Activities

Following are some of the activities undertaken by BPNI at various level in India in the previous six months:

- **BPNI provides inputs to Regional Consultation on Nutrition held at Chandigarh**

  A team of BPNI members attended Regional Consultation on Nutrition, convened by Ministry of Women & Child Development (MWCD), for all the northern states viz. Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, Uttaranchal and provided inputs on the topic ‘Infant and Young Child Feeding’ (IYCF) held on 9th and 10th Jan 2006 at Chandigarh. Dr Arun Gupta, National Coordinator, BPNI, made a presentation on “Child Survival, Development and Health”. During discussions with the Secretary and other government officials, it was emphasized that in future IYCF related issues/proposals would be discussed and taken up with BPNI in order to enhance breastfeeding rate in the State, which would be helpful in reducing mortality and morbidity. It was also recommended that 3 day – IYCF training should be introduced on ‘IYCF Counseling’ in the pre service training of the Anganwadi workers of the ICDS (Integrated Child Development Scheme).

  Dr Arun Gupta, Dr Chander Kant & Mr P K Sudhir from BPNI attended this meeting.

- **BPNI attends a Seminar organized by Dept of Social Welfare, Govt of National Capital Territory of Delhi**

  Dr Chander Kant, a Central Coordination Committee member of BPNI, attended a seminar on “Infant and Young Child Feeding” organized by Department of Social Welfare at Talkatora Stadium, Delhi on 16 March 2006. It was inaugurated by Chief Minister of Delhi, Ms Sheila Dixit, and attended by Secretary, Social Welfare, Smt Reva Nayyar, Secretary, MWCD, Joint Secretary Sh Chaman Lal, other dignitaries, CDPOs (Child Development Project Officers), ACDPOs (Additional CDPOs), supervisors and Anganwadi workers. The BPNI CD ‘Maa ka Pyaar: Shishu Ahar’ (Mother’s Love: Child’s Food) was displayed. Publicity material from BPNI headquarter was also distributed. Dr Chander Kant gave a lecture on ‘Breastfeeding and Complementary Feeding’ and later colored slides on the topic were displayed. The Flip- Book prepared by BPNI and the calendars were presented to all the dignitaries on the dais.

- **An Advocacy document “Say no to Sponsorship” based on WHA resolution was prepared by BPNI and distributed at PEDICON 2005 (Annual Conference of Indian Academy of Pediatrics) and to other Stakeholders for making them aware about recent violations of The IMS Act. [http://www.ibfan-asiapacific.org/say-no-to-sponsorship.pdf](http://www.ibfan-asiapacific.org/say-no-to-sponsorship.pdf)**

- **All State Secretaries of Ministry of Women and Child Development Sensitized on Infant Feeding Issues,**

  Dr Arun Gupta from BPNI was invited to make a presentation to the State Secretaries on “Breastfeeding for child survival, health and development” in a meting, with a view to bring this
focus in ICDS. It was a PowerPoint presentation based on most updated scientific evidence on Breastfeeding for child survival with a focus on newborn survival. It was widely appreciated and Mrs. Reva Nayyar, Secretary, MWCD, made wonderful remarks about BPNI and asked the state governments to work in collaboration with BPNI, which is a national level organization and doing excellent work. Some State Secretaries showed keen interest in BPNI materials that were distributed during the meeting.

Mrs. Reva Nayyar also released the ‘State of Worlds Breastfeeding: India Report Card 2005’, developed by BPNI. She described it to be an honest appraisal of Breastfeeding programmes in India.

- **BPNI invited by Ministry of Health for Finalization of Reading Material for ASHA**

Upon invitation from the ministry of health for providing inputs into making of reading materials for health worker, Asha (a grass root level worker), Dr Arun Gupta from BPNI participated for 2 days on 10th and 11th March 2006. Following objectives were achieved:

1. Our comments to keep breastfeeding and complementary feeding as central to child health were well recognized in the plenary and were accepted
2. Working group was constituted to comment on child health component
3. Newborn care chapter was moved to child health. Initiation of breastfeeding within one hour and Exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months was included as key inputs in this chapter.
4. Counselling on breastfeeding and complementary feeding was included as a separate chapter in the Book 2 for ASHA. The chapter was further divided in three parts, 0-6 months: Exclusive breastfeeding, 6-12 months: Breastfeeding and Complementary feeding and 12-24 months: Family Foods plus Breastfeeding. The inputs provided were well received.
5. Found to be consistent with the National Guidelines on Infant and Young Child Feeding, Book 1 for ASHA was accepted as a principle.

- **National Convention of BPNI focused on Infant Feeding in Emergency and HIV was held in New Delhi on 9th and 10th Dec 2005**

National Convention of BPNI was held at India Habitat Center, New Delhi on 9th and 10th Dec 2005. This convention had participants representing all parts of India, including BPNI members, members from NGO’s, Government departments, and other institutions. There were health professionals and participants from other walks of life also.
The session on **HIV and Infant Feeding** was chaired by Prof AP Dubey from Maulana Azad Medical College, Delhi and speakers were Dr Indra Prakash, Jt Director (Training), NACO (National Aids Control Organization), Ms Vidya Ganesh, UNICEF, Prof MMA Faridi, Delhi and Dr Rajesh Gopal, SACS (State Aids Control Society), Gujarat. Then there were presentations from different stakeholders about infant feeding in the context of HIV. It was followed by group work on strengthening of infant feeding: policy and programme facilitated by Dr MMA Faridi (Group a) and Dr JP Dadhich (Group b).

The second day of the convention was devoted to **Infant and Young Child Feeding in Emergency Situations**. Dr KK Agarwal, Vice Chancellor, Indraprastha University, Delhi, chaired this session and inaugural address was given by Mr Vinod Menon, Member, National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA). Dr Shashi Prabha Gupta, Tech Advisor, MWCD, Government of India, chaired the next session on “Sharing technical information and field data”. Dr Sangeeta Saxena from Ministry of Health and Family Welfare gave introduction to the problem. Then Dr Anchita Patil, WHO (India) presented the WHO Guidelines on Infant Feeding in Emergencies. This was followed by reports from the states of Mumbai, Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry and Jammu and Kashmir where surveys were done on Status of Infant feeding in Emergencies recently faced by these states.

A panel discussion on “Mainstreaming with current disaster preparedness” moderated by Mr NM Prusty, from SPHERE (an NGO) and with participation by Ms Deepika Nayar, CARE India (an NGO), Dr Sangeeta Yadav, Indian Academy of Pediatrics, Brig (Dr) BK Khanna, NDMA, and Dr J Ganthimathi, Indian Red Cross Society.

Dr Shanti Ghosh chaired the closing ceremony and final recommendations were presented by Dr JP Dadhich (for HIV and Infant Feeding) and Dr Arun Gupta (for Infant Feeding in Emergency Situations) after getting inputs from the delegates. And finally convention came to an end after distribution of World Breastfeeding Week Awards to State and District branches, NGOs and Govt Institutions.

Breastfeeding Promotion Network of India

(http://www.bpni.org/infant_feeding_in_emergency_situation.pdf) and have been shared with all stakeholders and others.

**SUPPORT TO STATES**

- **BPNI meets Secretary of Uttaranchal on Assessing the Status of Infant Feeding Practices**

BPNI had a meeting with Ms Radha Raturi, Secretary and, Ms Hemlata Daundiyal, Director, ICDS, Uttaranchal on 20th February. In this meeting the findings and progress of the project entitled "Assessment of Status of Infant and Young Child feeding and Development of State specific Action Plan for the State of Uttaranchal" was shared and presented.

Dr JP Dadhich, Mr PK Sudhir and Dr Deeksha Sharma from BPNI attended this meeting.

At the outset, Dr Dadhich gave some briefs of the project and then Dr Deeksha made the presentation of the project describing the methodology, data collection, analysis and findings of the project.

Mr Sudhir presented some material regarding training and advocacy to Director, ICDS. Secretary was quite satisfied with the presentation and progress of the work being done in the state. A state level Consultation will be done shortly where state and district specific action plans will be developed keeping in mind the outcome of this assessment.

- **BPNI facilitates Punjab State Level Workshop on Implementation of National Guidelines on IYCF**

Dr Arun Gupta, Dr JP Dadhich and Mr PK Sudhir from BPNI went to Chandigarh to attend a Punjab State Level Workshop on Implementation of the National Guidelines on Infant and Young Child Feeding held on Monday, 29th May 2006 in Chandigarh, Punjab.

This workshop was inaugurated by Smt. Gurkanwal Kaur, Minister, Department of Social Security, Women and Child Development, Govt. of Punjab and was attended by Principal Secretary, Shri R L Kalsia and Director, Shri Jaspal Singh, Dept. of Social Security, Women and Child Development, along with all the District Programme Officers of ICDS and District Programme Health Officers of Department of Health. The State Coordinator, BPNI-Punjab and District Coordinator, BPNI-Ludhiana along with Course Director and National Trainers attended the Workshop.

Dr. Arun Gupta gave a presentation titled “Breastfeeding and its role in Child Survival in Health and Development”. He mentioned the current rates of initiation, exclusive breastfeeding and complimentary feeding in the state of Punjab and targets assigned to the Government of Punjab, in the 10th Five Year Plan. He expressed the need for a baseline survey on IYCF practices of all the districts of Punjab so that a district specific plan of action could be drawn on that basis.

Dr. Rajinder Gulati, District Coordinator, BPNI-Ludhiana gave a presentation on National Guidelines on IYCF and its status in Punjab states. He also presented the data on IYCF practices for the district of Ludhiana.
Dr. J P Dadhich from BPNI New Headquarter gave a presentation on Infant and Young Child Practices and how to achieve the optimal for the state of Punjab. Dr. Paramjit Kaur, Associate Professor in Community Medicine, Government Medical College, Patiala, made a presentation on “IMS Act- Its Importance and Various Provisions”.

Then the house was divided into 4 groups, which formulated the action and recommendations on Capacity building for skilled training, Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative, Communication strategies and Advocacy and these were handed over to the Director, Social Security and Women and Child Development Department.

Shri R.L. Kalsia, Principal Secretary, Social Security, Women and Child Development, requested BPNI to come to Chandigarh for discussions for follow up action on the final recommendations of this workshop and for drawing a suitable state action plan.

**Training of Trainers in the States**

- A training course was organized by BPNI & Unicef in Hindupur (AP) training material sent to Hindupur & other states

BPNI Andhra Pradesh in association with Vaidya Vidhan Sabha, Andhra Pradesh and UNICEF, Hyderabad organized a training course in IYCF Counseling from 7th to 20th April 2006 at Hindupur, Andhra Pradesh. A total of 7 trainers and 37 block level co-trainers were certified in that training. The block level co-trainers (CDPOs and supervisors) will impart training to frontline workers.

This was the first course of its kind in Andhra Pradesh, in which first week of the training was for preparation of the trainers and second week for co-trainers course. Dr KP Kushwaha was the course director who conducted the course.
BPNI / IBFAN Asia Pacific in collaboration with University College of Medical Sciences (UCMS) and Guru Tegh Bahadur Hospital (GTB), Delhi organized the First International Training Course for developing National Trainers on “Infant and Young Child Feeding Counselling: A Training Course The ‘3 in 1 Course’”, an integrated course on breastfeeding, complementary feeding and infant feeding & HIV. The course was held from 15th January – 31st January 2006 in New Delhi, India. Outside teams came from Nepal, Laos PDR, and Bhutan along with Indian states like Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Delhi, Tamil Nadu, Punjab, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Chandigarh and Jammu & Kashmir.

Training was started on 15 January 2006 after a short inaugural attended by Medical Superintendent, GTB Hospital, Delhi, Dr. Tarsem Jindal, Chief Coordinator, BPNI & Dr Arun Gupta, National Coordinator along with Prof. M.M.A. Faridi. Dr. Anita Gupta & Dr. Dheeraj Shah assisted in the training. A total of 6 Master Trainers were trained in the first phase and after 6 days the other participants joined the training. A total of 26 participants were trained for 7-day course to become Lactation Management Consultants.

After 13 days of training all the participants, trainers and lactation consultants were provided certificates at the valedictory function. The training programme was highly successful.