



Spectrum



RI District 3291

September 7, 2019

Weekly bulletin of Rotary Club of Salt Lake Metropolitan Kolkata

VOL 12A NO 10

PRESIDENT DR SUDHA CHAUDHARY

SECRETARY KUSUM CHAMARIA

EDITOR BL AJITSARIA

CLUB NO 78956

CHARTERED ON APRIL 30, 2008

WEBSITE www.rcslmk.org

Summary of Duttafulia Med Camp on Aug 25, 2019

Persons examined	161 persons
Male & boys	44 persons
Women & girls	117 persons
Age: 60 to 80	36 persons
Age: 41 to 58	44 persons
Age: 20 to 40	54 persons
Age: 13 to 16	9 persons
Age: 3 to 11	18 persons
Examined by Gen physician	76 persons
Examined by Gynecologists	85 persons
High Blood pressure among adults	17 persons 12.41%
High Blood glucose among adults	26 persons 18.84%
Highest Blood pressure: Kanak Karmakar 42/F	180/100
Lowest Blood pressure: Pitul Mondal 72/F	70/50
Highest Blood glucose: Anima Kundu 50/F	433
Lowest Blood glucose: Pratima Nath 25/F	70
Oldests: Radharani Saha, Chapala Mondal	80/F
Youngest person: Sibam Bala	3/M

equipment, but we also noted that a number of them had no experience in running a business, so we introduced training in simple business topics (e.g., book keeping) and encouraged them to open savings/bank accounts. The training sessions proved quite popular and at the group's request, we started including medical and hygiene topics and encouraged the group to invite other interested residents.



This led to our joint project with the group. We had observed that the larger community had sanitation issues and were using unclean water from sand pits for their household needs. Our Rotary club organized a general cleaning exercise with this Kirombe women group during which we jointly cleaned a big public area, including the shops and market place, while encouraging the residents to continue keeping their areas clean. It was interesting to note that, at the start of our first cleaning exercise, some residents were not very cooperative while others assumed that we were perhaps looking for political votes, but by the end of the first day most of them appreciated our efforts and quite a number of them had even joined us.

Collaborate with community leaders for greater impact

Posted on September 4, 2019 by Sarah Odongo, member of the Rotary Club of Port Bell, Uganda



It all started when members of our Rotary Club of Port Bell from District 9211 visited Kirombe, a nearby low income suburb of Kampala City, Uganda in 2009 where we were introduced to local residents, mainly women, who had formed a group of about 25, with the aim of joining together and helping lift one another's standard of living. The group had already started with a few activities like crafts making, baking, and tailoring, but lacked some essential equipment for most of the activities they were trying to engage in (e.g. sewing machines). We assisted them with some of the start-up



The group of women was chartered as the "Kirombe Rotary Community Corps" in 2014, and our club has continued to work very closely with them in identifying and addressing the many challenges facing their local community, especially

access to clean and affordable water, as most residents in the area cannot sustainably pay the water bills. Our club partnered with the National Water and Sewerage Corporation and provided public water sources in the community which the Kiroombe Rotary Community Corps helped monitor.



Our club carries out immunizations twice every month at two centers within our community and the Rotary Community Corps members assist us in mobilizing community residents to take advantage of these medical services and also help out during the exercise. They also join with us at the annual Rotary Family Health Days, and serve side by side with Rotarians, Rotaractors, Interactors, and volunteer medical staff.



Last Rotary year, our club decided that on the last Wednesday of every month, we would not have an ordinary meeting at the usual hotel venue, but instead would take a walk around the community. This innovation has proved to be quite popular as it gives the club members a chance to identify the needs in the community around us while the community gets to know more about Rotary; it also opens an avenue for a more informal interaction between club members and the community. During one walk, the Rotary Community Corps members took us to a protected well from which most of the community

members collect water. It was clear from the environment that the water was not clean, and now our club is working with the Water Authority to install a modern, but affordable, water system at that site while the Rotary Community Corps members identify other public areas in the community where more affordable clean water points will be installed. The community will get clean water again with the help from our Rotary club in partnership with the Kiroombe Rotary Community Corps. It is a great partnership.



A Rotary Community Corps (RCC) can enhance community engagement and ensure project sustainability by empowering local leaders to pioneer change. RCCs are teams of non-Rotarian community members, men and women, who may be farmers, teachers, shop owners, or even retirees, who work in partnership with Rotary clubs to improve their communities. They are committed to their communities' long-term development, and bring enthusiasm, creativity, and sustainability to the projects they design and carry out. By organizing an RCC, you can make a tremendous, long-term impact in your community.



Lights, camera, Rotaract!

Posted on September 3, 2019 by Charlie Flynn

When I first walked into a meeting of the Rotaract Club of Jacksonville's Beaches, I couldn't have possibly known all the unique and rewarding experiences my involvement would afford me. I had no idea what was in store; the connections I would make, the communities I would serve, and the knowledge I would amass.

At the time, the club consisted of less than 10 people. I admired each and every person in the small group and wanted

We meet 2nd and 4th Saturdays at GPT Group, JC 25, Salt Lake, Kolkata 700098 at 6.00 PM

Printed by Dr Sudha Chaudhary, President, Rotary Club of Salt Lake Metropolitan Kolkata • Editor: BL Ajitsaria

For private circulation only • Web site: www.rcslmk.org

to get involved. They taught me that groups of all shapes and sizes can make a difference in their local and international community. Since then, the club has seen significant growth and now has a membership of over 80.



The Rotaract Club of Jacksonville's Beaches, Florida, USA

Our impact continues to grow as we strive to be the most impactful young group in the world through service, professional development, and meaningful relationships.



Beaches Rotaract members work on a project

Along the way, I've had the opportunity to meet with Rotaractors and Rotarians around our city, district, country, and beyond. I love meeting these people, hearing their stories, learning how we can support each other, and reflecting on how closely we're all aligned in our Service Above Self attitude. My service in Rotaract even allowed me to cross paths with a handful of representatives from Rotary International headquarters.

They saw something in our club that reflects the direction that Rotary is headed. They saw diversity, flexibility, and professionalism. They saw future Rotarians.

When RI's Young Leaders team reached out about filming a video, we were extremely honored. After all, we truly enjoy hanging out and serving together, so this was a really cool opportunity to showcase that. We hopped on a few conference calls, and soon enough the video production team traveled to Jacksonville Beach, Florida where we spent two full days shooting the video. We gave the production team a glimpse into the daily life of a Rotaractor: waking up, going to work, and attending a club meeting or service event. And we had so much fun doing it!

Our Rotaract club couldn't be more honored for the opportunity to help promote the amazing work Rotaractors are doing around the world and the significant impact Rotaract has had on each of our lives. Thank you, RI, for giving us this platform to share our story and make a difference in our world.

Smarter subsidy design and the SDG agenda for water and sanitation

Luis Andresmichael David Thibertgeorge Josephalexander Danilenkochristian Borja-Vega, Aug 28, 2019

We admit that subsidies are not the most alluring of subjects. When it comes to attaining Sustainable Development Goal 6 – ensuring the availability and sustainable management of water supply and sanitation (WSS) for all – policy makers and practitioners have largely looked elsewhere.

Most of the analytical work over the past decade has focused on improvements in technology and management models, private sector participation, behavior change promotion, water resources conservation and protection, and leveraging commercial financing, amongst others. We do not question the importance of these topics – in fact, they all represent part of the solution. We do contend, however, that there has been a sizeable omission in this dialog.

WATER GLOBAL PRACTICE

Doing More with Less Smarter Subsidies for Water Supply and Sanitation

Luis A. Andres, Michael Thibert, Camilo Lombana Cordoba,
Alexander V. Danilenko, George Joseph, and Christian Borja-Vega



WORLD BANK GROUP

In all countries, subsidies are a core feature of the WSS sector. A subsidy occurs when a user pays less for a product or service than the service provider's cost, leaving a third party (e.g., taxpayers via government, other users, future generations) responsible for picking up the tab. Although subsidies serve as a fundamental tool for governments to achieve the SDGs, their poor design all too often undermines the achievement of their goals and even derails service performance. Advancing equitable access to affordable WSS services therefore requires subsidies to be smarter.

Our new report, *Doing More with Less: Smarter Subsidies for Water Supply and Sanitation*, funded in part by the Global Water Security & Sanitation Partnership, explores the question of how scarce public resources can be used most effectively to achieve universal delivery of WSS. In it, we analyze the current performance of subsidies in the sector and provide guidance to policy makers on how subsidies can be better designed and implemented to improve their efficacy and efficiency in attaining their objectives. The report presents 3 key messages:

1: Current WSS subsidies fail to achieve their objectives due to poor design; they tend to be pervasive, expensive, poorly targeted, non-transparent, and distorting.

Governments across the world are pouring money into WSS subsidies, around \$320 billion a year, excluding China and India. This equates to around half a percent of global GDP. And if only low and middle-income economies are considered,

We meet 2nd and 4th Saturdays at GPT Group, JC 25, Salt Lake, Kolkata 700098 at 6.00 PM

Printed by Dr Sudha Chaudhary, President, Rotary Club of Salt Lake Metropolitan Kolkata • Editor: BL Ajitsaria

For private circulation only • Web site: www.rcslmk.org

that figure rises to between 1.5 and 2 percent. Given the substantial amount of public resources being spent, it is important that subsidies deliver. Yet current subsidies tend to be poorly targeted, nontransparent, and distorting.

All too often, subsidies fail to reach the poor, with the richest households receiving the lion's share. Our research shows that across the 10 low and middle-income countries examined, 56% of subsidies end up in the pockets of the richest 20% but only 6% of subsidies find their way to the poorest 20%.

Meanwhile, a lack of transparency prevents policy makers from making informed decisions on subsidy design and allocation, limits public awareness of adverse impacts, and may even provide cover for sector actors to divert money into their own bank accounts. Finally, poorly designed subsidies lead to significant distortions that can contribute to the misuse of public resources, the deterioration of service providers' performance, and the overexploitation of natural resources.

Yet it doesn't have to be this way...

2: The current poor performance of WSS subsidies can be avoided; new knowledge and technologies are making it increasingly possible for subsidies to cost less and do more.

Our research shows that subsidies can be powerful and progressive tools in delivering WSS services to the poor. In the report, we develop a roadmap that guides policy makers in improving the efficacy and efficiency of WSS subsidies, grounded in a thorough understanding of existing subsidy performance, the political economy, and the affordability constraints faced by households. We highlight a number of proven approaches to improve subsidy performance including: **Allocating subsidies to services that the poor actually use.** Given that networked services are largely unavailable to the poor in many countries, better targeting can be achieved by redirecting subsidies towards non-networked services that are readily available in poor communities.

Conditioning subsidies on results: In Colombia, India, Kenya, Morocco, the Philippines, and Uganda, a portion of subsidies are provided to service providers only after having delivered WSS facilities to the poor.

Using advances in technology to improve targeting. In Chile, a national socioeconomic survey provided sufficiently high-quality data to help determine who is eligible for subsidies. Even where such data is not readily available, the use of remote sensing and street view data, coupled with machine learning algorithms, holds the potential to identify the poor. The World Bank is currently working with the Government of Angola to pilot this approach.

Successful subsidy reform, however, necessitates more than sound policy. Even the smartest of subsidy designs are prone to fail if their implementation is inadequately thought through...

3. To successfully reform subsidies, a subsidy reform package consisting of four complementary elements (in addition to improved subsidy design) is required.

Subsidies do not function in isolation: any well-designed subsidy requires a number of additional elements to facilitate its acceptance and improve its efficacy. Our report provides guidance to policy makers on each of the **four crucial elements of an effective subsidy reform package: complementary policy mechanisms, the building of supportive political coalitions, a communications strategy, and an exit strategy (where applicable).**

Complementary policy mechanisms work in tandem with subsidies to make scarce public resources go further. Examples

include improving service provider management and operations, assisting the poor in overcoming financial, legal, or administrative barriers to access, or facilitating access to commercial financing.

Reform can only be successful where an informed and supportive public understands the rationale for reform and is therefore willing to accept a potential tariff increase, at least in the short-term. Therefore, a communications strategy is essential to build advance backing and facilitate successful implementation. Understanding the institutions, incentives and interests that shape subsidy reform is vital to cultivating supportive coalitions. Of course, subsidies may not be permanent, so an appropriate exit strategy should always include some form of support for the most vulnerable.

The SDGs for WSS set out a transformational vision for the future whose achievement will require substantial financial resources. Given the scarcity of public resources globally, it is more important than ever to ensure that those public resources already allocated to the sector are used efficiently. Well-designed subsidies effectively advance the goal of equitable access to affordable, sustainable, and quality WSS services, while maximizing the targeting of the poor, promoting transparency, and minimizing distortion. As the financial sustainability of service providers improves, these public resources can be leveraged to attract complementary private resources to the sector. By moving beyond the design flaws of the past, subsidies are a viable means of ensuring access to sustainable and safely managed WSS services for all.

Upcoming Club programs

- Sep 8, 2019 25 beneficiaries will receive Cycle Vans under Global Grant 1524507 titled 'Swabalamban 3' at Amta Howrah
- Sep 15, 2019 35 beneficiaries will receive Cycle Vans under Global Grant 1524507 titled 'Swabalamban 3' at Chakhah, Nadia
- Free Health camp at Chakdah, Gynae, Paed, Skin, Oral Cancer, Medicine doctors required
- Blood donation camp at Chakdah
- Project Green: Distribution of fruit plant sapling to 115 people at Chakdah

Birthdays of Rotary members in September 2019

- Somendra Ch Nandy, past Governor, on September 5, 2019
- Shyamashree Sen, past Governor on September 21, 2019

September is Basic Education & Literacy Month

UNWIND

After a quarrel, a wife said to her husband, 'You know, I was a fool when I married you.'

The husband replied, 'Yes dear, but I was in love and didn't notice it.'

TAILPIECE

In general, the art of government consists of taking as much money as possible from one party of the citizens to give to the other. Voltaire (1764)

Just because you do not take an interest in politics doesn't mean politics won't take an interest in you! Pericles (430 BC)

No man's life, liberty, or property is safe while the legislature is in session. Mark Twain (1866)