



ANNUAL REPORT

1st April 2010 - 31st March 2011

KEY ACTIVITIES OF THE YEAR

- Case Registration from Private Practitioners and Hospitals
- PPM Centres of REACH
- Awareness Programs by field staff for the PPM Network in Chennai
- World TB Day Events were held to increase public awareness on TB
- TB Helpline
- REACH Blog
- Training on Alcoholism and HIV AIDS for staff
- Staff Appraisal
- Fund Raising concert by Ms.Nityashree Mahadevan
- Independent Ethics Committee formed for REACH Research projects
- Recruitment of New Staff
- Review Meetings with District TB officer in 3 districts
- Community Support Groups
- In house training about the Global Fund Project
- USAID project transformed into Global Fund Round-9
- Launch of the Global Fund Round-9 Project
- Training Programs for NGO's at State level
- Training of Master Trainers
- Training of Trainers for Master Trainers
- Training of Trainers of Health Staff in Soft Skills
- Gaon Kalyan Samithi Meetings
- Community Street Plays
- Initiative for Community Radio Stations in Tamil Nadu
- Sensitization Workshop for NGO's in RNTCP
- PATH Training- GFATM Program Staff
- REACH-Lilly MDR-TB Partnership Media Initiative
- Survey of Defaulters in Default Project
- ABAN/REACH DOTS centre

CONTENTS

- About REACH
- Introduction
- REACH Private Public Mix
- Table -1 Case Registration (2008-2010)
- Events
- READ ABOUT ME- Patients sharing their Experiences
- Table-2 Type of IEC activities
- Table-3 Outcome of Cases registered in 2008 and 2009
- A Doctor's experience
- The USAID Funded ACSM Project And Global Fund Round-9 Project
- Conferences Attended
- REACH Lilly MDR-TB Partnership Media Project
- Default Project
- ABAN/REACH DOTS centre
- Know my work with REACH-A Doctor's experience
- Visitors to REACH
- People behind REACH

ABOUT REACH

REACH (Resource Group for Education & Advocacy for Community Health) is an organization formed to raise awareness on issues which are critical to community health. One of the major issues addressed by REACH is Tuberculosis Control. REACH is a registered society since 1999, being managed by an executive committee, with the main office based in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India.

REACH works for TB Control with these main guidelines and objectives

- Combating the threat of TB requires an activist, hands on approach, with the responsibility resting squarely on all sections of the community involved in health care.
- The guidelines provided by the Revised National TB Control Programme of the Government of India (RNTCP) which are being practiced effectively within the governments health care delivery system should be advocated for private medical practitioners as well, who are the primary care providers for a considerable section of the population.
- Public awareness of TB should be increased by developing and distributing information using different modes of communication to the general public.
- REACH will function as a liaising body between the deliverers of health care, both governmental and non governmental, the recipients of health care and the community as well.
- REACH will function as a resource for information on all aspects of TB control to the public, highlighting the existing situation and updating information to the public.

For more information contact us at:

REACH

No. 9/5, State Bank Street, 2nd Floor,

Mount Road, Chennai 600 002

Phone : 2861 0332/65211047

E Mail : reach4tb@gmail.com

INTRODUCTION

Greetings from REACH!!!

The different projects of REACH have given us an opportunity to “move forward” in our vision for a TB free society. REACH is emerging stronger with each and every project. Our primary focus though has always been the “patient” and “community” and we have been channelizing all our efforts towards providing good quality TB care and strengthening the participation of the community in the DOTS program.

Many of the initiatives have provided us new experiences which have been challenging and rewarding.

The Advocacy Communication and Social Mobilization (ACSM) project supported by USAID has been completed and a smooth transition to the Global Fund Round-9 Project Axshya began with REACH branching out into the four districts of Tamil Nadu for involving civil society in the DOTS program.

Private Practitioners and Patients were supported through the Private Public Mix in Chennai City. The REACH patient aid has helped many patients get nutritional support, provided investigation and consultation expenses, and thereby has ensured that patients are able to continue their treatment.

A Default Survey in association with Lilly MDR TB Partnership was in process and the interviews with the default patients have provided us an opportunity to learn more on patient care and the reasons for default.

A Media Fellowship program for local print journalists to sensitize them on TB and to publish stories was the highlight under the Media Program. The website media4tb.org now has a Blog. The blog carried many insights on the experiences of different types of people and has been regularly updated with new success stories and challenges.

The TB Helpline has been successful as we are able to clarify and guide patients towards quality TB care.

New sponsors have come forward to donate for the TB cause and establish PPM centres.

It's been another year where many activities have been going on with additional recruitment of staff too. The many new faces in REACH have contributed very significantly to our activities and goals.

REACH continues in its journey with the commitment that all our activities will continue to promote and support the RNTCP-DOTS program in our vision of a TB society.

REACH PRIVATE PUBLIC MIX

REACH has been successfully implementing PPM activities in Chennai. There has been participation from the private Doctors, Patients, Community and the Government for TB care activities.

The intervention from the DOTS centres in the PPM centres are most important and are being carried out by the REACH staff. They provide DOTS to patients and also continue to provide DOTS services to nearby private practitioners along with their basic patient care activities.

The PPM centres which are managed by our REACH staff are as follows

- Sugam Hospital, Thiruvallur District
- CSI Rainy Hospital, Royapuram
- CSI Kalyani Hospital, Ice House
- Sasthalaya Hospital, Nungambakkam
- Andhra Mahila Sabha, Adyar
- V-Cure Hospital, Kancheepuram District

Last year we were able to include the doctors from the Public Health Centre and we have identified it as a potential PPM centre as there are many TB cases started on treatment. REACH hopes that in the coming year we would be able to make it a

PPM centre. Two visits have been done to meet the management so far.

The Minjur DOTS centre was not functional in this year as we had to withdraw our services due to lack of funds and staff. With the support of ABAN Cares we have got it back on track.

These PPM centers provide the support services for private practitioners to practice DOTS by providing the following services:

- Initiation of TB cases
- Address Verification
- Counseling of patients
- Monitoring of patients
- Default Retrieval
- Obtaining second opinions from TB experts
- Obtaining DOTS treatment boxes from local TB units
- Maintaining Documentation
- Updating the doctor about their cases and RNTCP.

The external support from REACH staff for private practitioners acts as an incentive for doctors to practice DOTS.



A Glimpse of the CSI Rainy/REACH DOTS Centre

**TABLE-1 CASE REGISTRATION IN REACH
(2008-2010)**

Zone	2008	2009	2010
1-Thiruvotriyuir	92	104	104
2-Basin Bridge	86	116	113
3-Pulianthope	6	4	9
4- Ayanavaram	25	28	30
5-Kilpauk	40	28	50
6-Ice House	59	68	92
7-Nungambakkam	39	38	20
8-Kodambakkam	21	27	38
9-Saidapet	20	44	60
10-Mylapore	101	98	80
Minjur	35	25	4
Medavakkam *	74	104	193
Total	598	684	793

- The DOTS centre located at Medavakkam also caters to government patients referred from Medavakkam PHC

THANK YOU....

REACH has registered 793 patients last year and we along with the 793 voices say THANK U to all our private practitioners who take the extra step of providing their TB patients the best care through DOTS.

“READ ABOUT ME”

“TB affected both my children, but this did not shatter me. Instead it led to the realization that most parents like me in my neighborhood were unaware of Tuberculosis and its treatment.

If my son aged three and daughter aged five were not attacked by the disease I would have remained in ignorance”, says Ellumalai, a driver by profession.

Ellumalai extended his full support in organizing a TB talk for his neighbors and gathered around 40 people at Erikarai Orum, Kancheepuram district to witness a TB sensitization program.

Elumalai



Seen in the picture is Elumalai attending to a call on his mobile, while organizing the program in his community

It had just been a year since I had migrated from my village deep down north in Uttar Pradesh for employment as a construction worker to Chennai.

The language was new, people were different and I was just getting used to the place and culture. It was at this time that I caught a cough which became quite severe within weeks.

When I sought diagnosis ‘TB’ came to me as a shock!

Having left my parents, wife and kids back home; I was scared and confused how I would tackle this situation. I couldn’t even call my family and share my grief as I didn’t want to cause them worry.

My doctor came to my rescue and put me on DOTS treatment through REACH. The support extended by my doctor and the staff from REACH gave me the confidence that TB was curable.

Language I thought would be a hurdle because I don’t speak much Tamil. The REACH staff took care to handle this hurdle by bringing in a translator to communicate the important facts about the treatment to me in Hindi.

During the course of the treatment period I developed great confidence that I would get cured and that TB after all needn’t be feared so much.

I have completed my treatment and my doctor has told me that I am free of TB.

Rambabu

TABLE 2 - IEC ACTIVITIES IN REACH PPM PROJECT

Zone/ Type of IEC program	1	2	3/4	5	6	7/8	9	10	Min	MDV	Total no sensitized
Pamphlet Distribution Programs	7	9	17	16	16	4	11	16	13	6	7085
Poster Sticking Programs	-	-	-	1	1	1	6	-	4	-	420
TB Talk using Flip Chart	13	8	12	2	9	3	9	8	12	21	4863
Film Show	-	-	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	2	1019
TB Skit	1	-	3	-	3	-	2	-	2	9	1302
Villupattu/Songs	1	-	-	-	1	-	1	2	-	1	650
Signature Campaign	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	150
Exhibition	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	100
Puppet Show	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	100
Total	22	17	34	20	31	9	30	26	31	39	



REACH staff presenting a Villupattu on TB

**TABLE 3 - OUTCOMES OF CASES FOR THE YEARS
2008 & 2009**

Type	Total Cases	Cured	Completed	Default	Expired	Failure	Transferred out	Non TB
Sp+ve Cat-1	421	386	–	10	12	12	1	0
Sp-ve / EP	759	–	711	15	21	4	4	4
Sp+ve Cat-2	103	63	2	7	14	16	1	0
Total	1,283							

REACH has achieved a cure rate of 92% as against the national target of 85% in treating the Sputum positive Cases on Cat-1 and a success rate of 90% which indicates high quality care for TB patients in the analysis of treatment outcomes among the cases registered in 2008-2009.

DOCTOR'S EXPERIENCE

“REACH has been an amazing NGO we have come across. They have taken up providing of the RNTCP sponsored free anti-tubercular medicines to the people residing in & around Chennai. One would wonder what is special about that when the state government is doing it all over India. But there are several aspects, which make REACH unique. First of all they partner with the Private clinics & Private hospitals that otherwise will opt for unsupervised payable treatment that rarely has scope of regular community follow up & sputum examination. Once they are informed about the case they make home visits & gather a detailed socio-economic history. They also counsel, educate the patient & family members about the disease, nutrition & importance of directly observed treatment (DOT). Then they make arrangements for DOTS from a nearest DOT provider (family DOTS, Clinic DOTS & Hospital DOTS). They make sure that the first dose is always given in the presence of the referring doctor. They arrange free sputum examinations during follow up. They also help the patient in consulting the doctor in case of drug intolerance. In short this is not just a community treatment but an individualized, scientific, tailor made treatment that reaches every needy Tuberculosis patient in the vicinity of Chennai. We are happy to state that more than 25 of our patients are receiving DOTS with the help of REACH., in just 3 months. Hope such a wonderful service should extend to whole of Tamilnadu soon & help to curb the dangerous disease of Tuberculosis”

Dr. Palaniappan, IM M.D. (Chest & Tuberculosis)

Consultant Chest Physician

EVENTS

Workshop on Alcoholism and HIV/AIDS 29.05.2010

A workshop for the REACH staff was organized at The Hindu Employees Health and Welfare centre, on the topic of Alcoholism and HIV as they have expertise in this area. The first session on Alcoholism was conducted by Ms. Sudha, Counsellor, TTK Ranganathan Foundation, Adyar. It was most informative and a consolidation of the learning points were prepared and circulated to the staff.

The second session was handled by Mr. Satish Kumar. This dealt with information on the burden



Ms. Sudha - TTK counsellor

of HIV/AIDS, details about the disease, diagnosis and treatment. The details of ART centres in Chennai was also given.

Staff Appraisal 08.07.2010

The REACH staff had the opportunity to be appraised about their work performance by Dr. Nalini Krishnan. They all participated and were involved in the process as they absorbed the insights in all aspects of their work and also shared their experiences.

Dr. Nalini Krishnan also shared her thoughts about the various requirements and changes that the staff and the organization have to build to have a good future.

Fund Raising Concert by Dr. Nithyashree Mahadevan 28.10.2010

A fundraising concert was organized at the Hotel Park. The well known carnatic singer Dr. Nithyashree Mahadevan gave a beautiful presentation, which was enjoyed by all the participants.

Independent Ethics Committee Meeting (IEC) 24.04.2010

The Ethics committee meeting was constituted and the first meeting conducted at the REACH office to discuss the Default Project.

The following members became part of the IEC

Dr. Kumaraswamy

Dr. Rajeshwari Ramachandran

Dr. Rajivan Krishnaswamy

Dr. M.S. Jawahar

Ms. Malini Roberts

Ms. Auxilia Peter

Mr. Patrick Burnas

The IEC committee's role is to discuss about the research topics and check if research studies are carried out in an ethical manner. The committee has been constituted as research studies cannot be published in international journals if it is not scrutinized by an internal IEC committee.

WORLD TB DAY ACTIVITIES

RALLY (15.03.2011)

REACH staff participated in the Rally held at Marina Beach organized by the Tuberculosis Research Centre in association with the NSS coordinators. About 200 students participated and the rally was inaugurated by Dr. Uday Shankar and Dr. Aleyamma Thomas. The REACH team performed some skits/songs to educate the students about TB before the walk. The REACH staff also received certificates from TRC, Chennai.

WORLD TB DAY- Brief Report (24.03.2011)

Resource group for Education and Community Health organized a program for observing World TB Day -2011 in association with the State TB Office at Directorate of Medical Services, Teynampet, Chennai

The following two events were conducted:

Launch of a TB awareness vehicle in Chennai- The exterior of a van was designed with stickers containing short TB messages along with a poster of actor Suriya who highlights the availability of free diagnosis and treatment for TB care.

Signature Campaign- As part of this campaign a leaflet containing 10 important TB messages was printed and distributed to all people who participated in the signature campaign, requesting them to speak about TB to at least 24 people in their community.

The program was conducted in the premises of the Directorate of Medical Services in the morning at 10.00a.m. About 100 people were present.

Dr. V.K. Subburaj I.A.S., Health Secretary, Government of Tamil Nadu launched the signature campaign and flagged off the TB awareness van. Many other senior government officials from all the departments were also present.

The other guests of honor were Thiru. Kannan, General Manager, Central Bank of India, Thiru Sriram, Tmt. Srilekha Parthasarathy, Thiru. Vijay Adhiraj, Thiru. Naraen, Thiru Raghav also participated and encouraged the participants to spread TB awareness for a TB free society.

All participants who participated in the signature campaign also received a key chain with the DOTS message. Pamphlets on TB were distributed using the kiosk by the REACH staff.



Actor and TV Personality Vijay Adhiraj participating in the signature campaign

The REACH Axshya TB project also assisted the four districts of Chennai, Thiruvallur, Thiruvanaamalai, and Kancheepuram to celebrate World TB day by



Suriya Bus Shelter Ads- on the occasion of World TB Day

providing the Signature Campaign Banners along with the Leaflets and also enlisting support of Non Governmental Organizations to participate or organize similar campaigns in other parts of the districts.

The design of the signature banner and leaflet was also given to CHAI for using in their districts supported under the project.

VIJAY TV had also agreed to air the Suriya One Minute Ad developed already by REACH for a period of one week in Chennai City.

Bus Shelter Ads with the picture of actor Suriya were also put up in 10 different places in Chennai for a month.

TB Talks - The REACH staff participated with the Chennai Corporation in organizing the event at the local TB units in Chennai.

IEC Materials- The Central Bank of India also sponsored the production of a new set of IEC

materials on this occasion and Mr.Kannan, General Manager, was recognized and a memento was presented by the Health Secretary Dr.V.K.Subburaj, I.A.S. for their generous contributions towards society.

Key Chain Distribution- About 250 Key Chains were also given by the State TB Office and these were distributed to the private practitioners in REACH on the occasion of World TB Day.

REACH TB HELPLINE

The Helpline has received many queries on Tuberculosis and they have been provided the information by social workers handling the calls. Most calls received are queries to know about diagnostic and treatment centres in addition to information on TB.

About 169 calls were received in 2010.

THE USAID FUNDED ACSM PROJECT AND GLOBAL FUND ROUND-9 PROJECT

The USAID funded ACSM project began in October 2008 to September 2010 with the following objectives:

1. Community support groups for TB care
2. Community volunteers will be engaged in identification of TB suspects and their early referral to seek treatment (reduce patient delay); counselling the importance of three sputum tests (reduce diagnosis delay); counselling the importance of adherence to treatment (reduce treatment delay and improve treatment outcomes).

REACH had established about 54 community support groups in the 3 districts with about 869 members and around 200 volunteers. About 37,713 people were sensitized through different programs. There was participation from 29 Non Governmental Organizations in the project and 10 were very actively involved in the program.

After September the project was to amalgamate into the Global Fund Round -9 under which new activities were planned.

Given below are the final activities done under the USAID project in addition to the startup activities of Global Fund.

Sensitization Programs for various target groups

The district coordinators have been involved with increasing awareness about the RNTCP program by conducting programs on the field by involving

other NGO's, schools and colleges, government TB units, etc. They ensure that messages on TB reach the target groups through TB Talks, Film Shows, Songs, Sharing of real life stories, skits and mimicry. They also conduct "on the spot quizzes" after a program to reinforce main messages. In addition at the end they explain how each individual can contribute in simple ways for TB control.

Revisits to the Community Support Groups

The District Coordinators also visited the CSG groups directly to conduct group meetings or visited them on a one to one basis to track their work.

Review Meetings with the District TB Officer

The District Coordinators organized Review Meetings at the District TB centre for the Leaders and Assistant Leaders of the Community Support Groups.

The purpose of the review meeting was to refresh them on the basic facts on TB and to provide an opportunity for them to directly interact with the District TB Officer and provide an exposure visit within the District TB Centre to explain the functioning of the RNTCP program.

The members visited the DOTS rooms and saw how patients are administered the medicines. They were given RNTCP cards and were shown the DOTS boxes. They were also taken to the Laboratory where they had a firsthand glimpse of the TB bacilli in the microscope. In addition

the process of taking a chest symptomatic from the Outpatient room for diagnosis and treatment was also explained. The DTO and Health Educator addressed the participants about the importance of their work to patients and the community.

The DTO's took the opportunity to inform the members that they could contact the main DTC and also shared their contact numbers for information of difficulties for patients in accessing the RNTCP services.

A total of 66 participants from the 3 districts participated in these meetings.

New Recruitment

The resume's sent by candidates for the ACSM project were also short listed and interviews conducted for final selection of candidates.

July, 2010

In house Training on GFATM-ACSM for project staff

There was a two day in house training sessions for the project staff of the Global Fund which was conducted by Dr.Ramya Ananthkrishnan.

In addition to the basic facts on TB and RNTCP she also covered the State and District level activities to be undertaken in the Project.

Dr.Nalini Krishnan, Mr.J.Gurumoorthy, Mr.Terence Aldrin, Mr.Ramesh VSG, Ms.Sheela Augustine, Ms.Nalini Karunakaran, Mr.Joseph, Mr.Dinakar Sai, Mr.John Peter, Mr.Ramjee, Mr.Sai Pratab, attended the training

18th August 2010

Launch of the Global Fund Round-9 Project

REACH and CHAI organized a special event to launch the Global Fund Initiative in the State of Tamil Nadu at Hotel Savera.

About 100 people from NGO's, Government, Tuberculosis Research Centre and the media were present at the function.



Dr.V.K.Subburaj, I.A.S., Principal Secretary Health inaugurating the Global Fund Program in Tamil Nadu

The chief guests were Dr. V.K. Subburaj, I.A.S., Principal Secretary-Health, Government of Tamil Nadu Dr. C. Udayshankar, State TB Officer,



Dr.Nevin Wilson, Director, The Union South East Asia speaking on the GFATM Round-9 Project

Mr. Rajesh Lakoni, Chennai Commissioner, Ms.Rohini, Film Personality and Social Activist, Dr. Nevin Wilson, Director, The Union, Dr.Vijay Edwards Director, World Vision.

Dr. V.K. Subburaj, I.A.S., Principal Secretary-Health inaugurated the Global Fund Program in Tamil Nadu Dr. Ramya Ananthakrishnan, REACH made a presentation on the activities to be undertaken in the project.

After the inauguration there were two sessions for NGO representatives about Burden of TB in India and another session for District TB Officers about the project.

22nd -23rd September 2010

State Level Programs: Sensitizing NGO's to register for RNTCP Schemes

This State level Program was conducted by REACH and CHAI at ICSCA, Egmore. About 25 representatives from Non Governmental Organizations participated in the two day workshop, inaugurated by Dr.C.Udayshankar State TB Officer.

The objective was to sensitize NGO's to the problem of TB control and how NGO's could participate in TB control efforts by registering in the schemes.

The sessions focused on sensitizing participants to



Dr. Nalini Krishnan addressing the NGO participants

the Burden of TB in India, RNTCP program in India, Cough to Cure Pathway, Role of NGO's in TB Control, RNTCP Schemes, and group activity exercises. Dr.M.S.Jawahar, Dr.Arivoli, Dr.Subramaniya Raja, Dr.Subash Yadav, Mr.Shanmuga Sundaram participated in the workshop.

28th 29th and 30th September 2010

Training of Trainers Workshop for Master Trainers

This State Level Program was organized with the objective of identifying, training, and creating a pool of master trainers for dissemination of information with regard to Tuberculosis.

About 40 participants were trained in this 3 day workshop organized at Hotel Vijay Park.

The sessions focused on TB burden in India, Cough to Cure Pathway, ACSM, RNTCP Schemes, Patient Charter, and Group Activities.

Dr. Subash Yadav and Mr. Subrat Mohanty and representatives of CHAI also participated in the program.



A GKS Meeting in progress

Gaon Kalyan Samithi Meetings

The GKS meetings for small groups were started in this quarter and will be an ongoing district level

activity for the year. About 10 meetings have to be conducted every month in all the 4 districts.

The GKS groups are being trained to refer chest symptomatics to the appropriate centers, spread the TB message to others in the community, and act as DOT providers etc.

The District Coordinators will be coordinating this activity along with other Master trainers.

The REACH staff are organizing at least 2-3 GKS meetings every month for Chennai, Kancheepuram and Tiruvellore districts.



Group Photo of participants at the workshop

15th and 16th December 2010

TOT for Training Health Staff on Soft skills

This State level Program was conducted by REACH and CHAI at Hotel Vijay Park, Vadapalani, Chennai. About 19 representatives from Non Governmental Organizations and Health Educators of RNTCP participated in the two day workshop.

The objective was to identify and train a pool of Master Trainers to train Health staff at District Level on soft skills.

The sessions focused on Counseling, Conflict Prevention, Stress Management, Inter Personnel Counseling, Team Building and Time Management.

The resource persons were Mr. Mathivanan, Mrs. Aruna and Mrs. Ruth Stanley.

Dr. Subash Yadav and Mr. Subrat Mohanty and representatives of CHAI also participated in the program.

17th and 18th December 2010

Workshop for Community Radio Stations in TamilNadu

A Workshop was conducted inviting participants from the Community Radio Stations (CSR). About 18 participants from the CSR mainly the chief functionaries and radio jockeys attended the workshop. The workshop was conducted by Dr. Jaya Shreedhar, Technical Health Advisor, Internews Network.

The objective was to sensitize the participants on the importance of community involvement in



Dr. Ramya Ananthakrishnan handling a session on the Facts on TB

TB control and explore possibilities of long term partnerships with each of these CSR.

Dr. Ramya Ananthakrishnan, REACH spoke on the TB burden and the Basics of TB. Dr. Beena Thomas, Tuberculosis Research Centre spoke on the socio-economic aspects of TB, emphasizing the links between TB and poverty as well as associated



Dr. Udayashankar, State TB officer addressing NGO participants

stigma. Mrs. Nalini Karunakaran, REACH presented case studies to highlight real life situations of TB patients.

Dr. Subash Yadav and Mr. Subrat Mohanty from THE UNION participated in the program.

15th – 16th March 2011

Sensitizing NGO's to register for RNTCP Schemes

This State level Program was conducted by REACH and CHAI at Asha Nivas, Egmore. About 31 representatives from Non Governmental Organizations participated in the two day workshop, inaugurated by Dr. C. Udayashankar State TB Officer.

The objective was to sensitize NGO's to the problem of TB control and how NGO's could participate in TB control efforts by registering in the schemes.

The sessions focused on sensitizing participants to the Burden of TB in India, RNTCP program in India, Cough to Cure Pathway, Role of NGO's in TB Control, RNTCP Schemes, and group activity

exercises. Dr. Dharani Latha, Dr. Rajan, Mr. Terence and Mr. Ramesh were the resource persons.

23rd March 2011

Workshop for Community Radio Stations

A workshop was conducted in Delhi inviting participants from the Community Radio Stations (CSR). About 20 participants from the CSR mainly the chief functionaries and radio jockeys attended the workshop.

The objective was to sensitize the participants to the importance of community involvement in TB control and explore possibilities of long term partnerships with each of these CSR.

Dr. Ramya Anathakrishnan spoke on the TB burden and the Basics of TB.

Dr. Nalini Krishnan spoke on the socio-economic aspects of TB, emphasizing the links between TB and poverty as well as associated stigma.

Dr. Subash Yadav and Mr. Subrat Mohanty from The UNION participated in the program.

24rd March 2011

World TB Day

World TB day was observed in all the four working districts Chennai, Thiruvallur, Thiruvannamalai and Kanchipuram. Signature campaigns were organized in all these districts at the Collectorate, General Hospitals and NGO office.

Many general public from all phases of life including TB patients actively participated in the signature campaign, thus increasing awareness among the general population.

TRAINING PROGRAMS ATTENDED IN GFATM –ROUND 9

24th to 28th August (Mumbai)

PATH Training

Attended by:

Mr.Terence Aldrin and Mr.Ramesh VSG

9th & 10th September (Delhi)

Monitoring and Evaluation for Program Managers

Attended by:

Mr.Terence Aldrin

4th & 5th October (Delhi)

Finance Management Training

Attended by:

Mr. Gurumoorthy, Mr.Terence Aldrin and

Mr. S. Karthikeyan

30th October to 2nd November (Bengaluru)

Project Managers training course

Attended by:

Mr.Terence Aldrin. Mr. VSG Ramesh

Mr. Joseph and Mr. Dhinakar

CONFERENCES ATTENDED

Dr.Nalini Krishnan and Dr.Ramya Ananthkrishnan represented REACH at the following workshops.

Dr.Nalini Krishnan has also been appointed to serve on the PPM sub group of the STOP TB Partnership of the World Health Organization

Participation in the India Round Table discussions conducted by Lilly MDRTB in Berlin, 2010 by Dr.Nalini Krishnan and Dr.Ramya Ananthkrishnan.

2 posters were also presented at the 41st World Lung Conference, November 2010, Berlin, Germany by REACH

1. Involvement of media for advocacy and communication in TB control- A preliminary report from South India

Ramya Ananthkrishnan, Anupama Srinivasan, Nalini Krishnan

2. Involving the private pharmacies in urban DOTS program - A preliminary report from Chennai City, India.

Ramya Ananthkrishnan, Sheela Auguesteen, Nalini Krishnan

MEETINGS AND WORKSHOPS ATTENDED BY DR NALINI KRISHNAN

- Participated in the Union's International Management Development Programme's course on "Mass Media and Communications": May, 2010
- Nominated by the ministry of health as NGO representative from India to attend the WHO regional workshop for advocacy Communication and Social Mobilization at Colombo, Srilanka September 2010
- Chaired the India Round Table organised by the Lilly MDR-TB Partnership at the World Lung Conference, Berlin October 2010
- Nominated member of the PPM Core group of the Stop TB Partnership, WHO
- Attended the National Consultative Meeting of Partners "Theme: Civil Society contribution to RNTCP planning Phase III" Partnership for Tuberculosis Care and Control, January 2011,
- Participated in the "National consultation on developing public-private collaboration strategies for RNTCP 3" organized by the WHO in February 2011, in New Delhi

REACH LILLY MDR-TB PARTNERSHIP MEDIA PROJECT

The REACH Lilly MDR-TB Partnership Media Programme is an initiative of REACH, with support from the Lilly MDR-TB Partnership. The media project was initiated with the objective of roping in the media as a partner to fight TB realizing the powerful role the media plays in informing the public.

An important activity during this year was the media fellowship program which was started with the intention of increasing reporting on TB amongst the local language print media. Ten local language Journalists of Hindi, Gujarati, Assamese, Malayalam and Tamil were selected through a structured selection process and offered a two day orientation cum training workshop on TB and health reporting at Chennai. Each fellow then published a minimum of three stories reflecting the TB situation in their areas.

All ten Fellows participated in an orientation workshop in Chennai in August 2010. On returning to their respective newsrooms, they each identified specific themes, focusing on TB-related issues that were of relevance to their own readers, such as the impact of TB on mining and weaving communities. In all, over 35 stories on TB were published during the fellowship period.



Dr.M.S.Jawahar,TRC presenting about TB to the Fellows

Two workshops for students of journalism in the cities of Bangalore and Pune were held during the months of January and February respectively. The workshops were interactive and activity based to bring in more initiatives and ideas from the students.

This year saw the second round of the REACH Lilly MDR-TB Partnership Media Awards which was held at Delhi during the month of March. The awards this year were constituted for two categories,

English and local languages. The four journalists from across the country who were recognized for excellence in reporting on the disease included Ashok Malik and Shuriah Niazi for the English language category and Biju C. P. and Anupama Kumari for the local language category. The Union Minister of State for Communications and Information Technology, Shri. Sachin Pilot was the esteemed chief guest on the occasion.



Dr.M.S.Swaminathan felicitating Shri Sachin Pilot during the Media Awards program in Delhi.



The REACH Lilly MDR-TB Partnership Media Awardees with the dignitaries on the occasion

DEFAULT PROJECT

This research study titled “Feasibility of bringing in the default patients for re-treatment within RNTCP by providing the necessary social support services in Chennai city” was funded by the Eli Lilly MDR TB Partnership.

The main objectives of the study were as follows:

- To find out the feasibility of bringing in the default patients for re-treatment within the RNTCP by providing necessary social support services
- To determine the different types of social support that these patients will require for coming back to treatment
- To determine the different types of social support that these patients will require to complete treatment as per RNTCP guidelines.

The defaulters from Chennai Corporation were the target group for the study. The study was conducted during the period from Jan 2010 to March 2011.

The following activities were done under this project:

- Developing the Questionnaire and Consent form:
- Approval from the IEC committee
- Meeting the State TB officer, Dr. Chinnaswamy
- Meeting the District TB officer Dr. N.A. Senthilnathan
- Training for the Default Team
- Data Collection of RNTCP treatment cards
- Pilot Study

- Survey
- Visit by Ms.Sunita Prasad, Consultant, CSR Eli Lilly India



Ms. Sunitha Prasad, Consultant CSR Eli Lilly India visiting a Default Study Site

An important activity of this project were the special group workshops and one to one counseling efforts taken to address the problem of alcoholism among the patients.

3rd Dec 2010

Alcoholism Workshop

A Workshop for Alcoholism was arranged for the patients who had been surveyed and found to have addiction problems at the auditorium in CSI Kalyani Hospital in association with Ms.Malini Roberts and Ms. Aruna who have years of experience in Alcoholic Counseling.

The workshop started at about 11.00 p.m by an introduction by Ms.Nalini about the purpose of the

meeting. The participants were then welcomed by Dr. Nalini Krishnan, Director, REACH.

After a formal introduction, it was followed up by a presentation by Ms. Aruna on Alcoholism. Doubts were clarified and Mr. Kannan a recovered alcoholic who is on TB treatment shared his experiences. Dr. Ezhilan, Medical Officer of CSI Kalyani also encouraged the participants towards de addiction and shared his personal story of his auto driver who became an alcoholic and later succumbed to TB.

The participants were divided into groups and the alcoholics were addressed by Mr. Guru a recovered alcoholic who gave a talk encouraging all of them to take steps towards de addiction. The wives of the alcoholics were addressed by representatives from Al-Anon and were encouraged to attend meetings to seek support for themselves and their children.

About 31 patients were present and they were made to take a pledge to renounce alcoholism and take regular treatment.

18.02.2011 and 21.02.2011

Individual Alcoholic Counseling Meetings

About 15 patients were brought from various places and they met the counselors individually.

The counselors assessed the patients for their present health condition, drinking habits,



Ms. Malini Roberts talking about deaddiction

willingness for de addiction, and TB status by interacting with the patients and his family members. They were provided detailed information about the facilities available and how REACH could help them.

Totally about 46 patients benefited from the workshop and the one to one counseling sessions.

In addition the Default Survey team was being engaged in the administration of the survey, referral and follow-up of the defaulters from Chennai Corporation.

The process of data management and analysis is being awaited. By the end of March 2010 all 274 patients were surveyed and the data was processed.



Ms. Aruna explaining alcoholism using a PPT presentation

ABAN/REACH DOTS CENTRE

"ABAN CARES" a corporate industry has come forward to support the Minjur DOTS Centre. The centre is being revived after a break of about 5 months. A new agreement was finalized on the same premises in the area.

A new staff Mr. Anand Babu was appointed to take charge of the centre and he was trained in patient care activities. He was assisted by another staff Ms. P. Chitra, who underwent a refresher training course in sputum smear at the Hindu Health and Welfare Centre.

The staffs were in charge of conducting programs and increasing the involvement of the Private Sector in the Program.

The centre was visited by Dr. Lakshmi Murali and she provided some observations on how we could help the program.

The ABAN centre was visited by Mr. Purandhiran, ABAN and a team on 5th March 2010.

REACH plans to reach out to the private practitioners in and around this area and conduct awareness programs for the benefit of the people.

Doctor's Experiences- KNOW MY WORK WITH REACH

I have been practicing in my village, Kattur, for the past 16 years. In this span of time I have come across a wide range of TB cases. In the past our village did not have the support of any NGO. After REACH got in touch with us, we have been working together for the past four months. I refer my TB patients to REACH, who are usually economically very backward. The REACH staff makes arrangements for these patients to get the drugs free of cost. The DOTS strategy is proving its metal as a very effective cure method.

I am willing to extend all my support to REACH in the future too, as their work is really resulting in the eradication of Tuberculosis.

Dr. S. Sivalingam P.M.P



A patient's wife receiving patient aid of rice and dhal from the REACH staff



REACH team conducting a program in the Minjur Area

VISITORS TO REACH

26.02.2011

Visit by Mr.David Berger and team

Mr.David Berger and team visited the PPM sites– CSI Kalyani Hospital and pharmacists in zone-9, thus interacting with the doctors and pharmacists. A presentation of the REACH activities was done at the REACH office by Dr.Ramya. On the 28th Mr.Gani Perla visited Dr.Kailash as he wanted to know the perspectives of private practitioners on DOTS.

04.03.2011

Visit by Student Ms.Yejin Kang

Ms.Yejin Kang, a student from RICE University, United States visited REACH to know about our activities referred by Ms.Beena Thomas.

28.03.2011

Visit by State TB Officer

Dr.C.Udayshankar visited the REACH office at Royapettah. He handed over a letter to Dr.Nalini Krishnan thanking the organization for the support provided to the program and the World TB Day at DMS. He was received by Mrs. Suraksha Giri, Secretary, REACH and Mr.Madhavan, Treasurer, REACH.

July,2010

Visit by PATH for Curriculum Development

A team led by Ms. Hara Mihalea visited REACH for discussions on the Global Fund Project. They discussed the program expectations, impact of the activities, importance of trainers and the criteria for identification, budgeting, importance of relating all activities to outcomes, ACSM, sustainability issues, etc.

24.06.2010

Visit by Sanjay Chaganthi

Mr.Sanjay Chaganthi , Senior Technical Advisor, Population Services International visited the REACH office and interacted about the PPM work done in Chennai.



Dr. Udayashankar State TB Officer on his visit to the REACH office

STAFF EXPERIENCES

Sometimes it takes a chase to put a patient back on treatment

Thirty five years old, tall, lanky, a conservation worker at the Chennai Corporation and a severe alcoholic is what describes Mr. Jafadesan, a sputum positive patient, who defaulted after three weeks of regular treatment for Tuberculosis.

After three weeks he disappeared leaving no traces of his whereabouts. Having been separated from his wife, Jagadesan has no permanent place to reside. Once in a while he uses a small thatched hut to stay where his belongings are kept in a small cardboard box. Several visits to this place and his work spot turned out futile. I managed to trace his mother who lives in another locality, but she could not provide me with any information on him.

Four weeks passed and every attempt that I took towards tracing him ended up in vain. I kept remotivating myself not to give up. On one such day I ventured to take a walk in the area he lives. As I kept walking for nearly half an hour scanning every nook and corner for his presence, my eyes finally captured him standing with his cycle talking to a friend. I started walking towards him at a faster pace. To my surprise as soon as he caught sight of me he left hurriedly in the opposite direction. Shocked at this, thanks to my presence of mind, I uninhibitedly asked a guy on a two wheeler to help me chase him, this motorist agreed and we

raced past Jagadesan and he finally had to halt.

Today Jagadesan is back on treatment and I am happy that the chase was worth.

M. Chitra

Field Staff

A Happy Sai Says it's Worth All The Efforts

A native of Kancheepuram, Kamatchi was in a total mess when I first met her. Having no family to care for her, TB was a total shock to her. When she came to us through her doctor, she was not for the idea of taking treatment through an organization.

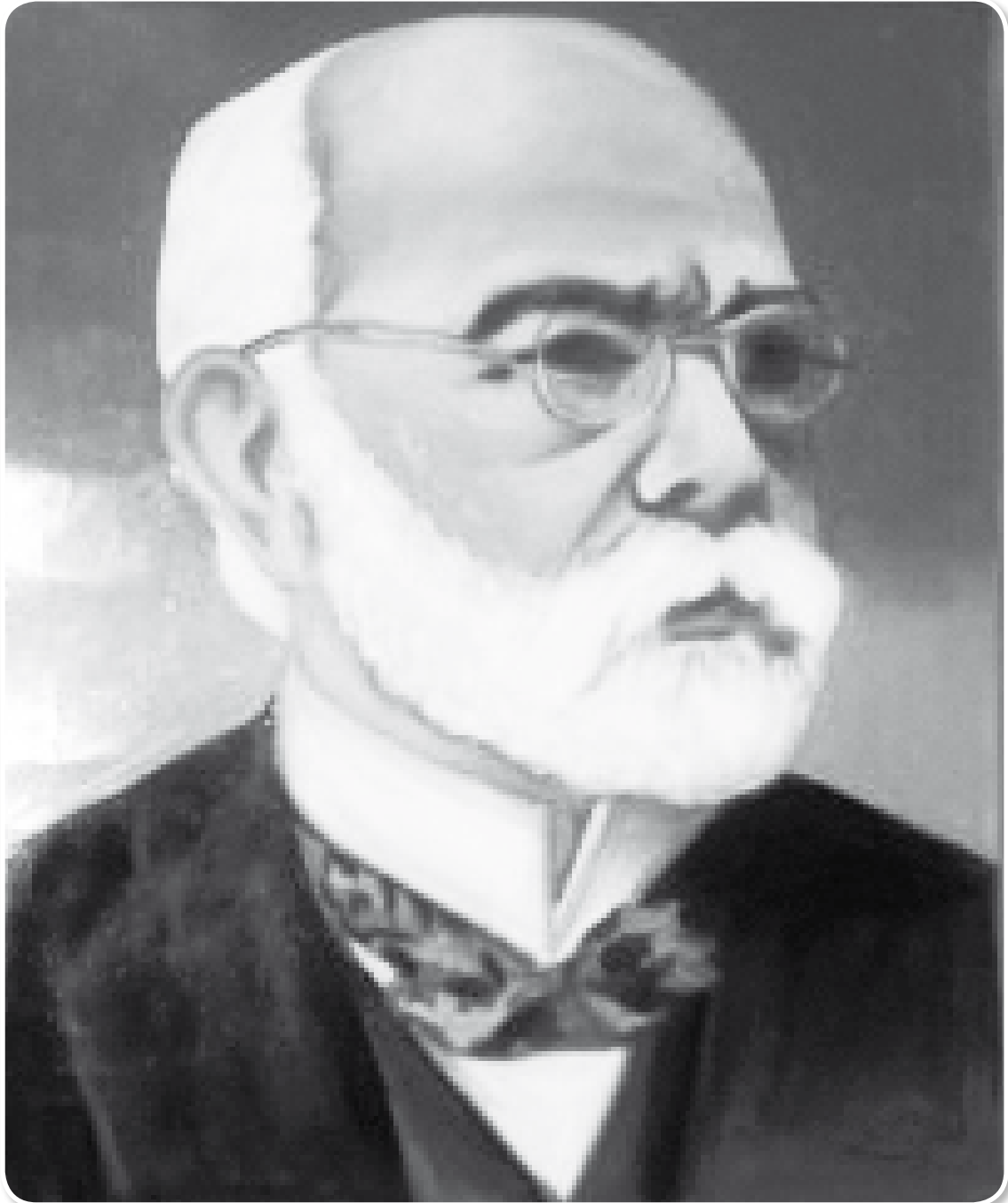
I spent several sittings with her and educated her thoroughly on the disease and the strategy through which it could be cured. She finally agreed and took up treatment. Kamatchi was regular with her treatment and I kept a constant tag on her throughout the treatment period making sure she was motivated to complete medication.

Today this 38 year old is cured and is back to her native.

When in Chennai, she makes it a point to call me up and enquire about our team. Hearing her happy voice which was once an echo of sadness and misery, recharges the professional in me to carry on my work with greater zeal.

Sayee Pradap

District Coordinator



ROBERT KOCH

Sayee Pradap
District Coordinator

PEOPLE BEHIND REACH- THE REACH COMMITTEE

<i>Chairman</i>	Dr. M.S. Swaminathan <i>Chairman, MSSRF, Chennai and Member of Rajya Sabha</i>
<i>President</i>	Dr.Arjun Rajagopalan <i>Chief of Medical Staff, Sundaram Medical Foundation, Chennai</i>
<i>Vice President</i>	Dr.S.Sivamurugan <i>Director, Bone and Joint Hospital, Chennai</i>
<i>Executive Secretaries</i>	Dr.Nalini Krishnan <i>Director, The Hindu and Director, REACH</i> Mr.Prakash Idnani <i>Director- The Seminar Company</i> Ms.Suraksha Giri <i>Marketing Professional, Chennai</i>
<i>Treasurer</i>	Mr.B.Madhavan <i>Retd. Commissioner of Income Tax</i>
<i>Executive Committee</i>	Ms.Geeta Ramaseshan <i>Advocate and Legal Scholar</i> Dr.Ravi Subramaniam <i>Director, Bone and Joint Hospital</i>

REACH thanks all our donors, private practitioners, lab technicians, DOT providers, patients, RNTCP officials, State TB Officer, Tamil Nadu and our all well-wishers for their cooperation and contributions towards building a TB free society...

The executive committee would like to place on record its gratitude to all the staff at REACH for their untiring efforts, enthusiasm, and most of all their commitment to improving the lives of patients and their dedication to the fight against TB.

Dr.Ramya Ananthakrishnan,

Consultant and Director-Projects, REACH

Ms.Anupama Srinivasan,

Technical Consultant, Media Project, REACH

Ms. K.Jagarajamma,

Consultant, GFATM Project

List of the REACH Staff

Mr. J. Gurumoorthy,

General Manager, Executive Officer Hr. & Finance

Ms. Sheela Augustine, Program Manager

Ms. Nalini Karunakaran, Project Coordinator

Ms. Anne Theresa Suresh Kumar,

Project Coordinator

Mr. Dinakar Sai, Social Worker

Ms. P. Vidya, Social Worker

Ms. K. Shanthi, Field Staff

Ms. M.Deenathayabari, Field staff

Ms. P. Chitra, Field Staff

Ms. R. Revathy, Field Staff

Ms. M. Chitra, Field Staff

Ms. Cynthia, Field Staff

Ms. L.Vimala Rani, Field Staff

Ms. S. Mangaiyarkarasi, Field Staff

Ms. A. Thulasi, Field Staff

Mr. S. Ramjee, Field Staff

Mr. R. Jagannathan, Admin Assistant

List of the Project Axshya Staff

Mr. S. Karthikeyan,

Finance & Administration Manager

Mr. Terence Aldrin Devaraj, Program Manager

Mr. V.S.G. Ramesh, Assistant Program Manager

Mr. M. Joseph Soundararaj, District Coordinator

Mr. R. Sayee Pradap, District Coordinator

Mr. P. Renold Antony Raj, District Coordinator

Mr. D. Isac Rajesh Sekar, District Coordinator

Mr. M. Ganesh, District Coordinator

Mr. G. Sankar, District Coordinator

Mr. A. Alexpandi, Field Coordinator

Mr. K.C.A. John Joyce Rajan, Field Coordinator

Mr. C. John Peter, Field Coordinator





***“Nothing we can do can change the past,
but everything we do changes the future.”***

- Ashleigh Brilliant