

DEVELOPING INDIGENOUS RESOURCES - INDIA

Summary of Activities

JUNE 2014

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH:

FEW THINGS ARE HARDER TO PUT UP WITH THAN
THE ANNOYANCE OF A GOOD EXAMPLE

(Mark Twain)

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1. CEO's MESSAGE

Frederick Shaw

There are many wonderful sights and scenes in India, and many sources of wonder, and then there is the weather which makes one wonder why anyone with bus fare is here. The first half of June was as bad as I have experienced in my life. I do not know what were our highest temperatures, but I do know that on several days the newspapers informed us "Yesterday we had 46 Degrees" (107F). I do not think I will spend another June in this part of India!

Apart from regrettable weather, most of our happenings this month were "good news." In my view, our best news is that we have, at last, managed to fill most of our staff vacancies. That is good news, and it good news that we are finding new staff members with what our Chairman describes as "the NGO spirit" plus a Master's Degree in Public Health. Dr. Tavleen who is a Dentist, who provides Medical training, who helps supervise Health Promoters is designing a DIR Dental Health curriculum, , and - in her spare time - keeps our financial books, has a MPH. On 10th June we welcomed aboard, Dr. Ritesh Singha, BHMS, MPH. He brings to DIR, years of experience, and the "right spirit". We should soon have a team ready to expand our program to benefit other depressed communities.

The Acting Director took over the helm of the DIR ship from my shaking, sweaty palms when I departed to fund-raise (and escape the Punjabi furnace) in the US, on 12 June.

2. MOTHERS' HEALTH

Ms. Meena Kumari - Senior Health Promoter

Pregnancies

On the 1st of June there were 99 pregnant women in Janta colony and Adarsh Nagar. Of these, ten women delivered their babies during the month. Five pregnant women shifted their residences permanently from the colony, and seventeen new pregnancies were reported during the month. Out of ten women who delivered, all had appropriate postnatal examinations within two days of delivery.

Deliveries

Out of fourteen women who delivered this month, nine delivered in the Government Hospital, Sector-16, one delivered in PGI. Of the newborns, 4 are baby girls and 6 are baby boys. All deliveries were assisted by qualified professionals.

3. The IMMUNIZATION PROGRAMME

Mrs. Veena Rani – Senior Health Promoter

In the month of June, DIR-I collaborated with the government-run immunization programme on the 28th May, 4th, 11th, 18th June. A total of 165 shots were administered to children, details of which are as follows:

(a) Measles – 18 (b) Measles Booster -10 (c) BCG -0 (d) DT -14 (e) DPT Booster - 14

SHOTS	1 st Dose	2 nd Dose	3 rd Dose
Hepatitis B	17	12	15
DPT	17	12	15
TT	2	11	-

In addition to these, 8 children of age 10 yrs were given TT shots

4. BEAUTY TRAINING

Mrs. Kalpana Ghai

DIR Beauty Training Centre was inaugurated on the 11th of June 2014 by Choudhry Arjun Singh Kansal, a much respected local politician, amidst a lot of excitement and anticipation for the ladies of Adarsh Nagar and Nayagaon.

Ruchi, a trained professional beautician from Habibs and VLCC, is currently teaching 150 girls in Jagadhri, and on weekends imparting knowledge in hair care, facials, mehendi, nail painting, health related aspects of body care, bridal make-up etc. Pooja, also a professional, is there five days a week giving expert guidance and coaching to the students.

We owe our gratitude to Dr. Shaw for encouraging this venture which will ensure jobs to uneducated village women and Mr. Raj Sehgal from Delhi who has given this project a shape because of his generous contributions. Mr. Sandeep, Director of Ramgarh Resorts also has contributed the equipment for the Centre at a subsidized cost.

We have 24 students at present and are anticipating around 40, for which we will start 23 batches of 20 students each, both for a morning and afternoon session.



5. D.O.T.S.

Mrs. Meenakshi- Health Promoter

Last month, **nineteen** tuberculosis patients were being served medicines at our bustee office through the government DOTS program run by DIR. Our bustee office is an authorized DOTS centre, and patients from the vicinity get their supply of medicine from our office on a regular basis. During this month, **four** patients completed the treatment and were declared free from this disease. **One** new patient has been diagnosed having Tuberculosis this month, and have started medication from our centre.

Following is the distribution of these patients in different categories and what each means:

Category I – All those new patients whose pulmonary smear is positive for Tuberculosis Bacilli or those whose pulmonary smear is negative but are seriously ill, or those who have extra pulmonary Tuberculosis but are seriously ill are included in Category I. This month, we have **twelve** patients in this category.

Category II – Those old Tuberculosis patients who had either defaulted from the treatment at an earlier stage and have re-started the treatment or those who have again contracted the disease after being cured once those who had not been cured even after completing a full prescribed course are included in Category II. This month we have **four** patients in this category.

6. INCOME GENERATION

Ms. Meena, Mrs Maya - Senior Health Promoters

CLOTH BAGS

Under the skills training program, a total of twenty women from the bustee are learning to sew in our Tailoring Class. Aside from these stitching classes being held in DIR bustee office, DIR also gives paid assignments to bustee women in the form of making different kinds of cloth bags (wine bags, i-Pad bags, Sling bags, Craft bags and water bottle bags).

We are grateful to all fabric shopkeepers who are donating remnants and patterns of fabrics, and we send thanks to all these people who buy our products. The income means a lot to the women in the slum, and the profit goes 100% to fund our Medical activities.

PAPER BAGS

"Stop using plastic bags, use paper bags to save our environment". We would like everyone to read and follow that advice. We have different sizes of paper bags (which we make out of re-cycled newspapers) to sell to every customer. If some generous local people want to donate old news paper we would be grateful. And we would be happy to provide jobs for more women if we could get more customers for our products.

Contact us if you live locally and want to donate newspapers or wish to buy the fine recycled bags our women make. Find us at House 105, Sector 10-A, Chandigarh. If planning to visit, please 4660419 first to ensure someone is in.

7. EDUCATION

Dr. Tavleen Kaur

School was closed for one month for summer holidays. This is the time when parents take their kids for outings, generally they visit their native places during this period. School will reopen on 1st July'14.

8. WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

Dr. Tavleen Kaur

World Environment Day (WED) 5th June is the global platform for public outreach that is widely celebrated by stakeholders in over 100 countries. It also serves as the 'people's day' for doing something positive for the environment, galvanizing individual actions into a collective power that generates an exponential positive impact on the planet.

CITCO celebrated this day at "Stop and Stare" in Sec 10, Chandigarh where the health promoters of DIR enacted a skit on conservation of trees.



9. WORLD MUSIC DAY

Dr. Tavleen Kaur

Department of Tourism Chandigarh Administration celebrated World Music day on 21st June (Saturday) at the Sukhna Lake, Chandigarh. DIR was one of the four NGO's invited by them to perform there. Health promoters performed Bhangra and Gidda which was enjoyed by everyone present there. In the end HP's were given some refreshments.



10. Panel Discussion- Violence Against Women

Dr. Ritesh Singha

A Panel Discussion on violence against women was held by the British Deputy High Commission Chandigarh on the 12th of June 2014 in British Library. Ms. Joyshree Lobo, Trustee, accompanied by Dr. Ritesh Singha and Dr. Tavleen Kaur attended the discussion. The Panelists who participated in the discussion were: Lakshmi-an acid attack victim, Dhruv Arora-young gender rights activist and a social media strategist, Rhona Royale-Head of Consular Operations at the British High Commission, Samita Mitra-from UN women office of India, Sunita Menon-from 'Breakthrough', a global human rights organization and the discussion was moderated by Prof. Pam Rajput. Mr. David Lelliott, British Deputy High Commissioner, Northwest India, welcomed everyone and opened the discussion. The conclusion of the discussion was that, to stop the violence against women, an inter-sectoral coordination is a must and each and every one should do his/her bit to eliminate such an evil.

11. Canada Day Celebrations

Dr. Ritesh Singha

The Canadian Consul-General, Ms. Rajani Alexander invited DIR to celebrate Canada Day on 26th June'14. Accompanied by Dr. Ritesh and Ms. Kalpana Ghai, eighteen children from the DIR CAP and Caddy Training programs participated in the festivities. They were served a typical Canadian breakfast of pancakes. The children got the Canadian Flag painted on their faces, and were gifted story books and other stationery items.



12. A Welcome Donation

Frederick Shaw

Two friends, Mr. Sumeer Walia of The American Sikh Chamber of Commerce, and Mr. C. J. Singh of CorePR, came to visit our Centre, and see its many programmes in Naya Gaon. Upon seeing our demonstration kitchen, they expressed surprise that it had no refrigerator, and asked why. I replied that the funds we have been able to raise, so far, are barely adequate to pay for the most essential parts of the programmes we provide, and that we lacked a refrigerator in the kitchen in our office in the Basti.

As a quick response, and to our delight, Mr Walia announced that he owned a surplus refrigerator and would very gladly present it to DIR. True to his word, his refrigerator was delivered the same day.

We are most grateful for his generosity, especially because it allows us to conserve our funds to spend on direct assistance items which improve conditions of the people we serve.

13. PERSONNEL ACTIVITY

Mr. Arun Gupta

A. VISITORS

1. Choudhry Arjun Singh Kansal, a local politician, was invited to the Basti Office on the 11th of June 2014 to inaugurate the Beauty Training Centre. Dr. Shaw introduced him to the Health Promoters, who explained to him their various activities. Choudhry Kansal was very impressed and astonished that he was not aware of the organization earlier. He stressed the need for DIR to become more visible and increase its Friends of DIR base.

2. Choudhry Arjun Singh Kansal was informed about the pitiable condition of the road leading to the Basti Office. He has promised to look into it, and has assured us that he will get it repaired within three months.
3. Mr. Devendra Kumar, Chairperson Child Welfare Committee (Panchkula) visited the Basti Office on the 2nd of June 2014. He was requested to get some land allotted in the name of DIR. He has promised to look into it and see how he can help.
4. Mr. Devendra Kumar invited us to in his office at Panchkula on the 11th of June 2014. He has some personal land in Agra which he has graciously offered DIR-I to start an activity in. There are some illegal encroachments on the land which he will get removed. We have requested him to provide us some pictures of the area. A visit to Agra can be planned on Dr. Shaw's return from the USA.