

RF/DM-2/BAG-6/SUDHA

DATE: 08.11.1993

Dear Friends,

My Greetings. Exactly a week ago we reached this place at around 7.00 P.M. And the hospitality we received was extremely courteous.

One of us, Dr. Anju of St. Martha's was sent immediately to Sarani, where CHAI has set up another camp. Br. Varghese is the Coordinator. I was put up in "mobile medical team - C" along with Dr. Shirley and Ms. Anita and Ms. Lavina, nurses. Mr. Nagaraj of HAL and Br. Hermil also worked with us for a couple of days.

Since I could make out a lot of Marathi and knew Hindi, I became an interpreter to the doctor and the patients. I worked with Dr. Jose of St. John's also; talking and writing a little bit - noting down the names, age etc of the patients.

Our team has taken a transition from OPD to caring and concerning outlook. The presence of Dr. Aravind is of much help. Currently, it is only our group which is completely involved in this type of work.

A comprehensive survey of underfive, not only including immunisation status, but also height, weight and vit. deficiency in a village with nearly 500 houses has been taken up.

We are trying to understand what people say and especially their tales of woe, with whatever Hindi and Marathi we know. Though not many deaths have taken place, houses and property have been lost. Since atleast two other agencies have already done surveys on DDT coverage, relief coverage etc., we are facing some difficulties. In the village of Sankral, a small girl aged 11 or 12 years scolded us as to how many times she has to answer the same questions. Dr. Arvind is planning to collaborate with the Government, as to the question of immunisation. Psychosomatic cases are abundant and work for them has been initiated.

I am writing this in a hurry. More when I return back.

Thanking you,
Yours sincerely,
Soumyakumar.

Typed version of Mr. Soumya Kumar's letter from Nandurga to his team mates at CHC, Bangalore.