



# IAPPD Newsletter

A Bi-monthly Newsletter of Indian Association of Parliamentarians on Population and Development

Special Issue on  
Polio Eradication Programme

## Workshop for Legislators/Panchyati Raj Institutions (PRIs) and Opinion Leaders for Community Involvement on Polio Eradication 24 Parganas South District (West Bengal) 23 June, 2011



Workshop for Legislators/Panchyati Raj Institutions (PRIs) and Opinion Leaders for Community Involvement on Polio Eradication, 24 Parganas South District (West Bengal), 23 June, 2011.

The Polio Eradication Programme in India is a collaborative effort between the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW), WHO's National Polio Surveillance Project (NPSP), UNICEF, Rotary International, and the U.S. Centre for Disease Control. The programme aims to eradicate polio from India by immunizing every child under five years of age with the oral polio vaccine. India, together with Afghanistan, Nigeria and Pakistan, is one of the four polio-endemic countries left in the world. Tremendous progress has been made in the last few years to interrupt polio transmission in India. The number of polio cases dropped to a record low of 42 in 2010 compared with 741 in 2009.

To date, in 2011, India has had only one case of polio, in January in Howrah district of West Bengal. The traditional polio endemic

सी.एम. जातुया  
C.M. JATUA



सूचना और प्रसारण राज्य मंत्री  
भारत सरकार  
MINISTER OF STATE FOR  
INFORMATION & BROADCAST  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

### Message

I am happy to know that the Indian Association of Parliamentarians on Population and Development, New Delhi is organizing Workshop for Legislators/Panchyati Raj Institutions (PRIs) and Opinion Leaders for Community Involvement on Polio Eradication at 24 Parganas South District (West Bengal) on 23 June, 2011.



Government as well as NGOs and different civil societies are fighting hand in hand to eradicate polio from West Bengal and India and the seminar in connection with the programme.

I wish the Seminar and programme a grand success.

C.M. Jatua

states of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar have not reported any cases of polio this year, so far.

To sensitize the block/district level elected representatives on Polio Eradication and other health related issues, a district level one day workshop for Panchayati Raj Institutions/elected representatives (PRIs/ERs) was organized by the IAPPD with the technical support of UNICEF, Delhi. It was held at Ram Brahmama Sanyal Smiriti Sadan, 24 Parganas South District of West Bengal, on 23rd June, 2011.

The workshop was inaugurated by Mrs. Samima Sheikh, Sabhadhipati, Zilla Parishad and presided over by Mr. Manabendra Mandal, Vice-Chairman, Zilla Parishad, 24 Parganas South district. Mr. Nirmal Chandra Mandal, MLA; Mrs. Momita Saha, MLA; Mr. Sanjoy Bose, ADM, Zilla Parishad; Dr. Sidho Roy, UNICEF; Dr.



Seen above in the picture: Mrs. Samima Sheikh, Sabhadhipati, Zilla Parishad, inaugurating the workshop by lighting the lamp. Also seen (front row from left) Dr. Shikha Adhikari, CMHO; Mr. Manmohan Sharma, IAPPD; Mr. M. Mandal, Vice Chairman, Zilla Parishad; (back row from left) Dr. Soumitra Roy, UNICEF; Dr. Tarun Roy, Health Deptt.; and Dr. Sanjay Bose; ADM.

## From the Desk of the Editor

Thanks to the enormous efforts of health care workers and volunteers, only a handful of families suffer from new cases of polio in India. After intense eradication efforts in the country, health care workers knocking door to door, millions of vaccinations administered, and billions of dollars spent, polio continues to haunt only four countries i.e. India, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Nigeria. In India, in the highest risk villages, families can expect a visit from a polio worker every month. Community leaders, journalists and religious leaders are urging families to get the vaccine.

An independent evaluation of obstacles to polio eradication requested by the WHO and conducted in 2009 considered the major obstacles in detail by country. As per the findings of the report, in India, the major challenge appeared to be the high efficiency of transmission within the populations of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, set against the low (~80% after three doses against type 1) seroconversion response seen from the vaccine.

To the end of June 2011, 241 cases globally have been reported (216 wild poliovirus type 1 and 25 wild polio type 3). This compares with 456 cases reported to the end of May in 2010 (399 type 1 and 57 type 3). Cases have been reported in the four endemic countries - Pakistan, Afghanistan, Nigeria and India. In India, only 1 case of wild poliovirus has been reported this year--a remarkable feat in a country that in many recent years has had a plurality or majority of the world's polio cases.

India has not reported a single case in more than six months. The most recent case had onset of paralysis on 13 January 2011 in West Bengal. India has now gone eight months without detecting any wild poliovirus from environmental sampling. The last positive environmental sample was taken from Mumbai in November, 2010.

In technical partnership with UNICEF, a sensitization workshop was organized by IAPPD to sensitize the elected representatives on Polio Eradication and other health related issues, for Panchayati Raj Institutions/Elected Representatives (PRIs/ERs) at Ram Brahmma Sanyal Smiriti Sadan, 24 Parganas South District of West Bengal, on 23rd June, 2011.

Manmohan Sharma  
Executive Secretary, IAPPD



Shikha Adhikari, CMHO; Dr. Tarun Roy and Mr. Rod Curtis, Communication Specialist (Polio) UNICEF, Delhi; were special guest speakers.

About 100 PRIs members from Zilla Parishad, Block Samiti and Pradhans and about 41 from civil society members (a majority from health department) attended the workshop.

At the outset, Sh. Manmohan Sharma, Executive Secretary, IAPPD welcomed the participants and briefed the participants about the objective of the workshop and advocacy efforts made by IAPPD for the last 30 years to sensitize elected representatives in the area of health, population and development issues. He also made a strong appeal to the participants to work at grass-root level for eradication of Polio.

On this occasion, a message was sent by Mr. C.M. Jatua, representing 24 Parganas in Parliament as the Minister of State for Information and Broad Casting, Government of India, wishing a grand success to this workshop.

Presentations were made by Dr. Sidho Roy mentioning technical points on Polio issues, and Dr. Dipankar, Regional Officer, WHO, on polio situation in West Bengal and other states. Another presentation was made by Dr. Anirutha Sen Gupta, SMO highlighting the progress of polio eradication programme in 24 Parganas South district and West Bengal as well. Dr. Gupta stressed on additional steps to be taken for social mobilization and communication, especially focusing on vulnerable people. A film made by UNICEF on polio was also screened.

Mr. Deepak Gupta, Strategic Communication and Advocacy Expert, in his presentation highlighted the strategic role that field-based elected leaders play in public health programmes, while he gave substantive examples of earlier campaigns of Family Planning, Small-Pox & Leprosy. He illustrated various "easy-to-do" strategies that PRIs could use in ensuring sustained polio vaccination

*Seen above in the picture (from top): Mrs. Samima Sheikh, Mr. M. Mandal, Dr. Shikha Adhikar, Dr. Tarun Roy, Mr. Nirmal Chandra Mondal, Mrs. Rani Bala Guar, and Mrs. Monita Saha.*



along with strengthening other key health behaviours such as, routine immunization, sanitation, hygiene & nutrition. Later while facilitating the group-work, he requested the participants to openly express their views regarding problems being faced in their respective areas.

Mr. S.K. Abdul Rajjak, Sahakari Sabhadhipati, Pathan Pratima Panchayat Samiti, Mrs. Rami Bala Guar, Zilla Parishad member and Mrs. Surenjana Chakarbarti, Zilla Karma Dukha, while appreciating the content of the workshop, expressed their views on polio and other health related issues in their respective areas. The participants also requested IAPPD to organize more of such workshops for ERs at the field-level to enable them to understand their roles and responsibilities for proper implementation of the district health programmes particularly on population stabilization and health issues in their respective areas.

During the group-work facilitation, the participants expressed their views on poor implementation of pulse polio and other public health programmes and problems they face in their respective areas.

### Suggestions made by the participants

“Pulse polio programme is a must. This is understood by most of the aware citizens but it is not felt by some less-literate/unaware/vulnerable communities. By such orientations and other means of communication at every level of gram panchyat should be reached so that not a single child of any village get deprived from valuable polio drops.” - Arvindo Mandal, Vice Chairman, Diamond Harbour 2nd Panchat Society.

People below poverty line at least need some minimum facilities like drinking water, ration card, means of transportation for their living. As sanitation facilities are provided, considering the hygiene of the environment, administration of polio drops should be made mandatory for the sake of a healthy society.” – Ahmed, Working President, Mathurapur 2nd Panchat Society.

“To eradicate the polio disease, we first need to have advocacy at Mahokuma & block levels, then at religious level and subsequently the representatives should plan along with the local committees regarding the pulse polio mission.” – Matai, Member - 23/6, South 24 Pargana District Council.

“It should be more effective if the programme is organized at Panchyat level.” - Prakash Ch. Mondol.

“Every centre should have I.C.D.S. employee/worker and selected members of gram panchyat along with local club committee to make a successful polio drops mission.” - Sanat Sarkar, Working President, Mathirapur.

“At all levels of every village, women, students, youth, primary school teachers, public health workers, if included in this awareness spreading programme - then hopefully positive outcome can be achieved.” - Krishna Ghosh.

“To eradicate polio, involvement of elected representatives at all levels at Polio Programme is needed. Government health workers, voluntary organizations, youth & school students must give stress on the awareness of polio disease. It should be made mandatory that the child who is not taking polio drops would not be entitled for ration cards.” - Sakto Sadhan Ghosh, Secretary, Ghatapur Arihato Sangh.



(Above from top) Mr. Deepak Gupta, Dr. Rod Curtis, Dr. J.V. Roy, and Dr. S.K. Abdul Rajjak.



(Above from top) Dr. Dipankar Mukherjee, Dr. Anurudh Sen Gupta, Mr. Manmohan Sharma, and Mr. Sanjay Bose.



Participants during the workshop.



(above)

Participants sharing their experiences.

(Below)

Glimpses of the Workshop.

"Various political groups provoke the poor section, like false commitments for road construction, installation of tube-wells etc. All these are to be firmly dealt with. They should be motivated for proper sanitation. Awareness regarding complete polio prevention should be spread. A lot of advocacy awareness workshops should be regularly organized at Universities/Colleges/Schools level. We are ready to help in all the ways to fulfill it." - Vonod Kumar Sardar, Vice President, Mathurapur 2nd Panchayat Samity.

"To bring success to polio programme every family should be provided with proper sanitation, safe drinking water and sensitization regarding polio which can be achieved by providing handbills to each single family." - Satyen Adhikari, Pradhan, Keoratala G P Kulpi Block.

"Merits of polio drops can reach to new mothers in form of small and handy leaflets. If it is made mandatory to provide polio drops cards in order to issue ration cards in one's name; such a compulsion can work well." - Sukhendu Naskar, Bishnupur I P S.

"To make people aware of the importance of polio drops - young and new parents should be provided with photographs or leaflets at Panchayat level." - Aparna Sandan

"I promise to remove polio disease in coming future days, by seeking assistance from all workers of anganwadis & health workers at panchayat level. I would plea to all public representatives and local club leaders to take active initiation. In addition, the polio booster to provide milk or pudding or any small gift to be given to the child so the mothers get interested or attracted to the polio camps." - Manoara Begam, Mayapur G P, Budge Budge.

"To make a nation healthy, mothers and sisters have to listen patiently. Two drops of polio is a must - for every child of ours. Come, lets visit polio booth for our children's good." - Haridas Naskar, Sonarpur.

"To make the society free from polio, I feel to give more importance on I.E.C. Presently, posters, banners and other materials are sent by UNICEF, Rotary before 4 - 5 days at state level. This arrangement should be made at least before 15 days. Universities & School and club children can do road shows, awareness workshops and art competitions for awareness generation about the programme." - Kajal Pal, Activist, CMOH office.



"To make a polio free nation, public representatives (MLAs & PRIs) along with health workers at all levels have to work earnestly. At booth level, panchayats should organize awareness camps. University students and young-adults from IX - XII standards should be made aware and involved in this programme. Area wise Taskforce Committees to be formed to keep a check. Every single person has to take initiative to make the mission successful." - Rabindranath Bera.



## The IAPPD Newsletter

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The IAPPD Newsletter is a Bio-monthly publication

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