

Manchester Centre for Global Health Volunteering

1st June 2013 – India Workshop

The Manchester Centre for Global Health Volunteering held a workshop to support and promote volunteering in India.

Launched in early 2013, the Centre which is supported by UHSM Academy and MAHSC and with funding from HIEC, will work together as a network of public, private and voluntary organisations to promote health volunteering that will address widening global health inequalities and the need for affordable and accessible healthcare.

This specific workshop, hosted by Professor Rajan Madhok, was focused on India and gave participants the opportunity:

- To hear from people who are already involved in supporting health developments and want to support volunteering in India
- To develop the future programme of work in India for the Centre
- To meet like minded people and
- To discuss how we can support each other to create more effective, efficient and economic ways of sustaining volunteering

***Effective:** delivering high quality outcomes by well trained volunteers*
***Efficient:** delivering timely, responsive and context tailored services*
***Economic:** deliver outputs which add value at the lowest possible cost*

Around 45 people participated in the workshop, with many locally existing projects and scope for taking in volunteers by organisations based in India.



Proceedings

The morning session was to take stock of existing projects and volunteering taking place in India and Dr Nobhojit Roy began this by presenting an overview of volunteering in India. He also shared his own experiences, giving examples of the many challenges and pitfalls he faced as a doctor in India. This extremely informative, overview, gave a greater depth and insight into volunteering in general as well as in India and set the scene for the proceedings

Dr Mahima Pandey presented his Ameya Primary Care Project in Gopalganj, Bihar, supported by the Indo-British Medical Association. The case study showed how joint working between India and the UK as well as volunteers from a variety of sources enabled the development of the health centre as well as its everyday day running.

Other Experiences

Throughout the workshop delegates were given the opportunity to share their own experiences of projects and volunteering in India. Examples of such were given by Dr Puneet Bedi with his presentation on Feticide and Population Control in India; Mr Suresh Rao who shared his experience of having attended a leadership workshop in Srinagar recently and proposed development of the Voluntary Rural Collaborative Project; Dr Babita Mahadev described the work in cancer and for the care of the elderly and Dr Ravi Pabineedi shared his work on helping physically disabled people in South India.

Case studies of opportunities in India

By video conference workshop delegates had the benefit of hearing from Dr Devi Shetty from Narayana Hrudayalaya, Bangalore; Professor Vijay Gautam from All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Bihar; and Dr Ravikant Singh from Doctors for You, Mumbai. They described the work being done in their institutions and how they could work with volunteers in the UK.

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We had hoped to interview Dr Thelma Narayan – SOCHARA, Dr Raman VR – Public Health Resource Network and Dr Tandon / Dewan – Apollo Hospitals Group. Unfortunately due to logistic issues, this was not possible.

This session gave the opportunity for delegates to ask questions and engage in discussion with the various speakers. The workshop presentations will be available on request, once approval has been given by speakers and will be uploaded on the Website once it is fully developed.

Overall, during the morning the delegates shared their own experiences, and view points on volunteering and projects in India; this ranged from some having volunteered themselves in India, people they knew who had been involved with or who were attempting to set up or support existing projects. The session also prompted discussions around measuring effectiveness and accreditation of volunteers as well as funding and sustainability of volunteers. Given the multi-cultural Greater Manchester region with its active and strong diaspora organisations that were keen to support developments in their parent countries by promoting health volunteering, there was an opportunity to develop strong Indo: UK links.

Afternoon Session: Experiences so far and Plans

The afternoon session took on a slightly different approach, with Professor Tony Redmond, Professor Ged Byrne and Mr Andy Bacon sharing experiences and providing further context for the Centre and how this would support the India links. Other speakers included

- Mr Ashok Kallumpram, from The Indus Entrepreneur who shared his involvement in engaging Public / Private enterprise, current work and how they link with other organisations.
- Dr Ramesh Mehta from the British Association of Physicians of Indian Origin describing the work being done by Indian doctors in the UK and how BAPIO can facilitate volunteering links.
- Dr Hilary Dexter briefly described the planned website and management system which will be put in place to coordinate all volunteering activities.



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Next steps:

The workshop ended on a positive note, highlighting the existing projects and considerable potential for networking amongst different organisations in India and the UK, leading to the development of links between the two countries and partnerships between different organisations.

At the workshop Dr Roy agreed to form a link between his charity looking after slum children's health in Mumbai with Mustard Tree, a charity looking after homeless in Manchester, so opening up Manchester to Mumbai route!

Professor Gautam supported the idea of signing an MOU between the AIIMS Network and Manchester Centre.

Dr Devi Shetty offered to host volunteers in his newly established hospitals.

The Centre will also be holding talks with Dr Thelma Narayan – SOCHARA, Dr Raman VR – Public Health Resource Network and Dr Tandon – Apollo Hospitals Group to see how we can engage with, develop and support, future working links between the India Projects and the UK

Finally, a number of other projects are being taken forward as part of the development of the Centre, and which will help with the links in India.

Note: The Website is currently being developed and is accessible via:

<http://www.uhsm.nhs.uk/academy/Pages/cghvolunteering.aspx>

Acknowledgement

On behalf of the Manchester Centre for Global Health Volunteering we wish to thank all participants and speakers for their invaluable contribution. We appreciate the time taken by them to join us and share their insights, projects and expertise. We also wish to thank the UHSM Academy for hosting the Workshop.

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