

**International Council for Control of  
Iodine Deficiency Disorders  
(ICCIDD)**

**Report of the Regional Co-ordinator,  
South Asia Region**

**2007**

**by**

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## **Introduction**

A steady progress has been made as the year 2008 dawns in India. The reinstated ban is in place and there is a socio political will to eliminate Iodine Deficiency Disorders in India. The Annual NIDDCP Workshop reiterates Government's will to be proactive by incorporating the programme in the National Rural Health Mission.

The National Family Health Survey 3 (2005-06) report has been published. There has been a marginal increase in the availability of adequately iodised salt in the Indian households. It is 51 percent as compared to 49 percent during NFHS 2 (1998-99). However it is to be noted that the data collection was completed before the ban on non iodised salt was reinstated and the quality of iodisation has improved. Monitoring of salt by road movement is an issue which needs to be catered to.

In the Region, after Bhutan, Sri Lanka has achieved Universal Salt Iodisation. We look forward to the external review as one of the happy events of 2008.

NGO's are effective partners to advocate the necessity of iodised salt to the community. This year ICCIDD collaborated with a national level confederation of rural NGO's as well as a couple of state level organizations. The collaboration regarding potassium iodate subsidy with the Micronutrient Initiative has been discontinued and will now be exclusively handled by the MI. However an advocacy and monitoring related collaborative activity is being tabled for 2008. Embassies and schools have also been approached for collaboration.

At the Governmental level, there has been steady demand for professional advice and support for both planning and implementation.

There have been increased laboratory-based activities. Technical support has been provided to desiring industry units. Salt testing kits have been distributed all over the country. Samples from surveys conducted by Ph D. students and other organizations from various parts of the country have been analyzed.

The sixtieth session of the WHO Regional Committee (RC) for WHO-SEA Region was held in Thimphu, Bhutan.

In sum total, I quote from the Executive Director, ICCIDD, David P. Haxton's guest editorial in the December, 2007 issue of the Regional Newsletter, IQ+ Jagriti, "To end this hidden hunger from the stealthy scourge of IDD, we need to be committed, be active and persistent. It can be done: if we want it done: if we muster the will: if we require performance over posture".

On behalf of my team, I take pleasure in presenting the Regional Report-2007 and solicit your comments and feedback.

Dr. Chandrakant S. Pandav  
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## Report of the Regional Co-ordinator, South Asia Region

### Summary Format

Section	Nomenclature	Pages
	<b>Introduction</b>	
	<b>Report in Summary format</b>	
<b>1</b>	<b>Policy &amp; Advocacy</b>	
1.1	<p>IDD Control Programme Review: Tracking Progress towards Elimination of IDD in Bhutan, 2-9 April, 2007, Bhutan</p> <p>Bhutan has achieved Universal Salt Iodization. Over a period of time, with effective implementation of USI, in Bhutan, the IDD indicators have improved. In order to review the current status of IDD control programme in Bhutan, especially with respect to sustainability, The Ministry of Health invited Dr. Chandrakant S. Pandav.</p>	
1.2	<p>New Iodized Salt Factory in Southern Sri Lanka, 25 May, 2007</p> <p>On 25 May, 2007, Sri Lanka Prime Minister, Rathnasiri Wickramanayaka opened a new iodized salt factory in the southern province Hambanthola district. The factory was set up with the funding of ICCIDD under the MI.</p>	
1.3	<p>Sri Lanka achieves Indicators for Sustainable Elimination of IDD: Seeks External Review</p> <p>In a letter addressed to the WHO Representative for Sri Lanka and copied to WHO-SEAR, UNICEF and ICCIDD, Dr. H.A.P. Kahandaliyanage, Secretary, Ministry of Healthcare and Nutrition, Government of Sri Lanka has expressed the desire to invite external reviewers to declare IDD elimination in Sri Lanka.</p>	
1.4	<p>51<sup>st</sup> all India conference of Indian public Health Association (IPHA), 19-21 January, 2007, Kolkata</p> <p>As part of Golden Jubilee Celebrations, the IPHA organized a national conference at Kolkata. The theme of the conference was “Socio-Political Determinants of Public Health-The NRHM Response”. Dr. Chandrakant S. Pandav is currently the Vice President of IPHA</p>	
1.5	<p>34th National Conference of Indian Association of Preventive and Social Medicine (IAPSM), 22-24 February, 2007, New Delhi</p> <p>In the 51<sup>st</sup> year of its existence, the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi was given the honour of hosting the prestigious 34<sup>th</sup> National Conference of IAPSM. The Centre for Community Medicine and ICCIDD organized this meeting which was attended by 800 delegates. A session on micronutrients was designated exclusively for this conference.</p>	

1.6	<p>ITS 2007: 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of Indian Thyroid Society. 27-28 January, 2007, Udaipur</p> <p>ICCIDD participated in this conference of endocrinologists to advocate and bring them up to date with the progress made in respect of Global elimination of IDD.</p>	
1.7	<p>Letter to Airlines to use and print Iodised Salt in the packets used by them.</p> <p>A letter was written to the major National Carrier, Indian Airlines, Kingfisher, Jet Airways, Sahara Airlines for printing Iodised Salt in the salt sachets used by them.</p>	
1.8	<p>Rashtrapati Awards to Bharat Scouts &amp; Guides. Dr. Chandrakant S. Pandav, B.S.G. Fellowship Awardee. 11 July 2007, New Delhi</p> <p>The Rashtrapati Scout/Guide and Rover/ranger awards function was held on 11<sup>th</sup> July, 2007. The awards were given by the Hon'ble President of India H.E. Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam at the Rashtrapati Bhavan. Dr. Chandrakant S. Pandav was awarded the B.S.G. Fellowship in recognition of his philanthropic gesture in support of the B.S.G. movement in India.</p>	
1.9	<p>Iodised Salt Features in Leading Consumer Magazine of India, Consumer Voice Vol. VIII, Issue VII. July, 2007.</p> <p>Consumer Voice is a monthly magazine of consumer interest. The July issue of the magazine carried a full feature on iodized salt in India. Statement of Dr. M.G. Karmarkar, Senior Advisor ICCIDD was also reported in this issue.</p>	
1.10	<p>Letter to Embassies for collaboration</p> <p>Letters were written to embassies seeking collaboration in the ICCIDD activities. The response has been positive in terms of promoting iodized salt usage and monitoring of salt iodization.</p>	
1.11	<p>Bharat Vikas Yatra – A Development Journey by NGO's of Rural India</p> <p>The Bharat Vikas Yatra undertaken by the Confederation of NGO's of Rural India (CNRI) aimed at uniting people for the emergence of an inclusive society on the basis of inclusive growth covering all aspects of life. Promotion of iodized salt was advocated to this group. The group along with ICCIDD office bearers also met the Hon,ble President of India, Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil.</p>	
1.12	<p>Intervention for IDD Elimination in Dehradun District, Uttarakhand and Shivpuri District, Madhya Pradesh</p> <p>Two NGO's Uttaranchal Voluntary Health Association of Dehradun and Shaktishali Mahila Sangathan Samiti of Shivpuri have done considerable advocacy related work on IDD in their respective districts. The two NGO's have been given technical inputs by the ICCIDD regional Office, New Delhi.</p>	

1.13	ICCIDD Logo on Salt Packets of Lanka Salt Limited  Iodized salt consumer packets of Lanka Salt Limited, Sri Lanka's largest Salt Manufacturer now carry the ICCIDD Logo.	
<b>2</b>	<b>Government</b>	
2.1	Letters to Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and Ministry of Women & Child Development requesting to attend UNGASS II side event on Iodine Deficiency Disorders organized by ICCIDD on behalf of the Network, 6 December 2007  A Letter was written to the focal persons in Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and Ministry of Women & Child Development requesting to attend UNGASS II side event on Iodine Deficiency Disorders organized by ICCIDD on behalf of the Network.	
2.2	Workshop on National Iodine Deficiency Control Programme (NIDDCP), 24-25 October, 2007  A national policy level workshop on NIDDCP was organized on 24-25 October, 2007 as part of Global IDD Prevention Day by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India in collaboration with WHO-India Country office. The NFHS 3 data was discussed in this forum and it was highlighted that there was only marginal increase in availability of adequately iodised salt at the household level as compared the NFHS 2. However it was also pointed out that the ban was reinstated in 2006, whereas the data collection ended before the reinstatement of ban.	
2.3	Global IDD Day Celebrations in India: Print Media Advertisements. 21 <sup>st</sup> October, 2007  The two nodal ministries in the Government of India, i.e. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Ministry of Women and Child Development brought out half a page color advertisements in all the leading dailies of the nation including the regional ones.	
<b>3</b>	<b>Studies &amp; Surveys</b>	
3.1	I Promise Project: The effect of Iodine and Concurrent Micronutrient Supplementation on Pregnant Indian Women  Interuniversity project with Department of Human Nutrition, University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand in association with ICCIDD and Department of Social & Preventive Medicine, Nagpur Medical College.  The project is being carried out in two phases in India. Phase 1 on baseline information on the micronutrient status of reproductive age group women (18-30 yrs) has been completed.	

3.2	Health System Reform and Ethics: Private Practitioners in Poor Urban Neighborhoods in India, Indonesia and Thailand  This project is intended to describe the existing regulatory mechanism, ethical codes and legislation with direct implications for general private practice in Indonesia, Thailand and India	
<b>4</b>	<b>Collaboration</b>	
4.1	ICCIDD-MII-USI Project in collaboration with Micronutrient Initiative India (MII), New Delhi, ended in August 2006 The major heads of the activities were: 1. Procurement and Distribution of KIO3 2. Repairs and Rehabilitation 3. Establishment of Laboratory, Equipments, Chemicals 4. Advocacy and Dissemination Workshops	
4.2	Partnership of ICCIDD with Bharat Scouts and Guides, 2007  BSG was approached by ICCIDD to collect information about iodized salt in various parts of India. The project involves collecting information about iodized salt availability and pricing and its use from all the districts of the country.	
<b>5</b>	<b>Laboratory</b>	
5.1	CDC Urine samples. Analyzed. 12 samples x 4 times	
5.2	Nagpur Urine samples. Analyzed 164 samples, May, 2007	
5.3	Chennai Urine samples. Analyzed 400 samples of NIE. July, 2007	
5.4	Chennai Salt samples. Analyzed 12 samples of NIE. July, 2007	
5.5	Prepared 20000 Salt Testing Kits for Bharat Scouts and Guides	
5.6	Kullu Urine samples. Analyzed 160 samples. November, 2007	
5.7	Kullu Salt samples. Analyzed 200 samples. November, 2007	
5.8	Madhya Pradesh Salt samples. Analyzed 37 samples. November, 2007	
5.9	Analysed 1200 Salt Samples for ICMR Ph D. Thesis of School Going Children, December, 2007	
5.10	Analysed 400 urine Samples for ICMR Ph D. Thesis of School Going Children, December, 2007	
<b>6</b>	<b>Legal</b>	
6.1	Public Interest Litigation in Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.  Running into its 5th year, it is still pending. However, an early decision is now expected in view of the reinstatement of ban on sale of non iodised salt for human consumption.	

<b>7</b>	<b>Regional</b>	
7.1	<p>Bhutan: Sixtieth Session of the WHO Regional Committee for South-East Asia, 31 August-03 September, 2007, Bhutan</p> <p>The Sixtieth session of the WHO Regional Committee (RC) for WHO-SEA Region was held in Thimphu, Bhutan, from 31 August-03 September, 2007. Dr. Chandrakant S. Pandav, Regional Coordinator (South Asia) was invited on behalf of ICCIDD to make a statement at the meet, however due to pressing administrative needs at the AIIMS prevented him from doing so. His statement was distributed amongst the delegates.</p>	
7.2	<p>IDD Control Programme Review: Tracking Progress towards Elimination of IDD in Bhutan, 2-9 April, 2007, Bhutan</p> <p>Bhutan has achieved Universal Salt Iodization. Over a period of time, with effective implementation of USI, in Bhutan, the IDD indicators have improved. In order to review the current status of IDD control programme in Bhutan, especially with respect to sustainability, The Ministry of Health invited Dr. Chandrakant S. Pandav.</p>	
7.3	<p>Regional Workshop on Micronutrients in Maternal and Child Health and Development in South Asia, IDD/USI, 26-28 March, 2007, Jaipur</p> <p>UNICEF organized this meeting. Sixteen countries were identified by UNICEF as those that are key to meeting the IDD elimination, four of them belonging to this region. The countries presented the current situation, commitment's made at last year's meeting in Dubai and achievements since then.</p>	
<b>8</b>	<b>International</b>	
8.1	<p>ICCIDD Annual Board Meeting, Manila, Phillipines. 3-4 February, 2007</p> <p>On recommendation of the awards committee, ICCIDD certificates of appreciation (John T. Dunn Memorial Awards) for longstanding service were awarded to Eduardo Pretell, Francois Delange, Dan Lantum and Dr. Chandrakant S. Pandav.</p>	
8.2	<p>Istanbul, Turkey: First International Meeting of the Micronutrient Forum, 16-18 April, 2007</p> <p>The theme of the conference was "Consequences and Control of Micronutrient Deficiencies: Science, Policy and Programs-Defining the Issues". Two abstracts from the Regional Coordinators office, South Asia Region were presented at this forum.</p>	

8.3	<p>Expert Consultative Meeting on IDD, WHO-SEAR, Bangkok, Thailand. 25-26 June, 2007</p> <p>The progress made in the South-East Asia Region during the reporting period (2004-2007) was assessed by the Regional Office, WHO on the basis of guidelines for assessment of iodine deficiency disorders and monitoring their elimination (WHO, UNICEF, ICCIDD, 2001). The assessment was further verified at the Expert Consultative Meeting held in Bangkok, Thailand.</p>	
<b>9</b>	<b>IT Based Programmes</b>	
9.1	<p>Website of the Indian Coalition for Control of Iodine Deficiency Disorders <a href="http://www.iqplusin.org">www.iqplusin.org</a></p> <p>Regular update of the website. All the IQ+ Jagriti Newsletters are available in the PDF format</p>	
<b>10</b>	<b>Communication</b>	
10.1	<p>Information material [e.g. ICCIDD Newsletter, Brochures “Pink booklet (10,000 copies), 20 Questions, Poster Sets, Video CDs] have been distributed on a regular basis to Government Departments, Network Members, Missions, Professional Bodies, Industry, Medical Colleges, Home Science Institutes and other Stakeholders.</p> <p>To increase the outreach, Pink Booklet has been already translated in regional languages, Hindi and Gujarati. The Tamil and Oriya versions are also in the process of translation and will soon be available for distribution.</p>	
<b>11</b>	<b>Regional Newsletter</b>	
11.1	IQ+ Jagriti, the Regional Newsletter. Four issues have been printed this year.	
<b>12</b>	<b>Conferences / Workshops</b>	
12.1	Meeting with Shri. Mohan Dharia (Opinion Leader). 13 <sup>th</sup> January, 2007	
12.2	Meeting with Advisor Nutrition, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India	
12.3	Meeting with Dr. Sultana Khannum, WHO, 16 <sup>th</sup> January, 2007	
12.4	ICCIDD-MII Regional Workshop on Production of Adequately Iodized Salt, 19 <sup>th</sup> January, 2007, Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu	
12.5	51 <sup>st</sup> All India Annual Conference of Indian public Health Association (IPHA), Golden Jubilee Celebrations, 19-21 January, 2007, Kolkata	
12.6	34 <sup>th</sup> National Conference of Indian Association of Preventive and Social Medicine, 22-24 February, 2007, New Delhi	
12.7	ITS 2007: 4 <sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of Indian Thyroid Society, 27-28 January, 2007, Udaipur	
12.8	ICCIDD Annual Board Meeting, 3-4 February, 2007, Manila, Phillipines	
12.9	National Workshop on Adoption of New WHO Growth Standards, 8 <sup>th</sup> February, 2007	
12.10	AED/A2Z Project, Stakeholders Meeting, 27 <sup>th</sup> February, 2007, New Delhi	



12.11	Workshop on Health Sector Policy – NIHFWS, New Delhi, 23 <sup>rd</sup> March, 2007	
12.12	Regional Workshop on Micronutrients in Maternal and Child Health and Development in South Asia, IDD/USI, 26-28 March, 2007, Jaipur	
12.13	Tracking Progress Towards Elimination of IDD in Bhutan, Review of IDD Control Programme by Short Term Consultant, 2-9 April, 2007	
12.14	First International Meeting of the Micronutrient Forum, 16-18 April, 2007, Istanbul, Turkey. Golden Jubilee Celebration	
12.15	Golden Jubilee Celebration & National Conference on “Public Health Challenges in Resurgent India-the NRHM Response”. Family welfare Training & Research Centre, Government of India, 4-6 May, 2007, Mumbai	
12.16	ICCIDD-MII Dissemination Workshop on production of Adequately Iodized Salt, 15 <sup>th</sup> April, 2007, Nawa, Rajasthan.	
12.17	ICCIDD-MII Dissemination Workshop on production of Adequately Iodized Salt, 28 <sup>th</sup> April, 2007, Ganjam, Orissa.	
12.18	National Seminar on Meeting the Challenges of Malnutrition, Strategies and Interventions, 11-12 June, 2007, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh	
12.19	CII National Committee on Public Health, New Delhi, 23 <sup>rd</sup> July, 2007	
12.20	Expert Group Meet on Infant and Young Child Feeding, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, New Delhi, 25 <sup>th</sup> July, 2007	
12.21	Stakeholder Consultation Meeting, MI, New Delhi, 9 <sup>th</sup> August, 2007	
12.22	National Nutrition Conclave, USAID/MSSRF/ICMR. 11-14 August, 2007, Chennai	
12.23	Expert Group Meet on DFS, ICMR, 21 <sup>st</sup> August, 2007, New Delhi	
12.24	Sixtieth Session of the WHO Regional Committee for South-East Asia, 31 August-03 September, 2007, Bhutan	
12.25	Impact of Preventive Healthcare on Indian industry and Economy, 12 <sup>th</sup> September, 2007, New Delhi	
12.26	Meeting with WFP Senior Advisor, Mohamed Mansour, 21 <sup>st</sup> September, New Delhi	
12.27	Dissemination Meeting – Follow up of Nutrition Conclave, Chennai, 3 <sup>rd</sup> October, 2007, New Delhi	
12.28	Farewell meeting of outgoing UNICEF Country Representative, Ces Adorna, 4 <sup>th</sup> October, 2007, New Delhi	
12.29	Meeting with Pankaj Jain, Regional Programme Manager, MI, 18 <sup>th</sup> October, 2007, New Delhi	
12.30	NIDDCP Workshop, 24-25 October, 2007, New Delhi	
12.31	First Task Force Meeting on Strengthening of Public Health System at all Level under NRHM, 22 <sup>nd</sup> November, 2007, New Delhi	
12.32	Dr. J.N. Maitra Memorial Oration, 2007. Physiological Society of India, 8 <sup>th</sup> December, 2007, Faridabad	
12.33	Conference on Role of Micronutrients in Child Development: Give Kids a Good Start, 14 <sup>th</sup> December, 2007, New Delhi	
12.34	Flour Fortification in India: Developing a Plan to Engage with all Stakeholders to Support Fortification of Wheat, 10-11 December, 2007	