Health Seminar - Report

Organizing seminars and discussion on important health laws and policies is one of the major activities proposed under the QIPHS project. During the first meeting of District Health Watch Thrissur, members who were present during the meeting also suggested that this activity should be counted as one of important objective of District Health Watch. In order to make this initiative a successful one we have partnered with likeminded organisations and institutions for conducting the program. This partnership turned out to be productive and the objectives for which these seminars were organized got wider reach and acceptance.

**Seminar: 1**

*Date: 30/10/2019  Venue: Changapuzha Hall, Kerala Sahithya Academy, Thrissur.*

First seminar on health laws and policies was conducted on 30-10-2019 at Changapuzha Hall in Kerala Sahithya Academy, Thrissur. The seminar was organized in association with Govt. Nursing College, Thrissur. The broader theme of the seminar was “Universal Health Coverage and Role of Peoples Initiatives. The seminar was started by an introductory speech by Adv.Sunilkumar P. Executive Director, Jananeethi. He explained in nutshell the objective of the seminar and the initiatives of Jananeethi in Health sector. Key note speech was delivered by Dr. K.T. Jayakrishnan, Additional Prof. Department of Community Medicine, Government Medical College, Kozhikode. His speech was highly enlightening and informative. He explained the concept of Universal Health Coverage as envisaged by WHO and its importance as stated under UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG 3)

He also elaborated the present condition of Universal Health Coverage in India and the challenges faced in achieving the goal. Key note speech was followed by a Panel discussion. Three important resource persons were present as Panellists. The first presentation was made by Dr. T.V. Satheesan, District Program Manger, National Health Mission, Thrissur. He explained in detail the various schemes, projects and initiatives implemented by NHM for achieving the Universal Health Coverage. Dr. E. Divakaran, Director-Institute of Palliative Care was the second speaker. He beautifully narrated the development of Palliative Care Initiative in Kerala and how successfully the community could be channelized for achieving such noble cause linking the concept with experiences from the ground. The last speaker from the panel was Dr. K.G. Radhakrishnan, Lecturer, Government Medical College, Thrissur. He focussed on the importance of the definition of health as given by WHO. And he advocated that there should be a comprehensive approach in addressing the health issues faced by the community. Health is not confine to hospitals alone and a healthy community could not be developed without addressing the basic needs of the community. He emphasized that factors like education, sanitation, environment, food habits etc plays a crucial role in building a healthy community. After the presentations the floor was kept open for discussion. The panel discussion was moderated by Prof. N.N. Gokuldas, Director, Jananeethi.
Seminar 2:
Date: 12-01-2020  Venue: Kerala Sahithya Academy Main Hall, Thrissur.

The second seminar on Health Laws and Policies was conducted on 12th January 2020. As mentioned above this seminar was organized in a partnership mode. Five organizations including Jananeethi joined hand in hand to conduct this most important seminar. The seminar was organized on 12th January 2020 commemorating United Nations Universal Health Coverage Day. The partners of the program were a) Daya Hospital and Research Centre b) TLF Society 3) K.V. Abdul Azeez Anusmaranavedi 4) Chikitlsa Neethi.

There were two Key speakers for the seminar. First talk was delivered by Prof.(Dr) Imrana Qadeer world renowned Public Health Expert on the topic “Access to Health Care-Whose Responsibility”. She stressed on the importance of public health care and role of state in ensuring access to best health care to the poor and marginalised patient pool in India. She emphasized on the importance of primary health care services with special focus on preventive approach than curative approach. She also pointed out the inadequacy in the budget allocation to health sector from the government.

The second speaker was Dr. P.M. Arathy, Asst. Prof. School of Legal Thought, M.G. University, Kottayam. She delivered her speech on the topic “Universal Health Care- Need of the hour”. In tune with Dr. Imrana Qadeer Dr. Arathy also focused on the topic from a right perspective. She strongly argued that Right to Health is a fundamental right being part of Right to life as guaranteed under the Indian Constitution. After the presentations from the key speakers representatives from the organizers shared their experiences with to respect to public health care. Adv. Sunilkumar P. Representing Jananeethi shared the initiatives implemented by Jananeethi for the improvement of Public health care services delivered from government hospitals in Thrissur District. It was well appreciated by the resource persons of the seminar and audience at large.

To conclude, the two seminars organized by Jananeethi on Health Laws and Policies became a grant success in terms of resource mobilization, strategic partnerships, Advocacy and participation.

***************