

PTRC Annual report for 2019-2020

Summary:

During the year we focussed on the case identification in Rajkot, Surendranagar and Morbi districts. We started with Than in Surendranagar which is hub of ceramic industry. We later started visiting Rajkot and Morbi districts and by September we could find 13 confirmed cases of deaths due to silicosis and 32 cases of persons living with silicosis. In September we filed formal complaint before the National Human Rights Commission. We established contacts with various stake holders in the new areas of operation. We have now contacts in Wakened, Morbi, Rajkot, Dhrangadhra, Than and Surendranagar. We established good rapport with the workers in Than and organized several meetings with them. We produced a documentary film titled "Gasping for life" for Occupational & Environmental Health Network India (OEHNI). PTRC is hosting Secretariat to the Network at present. We were invited by Responsible Jewellery Conference organizers to attend and make presentation at the Conference which was held at Chicago in October end. Our friends in US organized our lectures in University of California. We then attended biannual conference of Asian Network of Rights of Occupational and Environmental Victims (ANROEV) at Seoul, S. Korea in October end. During the year we actively participated in grievance redress system of ESI Corporation and represented several complaints. We also continued to play our role in Jan Swasthya Abhiyan network as member of its State Steering Committee. In Khambhat we shifted our office from Shakarpur to Metpur. We could not identify any new patient of silicosis during the year since we do not have any staff at present. But we had some important visitors at Khambhat. During the year we could get good support from media. We had some legal victories during the year. We continued claiming important information by filing applications under Right to Information Act, 2005. Under CAF grant we organized awareness for diabetes in Delhi and Gujarat. We plan to continue our work in the new geographical areas.

Work on Silicosis:

Than:

Than is hub of ceramic industry since last more than 50 years. There are over 130 ceramic



units, Local and migrant workers find employment in these units. One of our field staff regularly visits Than. During the year we organized several meetings with ceramic workers and silicosis victims in Than in Surendranagar. In Than we identified 41 patients of Silicosis out of which 16 have died.

Surendranagar :

Surendranagar is a district place where there is Medical College as well as Civil Hospital. We visited ESIS dispensary and local offices in Surendranagar and Wanakaner. We also visited CHC, Than and Civil Hospital and TB Hospital in Rajkot.

We also visited C.U.Shah Medical College to establish contacts when we proposed to take up joint study on silicosis without any success.

Dhrangadhra:

Dhrangadhra is well known centre of manufacture of stone sculptures in Surendranagar district. There are hundreds of small and few big units manufacturing beautiful sculpture for temples and for sale. Workers of Sompura community are engaged in this occupation as well as some migrant workers from Rajasthan. We visited Dhrangadhra to establish contacts, identify victims and meet them. We visited the training centre established by the State Government to train the sculptors. One of our field staff regularly visits Dhrangadhra.

We visited Arts College and talked to the staff to introduce ourselves and silicosis, gifted them set of publications and appealed them to help us identify the victims. In Dhrangadhra we identified 27 patients of silicosis out of which 5 have died.



Wankaner:

Wankaner is known for the production of refractory bricks. These bricks contain high amount of silica leading to silicosis. Wankaner has ESIC local office. Workers in Than are

attached to this office. We visited some social workers and organizations to introduce ourselves and the problem. We have found 2 patients of silicosis in Wankaner.

Morbi: We visited Morbi several times and visited victims. We identified 9 patients of silicosis out of which 3 have died.

Rajkot:

Rajkot is a city with population of 1.8 million. It is hub of engineering industry specifically, foundries and forging. Large population of migrant workers find employment in this industry. Is it also hub of imitation jewellery with large numbers of local and migrant workers engaged in this occupation. We have set up local advisory committee here which has members from medical practitioners, trade unionists, lawyers, workers and silicosis victims. One of our field staff regularly visits Rajkot. We have established contacts with Government and Non-Government institutions, Medical practitioners, workers and silicosis victims. We organize meeting of this committee every quarterly. We found workers working in foundries, glass itching, imitation jewellery and flour mill to be suffering from Silicosis. We visited some glass itching units to have firsthand knowledge of the working conditions. IN Rajkot we have identified 16 patients of silicosis out of which 4 have died.

Advocacy:

- ❖ We made representation before ESI Corporation to bring to their notice that large numbers of workers employed by ceramic units in Than are kept out of coverage of ESI illegally and ESIC need to take immediate actions.
- ❖ In February, 20 we visited Chotila MLA Rutvik Makwana and talked about the plight of Ceramic workers and silicosis and gifted him set of publications.
- ❖ Visited Dr.Samir Shah, Director ESIS later on 8 May, 2019 to represent problems faced by insured workers in Than and appealed to open dispensary. As a result, dispensary was opened in Than.

Khambhat:

- ✓ In Khambhat during the year we did not have any support staff nor continued any specific program. After the Karamsad Medical College expressed its inability to continue weekly OPD in Khambhat we had no alternative but to close OPD. We had discontinued our work with Children before that. Since Government established system for silicosis diagnosis at local CHC and certify we did not have any role. Again, Government resolved to pay relief to the diseased families and victims can go on their own to make claim, again we had not much of our role left. What is still required is to monitor the diagnosis process, processing of claims and help claimants to file claims, advocacy for getting the NHRC recommendations implemented and help industry to reduce silica exposure.

- ✓ National Human Rights Commission had made several recommendations to improve working conditions of Agate workers in Khambhat. One of the recommendations was to fix minimum wages for these workers. Mahatma Gandhi Labour Institute was assigned the project to consult stake holders and give recommendation to the Government of Gujarat. MGLI sought our help in organizing consultation with the workers. On 21 July meeting with workers was organized for MGLI faculty.
- ✓ We helped several victims to claim relief offered by the Government of Gujarat
- ✓ We visited Khambhat Municipality President and Vice President to request office space for the organization.
- ✓ In November we shifted our office from Shakarpur to Metpur. We spent a more than a decade in Shakarpur. In February again we had to shift our office from Metpur to Khambhat city.
- ✓ We visited Community Health Centre and Block health Officer as well as Cardiac Care hospital and NGO working on diabetes control. We prepared a list of diabetic patients with the help of local volunteers.
- ✓ There were communal riots in late January and we helped Ahmedabad based NGOs as well individuals from Vadodara to visit affected areas and visit victims.

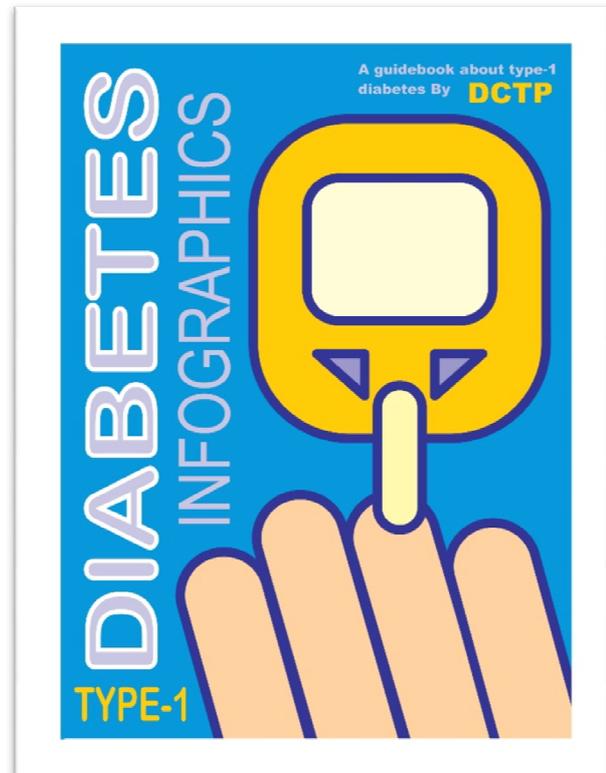
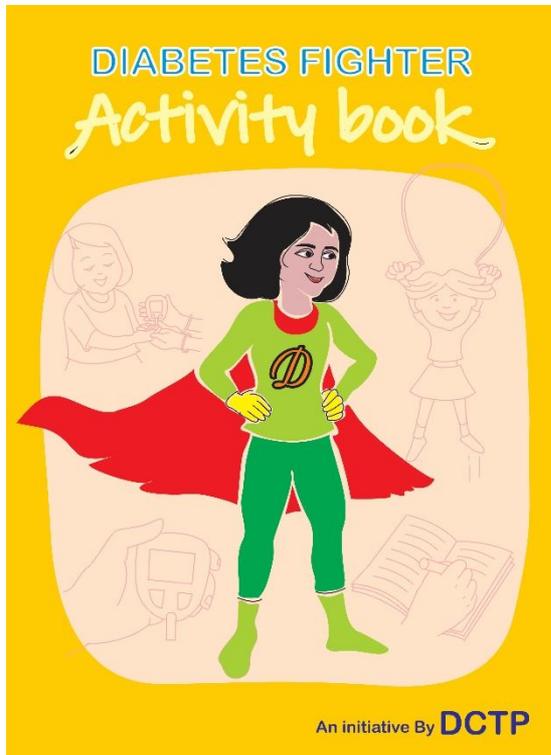
Work on DIABETES:

We continued supporting Mridula Bahrgav in Delhi on her work on diabetes awareness among patients of Type 1 diabetes as well as policy advocacy on diabetes. She organised Snake and ladders workshop on 07-04-2019 at Yog Dhyana Foundation in Delhi. It was one hour event in which approximately 100 patients participated. Objective was to empower patients and their caregivers. The activity was conducted by dividing the attendees (approximately 100 people) into three groups. The snake depicts all the don'ts and ladder depicts all the dos. This was a floor-based activity on 10 ft X 10 ft mat. The youngest member from all the three groups were chosen to stand at the number while the dice is rolled. If the team lands up on a snake, they had to answer a question related to Don'ts of Diabetes and its management whereas the ladder asked the team to discuss a good habit to manage diabetes. People with Diabetes from the winning team received gift coupons from Decathlon to buy a sports related gift of their choice.

She prepared CHILDREN ACTIVITY BOOK AND ADULTS' INFOGRAPHIC GUIDEBOOK ON TYPE-1 DIABETES

Children activity book on type 1 diabetes focuses upon the important diabetes management points in the form of colouring pictures and other activities within the book.

Infographic guidebook on type-1 diabetes for adults focuses upon crucial and burning topics related to type-1 diabetes and provides the important information required to understand the type-1 diabetes burden.



Following are the links to videos and pictures related to DCTP.

1. <https://photos.app.goo.gl/BvAZ7s8BqiKTooCKA>
2. <https://photos.app.goo.gl/1Sw91CAZq6D8Xny57>
3. <https://photos.app.goo.gl/E5S25NfGXDrfgXMB7>



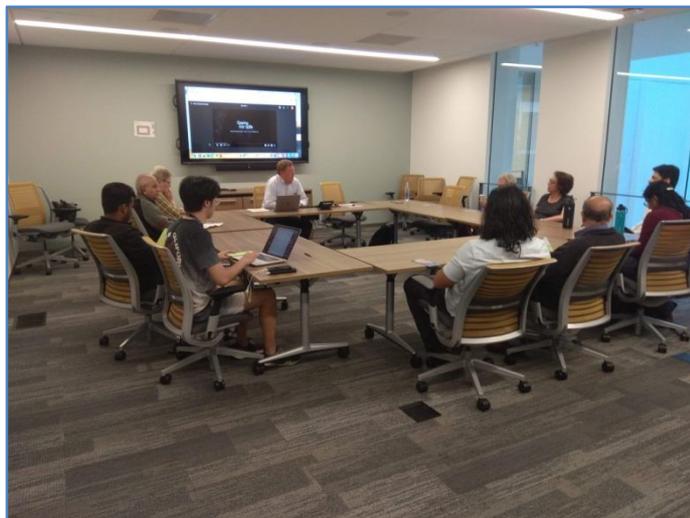
Lecture:

✚ 30 April- Sola Hospital talk on OHS before students of IIPH.

✚ On October gave talk before the students of The Centre for Labour Research and Education, Berkeley, Uni. of California between 12 noon to 1 pm

✚ On October 21 gave talk before the guests and faculty of The Centre for Labour Research

and Education, Berkeley, Uni. of California between 2.30 PM and 4.30 PM.



screened.

✚ On October 18 gave talk at the School of Public Health, Berkeley, Uni. of California where we screened the recently made documentary “Gasping for life” followed by talk and Q&A.

✚ On October 26 gave talk on silicosis among colour gem stones at Responsible Jewellery Council Conference at Chicago. It was in the form of conversation with Joe Becker, Human Rights Watch. Initially 5 minute documentary on Agate workers was



✚ Gave presentation on October 28 at ANROEV Conference at Seoul, S. Korea. Subject was “Strategies against the structured risk in informal sectors.”

5 December. Lecture at WLAMI, Gandhinagar

✚ 29 January: Gave presentation on Silicosis at ICOH Conference in Mumbai.

✚ 4 February Chennai. Attended meeting on leather workers OSH problems and gave presentation at meeting organized by CIVIDEP India

Radio Talk:

Gave interview to Kaushik Amin for Radio Dil in New Jersey on October 5

Help:

We donated our LED display board to Cardiac Care Centre, Khambhat in May, 2019

Work with ESI:

- ❖ In May, we attended Suvidha Samagam (grievance redress) meeting at ESIC Regional office in Ahmedabad with workers in Waghodiya industrial area.



- ❖ During the year we attended Suvidha Samagam (grievance redress) meetings in ESIC-Sub Regional Office, Vadodara attended to represent complaints with the complainants in June, July, August, September and January 2020.
- ❖ Meeting on ESI with Waghodiya workers in Waghodiya on 28 May to discuss the problems faced by the workers and plan strategy and programs. It was decided to print pamphlet for wider distribution among the workers in the estate to help the unregistered workers get registered in ESI. Pamphlet was prepared and the workers got it printed.

Attended:



- ❖ Attended program organized by Bandhkam Mazdur Sangathan at NIOH on 10 May.

- ❖ Attended ICAN meeting in Delhi on 17/18 June, 2019

- ❖ Attended PRAYAS meeting on 21 June in Rajkot with Mansukh. Visited Dr. Javia in the evening. Later in the evening had meeting with local advisory group at Majur Madhi

- ❖ Attended Sagar Dhara's lecture organized by environment group at Ahmedabad on 3 July.
- ❖ Attended half yearly meeting of Medico Friend Circle on July 26/27 at Vadodara
- ❖ On 7 August attended Safe in India - Gurugram report inauguration program at IIM Ahmedabad
- ❖ 8 September Attended meeting organized by Vishva Vatsalya Trust at Vadodara.
- ❖ Attended JSA Steering Committee Meeting on 10 September
- ❖ 21 December. Attended PRAYAS meeting in Kadi.
- ❖ 3/4/5 February 2020: OEHNI meeting at Karauli

Inquiry:

We were invited by the Surat PUCL to join inquiry in the devastating fire that took place in tuition classes which killed – students. We participated in the inquiry proceedings on 31 July and 1 June.



Visited:

- 13 November: Visited Mr Sachdeva of Safe in India at IIM, Ahmedabad. Explained him our activities and politics
- November 24: Visited Gemabhai in Ambaji and with him visited few silicosis patients. Since it was Sunday could not visit the CHC.
- Visited Sri Dipak Shah, Secretary, Majur Mahajan, Dhrangadhra on 29 November, Gifted him PTRC
- On December 5, visited NID, Ahmedabad and held discussion with the faculty on Khambhat, gifted our publications.

Visitors:



- NIOH students of -- came for visit Khambhat on 27 May. We facilitated their visit and gave presentation.
- Ram Manohar Vikas, Anand and his son Pulak visited Khambhat on 19 November
- Dr.Kalpna Subrmaniyam, Mumbai visited Khambhat on 21 November.
- Film maker Vinod Parmar, Mumbai visited us at Vadodara office on 22 November
- Vishal Munsaf, USA recorded interview on OHS on 8 November.

RTI:

- July 8, Filed RTI before DISH as well as ESIC
- 27 November: Attended hearing before State Information Commissioner by video conference at Bharuch Collector office on our appeal against Bharuch Collector. Commissioner passed order in our favour. Order asked Bharuch collector to provide information in 7 days. Accordingly Bharuch collector supplied the information.

Legal Work:

- We won compensation filed in Anand Labour Court in January 2011 on behalf of family of late Rajesh Khushal Parmar. Order was passed by the Court in October end.
- Filed complaint before NHRC for confirmed cases of silicosis death in October, 2019 for Rajkot, Surendranagar and Morbi districts. In November, the Commission directed Chief Secretary to verify and get the workers medically examined, take necessary steps to extend monetary relief and rehabilitative steps. It also directed District Magistrate to submit his report. Response within 8 weeks sought.
- Reminder sent to the Commission on 25 January.

- NHRC passed recommendation in our complaint no. 499/6/5/2010 to Bharuch Collector to take matter with labour authorities in Jaipur.

OEHNI:

Occupational & Environmental Network India is National network of organizations working on Occupational Health set up in 2005. PTRC is hosting its secretariat. We carried out several activities on behalf of OEHNI.



- ✓ On behalf of OEHNI we wrote a letter to the Minister, Health & Family Welfare, Government of India to monitor and reduce silica dust at work to be able to bring down TB incidence. The letter was signed by over 100 experts from India and abroad and sent to the Ministry in July.
- ✓ For OEHNI we made documentary on Silicosis with the financial support from AMRC. Raturaj Mistry made the film for us.

Media Reports:

| No. | Date | Name of the news paper/blog | Title | Note |
|-----|----------|-----------------------------|---|------|
| 1 | 09/02/20 | Divya Bhaskar | Silicosis thi pidata akik kamdarone sahay aapvaa maag | |
| 2 | 5/11/19 | Indian Express | Kin of worker who died of silicosis receives compensation of Rs.5.7 lakh | |
| 3 | 24/08/19 | Counterview | Ceramic Worker dies: 20,000 workers in Thangadh risk deadly silicosis | |
| 4 | 10/11/19 | Counterview | Gujarat Agate worker, who fought against bondage, died of silicosis, won compensation | |
| 5 | 4/07/19 | Counterview | Gujarat agate workers | |

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|----|----------|----------------|---|--|
| | | | use potentially low preventive practice to 'evade' deadly silicosis | |
| 6 | 21/10/19 | Indian Express | Hardlook: Silicosis Threat |  |
| 7 | 13/11/19 | Indian Express | NHRC directs Gujarat to extend relief to kin of silicosis victims |  |
| 8 | 8/11/19 | Counterview | NHRC notice to Gujarat Chief Secretary following silicosis deaths in Rajkot | |
| 9 | 27/10/19 | Counterview | US Supply chain told to be wary of fatal impact of Indian Agate industry on workers | |
| 10 | 14/03/20 | Indian Express | Ceramic worker dies of silicosis |  |
| 11 | 17/03/20 | Counterview | Ninth death in about a year because of deadly silicosis in Gujarat's top ceramic hub. | |
| 12 | 24/12/19 | Sandesh | Gujarat ma Silicosis rog na sauthi vadhu dardee mukhyamantrini karmabhumima |  |
| 13 | 07/02/20 | Fulchhab | Silicosis this mrutyu pamela lokona sahayna nirnayne aavakaar |  |

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|----|----------|---------------|---|--|
| 14 | 08/02/20 | Divya Bhaskar | Silcosisthi pidata akik kamdarone sahay aapva maang |  |
| 15 | 12/02/20 | Counterview | Why no Haryana-type welfare scheme for silicosis victims in Gujarat? NGO asks Govt. | |
| 16 | 29/08/19 | NAV KAR | Silicosis rog thi ek kamdar nu mrutyu |  |

Research:

Research on Factory Inspectorate system carried out with the support from AMRC.

Placement & Internship:

Pulak Vikas, Student at Patna University joined us as intern for a month on 20 November.

6 MLW students from Ahmedabad joined PTRC for internship for a month in March, 20. They were assigned to study the conditions of Ahmedabad Municipal Cleaning workers. Due to lockdown their work was hampered.

Staff:

Mitesh Mahida left PTRC in May, 2019.

Nilesh Algotar joined us to work in Than area in March, 2019 but he soon left since he got government job. Mansukh Olakia joined us as field executive for Rajkot region in May, 2019. In October, 2019 Deepak Rathod joined us as filed officer for Rajkot region.

Finance:

During the financial year we received Rs. 4,11,903/- towards grant and donations, we earned Rs. 59,040/- towards bank interest and we spent Rs. 13,79,124.70 on the objectives of the organizations.

We thank all our donors, supporters and sympathisers for their whole hearted support.

List of the donors:

| NO | Name | Place | Amount |
|----|------------------------|--------------|-----------|
| 1 | Dr.Jagdish Parikh | Ahmedabad | 20,000/- |
| 2 | Dr.K.Vijaya | Vindhyanagar | 00,600/- |
| 3 | Dr.Y.Surya Ratnam | Ahmedabad | 00,200/- |
| 4 | Dr.Gunaprakash J. | Bangalore | 00,100/- |
| 5 | Dr.Y.Swati Ratnam | Ahmedabad | 00,100/- |
| 6 | Sri Jaydev Gokulgandhi | Mumbai | 02,501/- |
| 7 | Ms.Heena Gokulgandhi | Mumbai | 02,501/- |
| 8 | Sri Harish Desai | Bharuch | 00,100/- |
| 9 | Ms.Mithil Samant | Mumbai | 07,000/- |
| 10 | Sri Ramesh K.Patel | Mumbai | 30,000/- |
| 11 | Bhuraben | Jhalod | 30,000/- |
| 12 | C.H.Kamol | Jhalod | 30,000/- |
| 13 | J.M.Damor | Jhalod | 30,000/- |
| 14 | Virsing Kamol | Jhalod | 30,000/- |
| | Total | | 183,102/- |