



From the Director's Desk

Dear Friends,

Greetings from LEPRA India – BPHRC!

It is a great pleasure to inform you that this issue is our 3rd tri Annual E-Newsletter – *Shodhana*...in pursuit of excellence in Public Health. BPHRC is a research wing of LEPRA India which conducts research on issues related to leprosy, tuberculosis, HIV, malaria, lymphatic filariasis and manages the selected field projects in Andhra Pradesh.

The reporting period started with the visit of Ms. Sarah Nancollas, New Chief Executive, LEPRA Health in Action, UK followed by BPHRC Review Board meetings - Research Advisory Committee (RAC), Institutional Ethical Committee (IEC) and Institutional Bio-safety Committee (IBSC). The visitors from different countries: NIH Team comprising of Administrators from US Embassy, New Delhi, Scientists & Professors from USA visited BPHRC to explore future collaborations. Dr. Velavan, Prof. Juergen Kun from Tubingen, Germany, Prof. Richard Lucius, Prof. Frank Mockenhaupt from Germany visited BPHRC to plan and to initiate collaborative research projects on Leprosy, Lymphatic Filariasis and Malaria.

Three new proposals in leprosy were submitted to ICMR and 2 new RNTCP Operational Research project proposals were approved.

We sincerely acknowledge and value most the contributions received from PATH India / USAID for BSL-3 upgradation and Philanthropists during this period supporting our work. BPHRC developed its strategy along with operational plan for 2010—2020 with support from Mr. Adam Storring which will be presented during Management Committee to be held in January, 2011 for approval.

On New Year's eve, BPHRC organized a fest which saw LEPRA staff across Hyderabad participating in various events. This paved the way to welcome New year with joy & enthusiasm.



Wishing a happy reading and appreciate your feedback,

With thanks and best regards
Dr. J. Subbanna

Working Hands of LEPRA India



Wish You A Very Happy & Prosperous New Year 2011.



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11th Research Advisory Committee was held on October 21, 2010 under the chairmanship of Lt. Gen. V.D. Tiwari and the members Dr. Gowrishankar, Dr. S.V. Prasad, Dr. John Porter, Dr. Diana Lockwood, Dr. PV Ranganadha Rao including special invitees Ms. Jenny Barraclough, Chairman, LEPRU UK and Ms. Sarah Nancollas, Chief Executive, LEPRU UK participated in the meeting. The scientists were given suggestions/ advice on new proposals presented to the committee.



10th Institutional Ethical Committee was held on October 25, 2010 at LSHO conference Hall under the chairmanship of Justice S. Dasaratharama Reddi (Retd.). The members Prof. K.K. Raja Babu, Prof. Hannah Anandaraj, Prof. Siva Sai & Dr. P.V. Ranganadha Rao and Dr. J. Subbanna along with Dr. Vijayalakshmi, Dr. Aparna and Dr. Prathyusha attended the meeting. Of the 9 new proposals presented for ethical clearance, 8 have been cleared.

7th Institutional Bio-safety Committee was held on December 23, 2010 under the chairmanship of Dr. J. Subbanna, Director, BPHRC. Prof. Seyed E. Hasnain, Vice Chancellor, HCU and DBT Nominee and the members Dr. Ranjan Sen, Staff Scientist, CDFD, Dr. V. Vijayalakshmi and Dr. S. Aparna, BPHRC participated in the meeting. Prof. Hasnain and Dr. Ranjan Sen, External Member gave their valuable suggestions and advice for the proposals (ongoing/new) presented in the meeting.



IDEAL workshop: The Steering Committee of IDEAL together with the Beijing Tropical Medicine Research Institute organised its 6th workshop, in Beijing, China. Dr. Vijayalakshmi participated and presented the work being carried out in Leprosy for the past five years in BPHRC.

WHO meeting on Sentinel Surveillance for Drug Resistance in Leprosy: Hosted by the National Institute for Infectious Diseases, Tokyo, Japan, Dr. Vijaya Lakshmi Valluri participated and presented on Prevalence of Drug Resistance in Orissa and BPHRC.



Dr. Velavan & Prof. Juergen Kun from Tubingen, Germany along with Prof. Luther Wiler visited BPHRC on 23.9.2010 to collaborate with LEPRU and to discuss about their projects: "Effects of multi drug therapy on cellular immunity in patients with leprosy" and exploring for other communicable diseases namely Lymphatic Filariasis & Malaria.



Visitors:

NIH Team comprising of Administrators from US Embassy, New Delhi and Scientists & Professors from USA visited BPHRC on 6.12.2010 with a purpose to explore potential opportunities for new or expanded research collaboration and shared scientific interests. Visit is related to Indo-US program on HIV STI Prevention Research, Indo-US Vaccine Action Program (TB Scientific Review and visit to India) .

Dr. Aparna attended 9th International conference on Urban Health held at New York from 27th to 29th October, 2010. She presented on “Multi drug resistance among urban and tribal TB patients - a community based study from India”. Also, she participated in Union World Conference on Lung Health (International TB Conference) held at Berlin from 11th to 15th November, 2010 and presented on Preliminary survey on LF at KRISCHIP under Indo-German Research Training (IRTG) project at Humboldt University.

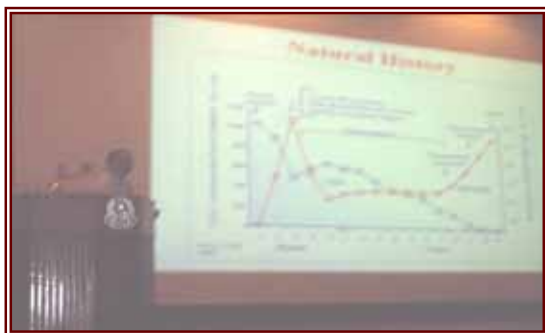


The visit also focused on HIV, HIV associated Tuberculosis and other Mycobacterial Research Activities and Laboratories.



Prof. Richard Lucius with Prof. Frank Mockanhaupt and Ph.D student Ms. Stefanie Meese visited BPHRC on 9.12.2010 and also field projects ARTH, KRISCHIP. The purpose of the visit was to identify a potential site for Malaria Epidemiological studies and follow-up on LF field survey.

Dr. J. Subbanna, Director, BPHRC was invited as a speaker by the University of Hyderabad on 01.12.2010 on occasion of the observance of World AIDS Day.



Field Activities:

Society for Human Awareness and Rural Development (SHARD), a NGO & BPHRC organized awareness programme on 4.9.2010 on Leprosy & TB conducted at Ambedkar Community Hall, Ramanthapur. Mr. Balachander Goud, Co-ordinator, SHARD, Ms. Sunanda, Project Officer, and Ms. Shanta & Ms. Chandrakala, Supervisors ICDS and Mr. Anantha Reddy, Supervisor, Uppal PHC participated in the programme. A total of 70 women including Anganwadi workers, Mother groups, adolescent girls participated in the programme.



Another two such programmes were also conducted on 6.9.2010, one at Yapral and the other at Nehru Nagar community hall, Kushaiguda upon the request of Ms. Sunanda. About 125 women actively took part in the programme.

The project conducted Exhibition and IEC Van programmes on 16.9.2010 at Chenigicherla, on 23.9.2010 at HB Colony, Indira Nagar and Moulali. As many as 625 members were made aware on Leprosy, TB, Malaria and HIV/AIDS through these programmes. A School Education programme was conducted at Govt. School, Mallapur on 30.9.2010. 400 children were sensitized at this programme.

Staff from the project participated in the "Grama Sabha" conducted by Panchayat Office, Rampally Village, Ranga Reddy District on 2.10.2010—morning session. Mr. Ramulu, Sarpanch and committee members along with 150 villagers participated in the programme.

Also, another such programme was participated by us at Chenigicherla Village on the same day afternoon. Mr. Srinivas Naik, Sarpanch and committee members including 120 villagers participated in the programme.

A sensitization session was conducted on Leprosy & TB in both the programmes.



The project conducted awareness programme exclusively on HIV/AIDS and participated in rally with students and teachers of ZPHS, Govt. High School, Rampally from Gram Panchayat Office to School on occasion of World AIDS Day, Dt: 1.12.2010. Mr. Ramulu Yadav, Sarpanch, participated in the programme. Dr. S. Prathyusha, Mr. Robinson, Mr. Sathiraju and other staff of BPHRC participated in the rally.



An awareness programme on HIV/AIDS was organized by the project for the truck drivers at Bharath Petroleum Corporation Ltd., Cherlapally on 1st December. In this programme Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. Installation Manager Mr. Vijaya Raghavan, Dy. Manager Sudheer, Asst. Managers Mr. Subramanyam and Ms. Sumalatha participated. Dr. Prathyusha, Dr. Malathi, Mr. Sathiraju, Mr. Robinson, Mr. Joseph and other staff of BPHRC participated in the programme.



We conducted an essay competition to the Nursing students of Fernandez Nursing School, Ahmedguda, Keesara Mandal on 30.11.2010 on occasion of World AIDS Day. 60 students participated in the competition and the winners were given the prizes.



BPHRC along with Umeed, LEPR India participated in an exhibition conducted by HSBC Bank at Somajiguda on 4.11.2010. IEC material on Leprosy, TB & HIV/AIDS was exhibited. 200 people visited the stall.

BPHRC conducted an interaction session for the differently abled persons on 3.12.2010 on account of World Disability Day at Balaji Nagar.



Valedictory program was organized by the NTPC at Hari Hara Kala bhavan, Secunderabad on 16.11.2010. In the program they distributed certificates to the trainees who are trained in Computer, Sewing Machine and Motor (Car) Driving. These beneficiaries are from Shantinagar Colony. Dr. Subbanna Director BPHRC one of the Special Guest for this program. Staff from LEPR India Head Quarters, ROAP and UMEED also participated in this program.

We have organised School education program at Mohan A V Upper Primary School, Alugadda Bhavi, Seethapalmandi on 24.11.2010. 224 students and 8 teachers participated in this programme.

A training program for ASHA volunteers was held on Leprosy and TB at UHP, New Boiguda on 30.11.2010. 14 volunteers participated in the programme.

Two programmes one at DLRC and the other at UMEED Office were held on World Disability Day i.e., on 3.12.2010. 12 clients attended for the program in DLRC. The rights of the disabled persons were discussed in length at DLRC which was attended by 12 beneficiaries. Sewing machines were distributed by Mr. Sathi Raju, Programme Coordinator to cheyutha staff and leprosy clients during the programme at UMEED office. Dr. Arunabala Chowdhury and other staff participated in the programme.



Prof. Richards accompanied by Dr. Malathi, BPHRC visited the ICTC, Gaddiannaram. They interacted with the staff and clients at the center. While interacting he observed the work of DMC, ICTC and Cheyutha Clinic and appreciated the functioning of 3 components under one roof. He enquired regarding services being offered at the centre to TB patients and HIV +ve clients. The visitor appreciated the hard work of the staff and the efforts they are putting in reaching the services to those in need.



Ms. Yama Guchi and team from Sasakawa Foundation witnessed different activities of LEPRA India in Hyderabad. Dr. Ranaganadha Rao, CEO - LEPRA India, Dr. Subbanna, Director - BPHRC and Mr. Sathi Raju, Project Coordinator accompanied them.

At first, they interacted with clients and staff at the Nallakunta Leprosy Referral Centre (NLRC). Dr. Ranganadha Rao explained about the activities and services at Referral Centers which were appreciated by the visitors.

Following this, the team moved to cultivation project at Pasumala village. Dr. Subbanna and Mr. Sathi Raju explained about the cultivation project. One family from the beneficiaries warmly welcomed the visitors and interacted with them. They were happy to show different vegetables cultivated in their land. They further mentioned about the shortage of water for cultivation and express the need for the same. The authorities assured them that they will discuss with Sarpanch to solve the matter.



In addition to these, they were also happy to visit Shantinagar colony. There the team interacted with few families to understand their day to day needs and problems. They also visited the clinic which is being run by LEPRA India.



NGOs Meeting in Nirmal

The project has organized NGOs meeting on 08 Sep, 2010 at its office premises with an aim to share the details of the project titled **“Community based initiative to ensure tribal communities gain greater access to services”** support from Sir Dorabji Tata Trust (SDTT). The meeting was attended by Ms. Sheila Chanani, SDTT accompanied by Dr. Ranganadharao, Chief Executive, LEPR India and Dr. Ramesh Chandra, Consultant, NVBDCP. Mr. Sathiraju and Mr. Jayaram, Project Coordinators of LEPR India including 22 participants from various NGOs participated in the interactive meeting.



Dr. P. V. Ranganadhraro, Chief Executive examined and interacted with three beneficiaries at Nirmal office. Two of them have been selected for their study assistance.



Mr. Adam Storing, Programme Officer (a volunteer from UK) visited the project and referral center on 20th Sep, 2010 to know about the services provided to the beneficiaries and interacted with the staff. He also interacted with Mr. Shabeer, a beneficiary.



Observation of World Disability Day - 2010

The project in collaboration with District Health Department jointly organized a sensitization programme at Sri Saraswathi Sisumandir High School on account of World Disability Day on 3rd December .



The theme for the year is *“Keeping the Promise: Mainstreaming disability in the millennium Development Goals towards 2015 and beyond”*.

Dr. Chaithanya, MBBS, DCH (Pediatrician), Area Hospital, Nirmal participating in the session as chief guest said, with confidence and will physical disability can be removed from the minds of any physically challenged persons and specified target can be achieved.

Around 100 students from 9th and 10th standards attended the program and the speaker informed about the different types of the disabilities (Physical & Psychological) during childhood, its complications and management. It's an opportunity for the students who listened patiently for about an hour and clarified doubts on the disabilities.

Visitors:

Mr. Frank Mockenhaupt and Ms. Stefanie Messe , Germany visited the project on 07th & 08th Dec, 2010 accompanied by Dr. J. Subbana, Director, BPPHRC. The team interacted with Dr. Chandu and Dr. A. Ravi, ADMHO and DMO respectively on the status of Malaria epidemic in the agency area. Later, the team participated in an interactive meeting at Jamdah of Naroor mandal about the prevailing diseases and health practices.



The project carried out the planned activities during the period. The 3 referral centers offered the specialized services like self care practices and physiotherapy services under Disability Prevention and Medical Rehabilitation (DPMR) programme. 544 cases were assessed for nerve functions and provided services as per the need besides the treatment of 52 complication cases as identified. 989 counseling sessions were held for those with impairments and 28 difficult to diagnosis cases were conformed as having leprosy. Ulcer care management was extended to 195 cases and 439

pairs of appropriate MCR insole footwear was provided. 21 persons having physical disabilities were referred for reconstructive surgery, out of which 12 have undergone surgery. 8 DPMR camps attended by 140 beneficiaries were facilitated along with the dist. nucleus team.

Also, the project continued TB diagnostic activities and treatment services through its 2 DMCs.

Some of the achievements have been depicted in the following table.

Sl. No	Treatment Outcome	Kothapeta	Ranigarhota
1	Sputum conversation rate	90%	87%
2	Cure Rate—Cat I	92%	93%
		Cat II	73%
3	Defaulters rate	4%	0%
4	Death rate	4%	7%

Self-care Camps for morbidity management in Lymphatic Filariasis:

12 such camps were organized and provided services to 165 persons who have elephantiasis with the support of MHC, Men's intervention, PHCs and Dist filarial unit staff. At first, washing and cleaning of the affected part was demonstrated. Practised different types of exercises by involving and educating the family members. The measurements of affected limbs were noted to witness the effectiveness of the services during further follow-ups. At the end of the camp, they were advised to follow all these techniques regularly besides elevation of the limb. Symptomatic treatment was given to the needy.



A total of 76 new cases have been diagnosed as having tuberculosis and all have been put on DOTS. 12 TB-HIV co-infection cases have been identified during the reporting period. 3 new samples have been sent for Multi Drug Resistance (MDR) testing besides 2 cases registered as MDR TB.

International Day of Persons with Disabilities: Project Observed and participated in International day of persons with disabilities on 3rd December '10 at Sreyassu & 3 referral centres in collaboration with District Disabled Rehabilitation Centre's, Madras cements limited, Jaggaiahpet and various NGOs working on disabilities. The theme of the campaigns is to *"Keeping the promise: Mainstreaming disability in the Millennium Development Goals towards 2015 and beyond."* Organized rallies, exhibitions and awareness meetings and 34 persons participated with disabilities due to leprosy and 1600 mentally & physically challenged children's.



The project is focusing on the aim to increase the understanding of the issues of the disabilities and attentions to the dignity, rights and well-being of the persons with disabilities. It also aims to increase the awareness to a wide range of community and disabled persons are integrated into all aspects of political, social, economic and cultural life and raising money resources to support physically challenged people. On the occasion, Madras Cement Limited donated 8 tri-cycles for physically challenged people worth Rs.45,000/- and project staff facilitated in identification of the beneficiaries.

Sri P.B. Gopalakrishna, Sr. Vice President (Manufacturing) , other dignitaries of MCL and lions club members of Jaggaiahpet participated in programme.



Also, project has observed human rights day.

Center wise Referral centers progress at Glance:

Activities	Vijaya-wada	Tirupati	Viziana-garam
Counseling and Self care	338	306	345
Nerve function Assessment (cases)	296	135	113
Confirmation of difficult to diagnose cases	10	6	12
Cases examined for skin smear	14	6	38
Cases found skin smear positive	6	1	11
Complications management	17	25	10
Type-I	6	10	2
Type-II	4	4	3
Neuritis	7	11	5
Ulcer management	91	59	45
Supply GI protective/appropriate Footwear	68	15	0
Supply GII protective/appropriate Footwear	96	148	195
RCS referred	11	7	3
Underwent for RCS	4	6	2
Support to DPMR camps	3	2	3
LF Self Care Camps	8	2	2



The primary objective of the project is to improve quality of life of PLHIV and help them access their rights to health. Regular counseling sessions (both individual and group) were conducted to empower PLHIV. Besides psychosocial care, their health condition is monitored regularly at Sreyassu clinics and through outreach services and home visits. Adherence to antiretroviral therapy (ART) is regularly tracked and followed-up for successful treatment. Major activities also include support group meetings, capacity building programs to improve knowledge and skills of CBO members and imparting counseling skills to the staff. Regular nutrition support helps to increase the health condition of the 111 PLHIV. Project observed World AIDS Day and international day of person with disabilities by mobilizing local resources from Madras Cements Limited.

World AIDS day:

Dec 1st, 2010 World AIDS Day was observed at the project by conducting meeting with PLHIV and Signature campaign at Ammani college at Jaggaiahpet "to reduce stigma and discrimination towards PLHIV". Project disseminate theme "*I am aware, protect my self and others from HIV*".

On this occasion, Madras Cements Limited has donated clothes and nutritious food for 50 infected and affected children worth of Rs.15,500/-. Sri P.B. Gopalakrishna, Sr.Vice President (Manufacturing) and other dignitaries of MCL participated in the programme.



Livelihood training Programmes: With the objective of improving the livelihoods of the PLHIV and empower the women economically project organized livelihood trainings on tailoring and Italian lace making.

Tailoring: 20 infected and affected PLHIV trained on tailoring, the training programme was started on the occasion of birth day of Smt. Indira Dutt, JMD KCP cements on 14th Sept'2010. SUNEETHA, NGO supported to provide Tutor for tailoring training, Mr. Rammohan Rao, Municipal Commissioner of Jaggaiahpet, Mr. Chandramouli, Proprietor, VRS transport and T. S. Jaya Chandra, MPDO participated as guest of the programme.

Italian Lace making: 30 women candidates including infected and affected were undergone for Italian lace making training for the period of 3 months. The training initiated on 17th Dec, 2010 supported by NABARD through SCWEC organization, technical support provided by SPOORTHI INDIA. The training inaugurated by Smt. Indira Dutt, president of SCWEC, Mr. Madhmurth, AGM,NABARD and Dr. Ranganadh Rao, Chief Executive LEPR India.



Photographs

2011 New Year celebrations held at LEPR India – BPHRC. Ms. Meena Gupta, IAS (Retd.), Chairperson, LEPR India participated in the programme. All the staff from LEPR Projects of Hyderabad actively participated in the celebrations. The celebrations warmed up with walk race and then games like blowing the balloons, Tug of War, Musical Chairs, Antyakshari, Tambola were conducted and the prizes were distributed to the winners. At the end of the programme each has conveyed New year wishes.

Walk Race



Audience for the game



Tug of war - Women



Tug of war – Men



Chairperson in finals - Musical chairs



LEPRA staff participated in dancing



News Clippings



The next edition of Shodhana will focus on AVAHAN / TI Field Projects/MDR TB

Forthcoming Special Days/Events

- Anti leprosy week—30th January to 5th February
- World Cancer Day - 4th February
- International Women Day—8th March
- World TB Day—24th March
- World Malaria Day—25th April

Editorial Board:

Ms. R. Uma Rani; Dr. B. Anuradha; Mr. Noel Robinson; Mr. Kameswara Rao



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- 100% exemption u/s 35 AC
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