

Satpuda foundation's mobile health Unit camp at moharli range:

Dates: 9th - 10th oct 2010

Villages: Dewala, Adegaon, Palasgaon, Karwa

With the email of Rajashree Khalap I decided to go to the MHU camp of Satpuda foundation. After the initial arrangements with Vishal Bansod I finally landed up directly at Moharli.

Day 1:

This was my first experience for such a medical camp. We got together at Satpuda office, Moharli in the morning. Got to know other volunteers and doctors along with Guddu, the co-ordinator at the office. After the doctors, Guddu made the initial check of the props/medicines required (for which I was just an observer) we went to Dewala, a village near by. We reached the usual place where they set up the mobile clinic. Doctors, Volunteers started to arrange the clinic with equipments, medicines, patients' records, etc. After 10-15min, people lined up. I was amazed to see the discipline they had. They queued up in line and waited for their turn. Volunteers helped in registration, finding the patient's history record in case of old patients. Doctors examined one by one and gave prescription. Two of the patients were very scared to take injections and one of them ran away :) Volunteers dispensed medicines according to the prescription.

Since the villagers couldn't understand the written prescription, the envelope containing the medicine were torn accordingly for the number of times. But I kept wondering what if they get confused about whether it had to be taken in morning or night or before/after food...though most of the medicines were pain killers/nutrition supplements/antacids. I felt the usage of different colored envelopes may solve this issue to some extent. After 2 hrs we wound up and went back to Moharli Satpuda office by which time lunch was getting prepared by a lady (Sorry I didn't get to know her name). We had good lunch, rested for a while and again started to another village Adegaon. Here, we set up the clinic in the front porch of villager's house. They also served us lemon Tea which was very good. Here the people were more expressive. I observed here that the women population was more (at least among the people who turned up to the clinic) and they were loud, some of them even seemed to follow latest styles ;-) Also many women here seemed to have deficiency, anemic. We also saw Durga idol being decorated for Navaratri. Return to Moharli with the next day's plan ended the first day's event.

Day 2:

Next day I reached the Satpuda office at 9am as planned. We had Poha prepared by Guddu and left to Palasgaon which is the core area. We reached the village entrance and walked to the school where we were to setup the clinic. People turned up in big numbers and also they were very insistent on taking the injection! They believed without injection, they can't get better! Quite opposite to what I experienced the previous day!! After the camp we had time to take a stroll till the lunch got prepared. Got to see/talk to some villagers. I happened to meet 3-4 girls who were doing bamboo work. They told me that they have neither gone to a school nor studied primary. I wanted to get more information on this and spoke to couple of other women. They also had not got the required primary

education. Most of them worked from their childhood. After lunch we left to another village Karwa. Here we rested for a while and started with the set up. I think highest number of people turned up here. We dint have sufficient time here to attend to all as we had to leave the core area within the stipulated time. Then we had tea in a restaurant and dispersed.

The camp duration was 3 days, but I could make it only for 2 days as the third day's visit was in the core villages and I had to return to Nagpur by evening for my return journey.

Once we enter the core area there was no reliable means to get back to Moharli by noon, I opted not to attend, which I was not happy with. The team came to the hotel that I was staying in to say Goodbye. All in all it was a very good experience and the dedication of doctors, volunteers are appreciable.

Thinking about how can we improvise the camp, here are some suggestions for the camp preparation:

1. PREPUNCHED CASE PAPERS
2. STAPPLER
3. WEIGHING SCALE
4. STICKER FOR SYRUP BOTTELS
5. MEASURING CUP FOR DISPENCING
6. PATIENT INDEXING (I have few suggestions, which we can discuss further)
7. WATER PURIFYING TABLETS
8. CARD / TAG FOR PATIENTS
9. whether literacy camp can work along with this

Important Observation: Measure concern seems to be malnutrition across all the ages of patients. Instead of providing the supplements, if they are given the list of vegetables to be cultivated as kitchen garden, they will have the requisite nutrients and this would serve as a long term, natural solution which they can implement easily.

This is just a prima face report. I know that I do not have any right to even suggest something unless I work on this for longer time, frequently which I surely plan to do.

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