



'Linking **2** Learn'

Linking-to-Learn meeting Anti-Tobacco DVD Launch March 2009

In March 2009 representatives from 24 community health programs met together for a time of fellowship, training, and to launch an antismoking DVD: the result of their first collaborative activity. Spread over 4 days it was on the whole inspiring and exciting.

Prayer focussed cluster: Raju appointed prayer coordinator

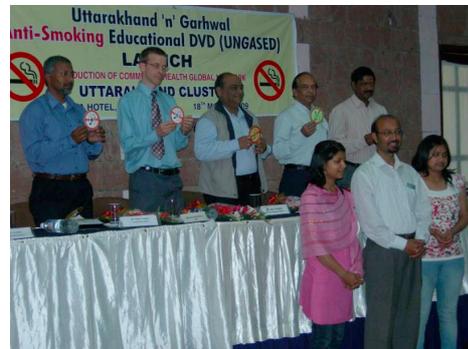
A focus on prayer is a spiritual tool that must be employed as glue in this network, we are not just another network coming together for self-advancement. A prayer coordinator, Raju Lingual, was appointed to lead the cluster in prayer. Raju Lingual will contact each program by phone and ask for at least one prayer point. This is to be done every 6 months- in between cluster meetings. Then he will compile this into an email and send to: chgn-ukc-cluster@googlegroups.com. Any other prayer requests he receives he will email to the googlegroup.

Cluster newsletter

A new biannual newsletter was launched called "linking to learn." The first edition was distributed at the March cluster meeting. Some feedback included: "This is a very useful document" and "It looks really good...very professional." Pradeep Singh has agreed to be the Cluster newsletter editor.

The DVD Launch:

We launched the Anti smoking DVD with much fanfare. After our October meeting the cluster had commissioned and produced this as their first project: the media came, the Health Department head and various other dignitaries. All of a sudden these small and vulnerable FBOs were very visible and credible... and the head of the health department has invited them to come and see him. Now that's the value of the cluster!



A taste of heaven: The best part of the DVD launch was the team building activity it turned out to be. On the morning of the launch I had planned a devotion and prayer time... but instead we decided to take everyone to the Aketa Hotel to help prepare for the launch. It turned out to be an excellent team building exercise as everyone pitched in to make this complex schedule run very smoothly. There were people on registration, DVD sales, the garland girls, the banner and poster putter-up'ers, the schedule planners, the presenters, cluster photographer, cluster video person, cluster minute taker, a 'gofor' the worship team... and the result was a seamless program. The media and chief guests (the Director of National programs and director of the NRHM) were very impressed. They Health department offered to help the cluster programs in the future: "The door is open they said and please continue this good work and we are always here to help you".

The anti tobacco DVD was a hit! Our chief song writer is a very talented person and the DVD would be fit for Bollywood complete with dancing, singing and unrealistic dramatisations! The DVD utilised principles like "our bodies being a temple of the Holy Spirit."

'Linking 2 Learn'

An example of the media coverage:



The cluster launch

We then formally launched the cluster itself. The cluster was launched with each cluster consultant swearing an oath which was lead by the chief guest MP Anil Sharma, Director of National Programs.

“We, the CHGN Uttarakhand Cluster of Community Health Programs, commit to serving together to bring holistic health to the people of Uttarakhand”



Using the Anti Tobacco DVD

Arul Paul chaired a session where we explored different ways to make use of this excellent resource. The following opportunities were put forward as possible ways to get the antismoking message out:

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| Screening in Schools | Panchayats | Awareness programs in villages with other NGOs |
| Cable operators | Church fellowships | Angawadi workers |
| Village clinics | Hospitals/ Out patients | ASHA/VHW |
| BDC meeting | National TV channels | |
| Through Nukkad Nataka | Melas, Rallies | |

A number of the community health programs, (eg Sampan and Bhawan) have made plans to use this DVD to help launch an anti tobacco campaign in their program areas.