Voluntary Health Association of India
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Voluntary Health Association of India (VHAI) is a non-profit, registered society formed in the year 1970. It is a federation of 27 State Voluntary Health Associations, linking together more than 4500 health and development institutions across the country. We are one of the largest health and development networks in the world.

VHAI advocates people-centered policies for dynamic health planning and programme management in India. We initiate and support innovative health and development programmes at the grassroots with the active participation of the people.

VHAI strives to build up a strong health movement in the country for a cost-effective, preventive, promotive and rehabilitative health care system. We work towards a responsive public health sector and responsible private sector with accountability and quality service.

VHAI promotes health issue of human right and development. The beneficiaries of VHAI’s programme include health professionals, researchers, social activists, government functionaries and media personnel.
Our Goal

- To ensure social justice, equity and Human Rights in the provision and distribution of health services to all, with emphasis on the less privileged millions.
- To promote and strengthen a medically rational, culturally acceptable and economically sustainable Health Care System in the country.
- To develop sustainable and innovative strategies to ensure health and overall community development in remote and vulnerable areas through various grassroots level initiatives.
- To provide relief and rehabilitation in areas affected by disasters and calamities and help the affected rebuild a better life for themselves.
Our Path

- Advocacy and lobbying with policy makers.
- Supporting voluntary efforts through formation and strengthening of similar developmental initiatives.
- Initiating sustainable Health and Development programmes at the grassroots.
- Developing communication strategies aimed at promoting campaigns and Health education.
- Dissemination of information to wide range of audience.
- Effective Networking with Government, UN and voluntary organizations.
- Responding to disasters and calamities.
Journey

Policy Intervention, Knowledge Development and Advocacy

Voluntary Health Association of India has successfully promoted the concept of broadening the horizons of health at national and international fora. VHAI finds representation in international agencies like WHO, World Bank, International Union for Health Promotion and Education, Asian Development Bank, York University, European Union, etc. The organization is having a significant presence on the Advisory Committees of several national and government bodies such as National AIDS Control Board, Task Force on Tobacco Control, National Disaster Management Authority, National Nutrition Mission and National Policy for Children. VHAI is also a member of Advisory Group on Community Action under the National Rural Health Mission and Common Review Mission of NRHM.
Policy Intervention, Knowledge Development and Advocacy (International Level)

Collaboration with WHO:

- To continue fruitful collaboration, WHO-SEARO and VHAI has signed a Memorandum of Understanding to ensure collaborative effort with South East Asia Region.

- South-East Asia Primary Health Care Innovations Network (SEAPIN), constituted by WHO-SEARO, which has been in operation since August 2010 will be moving the Secretariat of this Network to VHAI, New Delhi from August 2013. The Chief Executive, VHAI is the Convener of this initiative.

- As one of the major joint collaborative ef-
fort between VHAI and WHO, a Regional Consultation of NGOs and Civil Society were held at New Delhi on the theme ‘Post 2015 Health Development Agenda’.

- The Chief Executive, VHAI was invited by WHO for presenting a paper on the World Conference on Social Determinants of Health in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil by WHO, Geneva. A short documentary film “Promises to Keep”, directed by Chief Executive VHAI which was screened in the conference as a Curtain Raiser.

- WHO Regional Office for South-East Asia organized a Meeting of Experts on ‘Health in all Policies in South-East Asia’ at Bangkok. The Chief Executive, VHAI participated in this meeting and shared his experiences in order to develop a Regional Framework on Health in All Policies.

- Chief Executive, VHAI participated in the 8th Global Conference on Health Promotion (8GCHP),
Helsinki, Finland in June 2013, co-organized by the WHO and the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health of Finland (MSAH). Besides presenting a paper Chief Executive, VHAI directed a documentary film “Health in All Policies” which was screened in the conference as a Curtain Raiser.

Other Collaborations:

- Mr. Alok Mukhopadhyay, Chief Executive, VHAI continues to be a Member of the Expert Advisory Committee of the European Union supported project on “Research & Development for a new methodology to evaluate and monitor health related EU-funded interventions in cooperation partner countries (EVAL-Health)”. The Chief Executive also continues to be a Member of the Board of Trustees, International Union for Health Promotion and Education (IUHPE), Paris.

- VHAI in collaboration with York Institute for Health Research, York University, Canada, implemented a research project, entitled “Health and Empowerment through better sanitation: Promoting awareness at the grassroots level” in the State of Rajasthan.
Policy Intervention, Knowledge Development and Advocacy (National Level)

VHAI has an acceptable voice in the central and state governments and considers it of prime importance to conduct serious action research on various health and development concerns.

- **Independent Commission on Development and Health in India (ICDHI)** - VHAI facilitated the setting up of ICDHI in 1995, as a people’s initiative to assess the current health and development status and facilitate the process of need-based and people-centric sustainable development and health. The Commission consists of distinguished persons from the health and development sectors. Since 1998 then 25 well-researched monographs on various current health and development issues, by eminent social scientists have been published. During the year 2012-13, ICDHI deliberated on the following issues:
  - Restructuring of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare - to create a new Department of Public Health which will look into prevention, promotion and disease control aspects
- Understanding the Realities of the National Rural Health Mission;
- Review of the Report of the High Level Expert Group on Universal Health Care and have drawn out a series of action points to facilitate their early implementation.

**Significant Policy Research Works:**

- Report of Independent Commission of Development and Health in India
- National Profile on Women’s Health and Development
- State of India’s Health
- National Commission on Macroeconomics and Health
- Governance of the Health Sector in India - Has the State Abdicated its Role
- Review of the National Rural Health Mission
- Financing of Healthcare
- Mainstreaming AYUSH
- Update on Health and Development Status in India
• **Important Policy Interventions and Campaigns**
  o Revised National Health Policy
  o National Population Policy
  o National Rural Health Mission
  o Tobacco Legislation
  o Reproductive and Child Health
  o Rational Drugs and Rational Drug Policy
  o National Programme of Action on the Use Of Pesticides
  o Bangkok Charter for Health Promotion

• **National Disaster Management Authority, Govt. of India** - For achieving the mission of NDMA, an Advisory Committee has been constituted involving eminent personalities from different fields. Appreciating VHAI’s effective work in disaster management programmes/activities during Odisha Super Cyclone, Bhuj Earthquake, Tsunami and the Earthquake in Kashmir, the Chief Executive, VHAI has been nominated as one of the Member of the Advisory Committee, NDMA, Government of India.

• **Strengthening of National Rural Health Mission** - Since the launch of National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) in April 2005, VHAI has been providing continuous inputs in the functioning of the NRHM at various forums. VHAI has been specifically assigned the states of Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura; To visit and to assess selection, training, and support of ASHA and Provide guidance to the States on the constitution of the State Level Mentoring Group.
Capacity building and need-based programmes for SVHAs and other NGOs take place on regular basis. This has empowered NGOs and local organizations to take up issues at their level and address the needs of the people more comprehensively. VHAI’s experience based learning over the years has given it the credibility to build the capacity of NGOs and local grassroots organizations on relevant issues, with clarity and conviction. VHAI advocates a more proactive role of NGOs in the process of development which is reflected in its own capacity-building initiatives. Focus areas for capacity-building programmes are:

- Women’s Health and Development issues including sex
- Determination, female foeticide, gender sensitization, unsafe abortions, etc.
- Reproductive Child Health (RCH)
- Development Communications
- Community Health and Development
- Communicable and Vector-borne Disease Control (Malaria, Tuberculosis, Kala-Azar, Japanese Encephalitis, etc)
- Adolescent Health and Concerns
- Indian System of Medicine
- HIV/AIDS
- Health Promotion and Non-Communicable Disease Control
NETWORKING

VHAI is one of the largest health and development networks in the world. The existence of such a wide network in a massive, complex and heterogeneous country like India has enabled VHAI to explore fully the potential of these partnerships. VHAI networks proactively on health and development concerns with national and international agencies such as:

- 27 State Voluntary Health Associations (SVHAs), 4500+ grassroots organisations and more than 1,20,000 village health workers
- Central and State Governments
- UN agencies (WHO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNDP, UNIFEM, etc.)
- Global agencies (World Bank, Department for International Development (DFID), International Union for Health Promotion and Education (IUHPE), Asian Development Bank, European Commission)
- International and National NGOs (Hesperian Foundation, Sasakawa Peace Foundation, Gonoshasthya Kendra, RECPHEC, VHSS, etc.)
- Development activists and associates in India and abroad
HEALTH PROMOTION

Health promotion is an organized way of enabling people to have greater control over their health. Health promotion not only involves the prevention of disease, but seeks to go beyond.

VHAI launched its health promotion programme in March 2006: work started in the first phase in Delhi and in the states of Kerala, Orissa, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Jammu and Kashmir and West Bengal. More states like Goa, Sikkim, and Arunachal Pradesh soon joined in. The programme covers government and private schools and communities. Health promotion activities comprise awareness campaigns, capacity building workshops among students, teachers and parents and community health workers; interactive sessions, surveys, formation of health corners, quiz sessions, health melas, sports events and involvement of local celebrities and role models. The team at Delhi and the state teams in different settings have also developed different types of information, education and advocacy materials like books, periodicals, posters, stickers, traditional games, questionnaires, and information dossiers on health promotion.
Tobacco Control

VHAI is one of the first few organizations working on tobacco control both at the policy and the grassroots levels. The issue has always been a crucial public health concern for VHAI and the organization has been campaigning against the tobacco industry’s despicable practices for nearly two decades. VHAI is one of the pioneers in tobacco control at the national, state and district level. In the last five years, we have been working on a comprehensive tobacco control programme supported by the Bloomberg Initiative. J&K, Assam, Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Odisha & Uttar Pradesh are some of the States where VHAI has been at the forefront of tobacco control campaigns along with our State partners.

Advocacy: The key focus areas in VHAI’s Tobacco Control campaign are policy, political, legal and media advocacy, which includes close working with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare on the 12th Five Year Plan to strengthen National Tobacco Control Programme and the NCD programme; high level advocacy at state-level to seek commitment for tobacco-free states; creating smoke-free settings, district level advocacy for effective implementation of Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA), legal advocacy,
research and advocacy on alternative livelihoods for bidi and tobacco workers, lobbying with enforcement agencies, reporting of legislative violations, coalition-building and development of advocacy materials.

The programme’s main successes can be attributed to capacity building of state partners, coordinated efforts with other civil society organizations, effective representations to policymakers, pro-active media advocacy and Government interventions through timely notifications. Some of the key achievements include successful advocacy for raise in tobacco taxes in several states, effective legal advocacy for implementation of pictorial health warnings, working with civil society to advocate for ban on gutka, declaration of Kottayam, Hubaneshwar, Jagatsinghpur, Srinagar, Budgam, Jhunjhunu and Shahjahanpur as smoke free jurisdictions, primary research on tobacco workers and pro-active media advocacy to build favourable public opinion on tobacco control issues.

**The VHAI PAT & APPLE PROJECT PHASE IV** was initiated since June 2012 and is attempting to consolidate and replicate the successful practices of the previous three phases. The overall objective is to implement Section 4 and 6 (b) of the central tobacco control law on smokefree and tobacco free educational institutions in 8 districts in the states of Jammu & Kashmir and Odisha. VHAI acts as the central coordinating unit and provides technical & financial support, leadership and mentoring to the state and district teams to build their capacities, guide their efforts and monitor outcomes.
Regional Resource Centre (RRC): The Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India in 1997 launched a comprehensive reproductive child health programme in partnership with the NGO sector to reach the underserved and inaccessible populations of the country. VHAI and other national level NGOs were designated as Regional Resource Centres (RRCs). VHAI started formally functioning as a Regional Resource Centre (RRC) since January 2002. Since April 2005, RRC-VHAI has been responsible for the states of Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Delhi, Jammu & Kashmir with 51 MNGOs and 212 FNGOs under its ambit. The emphasis is on a decentralized approach with most functions, except technical support being relegated to the state governments. Since inception, VHAI-RRC has become a focal point for NGOs to address needs for capacity building, networking and strengthening partnerships with state governments and district authorities.

It acts as an enabling mechanism for sharing of experiences by documenting and disseminating successful approaches, learning and innovations in RCH service delivery in its Bilingual newsletter, Abhilasha
and community mobilization processes. It also conducts periodic evaluation and assessment by conducting field visits to assess the effectiveness of technical support and training inputs. Another major key functioning of RRC is Interacting and sharing through RRC-VHAI website (www.vhai-rrc.org)

**Unite for Body Rights  Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights Programme:** The SRHR programme supported by Simavi, Netherlands and the Dutch Alliance is operational in two blocks in Odisha - Kujang in Jagatsinghpur and Kahlkote in Ganjam district. The objective is

- **to address the sexual health needs of the communities and ensure that SRHR is part of the ongoing health services through sensitization, capacity building, coalition building, advocacy, comprehensive sexual health education and networking with like-minded organizations.**
- **Besides these core activities, VHAI Aparajita has initiated computer science education through sensitization programmes in schools as well as out of schools. Two adolescent reproductive health clinics have been activated in both the blocks.**
- **Identification and capacity building of five local NGOs in each of the two blocks has been done to advancing the SRHR agenda.**
- **The programme has built strong linkages with health service providers and health facilities at subsentre, PHC and CHC level for facilitating youth friendly services.**
STATE VHAs

VHAI is a federation of 27 State Voluntary Health Associations (SVHAs). In a large and culturally diverse country like India, VHAI’s representation at the state level enables us to have macro-national perspective in addressing important health and development issues. Further, this state-level network helps VHAI to respond to concerns at the micro-level as well. The Chief Executive’s Office at VHAI maintains regular communication with all the state partners. It keeps updated records of the Board, Constitution, membership, member institutions, programmes and all other organizational matters of each State VHA.

VHAI also facilitates the formation of newer SVHAs in collaboration with active NGOs in the concerned states. VHAI ensures a constant communication with all the state partners and other leading NGOs all over the country. We assist SVHAs to plan and manage their activities through joint programmes like Intesified Malaria control Programme, Social mobilization and service delivery programme for malaria control and kala-azar elimination, Tuberculosis Prevention,
Tobacco Control and provide trainings and technical inputs to become sustainable and extend their outreach to remote and neglected areas. Also involving them in innovative programmes like Khoj projects and strengthening the Village Health Workers’ Network, VHAI making an effort to accomplish its goal.

COMMUNITY LEVEL ACTION

VHAI believes that health and development are closely linked and, therefore, community action and participation have a key role in achieving its goals. VHAI works actively at the grassroots in rural as well as tribal India, through a number of interventions, training as well as capacity-building programmes. There are some projects that are directly implemented at the field level but most are executed through partner organisations like SVHAs or credible voluntary agencies.

KHOJ – A Social Determinants of Health Project

VHAI’s deep concern about making a breakthrough in the health status of the people, particularly those living in the remote and inaccessible areas and generally of extreme low economic status, led to the evolution of an innovative approach ‘Khoj’, which tackles health
and development issues. The KHOJ (meaning ‘search’) project is one of the long-term initiatives of VHAI being implemented since 1993. It aims to bring about a holistic change in the lives of its beneficiaries by improving the socio-economic and health status of vulnerable communities. All Khoj projects operational in the remote parts of the country equitably involve the community members, organisational representatives, and other local bodies in all aspects of the project activities. Fundamental to Khoj programme’s approach has been identifying important stakeholders for all health promotion initiatives and community involvement in each place and building, on their strength.

Of the 21 projects initiated in 1993, sixteen were phased out by August 2006, after duration of nine years. Rest 5 projects are being implemented and continued for a further term of three years till 2010 in Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, Jammu & Kashmir and Sikkim. The thrust areas of work taken up under this programme were health, community development, community organization and environment. Over a period of time, a marked changed has been seen in the above-mentioned areas, in all the Khoj projects.
VHAI – Arunoday Project: A Journey of Partnership & Innovation

Arunachal Pradesh government handed over the management of five, almost dysfunctional, Primary Health Centres to VHAI in January 2006 under the Public Non-Profit Partnership (PPP) initiative. VHAI added collective-responsibility and accountability to partnership to ensure a successful PHC management. All the VHAI-managed PHCs have significantly improved in their functioning. This change has been noted by the government officers, public leaders and local community.

Looking at the good results in the health status of the covered population, the state government is further planning to hand over a few Community Health Centres (CHCs) to VHAI in the near future.

Other Key Activities of the Project Arunoday:

- Health Promotion activities in schools and at the community level in the five PHC areas
- Training to nearly 2200 ASHAs in 11 districts
- Training to all the ASHAs in malaria-endemic districts of Arunachal under the National Vector-Borne Diseases Control Programme of Govt. of India
- HIV/AIDS Control - Two
targeted intervention projects with Arunachal Pradesh State AIDS Control Society (APSACS) support

- Promotion of traditional medicine in the PHC districts

Aparajita, Orissa

Aparajita, Orissa is a long term development effort of VHAI for integrated community development and disaster management. Presently, it is operational in the Jagatsinghpur and Kendrapara districts. Aparajita Orissa organises and coordinates several health, livelihood and disaster-related issues through systematically planned programmes. The initiative contributes towards grassroots development, while also influencing policies for an effective implementation of various micro and macro plans. Some of the key activities of the project are:

- The Khoj programme in Jagatsinghpur district of Kujanga block focuses on the integrated development of health and livelihood at the community level and addresses the issues relating to climate change and disaster management.
- Tobacco Control initiative in the state by Aparajita has joined the national drive for making the state and districts tobacco free.
• Government of Orissa has handed over a PHC to Aparajita under the Public Private Partnership programme of NRHM in a remote village of Kendrapara district.

• Handicraft artisans’ development has taken up an entrepreneurial approach, improving the socio-economic conditions of the respective communities.

• Health promotion activities for the children in the schools of slums of rural and urban areas

The project has achieved the desired success in all its initiatives, owing to a strategic planning and committed workforce. Still, there are miles to go before access to a healthy life can become a reality for all.

**Communicable Diseases**

**Malaria Control:** The Malaria Control Project supported by Global Fund is based on a public-private partnership model involving NGOs of national and regional repute. VHAI is one of the partner organizations and the project is currently operational in 1074 villages of 13 high malaria endemic districts in the North Eastern States of Assam, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, Tripura, Manipur, Mizoram and Nagaland. The goal is to reduce malaria-related morbidity and mortality to 30% by 2015 as compared to 2008.

In addition to updating Government information manuals focusing on malaria for health workers, other activities include
distributing long-lasting insecticidal nets, capacity-building of health workers in rapid diagnosis, treatment as per programme guidelines and training of ASHAs in malaria prevention and control.

Social mobilization and service delivery programme for malaria control and kala-azar elimination amongst vulnerable communities under World Bank project: This World-Bank supported programme was initiated in February 2011, works with vulnerable communities for malaria control and kala-azar elimination based on the assessment that vulnerable communities have relatively limited access to health care services, information communication and other basic facilities. Initiated with support from Ministry of Health and Family welfare, Government of India, the objective is to strategize, plan, and manage: (i) social mobilization to foster increased and sustained demand for timely and appropriate preventive and curative services; (ii) delivery of timely and quality preventive and curative services in project high endemic districts and (iii) to build capacity of the peripheral health workers involved in malaria control/ kala-azar elimination to sensitize on the needs of vulnerable communities

The project is currently operational in seven states; Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha and West Bengal. Based on the program objective, activities categorized are mainly two types: (i) Social Mobilization (ii) Service Delivery both for the Malaria and Kala-azar States
Tuberculosis Prevention: Project Axshya adds a new dimension to TB prevention and control in India through community ownership and civil society-led public health programming. The project aims at improving the reach, visibility and effectiveness of the Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme through civil society support in 374 districts across 23 states by 2015. VHAI as one of the partner organisations has an outreach across 36 districts in 8 states of India - Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Goa, Manipur, Rajasthan and Bihar. A strong network has been developed with the existing government programme along with increase in patient outreach. Ground-level awareness programmes conducted through community events have created demand for health services in many unreached pockets and urban slums. Creation of key social change agents and NGOs is a significant outcome of the programme.

HIV/AIDS Programme: In the area of HIV/AIDS, VHAI’s vision is to augment and strengthen the control efforts in the country, without duplicating government efforts. It intends to utilise the strength of NGOs, especially the outreach of VHAI network, to accelerate the outreach of the programme, particularly in the context of difficult-to-reach areas.

The Link Workers programme is being implemented by VHAI in several districts of Madhya Pradesh in collaboration with National AIDS Control Organization, New Delhi.
and Madhya Pradesh State AIDS Control Society, under the Global Fund Round 7 programme. It is envisaged as a short-term intensive scheme, focusing on HIV/AIDS prevention, care and risk reduction among rural populations. Mobilization for prevention and care in the community is one of the key elements for the sustainability of this scheme. Both link workers and volunteers are instrumental in creating an enabling environment and developing supportive systems for services access through sound referrals, linkages and convergence with allied departments.

Implementation process in all the districts focuses on evidence-based mapping, community mobilization, advocacy activities, outreach planning to cover high-risk groups, training of link workers, creation of second line volunteers, building linkages with Red Ribbon Clubs and liaising with State health authorities, by providing technical support in the area of finance, material and human resource

**THE HEALTH WORKER’S MOVEMENT**

The role of health workers in effectively improving the health status of the country has been duly recognised by VHAI. The organisation recognizes health workers as a rare group of people, who, in spite of their social,
political and economic constraints, are playing the role of change agents in their communities. VHAI attempts to understand people’s health and development problems by closely working with them and learning how to develop alternative approaches. This experience-based learning is a cornerstone of VHAI’s health and development initiatives in the remote rural areas. To strengthen and enlarge this health movement, VHAI has built up a strong network of over 1,20,000 health workers. Some of the specific programmes for them include national and regional conventions, exchange visits and a regular newsletter called Hamari Chitthi Aapke Naam in 20 regional languages. The newsletter updates the health workers with practical health information and developmental issues in simple language. The conventions and exchange visits give them a unique opportunity for sharing experiences and mutual learning.

**DISASTER PREPAREDNESS, RESPONSE AND MANAGEMENT**

VHAI’s response to major calamities in India, whether natural or man-made, has been immediate and far-reaching. The approach has been holistic, focussing on livelihood restoration, health care and capacity-building of the community, self-help, coordination and networking. In case of any calamity, VHAI’s disaster-management team, comprising health/medicine specialists, logisticians, social workers and volunteers immediately reaches the disaster site and actively participates in the relief and rehabilitation measures. VHAI’s efforts
Aparajita, a disaster relief and rehabilitation initiative
towards the sustainable rehabilitation and overall development of the
communities, for more than a decade after Indian Ocean tsunami, Gujarat
earthquake, Orissa super cyclone, Kashmir earthquake, Bhopal gas
tragedy, have received high appreciation from the various stakeholders.
Although we cannot mitigate the disasters, VHAI’s presence in the
disaster-affected communities helped reduce the sufferings and initiate
a long-term development programme in the affected zones.

Since the tsunami hit the Kollam and Alleppey districts of Kerala, VHAI,
in association with the state partner Kerala VHS has worked towards the
relief and rehabilitation of the affected communities. The efforts have
not only provided them with relief but helped them plan long-term
economic sustenance.

As a sustainability measure, there have been all-out efforts towards
the capacity-building of the community, enabling them to manage all
development initiatives with little or no support and assisting them in
turning the disaster into development.

Aparajita
A disaster relief and
rehabilitation initiative

Aparajita, a long term relief and rehabilitation project for fisher-folk, artisans
and other victims was initiated soon after
the super cyclone in Orissa in October 1999. Aparajita was inspired by the indomitable
spirit and collective efforts of the people, to survive and help others survive.
Aparajita, Gujarat was initiated following the January 26, 2001 massive, devastating earthquake. So far, thousands of families have benefited from the project.

Aparajita, Andaman Under the same name Aparajita, a relief, rescue and rehabilitation programme was launched after the devastating Indian Ocean earthquake and subsequent tsunami waves on December 26, 2004. The focus of the relief efforts has been the Little Anadaman Island, especially the Hut Bay area, which is the most severely affected island in the Andaman group of Islands. VHAI is working with approximately 4000 affected families with activities focussed on the spheres of health, education and livelihoods.

VHAI has facilitated the community through various innovative strategies, increased community participation and collaboration with the local administration, panchayat raj institutions, tribal council and other grass- root level civil society organisations. Some of the key activities of the project are:

- Health care interventions and support to self-help groups
- Vulnerable families supported under petty trade - assistance is provided for bank linkages, local exposure and linkages with traders
- Support to the affected fishing community with fishing boats, nets and fishing gears and insurance cover
- Setting up play schools/ crèche centres
- Vocational and computer training for the youth population
- Since the islands are geographically prone to natural disasters, three rescue centres in the Nancowrie group of Islands and one at South Andaman are under construction
- Establishing a centre for disaster management and community development at Port Blair
- Restoration of 13 hectares of mangroves in Nancowrie group of Islands in cooperation with the local tribals
- Eco clubs formed in different schools for the sustainability of the programme
- VHAI, in collaboration with Andaman and Nicobar Administration, has prepared the disaster mitigation contingency plan for panchayats of Little Andamans. Entire community was involved through a process of village based micro-planning and hazard mapping

VHAI Aparajita initiatives have been documented in a simple and logical way, highlighting the pragmatic approach of the project in improving the lot of the disaster affected communities in the various publications of VHAI. For more details please visit www.vhai.org
DEVELOPMENT COMMUNICATIONS

Since four decades, VHAI is one of the largest publishers and developers of information, education and communication materials in the health and development sectors in Asia with over 1000 titles on health and development issues. Our timely, user-friendly, well-researched and low-cost publications include research reports, periodic journals, newsletters, manuals, audio-visual material, posters and flip charts in English, Hindi and other Indian languages. They are recognized and widely used in the developing world by a cross-section of people, including policy makers, researchers, academicians, health professionals, trainers, community health workers and the general public. VHAI has its own design studio, printing press and an in-house photo bank. VHAI books are also widely translated and adapted in regional Indian languages by SVHAs for use and dissemination. Being one of the largest health and development networks in the world, the outreach of VHAI materials spreads across the entire country, especially the remote corners. VHAI materials are also procured in bulk by the Government of India and further disseminated through their own networks.

Landmark publications

- Where There is No Doctor
- Where Women have No Doctor
- State of India’s Health
- Health Promotion in India
- National Profile on Women, Health and Development
- Report of The Independent Commission on Health in India
- Banned and Bannable Drugs
- Health for the Millions: Quarterly Periodical
- Aparajita - A Film on the Adolescent Girl
- Hamari Chitti Aapke Naam - Newsletter for Health Workers

Latest Publications

- Your Guide to Heart Disease
- Healthcare and Patients’ Rights
- Living a Healthy Lifestyle Starts Today: A Guide for Adolescents
- The Rainbow Tower of Food and Fun
- Positive Health and Lifestyle
- Your Guide to Oral Health and Hygiene

Publication of the RRC Newsletter:
- Abhilasha in English and Hindi
Health for the Millions:

Health for the Millions (HFM) is a pioneer public health journal published as a bimonthly since 1975. The journal has completed more than 35 years in print, making it one of the oldest and most established public health journals in circulation today. HFM brings together authentic, well-researched and original articles along with insights into innovative and fascinating grassroots level interventions. A quarterly since 2011, HFM enjoys readership among policymakers, public health specialists, medical associations, Universities, civil society and community-based organizations in the country and abroad. Being a theme-based journal, HFM has always tried to reflect on the prevalent public health issues of its time.

Films for Change International

A film for Change is an in-house initiative of VHAI. The objective is to produce films that capture social issues of concern in a popular format. It aims to bring together people who are committed to human and universal development and who have faith in the medium of films as a vehicle of social change. It provides them with a platform to work together in solidarity towards a better world. Over the last 15 years, the Films for Change have perfected the amalgamation of information, entertainment and message of social change.

VHAI has emerged as a filmmaker of national repute on issues of social concern. The chief executive of VHAI has directed some films. The star
cast including Deepti Naval, Kanwaljeet Singh, Seema Biswas, Avtar Gill, Renuka Shahne, Divya Dutta and the music by Jagjit Singh contributed a lot towards the success of those films.

- ‘ANANT’ a Tele-film on the lives of four HIV positive patients was premiered on STAR TV. It covered the entire South East Asia and enjoyed a very high viewership.
- Under the aegis of Films for Change, a joint initiative of VHAI and Project SMITA, Mumbai, a feature film – Aparajita – on adolescence and associated issues has also been premiered. It has received rave reviews from the development world. Some other films like ‘Naya Savera’, ‘Arman’, ‘Prateeksha’ and ‘Nazariya’ also produced and telecast on a popular format.
- Other similar initiatives such as teleserials like, ‘KASBA’ and ‘SHIELA’ – a story of a woman’s struggle in a male-dominated society was twice telecast on Doordarshan.
- A political documentary, ‘DISTANT THUNDER’ on the problems of insurgency in the North-East.
A Documentary film ‘Paths are Made by Walking’ produced by VHAI which was the curtain raiser at the 6th Global Conference on Health Promotion held in Bangkok.

Another documentary film ‘Turning their Lives to Ashes’ on the lives of bidi workers by VHAI was released and premiered in November 2008. The movie exposes the appalling working conditions of bidi workers.

“Giving Away So Much for So Little”, a documentary film on tendu leaf pluckers.

“Promises to keep”, a short documentary film for WHO-SEARO, which was screened in World Conference on Social Determinants of Health in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil by WHO, Geneva as a Curtain Raiser.

Recently VHAI produced a WHO Film “Health in all Policies” which was the curtain raiser at the 8th Global Conference on Health Promotion (8GCHP), Helsinki, Finland in JUNE 2013.
RESOURCE CENTRE

VHAI assimilates information on a global basis and repackages it for local needs. Dissemination of information on appropriate platforms through suitable mediums has been a key activity of VHAI. The information provides support for important research works of VHAI like the ICDHI among other significant researches. VHAI also provides for the information and research needs of journalists, researchers, development and health activists besides setting up information and resource centres and providing information trainings. VHAI Resource Centre has one of the largest collections of health and development resource material in India.

Liaison with Parliament - VHAI monitors the answers given in the parliamentary sessions and collects and documents relevant replies for reference and action. On request, VHAI also provides information to the government for preparing answers to certain questions raised by the members.

VHAI is presently functioning as an online resource centre on the following public health concerns:

- Reproductive and Child Health - http://vhai-rrc.org/
- Tobacco Control - http://rctfi.org/
- Rural Handicrafts Promotion - http://kala-aparajita.org/
- Development Issues and NGO Activities - http://nposonline.net/

These websites are regularly updated and maintained by subject specialists with the support of software experts.
THE SUMMIT - CENTRE FOR REFLECTION ON THE CONTEMPORARY WORLD

The Summit - Centre for Reflection on the Contemporary World is located in Mashobra, near Shimla in the exquisite and scenic surroundings of Himachal Pradesh. This beautiful and relaxed atmosphere, far from the madding crowds of the metropolis has been created to facilitate reflection on various pertinent health and development issues confronting the contemporary world. The Summit accommodates eight people and has conference facilities for about twenty people. Significant initiatives which have been conceptualized in the settings of the Summit are:

- “Governance of the Health Sector in India: Has the State Abdicated its Role?” a monograph that received good reviews in the media.
- Miles to Go: Review of the National Rural Health Mission in eight states of the country.
- Financing of Health Care, based on a broad econometric modelling with an estimation of the health production functions.
- Update on health and development status, using GIS mapping at the district level for the entire nation.
- Mainstreaming AYUSH: Report on the challenge of integrative medicine with special reference to NRHM
Other Innovative Initiative

- **Kala Aparajita** is a development project to strengthen the self-help initiatives of low income artisan groups by promoting the crafts produced by them. Kala Aparajita aims to enhance the quality of life of artisans, nationwide, with a constant focus on design development, quality control and skill upgradation. The project is a celebration of India’s true talent. For more details please visit www.kala-aparajita.org

- **Gallery Freedom** is a VHAI initiative to promote the cause of art, artistes and at the same time generate resources for social causes. The Gallery promotes not only visual art but also sculptures and experimental work. VHAI feels that this will go a long way in closing the communication chasm that exists between the masses and the art domain. For more details please visit www.vhai.org/gallery
Words of Appreciation

“My prayer & blessings will be with you, God bless you.”
- Mother Teresa

“The Health world of our nation appreciates VHAI’s rigorous, unsparing devotion to the cause of bringing Health to the poor. Needy, Oppressed and Suppressed. May you continue to carry this noble work with a burning Compassion combined with a sense of urgency. Your alert intelligence, disciplined energy, vision, passion, compassion, conviction combined with scientific strategy will make your “health vision” walk a foot with you. May your organization continue to grow in strength and outreach in serving the Poor under-previleged. Leadership of VHAI did not lack behind events in the health field.”
- BABA AMTE

“VHAI is indeed a good mission. My best wishes.”
- Dr. APJ Kalam, President of India

“I extend my best wishes to VHAI for success in all its endeavours.”
- Dr. Manmohan Singh Hon’ble Prime Minister of India
“I congratulate you on your decision to prepare a comprehensive report on India’s marginalized, neglected and vulnerable children. A mapping exercise of this nature will help us to be more aware of the full dimensions of the problem and how government and civil society can work together towards ameliorating their lot.”
- Sonia Gandhi Chairperson, UPA

“Best wishes to you and your organization.” Atal Bihari Vajpayee Hon’ble - Prime Minister of India

“National Profile on Women, Health and Development is of great interest to me. I am delighted to get the Report.”
- Prof. Amartya Sen Economist & Nobel Prize Winner

“Your kind words and good wishes are very much appreciated and WHO appreciates the work being undertaken by organizations such as yours.”
- Dr. Margaret Chan Director-General, WHO, Geneva

“Your publication entitled ‘Health For the Millions’ is noteworthy.”
- Montek Singh Ahluwalia Dy.Chairman, Planning Commission

“Help provide by voluntary organizations like yours is really invaluable.”
Oomen Chandy Chief Minister, Kerala
“Darkness at Noon: Female Foeticide in India’ indeed sums up intricate details of the declining sex ratio.”
- Country Representative, UNICEF

“Congratulations on bringing out the detailed report ‘Seen But Not Heard’ on India’s marginalized, neglected and vulnerable children.”
- Country Representative, UNFPA

VHAI’s work is a source of inspiration for all engaged in social and development work.
- BG Deshmukh, Chairman, Tata Council for Community Initiatives

“I would like to convey my sincere appreciation for your engagement in this effort.”
Raymond G. Chambers

“... India has its heroes, it would be invidious to list them by degree but many unsung ones, all toiling away, and networked together, as in VHAI are adding to the process of incremental change in a silent revolution.”
Prof. Maurice King, The Department of Epidemiology and Clinical Medicine, University of Leeds, United Kingdom

“We are grateful for the very positive assessment of the Bangkok Conference. Such success would never have been possible without the continuous support of persons like you and an organization like VHAI.”
- Catherine La Gales Camus WHO, Geneva
VHAI Anthem

Where the mind is without fear and the head is held high
Where knowledge is free
Where the world has not been broken up into fragments
By narrow domestic walls
Where words come out from the depth of truth
Where tireless striving stretches its arms towards perfection
Where the clear stream of reason has not lost its way
Into the dreary desert sand of dead habit
Where the mind is led forward by thee
Into ever-widening thought and action
Into that heaven of freedom, my Father, let my country awake.

Rabindranath Tagore
“The ability to adapt to the changing developmental needs of the country’s most needy, is the hallmark of any progressive organization. This ideology has been the driving force behind all VHAI’s activities and has helped us emerge as a leading health & development organisation in the country. As a sensitive developmental agency, VHAI considers it as its sacred duty to be with the suffering people, when they need it most. Hence, in the wake of Tsunami, Gujarat and Orissa disasters, VHAI tried to build on people’s strength to turn these disasters into development initiatives.

VHAI’s two-pronged expansion effort – one towards the policy sector and the other towards the grassroots sector – has made definite strides which are capable of leaving lasting imprints on the voluntary health and development spectrum of the nation. This is the cumulative effect of the interplay of a shared vision, cohesive policies and comprehensive programmes.”

“There are no paths. Paths are made by walking.”

Voluntary Health Association of India
B-40 Qutab Institutional Area, New Delhi - 110 016
Phone: 011-47004300 Fax: 011-26853708
E-mail: ceo@vhai.org
Website: www.vhai.org