

CAMHADD : Origin and Its 25 years contribution January- 1983-2008

Origin: Events from 1980-1985

The International Year of the Disabled Persons: 1981

Pioneers in the area of prevention

1. **Kenneth Thompson** : Policies and Programmes for Disabled People in the Commonwealth : Report of survey by Mr J.K.Thompson In August 1981, the Commonwealth Secretariat commissioned a survey by the late Mr Kenneth Thompson of policies and programmes for disabled people in the Commonwealth. In his report he stressed the urgent need for action to prevent disablement, emphasising that diseases which lead to impairment, disability and permanent handicap can be controlled at no great cost by the concerted efforts of health professionals, voluntary societies and community group.

2. **Sir John Wilson** : Leeds Castle Seminar : November 1981

Primary prevention of disablement was the focus of a world seminar of politicians, scientists, clinicians and health administrators in November 1981 at Leeds Castle, convened by the British Government. Reporting on the findings of the seminar to the Executive Board of WHO late Sir John Wilson(IMPACT Foundation) said that he had "pointed the way to the prevention of disablement on an unprecedented scale and at a modest cost. What was needed was not a systematic new vertical programme, but a shift of emphasis to include disability prevention in all existing health and development programmes. Medical schools and other institutions for the training of health professionals clearly have roles to play in such action". The outcome of the Seminar was establishment of IMPACT Foundation.

3. **Dr V.R.Pandurangi** : The concept of a Commonwealth Association
Originated at Bangalore Conference in May 1981

Indian Association for Research in Mentally Deficiency (IARMD) approached Commonwealth Secretariat for support to organise "First Asian and Commonwealth Conference on "Early Detection and Early Intervention of Mental Retardation" jointly with the International Association for Scientific Deficiency(IASSMD) and International League of Societies of Mental Handicap(ILSMH) at Bangalore in May 1981.

Professor Sir Ken Stuart-Health Adviser, Commonwealth Secretariat forwarded our grant proposal to the Commonwealth Foundation (CF).

Mr S. Mahendra-Deputy Director CF asked us to meet him and discuss the proposal. We met him and discussed the proposal. He was satisfied with our proposal and CF provided £10,000 to sponsor professionals from the Commonwealth Countries. Thus Bangalore Conference was organised with the support from CF.

After a very successful First Asian Regional and Commonwealth Congress numerous Commonwealth delegates approached Dr V.R.Pandurangi with a request to form a Commonwealth association for mental handicap. I actively explored this possibility with the assistance of late Dr Gwilym Hosking(PaediatricNeurologist in Sheffield- UK) and with the support and advise of late Professor Alan Roeher, Toronto (President of the International Association for the Scientific Study of Mental Deficiency-IASSMD),Professor Peter Mittler, Manchester-UK(President of the International League for the Societies for the Mentally Handicapped-ILSMH), late Dr Hugh Jolly-a senior paediatrician from London, and most particularly late Kenneth Thompson, the Consultant on Disability to the Commonwealth Secretariat.

The Concept of a Commonwealth Association

The concept of a Commonwealth Association originated at Bangalore Conference in May 1981 and further discussions took at the Sheffield meeting in August 1982. This first meeting was arranged by Dr Pandurangi and late Dr Gwilym Hosking (Children Hospital Sheffield) in August 1982 and present at the meeting were a group of experts from India as well as several from the UK. The Sheffield meeting prepared "10 Sheffield Proposals" for the formation of the association.

Sheffield meeting coincided with a recommendation in a Commonwealth Secretariat Report by late Kenneth Thompson on policies and programmes for disabled people to the effect that there should be created a Commonwealth panel of specialist in the field of mental retardation who would in turn create and inspire regional professional associations. The two concepts were merged for the purpose of discussion among delegates to the Congresses of the International Association for Scientific Study of Mental Deficiency (IASSMD) at Toronto : August 1982 and the International League of Societies for Mentally Handicapped(ILSMH) at Nairobi : November 1982.

Toronto Meeting : August 1982

Later on these proposals were presented at the 6th World Congress of IASSMD in Toronto at which over 30 delegates from different Commonwealth countries were present. The 10 Sheffield proposals were accepted and it was resolved at that meeting(chaired by late Prof. Alan Roeher of IASSMD from Toronto) that there was "a clear need for the establishment of the Commonwealth Association for Mental Handicap" It was also agreed at the Toronto Meeting that ultimately, after 10 years the Association should actively consider expanding its activities towards Non-Commonwealth Countries.

Nairobi(Kenya) Meeting : November 1982

A final meeting took place at Nairobi during the 8th World Congress of International League of Societies for Mental Handicap(ILSMH) along similar lines to that of Toronto Meeting. The meeting was chaired by Professor Pater Mittler (UK)-President ILSMH and Professor N.O.Bwibo was main resource person for this meeting. This was attended by 35 delegates from different Commonwealth Countries.

The original proposals and resolutions were critically evaluated and after a considerable discussion, it was resolved that the roles and responsibilities for the Commonwealth Association for Mental Handicap and Developmental Disabilities to support and foster activities towards the prevention and amelioration of mental handicap and associated

developmental disabilities in developing Commonwealth Countries. The Commonwealth Foundation provided grant to Dr Pandurangi to arrange meetings at Toronto and Nairobi.

By the end of 1982, specific proposals were fashioned for the formation of the Association and presented to the Commonwealth Foundation. By December 1982, the Commonwealth Foundation had given preliminary approval to an enabling grant for launching a Commonwealth Association for Mental Handicap and other Developmental Disabilities.

Time was spent during 1983-1985 in studying the constitution of various Commonwealth Associations. Taking the views of professionals from the Commonwealth Countries for preparation of CAMHADD Constitution. Finally entrusting to Dr David Primrose (expert in preparing constitution) to prepare CAMHADD constitution. He advised us to promote nominating regional representatives to form the executive committee. He also advised us to form core committee to carry out activities of CAMHADD. Constitution was submitted to the Commonwealth Foundation. First edition of CAMHADD Directory was prepared.

Key Persons involved at the proposal Stage

Late Kenneth Thompson-Former Director Colombo Plan and Consultant to Commonwealth and WHO on disability prevention. He was one of the pioneer advocates in the area of prevention of disabilities in general and mental handicap in particular. He was one of the pillars and architect of CAMHADD.

Dr V.R. Pandurangi-India/UK- Sheffield(UK)-Chief Organiser of the "First Asian and Commonwealth Conference on "Early Detection and Early Intervention of Mental Retardation" jointly with the International Association for Scientific Deficiency (IASSMD) and International League of Societies of mental Handicap(ILSMH) at Bangalore in May 1981.

Late Dr Gwilym Hosking- Consultant Paediatric Neurologist Children's Hospital Sheffield(UK)

Assisted by

Late Professor Alan Reoher (Canada)

Late Dr H.Jolly-Consultant Paediatrician, Charring Cross Hospital London

Professor Bwibo- Consultant Paediatrician, University of Nairobi , Kenya

Dr R.M.Varma-Emeritus Professor of Neurosurgery, Bangalore (India)

Dr G.N.Narayana Reddy-Director, National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro-sciences Bangalore

Dr David Primrose (UK)- Secretary IASSMD-Scotland UK

Professor .Peter Mitler (ILSMH) - Manchester University UK

Commonwealth Foundation

Mr R.P.Throssels, Commonwealth Foundation

Mr S.Mahiendra-Deputy Director, Commonwealth Foundation

Commonwealth Secretariat

Professor Sir Ken Stuart-Health Adviser, Commonwealth Secretariat

Role of Commonwealth Secretariat in Establishing CAMHADD

Policies and Programmes for Disabled People in the Commonwealth: Report of survey by Mr J.K.Thompson

In August 1981, the Commonwealth Secretariat commissioned a survey by the late Mr Kenneth Thompson of policies and programmes for disabled people in the Commonwealth. In his report he stressed the urgent need for action to prevent disablement, emphasising that diseases which lead to impairment, disability and permanent handicap can be controlled at no great cost by the concerted efforts of health professionals, voluntary societies and community group. The Paragraphs: 88, 90,183 and 275 of his report clearly mentioned the need of establishing a Commonwealth Association

Leeds Castle Seminar: November 1981

Primary prevention of disablement was the focus of a world seminar of politicians, scientists, clinicians and health administrators in November 1981 son at Leeds Castle, convened by the British Government Reporting on the findings of the seminar to the Executive Board of WHO late Sir John Wilson (IMPACT Foundation) said that he had "pointed the way to the prevention of disablement on an unprecedented scale and at a modest cost. What was needed was not a systematic new vertical programme, but a shift of emphasis to include disability prevention in all existing health and development programmes. Medical schools and other institutions for the training of health professionals clearly have roles to play in such action". CAMHADD filled the gap in the programme on prevention of mental retardation.

Sir John Wilson supported the formation of CAMHADD and also he was Adviser to CAMHADD till his death.

Commonwealth Current: October 1983: New Association for Mental Handicap (page 6) Information about the newly established Commonwealth association with overwhelming support by the representative of various Commonwealth countries.

Indian Connection

India for many years supported the needs of the handicapped person and has most recently been readily identified as being prominent in the field when its Prime Minister Indira Gandhi launched the IMPACT programme in October 1983. For the World this confirmed India, s commitment to a vital human activity. Prime Minister Indira Gandhi also showed keen interest in CAMHADD. The record of India within the field of prevention of disability has now become a legend, and thus a country to which the rest of the world turns for advice and support. CAMHADD started in India, its permanent home will be there; it will serve the whole Commonwealth and give hope where none previously existed. Much of mental handicap is preventable and where a not a great deal can be done to ameliorate its effects.

Dr Pandurangi-Acting Secretary General was invited to discuss the organisation with the late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi who has a deep interest in the work for the handicapped. After 1985, the the headquarters are to be transferred to Bangalore, where it will work closely with the Indian Association for mental Deficiency. The Commonwealth Association organisers have reported that the Indian Government have offered to meet administrative costs, once the Commonwealth Association has proved itself in three year's work. This was not followed due to the assassination of the Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in 1984.

World Bank Report

World Bank in its report has mentioned the important role played by CAMHADD in prevention of brain damage due to birth asphyxia to prevent handicaps.

First Pan Commonwealth Workshops on Mental Handicap and Epilepsy were held in Bombay in March 1985. Late Kenneth Thompson gave a key note address and Mr Inoke Faletau-then the Director of the Commonwealth Foundation attended Bombay workshops. Same time Seventh International Congress of the International Association for Scientific Study of Mental Deficiency was held at New Delhi.

Evolution of CAMHADD : 1985-1990

CAMHADD Working Party

CAMHADD established working party on prevention of Mental Handicap with Dr I.B.Sardharwalla- as its Chairman and Dr S.Lingam as the secretary working party arranged its first global workshop on prevention of mental handicap in Bombay in March 1985.

Prior to 1985 there was very little programme on prevention of mental handicap as it was part of mental health programme of WHO. Other health related organisations were not including any programme for prevention of mental handicap due to lack of sufficient information. It was thought that prevention of mental handicap and other related handicap means abortion. Another factor was stigma attached to mental handicap It became necessary for CAMHADD to raise awareness on the significance of prevention as prevention and earliest treatment is an alternative to long term rehabilitation in developing countries.

First Pan Commonwealth Workshop was held in Bombay in 1985 to know more about prevention of mental handicap by inviting professionals from Commonwealth and Non-Commonwealth Countries. Late Kenneth Thompson gave a key note address and Mr Inoke Faletau-then the Director of the Commonwealth Foundation attended Bombay workshops. Same time Seventh International Congress of the International Association for Scientific Study of Mental Deficiency was held at New Delhi.

From Keynote Address by Late Mr J.K.Thompson at Bombay Workshop 1985

The Foundation asked us many searching questions before making our enabling grant. It wanted to know that an association on mental retardation was needed that it could work to good effect and that benefits would accrue to the more remote and impoverished communities of the Commonwealth one of the objectives of the Association should be transfer of technology from experts to national planners and primary health care workers.

Mr Inoke Faletau-Director of the Commonwealth Foundation was present at Bombay workshop.

CAMHADD's 25 years contribution

CAMHADD completed 25 years of its establishment in January 2008.and has contributed as follows:

CAMHADD during the past 25 years, through 30 Regional Workshops including nine Pan Commonwealth Workshops has involved professionals from 45 out of 54 Commonwealth countries and 18 Non-Commonwealth countries covering approximately 1/3rd of the world. WHO has co-sponsored 16 workshops.

The Asia Commonwealth Lecture 2001: This lecture was arranged for the first time outside London at Bangalore in November 2001 to promote better public understanding of the Commonwealth and issues that concerns to its peoples. And also to promote significance of democracy. The Lecture was held coinciding with Inauguration of International Consultative Workshop on Partnership Towards Unity for Health to Achieve Social Accountability sponsored by CAMHADD and Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences Bangalore and co-sponsored by WHO, UNFPA (India) and the Royal Commonwealth Society (RCS) London Mr Colin Ball-Director, the Commonwealth Foundation delivered the lecture on “Civil Society, Social Accountability and Governance.”

CAMHADD celebrated its 20th Anniversary by arranging one day workshop in Bangalore (India) on 11 January 2003 on Citizens and Governance: Tri-Sector Dialogues originated from the civil society project initiated by the Commonwealth Foundation for the new millennium .One of the objectives of the workshop which was one of the 10 workshops in the Commonwealth supported by the Commonwealth Foundation in collaboration with Ford Foundation was to develop programme on preventive and promotive **health care for Bangalore urban poor,**

CAMHADD's Global contribution

- Shifting prevention of mental handicap programme from mental health programme to maternal and child health programme in 1986
- At the initiative of CAMHADD, the Forty-fifth World Health Assembly adopted the Resolution WHA 45.22 integrating safe motherhood activities with appropriate care of the newborn including the resuscitation of the newborn for prevention of birth asphyxia
- Breakthrough in the development of appropriate simple technology for resuscitation of the asphyxiated newborn at home and in maternity facilities by birth attendants with technical support from WHO
- With the completion of Kingston (Jamaica) workshop in 1996, CAMHADD has raised Global Awareness on the significance of prevention of brain damage due to birth asphyxia to prevent mental, neurological and sensory handicaps in developing countries.
- Promoted WHO concept of “Partnership development to achieve unity in health and social accountability

Regional Contribution

- **A network of regional representatives**
- **Regional training workshop**
- **Projects**

A network of regional representatives

A network of regional representatives was established in each five regions of the Commonwealth to promote and organise regional workshops on prevention of brain damage due to birth asphyxia to prevent mental and neurological and sensory handicaps with the help of Commonwealth Health Ministers, WHO Regional Offices and expert obstetricians and neonatologists in the region.

African Region:

Prof.Bwibo (Kenya), Prof.K.Thairu (Kenya), Prof.Francis Nkrumah (Ghana), Prof Ransome-Kuti (Nigeria), Prof.Obi (Nigeria),Prof.Robert Serpell (Zambia), Dr G.Bhat (Zambia) Dr Gregg Powell(Zimbabwe), Dr Shamalaye (Seychelles), Ms Lydia and Ms Agness two nursing staff from Lesotho, Dr Herman de Groot and Professor Chris Molteno from Cape Town-South Africa All of them assisted to organize workshops in African Region

Asian Region

Late Professor Tofayel Ahmed (Bangladesh), Professor M.S.Akbar (Bangladesh), Dr Sirajul Islam (Bangladesh),Health Minister of Maldives, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare Government of India, Dr Vijaya Kumar(India), Dr Neena Raina(India), Prof.Rajaram(India) Dr R.M.Varma (India), Dr Ishwar Verma (India) and Dr Kumta (India), Dr Simin Irani (India), Dr Ajit Mehta (India) Dr Bharucha (India)-Neurologist, Dr Chandrashekar Shetty (India), Dr K.S.Nagesh (India), Dr Hari Kiran (India), Dr Uday Bodhasnkar(India) and Dr Shakuntala(India)

Caribbean Region

Dr Earnest Pate(WHO/PAHO, Dr Karen Sealy (PAHO-WHO) Dr Wint (Jamaica), WHO Country Office Jamaica And Dr Andrew Sennon (Canada)..

European Region

Dr Hosking(UK), Dr Hugh Jolly(UK), Professor David Harvey(UK),Dr I.B.Sardharwalla(UK), Dr S.Lingam(UK), Dr Ganesh Supramaniam(UK), Miss Margaret Brayton(UK), Dr Peter Woods(UK) and Dr Ragnar Tunnel(Sweden)

South Pacific Region

Dr Tapa-Health Minister of Tonga, Health Minister of Honiara, Mrs Ruth Inall-Secretary General of the Commonwealth Association of professional Centres Sydney, Dr George Aho(Tonga), Dr Elizabeth Rodgers(Honiara)

Regional Training Workshops

African Region

(i) Nairobi(Kenya) (ii) Lusaka(Zambia) (iii) Benin City(Nigeria) (iv) Harare(Zimbabwe) : (v) Mahe(Seychelles) (vi) Maseru(Lesotho) and (vii) Cape Town(South Africa) including for birth attendants from

Asian Region

(i) Bombay(India) (ii) New Delhi(India) (iii) Bangalore(India) (iv) Dhaka (v)i) Male(Maldives)

CAMHADD had arranged Exchange Programme. Supported by the Commonwealth Technical Fund for Co-operation (CFTC) for trainers of for birth attendants in South East Asian Region

Caribbean Region

- Regional Workshop : Kingston(Jamaica) : May 1996

As a follow up of Kingston workshop CAMHADD jointly with PAHO-WHO arranged training workshop for trainers of birth attendants of the Caribbean region on Neonatal Resuscitation in (i) Jamaica : February 1997 and (ii) Trinidad : Nov.1998

European Region

- London

Pacific Region : Regional Workshops

- (i) Nuku'Alofa(Tonga) (
- (ii) Honiara(Solomon Islands)

As a follow up of Honiara workshop, Ministry of Health and Medical Services has integrated simple resuscitation of the newborn using appropriate technology into all nurses refresher courses from 1994. Ministry was also ordered masks and one- way valves to distribute them to all delivery facilities next year and also to provide on-the-job training for their use. Ministry has also started looking into the risk factors for birth asphyxia as recommended in the workshop.

The recommendations of the following workshops were in the form of “Declarations”

- Delhi(India) Declaration of February 1990 :Every Child Deserves A Breath of Life”
- Maseru(Lesotho) Declaration of February 1991 - Neonate Prayer : Every Newborn has a right to breast feeding”
- Dhaka(Bangladesh) Declaration of March 1992 “ Care by Birth Attendants and the Cry of the Newborn”
- Honiara (Solomon Island) Declaration of December 1993 “ Healthy Mother, Healthy Baby and a Happy Family
- Kingston(Jamaica) Declaration of May 1996 “ Immediate Plan of Action- The right of Breath to Improve the Quality of Life”

Projects

African Region

- A mini operational research on the extent of neonatal hypothermia by Ms Lydia and Ms Agnes two nursing staff from Lesotho as an outcome of their attendance at Global Workshop at New Delhi-1990. They used the two low reading thermometers issued at Delhi Workshop. The results showed that hypothermia was a problem.
- Multi-centre study for East, Central and Southern African Countries to determine the incidence of birth asphyxia undertaken by Commonwealth Regional Health Community Secretariat Arusha(Tanzania) as an outcome of Lesotho workshop(1991) co-sponsored by WHO Country Office
- A Survey of Traditional Birth Attendants(TBAs) in 14 East, Central and Southern African Countries by Prof.Chris Molteno(South Africa) supported by Commonwealth

Regional Health Community Secretariat Arusha (Tanzania) to identify knowledge, skills and activities of TBAs.(1996)

- CAMHADD/Huddinge Hospital Sweden Joint Project on Neonatal Resuscitation at Muhimbili Medical Centre, Dar-e-Salaam (Tanzania)

Asian Region

India

- CAMHADD/UNICEF(Bombay) – A three year joint project on training of medical social workers in genetic counselling in association with Tata Institute of Social Sciences Bombay(1988)
- Pre-pilot project study on Low Birth-Weight infants at K.E.M.Hospital Bombay.
- Community oriented pre-pilot project jointly with Bangalore Rural District council (Zilla Parishad) at Bidadi PHC near Bangalore on safe motherhood and child survival to prevent brain damage due to birth asphyxia in association with College of Nursing Bangalore.(1990) following CAMHADD/WHO Pan Global Workshop at New Delhi in 1990
- CAMHADD/Huddinge Hospital Sweden Joint Project on Neonatal Resuscitation at K.E.M.Hospital Bombay
- CAMHADD had arranged Exchange Programme. Supported by the Commonwealth Technical Fund for Co-operation(CFTC) 20 Eye surgeons from India for training in IOL(Intra Ocular Lens) cataract surgery in UK

Citizens and Governance Programme: Tri-Sector Dialogues: Preventive Health Care for Bangalore Urban Poor. One day Workshop at Bangalore in January 2003

Bangalore Healthy City Initiative

It is the CAMHADD initiative to develop Bangalore as a model Healthy City with WHO Technical support following the success of the CAMHADD One Day workshop on “Citizens and Governance Programme :Tri-Sector Dialogue : Preventive Health Care for Bangalore Urban Poor supported by the Commonwealth Foundation. This initiative started as a small-scale collaboration with Bangalore Mahanagara Palike (BMP) in March 2003 and in partnerships with Tri-Sector partners. Following Bangalore Healthy City Summit in February 2004. The following two programmes were developed:

- **Preventive and Promotive Health Care**
- **Occupational and Spinal Health**

Preventive and Promotive Health Care

CAMHADD developed promotive and preventive health care for low and middle income group in urban settings through **Healthy Life Style Clinic (HLC)**-An Initiative of CAMHADD and WHO

India Office *with* Tri-sector Partnership (Government, Public/Private Sector and Civil Society) and also global partners.

HLC encompasses all aspects of preventive and promotive care and is an example of success story in healthy city programme. The HLC can have many components like screening for preventive cardiology, prevention of diabetes, blindness, oral diseases, cervical cancer, musculoskeletal disorders, tobacco cessation, hygiene and sanitation, education, immunization, antenatal and neonatal care, and will be a proper primary care model. HLC will also focus on counselling for healthy life style approach.

Occupational and Spinal Health

- Bangalore Study on Health Promotion Initiative on Straighten Up India Bangalore and Occupational Health and Safety at Work to Prevent Occupational health hazards
- Spinal Health Programme for school children in collaboration with WHO and Life University Atlanta (USA) as an integrated programme in Bangalore Healthy city Initiative.

Bangalore Healthy City Initiative will also to promote Health Human Fundamental Right

CAMHADD and WHO

Late J.K. Thompson introduced CAMHADD to Technical Divisions at WHO/HQ Geneva. Prior to 1986, mental handicap programme was with the WHO Mental Health Division. An initial meeting was held with Dr Sartorius-Director, Mental Health Division WHO/HQ/Geneva and all aspects of mental handicap including prevention were discussed. After detail discussion Dr Sartorius came to conclusion that prevention of mental handicap should not be included in mental health Division and it was more appropriate to be a part of maternal and Child Health Programme. He contacted maternal and child health programme division and a historical meeting were arranged at Geneva on 18 December 1986 to identify programme areas in which WHO can collaborate with and provide guidance and technical support.

An historical meeting at WHO/HQ/Geneva in December 1986 was arranged as advised by Dr Sartorius: Shifting WHO Programme on Mental Handicap from Mental Health to Maternal and Child Health

Dr John Orley, represented Mental Health Division, Dr Mark Belsey and Dr P.M.Shah represented Maternal and Health Division and Dr Pandurangi, Dr Lingam and Dr Simin Irani(Bombay) represented CAMHADD.

It was decided at the meeting that **CAMHADD** should concentrate on prevention of brain damage due to birth asphyxia(lack of oxygen either before or immediately after birth) to prevent mental, neurological and sensory handicaps through training workshops for trainers of birth attendants including Traditional Birth Attendants (TBAs)

CAMHADD entered into an agreement with WHO for a joint programme for a period of two years in 1987 for prevention of mental handicap in developing countries.

CAMHADD was granted Official Status with WHO in 1990 for collaboration In (i) Maternal and Child Health (MCH), and (ii) Mental Health. CAMHADD has to develop programme for prevention of birth asphyxia with technical support from WHO as an integral component of Safe

Motherhood and Child survival. At primary health care (PHC). Also CAMHADD has to arrange training workshops for trainers of birth attendants in each region.

CAMHADD as a Pan Commonwealth nongovernmental organisation (NGO) which has been in Official Relations with WHO since 1990. CAMHADD is a long-standing partner of WHO for collaboration in a number of health technical fields. These include in particular mental health, disability prevention, maternal and newborn health, reproductive health, prevention of injuries, prevention of childhood blindness, Unity in Health to Achieve Social Accountability, Cardiovascular Diseases, Non-Communicable Disease Prevention, Health Promotion, and Oral Health and occupational health. WHO has co-sponsored sixteen (16) CAMHADD Workshops.

CAMHADD represents at World Health Assembly since 1987 and attends WHO Technical review meetings for collaborative programmes.

Development of a Programme for Prevention of birth asphyxia with WHO Technical Collaboration

First meeting of the CAMHADD/WHO Group for Development of a programme on prevention and management of birth asphyxia was held on 4th October 1988 in the office of the Prof.Thiaru-Medical Adviser to the Commonwealth Secretariat on Health Programmes. This meeting was attended by: Miss Margaret Brayton-Commonwealth Nurses Federation. Mr Inoke Faletau-Director Commonwealth Foundation, Sir John Wilson-Senior Consultant IMPACT, Dr P.M.Shah-WHO/HQ/Geneva, Dr Ragnar Tunell-Neonatologist Sweden, Dr A.D.Milner-Neonatologist UK and Dr V.R.Pandurangi-CAMHADD. It was agreed that Commonwealth Secretariat, Commonwealth Foundation, IMPACT Foundation and WHO to support the programme on development and implementation in prevention and management of birth asphyxia in primary health care. Later Dr Mark Belsey(WHO/HQ/Geneva), Dr P.M.Shah(WHO/HQ/Geneva) and Dr Vijayakumar- Professor of Community Medicine met at Geneva to evolve the strategy for prevention and management of birth asphyxia in Primary Health Care. A simple technology was developed by WHO involving Dr Ragnar Tunell, Dr A.D.Milnar and Dr Vijayakumar. Finally WHO published the document "Basic Newborn Resuscitation – A Practical Guide" And a Breakthrough in the development of appropriate simple technology for resuscitation of the asphyxiated newborn at home and in maternity facilities by birth attendants with technical support from WHO is one of the significant global contribution of CAMHADD.

The following experts contributed for development of Programme for prevention and management of birth asphyxia

Prof.Bwibo (Kenya), Prof/Thairu (Kenya), Prof Ransome-Kuti (Nigeria), Dr Herman de Groot (South Africa), Dr Ragnar Tunell(Sweden),Dr Andrew Shennon (Canada), Dr Vidyasagar (USA), Dr A.D.Milner (UK), Dr David Harvey (UK), Prof.A.D.Rolf (UK), Dr Sheila Duncan (UK) Dr Peter Lamburg (Germany), Dr Bury (Australia), Prof.Akbar (Bangladesh), Dr Vijay Kumar (India), Dr Neena Raina (India) Dr Simin Irani (India) and Dr Ajit Mehta (India) contributed to develop this programme

CAMHADD represents at World Health Assembly since 1987 and attends WHO Technical review meetings for collaborative programmes.

Prolead II: A Health Governance Initiative

Built on a leadership development model that started in 2003 in the Western Pacific Region as a collaborative effort between the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization Tropical Medicine Network (SEAMEO TROPED Network), the School of Public Health of La Trobe University, Australia and the Field Epidemiology Training Program Alumni Foundation Inc., with the support of the Japan Voluntary Fund.

A team of 3 members recommended from the Bangalore Healthy City initiative of CAMHADD, were selected to represent the WHO SEARO region.

Publications

CAMHADD has published proceedings of Bombay Workshop(1985), Lusaka Workshop(1987) CAMHADD/UNICEF(Bombay)Training Manuals for medical social workers on genetic counselling (1988), Maldives Workshop(1990),New Delhi Workshop(1990), CAMHADD-Its priority programme for prevention of brain damage due to birth asphyxia(1999),Bangalore Healthy City Initiative, Report of Bangalore workshop on workers health(2007) and CAMHADD Newsletters(26)

CTPHCF: CAMHADD has established “CAMHADD Tri-Sector Preventive Health Care Foundation (CTPHCF) as suggested by Mr Colin Ball – Former Director of the Commonwealth Foundation for sustainable infrastructure and financing for promoting preventive and promotive health care for low and middle income group in urban settings Dr K.S.Nagesh-Principal, R.V.Dental College as its Chairperson and Dr Hari Kiran –Associate Professor R.V.Dental College as its Hon. Secretary.

CFHCI

Citizens Forum for Healthy City Initiative has been established for Advocacy and Awareness with Dr A. Ravindra, IAS-Former Chief Secretary, and Government of Karnataka Bangalore as its Chairperson

Retirement of Dr V.R.Pandurangi

In the course of time every one reaches the point where it is right thing to retire. I have now reached the point where I can not contribute effectively due to my age and age related health factors. I am proud of my achievements(but there are some disappointments also) for the last 25 years with support of United Health Related Organisations, Commonwealth Foundation, Commonwealth Secretariat, experts, grass root workers and others interested in prevention of mental handicap in developing countries. I decided to retire from 5th January 2008 coinciding with my 78th birth day.

I was involved with CAMHADD from 1981 and had travelled more than 37 countries with the support of CF and gained vast experience. I found access to the basic health care is lacking in most of the developing countries. There is a need for Para medical personnel and training and retraining of health personnel at primary health care. There is also lack of supervision and monitoring.

My main focus for the last 25 years was transferring technology from experts to grassroot.and I am proud that I have achieved to the some extent.

This was all possible because of continuous support from the Commonwealth Foundation and Commonwealth Secretariat through Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation various Technical Divisions of WHO and Technical experts who attended CAMHADD workshops. I am grateful to the Commonwealth Foundation, Commonwealth Secretariat, WHO and each and every participant.

I was fortunate to have met as many as 6 Directors, Deputy Directors and 2/3 Programme Officers of the Commonwealth Foundation and Three Secretary General of the Commonwealth Secretariat, Dr Mohan Kaul –Former Director of the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation, Prof.K.Thairu-Health Division-one of the architects of CAMHADD programme on prevention of brain damage due to birth asphyxia and Terry Dormer NGO Desk Officer, Commonwealth Secretariat, Mr Jasimuddin and William Rezel of the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation(CFTC)and Peggy Vidot -Programme Managers of the Commonwealth Secretariat . The staff members of the Commonwealth Foundation and Commonwealth Secretariat were also very co-operative and supportive..

I would like to spend some time in developing sustainability and continuity of preventive and promotive health care for low and middle income group of community in Bangalore Healthy City Initiative and to create global awareness on preventive and promotive health care in urban settings. I will also try to establish Commonwealth Institute of Preventive Medicine and Healthy Life Style Approach subject to the time and resource. .

Restructuring of CAMHADD for Future Role

A team of experts consisting of Dr Rajaram (India' USA), Dr Sirajul Islam (Bangladesh) and Dr Uday Bodhankar have come forward to restructure the CAMHADD. The team is arranging a workshop "CAMHADD-Vision 2020" at Pondicherry (India) on 15-16 August 2008. We are honoured by the presence of Dr Mark Collins-Director of the Commonwealth Foundation London.

Team also consider two programmes for future:

1. Perinatal health including newborn care
2. Citizens and Governance Programme : Tri-Sector Dialogues for Preventive and Promotive Health Care for low and middle income group of the community in urban settings

Working with WHO

I am dealing with WHO since 1985 till today. My experience is that It is time consuming and very expensive. Technical Officers will be more helpful and co-operative.one has to follow it with continuous telephone conversation, Email correspondence and on various occasions with meetings at Geneva. The involvement is very expensive unless one finds travel funds or sponsors. The Team should develop special skills for renewing official relations which is a lengthy process. Also consider who should be responsible. Whatever success is achieved it is entirely personal contact and vigorous follow up.

The team also should consider that there is a need for para medical personnel and training and retraining of health personnel at primary health care. There is also lack of supervision and monitoring. These factors also to be considered while restructuring.

I am sure and certain that under the leadership Dr Rajaram, Dr Sirajul Islam, Dr Uday Bodhankar and his team CAMHADD will develop new strategies for its future activities. I am always available if they want my guidance and advice.

Conclusion

- It is extremely important in developing countries where prevention and treatment at its earliest stages of development are now an alternative to the provision of long term care and rehabilitation
- CAMHADD-as an NGOs can play a vital role in Advocacy and raising awareness through dissemination of information to policy and decision makers and to promote political will and commitment
- CAMHADD also will bring together government ministries, community care providers, health trainers and practioners, civil societies (particularly women's organisations) as well as key staff in United Nations Agencies, such as the World Health Organization, and Commonwealth and Non-Commonwealth NGOs working closer to the grassroots in countries and communities in its programmes for the New Millennium. .
- CAMHADD will continue to play its role in the area of training and retraining trainers of birth attendants and community health care workers as a part of Continuing Medical Education (CME)/Continuing Professional Development (CPD) for prevention of brain damage due to birth asphyxia through perinatal care.
- CAMHADD programme activities reflect the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) communique at * Kuala Lumpur in 1989 and in * Harare in 1991 on "Child Survival and Development." * Edinburgh in 1997 on "Women Health, Child Survival and Human Resource Development for Health" * Durban in 1999 on "Para 55-HIV/AIDs" And also reflect the recommendations made by the Commonwealth Health Ministers at their 11th Commonwealth Health Ministers Meeting
- CAMHADD will promote WHO's and Commonwealth Foundation's concept of Unity for Health and Civil Society to Achieve Social Accountability in preventing brain damage and disabilities due to hypertension and diabetes including during pregnancy for the billions of poorest of the poor who have no access to basic health care in developing countries.
- Effective Preventive measures could substantially reduce the health costs and human suffering associated with high incidence of disabilities in developing world. Preventive measures also will decrease the incidence of disabilities for the future generation.

Annexure 1

Thanks

From: Collins, Mark (m.collins@commonwealth.int)

Sent: 03 September 2008 15:26:56

To: rvd@VSNL.com; tsnaidu_52@yahoo.com; Pandurangi, Vasu (camhadd@hotmail.com); Rajaram Pagadala (pagadalarajaram@hotmail.com); ubodhankar@hotmail.com; dr_paramesh1@yahoo.com

Cc: Rajapakse, Anisha (a.rajapakse@commonwealth.int)

Dear CAMHADD Colleagues and Supporters

Please do excuse this general email to you all, but I wanted to thank you very much indeed for your extraordinary kindness during the recent visit that Melanie and I made to Pondicherry and Bangalore. We both had a thrilling time and very much enjoyed the combination of working with the CAMHADD team interspersed with visiting some wonderful places and personalities. It is clear to me that many people contributed to this success, including Drs Pandurangi, Bodhankhar, Paramesh, Nagesh, Harikiran, Sirajul Islam, Professors Naidu, Pagadala, Gunasekaran and others, and not forgetting Subramanian in Pondicherry, whose email address I do not have. Knowing how busy you all are with your professional lives, it is even more astonishing that you were able to give up so much time and energy for the CAMHADD meetings and our many social occasions. My thanks go to you all.

What is clear is that the foundations laid by Dr Pandurangi and others over the past couple of decades have created a very worthy organization with some excellent projects and activities being undertaken. The 2020 vision meeting has helped to define the way forward for the future, and I will follow up with the Executive team at CAMHADD regarding later visits this year to India, and see what we can do to help revise the CAMHADD constitution and re-establish the Executive Committee.

Our Human Development Programme Manager Anisha Rajapakse will be in touch shortly with Harikiran, Uday and Rajaram to work out the nuts and bolts for the proposed Asia Regional Workshop on Disability, to take place in Bangalore. I can confirm that the Foundation and Leonard Cheshire Disability are going ahead with this, and the dates are 6-8 December 2008. CAMHADD will be offered the opportunity to participate, together with colleagues from other medical Commonwealth bodies. If you are able to take up this opportunity, then perhaps the CAMHADD executive, or part of it, can meet and do some work in the sidelines. As mentioned, I hope to be able to join you myself.

With best wishes

Mark

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Annexure 2

CAMHADD: 25 Years

From: Gulamabbas, Hamida (H.Gulamabbas@commonwealth.int)
Sent: 27 March 2008 10:53:23
To: Vasu Pandurangi (camhadd@hotmail.com)

DIRECT LINE:

Tel: +44 (0)20-7747-6290
Fax: +44(0)20-7747-6287
Eml: e.massiah@commonwealth.int

25 March 2008

Dr V R Pandurangi
Founder, Emeritus Secretary General
and International Co-ordinator
Commonwealth Association for Mental Handicap
and Development Disabilities (CAMHADD)
36-A Osberton Place
Sheffield S11 8XL

Dear Dr Pandurangi

Commonwealth Association for Mental Handicap and Development Disabilities
(CAMHADD): 25 years

Dr Henry Kaluba, Acting Director, Social Transformation Programmes Division has passed me your letter of 23 February 2008 addressed to Ms Ann Keeling who left the employment of the Secretariat at the end of January this year.

I would like to personally thank you for your contribution to the development of CAMHADD over the past 25 years as Founder, Emeritus Secretary-General and International Co-ordinator.

Throughout your tenure, you have been a most committed Commonwealth supporter and I hope that the Commonwealth will continue to benefit from your knowledge and expertise.

With all good wishes on your retirement.

Yours sincerely

Ernest Massiah
Head of Health
Social Transformation Programmes Division

Hamida Gulamabbas
Programme Assistant
Social Transformation Programmes Division

Commonwealth Secretariat
Marlborough House
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London SW1Y 5HX.
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Tel: +44 (0) 20 7747 6286
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Web: www.thecommonwealth.org

Annexure 3

RE: Future Role of CAMHADD

From: Rajaram Pagadala (pagadalarajaram@hotmail.com)

Sent: 07 November 2007 01:54:09

To: Pruthvish Sreekantaiah (psreekantaiah@yahoo.com); Vasu Pandurangi (camhadd@hotmail.com); Ganesh Supramaniam (supramaniam@lineone.net); Islam Sirajul (siraj@bol-online.com); Immie B (immie_sardharwalla@yahoo.co.uk); bodhankr_ngp@sancharnet.in; ctphef (ctphef@rediffmail.com); Dr Neena Raina (rainan@whosea.org); Dr. Cherian - WRO India Varghese (varghesec@searo.who.int); dr_sanghavi@hotmail.com; Harikiran Dr (docharikiran@yahoo.com); jpreddy (jpreddy@vsnl.net); Michel Tetrault Dr. (michel_tetrault@hotmail.com); R. Pararajasegaram (parar@who.int); raghu nath (raghunath987@rediffmail.com); roberta.ritson@hotmail.com; Sambhu Banik (sbanik7539@comcast.net); srinivas velu (drseena4333@yahoo.com); Vishnu Kanhere (vkanhere@vsnl.com); prakash sanghavi (dr_sanghavi53@rediffmail.com); Mr. A.K - WRO India Sengupta (senguptaak@searo.who.int); de groote (adegroot@netactive.co.za); C,Prof Molteno (molteno@curie.uct.ac.za); Rhishikesh Thakre (rhishikeshthakre@hotmail.com); Ravishankar kowshik venkatasubbiah (ukeh@rediffmail.com)

Dear Pondurangi,

Dada, you must stay back and continue to hold the torch that you have lit 25 years ago. History will remember you.

Every letter and its color represents the sacrifices you have done.

But we need your continuous support to carry out the objectives and implement effectively.

We were there, we are there and we will be with you. May God give you strength and stamina and allow us to support you .

Pagadala Rajaram, MD DSS (Vienna), PhD

Mailing Address:

1052 Ashford Chase Ct,

Macon: GA 31210, USA

Tele: (478) 471 1872 (Home)

(781) 215 1509 (Cell)

Annexure 4

From: hadegroot@netactive.co.za
To: camhadd@hotmail.com
CC: molteno.chris@gmail.com; supramaniam@lineone.net
Subject: 25 Years!
Date: Thu, 15 Nov 2007 11:48:28 +0200

Dear Vasu

As one of the older members of CAMHADD, I would like to join the many others, who have done so, in saluting you on a most remarkable 25 years' effort!

What you have achieved, at times virtually single-handedly, is nothing short of miraculous! It is obviously your prerogative, to finally call it a day – a decision, which we will respect, with great sadness.

Hopefully, you will still remain as CAMHADD's patron.

The big problem, as everybody (including yourself) has emphasised, is the financial aspect. If that can be sorted out, CAMHADD will have a great future!

Go well, my friend and have a happy "retirement"!

With kindest regards

Herman

T: 021-6899015
F: 021-6899015
C: 083-2648432

Acknowledgements

I would like to express my sincere thanks and gratitude on behalf of CAMHADD to:

- Prof.Peter Mittler(ILSMH), Dr David Primrose(ISSMD), Prof.David Harvey, Ms Margaret Brayton and Dr R.M.Varma and Dr Herman de Groot(South Africa) And also late Dr Alan Roeher(Canada), late Dr Robert Guthrie(USA),late Kenneth Thompson(UK), late Sir George Wilson(UK) late Dr Hugh Jolly-Consultant paediatrician, Charring Cross Hospital London,late Dr Gwylim Hosking, late Professor Ransome-Kuti(Nigeria, vey(UK),Late Professor Tofayel Ahmed(Bangladesh) during proposal stage and early development of CAMHADD
- The Commonwealth Foundation, Commonwealth Secretariat, WHO Technical and External Relations Divisions, Commonwealth Health Ministers, National Ministries, National and International Institutes for their support to CAMHADD programme activities and to all Tri-sector and Global Partners for their support and co-operation
- CAMHADD Office Bearers past and present and all individuals who extended their support and co-operation
- Dr Rajaram, Dr Sambu Banik, Dr Sirajul Islam and Dr Uday Bodhankar for restructuring CAMHADD future role.

CAMHADD would like to express its sincere thanks and gratitude to the following agencies/organisations for their support/sponsorship without which it would not have been possible to develop the programme for prevention of birth asphyxia in developing countries and also in developing preventive and promotive health care for low and middle income group of population in urban settings as an integral component of Bangalore Healthy City Initiative.

- Commonwealth Regional Health Community Secretariat (CRHCS) for East, Central and Southern Africa Arusha – (Tanzania)
- British Council
- World Health Organisation (WHO) Geneva
- WHO Regional Offices in *Africa *PAHO-WHO *SEARO
- The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) New York
- UNICEF Country Offices: *Ethiopia, *Gambia *Jamaica *Kenya *Lesotho *Maldives India, Zambia, Zimbabwe
- Rehabilitation International New York(USA)
- United Nations Women’s Guild Geneva
- IMPACT Foundation (UK)
- The US Department of Health and Human Services (Public Health) Washington, DC
- The Joseph P.Kennedy, Jr Foundation, Washington, DC
- Life University Marietta, GA-USA
- Canadian Public Health Association(CPHA) Ottawa, Canada
- Chiropractic Diplomatic Corp (CDC) Canada
- Australian International Development Assistance Bureau (AIDAB)

- Commonwealth Association of Professional Centres, Professional Centre of Australia, Darlinghurst, N.S.W.2010, Australia
- Mother and Child International Geneva
- NORAD
- SAREC – Swedish Agency for Research Co- operation with Developing Countries
- SIDA – Swedish International Development Authority
- Laerdal Medical Ltd UK
- Africare, Washington DC
- Sir Dorabji Tata Trust Bombay
- Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Science Bangalore
- Rastriya Sikshana Samiti Trust (RSST) Bangalore
- Bangalore Mahanagara Palike (BMP) Bangalore
- Kashyap and Sons Construction Company Bangalore

Commonwealth Health Ministries for supporting CAMHADD Workshops

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Asian Region: *Bangladesh *India *Maldives

Caribbean Region: *Jamaica

South Pacific Region: *Solomon Islands *Tonga

- Anonymous Donors

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