

Sound Hearing 2030 Report 2015

1. Developing different models of ear care

1.1.1. Implementing primary ear care in high priority districts (Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh)

MoU has been executed with Late Dr S N Mehrotra Memorial ENT Foundation, Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh for promoting primary ear and hearing care activities in Kanpur and nearby areas. In this regard, Society for Sound Hearing would facilitate training of 20 community health workers identified by Late Dr S N Mehrotra Memorial ENT Foundation, regarding primary ear care in Kanpur and nearby areas in 1st Qtr 2016. Sound Hearing 2030 Team would also be undertaking site assessment during this period. Late Dr S N Mehrotra Memorial ENT Foundation has also obtained institutional support of Society for Sound Hearing International. Society for Sound Hearing has also shared the hard and soft copies of IEC material.

1.1.2. Implementing integrated eye ear project at primary health care level

Discussion were carried out with Dr Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital for implementing the integrated eye ear project at Vrindavan, Mathura district in UP. It was discussed that Dr Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital would assess the feasibility of the project after which the site assessment would be undertaken by team of Sound Hearing 2030 and Dr Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital. Presently, Dr Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital is already providing eye care services and as part of this project feasibility of providing ear care services along with eye care would be assessed. SCEH has already implemented this project at two sites viz. Mustafabad in New Delhi and Alwar in Rajasthan.

1.2 Promoting partnership with Vision 2020

1.2.1. Participation in Vision 2020 Annual Conference

Vision 2020- The Right to Sight- India organized the 11th Annual Conference on 6th & 7th June 2015 at Moradabad, Uttar Pradesh. The theme of the Conference was "Excellence in Eye Care: Learning & Practices".

Dr Suneela Garg (Director Professor, Department of Community Medicine, Maulana Azad Medical College & Coordinator, Society for Sound Hearing) and Ms Deeksha Khurana (Programme Officer, Society for Sound Hearing) attended the Conference.

Dr Suneela Garg was invited for a session titled “Comprehensive and Cost Effective Eye Care through Outreach” which was scheduled on 6th June 2015. Dr Garg delivered a presentation on “Barriers and challenges to access of eye and ear care” with focus on assessment of human resources for delivering eye and ear care services. Ms Deeksha Khurana presented the findings of “Evaluation of integrated eye and ear project” of Dr. Shroff’s Charity eye hospital, New Delhi and Biratnagar Eye Hospital, Nepal. The session was chaired by Mr Suraj Senjam from Dr RP Centre AIIMS and Mr Kamlesh Guha from Siliguri Greater Lions Eye Hospital and moderated by Ms Mamta Singh from Mission for Vision.

During the Conference, IEC material developed by Sound Hearing 2030 and WHO was displayed at the Conference Venue. Dr Garg and Ms Deeksha Khurana also shared with the audience the report of “Evaluation of Primary Ear & Hearing Care (PEHC) project” of Dr Shroff’s Charity eye hospital and the proceedings of the recently concluded First World Congress on Ear & Hearing Care. During the conference, discussion was also carried out with a few private eye care hospitals which were interested in implementing the integrated eye and ear care project at their facilities.



1.2.2. Participation in Vision 2020 North Zone Members Meet

Vision 2020 organized the North Zone Members Meet on 17th Nov 2015 which was attended by Dr Suneela Garg, Ms. Deeksha Khurana and Ms. Janki Mehta. During the meeting, Dr Suneela Garg requested to the participants to become member of Society for Sound Hearing so that the eye and ear care both can be addressed together. Dr Suneela Garg also suggested the joint workshop on eye and ear care should be organized for sensitization.



1.2.3. Ground work to develop online courses in collaboration with Vision 2020 and Astron Institute of Social Sciences

As follow up of the North Zone Members meet of Vision 2020, a meeting was held between representatives of Vision 2020, Sound Hearing 2030 and Astron Institute of Social Sciences. During the meeting it was proposed that online skill development certification courses should be developed in collaboration with the three organizations.

The proposed topics for the courses were:-

- Applications of principles of management to eye and ear care,*
- Skill based training module for capacity building of grassroots level workers on primary ear and hearing care*
- Module on integrated eye and ear care at primary health care level*

These courses would be accredited by Health Sector Skills Council with facilitation from Astron Institute of Social Sciences. During the meeting Dr Phanindra Babu Nukella stated that they would be presenting this proposal during the upcoming Executive Committee Meeting of Vision 2020 to be held in mid Jan 2016. Once the proposal is approved by the Committee, this activity would be taken up.

1.3 Support implementation of National Programme for Prevention & Control of Deafness

A review meeting of the National Programme for Prevention and Control of Deafness was held on 25th & 26th Aug 2015 at Nirman Bhawan New Delhi. The meeting was attended by State Nodal Officers of 26 states/ UTs attended the meeting. The meeting

was chaired by the Additional Secretary (Health) & Spl. DGHS. Dr Agarwal and Dr Garg participated in the meeting as member core committee NPPCD and Ms. Deeksha Khurana & Ms. Janki Mehta attended the meeting on behalf of Society for Sound Hearing. During the meeting hard and soft copies of the IEC material and training modules were handed over to all SNOs by Society for Sound Hearing. Under the programme, the fund has also been released to Maulana Azad Medical College for temporal bone training of State Nodal Officers. During the meeting it was also decided with SNOs of Jharkhand & Chhattisgarh that representatives of Sound Hearing 2030 would be visiting these two states and would facilitate expansion of NPPCD.

1.4 Bring innovation technology regarding ear and hearing care to grassroot level

Alliance with Shruti project (Medtronic Inc.):

Several rounds of meetings have been held between representatives of Sound Hearing 2030 and Medtronic Inc. and they are in process of identifying key areas of collaboration. As part of Shruti project, specially trained community health workers are equipped with an innovative field ear screening kit and deployed in low income urban communities and rural areas. The customized application enables the health workers to gather patients details, complaints and other details including an image of the tympanic membrane, with a build-in algorithm for field triaging of ear diseases including infections, impacted wax etc. Patients with positive conditions are counseled for further treatment at network hospitals. Treatment at network hospitals includes medical, minor procedures, surgical intervention and rehabilitation. Discussion has been initiated with the State Nodal Officer of Jharkhand was implementing Shruti project in the state.

2. Increase the knowledge base of Ear & Hearing care

2.1 Maintaining accessible website of Sound Hearing 2030 & World Congress

Sound Hearing 2030 website (www.soundhearing2030.org) has been updated to include the reports of stakeholders meeting on Inclusion of children with hearing loss in mainstream schools, develop new IEC material, International Ear Care Day 2015 activities, new digital articles, annual report of year 2014 and World Congress report. For the World Congress, an accessible and innovative website was created (www.sh2030worldcong.org) which had the details of scientific program, faculty, poster and paper presentation etc. After the World Congress, website has been updated and

all the plenary presentations and photographs have been uploaded. The World Congress report has also been uploaded on the website.

2.2 Developing IEC material regarding ear care

A poster competition was organized by Society for Sound Hearing in collaboration with Department of Community Medicine, Maulana Azad Medical College on 16th Sept 2015 with the objective of developing new and innovative IEC material regarding Ear & Hearing Care. The two first prize winners were given a cash prize of INR 2500 each, second prize winners were given INR 1500 each and third prize winners were given cash prize of INR 1000 each. All the participants were given certificate of participation. 15 posters were received which have been evaluated and modified.

2.3 Stakeholders meeting to review and develop IEC material related to ear care

A stakeholders meeting was organized by Society for Sound Hearing in Collaboration with Department of Community Medicine, MAMC & CBM at Maulana Azad Medical College on 4th November 2015. The objective of the meeting was to review and improvise the exiting IEC material related to ear and hearing care developed by Society for Sound Hearing and develop new material. The meeting was attended by 75 participants comprising of ENT specialists, audiologists, public health experts, speech therapists and officials from Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.

Ms. Dharitri Panda, JS, MoHFW was the chief guest for the event. The other dignitaries who were present were Dr T.S. Sidhu (National Advisor, National Programme for Prevention & Control of Deafness) and Dr Bulantrisa Djelantik (Founder Member & Director Society for Sound Hearing International).





2.4 Stakeholders meeting on Inclusion of children with hearing loss in mainstream schools

A stakeholders meeting was organized by Society for Sound Hearing in collaboration with Department of Community Medicine, MAMC & CBM at Maulana Azad Medical College on 14th December 2015. The objective of the meeting was to review the status of inclusion of children with hearing loss in mainstream schools and the challenges faced in its implementation. The meeting also aimed to assess the initiatives and role of Sound Hearing 2030 in promoting inclusion of children with hearing loss. This exercise was also important from the point of view of implementation of policies related to education in India. The meeting was attended by 50 participants comprising of ENT specialists, audiologists, public health experts, speech therapists, NGO representatives and special educators. Dr A.K. Sinha, Director-Ali Yavar Jung National Institute of Hearing Handicapped (AYJNIHH) was the chief guest for the event.





3. **Strengthening Society for Sound Hearing**

3.1 **Supportership drive for enrollment of SSHI members implemented:**

Supportership drive of SSHI is being taken up actively. The founder members have been granted complimentary life supportership while the members of the board would be paying USD500 as life supportership fee. Through its efforts, SSHI has been able to enroll a few individual (Dr Karl White & Dr Suneela Garg) and institutional supporters (Coalition of Global Hearing Health & Late Dr S N Mehrotra Memorial ENT Foundation). Supportership drive would be undertaken extensively during 1st Qtr 2016 and potential supporters would be targeted which would also facilitate fund raising.

3.2. **Governance and adherence to compliance:**

Annual General Meetings of SSHI- 2015 (4th Nov 2015 and 13th Feb 2015)

An online Annual General Meeting of SSHI was held on 4th Nov 2015. During the meeting, key points discussed were activities and budget of 2016, sources of funding, symposium for ear and hearing care in Bangladesh, supportership drive of SSHI and constitution of SSHI Board.

The Annual General Meeting of SSHI for the year 2015 was held on 13th Feb at India Habitat Centre. The meeting was held along with the 1st World Congress. During the meeting discussions took place on the organization structure of SSHI, proposed plan for 2nd World Congress and activities which could be included as part of the next multiyear plan.

80G Certification of Society for Sound Hearing, India

In Sept 2015, Society for Sound Hearing India obtained 80 G certification which provides tax exemption to all the donors who give donation to the Society. During the year 2015, Society for Sound Hearing, India has been able to obtain donations from a few individual and institutional donors.

Formulation and submission of log frame and budget (2016-2018) of Society for Sound Hearing International to CBM

With inputs from Dr Suneela Garg, Dr Bulantrisna Djelantik, Dr Arun Agarwal and the members of Society for Sound Hearing International, logframe and budget for the period 2016-2018 has been formulated. During this process discussions, were held with Ms Silvana Mehra and Ms Liz Cross from Central East Asia Region Office and Dr Sara Varughese and Mr Umesh Baurai from South East Asia Region Office. The activities were decided keeping in view the priorities of CBM South Asia and Central East Asia Region. The final documents have been shared with CBM.

4.1 Develop alliance with WHO SEARO & HQ

Some of the activities which have been carried out as part of alliance with WHO HQ and SEARO are:-

First World Congress on Ear & Hearing Care:

First World Congress on Ear & Hearing Care was organized with technical support from WHO-HQ facilitated by Dr. Maria Alarcos Cieza Moreno (Coordinator, Disability and Rehabilitation). Dr. Shelly Chadha was the member of Scientific Committee for the World Congress and facilitated in preparing the scientific programme of the Congress. Information regarding World Congress was disseminated through the WHO website (<http://www.who.int/pbd/deafness/en/>) and database of WHO-HQ. Dr Shelly Chadha also attended the World Congress and delivered talks on a number of topics. She was also part of the inaugural of scientific programme of the Congress.

Dr. Chamaiparn Santikarn from WHO- SEARO attended the 1st World Congress on Ear & Hearing Care organized from 12th-14th Feb 2015 and presented a plenary talk on "Provision of hearing care: Global Status" on 12th Feb. She was also part of the inaugural ceremony of the Congress.

Review of status of ear and hearing health care in SEAR

SSH has undertaken the review of status of ear and hearing care in SEA Region. The desk review focused on epidemiological and programmatic aspects of ear care comprising of manpower, infrastructure and National Committees if any. The attempt was to identify issues and gaps in ear care. Examples of good initiatives whether in the public or private sector have been included. The report covers the following sections:-

- *Magnitude of Hearing Loss in Global & South East Asian Region context*
- *Epidemiology of deafness and hearing impairment in Global And South East Asian Region*
- *Human Resources of Ear & Hearing Care in South East Asian Region*
- *Availability of Ear Care Services In different Countries of the SEA Region*
- *National policies and programmes for ear and hearing care in South East Asian Region*
- *Summary & Conclusions*
- *Recommendations*

The desk review has been completed and the draft report has been submitted to WHO-HQ. The report would be shared with CBM after finalization.

Attending meetings at WHO- HQ

Dr Arun Agarwal and Dr Suneela Garg participated in the meeting at WHO-HQ Geneva regarding promotion of ear and hearing care in Member States held on 1-2 April 2015.

Dr Suneela Garg participated in the meeting held at WHO-HQ Geneva on 1-2 July 2015 to develop Ear and Hearing Care Situation Analysis Tool.

Revision of WHO Resource material related to ear care

A round of discussion has been initiated with Dr Shelly Chadha, Technical Officer, WHO HQ during which Society for Sound Hearing International has proposed to facilitate WHO in revising its resource material. For this, SSHI has also proposed that it could support the initial meeting in Delhi for this exercise.

Field testing of the WHO ear and hearing survey protocol in India

In Dec 2015, under the leadership of Dr Suneela Garg, Society for Sound Hearing International has been assigned an APW from WHO for field testing of the WHO ear and hearing survey protocol in India. This project would be undertaken in year 2016.

4.2 Develop alliance with Coalition for Global Hearing Health

*In Oct 2015, MoU has been signed between Society for Sound Hearing International and Coalition for Hearing Health for promoting ear and hearing care. Dr Suneela Garg also attended that Annual Conference of Coalition for Global Hearing Health on October 9-10, 2015 at Washington, USA. She presented a talk on “**Assessment of Status of Ear & Hearing Care in South East Asia Region**” during the Conference.*

4.3 Promote Sound Hearing as global initiative through World Conference

***First World Congress on Ear & Hearing Care** on theme titled ‘**Action towards better hearing**’ was a landmark event organized by Sound Hearing 2030 under the aegis of Society for Sound Hearing in collaboration with CBM, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare GOI, Ministry of Culture and Tourism GOI, World Health Organization and Indian Council of Medical Research, New Delhi, India. It was organized at the India Habitat Centre, New Delhi, India from 12th-14th Feb 2015.*

This event had special focus on Primary ear and hearing care across different regions of the globe. Discussions spanned around all aspects of the early diagnosis, management and rehabilitation of hearing loss. With participation of over 450 eminent otorhinolaryngologists, audiologists, public health experts and policy makers from across 32 countries, the World Congress aimed at:

- *Promoting sustainable community hearing care*
- *Facilitating early diagnosis, management and rehabilitation of hearing loss*
- *Providing a platform to bring together stakeholders from across the globe*
- *Sharing the best practices*
- *Facilitating incorporation of bullet actions of deliberations in policy & programmes of different countries*

Distinguished faculty from across the world attended the three-day program included topics that covered a spectrum of topics related to community ear and hearing care. The

Congress included three tracks that were designed to include the following scientific themes:-

- *Magnitude and Epidemiology of Hearing Loss in Global and Indian context*
- *Barriers and challenges in action towards better hearing*
- *Role of international agencies in action towards better hearing*
- *Development of national strategies for ear and hearing care*
- *Modern technologies and entrepreneurship for better hearing*
- *Current perspectives in cochlear implants*
- *Strategies for neonatal and infant hearing screening*
- *Strategies for management of otitis media*
- *Noise induced hearing loss: can we control it?*
- *Integrating ear and hearing care with eye care*
- *Promotion of education and inclusion of persons with hearing loss*
- *Advocacy and health promotion for better hearing*

During the Congress, state of the art information was provided along with the opportunity of hands-on experience through two workshops on **Hands on wet cadaveric temporal bone training** and **Current Perspectives in Hearing Aids** held at Maulana Azad Medical College, New Delhi.

Dr Arun Kumar Agarwal and Dr. Suneela Garg, Directors Society for Sound Hearing International were the Chairperson and Organising Secretary for the Congress respectively. Dr Achal Gulati, Director Professor, Department of ENT, Maulana Azad Medical College was the Chairman of Scientific Committee. Dr MM Singh, Dr Ritesh Singh, Dr. Tanu Anand and Deeksha Khurana facilitated scientific proceedings.





SH 2030 SECRETARIAT STAFF



4.4 Celebration of 3rd March 2015- International Ear & Hearing Care Day

Mini Marathon- Run for Better Hearing

On occasion of Internal Ear Care 2015, Sound Hearing 2030 under the aegis of Society for Sound Hearing in collaboration with CBM organized the RUN FOR BETTER HEARING- Mini Marathon on Sunday the 1st March at Nehru Park, Chankyapuri, New Delhi.

The focus of the event was to facilitate spreading awareness among people and strengthen support regarding the cause of ear and hearing care. There are millions of hearing impaired

children who need care and the attention of both the government and public at large. These children are often ignored and laughed upon as deaf and dumb by most of our population who are neither sensitive nor



knowledgeable about the plight of these hearing impaired children. It is important that the society not only notices this group but helps in their upliftment and education so that they can be integrated into the normal main stream.

This event was attended by 550 children who came forward to support the social cause of deafness. The event also saw participation of 52 children who were from special schools of New Delhi. There were 70 students who registered on spot for the marathon. The students who registered on spot included MBBS and PG students of Maulana Azad Medical College and students from nearby schools. Students from Delhi Public School Panipat, Ashtavakra Rehabilitation Center, Deaf School Kalkaji, Akshaya Pratishtha school, Ali Yavaj Jung National Institute of Hearing Handicapped, Delhi Physiotherapy Council and various law colleges participated in the event. The children braved the heavy rains and did not let the bad weather lower their tempo and enthusiasm.

Before the start of the run, the IEC material developed by Sound Hearing 2030 was displayed at the venue.

The run was flagged off at 8 am by Dr. Deepak Tempe, Dean of Maulana Azad Medical College along with Dr Arun Agarwal, Dr Suneela Garg, Ms. Deeksha Khurana, Ms. Janki Mehta and Ms. Shilpi Narang. The children were divided into different age groups and the run was conducted.

Due to excessive rains, the prize distribution ceremony was held at Constitution Club on 26th March 2015. During this ceremony, the winners and runners-up in all categories were rewarded. A sensitization talk was delivered. The certificates of participation were given to all the students who participated in the run.



This event would go a long way in sensitizing the people regarding the cause of ear and hearing care.



Sensitization of CRPF

(paramilitary) personnel

Facilitators: Ms Deeksha Khurana (Programme Officer SH2030), Ms Janki Mehta (Administrative Officer, SH2030) and Dr Tanu Anand (Senior Resident, Dept of Community Medicine, MAMC)

Target Group- Officers and Jawans of Paramilitary forces and their families

Participants: 70



A sensitization programme was held on 3rd March 2015 in the CRPF Camp, Najafgarh, Delhi in order to spread awareness regarding ear and hearing care. The programme was targeted towards

Officers and Jawans of paramilitary forces and their families.

The dignitaries who graced the occasion were Inspector General (Medical) and Deputy Inspector General (Medical) of CRPF.

The programme began with lighting of lamp by dignitaries and representatives of Sound Hearing 2030.

The first talk was delivered by IG (Medical) who explained to the audience about importance of ear care. The content of the talk included commonly encountered ear problems in children, adults and elderly. He also elaborated on the various types of hearing loss and the treatment and rehabilitation options available to the paramilitary personnel and their dependents.

Next, Dr Tanu Anand spoke about the burden of ear problems globally and in India. She also explained about the common myths relating to ear care in the community and the dos and don'ts related to ear care.

Ms. Deeksha Khurana elaborated the burden of congenital deafness and significance of early identification of hearing loss. She also highlighted the various milestones which can help detect hearing loss in a child.

The concluding talk was given by Dr R.K. Singh (ENT specialist, CRPF) who explained to the audience the basic concepts related to anatomy and physiology of ear. His talk emphasized on Noise Induced hearing loss which is most common cause of hearing loss in paramilitary personnel due to their long exposure to ammunition blasts and firing.

The talk ended with vote of thanks to the dignitaries and team from Sound Hearing 2030 which had travelled a long distance to be part of the programme.

The programme was interactive in nature and was followed by discussion. The IEC material developed by Sound Hearing 2030 was displayed at the venue.

Attached are some of the photos taken at the event.



Sensitization in Community (Barapullah Slums, Delhi)

Facilitators: Ms Deeksha Khurana (Programme Officer SH2030), Ms Janki Mehta (Administrative Officer, SH2030) and Ms Kriti Gulati (Research Fellow - ICMR Project on Neonatal Hearing Screening)

Target Group- Families and children living in the slums

Participants: 150

In order to spread awareness regarding ear and hearing care, short talks were delivered by Sound Hearing 2030 team on 3rd March 2015 in the Barapullah slum community. The

Talks were given in two schools run by Neev, an educational project of Nav Abhiyan (A grassroot development initiative promoting self- reliance and self esteem), with one of them being run in the Slums. The participating parents and children belong to a low socioeconomic background.

The Talk was conducted using IEC material (Including Pamphlets, posters and flipcharts) developed by Society of Sound Hearing. Since the community was predominantly Tamil speaking, the team roped in a volunteer from within the community to translate the talk in Tamil.

The content of the talk included commonly encountered ear problems in children, elaborating on various milestones which can help detect hearing loss in a child and various Do's and Don'ts related to ear care. Special mention was given to various factors that attribute to hearing loss in children. Parents were also informed about "Neonatal Hearing screening programme" being run in Lok Nayak Hospital Delhi.

The talk was interactive in nature where the questions were asked in the community and the discussion was done on the basis of the answers received. The community participated in the interactive talk actively and showed interest in listening and learning.



4.5 External final evaluation of 'Primary Ear Care Centre' Project funded by CBM at Nepal

External evaluation was carried out from 13th- 16th July 2015 for the project entitled 'Primary Ear Care Centre' at Lahan which was started in the year 2007 by Impact, Nepal

as a Primary Ear Care Centre (PECC) in partnership with CBM, Germany. The evaluation was carried out by Dr Suneela Garg. The project evaluation was done using qualitative and quantitative approach. **(Detailed Report already submitted to CBM)**

4.5 National Workshop of National Committee in Nepal

The National Committee held a National Workshop on 9th July 2015 in Nepal. There were a total of 96 participants, which included ENTs, Audiologists/Speech Pathologists, policy makers from the Ministry of Health & Population, Government of Nepal (GoN), representatives from national ENT Association, national Audiology & Speech Pathologists Association, CBM, IMPACT Nepal, National Deaf Association, National Hard of Hearing Association, other development agencies, Public Health experts etc. The Chairman of the National Committee, Secretary of was present towards the end of the Workshop. Several papers were presented followed by discussion. Several policy decisions were recommended to MoH & P.

Promotion of Sound Hearing 2030 on Facebook

An interactive facebook page for Sound Hearing 2030 has been created in Dec 2013. The page displays the activities of Sound Hearing 2030 and it updated on a regular basis. (<https://www.facebook.com/soundhearing2030>)