

**REPORT OF THE EARTHQUAKE RELIEF WORK BEING CARRIED ON AT NANDURGA OF  
LATUR DISTRICT BY SANGHI GROUP OF INDUSTRIES - CHAI HYDERABAD.**

By S.J. CHANDRER  
12 NOV '93.

**BACKGROUND**

Sanghi group of industries and the Catholic Hospital Association of India (CHAI) have jointly set up the relief camp at Nandurga, which is in AUSA Taluk of Latur District. From Sholapur it is 160 Kms. From Killari which is on the Latur-Omerga highway, it is 16 Kms. Sanghi group of industries had reached Nandurga on the 3rd of October and started the rescue and relief work. CHAI team had joined Sanghi on the 10th of October and started the medical work. The medical work through the clinic at the base camp went on till 21st October. As the medical work was going on some seminarians from Poona had just started the assessment of needs in nearby villages as part of the CHAI- Sanghi relief work. It was during this stage a ten-member team from Bangalore with medical and social work background joined.

**REORGANISATION**

**Work Stage-I**

In order to make use of the human resource available effectively, Bro. Verghese of CHAI reorganized the relief work in consultation with the Bangalore team. The survey team consisted of Poona Brothers, had already explored the possibilities of decentralising services. Reorganization took place on the 22nd of October with two mobile medical teams, a team at the base camp and a health education and sanitation team. The health education and sanitation team took the immediate measures in improving the sanitary conditions in and around the camp. Spreading of gravel was done immediately for the flooring of the temporary shelters where the affected people are living since the flooring was slushy due to continuous rains after the earthquake. Construction work of two latrines and bathrooms for the volunteers was started.

The medical teams including the mobile teams had nearly 300 patients per day. The common health problems were more of aches and pains related to the disaster (post-disaster syndrome). It was reported by all the medical teams that there was an outbreak of diarrhoea and scabies.

**Work Stage-II**

The need for the shift from curative to preventive and medical to health was emphasized by few of the volunteers and further reorganization had to take place. It was decided to set up a sub-centre at Sarani village which is 6 Kms away from Nandurga. Survey team had already finished the ground work in building up the rapport with the people of Sarani made it easy to set up the sub-centre and to cover the nearby villages.

During this stage, doctors in the mobile teams were identifying the psycho-somatic illnesses and giving special attention. The shift from medical to health took place at Sarani first. Health talks were given during the house visit. No formal clinics were run, any medical assistance needed were taken care during the house visits and given a prescription to collect the medicines from the centre. The focus on mother and child care was initiated.

Planning of health education through street plays, posters and flash cards began at Nandurga. Due to language problem immediate implementation of health education cum entertainment programme could not take place. Street plays on Diarrhoea, Malaria, Measles and Scabies were written up. Flash card on Mother and Child Care was developed. Food material like rice, wheat flour, dhal, oil, potato, Masala powder were distributed in four villages. Mobile clinics were reduced to alternate days or once in three days during this stage.

### Work Stage-III

The shift from health to primary health care approach had taken place during this stage. The name of the programme is known as **WEDDIMN** - Water, education including health education, drugs (essential drugs) diseases, immunization, mother and child care and nutrition. The aim of this programme is to provide primary health care with the integration Government health programme and can be continued by the continued after CHAI-Sanghi winds up the relief work.

Necessary measures have been taken up to intergrate with the government primary health centre. Immunization programme was already done in two villages alongwith the government primary health care team. District Medical Officer of Latur was very happy and assured of his support all the ways possible. Health education cum entertainment programme took a good start at Nandurga Tanda. The street play on Diarrhoea, Malaria and Hygiene was translated into Marathi, by a local chap, who is a college student at Latur. And the play was performed by a group of NSS students in four camps. Health Education and entertainment programmes will be conducted in all the nine villages covered by the Sanghi CHAI group.

### SUGGESTIONS

- 1) Marathi speaking volunteers would be great help in terms of counselling (ventilation of their grief ) would be great mental relief.
- 2) Community Organisation with special attention in creating awareness in making all the rehabilitation programme community oriented, with peoples active participation particularly in the construction of houses.

A senior psychiatrist would be very helpful in assisting the Marathi speaking volunteers involved in counselling, with or without psychiatry background.

- 4) Creation of employment opportunities of the low caste, landless people.
- 5) While applying pesticides and insecticides in the vineyards, labourers belonging to low caste can be helped in preventing blisters on the hands, by providing necessary precautions, like using hand gloves etc.

\* \* \* \* \*