



***SOCIETY FOR SOUND HEARING INTERNATIONAL***

***ACTIVITY REPORT 2012***

**Developing prototype and field tested a country publicity materials about SH Concepts including brochure, awareness materials**

This activity has been conducted in New Delhi in cooperation with department of community medicine, Maulana Azad Medical College, New Delhi. During this year posters and publicity material have been developed on community based rehabilitation, integration of services for eye and ear problems, noise pollution. The posters were displayed in the community settings during International Ear and Hearing Care Day and Celebration of Noise Awareness Day.

**Ear and Hearing Health Day in India: at the institution (M.A.M.C, New Delhi)**

Exhibition- Posters were developed which highlighted the theme depicting common ear related problems as well precautions to be taken regarding ear care were made by the Health education Unit under the supervision of Miss Nirmata, Dr Suneela Garg and Dr G K Ingle and displayed in the main building Maulana Azad Medical College. The Exhibition was viewed widely by the staff, students and faculty of Maulana Azad Medical College and was also open for general public.

**Activities in the Community (Delhi Gate, Health Center, New Delhi, India):**

**Participants-** 100 community members

Short play and health talks with quiz with help of posters and awareness material were conducted.

**Ear and hearing care day in Indonesia** was celebrated on the 3rd of March 2012, in Jakarta and all 19 provincial committees, through free ear care services in schools, including wax extraction, and charity ear surgery in District hospitals..

**International Noise day** in India, was celebrated on 25<sup>th</sup> April in the community and school. Doctors of Maulana Azad Medical College, INDIA, gave health talks regarding possible causes of noise pollution and the precautions that can be taken to prevent hearing loss due to noise pollution. They also emphasized on the Do's and Don'ts related to noise pollution. 13 Posters were prepared and displayed in the community and school.

**International Noise Awareness Day at Bangladesh:** Two separate meetings were organized in the Dhaka city on 25<sup>th</sup> April'2012 to observe International Noise Awareness Day. One in Dhaka Medical College (DMC) & another meeting organized in the Press Club where State Minister for Health was Chief Guest. To observe the Day a ENT (EAR) Rural Camp was organized on 4<sup>th</sup> May '2012. Awareness material was displayed during the celebrations.

**Developing & maintaining accessible website**

The website: [www.soundhearing2030.org](http://www.soundhearing2030.org) has been updated from time to time with information put out regarding important events and reports uploaded. EC members

have been asked to give their inputs. During the year training materials, guidelines for Infant Hearing Screening, Guidelines for inclusion of hearing impaired, National Committee reports of India and Bangladesh were uploaded.

### **Developing Alliances**

#### **MoU with Department of Health & Family Welfare, Government of Kerala**

MoU on State Plan for Prevention & Control of Deafness was signed between Society for Sound Hearing and Department of Health & Family Welfare, Government of Kerala. Acting Regional Director Dr. Sara Varughese, CBM SARO and Secretary Health, Kerala Government signed the agreement. Dr. A.K. Agarwal (President) and Dr. Suneela Garg (Treasurer) were also a part of the signing of MoU on behalf of Society of Sound Hearing & as advisors CBM. A strong ongoing working relationship was established with the common goal of enhancing the services offered to persons with hearing impairment in the state of Kerala. Partnership was developed between CBM, Society for Sound Hearing and National Programme for Prevention of Deafness.

### **Partnership with Foundations**

It is decided that Society for Sound Hearing would become a member of **Vision 2020**. It was decided by the President and Treasurer of SFSH that through Vision 2020, six regional centres will be identified for integrating ear and ear care at primary level. This will promote integration of eye and ear care initiatives in the country. Ear & Hearing care can be propagated through the channels that are already established in eye care

#### **Evaluation of the integrated eye and ear care project of Dr. Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital**

Dr. Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital had initiated a project to assess the feasibility of integrating ear and eye care services at the primary level. During the project, the Vision Technicians posted at two of the 15 vision centres were trained in primary ear care using the WHO 'Intermediate module for PEHC workers' for duration of three months. Basic equipment to provide primary ear care at primary level were provided at two vision centres, one located in Mustafabad Delhi and the other in a Rajgarh block of Rajasthan. The evaluation of the integration of SCEH was carried out to devise strategies for sustainability of such project and the feasibility of provision of such services through already existing public health infrastructure of the country. Terms of references and evaluation matrix including the time schedule of evaluation were finalised in consultation with the stakeholders and the Executive Committee members. The comprehensive evaluation of the project was carried out using both qualitative and quantitative approach.

The evaluation was carried out by Dr. Ritesh Singh (Assistant Professor, Kalyani Medical College, Kolkata) and Ms. Deeksha Khurana (Programme Evaluator) under leadership of Team Leader Dr. Suneela Garg. Technical inputs were provided by Dr. Sara Varughese and Mr. Vikas Katoch from CBM, Dr. Bulantrisna (COO), Dr. A.K. Agarwal, & Dr. Shelly Chadha. Critical office support was provided by Ms. Janki Mehta and Ms. Indu Arora.

### **Organization of school screening and awareness camp**

School screening and awareness camp was organized in Sarvodaya Bal/ Balika Vidyalaya Minto Road, Delhi. Screening was done by One Senior Resident and four Junior Residents of Department of ENT, Lok Nayak Hospital, Delhi. A total of 50 students were screened and 23 were diagnosed and referred to LN Hospital. Exhibition was organized using awareness material of SH (posters, flip charts and pamphlets). Medicine was provided free of cost to the patients and linkages were established with LN Hospital, Delhi. Ms. Janki Mehta (Administrative Officer) organized the camp under guidance of Dr. Suneela Garg (Treasurer) and Dr. G.K. Ingle (HOD, Dept. of Community Medicine, MAMC, Delhi). Dr. A.K. Agarwal (President & Dean, MAMC, Delhi) provided special support for the activity

### **Promoting partnerships of SH and NC with National and International NGOs/DPOs/Trg. Institutes, Disability Networks**

- a. Dr Arun Agarwal participated in the Third International **Global Coalition for Hearing Health** Conference from 30<sup>th</sup> May- 1<sup>st</sup> June, 2012 held at the Eduplex in Pretoria, South Africa. He presented a paper on Best Practices in Primary Ear and Hearing Care. The meeting also facilitated establishing ties between Global Coalition and Society for Sound Hearing.
- b. Dr Bulantrisna invited as medical consultant of CBM CEARO to the Hunan Ear and Hearing Care Center at the Changsha People's Hospital, China, 20-27 may 2012. The principles of the Sound Hearing 2030 initiative was presented. The Healthy Ear District program implemented. SSH developed training modules were used in training of county and village health officers. Sound Hearing is already present there as a common phrase. They are mainly conducting training and awareness in Counties and Townships health officers, using our advocacy and the adapted / translated WHO training materials. It is interesting that at County (district) level, the five sense doctors are working , so that the eye and ear combined work is already there. There is a strong interest to establish the Provincial Committee for PHI for Hunan. Let us hope this will come true soon,

become a network of our National committees, and the good work will continue. (This activity is not funded from the SSH CBM fund, but directly by CBM China/CEARO).

- c. Dr Bulantrisa Djelantik has registered as speaker to present the Sound Hearing 2030 cause in the Session: Hearing Intervention and Advocacy in Asia, at the Asia Pacific Conference on Deafness (APCD) in Singapore, that will be held 26-28 July 2012.

### **Partnership with Foundations & Commercial Vendors - Travel & Hospitality Cost**

- Through the website information, a commercial vendor (T-shirts) in Australia called "Level Seven" has shown interest to donate hearing aids for children in need through SSH as part of their CSR. With approval from the President of SSH, this was followed up by COO, and the Sound Hearing profile put in their media release since April 2012.
- COO attended a meeting of the ASEAN Foundation in Jakarta. Contact has been made with ASEAN Director and staff and Phillips Indonesia, to seek possibility for a pilot project for "Less Noise Cities" in the Asean countries. This will be followed up in the near future.
- No travel or hospitality cost for above activities.

### **Developing strategy paper**

The national strategic plan for Prevention of deafness has been developed by the MoH **Sri Lanka** on the basis of consensus of group of broad-based stakeholders through a series of exercises. This document provides a common strategic framework as well as guidance to effectively address this challenge. All stakeholders from public and private sector played due role in implementing this strategic plan. The main objective is early detection of hearing impairment and proper management to prevent permanent hearing disability. Dr Yasawardene MS(ORL)FRCSEd was appointed as Focal person of the MoH for the National Strategic Plan for Prevention of Hearing Impairment.

### **MoU of interest by Government: MoU signed with Bangladesh**

MoU was signed between Society for Sound Hearing and Prof. (Dr.) Mohammad Abdullah, Professor of ENT, Dhaka Medical College, Project Director, National Institute of ENT, Focal Person, Prevention of Deafness Programme in **Bangladesh**. He was designated as the nodal person for adopting the inclusion guidelines in Bangladesh and was responsible to carry out the following activities:

- *Constitution of a Committee (by MoHFW) according to the guidelines provided by the Sound Hearing 2030 Executive Committee.*
- *Translation of the Sound Hearing 2030 Guidelines on inclusion for Children with Hearing Impairment in Bangla language.*
- *Organization of meetings of the Committee members and circulation of the translated document for adoption.*
- *Adoption of guidelines by Government of Bangladesh*

### **MoU signed with Sri Lanka**

*MoU was signed between Society for Sound Hearing and Dr Candra Jayasooriya, chair of the Sri Lankan College of Otolaryngologists and Head and neck surgeons for assistance as Local Organizing Committee for Launch of National Strategic Plan on Ear and Hearing Care of Sri Lanka, Symposium on Comprehensive Planning of human resource Development in Ear and Hearing Care.*

### **Documentation & practice of inclusion guidelines**

*Inclusion guidelines for inclusion of children with Hearing Impairment were adapted by the Government of Bangladesh. The concept of inclusive education had three major principles: 1. That every child in the class is special in a way or other, 2. That true learning happens in a non- threatening environment. 3. That the teacher plays the role of facilitator of information rather than provider of knowledge. Parameters of successful inclusive education related to the creation of an inclusive climate and to the inclusive education of these children were suggested for the success of inclusion of children with hearing impairment.*

### **Operational research on HI & Blindness Programmes**

#### **Improved Hearing and Ear Care and Referrals in Bangladesh (I-HEAR-Bangladesh) Project**

*Under this project total 5 camps were organized in 5 different areas of Promotion of Human Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Bangladesh (PHRPBD) project where the ENT doctors attended the camps. In the camps, total 948 persons (349 male and 599 female) were examined by the ENT doctors for ear disease and 757 (291 male and 466 female) of them received free medication. 60 were referred for advanced treatment. IEC material (adapted from SH 2030) was developed. Center for Disability in Development (CDD) printed 1 set of flipcharts in 500 copies which were adapted from the flipchart series of Sound Hearing 2030 and 3 awareness posters on hearing impairment, 300 copies each.*

*22 Hearing aids were distributed. “Healthy ear for Healthy life” campaigns were organized in 10 schools and 1 madrasa where around 1100 children attended the awareness campaigns. Maintenance of equipment was done at per requirement.*

**Eastern Regional Eye Care Programme (EREC-P) Pilot Project : Eye –Ear & Hearing Care, Biratnagar, Nepal**

*Under this project joint eye and ear camps were conducted. The patients with eye & ear problem were identified and primary treatments were provided at camp site. The eye patients required surgeries were brought to base eye hospital at Biratnagar and the ear patients requiring surgery and major treatment were referred to ear hospitals. 29 joint eye-ear camps were conducted. 1,313 ear patients were examined in the camps and 61 patients were referred to ear hospital for further treatment and surgery. Out of 61 who needed surgeries, 15 patients were transported to Ear Hospital at Lahan (run by Impact Nepal) and their surgery and transportation costs were paid by project. The awareness materials regarding ear & hearing care was displayed at camp sites and awareness campaign were done at camp site. Eye & Ear Patients and their relatives (approximately 5,000 people) attended the awareness campaigns.*

**General Body Meeting and Executive Committee Meeting**

*EC/ GB meeting was held in Colombo, Sri Lanka on 11th-12th September 2012 with the objective of receiving new inputs regarding epidemiology and activities in the member countries. Forty participants attended the meeting from 15 countries. A Symposium on Comprehensive Planning for Human Resource Development preceded the GB and EC meeting. During the meeting, a discussion was held on the SH 2030 guidelines regarding “Infant Hearing Screening”, “Eye Ear combined services” and “Inclusion of hearing impaired children” in the region. The meeting was organized to ratify the Executive Committee Report on activity, finances and budgets, change of structure and the next two year plan of implementation from 2013-2014. A full report has been sent to CBM in October 2012.*

**Organizational: Hong Kong Registration**

*SSH is registered as a non-profit company in Honkong as SSH – International Ltd. It was decided to regard the Hongkong office as a Treasurers Office of SSH, with Dr Bradley McPherson who is Hong Kong resident requested to be the Secretary and also function as the Joint Treasurer of SSH. The HHH& L firm (director: Mr Alfred Hau) is appointed to handle all organizational administration affairs.*

*To avoid cost, an on-line AGM meeting was conducted (5 Jun 12) and on-line Directors' meeting (18 Jun 12) under coordination of COO. All Members' and Directors' Resolutions were finalized and related documents need to be signed in the near future (during the EC meeting).*

*After finalizing of the Audited Accounts, these documents will be submitted with the Annual Return (Form AR1) to the Hong Kong Companies Registry for filing and registration purpose.*