

# Project Bamini

**Project Bamini** is a project under a charitable voluntary organization namely **Bethesda Mission**, established in **1999** to involve with the “women and children particularly in Slum, rural and tribal areas. The organization is primarily working for the betterment of the street & working slum women and children in the city of Bangalore and also among the tribal and rural women in the adjoining states.

The organization has received support from various national & international funding organizations like Times of India Foundation, Karnataka Government Literacy Programmes, Mustard Seed Foundation and World Relief Project.

Now the current focus of Bethesda Mission is to raise cancer awareness programmes for Cervical Cancer and find out possibilities of detecting them early for quick referrals. For this project the mission has chosen 3 tribal communities namely Baduga, Thoda and Lambadi communities where the above mentioned communities are ignorant about these important issues. Therefore the mission has initiated to do Awareness Programmes in these target areas.

Cancer, if detected early, is curable and this message needs be taken to the grass root level. This is our main objective. Cervical cancer is the second most common cancer in women worldwide, and knowledge regarding its cause and pathogenesis is expanding rapidly. Persistent infection with one of about 15 genotypes of carcinogenic human papillomavirus (HPV) causes almost all cases. There are four major steps in cervical cancer development: infection of metaplastic epithelium at the cervical transformation zone, viral persistence, progression of persistently infected epithelium to cervical precancer, and invasion through the basement membrane of the epithelium. Infection is extremely common in young women in their first decade of sexual activity. Persistent infections and precancer are established, typically within 5-10 years, from less than 10% of new infections.

In 2006, a new vaccine against HPV ([Gardasil](#)) was approved by the FDA and made commercially available. Gardasil provides protection against four types of HPV—types 6 and 11 that cause genital warts and types 16 and 18 that cause cervical cancer. Like other vaccines, Gardasil needs to be given before exposure to the infection. Thus, Gardasil is recommended for routine immunization of girls, ages 11-12.

"Catch-up" immunization can be given to girls and young women, ages 13-26, who have not engaged in sexual activity. Gardasil is given in a series of three injections, with the second and third doses given two and six months after the

first, but it is very costly. These vaccines have reached the urban cities but not the rural and tribal areas. More over these vaccines can be given to children who are aged below 12 years. Probably the indigenous production of these vaccines can bring down the cost in future.

This made us to think of a revival programme on Cervical Screening by PCR (CSP)in these target areas.

Our objectives are:

- 1 To reduce the incidence of maternal mortality and morbidity.
- 2 To educate the community about the disease
- 3 To encourage them to go for Pap smear or Cervical smear test along with one urine sample
- 4 To support and supplement special health relate activities and preventive measures.
- 5 To educate them about the importance of personal hygiene
- 6 To encourage and support programmes that involves local participation.
- 7 To learn about preventive measures so that their children will be effectively vaccinated.
- 8 To raise the nutritional status of the community especially mother and children with locally available cheap but healthy nutritional food.

Role of women in the project:

The entire programme will be covered by women of these communities. Women and educated girls form the village will be actively involved in this programme. Efforts will be made to involve women self-help groups in these areas. A two week intensive training programme will be organized by the organization for the women of these locations.

The programme is called 7E programme: The Programme aimed to:

- 1 Educate women on Cervical cancer
- 2 Enlighten them on the symptoms of the disease
- 3 Enroll them to disseminate the acquired knowledge to the other villages.
- 4 Encourage their involvement in distribution of this information.
- 5 Equip them with pamphlets, Flyers, Posters and CD's and Calendars.
- 6 Eradicate the ignorance and instill the confidence that this disease can be cured.
- 7 Ensure the safety of the HPV vaccination.

#### Material and methods:

- 1 Targetting 30,000 women in 3 tribal population in South India.
- 2 Printing of 30,000 Pamphlets, Flyers, Posters and Calendars in 3 different local languages.
- 3 Screening of the films insisting on the importance of Cervical cancer.
- 4 Street Play and Drama involving local literate girls and women.
- 5 Poster competition, Painting competition and Slogan competition involving self-help women groups.
- 6 Interviews of famous Gynecologists and their statement on Cervical cancer issues.
- 7 Surveying the entire village areas for Cervical Cancer or any other Cervix related problems.

We will also appoint 2 women health workers to follow up the work, these trained individuals can be used for further training in other rural and slum areas.

Finally a Candle Night service will be conducted to take oath on helping to create Awareness Programme on this disease.

As a result of effective partnership working with community, voluntary and statutory organisations and the creation of strong working relationships between primary care practitioners and the Tribal community, the project will be successful in meeting many of its aims.

#### **Access to services:**

- Use multimedia methods to reach audiences (LCD Projector)
- Use community leaders as influential champions
- Raise awareness in identified target communities

**Support groups:**

- Sustain the local support group for users and carers with a community focus;
- Encourage involvement in support group by word of mouth and publicity;
- Link with healthcare professionals to carry out educational events.

**Budget Estimation:** The amount quoted here will be used for the field work and Awareness Programmes.

- 1 40,000 flyers in 4 local languages namely Tamil, Kannda, Telugu and Hindi-----2,00,000.00
- 2 Transportation to different villages and tribal areas covering nearly 2000 km-----2,00,000.00
- 3 Boarding and Lodging-----50,000.00
- 4 Calenders,40,000 (Rs 20 each)-----2,00,000.00

- 5 Surveys in different fields of cervical cancer to understand their affordability to enroll them for vaccination----50,000.00
- 6 An LCD with projector-----75,000.00
- 7 Field workers from each community from 4 different districts to follow up work on these issues-----75,000.00
- 8 Miscellaneous-----10,000.00

Total-----8,10,000.00

**Project Duration:** Exactly one year

**Expected Outcome of the Project:** The expected outcome of the projects are listed below.

- 1 We see a central location of our field work will be established firmly in these areas for the follow up work.

- 2 The volunteers will be trained and educated for the future work on cervical smears and Urine PCR.
- 3 We are looking for corporate collaboration to vaccinate these women of lower socio-economic group.
- 4 The central location at Bangalore to become a referral center for their early detection and referring them to cancer centers.
- 5 Introducing the self-Help group women to be Leaders for the women centered projects and encourage their active participation in sample collection and vaccination.
- 6 The young school children can be targeted by our trained women for future vaccination projects.

**Tangible Impact :** We see these participated village women and areas to be cancer free like small pox disease. Every home will have their mothers living to take care of the family as the women in India plays a very central role in stable and happy families .

**Evaluation and Monitoring:**

The Centre will provide quarterly reports and expenditure returns with various partners in the project implementation in the slums and Rural areas. The project advisor will do this.

A continuous process of monitoring and evaluation of the project in the Bangalore Slums shall be carried out once we get the donor funding. Monitoring and evaluation of specific components of the project in Indian Slums shall be the responsibility of the project officer. The intended project will entail comments from the beneficiaries and the community, quarterly reports and review meetings. A consultant with expertise on development issues will be hired to determine the success, advancement and achievement of the intended objectives.

The project can be accessed by the International Authority any time in the year.