



Annual Report

(April 2007- March 2008)
Vardaan Foundation, Baroda



During the financial year the major thrust of the organization was to impart services to the community and in doing action cum research assignments. Liasoning was also done with national and international organization for generating resource, in imparting services and doing action research. The following activities were conducted:

Preparing the Report: The organization had organized a two days workshop on 16-17 March 2007, for developing Guideline for Promotion of Human Rights Issues of Mentally ill Persons. The summarized report was prepared by the invited experts and in the continuing efforts, the boards of Trustees along with the consultants finalize the topics to be covered in the report and put forward for review comment among the invited experts in the workshop. The consultants proposed to divide the report in two parts. Part one will consist of the overview of discussion held for the said theme of the workshop and second part would be totally confined for the guidelines to be elaborated for promotion of Human Rights Issues of Mentally ill Persons. The topics covered in part one is introduction to workshop, followed by journey of human rights, the problem existing, status of burden and resource, dilemmas and concerned issue and overview of human right violation While part two will be totally confined with the topics related with the formation of guidelines that advocates for state policy in such matters, research and programme level, institutional level, for Prisoner in jails, at workplace, in family, for human right activist (NGO), for police, media and rights of consumer/clients or patients. The first draft version was completed in January 2008 and the final version was completed in March 2008 and submitted to Ministry of health and Family Welfare for their opinion. Besides, the report was also shared with the diversified group's viz., member's of scientific groups at the workshop, family members, and external experts after April 2008 onward. The report will be finalized and printed only after receiving the comments from various stake holders and approval from the ministry.

Experience of Running Mental Health Rehabilitation Centre: In the continuing efforts from the Rehabilitation project sponsored by The Royal Netherlands Agency with joint efforts of Government of Gujarat enrooted through Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad, the organization had applied for running the halfway home to ministry of social justice and empowerment in 2005. The project proposal was designed specifically for 25 patients with the inbuilt infrastructure within the hospital of mental health hospital for about Rs.17 lakhs. However the project could not be linked with the previous ongoing rehabilitation project in the hospital after March 2006. Thus the organization had hired a private flat to run the halfway home activities. In the name of financial support, the organization had received intimation on March 2007 for the release of the fund to be utilized during the financial year 2006-07. Owing to their intimation, the organization had started the halfway home activities from April 2007. However, instead of Rs.17 lakhs, the actual fund released was Rs.72,885/- in the month June 2007, to be utilized for one month. The reason

for discontinue the halfway home project are as follows:

1. Delay in allocation of the funds to the organization from the Ministry restricted the half way home activities at our center.
2. The moral of the team and their efforts was largely influenced by the non availability of the funds in time from the concerned ministry.
3. The norms mentioned for infrastructure running the rehabilitation center does not match with the MOSJE-GOG notification (dated 17th June, 2005 No.GH/05/M/2/APG-102004-221-CHH1) does not match the current ongoing activities.
4. Based on MOSJE-GOG notification (dated 17th June, 2005 No.GH/05/M/2/APG-102004-221-CHH1), the procedure developed by the organization for admitting and discharging the patients was not acceptable to the family members.
5. The family members demanded for full time residential care and take the whole guarantee for care of their ward for lifelong irrespective of the cost. But the major hurdle encountered is related with the philosophy¹ set by the organization, which was not matching. Overall it was concluded that family members were shedding their responsibilities of their suffering ward and put the entire headache on the voluntary organization there by never accepting them back into their family.

The project was started on April 2007 and was closed down in July 2007.

Exploring LAND for Constructing Rehabilitation Center: In the continuing efforts, the board of trustee made decision first to develop the necessary infrastructure to run halfway home. The board of Trustee had met the district collector, who directed the procedure to acquire the piece of land for running the social activities by an NGO. Taking lead from this, the board of trustee with the help of the consultants had explored the desired space in and around the Baroda District. Of late (after one year) could find the desired land by the consultants. The consultant had cross checked the status with the revenue department and district land record department and acquired the survey number 323 and 461 as recorded of 7 and 12 forms) and had acquired the desired map of the location of the land. The location of the land was about 22 km away from the Baroda district in village Vadsala with a total area of 422 sq hector. The piece of land belongs to Gram Panchayat of Vadasal village as “Gauchar Land”. This was also confirmed seeing the village Panchayat record. The entire member of board of Trustee went for physical verification of land during July 08 in rainy season and found the entire area was water logged because of heavy rainfall and water flowing from adjacent Vishwamitri river which was just 800 meter away from the selected location of the desired land for half way home. There was not uniform consensus over this issue as the Rehabilitation Center of Mentally ill should be at place where high risk factors are at minimum and future is safe from any natural or manmade untoward incidents that can affected the mentally ill inmates living at the centre. Owing to these factors, the current location of land was found not feasible for the Rehabilitation center for mentally ill patients. The board of Trustee decided to acquire the private piece of land near the urban area in feasible cost in future.

¹ Vardaan Foundation is in the view to impart all necessary skills (Social, vocational, communication, ..etc) to the patients and acquire economic independency in six months at their rehabilitation centers and then reintegrate the ward back into their family.

Celebrating Mental Health Day: Looking the failures and over whelming demand of the family members, a meeting was planned with the family members on the eve of celebrating mental health days on 10th October 2007. About 50 family members including their ward gathered at the office of the organization. The following observations were made:

1. Majority demanded that the treatment at the private centers are expensive and demand a service which can rendered low cost medicine at their door step.
2. Most of the family members were frustrated looking the relapse of the illness of their wards in their house and largely demand to start home based rehabilitation programme at the earliest.
3. Some of the family members agreed to send their ward at vocational unit of the organization, but demanded to arrange transportation facilities separately specially for their female wards that were found reluctant to adjust in public transportation and other security reasons.
4. Some family members demand to start micro financing scheme for the persons suffering from the mental illness such that they can start some type of home based business to acquire not only economic independence but also engage them with daily activity.
5. The family member's wards having higher qualifications, demand for white color job in any firm or industry but within their vicinity so that the problem of transportation does not hampers the ward for traveling to the desired office.
6. Some of the family members simply demand to open vocational center where they can send their wards for recreational purpose to gain confidence for the related activities of daily life.

Over all it seems the family member's demands for their suffering wards are very high and all put forward before Vardaan Foundation.

Presentation Made

1. Dr. Harshit Sinha had given presentation on "Exploring Sustainable Model for Community Based Rehabilitation Programme for Mental Health through Public-Private Partnership" to the Health Division at Planning Commission of India, New Delhi.
2. Dr. S.K. Verma on the eve of Disability Day on 10th December 2007 had given presentation to the member of Self Help Group "Friends of Vardaan" for safety of mentally ill ward at home and in context to large part of the society.
3. Mrs. Upasana Rathure had given a talk on the issue of Rehabilitation center in the total Management and Operationalizing the same.

Ongoing Efforts

1. To acquire or purchase land to develop Vardaan Multiple Rehabilitation centers for the poor in Mental Health Sector. The organization is conducting survey to acquire land on subsidy from the State Government.
2. In continuation to our previous workshop on human rights in mental health sector, the organization is ongoing efforts are planning to hold similar type of workshop for service delivery model, PPP, Family support, computerization of data .etc with Planning Commission of India.
3. The organization had planned to trained community volunteers in dealing cases related to the human right violation of mentally ill persons with the support of National Human Right Commission, New Delhi.
4. Seeing the deficit of funding in the mental health sector, the organization is under the process to take a research study to promote PPP in Mental Health Sector from planning Commission of India, New Delhi.
5. To acquire the desired vehicle for the transportation of patients from their residence to vocational training center or day care center of the organization and vice versa.

PRIORITIES Set for 2008-2009

During the eleventh financial year of the organization the following priorities as listed below:

1. To explore the funds for publishing the seven cases studies of disaster and crisis management in a book form.
2. Undertake a pilot district project under health sector reform to strengthen the policy for decentralization of the power; improving quality of services and empower the community to set their own priority to strengthen the rural health mission of our country.
3. Looking the success of the first national level workshop on application of GIS in Health Sector, it was decided to conduct second national level works for the same for the doctors and health professionals.
4. To sustain the ongoing Rehabilitation Programme in mental health services in the Gujarat State. At present the organization decided to emphasis on developing Community Rehabilitation Center for Mentally ill Persons. It also planning to elaborate the concept of “disability and development” and promote them to main stream by integrating it with day care center and Half way home.

5. The organization intends to explore the myths and realities among the adolescent groups for the reproductive health and devices the sustainable strategy to address their problems in the community.
6. Growing incidents of female violence, abuse against women workers, domestic violence, and human rights violations related to reproduction and female sexuality to lead to face women's in very disgusting situation especially the widows, the destitute and the disabled. Taking lead from this the organization planned to open vocational center for women.
7. Looking the pathetic condition of public health system or in backward areas no availability of pathetic condition, we had designed an innovative project to impart at minimal cost to the social deprived and less privileged population residing in the backward area (Tribal villages/Town) health (including mental health) services.

In order to undertake such innovative project the organization will explore the financial support from individual donors, national and international agencies. We look for the kind cooperation for the aforesaid priority projects of the organizations. Owing to the set priorities, we are ready to work in any part of the country - all over India
