

# **Minutes of the APPL's Stake Holders Meeting on** **J.E. held on November 21, 2008**

**Venue: Hotel Shivoy,  
Gorakhpur**

(11:30 AM to 3:30 PM)

## **Mr.Narendra Nishra**

Introduction of APP and opening the dialogue about the session was made, first by the introduction of the participants.

Handed over, with thanks to the Chairman of A.P.P.L.Trust, **Dr. A.K.Srivastava**.

## **Dr. A.K.Srivastava:**

**Dr Srivastava** introduced APPL to the delegates by giving a bird eye view about the vision, goals and objective of APPL; its current activities, viz. mainly in the fields of primary education and primary health-care, Disability in Victims of JE etc; future plans/projects; the commitments about quality (APPL is in the process of getting ISO-9001 certification); transparency, and truthfulness for the cause; the APPL's strength and weaknesses etc.

APPL, besides its other normal activities, are also involved in helping the poor and the other marginalized community by different activities including Distribution Of woollens to children, Blankets among the poor and the needy in the winter season, Organizing Regular Health Camps and Classes Among the Children Of The construction Laborers in slums in Delhi, arranging Health Camps for the benefit of Rickshaw Pullers and the deprived class in the eastern Uttar Pradesh. And many more activities were enumerated.

He further indicated about APPL's current policies and willingness for future collaboration/cooperation with other like-minded organizations, on selective basis, with over all view to improve the lives of unprivileged.

**Dr.Srivastava** welcome the delegates invited to attend the stakeholders meeting on "Challenges, Opportunities & Developing new tools to fight Disability in children in Eastern U.P due to Poverty, Illiteracy, Malnutrition with special emphasis on **Japanese Encephalitis**"

He wanted to know and have assurance from the present stake- holders, as a goal, whether collectively we could be in a position to say with certainty that the people of Purvanchal shall get rid of this killer disease JE in near future of say 2/3 years?.

About the problem of disability due to Japanese Encephalitis, in the back-ground of Poverty, Illiteracy, Malnutrition in Eastern U.P.—he emphasized that APPL are a group of committed people involved in serious and genuine research work in the Purvanchal part of Uttar Pradesh and its aim is to bring the ground realities of the people's suffering due to the killer Japanese Encephalitis on the table and to help the victims to cope up with the problem. He solicited help and guidance of all stake holders in rooting-out the problem.

The present study of APPL is second in a row in the past three years and it has succeeded in bringing to light some of the hidden/interesting facts of the people suffering from J.E., related to their socio-economic conditions, family's mental and physical status, their level of awareness, what they think about the problem and about the reach and efficacy of the

Govt. and the Non-Govt. agencies. The study has involved a group of experts from different relevant fields and their experience and guidance helped us a lot to give our vision a shape.

**Handed over to Dr. Sanjay Srivastava, Trustee APPL, for the presentation of the current study conducted by A.P.P.L. for the situation analysis of the Japanese Encephalitis victims**

**Dr. Sanjay Srivastava:** emphasised that A.P.P.L. Trust has been engaged in genuine research work to bring out the ground level facts of the J.E. victims. This study is an extension of APPL's past study and shall give a current view of the situation of the J.E. victims. The study has been conducted in two Commissionariates (Basti and Gorakhpur) of eastern Uttar Pradesh and cases were selected randomly.

Dr. Sanjay gave an overview of the effects of higher level of pollutants in drinking water due to excess use of chemical fertilizers, changed food habits and Nutrition values of various cereals consumed currently and in past (about 3 decades- since the JE disease is prevalent in eastern U.P.).

APPL have randomly selected 21 cases from the list of victims provided by the government authorities and found that:

- I.** The most vulnerable age group is of 6-10 years.
- II.** The vaccination status is very poor. Only 24% of the affected were found actually vaccinated. A majority did not even know about the Vaccination Drive of the government.
- III.** Fogging to control vectors has not been done properly. 57% of the villages visited had no fogging done. These villages were those from where the cases were reported.
- IV.** The lack of access to health-care due to distance of the government-health-services is also a problem. In absence of it, people preferred to go to the local *Jhola Chaap Doctors* and it aggravated the problem even more. We again recommend upgrading the skill of *Jhola Chaaps*, with knowledge and special kits( till accessible and effective health care is ensured ) Also to enthuse responsibility recognize them as *Swasthya Mitras* on the lines of *Siksha Mitras*.
- V.** We found that 33% of the victims were living near the stagnant water body and 84% of the people were drinking first strata water.
- VI.** The other serious issue was the level of awareness-status which was found very poor. Only 5% of the people were aware about the J.E. Awareness can be the biggest tool in the fight against J.E. and this can be looked upon.
- VII.** We also found that people in majority cases are using Mosquito Nets and Coils. They have given up the old practices of using oil and smoke of neem leaves as repellent. The revival of the old practices can also help to some extent.
- VIII.** In view of the significant number of reported cases of JE from the area of vaccination, we again lay stress on the effectiveness of process of vaccination. It could have been done from the periphery to the center for better results. The outcome after the vaccination shows that there is a need of reviewing the whole process.
- IX.** The other relevant point is the compensation-package given to the J.E. Victims. It should be reviewed and re-started, if currently stopped.
- X.** Vaccination of the Pigs and other Domestic Animals should also be done simultaneously for effective results.

Subsequently the house was thrown open for the discussions...

**Dr.Dinesh Singh(UNICEF):** Firstly,Dr Singh congratulated A.P.P.L. and its team for conducting such a complex and important study and bringing up some important facts to notice. He was of the view that it will surely give a new way to proceed. The most interesting thing which came out is that majority of people are consuming first strata water for drinking. Though the Govt. data shows that each and every village has sufficient number of India Mark Pumps. The problem seems to be primarily due to condition of these pumps and their reach to unprivileged section of the society. The population wise hand-pump numbers seem to be OK but they may not be distributed correctly and hence concentrated in some specific locations like at the door of influential. This aspect needs to be viewed and pumps mapping should be done. Drinking water should be a priority and some alternate methods like Chlorination and Bleaching should be also looked upon.

Dr Singh wanted to bring to the front his point of not to talk about the empowerment and appraisal of the Jhola Chaaps. This will make the situation worse. He emphasized to talk about the existing system and empowering it. As per him ASHA in the villages is the biggest ray of hope.

**In reply Dr. Sanjay Srivastava referred to about APPL's** previous studies when it was found that more than 90% of the villagers had trust in the Jhola Chaap Doctors and this could not be denied. He emphasized that they are talking of empowering them just for the sake of timely referral which could help in decreasing the Mortality Rate. It is also a fact that we cannot prevent the people from going to the Jhola Chaap Doctors as they are a part of their village and they have faith in them.

**Dr. D.K.Srivastava (Head of Dept. of SPM,B.R.D.Medical College,Gorakhpur):**

First he thanked A.P.P.L. and its team for conducting such a comprehensive study on such a complex problem. The other important thing which he emphasized was to make collective and concerted efforts for better results and advised all to go for the collaboration of the Civil Society, Institutions, NGO's and other Like Functioning Organizations and bring them under one platform.

The other most important thing which came up was that J.E., in majority of cases is a problem of the underprivileged class and the things are not changing at the ground level. The cause of it is still not known. We should collectively make a strategy for what should be done to empower the people at the village level . He sought help from the media and asked to bring the facts and the technical aspects of the problem to the people and not only the dates/numbers of deaths and blaming the authorities.

Also he wanted better awareness among people and need of changing their Habits (e.g. improving hygiene viz the well proved things like washing hands) which will definitely have a positive impact. As per him the biggest ray of hope is in form of ASHA in the villages. He emphasised about empowering this segment.

**Mr. Utkarsh sinha (Dir. CCSR, Lucknow): while** Thanking to all the speakers for their views. Mr.Sinha was of the opinion that now we have reached to the point from where it is easy to proceed. He supported Dr. Srivastava's and Dr. Singh's views and emphasized about the need for a collective effort and as per him it was the biggest achievement of today's dialogue. He said people from almost all the institutions are here and now we should talk about sharing our efforts and to make an alliance for the fight against J.E.

**Dr. D.K.Srivastava:** Supported to what Mr. Utkarsh said and he offered his willingness for any help, any time at the Department of SPM,BRD Medical college, Gorakhpur. He felt that the proposal should be discussed and should be finalized today as most of the people and organizations concerned have their representatives here. One more thing he added is that we should focus on all the vulnerable diseases with special focus on J.E.

**Dr. M.M.Gore (N.I.V., Gorakhpur):** While thanking to A.P.P.L. and its team for their sincere efforts and organizing such a fruitful discussion on such a sensitive issue he expressed his agreement to Dr.D.K. Srivastava and Mr. Utkarsh's views. He further agreed to Dr. Srivastava that we should focus on child health as a whole with special focus on J.E., in line with today's agenda. He also extend his full support to the alliance and would also like to have the data from A.P.P.L. so that they can also use it. APPL agreed to provide the same

**Mr. S.P.Singh (PGVS Programme Officer):** He felt that this discussion has opened new ways. This study has touched some of the new segments as drinking water, awareness and age group. He congratulated A.P.P.L. for its efforts. He agree to the point that we should have our focus on child health as a whole. He informed that PGVS have also done much work on this issue and have published their report on malnutrition and they could share it on this platform. He welcome the proposal of an alliance and offered to extend his support

**Dr. Alok Sinha (Sahara Welfare Foundation):** As per him the formation of an alliance is a welcome step and now we should proceed further. As a representative of SWF, he strongly believed that post exposure measures must go on within proper time. As far as the SWF is concerned ,he offered to extend full support for the mental and physical rehabilitation aspects of the victims.

**Mr Vivek Jaiswal (Dist. Coordinator Education for all):** Firstly he thanked A.P.P.L. and its team for its efforts. Secondly he liked to share that the Government of India is serious about the schooling of the handicapped children and is providing resources like wheel-chairs, etc. for the same. While underlining the importance of their experiences to the concerted efforts to be made he welcome the proposal of an alliance and like to be a part of it.

**Mr. Utkarsh Sinha (Dir. CCSR, Lucknow):** Mr.Sinha was very enthusiastic about the outcome of the discussions today. As per him the most important outcome of today's meeting is the formation of an alliance to fight against J.E. and now it is the time to decide as to how the things will move ahead. He propose the name of A.P.P.L. to lead the alliance and requested the present honorable members to consider and suggest further. He emphasized the need to create a mechanism for regular communication and information sharing,in form of a news letter or something like that. He reiterated the need of collective serious effort to save the lives of Children of this area.

### **Way Forward**

**All the members agreed that A.P.P.L. should lead the alliance and will coordinate with all the stake holders for further action and proceedings. It was also agreed upon that the members will have a meeting every three months and will discuss and share their experiences and efforts. The collective program would be formulated in the next meeting to be held soon. It was also decided that each member will be sent the minutes of the meeting and should have the Addresses, e-mail ID's and Numbers of all the members.**

Point of departure are as follows;

1. Establishment of Coalition for child safety in Eastern U.P
2. Meetings on Quarterly basis
3. Information Channel in form of News letter focused on child health
4. Small studies and monitoring with coalition partners

**Vote of thanks given by Dr. A.K. Srivastava of APPL**

## *LIST OF PARTICIPANTS WHO ATTENDED THE MEETING*

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