritionist and Pediatricians) and VACHAN to train the caretaker, cook, Anganwadi worker and the ANM on nutritious local recipes, feeding practices, hands on cooking demonstration, on child psychology and record keeping as a follow up activity of the district level training.

Learning Journeys

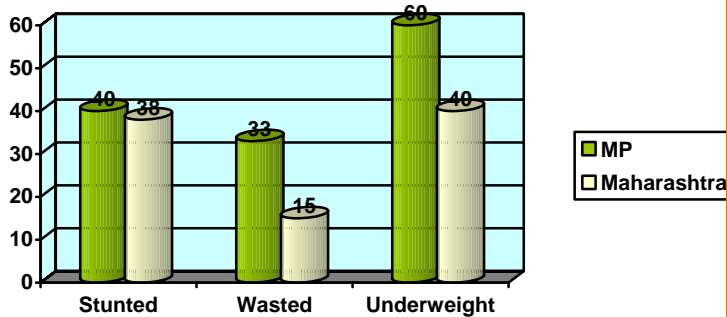
Exposure Visit to Nutrition Rehabilitation Center in Guna and Shivpuri

A visit was made to Madhya Pradesh to learn about Nutrition Rehabilitation Centers in Guna and Shivpuri during 29-31st October'07. These NRC's were developed as a joint effort of Health department, ICDS and UNICEF. The objective of visit was to learn how NRCs are being managed in MP with the plan to share the learning with partners working on NRC's in Maharashtra.



Nutrition Rehabilitation Center in a PHC at Guna

Percentage of Children under age 3 who are Stunted, Wasted or Underweight (National Family Health Survey - 3 data on Nutritional Status)



The overall number of severely malnourished children especially in Grade IV is higher in MP than in Maharashtra. The NFHS-3 figure shows the percentage of children under age 3 who are stunted, wasted and underweight in Madhya Pradesh are 40, 33 and 60 respectively whereas in Maharashtra the percentages are 38,15 and 40 respectively. All NRC's in MP are institution based i.e. in PHC's (Primary Health Centers) supported by UNICEF where as in Maharashtra we have institution as well as community based.

The learnings from this visit include exposure with regard to management of NRCs- Diet and treatment, follow up with families, reporting mechanism, and ideas on scaling up. This learning will be shared with our implementing partners in Nasik and Amravati.

Visit to Day Care Center

Representatives from ICDS, SNEHA, Mobile Creche, Nirman and BA visited the day care centers run by Mobile Creche in Thane. Mobile Creche, a non government organisation runs day care for Children in the construction sites. The Day care is integrated with Supplementary Nutrition and Health care, an age appropriate learning programme, followed by school admission and support. ICDS agreed to support these centers with supplementary nutrition. The module was impressive and learnings would be useful in piloting Anganwadi cum day care centre.



Day care center for children 0-3 year run by Mobile Creche in Thane

4th Asia Pacific Conference on Reproductive Sexual Health

The 4th Asia Pacific Conference on Reproductive Sexual Health held at Hyderabad from 29th to 31st October 2007.

The aim of the meeting was to network with organizations and individuals working on the area of adolescent reproductive sexual health and nutrition. The Conference touched on wide range of subjects from the grassroots initiative on improving sexual reproductive health, experience of initiatives of peer educators, sex ratio imbalance within the region, scaling up of the successful projects, new research insights to the policy issues.

Summary of Baseline Survey on Infant & Young Child Feeding & Rearing practices

Infant and Young Child Feeding and Rearing Practices were studied using the 30 Cluster Method in select Bhavishya project areas. (Table 1). Data was collected on 2909 children aged 0 – 36 months, during the period April – July 2007.

Table 1: Study Areas

SR.NO	DISTRICT	BLOCK /WARD
1	Thane	Mokhada
2	Nasik	Peth
3	Amravati	Dharni
4	Mumbai	L Ward

The Principle Investigators of the survey were Dr. Shobha Udipi, Dr. Padmini Ghugre and Dr. Ravikala Kamath of SNTD, Mumbai; and Dr. Jai Ghanekar of AKHS, Mumbai. Data was collected by NGOs Nirmala Niketan, VACHAN, MAHAN and AMRAE, and were represented by Manisha Desai, Shakuntala Mankad, Dr. Ashish Satav and Bhagyashree, respectively. Data was analysed by Kailas Gandewar of Soham Enterprises. Dr. I.P. Bhagwat represented the Bhavishya Alliance Team in the Survey.

Salient results from the survey are summarised and will be uploaded soon on the Bhavishya website. A further break up of results by age and sex are being compiled and will be published by December 2007.

The salient conclusions from the survey, and critical areas for further action, are as follows:

- The age at marriage is high in a large number of mothers, but they are having children at a young age. Also, an unacceptably high number of families have inadequate spacing between children. This issue needs to be seriously addressed.
- Despite staying in joint families, mothers are the major care givers; also despite the fact that a large number of mothers are working full time. Thus, mothers are the primary target for behavior change campaigns, in addition to other elder relatives in the families.
- While commencement of early breast feeding is uniformly high (except in Dharni), complementary feeding is started either too early or too late. This is an area of concern for behavior change campaigns. Exclusive breast feeding for 6 months is practiced by 40-47% of mothers across the project areas.

- Provision of health services needs to be improved upon in the area of antenatal care, institutional deliveries, immunization, supply of iron and Vitamin A syrup, and Deworming. Communities need to be made further aware of the importance of these services. Communities prefer treating their sick children in Institutions other than the Government Hospitals, and there is thus a need to involve private medical practitioners, too, in efforts to address undernutrition.
- ORS is given to just 30-34% of children suffering from diarrhoea. Further awareness creation is necessary amongst the communities.

How do communities perceive the health of their children? Only 42 – 45% of the mothers feel their children’s health is excellent or good. This itself indicates a need to work harder with communities to improve their behaviour, and strengthen Government systems to enhance the quality of their services.

Introducing Bhavishya Staff Team



Top L to R- Santosh Kamble, Suryakant Badgeri, I. P. Bhagwat, Purnima Upadhyay, C.V. Sharma, Raju Narayan, Sangeeta Dasmohapatra, Jagadevi Mabnoor.

Bottom L to R- Vinod Nair, Nayan Chakraborty, Manish Srivastava, Surita Sandosham.

The source for creating change resides in the interconnections of different sectors. The core of problem solving together resolves around a deep commitment, compassion and care for humanity”. -- BA staff

If you have any feedback, suggestions or contributions, feel free to write to Sangeeta Dasmohapatra at sangeeta@bhavishyaalliance.org.in or sangeetadm@yahoo.com Ph: +91-22-39833605