



## ASHWINI & The Gudalur Adivasi Hospital Newsletter 2010

*The ASHWINI team wishes you a very happy and prosperous New Year. We thank you once again for your encouragement and support over the last twenty years!*

The **New Building** consisting of the Outpatient, Inpatient, Canteen and Meeting Hall blocks is fully functional now. While we wait for the next set of buildings to come up, the X-Ray room is being used as the operation theatre and Admin room as the labour room. The wards are bright, airy and warm. We are able to prevent cross infection as there is less overcrowding now.

**50 Health Workers** completed the level one training and are taking more responsibility for their villages. The enthusiasm of this team has been heartening indeed. They are now ready to take home their kits with simple medications, dressings etc. Many villagers can now avoid walking four to five Kms to get treatment for a simple fever. The growth of the children in the village can be monitored by them as well.

Another 50 have joined for training this year. The villages with health workers have shown a significant improvement in health status.



**The Decentralization of the Community Health Program** has taken off well. The area teams are planning together with a specific focus on issues pertinent to each village. The area centres are getting better equipped to provide curative care.

**ASHWINI Institute of Health.** It was a proud moment when we got recognition for various paramedical courses under BSS, a Central Government Department. The staff are excited at the prospect of getting a Government recognised certificate.



Seetha inaugurates the Institute

**The Hospital** gets busier by the day. The present capacity of 40 inpatients is also proving to be inadequate at times. The out patient numbers have also increased considerably.

Dr Abraham Tharakan, a post graduate in General Medicine has joined us. He and Dr Mrudula, along with Dr Dalon, the junior doctor handle most things in the hospital now leaving Nandakumar and Shyla more time to concentrate on the community program, teaching and admin work.

**The tribal staff** have improved their skills and take on a lot more managerial role now. The new students in training are enthusiastic and excited about the BSS certification.

**Speciality clinics** in Orthopaedics, ENT, Paediatric Surgery, Cardiology and Gynaecology continue in a regular manner thanks to the visiting volunteer doctors.

**The Microbiology lab** is being set up using low cost technology with the help of Dr Sabine Schweingruber from Switzerland. It is a welcome addition to the facilities as we will be able to use antibiotics in a more scientific way.

**The Guest house** for doctors, students and visitors is complete. It is a blessing to have the doctors on the hospital premises. Guests have been raving about the view from the house!

**The Medical Student Elective** program had less enrolment this year because of the economic recession in Europe. But the students who came loved it. The medical students from CMC, Vellore have been coming regularly for their Secondary Hospital posting.

**Funding Support this year:**

SRTT continues to fund the community program.

The Government has been supporting the Inpatient care for tribals, the Mobile clinics, the Sick cell program and Tribal councillors in Government hospitals under TNHSP.

Charities Advisory Trust, Skillshare International, The Toshniwal Trust, Give India, Tribal India Health Foundation and many organisations as well as individual donors continue to support the work.

We are able to run the programs to a large extend with this funding as well as the money earned from services offered.

It is capital expenses like buildings, equipment and land that needs to be supported by friends and well-wishers.

**Looking ahead:**

A dream that took shape more than twenty years ago back is surely becoming a reality. Probably the only one of its kind in India, a community as underprivileged as the adivasis of the Gudalur Valley, have ownership of institutions. The change that this has brought about in social equations is clearly visible. The community has something to offer the mainstream.

We hope that the hospital will be well equipped and have all the basic specialities and that it will be managed totally by the community one day!

**News from the other sectors:**

There has been an active revival of the activities of the Adivasi Munnethra Sangam, thanks to the formation of the adivasi gram sabhas for implementation of the Forest Rights Act. Surveys of land and petitions for ownership have helped the people to understand the boundaries of their land. They have a lot more confidence in dealing with the Government now.

The village youth teams have become active and are involved in the decision making processes.

The Education program is making a significant difference to the enrolment. Twice as many children are writing the tenth and twelfth exams this year. We hope that the vocational training courses will prove useful for these students.

***WISHING YOU ALL THE BEST FOR A WONDERFUL YEAR AHEAD!***

**Donations** in India are exempt from income tax under section 80G of the income tax act.

Indian Money can be transferred directly to our account in State Bank of India, Gudalur (A/c No. 11317309532)

Tax deductible donations can be made in the US through our website [www.ashwini.org/donations.php](http://www.ashwini.org/donations.php)

ASHWINI PO Box 20, Gudalur, Nilgiris-643212, Tamilnadu, India. Ph. 04262-261645

**Website:** [www.ashwini.org](http://www.ashwini.org) **Email:** [ashwinigudalur@gmail.com](mailto:ashwinigudalur@gmail.com)