

ARCH



HIGHLIGHTS

Primary Health Care Program

TB Care Program

Women Health Program & Health Education

Education Activities

Land & Community Forest Rights

Forest Conservation and Soil-Moisture Conservation



Mangrol



Dharampur



Dediapada

ARCH, established in 1982, is a non-profit charitable organization that works to improve the health, education and welfare of the tribal population residing in Gujarat, India. Our work began in a small village of Mangrol. Now, after almost 35 years, ARCH and its core group of founding members have expanded their work to 3 areas – Mangrol, Dharampur and Dediapada/Kawant. ARCH, in the truest sense, is committed to work for the benefit of the downtrodden and the poor.

In 1993, Friends of ARCH (FOA) was formed as a U.S. based non-profit organization with the intention of supporting the activities of ARCH India.

FRIENDS OF ARCH

www.friendsofarch.org

MANGROL



The Mangrol Dispensary was established in 1982 and continues to serve about 12,000 patients each year. We have established a reputation for chronic disease management and have extended our program which can be described as a Primary Health Care Program for the extremely poor, ill-served tribal people of the vast region.

The most important chronic killer remains tuberculosis (TB), but respiratory, skin & heart disorders are common as well. There are many cases of hypertension, heart failure, coronary heart diseases, & diabetes and also chronic lung condition like COPD. Cases of mental illnesses are also diagnosed and treated. Acute and Chronic fungal skin infection are rampant and so are chronic skin disorders such as psoriasis, atopic dermatitis etc. Auto immune diseases like hypo & hyper thyroidism are very common too.

We are grateful for the attentive and efficient services by our seven senior health workers, providing care to thousands of patients coming to Mangrol dispensary from about 1200 villages of surrounding five to six districts. We have taken about twenty five years to develop elaborate informal evidence-based protocols for approximately 70 chronic diseases. The health workers are adept at implementing these protocols and the quality of care has improved significantly. The social and cultural acceptance of the care provided by the health workers is exemplary.

DEDIAPADA

Implementation of FRA (Forest Rights Act)

ARCH has been struggling since 1988 to secure the property rights over the degraded forest land, cultivated by tribal of Dadiapada villages for generations. In 2006, the above mentioned FRA has been enacted by the parliament. Since 2008, ARCH has been working for the proper implementation of this Act in the tribal districts of Gujarat. Its approach has been to train the Gramsabhas and the FRCs (Forest Rights Council), enabling them to properly perform tasks they have to perform under the FRA. For this, we have prepared and distributed a booklet in Gujarati explaining in simple language the provisions of the FRA and the rights and duties of the Gramsabhas and the FRCs. This booklet became very popular across all tribal districts and even the government officers use it for ready reference.



Education Program

In 2018, there were 300 students in 12 centers in Dediapada and Sagbara of Narmada district and 4 centers in Kawant. In November 2017, we held a 3-day training workshop in the Dediapada centers. During the first 2 days, we visited each center and observed activities and evaluated the teachers' performance. On the last day, we held a workshop in Dediapada office.

Community Forest Rights and Community Forest Resource (CFR) Rights

All Gramsabhas within our organizational villages have received community titles over forest resources. This includes ownership rights on Minor Forest Produce and bamboo and the right to protect, regenerate, conserve and manage forest resources of their villages. After obtaining these rights, all village Gramsabhas have formed Community Forest Management Committees and have started protecting forest areas from illegal cutting and forest fires.

DHARAMPUR

The region of Dharampur and Kaparada covers 237 villages, of which ARCH has selected 25 villages to serve. These villages are located within 60 kilometers from the main center in Dharampur, which has a campus with a dispensary and training center. Additionally, there are two sub-centers located in Vavar and Mamabhacha. In these villages, primary health care to the villagers is provided by our village health workers. It is also important to note that ARCH is active in organizing educational programs for school-aged children and primary school teachers.



Maternal & Child Health Care



To reduce maternal & child mortality and morbidity, the VHWs provide antenatal, postnatal and early childhood care at village level.

Adolescent Education



To dispel misconceptions about reproductive health and empower girls with right information, we have developed "adolescent education package". 4000 girls and boys benefit from this education every year.

VHW | Village Health Workers



Our trained VHWs provide paramedical support to tribal population with special focus on maternal & child health care.

Educational Activity



Mangrol

- Mangrol health center emerging as a major TB care center for five central districts and further evolving into a budding Primary Health Care in the area.
- Every week the dispensary detects 4-5 new diabetics and hypertension cases.
- Men and women of all ages and socio-economic classes come to the dispensary in increasing numbers in search of diagnosis and treatment.

Dharampur

- Provide care for approximately 18,000 patients per year.
- 25% success rate for couples struggling with infertility through medical care and counseling.
- Every year about 2,500 teenagers receive information related to common adolescent problems.
- Nearly 700 women receive prenatal, delivery and postnatal care.
- Provide mobile dental services to about 3,500 patients per year in 35+ villages and 15 schools.
- Provide educational health booklets and interactive kits/models for school children and lay people.
- Developed preschool education program to promote self-learning and physical activities (Balwadi).
- Developed an educational science training program for 200 teachers every year.

Dediapada

- Advocated and campaigned for tribal rights in the Shoolpaneshwar Sanctuary.
- Facilitated in the implementation of the Forest Right Act of 2006.
- Provided legal aid to tribal members living in the Dediapada/Kawant region.

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