

MANTHANA

The KHPT Quarterly Newsletter
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COVID-19 Initiatives

Government of Karnataka launches Gram Panchayat Arogya Amrutha Abhiyaana in partnership with KHPT and USAID

The Karnataka state departments of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (RDPR), and Health and Family Welfare have partnered with KHPT, with the support of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), to launch the Graama Panchayath Arogya Amrutha Abhiyaana (GPAAA), a first-of-its-kind initiative in the country to involve Gram Panchayats more proactively in addressing issues of public health.

The GPAAA was launched in the platinum jubilee year of Indian independence by Shri K S Eshwarappa, Minister, RDPR, at Suvarna Soudha in Belagavi on August 30, 2021. Shri L K Atheeq, Principal Secretary, RDPR, also addressed the Zilla Panchayat Chief Executive Officers (CEOs).

More information on the GPAAA can be accessed [here](#), and a short video on the initiative may be accessed [here](#).

KHPT staff are currently working in collaboration with Panchayat officials in 13 districts to operationalize the GPAA through the delivery and distribution of kits, orientation and training of Panchayat officials and handholding support for frontline workers.



Shri K S Eshwarappa, Minister, RDPR and Shri L K Atheeq, Principal Secretary, RDPR launch IEC from the GP and vaccination campaign kits at Suvarna Soudha, Belagavi

VOICES

This is the first time in India we are launching such a program. This will help the Gram Panchayats to fight Covid and non-communicable diseases. With this project, we aim at reaching out to the rural population with the right information and education on Covid-19 management to protect themselves. I seek the support from all the CEOs assembled here to ensure that this project will be successful in getting the rural population the available services from departments such as Health and Family Welfare and Women and Child Development.

Shri K S Eshwarappa, Minister, RDPR, Government of Karnataka at the launch of the Graama Panchayath Amrutha Arogya Abhiyaana

Tuberculosis

Breaking the Barriers central team shares project update and vision with DDG, NTEP



The KHPT team meets with the Central TB Division

On August 20, the central team of Breaking the Barriers (BTB) met with Dr. Sudarshan Mandal, Deputy Director-General (DDG), Central TB Division (CTD), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, and his team in Delhi to present an update on the BTB project and its future

vision. Dr. Nishant Kumar, Joint Director (Public Health), CTD, and Ms. Sumitha Chalil and Ms. Sophia Khumukcham, Consultants, Community Engagement, WHO NTEP Technical Support Network, CTD, were also present.

Appreciating KHPT's community engagement model, Dr. Mandal sought KHPT's support to lead several initiatives at the national level, including facilitation for community engagement, Patient Support Groups and TB forums, both at the state and the regional level. The CTD also sought KHPT's support in developing a set of criteria to recognize the work of state programs to eliminate TB.

KHPT facilitates community engagement component at National Training of Trainers in Delhi

On invitation from the Central TB Division, KHPT facilitated a half-day session for state NTEP representatives on specific components of the community engagement approach, which included, defining community engagement, the importance of community structure engagement, and the role of care and support groups. The national-level Training of Trainers was attended by about 30 representatives from seven northern States.

KHPT facilitates USAID Mission Director's visit to Telangana

KHPT facilitated a one-day visit of the recently appointed Mission Director of USAID India, Ms. Veena Reddy, to Telangana on September 22. During the day-long visit in Hyderabad, Ms. Reddy was introduced to KHPT as an organization, its vision and the various projects that it has been implementing over the years supported by USAID. During the visit, KHPT also showcased the several IEC and knowledge products that have been developed over the years, including the community engagement toolkit, and the behaviour change solutions. Ms. Reddy also interacted with TB champions, community structure members, and listened to their stories of support and survival.



Ms. Veena Reddy at a gallery exhibition of KHPT's knowledge products

KHPT commences Latent TB Infection (LTBI) project under JEET

KHPT has initiated a new project under JEET from July 2021, supported by the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM), to provide TB Preventive Therapy in 6 districts to household contacts of pulmonary TB patients. The three-year LTBI initiative will be implemented in BBMP, Bengaluru Urban, Bengaluru Rural, Belagavi, Bagalkot and Vijayapura. FIND is the Primary Recipient of the GFATM grant.

KHPT attended the formal launch of the JEET 2.0, organized by FIND, The Union and William J. Clinton Foundation with the support of CTD on September 22. Dr.B.Ashok Babu, Joint Secretary, MoHFW was the Chief Guest for this programme. Dr.Sudarshan Mandal, DDG, NTEP, MoHFW gave an inaugural address as the Guest of Honour. Senior CTD representatives and implementation partners attended the event.

Case story

Neelamma fights stigma to emerge as a TB Champion

Neelamma is a daily wage labourer at Kanakagiri Gollarappa camp, in Koppal district. For over a month she had a persistent cough and fever. On the ASHA's suggestion and insistence, Neelamma went for a sputum test and tested positive for TB. When her husband came to know of her status, he began abusing her every day. Unable to bear the torture, Neelamma went back to her maternal family.

Once Neelamma's mother came to know of her status, she was equally worried not only about Neelamma's fate, but also about the stigma associated with the disease that the family would have to face. The disease and the stigma that Neelamma faced led her into acute depression.

Seeing her daughter's deteriorating physical and mental health, Neelamma's mother reached out to the ASHA worker, who in turn informed the BTB team and the district NTEP office.

The BTB community coordinator along with the Senior Treatment Supervisor (STS), met Neelamma and her mother. To their shock, they found that Neelamma was neither eating properly nor was she taking her medication regularly. This had made her very weak.

The STS and the BTB community coordinator realized that only following up with Neelamma may not solve the issue; the entrenched stigma was an equal challenge to be dealt with.

They decided to reach out to the neighbours and Neelamma's husband with information on TB. In a series of interactions with the neighbours and Neelamma's family, they were able to establish that TB is a curable disease and is not always contagious if certain infection control measures are followed. This worked, Neelamma's husband came to take her back home and took care of her during her entire treatment journey.

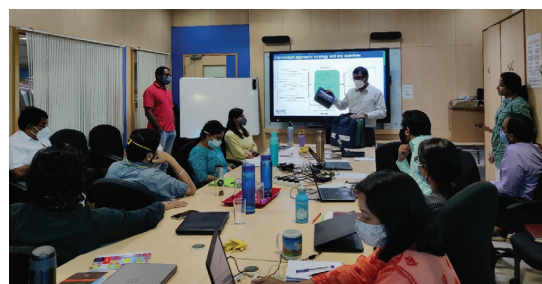
Today, Neelamma is an empowered TB survivor who has been identified as a TB Champion by the district NTEP, and actively supports NTEP programs and encourages other TB patients to complete their treatment.

Maternal Neonatal and Child Health

KHPT signs MoU with Wipro Cares to develop urban health model

KHPT in September signed an MoU in with Wipro Cares, the community initiative arm of the Wipro Foundation, to develop an Urban Comprehensive Primary Health Care model to deliver Universal Health Coverage with a special focus on maternal and child health in marginalized and vulnerable communities. This three-year project will be implemented

in Singasandra Urban Primary Health Centre (UPHC), Bengaluru, as per the Ayushman Bharat guidelines framed by Government of India. KHPT will work closely with the UPHC, BBMP and Health and Family Welfare Officials. The project has the potential to be scaled up across urban health facilities in the state and become an urban health model for the country.



The KHPT team and the Wipro Cares team at the visioning workshop

KHPT-GAIN organizes resource pool training of master trainers for edible oil fortification

In the light of the recent announcement by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) regarding the mandatory fortification by industries of edible oil and milk, KHPT-GAIN realized that there is a need to build industries' capacity on edible oil fortification. The team organized a training of identified master trainers on edible oil fortification from September 16-17 at Indore, Madhya Pradesh. This is the second such batch of master trainers, consisting of representatives from edible oil industries, premix manufacturers and food safety officials, who will be form a resource pool to capacitate industries on the regulations, standards and processes of fortification.

Qualitative research among newly-married women on barriers and enablers to nutrition begins in Raichur

KHPT began an exploratory one-year study in Yadgir and Raichur in June, entitled "Early preparation to a safe and healthy motherhood: understanding delays and opportunities in delivery and access to preconception nutrition". The information generated from this study will provide evidence for the inclusion of preconception nutrition within the RMNCH+A continuum of care. As the first step, KHPT has started in-depth interviews with the primary stakeholders, the newly married women and their family members in Devadurga taluk of Raichur district to understand the various barriers and enablers to adequate nutrition status of women in reproductive age.

KHPT facilitates exposure visit of MP senior officials to Himachal Pradesh

Himachal Pradesh is one of the first states in the country to have fortified wheat flour distributed through its Public Distribution System (PDS); this process was supported by the technical assistance of KHPT-GAIN. The KHPT team facilitated the exposure visit of senior officials of the Department of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Protection, Government of Madhya Pradesh, and the Madhya Pradesh State Civil Supplies Corporation (MPSCSC), to Himachal Pradesh to learn about the implementation of fortified wheat flour distribution through PDS. The MP Government, with the technical support of KHPT-GAIN, is keen to pilot wheat flour fortification through PDS in some of the districts in Madhya Pradesh.



The MP team at a wheat flour mill in Solan district

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VOICES

“We are looking at a sustainable intervention that mobilizes and gives strength to the community, that allows them to understand the available services and demand them. The behavioural change component is important, especially in the urban community, which has a floating population. With all these challenges, we felt that KHPT had the expertise to take up this project. We hope that we will work together in the coming years to expand this project to much larger areas.

Praveen Beechagondahalli, Senior Program Manager, Wipro Foundation

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Adolescent Health

KHPT organizes youth consultation on challenges and coping during COVID-19

KHPT, in collaboration with DASRA and Love Matters India, organized an online youth consultation (South India- Karnataka) on August 31. The key objective of the consultation was to hear from young adults about their challenges and coping mechanism during COVID-19. It was also an opportunity to hear their recommendations to the government to make their lives better. Four organizations and 38 adolescents from Kolar, Dakshina Kannada, Bengaluru, Chitradurga and Kalburgi participated in the discussions, including 25 girls capacitated by KHPT in Koppal. Ten facilitators from KHPT, one from Love Matters India and three from Dasra India were part of the programme.

A total of 113 participant, including 105 girls and 8 boys, took a pre-consultation survey on the five feelings they had during the pandemic .

KHPT facilitates an online session on the role of students eliminating child abuse

The District Administration, Koppal, and UNICEF, in collaboration with KHPT, organized an online session on the role of students in eliminating child abuse. Over 90 girls from different parts of Koppal were part of the event. Sonykutty George, UNICEF's Child Protection Specialist, praised KHPT's efforts to stop child marriage and empower adolescent girls to speak up for their rights as part of the Sphoorthi project. The session also educated girls on human rights, child rights, and important laws related to children.

Comprehensive Primary Health Care

KHPT wins Best NGO at Sweet Awards

KHPT's patient-centric care model to manage diabetes and hypertension was recognized at the 1st International Conference on 'Innovations by NGO's in Diabetes Care. It won the Best NGO award under the 'Upliftment of Diabetes Care in Resource Limited areas (Tribal, slums, etc.)' category. The virtual conference was held in Ahmedabad from August 12-14. Participants from 31 countries, 249 cities of India and 687 NGOs across the world were part of the event.



KHPT's certificate awarded for innovations in diabetes care

IVRS campaign organized on Independence Day

As part of Independence Day, specialized IVRS messages were developed and delivered to patients with diabetes and hypertension in Kumbarkoppalu, Mysuru city through mobile phone SMS messages. These messages were delivered to disseminate and motivate patients to reduce/halt their alcoholic and tobacco consuming habits.

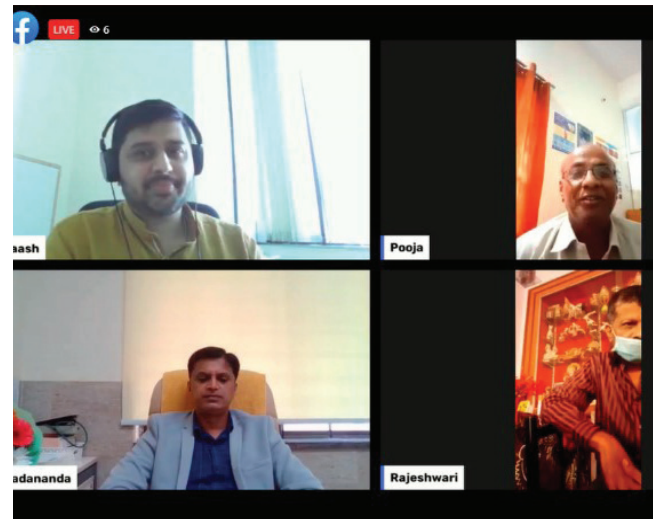
Session held on motivating and supporting CHWs

The COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent lockdowns had caused anxiety and fear among the Community Health Workers (CHWs). To allay their fears and anxieties a motivation session was conducted by three guest speakers, Manjula Yuvaraj, a psychologist; Ms. Pushpa Preeya, a social worker, and Ms. Sangeetha, a trainer from the Magic Bus Foundation, Mysuru. Many CHWs spoke frankly about the problems they faced at homes, workplace and in their personal lives. The guest speakers provided solutions to specific issues by sharing their own experiences of handling difficult situations and overcoming them. Through games, roleplays and presentations, the CHWs understood the importance of meeting patients and supporting them during the pandemic and providing correct information to their own family members to seek their support.



CHWs attending a motivation session

KHPT observes World Heart Day



The FB Live conducted on World Heart Day

On World Heart Day, KHPT went live with Dr Sadanand KS, MD, DM Medical Superintendent and Professor of Cardiology, Jayadeva Hospital, Mysuru. The live session on cardiovascular diseases and tips to heart-healthy living also involved two patients who shared their personal stories on their heart ailments and their coping mechanisms. A Question-and-Answer session was part of the live session, during which Dr. Sadanand addressed important issues related to heart, diabetes, exercises and the right nutrition. The recording of the FB Live can be accessed [here](#).



HR Corner

HR organizes training on sexual harassment

KHPT's Committee Against Sexual Harassment (CASH) organized a training of trainers on sexual harassment on September 14-15 in Bengaluru. The training was facilitated by Sowmya Lakshmi Bhat, an advocate on gender issues, and Mr. Vasudev Sharma, a child rights advocate.

The training created awareness among the committee members on the legalities surrounding the prevention of sexual harassment at the workplace, legislation surrounding the same and various provisions for child protection. Committee members will now train KHPT team members on the same.

Communications and Advocacy

Technical documents

- Process document on industrial processes of edible oil fortification
- Market fortification assessment report for edible oil.



Posters and Infographics

- TB prevention and lung health
- TB and nutrition
- Strengths and roles of PRIs and religious leaders
- An integrated approach to collective action on health at village level
- Vulnerabilities and lung health

Strategic documents

- Strategic document on Panchayati Raj Institutions and TB
- Strategic document on religious leaders and TB

Films for Central TB Division



- Best Practices: Subnational Certification
- Best Practices: Subnational Certification (Kashmir)
- Best Practices: Subnational Certification (Kerala)
- Best Practices: Subnational Certification (Lakshadweep)
- Best Practices: Subnational Certification (Puducherry)

