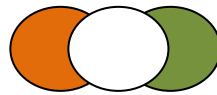


**Post Graduate Certificate Course in Health System and Management - 2013**



**Module 2: Chapter 6.C.**

**INTRODUCTION TO HEALTH SYSTEM IN INDIA – VOLUNTARY HEALTH AGENCIES IN INDIA**



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**Indian Association of Preventive and Social Medicine  
Gujarat Chapter**

## Voluntary Health Agencies

### Learning objectives

At the end of this chapter participants will be able to:

1. Know about various types of Voluntary national health agencies
2. Understand the contribution of these agencies in delivering of health services in India.

In the developing nation's non-governmental organizations have played an important role in promoting health. Often governments in developing countries are constrained from specific activities by political and economic limitations. Non-governmental agencies, because they are not subject to these constraints, often play a key role in disease intervention and promotion of health.

Other than government health agencies in nearly every community there are nongovernmental or voluntary agencies that supplement the work of the health department. Health services in India had their beginning with voluntary groups only. Eg. Missionaries from abroad who came and established services for women, children etc.

Even today these agencies are playing a vital role in health care system of India. Voluntary health agencies have their own administrative body or committee which raises fund through its membership or through private sources. It has staff either paid or on voluntary basis Works for health promotion, health education, research & health legislation etc.

Organization has its own administrative body or committee which raises fund through its membership or through private sources. It has staff either paid or on voluntary basis. Works for health promotion, health education & health legislation etc.

Type of voluntary health agencies:

### **National Agencies:**

**Working in the field of MCH:** Family planning association of India, Indian council of child welfare & kasturba memorial fund.

**Working for specific disease problem:** Hind kushta nivaran sangh, Indian cancer society etc.

**Working for general health care:** Indian red cross society, central social welfare and all India women & apos;s conference

**Professional bodies:** INC, IMA, IDA, TNAI etc.

## **International NGO / PVO:**

**Multilateral Organizations:** receive funds from multiple governments and non-governmental sources and support developmental efforts of governments and organizations in less-developed nations of the world.

Examples are WHO, UNICEF, World Bank, UNFPA, ILO, UNDP, FAO

**Bilateral Single government agency:** That provides aid to lesser developed countries. They usually deal directly with other governments

Eg. are USAID, DANIDA, Colombo plan, SIDA

**Non-governmental:** They include humanitarian (philanthropic agencies) and professional organizations concerned with global health. These are not under government sponsorships or control.

Eg: International Red Cross, Rockefeller foundation, Ford foundation, CARE etc.

Functions in general of VHA/NGO:

1. Direct services or assistance to individual. This includes the activities such as patient care, nursing, visiting service, provision of consultations. Training and supervision of voluntary workers, Preparation and dissemination of public information materials, provides materials for H.E and carries on mass health education works.
2. Supplementing the work of official agencies
3. Contributing the funds for special equipments or other supplementary assistance to service agencies.
4. Financial assistance through scholarships or training grants
5. Guide the work of official agencies and provides constructive ideas
6. Advances the health legislation
7. Exhibits demonstration and experimental project. Demonstration of Bore-hole latrine by RF to solve the problem of hookworm in India. RCA latrine has become essential part of environmental sanitation program
8. Supplement the effort of govt. During any disasters these agencies come forward and share the responsibility to solve the problem.
9. Effective policy formulation through interpretation of public opinions.
10. Carries on research to explore ways and means of doing new things, autonomous board helps flexibility to adopt the program
11. Channelize human resources. Help in efficient program implementation.
12. Initiative and leadership. VHA take initiation and believes in self help rather than help from outside, they encourage the local potential leaders to develop as agents of socio economic change.
13. Creating greater understanding and +ve attitude among the beneficiaries

**Some of the well known voluntary health agencies in India are:**

1. INDIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY
2. HIND KUSHT NIVARAN SANGH
3. INDIAN COUNCIL FOR CHILD WELFARE
4. TUBERCULOSIS ASSOCIATION OF INDIA
5. BHARAT SEVAK SAMAJ
6. CENTRAL SOCIAL WELFARE BOARD
7. THE KASTURBA MEMORIAL FUND
8. FAMILY PLANNING ASSOCIATION OF INDIA
9. ALL INDIA WOMEN'S CONFERENCE
10. PROFESSIONAL BODIES
11. INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES

1. INDIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY

It was established in 1920. It has 400 branches in India. Executing programmes are, promotion of health, prevention of disease and mitigation of suffering among the people.

**Activities**

- a) Relief work
- b) Milk and Medical supplies
- c) Armed forces
- d) Maternal and child welfare services
- e) Family Planning
- f) Blood Bank and First Aid

## **HIND KUSHT NIVARAN SANGH**

It was founded in 1950. Its Headquarters is at New Delhi.

Its precursor was the Indian Council of the British Empire Leprosy Relief Association which was dissolved in 1950.

## **INDIAN COUNCIL FOR CHILD WELFARE**

It was established in 1952. It is affiliated with the International Union for Child Welfare.

The services of I.C.C.W. are devoted to secure for India's children those "OPPORTUNITIES AND FACILITIES, BY LAW AND OTHER MEANS" which are necessary to enable them to develop physically, mentally, morally, spiritually and socially in a healthy and normal manner and in conditions of freedom and dignity.

### **Activities**

- a) Rendering of financial assistance to various leprosy homes and clinics, health education thro' publications and posters, training of medical workers and physiotherapists, conducting research and field investigations
- b) Organising All-India Leprosy Workers Conference and Publication of "LEPROSY IN INDIA", a quarterly journal.

## **TUBERCULOSIS ASSOCIATION OF INDIA (TAI)**

It was formed in 1939. It has branches in all the states in India.

Activities are

Organising a T.B. seal campaign every year to raise funds, training of doctors, health visitors and social workers in anti T.B work, promotion of health education, promotion of consultations and conferences.

Institutions under TAI

- a) The New Delhi Tuberculosis Centre,
- b) the lady Linlithgow Sanatorium at Kasauli
- c) The King Edward VII sanatorium at Dharampur
- d) Tuberculosis Hospital at Mehrauli

## **BHARAT SEVAK SAMAJ (BSS)**

It is a non-political and non-official organization was formed in 1952.

Primary aims are - Help people to achieve health by their own actions and efforts

Improvement of sanitation in villages is one of the important activities of the B.S.S.

## **CENTRAL SOCIAL WELFARE BOARD**

☉ It is an autonomous organisation under the general administrative control of the Ministry of Education.

☉ It was set up by the GOI in august 1953.

Its functions are

- ✓ Surveying the needs and requirements of voluntary welfare organizations in the country
- ✓ Promoting and setting up of social welfare organizations on a voluntary basis
- ✓ Rendering of financial aid to deserving existing organizations and institutions.

Activities

- ✓ Teaching of craft, social education, literacy classes, maternity aid for women, distribution of milk, balwadis, and organisation of play centres for children.
- ✓ It also started a scheme of Industrial cooperatives to help the lower-middle class women in urban areas supplement their income by doing paid work.

## **THE KASTHURBA MEMORIAL FUND**

It was created in commemoration of kasturba gandhi, after her death in 1944.

The fund was raised with the main object of improving the lot of women, especially in the villages, through gram-sevikas.

## **FAMILY PLANNING ASSOCIATION OF INDIA**

It was formed in 1949, HQ in mumbai.

Propagating the family planning in India

These branches are running FP clinics.

It has trained several hundred doctors, health visitors and social workers.

## **ALL INDIA WOMEN'S CONFERENCE**

It is the only women's voluntary welfare organisation in the country. Established in 1926. Most of the branches are running M.C.H. clinics, medical centres, and adult education centres, milk centres and family planning clinics

## **THE ALL-INDIA BLIND RELIEF SOCIETY**

Established in 1946.

It organise eye relief camps and other measures for the relief of the blind.

## **PROFESSIONAL BODIES**

- ✓ The Indian Medical Association
- ✓ All India Licentiates Association,
- ✓ All India Dental Association,
- ✓ TNA of India are all voluntary agencies of men and women who are qualified in their respective specialties and possess registerable qualifications.

Functions

1. Conduction of annual conferences,
2. publish journals,
3. arrange scientific sessions and exhibitions,
4. foster research,
5. set up standards of professional education and
6. organise relief camps during periods of natural calamities

## **INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES**

The Rockefeller Foundation, Ford Foundation, and CARE are the examples of voluntary international health agencies.

They are already mentioned in Module 1.