



IAPPD Newsletter

A Quarterly Newsletter of Indian Association of Parliamentarians on Population and Development



Eradication of TB and Awareness on Maternal Health, Reproductive Health and Child Health – A Sensitization Workshop for the Counsellors of Ahmedabad (West), Gujarat

December 23, 2018, Ahmedabad (West), Gujarat

With the objective to sensitize the Councillors of Ahmedabad (West) Municipal Corporation on Eradication of TB and other health issues, a Sensitization Workshop was organized by the IAPPD in Ahmedabad (West), Gujarat, on December 23, 2018.

While welcoming the Chief Guests, other dignitaries and the participants, Shri Manmohan Sharma, Executive Secretary, IAPPD, highlighted the objectives of the workshop.

The workshop was inaugurated by Dr. Kirit P. Solanki, MP and presided over by Smt. Bijal R. Patel, Mayor of Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation.



Inaugural session of the workshop.

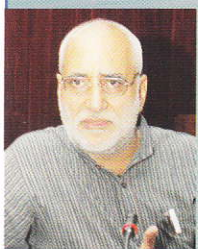
A presentation on 'Sensitization of Elected Representatives on Reproductive and Child Health (RCH)' was made by Dr. Abhay Kumar, Member of the Technical Advisory Committee of IAPPD. In his presentation, he presented the health profile of Gujarat, demographic profile of Ahmedabad in comparison with Gujarat and India. His presentation was focused on reproductive and child health, government programmes and policies and the role of Elected Representatives in the area of health and population stabilization.

Another presentation was made by Dr. Smita Bajpai, Project Director, Chetna, Ahmedabad. Also, Dr. Dixit Kapadia made a presentation on Tuberculosis.

The workshop was well received by the Councillors. The participants also suggested that such workshops to be organized in other parliamentary constituencies also for the benefit of councillors of those areas.



Group photo of the participants.



Prime Minister launches 4th Partners' Forum for Health and Well-Being of Women, Children and adolescents

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India in collaboration with the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH) hosted Partners' Forum 2018 - 4th in a series of global high level multi-country, multi-stakeholder event for sustaining global momentum for issues related to women, children and adolescent health on 12 & 13 December 2018, in New Delhi, India. The previous Partners' Forums were held in Johannesburg, South Africa 2014; New Delhi, India 2010; and Dar-e- Salaam, Tanzania 2007.

The fourth Partners' Forum was launched by the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi in New Delhi on December 12, 2018.

Acknowledging India's significant achievements and commitment in addressing common challenges to improve the health and wellbeing of women, children and adolescents worldwide, the global community has entrusted Government of India to host this year's prestigious global Partners' Forum and lead the dialogue on enhancing country-level action on Sustainable Development Goals 2030.

The Conference brought together about 1500 participants from 85 countries to improve the health

and well-being of women, children and adolescents. The invited countries were selected from all regions and income levels and included countries that are currently chairing key global and regional bodies like G7, G20, BRICS, etc. The Conference is the fourth in a series of global high-level multi-country, multi-stakeholder events.

During the Conference, case studies were launched showcasing the power of partnership, cross-sectoral action, accountability and political leadership across partner countries. One such success story chosen from India is Mission Indradhanush, an unprecedented collaboration between India's Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and 11 other Ministries to increase immunization coverage among children and pregnant women to 90% by 2020.

The Conference provided the opportunity to the participants to tell their own stories about why covering these health topics matter and how the public health community can better work with other sections of the society.

Manmohan Sharma
Executive Secretary, IAPPD

Meeting with the CEO of White Ribbon Alliance International

December 7, 2018, New Delhi

To interact with Mr. Betsy Mc Callon, Chief Executive Officer and Ms. Ananda Livingstone, Advocacy Officer of White Ribbon Alliance International (WRAI), a meeting was organized in New Delhi on December 7, 2018. The objective of the meeting was to interact and know more about the WRAI global initiatives.

During the meeting, Mr. Mc Callon presented the new WRAI strategies. He also discussed on WRAI 20th Anniversary plans. Dr. Aparajita Gogoi, National Coordinator, WRAI welcomed the participants and apprised the objectives of the meeting.

Mr. Manmohan Sharma, Executive Secretary, IAPPD, attended the Meeting.

Visit of Members of the Parliamentary Delegation to Partner's Forum 2018 to IAPPD

December 10-14, 2018, New Delhi

Eight Members of Parliament (MPs) from European Parliamentary Forum (EPF) belonging to different countries namely Zambia, Portugal, Belgium, Albania, Azerbaijan and Flemish interacted with the Members of Indian Parliament and Technical Advisory Committee Experts of IAPPD and shared experiences of health interventions and outcomes of their respective countries.

During the visit, the delegation members visited Hamdard University for understanding the Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) related health services being provided by the University. The delegation also visited maternal and child health clinic facility of the University.

As part of the visit, a meeting of the delegation with MPs from India was organized on December 13, 2018. About 19 members consisting of 7 Indian Parliamentarians attended this meeting. Prof. P.J. Kurien, Ex. Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Chairman, IAPPD, welcomed the delegation and briefed them about the health scenario in India. A brief presentation was also made by Dr. Kirit P. Solanki, MP, highlighting various health programmes being run by the Government of India.

During the discussion, issues related to maternal health, child health, and SRHR were discussed.



Delegation members interacting with Indian Parliamentarians.



Delegation members with Indian Parliamentarians.

The 50th Union World Conference on Lung Health launched in India

21 November, 2018, New Delhi

The Union launched the 50th Union World Conference on Lung Health in New Delhi on November 21, 2018, which will be held in Hyderabad, India, during 30 October – 2 November 2019. The 50th Union World Conference is coming one year after the first ever United Nations (UN) High-Level Meeting on TB and the third UN High-Level Meeting on non-communicable diseases. The conference theme is 'Ending the Emergency: Science, Leadership, Action', focuses on what is needed to ensure commitments becomes action, and that lifesaving targets are met.

Last year 10 million people fell ill with tuberculosis (TB) and 1.6 million died from the disease. TB, a preventable and curable disease, now kills more people than HIV/AIDS and is the world's largest infectious disease killer.

"It's time to end the global TB emergency and that will mean holding governments accountable to the Political Declaration they signed at the UN meeting," said José Luis Castro, Executive Director of The Union. "In Hyderabad we need to be seeing signs that we are seeing real leadership that is translating into both investment in diagnostic tools, new drugs and a vaccine and action on the ground."

Mr. Manmohan Sharma, Executive Secretary, IAPPD, attended the event.



As host country to the Conference, India provides a unique backdrop to discussions on ending TB and lung disease with the current highest burden of TB in the world – one in four people infected with TB globally live in India. In 2017, 2.74 million people fell ill from TB, and 421,000 died from it. Rising rates of TB and diabetes co-infection are also causing great concern. The Indian government has pledged to eliminate TB by 2025.

The Conference theme resonates strongly with TB, but it also raises awareness that all threats to lung health – TB, air pollution, tobacco and many more – are emergencies that our science, leadership and action need to meet head on.



The launching of 50th Union World Conference on Lung Health.

Seventh International Parliamentarians' Conference on the Implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action (IPCI/ICPD)

Ottawa, Canada, October 22-23, 2018

More than 90 Parliamentarians from over 70 countries have agreed on a forward-looking declaration that aims to foster understanding of and consensus around the urgency to address current political discourse on sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR). Meeting over two days in Ottawa, the gathered parliamentarians renewed their commitment to the 1994 Cairo International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), and discussed progress made towards implementing its recommendations.



Indian delegation members with other participants.

The 7th International Parliamentarians' Conference on the Implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action (IPCI) came at a landmark moment for the population and development community as it prepares to observe the 25th anniversary of the ICPD next year.



Group Photo of the participants.

The two-day event was organized by the Canadian Association of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (CAPPD), the Inter-American Parliamentary Group on Population and Development (IAPG), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Global Affairs Canada (GAC), the European Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development (EPF), and Action Canada for Sexual Health and Rights.

Mrs. Viplove Thakur, MP; Mr. Kirit Premjibhai Solanki, MP; and Mr. Manmohan Sharma, Executive Secretary, IAPPD; attended this Conference.

In the agreed Ottawa Statement of Commitment, Parliamentarians pledged to work toward a world "where preventable maternal deaths are a thing of the past, where unmet need for family planning is met, where gender-based violence and harmful practices do not exist, where young people can live healthy and productive lives, where stigmatization and discrimination have no place in society and where reproductive rights are promoted, respected and protected."

All mothers and newborns matter

Respectful maternity care and the 'birth companions', are a priority for pregnancy and childbirth

Anupriya Patel
Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare
Government of India



*Ms. Anupriya Patel
Union Minister of State for
Health and Family Welfare*

Health care is not simply about treating disease. It is about promoting a complete state of physical, mental, and social well being. This requires a comprehensive approach, spanning a continuum of care from pregnancy and childhood, to adolescence, and finally adulthood. Nowhere is this more important than for the health of girls and women, that is all too often neglected.

Over the past few years, India has achieved substantial gains in health for our mothers and newborns. Between 2000 and 2015, India's Maternal Mortality Ratio declined by 77% from 556 per 1 lakh live births in 2000 to 130 per 1 lakh live births in 2015. During the same period, India's newborn mortality dropped

by 44% from 1.2 million newborn deaths to under 7 lakh annually. Still we have a long way to go in terms of 'Ensuring healthy lives and promote well being for all at all ages'. India is committed to reduce maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 1,00,000 live births and to reduce neonatal mortality to at least as low as 12 per thousand live births by 2030 under Goal-3 of Sustainable Development Goals.

Achieving reductions in maternal and newborn mortality begins with interventions well before the time of conception and delivery. Adolescence is a time of tremendous growth, and, unfortunately, girls can enter womanhood with nutritional deficiencies that put pregnancies at risk. In 2016, over half of our adolescent girls were anaemic. India aims to reduce this figure by making iron and folic acid tablets available to adolescent girls at health facilities. Our national adolescent health programme also has a key focus area on nutrition, as part of a strategy to comprehensively address health needs of adolescents in five key areas. Our recent success can also be attributed to the fact



Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi addressing the participants on the occasion of launch of 4th Partners' Forum for Health and Well-Being of Women, Children and adolescents in New Delhi.

Just get equitable health care

Among the key strategies to ensure that women have a positive delivery experience

a Patel
Health and Family Welfare
t of India

that more women are seeking care during pregnancy and delivery than ever before. Launched in 2016, *Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyaan* ensures comprehensive and quality antenatal care, free of cost, to all pregnant women. There are also other schemes in place that are specifically designed to encourage more women to opt for institutional delivery. Because of these efforts, more women are also choosing to deliver in health facilities, as opposed to in the home, which allows them to access the skilled care that is necessary to bring babies safely into the world. During 2015/16, 79% of women delivered in a health facility, compared to 39% in 2005/06.

Yet access to care alone does not guarantee a positive outcome. Care for pregnant women must be of high quality and delivered with respect and dignity. Highly trained doctors, nurses, and other health workers, who adhere to quality standards mandated by the government, are critical to minimizing risk of pregnancy complications and stillbirths. Other schemes have also been launched in recent years to improve the quality of and strengthen labour room practices to achieve improved health outcomes for mothers and newborns. Respectful maternity care, and the 'birth companion', are other key strategies of these efforts to ensure that women have a positive pregnancy and delivery experience.

Once babies are born, an array of care is required to ensure that they are warm, nourished, and protected from infection. Postnatal care for mothers and babies begins immediately after birth, typically in the health facility.

This is a critical and often neglected point in the continuum of care, since the risk of illness and death of babies is highest in the period immediately after birth. Increased focus is required to ensure that every mother

and newborn is reached at home in the first few days and weeks of life with life saving interventions through home-based newborn care. Of course, as children grow older, many other interventions are provided, including immunization and micro-nutrient supplementation, such as Vitamin A.



Once babies are born, an array of care is required to ensure that they are warm, nourished, and protected from infection.

In December 2018, the Government of India hosted the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH) Forum in Delhi. This provided an opportunity to reflect on our successes and the great need to do more for our women and children. We must make universal health coverage a reality because everyone has a right to health without fear of financial constraints. We must ensure that health care is of high quality, is equitable for all, and is provided with dignity. We must acknowledge that health care spans a continuum, recognizing not only treatment, but also the value of prevention, healthy behaviours, and the impact of socioeconomic and environmental factors on health. We owe it to our future generations.

Source: Hindustan Times, December 18, 2018.

Investing in Youth:

Toward Regional Development and Achievement of the SDGs

Asian and Arab Parliamentarians Meeting and Study Visit on Population and Development – Part II
October 2-3, 2018, Manama, The Kingdom of Bahrain

The Asian Population and Development Association (APDA), which serves as the secretariat for Japan Parliamentarians Federation for Population (JPFP), jointly with Bahrain Shura Council organized the Asian and Arab Parliamentarians Meeting and Study Visit on Population and Development – Part II, in the Shura Council building in Manama, the Kingdom of Bahrain, during October 2-3, 2018. The Conference was held as part of an inter-regional collaborative project to promote Parliamentarians activities on population and development in the Arab and Asia regions with the support of the Japan Trust Fund (JTF), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF).

The meeting was attended by about 80 participants, including Parliamentarians from 17 Asian and Arab countries, as well as experts from UN organizations, senior government officials, NGO representatives, private sector companies, and academics. From India, Mr. Nadimul Haque, MP; Mrs. Viplove Thakur, MP; and Mr. Manmohan Sharma, Executive Secretary, IAPPD; attended the Conference.

During Part-I of the project in Jordan last year, it was agreed to set aside the debate on cultural values and

instead to address the issues of population in ways acceptable for each of the participating countries to establish the conditions for sustainable development. The aim of the Bahrain Conference was to follow up on the theme of last year's project by discussing concrete ways to leverage the youth population in the Arab region as an engine for sustainable development, rather than make them a source of social instability. The youth population in this region is growing rapidly as a result of demographic transition.

While welcoming the participants, Hon. Teruhiko Mashiko (Vice Chair of JPFP and Director of APDA), on behalf of JPFP and APDA, stated the basic concept for this meeting and reaffirmed the underlying principles



Mr. Nadimul Haque, MP (right) and Mr. Manmohan Sharma, IAPPD during the conference.



Group Photo of the participants.

and significance of Parliamentarians activities on population and development.

Mr. Nadimul Haque, MP, India, made a presentation in the session on "Population and the SDGs". In his presentation, he pointed out that the goal of any development is the well-being and better living conditions for the people; population affects the economic development of any nation and it impacts urbanization, migration, economy, agriculture, environment, and so on. Population growth puts pressure on natural resources and threatened environmental sustainability. He concluded that countries should work to expand people's choices, resourcefulness, creativity and resilience by adopting rights-based and gender sensitive policies.

During the session on "Parliamentarians' Role for Regional Development", it was noted that transparency, accountability, and good governance (TAGG) for the country's citizens can promote global partnership as a foundation for achievement of the SDGs.

Enthusiastic discussions ensued in the last session on "Discussion for the Adoption of the Parliamentarians' Statement". Parliamentarians adopted a clear statement for the following:

1. Giving appropriate education for youth and creating employment opportunities will provide a substantial impetus for development;
2. to achieve the SDGs and address the issues of population, efforts in promoting mortality transition are needed to prevent diseases and improve people's health and comparable efforts



Mr. Nadimul Haque, MP, making a presentation during the meeting.

- must also be made in fertility transition;
3. specifically, eliminating unwanted pregnancies is of paramount importance;
4. this requires sexuality education founded on medical knowledge for each age group and universal access to reproductive health (RH) services, including family planning; and
5. it is the role of Parliamentarians to create an environment conducive to this through legislation.

During the field visit, the participants visited Bahrain Ministry of Education where they were briefed on the state of affairs of education in Bahrain and vocational training programmes for youth, followed by an active question and answer session. They then paid a visit to Bahrain Science Center for the SDGs, the first of its kind in this region dedicated to the SDGs under the supervision of the Bahrain Ministry of Youth and Sport Affairs. After the briefing, they made a tour of the Center. The participants were particularly interested in the country's efforts to widely enlighten people about the SDGs.



An inter-active session during the meeting.

“Leaving No One Behind”

International Conference on Investing in Youth

Astana, Kazakhstan, October 19-20, 2018

The International Conference on Investing in Youth: “Leaving No One Behind” was organized by the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Ministry of Social Development of the Republic of Kazakhstan, and the Asian Population and Development Association (APDA) in Astana, Kazakhstan, during October 19-20, 2018. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) supported the Conference through the Japan Trust Fund (JTF).

The Conference was organized based on the awareness that investing in youth today is critical for building a peaceful, inclusive, sustainable, and economically vibrant society. Parliamentarians, ministers, experts, and representatives from UN organizations, the academia, private sector, and NGOs, totalling some 200, from 35 countries of the Asia-Pacific region as well as the Arab, Africa, and European region attended the event.

From India, Mr. Husain Dalwai, MP; Mrs. Viplove Thakur, MP; and Mr. Manmohan Sharma, Executive Secretary, IAPPD, took part in this Conference.

At the opening ceremony, H.E. Nurlan Nigmatulin, Speaker of the Mazhilis of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan, delivered the welcome speech, followed by opening remarks by H.E. Mr. Yasuo Fukuda. Mr. Fukuda explained how vigorous investment in education by Japan, which had limited natural resources, resulted in building the foundation for Japan’s development. He said, “All of us here were

once young. We had our aspirations and dreams but also experienced various hardships. It would be wonderful if we could return to our youth, but since that is not possible, it is our mission to invest actively in and support young people so that they do not have to face the same hardships and difficulties that we did”.

The Conference covered four substantive sessions on the following themes:

1. Expanding opportunities for education and employment of youth and improving linkages and transitions.
2. Improving health and well-being of youth through universal access to health information, education and services.
3. Promoting full participation of youth in civil, political and social affairs.
4. Opportunities and risks for youth in the context of globalizations.

The participants acknowledged that young people are inheriting a world where the global climate is changing faster than most people like to think and that youth have an increasingly strong social and environmental awareness, which has the power to transform societies towards a low-carbon and climate resilient future. The Conference agreed to address the need to promote participation of young people in global and regional development activities and programmes through increased mobility and connectivity among young entrepreneurs, students and researchers.



Group Photo of the participants.

Medanta TB Conclave 2018: National Consultation on Multi-sectoral Engagement for TB Free India

November 26, 2018, New Delhi

The Medicity in collaboration with the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease (The Union) and the Central TB Division of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India hosted a day-long Conference as a call to action for a TB-free India. The event was attended by representatives of the government, including DDG, CTD (Deputy Director General, Central TB Division), DHS (Director Health Service-TB) Haryana and United States Agency for International Development (USAID), among others.

Mr. Manmohan Sharma, Executive Secretary, IAPPD, attended the Conference.



Inaugural session of the Conclave.

The Conference addressed key challenges in the space of TB diagnosis in India and underlined the need to foster corporate commitment to this topical issue, beside enhancing technology for a TB-free India by 2025.

TELLING NUMBERS Population falling in many states, including Andhra Pradesh

Since at least 2015, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Mr. N. Chandrababu Naidu has been asking people to have more children in order to ensure that his state does not suffer a "demographic crisis" like Japan, and continues to have a sufficiently young population. He repeated his call most recently on December 28, 2018.

Andhra Pradesh is among several Indian states where the fertility rate has fallen below the replacement level of 2.1. India's overall fertility rate is 2.18, according to National Family Health Survey-4 (2015-16) data presented in Lok Sabha by Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, Mr. Ashwini Kumar Choubey.

India's total fertility rate (TFR) was 3.39 in NFHS-1 (1992-93). The TFR for Andhra Pradesh fell from 2.59 in NFHS-1 to 2.25 in NFHS-2 (1998-99) and to 1.79 in NFHS-3 (2005-06) before rising to 1.83 in NFHS-4 (2015-16). Bihar (3.41) and Uttar Pradesh (2.74) have the highest TFR among major states, the data show.

TFR is the number of children born or likely to be born to a woman in her lifetime. A TFR of 2.1 is seen as replacement-level fertility.



Source: Indian Express, 7.1.2019.

India adds more than 69,000 babies on January 1

Durgesh Nandan Jha

India added 69,944 newest and tiniest residents on New Year's Day, the highest in the world, Unicef said on Tuesday.

It was followed by China which welcomed 44,940 babies, Nigeria (25,685 babies), Pakistan (15,112 babies) and Indonesia (13,256 babies), as per data computed from total number of births taking place in various countries worldwide each day. India accounts for 18% of the estimated 3,95,072 babies born globally daily, Unicef said.

Dr. Yasmin Ali Haque, Unicef representative in India told TOI, many of the newborns do not survive a year or even a day due to health complications. "This New Year's Day, we must resolve to save every child born from morbidity or mortality on account of complications during delivery or infections", she said.

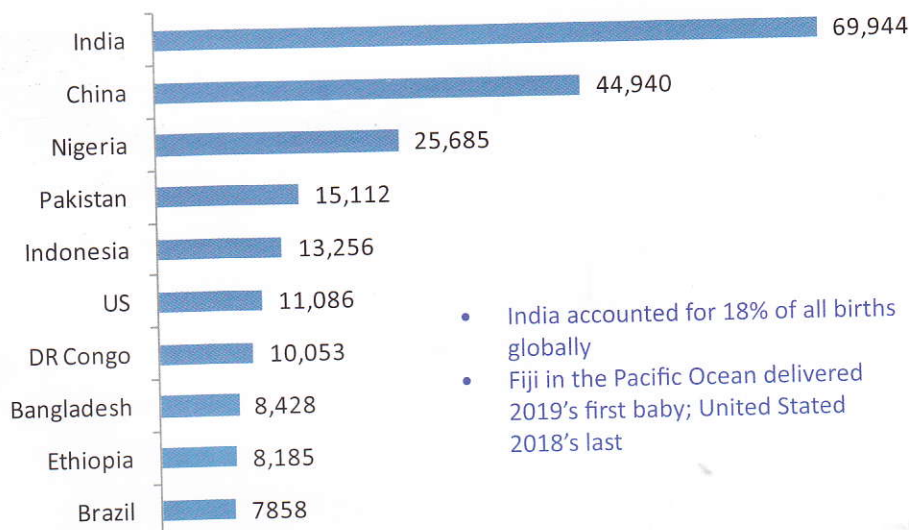
In 2017, about one million babies died the day they were born, and 2.5 million in just their first month. While India has improved its infant mortality rate significantly over the last few years. Haque said reducing the rate of neo-natal mortality remains a challenge. Experts say many newborn deaths can be averted with simple fixes such as exclusive breast feeding, skin-to-skin contact between the mother or father and the baby; medicines and essential equipment; and access to clean, well-equipped health facilities staffed by skilled health workers.

Source: Times of India, January 2, 2019.



Most New Year's Births in India

No. of Children Born on New Year's Day



- India accounted for 18% of all births globally
- Fiji in the Pacific Ocean delivered 2019's first baby; United States delivered 2018's last



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