

Strategic Interventions

Capacity building and information management are two important focus areas of strategic interventions that help in building partnerships and developing field capacities to raise accountability issues.

Capacity Building - It is a key strategy in the process of empowerment of people and building evidence base, both crucial for policy change. We conduct trainings on advocacy and leadership and also offer internships that enable evidence building.

Information Management - Systematic organisation and dissemination of knowledge and information are essential for building and sharing knowledge, raising consciousness, creating consensus, receiving feedback and pushing for change. This is accomplished through web enabled services such as CHSJ Website, Reprohealth_India - an interactive listserv, and a weekly health news update. Along with this, we also prepare study reports and resource materials.

Organisational Structure

We have the following institutional mechanisms for improving organisational efficacy and accountability.

- ◆ **Governing Board** - The governing board provides active support and technical inputs during planning and review of all CHSJ's activities.
- ◆ **Advisory Groups** - Independent advisory groups exist for projects especially for research based activities.
- ◆ **Core Group** - It has been appointed to deal with functional matters and maintain quality.
- ◆ **Team** - The CHSJ team comprises full time professionally trained staff, consultants and research interns.

Partnerships and Collaborations

The work of CHSJ has been enriched by partnerships that have been developed with a wide range of organisations, networks and coalitions at the state, national and international level.

- ◆ **International** - ARROW, Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, Population Leadership Programme, University of Edinburgh, University of Washington
- ◆ **National** - AIDAN, CENTAD, Chetna, CommonHealth, FPAI, ICRW, IPPF, MASVAW, NIHFW, PFI, PRAYAS (Rajasthan), SAHAYOG, SUTRA
- ◆ **Networks** - FEM, Gujarat Dai Sangathan, Healthwatch Forum, Human Rights Law Network, Janadhikar Manch, Jan Swasthya Abhiyan, MenEngage South Asia and "Partners for Prevention", National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights, Wada Na Todo Abhiyan

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Governing Board

- ◆ Abhijit Das - Director, CHSJ and Clinical Assistant Professor, School of Public Health and Community Medicine, University of Washington, Seattle (USA).
- ◆ Amar Jesani - Founding Trustee, Anusandhan Trust. Founder of the Forum for Medical Ethics Society.
- ◆ Rajani Ved - Public Health Specialist.
- ◆ Renu Khanna - Founder Member, SAHAJ, Baroda.
- ◆ Satish Kumar Singh - Deputy Director, CHSJ. Convenor, MASVAW.
- ◆ Subhash Mendhapurkar - Director, SUTRA.
- ◆ Usha Rai - Senior Journalist and Founder, Centre for Media Studies.

Head Office

Centre for Health and Social Justice
Flat 3C, H Block, First Floor, Saket, New Delhi - 110017
Phone - 91-11- 40517478, 26511425
Telefax: 91-11-26536041
Website - www.chsj.org; Email - chsj@chsj.org

Satellite Office

D-63, Saket, New Delhi - 110017
Phone - 91-11-46150604

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Centre for Health and Social Justice

Strengthening the Evidence Base for Advocacy on
Health Policy and Practice for Social Justice

Centre for Health and Social Justice (CHSJ) stands to further the fundamental right to health as promised by the Constitution, as well as international human rights treaties. Instituted by a group of researchers, development professionals, social activists, public health specialists, CHSJ has adopted a multi-pronged approach to strengthen the evidence base needed for advocacy on health and social justice issues through research and building leadership and operational capacities. CHSJ believes that constructive engagement with alliances of non-governmental and voluntary organizations and people's movements on the one hand and government and international organizations on the other is essential for empowerment, fulfillment of rights and for the functioning of a vibrant democratic polity.

Mission

To promote human development, gender equality, human rights and social justice with specific reference to the field of health, in its widest interpretation.

Objectives

CHSJ is involved in influencing the discourse and practice of public health by:

- ◆ Building evidence on the impact of existing policies and programmes on the core health concerns of the marginalised, especially women.
- ◆ Identifying emerging issues and priorities for delivering accessible, quality health care services for women and other marginalised people.
- ◆ Strengthening advocacy for changes in health related policies and practices.
- ◆ Developing leadership and operational capacities for improved design, delivery and monitoring of quality, accessible health care services.

CHSJ's activities are currently divided into four broad thematic areas and two strategic interventions.

Thematic Areas

Reproductive and Sexual Health and Rights

CHSJ is engaged in building evidence on the impact of policies and programmes on reproductive and sexual health and rights, exploring and strengthening alliances on these issues and supporting advocacy action to change policies; which impact adversely on marginalised sections. Key areas of work under this theme are-

Securing Maternal Health Rights - CHSJ is actively engaged in addressing maternal health issues using the rights framework. Evidence building on understanding the roles and limitations of institutional delivery, women's entitlements and practices of traditional birth

attendants and advocacy on strengthening their roles in policies is done with the help of alliances and partners.

Ensuring the Right to Safe Abortion - CHSJ contributes to the discourse of women's right to safe abortion and campaign against sex pre-selection by providing support in terms of research, training and advocacy to ongoing campaigns and coalitions.

Improving Quality of Care and Informed Choice in Family Planning Services - CHSJ is involved in addressing the issue of informed choice and violation of rights due to systemic barriers through research and advocacy.

Addressing Coercive Population Policies - CHSJ holds the secretariat of National Coalition Against Two Child Norm. This is a network of organisations working on PRI issues, women's health & rights, human and Dalit rights. It aims to advocate with the state governments of Bihar, Rajasthan, Orissa, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh to repeal the two child norm.

ICPD@15 - CHSJ hosts the secretariat for a civil society review process of the ICPD@15 in India. It aims to take stock of gains and gaps as well as emerging issues in the policy and programmes related to population, reproductive, sexual health and rights issues.

Health Rights and Marginalised Groups

In order to highlight how social inequities lead to marginalisation (and vice-versa) of certain sections of the society, impinging on their health rights-especially on their access to and quality of health care, CHSJ undertakes research and partner with existing networks of such groups to consolidate local level advocacy action and sensitize policymakers and donors. Key areas of work under this theme are:

Socially Vulnerable Groups and Public Health Programmes - Currently we focus on issues of access to and quality of health services availed by marginalised groups, under public health programmes pertaining to maternal health, family planning, tuberculosis, malaria and HIV/AIDS through research and advocacy.

NRHM Independent Review - CHSJ has been working with state and field level partners to build their capacity to undertake Social Auditing of NRHM. A long term programme on capacity building in Rapid Assessment of Health Programmes for civil society organizations has been initiated in collaboration with the University of Washington, Seattle (USA) and UNFPA (India).

Maternal Health and Social Exclusion Campaign - CHSJ is a key actor and part of Health Technical Advisory Group (TAG) of Wada Na Todo Abhiyan. Currently we provide technical support to a study on maternal health and social exclusion in six states.

Tracing Pharmaceuticals in South Asia - In collaboration with University of Edinburgh, CHSJ had undertaken research to trace the journey of oxytocin, rifampicin and fluoxetine from

production to consumption and to study the reasons for their use/misuse. This will be followed by advocacy action.

Men and Gender Equality

Challenging patriarchy and working towards gender equality is an integral part of CHSJ's mission. We believe that working towards gender equality must include working with men and boys to understand their privileges as well as the compulsions that they face within a patriarchal system. This understanding is essential to promote equality at all levels; i.e. individual, community and state through:

Research - A multi-country research in collaboration with SAHAYOG (India), International Center for Research on Women (ICRW) and PROMUNDO (Brazil), is in process to understand the current domain of state policy in the context of gender equality and inclusion of men.

Networking - CHSJ is the network secretariat for two emerging networks around men and gender equality- FEM (Forum to Engage Men), a national network and MenEngage South Asia and "Partners for Prevention" at South Asian level. We actively participate in the MenEngage global alliance process.

Capacity Building - CHSJ is involved in building capacity of institutions working with men and boys on issues of gender equality and addressing violence against women. The activities carried by us so far include providing technical support to research and educational projects as well as developing course curriculum.

Community Action

This theme emerged as a result of systematic efforts of community monitoring process that was carried out across nine states in India. We understand community action as periodic surveys and studies, community based monitoring of health services and community ownership within accountability framework. The key areas of work include-

Promoting Community Action Under NRHM - CHSJ strives to empower, strengthen and motivate people to claim their health rights. We believe that in order to bring changes at the policy level and to influence the programme and policy makers, communities should take ownership of the programmes meant for them and assess whether or not their health needs and rights are being met.

The community monitoring process involves a three way partnership among health system, health providers and civil society (CBOs, NGOs and PRIs).

Social Auditing of NRHM - CHSJ has been facilitating annual feedback on the NRHM with special emphasis on RCH -2 components through social audit process. We build capacities of civil society organisations to conduct social audit of health services.