

Health education in rural areas in Arunachal Pradesh, India

30th March, 2009

1. Project Site: Diyun Circle, Changlang district, Arunachal Pradesh, India

2. Project Title: Health education in rural areas in Arunachal Pradesh, India

3. Description of the Project and people involved:

Health care facilities available in the area are almost zero. There is only one Primary Health Center at Diyun for 50,000 people which cannot meet needs of the people at any cost. In times of emergencies the only means of transport is bicycle or by walk to the only Primary Health Centre situated at Diyun which is about 5 to 30 kms from the different villages. During the rainy season it is extremely difficult to come down to the main circle area due to flood and life threat from wild animals. The programme of “Immunization or Mother and Child Health Care” has not reached the area. Government Health visitors or departmental representatives rarely visit the Chakma inhabited areas. There is high mortality rate among the Chakmas and Hajongs. People die of simple and curable diseases like Dysentery, diarrhoea, malaria, viral fever, typhoid in the area. In fact, all the Chakma and Hajong villages live in an environment characterized by malnutrition, under nourishment, infection, poor shelter, dearth of safe drinking water and sanitation. More than 90% people drink water from mud wells, streams and rivulets.

In addition, floods take place in the area every year resulting in destruction of trees and plantations and degradation of agricultural and dwelling places/lands and pollution of drinking wells and water systems. The after effects of flood are manifested in high level of disaster, chronic diseases, hunger, malnutrition, unemployment. The nutritional status of the children both school going or otherwise, pregnant and lactating mothers, young and old is very pathetic. Lack of proper nutrition among the pregnant and lactating mothers is affecting the new born babies and children.

Cause of the problem: The Government of Arunachal Pradesh considers the Chakmas and Hajongs of Arunachal Pradesh as refugees and so has systematically denied them access to social, economic and political and educational rights. The Government has not yet implemented a single welfare programmes to help the Chakmas and Hajongs. The State Government banned employment in government service, agricultural field, contract work and business etc. for the Chakmas and Hajongs in the state, resulting in the unemployment among a large number of educated youths. The ban on employment continues until today.

Since the opening of the School in 2003, there have been also few deaths in SNEHA School due to malaria and jaundice. So, SNEHA desires to start a health education programmes for the SNEHA School children and teachers at SNEHA School Diyun, Changlang district, Arunachal Pradesh. The health education will also be provided to the parents and guardians of the children and people of the surrounding areas of the school.

Proposed assistance and implementation will be:

- De-worming Medication will be provided to all the SNEHA School children every six month.

- Health awareness will be disseminated to the parents, guardians and other villagers in the area during PTM and through banners etc.
- At least 2 teachers will be formally trained in the community health in a proper training institute.
- Educational material will be distributed to the children

iii. Problems to be tackled:

- Lack of basic medication like de-worming, immunization etc in SNEHA Schools.
- Lack of knowledge about basic health care including pregnant women, pre and post delivery and child care.
- Lack of health education especially tobacco, alcohol, smoking.
- Poor health conditions, especially of women and children.

iv. Target group: Children and women

4. Objectives of the Project: The aim of the project is “Better Health and Cleaner Environment”

a) Short Term Objective:

- Health and Awareness Education for SNEHA school children, parents and people at large in SNEHA Schools and in 7 surrounding villages as a part of preventive action.

Long term objective:

- Improvement in the health status of the children in SNEHA School and in the surrounding areas.
- Health awareness among the people and active participation in primary health care and environmental improvement.

5. Number of people the project will help: Around 5000 people

6. Duration of project: 12 years

7. Any other information you consider to be relevant:

The project will be implemented from April 2009. The first deworming medication will be given in June when the School will reopen after summer vacation.

8. How will the project be evaluated (We will send a Project Evaluation Form at the appropriate time)?

Estimated Budget for one year:

Particulars	Funds requested from BODHI	Other contributions, if applicable	Total in INR
1. Medical kits for Nurse	2,000 INR		2,000
2. Deworming Medication for 420 students of SNEHA school.	10,000 INR (Approx)		10,000

3. Community Health nurse @ Rs. 3,000 x 12		36,000	36,000
4. Training Materials and audio-visual Aids	23,000 INR		23,000
5. Medical care and emergency	5000 INR		5,000
6. Training Expenses	15,000 INR		15,000
7. Auditing	2000 INR		2000
8. Contingency	3000 INR		3000
Total	60,000	36,000	96,000

Legal Project Holder: Susanta Chakma

SNEHA

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