



KARNATAKA JNANA AAYOGA

JNANA SIRI

DIALOGUES ON TRANSFORMING KARNATAKA INTO A
VIBRANT KNOWLEDGE SOCIETY

E-NEWSLETTER

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Final set of Recommendations

An Overview by Consultant Editor

Interview with Dr. Ravi Narayan

Member's View by Dr. Gopal Dabade

Guest Article by Prof. Bhushan Patwardhan

Highlights of the Quarter

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FINAL SET OF RECOMMENDATIONS



Karnataka Jnana Aayoga held its penultimate meeting under the chairmanship of Dr. K. Kasturirangan on September 29, 2012. Chairman and Co-Chairman of the five mission Groups- Teacher Development, Higher Education Policy, Public Health, Skill Development, Community Knowledge and Practices and the Task Force on Karnataka Geographic Information System submitted recommendations in their respective focus areas for the approval of the members of the Aayoga. A total of 29 recommendations spread across 6 focus areas and on knowledge society was approved by the members after due deliberations. These 29 recommendations were considered as the final set of recommendations by the Aayoga for submission to Government of Karnataka for implementation.

AN OVERVIEW



Welcome to the fourth edition of Jnana Siri. Over the past three years, the Karnataka Knowledge Commission has witnessed a surge in interest amongst the members and the larger audience to know more about the knowledge creating and sharing activities done at the State level as well the potential avenues for contribution. Jnana Siri, the quarterly newsletter from the Commission, is a step in this direction and it is heartening to know that the community is taking cognition of the efforts put in and the progress made. Apart from sharing the highlights of the quarter gone by, each edition takes up a pertinent issues and presents diverse perspectives by thinkers and doers on it. This edition of Jnana Siri takes up the cause of **Universal Health Care**.

Universal Health Care (UHC), also called by epithets such as Universal Health Coverage, Social Health Protection and Universal Care, is an attempt towards ensuring preventive measures, proper and pervasive healthcare access, and policy measures thereof taken up for the citizens of the state. According to the **WHO's Alma-Ata Declaration of 1978**, 'Health, which is a state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being, and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity, is a fundamental human right and that the attainment of the highest possible level of health is a most important world-wide social goal whose realization requires the action of many other social and economic sectors in addition to the health sector.' A well-functioning UHC system is in fact a hallmark of developed economies, especially those in Europe and this gets reflected by the overall economic productivity and social wellbeing. India, owing to its large and heterogeneous population, institutional deficiencies, and multiplicity of actors, offers a very unique challenge and an opportunity towards achieving an inclusive health care system.

In this edition, Jnana Siri presents views from the experts in the field of health care. In a candid interview, **Dr. Ravi Narayan**, Founder of Centre for Public Health and Equity (CPHE) and Member of Mission Group on Public Health, draws upon his vast experience on health care education and services in discussing the issues ailing UHC in India and how institution like CPHE are bringing about a positive change. **Dr. Gopal Dabade**, Convener of the All India Drug Action Network and Member of Mission Group on Public Health, presents a three point agenda on how India could achieve UHC. In a similar vein, **Prof. Bhushan Patwardhan**, the Vice Chancellor of Symbiosis International University, offers an insight on role of AYUSH in achieving UHC. The issue brings to you the final set of recommendations by the Aayoga and also shared other key activities of the previous quarter and marquee initiatives, including the workshop organized on **Cognitive Structure of Knowledge Systems** by the Commission.

As in any realm of change, inclusivity is the key. The endeavor of Karnataka Knowledge Commission remains to engage actively with the stakeholders across various segments of the economy, society and demography, and usher waves of transformation across the State through knowledge and its applications. The success of this endeavor depends upon your contribution and constructive feedback. On behalf of the Karnataka Knowledge Commission, I thank you for being a patron of the cause and I solicit your views on how we are doing and what else could be done. Happy reading!

Pavan Soni
Consultant Editor

INTERVIEW WITH

Dr. Ravi Narayan By Pavan Soni



Starting with the narration of genesis of Centre for Public Health and Equity (CPHE) which incubated almost 30 years back, Dr. Narayan didn't mince many words while depicting the issues India faces in health care. With multiple actors involved in the system, the Indian health care setup is fragmented, and needs intervention from the grassroots level, something that CPHE has been doing ever since. One of the recent initiatives is the Community Health Fellowship Programme, which has seen over 200 fellows, also called as social entrepreneurs, inducted and enabled towards transforming community health care in meaningful ways. Prof. Narayan impressed upon the need for disease prevention and awareness generation than the effort put for cure, and said that the responsibility lies with citizens as much as on the public administration. Read the full interview [here](#).

MEMBER'S VIEW

By Dr. Gopal Dabade



Dr. Gopal Dabade, Convener of the All India Drug Action Network and Member of Mission Group on Public Health, starts with a startling fact that only about 16.5 percent of the population in Karnataka receives free or partly free medicines in the outpatient care of public health facilities, and situation is even worst at the national levels.

He offers that while developed economies have led the way on Universal Health Care (UHC), the emerging economies are fast catching up. Success stories include that of Thailand, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Philippines, Venezuela, and Brazil, among others. Further, these experiences indicate that no country has private health insurance as the primary basis for comprehensive UHC. Keeping in view idiosyncratic challenges posed by India, the solutions he offers are: increasing significantly the state spending on health; regulating and harnessing the private medical providers; and reorganizing Public Health Insurance with coverage for all unorganized sector workers. Read more [here](#).

GUEST ARTICLE

By Dr. Bhushan Patwardhan



Prof. Bhushan Patwardhan, Vice-Chancellor of Symbiosis International University, marvels at the scientific progress human beings have made in the last one century, but also cautions about the specific challenges lying ahead of us. In the context of India, such challenges are in the realm of population growth, disproportionate affliction with a small number of diseases, and largely inaccessible health care.

Building on Ayurveda's philosophy of '*Prasanna Atmendria Mana*', professor contrasts prevention with cure, and argues how in India the focus has shifted from former to latter, and in many ways policy measures have to be held accountable. With this pretext, he presents the strides and outreach made by AYUSH health schemes operational in Karnataka State. Read more [here](#).

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE QUARTER



Interaction with Hon'ble Vice- Chancellor of RGUHS

The Mission Group on Public Health met with the Honorable Vice-Chancellor of Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences on July 3, 2012. It was shared that the Mission Group on Public Health works on five areas of healthcare, including human resource development, nutrition, affordable medicines, urban primary health care and palliative care. Suggestions were made for the inclusion of palliative care in the university curriculum, AYUSH graduates to be trained in prescribing the modern medicines such that health care delivery system may improve at the remote areas, focusing on conducting research and publication on AYUSH, development of management and

communication skills among graduating students and forming an expert committee to draw the syllabus for the orientation for medical graduates and other allopathic graduates and AYUSH graduates to be included during the internship.

Meet on Innovative Ideas for Karnataka

Commission in collaboration with Karnataka State Innovation Council hosted a brainstorming session on July 20, 2012 to discuss Innovative ideas for Karnataka. The following key action items were evolved; Innovative models including Thod Phod Jod models in the education, pioneered in schools in *Vododara*, to be brought in; Prof. Anil Gupta to be invited to present to functionaries of education; PPP model to be explored for the government with respect to public health department; Disease burden mapping with the use of technology should be undertaken by the government; and Museums and Mobile Train project must be initiated.



State Level Stakeholders' Consultation on Public Health

All key stakeholders of the Mission Group on Public Health congregated at the National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS) on July 23, 2012 sharing notes and forging the plans ahead. An urgent need was felt for a path- breaking initiative to strengthen primary health care and public health system development in the State to address equity, quality and integrity of health and health care. Each of the groups under the theme presented the plans and ideas. These include core groups on Nutrition, Safe Water, Sanitation and Urban Primary Health Care, Free Universal

Access to Medicine, AYUSH and Public Health System Convergence, Public Health Capacity Building and HRD and Community responsibility and health promotion.

Workshop on Cognitive Structure on Knowledge Systems

True to its commitment on organizing and proliferating knowledge at the community level, the Mission Group on Community Knowledge and Practices organized a day-long workshop on Cognitive Structure on Knowledge Systems on July 30, 2012. Prof. NSR Tatacharya, the Chief Guest for the session, enlightened the audience with his wisdom on Sanskrit and related it to the way humans process knowledge. Drawing on the work of *Mana-Meya-Rahasya-Sloka-Varttikam*, Prof. Tatacharya delved into the three important components of most forms of knowledge- Words, Sentences and Cognitive Sources (*Pada-Vakya-Pramana*). Mentioning the sources or instruments of knowledge as the foremost in the human thought and communication process, he cited the very first Sutra of *Nyaya Shastra*, which enumerates sixteen entities to be known properly for emancipation. He further talked about independent source of cognition and theory of errors.



This followed an open discussion participated by various academic, practitioners and policy makers. Information was shared on recent work done on the representation of categorization found in the famed Sanskrit lexicon *Amarakosa* by a scholar in Hyderabad, ongoing research on Kannada interface to the Natural language Processing (NLP), and the practices of farmers using traditional community knowledge based on local almanacs for deciding sowing and rainfall predictions, among others. The members gave key proposals and showed commitment towards improving the categorization and classification of knowledge into useful forms. Do read it [here](#).



Submission of Karnataka State Youth Policy 2012

Karnataka Jnana Aayoga collaborated with the Department of Youth Services and Sports to evolve Karnataka State Youth Policy. The draft Policy was submitted to Honourable Chief Minister on August 9, 2012. The draft report speaks about Policy Navaratnas-9 overarching policy suggestions besides implementation mechanisms. The draft policy is the culmination of several state level stakeholders consultation meetings and of existing national and global documents and

practices. The report is open for public scrutiny for a month. For more information click on <http://www.karnatakayouthpolicy.in/english/>

Jnana Shodha- An Invitation to undertake Research Studies

An Invitation to undertake research studies 26 select institutions were invited to present their research proposal on August 11, 2012 at Karnataka State Council for Higher Education. Based on the overall relevancy of the proposal to building knowledge society in Karnataka and feasibility of proposed budget, the Jnana Shodha Selection Panel selected 13 institutions to undertake research studies. Click [here](#) for the list of institutions.



Symposium on Alternative Education Models

In another event at NIAS, the Commission organized Symposium on Alternative Education Models on August 28, 2012. The event aimed at showcasing various educational initiatives at various levels operating outside of the formal system of 10+2+3 nature. Some of the features of such alternative systems are that concern for social welfare and development and over-all life orientation is embedded in the learning, focus is on innovative ways of teaching, and self- building in more practical ways. It was felt that there could be a lot of exchange and learning between the formal and non-formal set ups and agencies like KJA could facilitate them.



Meeting with Honourable Minister for Higher Education

A meeting was held with Sri. C.T. Ravi, Honourable Minister for Higher Education on August 31, 2012. Overall work of the Aayoga in general and of Higher Education in specific was presented to the Minister. Appreciating the work of the Aayoga, the Minister assured to implement key recommendations falling under the Higher Education

sector which may radically reform the higher education system of Karnataka. He also interacted with the KJA Team to signify the work being carried by the Aayoga.

Seventeenth Meeting of the Commission

The Meeting was deliberated on on-going projects, Jnana Shodha and recommendations. New project proposals were placed on table for an approval of the Chairman. Subsequently, the meeting consented to undertake three projects; Project Amulya, Thod-Fhod-Jod and Student Projects. The meet decided to constitute a three member Committee for Jnana Habba. A detail discussion took place with regard to winding up process of the Commission and way forward.



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