

National Leaders' Meet 2010

The most awaited National Meet of RCH leaders held on 15 to 17 December 2010 at the Vedic Village Resort, Kolkata. With the objectives of reflecting on past, analyzing the present and planning for the future, the desired outcomes of the meeting was that:

- Fellows have met with each other and reconnected with the network of leadership fellows.
- Fellows have gone through a reflective process of their 10 year association with the leadership meeting; shared their strengths as leaders through showcasing their work and has created a pathway for future actions.
- Fellows are inspired and aspire to lead the process of improving health status in Bihar and Jharkhand without external support.

The total number of participants was 74 which included fellows from all over the country, IIE staff, donors, resource persons and other stakeholders. The highlights of the meeting were:

- The meeting was designed and managed by the fellows. Four teams were constituted were fellows volunteered to be the part of the team. The teams were – Design Team for designing the sessions of the meeting, Travel and Hospitality Team for managing the logistics, Operations Management Team for smooth implementation of meeting as per design, ensure active participation and manage the logistics for each sessions and Cultural Team for the time management of the meeting and for coordinating the informal sessions.
- Printed form of the Fellow's Directory which is the database of fellows was released during the meeting and distributed to the participants.
- A film on LDM was shown which highlighted the 10 years of journey of the program, reflecting on the associations of fellows in different activities, strengthening RH networks and establishing lasting relationships between fellows; and improving engagement of fellows' home organizations in leadership development
- Short lecture on "Leadership Legacy" by Prof. Prasad Kaipa, Executive Director of Centre for Leadership, Innovation and Change, Indian School of Business, Hyderabad through Video-Conference. For the first time video conferencing tool was used to interact with resource person
- Eight fellows presented their leadership journey using different mediums - power-point presentation, fil show, story telling, poetry, documentary, graffiti, song, and photo collage. It was a signature session of the meet where fellows showcased the fruits of their long association with LDM meeting reflecting the manner in which it had shaped their perception and skills and enabled them to emerge as important agents of change for the focus states.



- Moderated panel discussion on present situation in Bihar and Jharkhand vis a vis RH and opportunities for leaders- **the panelist were Mr V. S. Chandrashekar and Rafay Khan** who spoke on the topic from their intensive experience of working on these states. Mapping of LDM Fellows/ NGOs and preparing a data base with pertinent information was identified as a critical area of intervention to enhance convergence at the district level.

- To ascertain the way forward for the network by involving the RH fellows and co-opt many more along in due course of time, session based on Open Space Technology was undertaken. Participants reflected on the question *“how can the gains of LDM program be sustained to improved health status in Bihar & Jharkhand?”* Based on the questions, participants were asked to write their own agenda and share it with everyone. The



agendas were clustered into 5 broad themes – Effective Delivery of Services, Capacity Building of institutional and non-institutional service providers and community members, Urban Health, Community Participation and Monitoring of Essential Health services and Corruption in service delivery. Participants were divided into groups for each theme as per their choices and asked to prepare the report for which one hour was given to them to discuss and prepare the report.

- Professor R R Singh engaged as the Project Director, Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education & Development at IGNOU, gave a short lecture on Leadership for Social Development. Prof. Singh addressed the group by reiterating that leadership journey has its share of troughs and ridges and hence fellows needs to keep themselves self-motivated for renewed thought and action. Social work, he reinforced, is a lifetime responsibility which demands for a constant spirit of volunteerism and altruism. As leaders, it is essential to prepare for uncertainties and always respond to the changing context to make meaningful contribution to the humanity.



- Printed form of Post cards was distributed to participants and was asked to write their reflection about the event on it and drop it in the letter box kept in the conference hall. This was a unique and creative method of getting the feedback from the participants.