District Level Sensitization Workshops on National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) for PRIs in the context of India's Population and Health Issues
organized by IAPPD
at Raigarh & Bastar (Chhattisgarh) and Sitapur (Uttar Pradesh)

For capacity building of PRIs in thematic areas and leadership skills, negotiating, monitoring, ability to withstand patronage and political interference, IAPPD organized orientation and sensitization workshops for PRIs at Raipur and Bastar in the State of Chhattisgarh on 3rd and 4th January, 2011 and at Sitapur in Uttar Pradesh on 29th January, 2011.

While inaugurating the Raigarh workshop, Shri Amar Agarwal, Hon'ble Minister of Health, Chhattisgarh, said "We have to strengthen our young manpower and resources. The ERs and community should work together to stabilize the population. We have to work hard to reduce maternal and child mortality and provide better health services to the community, especially in the backward and interior areas."

The Bastar workshop was inaugurated by Mr. Vikram Usendi, Minister of Forests, Chhattisgarh. In his inaugural address, Mr. Usendi said that ERs are directly connected with the local masses and they well understand the problems being faced by the people in their area. It is the responsibility of the ERs to generate awareness among the local masses about the development programmes of the government. He further emphasized that due to illiteracy and lack of awareness people are not responsive towards health and family welfare issues resulting to increase in population. He said that there is an urgent need to work in the area of health education and population stabilization.

Shri Ramhet Bharti, Minister of Election/Weight & Measurement and Consumer Protection, Uttar Pradesh, inaugurated the Sitapur workshop. In his speech, Mr. Bharti said "Increasing population not only disturb the development of the area but also increase the poverty particularly among the weaker sections."

Sixth Sat Paul Mittal Memorial Lecture
"World Demographic Transition and Some of Its Effects"

The Sixth Sat Paul Mittal Memorial Lecture was delivered by Prof. Tim Dyson, London School of Economics and Political Sciences, at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, on 21st January, 2011. The event was jointly organized by the IAPPD and Centre for the Study of Regional Development, JNU. Prof. B.B. Bhattacharya, Vice Chancellor, JNU, welcomed the dignitaries. The event was presided over by Mr. P.A. Sangma, MP. Prof. P.M. Kulkarni gave brief introduction of Prof. Tim Dyson and Mr. P.A. Sangma.
From the Desk of the Editor

Panchayats in India are an age-old institution for governance at village level. Through the 73rd Constitutional Amendment, Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRI) were strengthened with clear areas of jurisdiction, authority and funds. PRI’s have been assigned several development activities including health and population stabilization. The Gram Sabha acts as a community level accountability mechanism to ensure that the functions of the PRI respond to people’s needs.

The National Population Policy-2000 and the National Health Policy, 2001, include decentralization and convergence of service delivery at village levels and recognize the PRI as the agency responsible to ensure this.

Despite geographic disparity, social inequity, poor status of women, illiteracy and the caste system, Panchayat elections do take place in most states every five years. In the context of health and family welfare, perhaps the most significant impact of the amendments is the ability of women to get elected to local bodies. In some areas, women PRI members take an active role in polio eradication, health camps, mobilize women for services and monitor attendance of staff.

Initiatives by MOHFW and donors in various states have focused on engaging PRIs in health programmes. MOHFW has supported the development of a training module for community and women’s health, which deals with Panchayat engagement. MOHFW has also implemented the community needs assessment, the National Maternity Benefit Scheme and the Referral Transport scheme through PRI in various states. Most experiences have been positive, but recognize that the enabling environment for panchayats to function needs strengthening.

The National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) is seen as a vehicle to ensure that preventive and promotive interventions reach the vulnerable and marginalized through expanding outreach and linking with local governance institutions. PRIs are seen as critical to the planning, implementation, and monitoring of the NRHM. Implementation of the NRHM in achieving its outcomes is significantly dependent on well functioning gram, block and district level panchayats. At the District level a District Health Mission will coordinate NRHM functions. Key to NRHM success are: intersectoral convergence, community ownership steered through village level health committees at the level of the Gram Panchayat, and a well functioning public sector health system with support from the private sector.

For capacity building of PRIs in thematic areas and leadership skills, negotiating, monitoring, ability to withstand patronage and political interference, IAPPD organized orientation and sensitization workshops at Raipur and Bastar in the State of Chhattisgarh and Sitapur in Uttar Pradesh. IAPPD believe that PRIs engagement is perhaps the only existing mechanism to achieve large-scale community participation and reach the marginalized and vulnerable, particularly women, children, and the poor.

IAPPD in collaboration with Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, also organized the Sixth Sat Paul Mittal Memorial Lecture on ‘World Demographic Transition and Some of Its Effects’. The lecture was delivered by Prof. Tim Dyson from London School of Economics and Political Sciences. Prof. Dyson said that India’s demographic transition will stretch over approximately 150 years—from early in the twentieth century to around the middle of the present century. The country’s population growth multiple may be roughly in the vicinity of five or six. Whether it is appropriate to compare India with individual countries in Europe in this context is debateable. Nevertheless, for interest, it seems that the growth multiple of England’s population between around 1750 and 1950 will be somewhat higher—say, in the vicinity of seven or eight. In relative terms, Europe and China and India have all done comparatively well in adjusting their birth rates relative to their death rates within their experience of the demographic transition.

Manmohan Sharma
Executive Secretary, IAPPD.
Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare Underscores Need for NACP to Focus on States with Low Prevalence but High Vulnerability on World AIDS Day
New Delhi, 1.12.2010

The Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad, has underscored the need for the National AIDS Control Programme (NACP) to focus more on States with low prevalence, but high vulnerability. He noted that 2011 will mark the 30th anniversary of the AIDS epidemic but India is one of the countries which has made significant reduction in new HIV infections especially over the last ten years. Shri Azad noted with satisfaction that due to untiring efforts made by his Ministry, NACO, network of partners and thousands of field workers, it has been possible to turn the tide in this battle against HIV. The Minister was speaking in New Delhi on the occasion of World AIDS Day when the Red Ribbon Express returned to New Delhi after successful journey of more than 25000 kms through 22 States and sensitizing about 80 lakh people at 152 stations.

As per latest statistics released by NACO, the estimated number of new annual HIV infections has declined by more than 50% over the past decade. India has approximately 1.2 lakh new HIV infections in 2009, as against 2.7 lakh in 2000. The adult HIV prevalence at national level has continued its steady decline from estimated level of 0.41% in 2000 through 0.36% in 2006 to 0.31% in 2009. Of the 1.2 lakh estimated new infections in 2009, the six high prevalence states account for only 39% of the cases, while the states of Orissa, Bihar, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat account for 41% of new infections.

The Minister noted that about 1,15,000 children are estimated to be infected with HIV in India. “There is therefore an urgent need to identify all the infected children and reach out to them, with essential care and support. We must expand, and strengthen the coverage of Maternal and newborn child health services.” Shri Azad also met with two HIV+ children at the venue and assured them that gentle reminders given by them regarding availability of more ART centres and particularly their functioning on Sundays and holidays, so that affected children do not also miss school, shall be duly looked into. The Minister said adequate steps would be taken by the Centre and through State Governments to further scale up efforts to expand the reach of the NACP. Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad said that we need to work to make the AIDS response sustainable, so that the objective of “three zeros” - Zero new HIV infections; Zero discrimination and Zero AIDS related deaths is ensured.

Speaking on the occasion on his first public event after assuming office today as Secretary health and Family welfare, Shri K. Chandramouli said that the Government of India have scaled up counseling and testing centers to over 5300 centers from medical colleges to 24-hour PHCs. He informed that so far, 540 Link Anti-Retroviral Treatment (ART) Centres in District and Sub-District level Hospitals are providing services to nearly 20,000 People Living with HIV nearer to their home. Second Line ART provided at 10 centres of Excellence and 7 ART Centres plus centres will soon be providing the same, he added. Secretary and DG, NACO also informed that after launch of National Paediatric AIDS Initiative, other related Care, Support & Treatment programmes have been launched by NACO. Seven Regional Paediatric Centres have been set up across the country for providing specialized care to Children living with HIV/AIDS. Six dedicated Community Care Centres have been established to provide shelter and support for orphans who are infected /affected by HIV/AIDS as per their needs. He informed that as of October 2010, 76598 children have been registered and 21665 children are being provided with free ART including second line ART. The Ministers of State Shri Dinesh Trivedi and Sh. S. Gandhiselvan were also present at the closing ceremony of the Red Ribbon Express.
To sensitize the elected representatives on National Rural Health Mission and other health related issues, a District Level Workshops for Panchayati Raj Institutions/elected representatives (PRIs/ERs) was organized by the IAPPD with the support of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India at Polytechnic college, Chakardhar Road, Raigarh, Chhattisgarh, on 3rd January, 2011.

The proceedings of the workshop started with the lighting of lamp by Chief Guest Sh. Amar Agarwal, Hon’ble Minister of Health alongwith Smt. Krishna Ravinder Patel, Chairperson Zila Panchayat; Shri Manmohan Sharma, Executive Secretary, IAPPD, Delhi and other invited dignitaries.

The workshop was inaugurated by Sh. Amar Agarwal, Hon’ble Minister of Health, Chhattisgarh, and presided over by Smt. Krishna Ravinder Patel, Chairperson, Zila Panchayat, Raigarh. Sh. Vishnno Deo Sai, M.P.; Sh. Pradeep Gandhi, Ex-MP coordinator, IAPPD, Chhattisgarh; Sh. Nand Kumar Patel, MLA; Dr. Sakrajeet, MLA, Raigarh; Sh. Hirdai Ram Rathiya, MLA, Lalunga, and Sh. A.K. Agarwal, District Magistrate Raigarh were special guest speakers.

About 240 PRIs members from Zila Panchayat, Municipal Corporation, Nagar Nigam, Block Samiti and Sarpanches/Pradhans attended the workshop.

Shri Amar Agarwal, Hon’ble Minister of Health, Chhattisgarh, in his inaugural address said that the ERs and community should work together to stabilize the population. We have to work hard to reduce maternal and child mortality and prove better health services to the community, especially in the backward and interior areas. He emphasized the importance of education and its direct relationship with health, population and development sector. Shri Agarwal also talked about malnutrition in the country and the ‘Mitanin’ scheme launched in the state to reduce malnutrition.

Shri Manmohan Sharma welcomed the participant and briefed the participants about the objective of the workshop and the advocacy efforts made by IAPPD for the last 30 years to sensitize ERs in the area of health, population and development. On this occasion, a presentation was made by Prof. P.P. Talwar, Technical Expert, IAPPD, Delhi, on The Social Economic Scenario of
Bastar District relating to National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) – with focusing on population stabilization and programme scenario in Raigarh district of Chhattisgarh State. The presentation was well received by the participants.

After the presentation there were open interactive session among the PRRs with the panel experts. During the interaction session, the participants expressed their views mentioning poor implementation of the programmes and problems faced in their respective areas. They were happy and appreciated the workshop contents and requested to the IAPPD to organize such type of workshops at grass-root level, so that EEs will understand their duties for their proper implementation of the different programme particularly in population stabilization and health issues in their respective areas.

Opinion of a Mahila Sarpanch during the Sensitization Workshop

In the present times when there is a sharp rise in the cost of living, we should work together to stabilize and control the population of our country. To give a better education and keep the children healthy, one or two child norm should be adopted by each family. If our children are healthy and well educated, their future will certainly be bright. The role of women elected representatives in this area is very important. Also we should keep our surroundings clean and protect our environment.

Smt. Uma Sav, Sarpanch, Gram Panchayat, Siha, Thana P.O. Kotsura, District Raigarh.
The Sixth Sat Paul Mittal Memorial Lecture was organized jointly by Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi and IAPPD on 21st January, 2011. This year the lecture was delivered by Prof. Tim Dyson, London School of Economics and Political Sciences, UK. Mr. P.A. Sangma, MP, presided over the function.

Prof. B.B. Bhattacharya, Vice Chancellor, JNU, welcomed the dignitaries and briefed the audience about the lecture series. Prof. P.M. Kulkarni gave brief introduction of Prof. Tim Dyson and Mr. P.A. Sangma. Prof. Nandu Ram and Prof. Ravi Srivastava were among the dignitaries present on the dais. Mr. Rajit Bharti Mittal, grandson of Late Shri Sat Paul Mittal, was also present on the occasion.

In his presidential address, Mr. P.A. Sangma, Member of Parliament, remembered his close association with Late Shri Sat Paul Mittal, MP, for fifteen years. He said that Shri Mittal was a person of dynamism and global vision. Shri Mittal and his friend Late Prof. Ram Lal Parikh, MP, founded the IAPPD at the initiative of the United Nations to associate parliamentarians in promoting family planning in the overall context of development. His vision and farsightedness came into full play when he wooed and involved all political parties in this gigantic task. The parliamentary movement on population and development had been on paper until Shri Mittal infused life into it from 1980 onwards. Beyond Asia, he interested himself in the activities of the Global Forum on Spiritual and Parliamentary Leaders on Human Survival from its very conception as its founding Secretary General.

Starting his lecture, Prof. Tim Dyson said “I am honoured to be asked to give the lecture in memory of the work of Shri Sat Paul Mittal – a man of great vision, who did so much to create awareness regarding the field of population and development. Like other campaigners in this field, he saw the great importance of population matters at both the aggregate and the individual levels. For example, at the aggregate level there is the relationship between population growth and economic growth. And, at the individual level, there is the crucial fact that in the modern world everyone - and especially, every woman - should surely have access to safe, affordable and effective means of birth control - an objective that is summed-up neatly in the phrase, ‘children by choice, rather than by chance’.

Talking on the history of the international family planning movement Prof. Dyson said “it is striking how the dual objectives of reducing poverty at the aggregate level and Liberating women from unwanted childbearing at the individual and household levels, have gone hand in hand.”

He further said that the demographic transition is a comparatively neglected subject. It rarely studied as a whole. Many of its effects have barely been recognized. The demographic transition is sometimes portrayed in terms of a simple diagram. Indeed, it is so highly stylized that it has
been described as 'notorious'.

At the start of the demographic transition, both the death rate and the birth rate are high. Therefore, there is relatively little natural increase (i.e. population growth). The first process to occur is mortality decline—i.e. the fall in the death rate. This causes the second major process of natural increase—the rate of which rises. This process happens because fertility (and therefore the birth rate) remains roughly constant for some length of time. However, with a lag; the birth rate does decline. And the decline in fertility constitutes the third major process of the demographic transition.

There has been much debate about why fertility declines from high to low levels. It is clear that many factors—for example, economic conditions, religious beliefs, educational levels, government family planning programmes—can condition this process. However, it is fair to say that most scholars who have considered the process in detail now believe that mortality decline is the ultimate—i.e. the 'remote'—cause of fertility decline. Thus as John Casterline has stated: “fertility declines have occurred under widely varying social and economic circumstances but virtually never in the absence of mortality decline, and this can be taken as strong evidence that mortality decline is the primary cause of fertility decline”.

At the end of the talk Prof. Dyson shared some interesting conclusions related to India's demographic transition.
One-day District Level Sensitization Workshop on National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) for PRIs in the context of India's Population and Health Issues
Bastar, Chhattisgarh,
4th January, 2011

To sensitize the elected representatives on National Rural Health Mission and other health related issues, a District Level Workshops for Panchayati Raj Institutions/elected representatives (PRIs/ERs) was organized by the IAPPD with the support of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India, on 4th January, 2011 at Sabhagar (Auditorium), Collectorate, Jagdalpur District, Chhattisgarh.

The proceedings of the workshop started with the lighting of lamp by Chief Guest Shri Vikram Usendi, Minister of Forests, Chhattisgarh alongwith Shri Lachhu Ram Kashyap, Chairman, Zila Panchayat, Shri Manmohan Sharma, Executive Secretary, IAPPD Delhi and other invited dignitaries.

The workshop was inaugurated by Shri Vikram Usendi, Minister of Forests, Chhattisgarh and presided over by Shri Lachhu Ram Kashyap, Chairman Zila Panchayat. Shri Pradeep Gandhi, Coordinator, IAPPD (Chhattisgarh), Shri Subhau Kashyap, MLA, Bastar, Shri Santosh Bafana, MLA, Shri Bedu Ram Kashyap, MLA, Shri Kiran Dev, Mayor, Municipal Corporation, Shri Tarun Chopra, Dy. Mayor, Municipal Corporation, Shri Roop Singh Mandari, President, Janpad Bastar, Shri Yashwant Rao, Leader of Opposition, Municipal Corporation, Shri M.S. Paraste, District Magistrate, Bastar and Dr. Prasanna, CEO, Zila Panchayat were special guest speakers.

About 190 PRIs members from Zila Panchayat, Municipal Corporation, Nagar Nigam, Block Samiti and Sarpanches/Pradhans attended the workshop.

In his inaugural address, Shri Vikram Usendi, Minister of Forests, Chhattisgarh congratulated the IAPPD for organizing the sensitization workshop for PRIs and ERs on health, education and population stabilization issues in a backward and interior district of Chhattisgarh. The ERs are directly connected with the local masses and they well understand the problems being faced by the people in their area.
It is the responsibility of the ERs to generate awareness among the local masses about the development programmes of the government. He further emphasized that due to illiteracy and lack of awareness people are not responsive towards health and family welfare issues resulting to increase in population. He said that there is an urgent need to work in the area of health education and population stabilization.

Shri Manmohan Sharma welcomed the participant and briefed the participants about the objective of the workshop and the advocacy efforts made by IAPPD for the last 30 years to sensitize ERs in the area of health, population and development. On this occasion, a presentation was made by Prof. P.P. Talwar, Technical Expert, IAPPD, Delhi, on The Social Economic Scenario of Bastar District relating to National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) – with focusing on population stabilization and programme scenario in Bastar district of Chhattisgarh State. The presentation was well received by the participants.

Shri Pradeep Gandhi, Ex-MP and Coordinator, IAPPD, Chhattisgarh, informed the participants that after Raigarh, Bastar has the honour to organize this workshop. He hoped that organization of this workshop would certainly sensitize and encourage the ERs to work more vigorously to provide better health and family welfare services to the community. This will also help in bridging the gaps.

After the presentation there were open interaction session among the PRIs with the panel experts.

During the interaction hours the participants expressed their views mentioning slow implementation of the programmes and problem faced in their respective areas. They were happy and appreciated the workshop contents and requested to the IAPPD to organize such type of workshops at grass-root level, so that ERs will understand their duties for the proper implementation of the different programmes particularly in population stabilization and health issues in their respective areas.

**Letter from President, Zila Panchayat, Bastar**

I congratulate IAPPD for organizing sensitization workshop for the Panchayat Members. There is an urgent need of such programmes in the rural areas so that the people of these areas can learn the consequences of population increase and adopt family planning methods to control the size of their families.

Mr. Lachchhu Kashyap, President, Zila Panchayat, Jagdalpur, Chhattisgarh.
To sensitize the elected representatives on National Rural Health Mission and other health related issues, a District Level Workshops for Panchayati Raj Institutions/elected representatives (PRIs/ERs) was organized by the IAPPD with the support of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India, on 29th January, 2011 at Sitapur Eye Hospital Auditorium Sitapur (Uttar Pradesh).

The proceedings of the workshop started with the lighting of lamp by Chief Guest Shri Ramhet Bharti, Minister of Election/Weight & Measurement and Consumer Protection, Uttar Pradesh State along with Smt. Usha Bharti, Chairperson, Zila Panchayat, Sitapur, Shri Manmohan Sharma, Executive Secretary, IAPPD, Delhi and other invited dignitaries.

The workshop was inaugurated by Shri Ramhet Bharti, Minister of Election, Weight & Measurement and Consumer Protection and presided over by Smt. Usha Bharti, Chairperson Zila Panchayat, Sitapur. Shri Hirday Shanker Tiwari, Chief Development Officer, Sitapur; Dr. Vijay Shanker Rai and Dr. B.K. Verma Chief Medical Officers, Sitapur were special guest speakers.

About 170 PRIs members from Zila Panchayat, Municipal Corporation, Nagar Nigam, Block Samiti and Sarpanches/Pradhans attended the workshop.

In his inaugural address, Shri Ramhet Bharti congratulated the IAPPD for organizing the sensitization workshop for PRIs on population stabilization and health related issues in a backward district like Sitapur of Uttar Pradesh. He warned the ERs that increasing population not only disturbed the development of area but also increase the poverty particularly among the weaker sections. He further said that small family is wealth of Health. Shri Hirday Shanker Tiwari, CDO, Sitapur said that increasing population made bad impact of the health of Mother and Child both.

At the outset Shri Manmohan Sharma welcomed the gathering and briefed the participants about the objective of the workshop and the advocacy efforts made by IAPPD for the last 30 years to sensitize ERs in the area of health, population and development. He also said that according to the available statistical indicators Uttar Pradesh is one of the poor/slow performing State relating to population stabilization and
health scenario, so there is urgent need to taking bold steps to control the population and improvement in health sector in the State.

On this occasion, a presentation was made by Prof. Sudesh Nangia, Technical Expert, IAPPD, Delhi, on The Social Economic Scenario of Sitapur District relating to National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) – with focusing on population stabilization and programme scenario in Sitapur district of Uttar Pradesh State. The presentation was well received by the participants.

After the presentation there were open interaction session among the PRIs with the panel experts. During the interaction, participants expressed their views mentioning lack of their awareness and poor implementation of the programmes and problems faced in their respective areas. They were happy and appreciated the workshop contents and requested to the IAPPD to organize such type of workshops at grass-root level, so that ERs will understand their duties for the proper implementation of the different programmes particularly in population stabilization and health issues in their respective areas.

Some suggestions from a Panchayat Member

- Every village should have sub-health centre.
- Trained Birth Attendant (Dai) should be available in each village.
- ANM should be available at the Gram Panchayat.
- Every village should have Anganwadi Bhawan and ASHA.
- Free Distribution of contraceptives.
- Immunization camps at regular intervals.
- Periodical meetings of health officials with Gram Panchayat members.
- Monitoring visits by health officials from time to time.
- Availability of ambulance service at each health centre for pregnant women.

Mr. Vinod Kumar, Pradhan, Gram Panchayat Wilria, PO Bhandia, Tehsil Sidholti, District Sitapur

Participants during the workshop.
The District Level Sensitization Workshop on National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) for PRLs, organized by IAPPD at Raipur and Bastar in the State of Chhattisgarh and Sitapur in Uttar Pradesh have attracted massive media coverage and we at IAPPD believe that it will help to achieve large-scale community participation in delivering the fruits of development in the area of health and family welfare to the marginalized and vulnerable population, particularly women, children, and the poor.