

**Tribal Development Department,
Gandhinagar**
**Gujarat Tribal Research and Training Society,
Birsa Munda Bhavan, Gandhinagar**
and
**Department of Health and Family Welfare
(Epidemic Branch), Gandhinagar**

**One-Day Awareness Program on
"Sickle Cell Screening and Post Counseling"**

Director:
Dr. C. C. Chaudhari



Report by:
Dr. Vipul Ramani & Dr. Tejal Adhvaryu



**Gujarat Tribal Research and Training Society,
Birsa Munda Bhavan, Gandhinagar**

One-day awareness program on "Sickle Cell Screening and Post counseling"

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One-day awareness program on "Sickle Cell Screening and Post counseling"

Date: 1-7-2024

Shri Jay Jalaram Ashram School - Chopdavav,
Taluka - Sagbara, District - Narmada



On 1st July 2024, the Gujarat Tribal Research and Training Society (GTRTS), Birsa Munda Bhavan, Gandhi Nagar, along with the Health Department (Academic Branch), jointly organized an awareness program on "Sickle Cell Screening and Post Counseling" at Shri Jay Jalaram Ashram School, Chopdavav (Taluka - Sagbara, District - Narmada).

The program began with prayers and a welcome song sung by the girl students of the ashram school. Dr. Vipul Ramani from GTRTS presented the program's introduction and objectives. He emphasized that the program was conducted in the school to screen all the students for sickle cell anemia and raise awareness among them and their families and neighbors. Dr. Ramani also highlighted the severity of sickle cell anemia in Narmada district through statistical data and stressed on increasing awareness among men and women.

The program was chaired by Dr. C. C. Chaudhari, Executive Director of GTRTS. In his opening remarks, Dr. Chaudhari informed that discussions were held on who identify the first sickle cell anemia case in the world, India, and Gujarat, and there community. The discussion covered how sickle cell anemia began, its history and understanding. The



discussion provided insight into the situation of sickle cell anemia in India and Gujarat, how it should be prevented and controlled, and the care that should be taken. Students were guided on these matters.



In this program, Dr. Jigneshbhai Vasava, the health officer of Sagbara taluka, and his health team were present. Dr. Jigneshbhai explained about sickle cell anemia. How it occurs, what measures should be taken to prevent it, and how it can be managed. He emphasized the

importance of maintaining vigilance regarding sickle cell anemia, advising on dietary considerations for patients and providing a comprehensive understanding of related issues. He mentioned, "I also have sickle cell trait, yet I lead a healthy and active life without experiencing any difficulties. The reason is that I consume nutritious food and take necessary precautions."

In this program, a total of 190 students from grades 1 to 8 participated, including 95 girls and 95 boys. In grade 1, out of the newly enrolled 22 students, 16 were screened by the taluka health team. Among these 16 students, there were 6 girls and 10 boys. Grade 1 children showed no fear; however, 2 grade older students were re-screened. Screening will continue annually for all students from grades 2 to 8. Among them, one girl studying in grade 8 was found to be positive for sickle cell anemia. All other students tested negative.





At the end of this program, a rally was organized within the school premises to raise awareness about sickle cell anemia. During this program, Headmaster Shantubhai Vasava and the teachers were also present. At the conclusion of the program, Dr. Tejalben Adhvaryu from GTRTS expressed gratitude to all guests, doctors, health team,

as well as the head master, teachers and students of school. Dr. Tejalben Adhvaryu anchored the whole program.



One-day awareness program on "Sickle Cell Screening and Post counseling"

Date: 02-07-2024

Gandhi Vidyapith - Vedchhi, Taluka: Valod, District: Tapi

On the 2nd of July 2024, a one-day awareness program on "Sickle Cell Screening and Post-Counseling" was organized at Gandhi Vidyapith - Vedchhi, Taluka: Valod, District: Tapi.

The initiative was jointly undertaken by the Department of Tribal Development, Gandhinagar, Gujarat Tribal Research and Training Society (GTRTS), Birsra Munda Bhavan - Gandhinagar, and the Health Department (Academic Branch), Gandhinagar. The verbal inauguration of this program was conducted by Dr. Anjanaben Chaudhari, Principal of B.Ed. College. All dignitaries were welcomed with floral bouquets. Following this, all guests inaugurated the awareness program by lighting the lamp. Dr. Vipul Ramani provided an introduction to the program and explained the background and purpose behind it, emphasizing the status of sickle cell anemia and its treatment in Tapi district.



The entry of sickle cell anemia into the world, India, and Gujarat, how it has progressed, its history, why it is increasing among tribal people, its seriousness, how those suffering from sickle cell anemia should be taken care of, and other related explanations were comprehensively explained by the Executive Director of GTRTS, Dr. C.C. Chaudhari.

The Principal of Gandhi Vidyapeeth, Vedchhi, Amarsinhbhai Chaudhari, delivered the presidential address. In his address, he enlightened the students about sickle cell anemia, the importance of screening, and understanding how to manage and

care of our body. He also encouraged students not to fear sickle cell anemia even if they have it.



Dr. Paul Vasava (C.D.H.O., Tapi) advised students on the necessity of screening for sickle cell anemia and provided guidance on how to proceed if the result is positive, illustrating examples with comprehensive explanations. Dr. Snehalbhai Patel (E.M.O.) explained how sickle cell anemia develops, how it can be managed, precautions to be taken, and

dietary considerations. Following this, Dr. Chiragbhai Patel (T.H.O.) also educated about sickle cell anemia along with HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, hemorrhage, and other diseases. Dr. Hemangini Patel (M.O., P.H.C., Kanjod) and her health team were present and conducted the screening of students.

In this program, a total of 198 individuals were screened. Screening included a total of 191 students from BRS College and BED College. Among them, screening was conducted for 68 boys and 123 girls. From these screenings, 23 students tested positive, including 6 boys and 17 girls. Additionally, 7 staff members were screened, out of which 2 tested positive.



All the students were screened for sickle cell anemia diagnosis and management in this program. The program was conducted under the program's organization was appreciated by Dr. Tejalben Adhvaryu from GTRTS. All attendees, doctors, their teams, students and others expressed their gratitude for this program. Dr. Bhavanaben Mehta, Assistant Professor of the B.Ed collage anchor the whole inaugural session.





One-day awareness program on "Sickle Cell Screening and Post counseling"

Date: 03-07-2024

Venue: Ajarai Ashram School, Taluka: Gandevi, Dist: Navsari



On 3rd July 2024, a one-day awareness program on "Sickle Cell Screening and Post Counseling" was organized at Ajarai Ashram School, Taluka: Gandevi, Dist: Navsari by the Tribal Development Department - Gandhinagar, Tribal Research and Training Society, Birsa Munda Bhavan, Gandhinagar, Health Department (Epidemic Branch), Gandhinagar, and Shri

Adivasi Sanskar Mandal. The program was chair by Shri Bhagubhai Darji, President of Shri Adivasi Sanskar Mandal, Dr. C. C. Chaudhary, Executive Director of GTRTS and health officer Dr.Bhavesbhai, Dr.Pragneshbhai, Dr.Anjanaben, and their paramedical team health teams.

Dr. Vipul Ramani of GTRTS outlined the introduction and purpose of the program, He explained that the awareness program was organized in schools to conduct screenings for all students and raise awareness about sickle cell anemia among them and their families, as well as neighbors and relatives. He emphasized the need for assessing the prevalence and status of sickle



cell anemia treatment and patients in Navsari district. He provided detailed information about how sickle cell anemia is an inherited disease and how is it inherited?

Dr. C. C. Chaudhary, Executive Director of GTRTS, in his address, informed about the origins of sickle cell anemia worldwide India and also in



Gujarat. Providing historical context. He discussed the current situation of sickle cell anemia in India and Gujarat, highlighting how many districts in the country and the state has ongoing campaigns. He emphasized the importance of preventing and controlling sickle cell anemia, stressing the need for awareness among students, being student of tribal society. You must take care of your health.



In this program, a total of 312 students participated. Among them, 176 students were from grades 1 to 8 of Ashramshala Gandevi, consisting of 88 boys and 88 girls. Secondary and higher secondary Ashram School participated, with 63 boys and 73 girls. At Ashramshala Gandevi, 7 students were found sickle cell positive, including 1 boy and 6 girls. At the secondary and

higher secondary Ashrams School, 8 students were found positive, including 3 boys and 5 girls. All these students were screened in the previous year. Hence, today they were provided with post-counseling regarding sickle cell anemia disease and trait information. Today, 6 children were screened at Anganwadi-Ajarai, including 3 boys and 3 girls. All their results again were negative.



Afterward, a documentary film on sickle cell anemia awareness was shown to the 312 students from grades 1 to 11. Following this, Dr. Pragneshbhai, Dr. Bhaveshbhai, and Dr. Anjanaben, along with their health team, guided all students on how sickle cell anemia occurs and what should be done for its control.



At the end of this program, a quiz was conducted to engage students in brain storming exercises as a feedback. Based on the information provided in the sickle cell anemia awareness program, the EMO formulated 10 quiz questions:

1. When is Sickle Cell Day celebrated?
2. What card is given to sickle cell patients?
3. What is the shape of blood cells in sickle cell disease?
4. Is sickle cell disease an inherited disease? True or false
5. When will we Eradicate sickle cell disease?
6. Does an individual having 2 Yellow cards of sickle cell disease can get Married?
7. What colour card does the sickle cell carrier gets?
8. In which communities is sickle cell disease more prevalent?
9. How much assistance is provided to individuals with sickle cell disease?
10. How is the screening for sickle cell disease conducted?

In this program, all students were asked the above questions, and those providing correct answers were rewarded with pens. District and taluka health department's medical and para-medical staff were present at the event.

Dr. Tejalben Adhvaryu anchored the entire program, and at the end, gratitude was expressed to all the guests, doctors, their health teams, as well as the school principals, teachers and students.





One-day awareness program on "Sickle Cell Screening and Post counseling"

Date: 03-07-2024

Venue: EMRS-Mota, Ta. Bardoli, Dist: Surat

EMRS-Mandvi, Dist: Surat



On 3rd July 2024, an one-day awareness program on "Sickle Cell Screening and Post Counseling" was organized jointly by the Tribal Development Department, Gandhinagar, Gujarat, Tribal Research and Training Society, Birsa Munda Bhavan, Gandhinagar, Health Department - Gandhinagar and EMRS-Mota and EMRS-

Mandvi. The program commenced with group prayers and songs performed by students of the school.

Subsequently, Dr. Vipul Ramani provided an introduction to the program and explained the reasons behind it, focusing on the status and severity of sickle cell anemia in Surat district. Following this, Dr. C. C. Chaudhari, the Executive Director of GTRTS, explained how the initiative on sickle cell anemia was started. This included discussions on the history of sickle cell anemia globally, in India, and specifically in Gujarat. He highlighted which scientists conducted research on cases of sickle cell anemia and how they provided information. Dr. Tejalben



Adhvaryu discussed sickle cell anemia and its impact on tribal society, explaining why it is more prevalent among tribal communities. She provided insights into why the figures related to sickle cell anemia are increasing and how it should be controlled.



Mr. Romelbhai Bhatt, the sickle cell anemia counselor from the Taluka Health Department in Bardoli, explained how sickle cell anemia develops, its symptoms, and what measures should be taken for its control. He emphasized the strategies to prevent its occurrence and provided information about the government's assistance. He

mentioned that previously, the Gujarat government provided Rs. 500 to patients suffering from sickle cell anemia, but now this amount has been increased to Rs. 2500 after improvements were made in this regard. He also advised patients on what actions to take and avoid, such as refraining from heavy work, avoiding high altitudes, staying indoors during extreme temperatures, and maintaining a nutritious diet.

In this program, Principal Ashokbhai Gupta from EMRS-Mota and Principal Shyambhai Bresh from EMRS-Mandvi along with all the school teachers were present.

From EMRS-Mota, a total of 378 students attended, including 153 boys and 225 girls. Out of these, a total of 61 students are sickle cell positive, comprising 22 boys and 39 girls.

From EMRS-Mandvi, a total of 120 students participated, including 60 boys and 60 girls. Among these students, 9 are sickle cell positive, including In which 22 boys and 39 girls are included.



A total of 120 students participated from EMRS-Mandvi, including 60 boys and 60 girls. Out of these, 9 students are sickle cell positive, including 3 boys and 6 girls. New students entering Grade 6 in the current academic year and students from Grades 7 to 12 in previous years have undergone sickle cell screening (testing).

In total, 498 students from EMRS-Mota and EMRS-Mandvi, along with more than 20 teachers, received understanding about sickle cell screening and post-counseling. Dr. Tejalben Adhvaryu explained the sickle cell disease in simple language and highlighted the sources of sickle cell support. Both events were managed by teachers from both schools.

Finally, Dr. Vipul Ramani expressed gratitude to the Acharyas, teachers, students, and the doctors and counselors from the taluka health department.



One-day awareness program on "Sickle Cell Screening and Post counseling"

Date: 03-07-2024

Sardar Kanya Vidyalaya, Bardoli, Dist: Surat



On 3rd July 2024, a one-day awareness program on "Sickle Cell Screening and Post Counseling" was organized at Sardar Kanya Vidyalaya, Bardoli, Dist: Surat under the joint initiative of the Department of Tribal Development - Gandhinagar, Gujarat; Tribal Research and

Training Society; Birsa Munda Bhavan, Gandhinagar, Department of Health (Epidemic Branch), Gandhinagar; and Swaraj Ashram-Bardoli. This program was presided over by respected Smt. Niranjana Ben Kalarthi, President of Swaraj ashram and India's most legendary padmashree award winner was a chief guest of this program. Dr. Pragna Ben Kalarthi graced and welcome to all the dignitaries of this program behalf of Swaraj Ashram.

Dr. Vipul Ramani explain the purpose of this program, He also explain that have been conducted screening and post counseling program for the Student of the first to college level student to aware about sickle cell. All students of the hostel



were screened by the district and taluka branches of health department, but students from B.R.S. and B.Ed. colleges did not undergo sickle Cell screening, which is a serious issue. It is crucial for students who have reached marriageable age to undergo their first screening, as discussions on anemia in Sickle Cell were also held.



Dr. C. C. Chaudhary, the executive director of GTRTS, expressed that while you all have general knowledge about Sickle Cell Anemia, it is crucial to understand several scientific aspects related to it. Understanding how Sickle Cell Anemia occurs and what measures should be taken to control it, how patients should be care for, and similar topics were illustrated with examples. Special encouragement was given regarding how tribal students can receive more education and maintain good health. He shared personal experiences to further motivate the students. Dr. Pankajbhai from Taluka Health Center, Bardoli, explained how Sickle Cell Anemia occurs, its symptoms and what steps should be taken for prevention. He advised on dietary habits that promote good health and shared information on maintaining overall well-being. Counselor Shri. Romel Bhatt emphasized that while there is no need to fear Sickle Cell Anemia, but caution is necessary. He highlighted measures such as avoiding extreme temperatures, refraining from heavy physical work, avoiding high altitudes and drinking plenty of water. He also provided guidance on marriage decisions for those affected by Sickle Cell disease, emphasizing the importance of informed choices.

In Sardar Kanya Vidyalaya, managed by Swaraj Ashram-Bardoli, the study program for grades 9 and 10 is ongoing. A total of 114 girls are studying in the school, out of which screening has been conducted for 108 girls. Among them, 12

girls have tested positive, pending confirmation from the HPLC report. Awareness programs for screening all these students have been conducted previously.



Dr. Tejalben Adhvaryu had discussed the seriousness of increasing cases of Sickle Cell Anemia among girls and had informed students about the sources of Sickle Cell Anemia prevention.

At last Dr. Vipul Ramani expressed gratitude to the Chief of Swaraj Ashram, school teachers, doctors from the taluka branches of health department, counselors, their team, photographers, and students.



Details of participant and screening in "Sickle Cell Screening and post counseling" in one day awareness programs

Sr. no	District	Taluka	Place of Programs	Number of Participant (Students)			Screening During Programs			Result of Screening	
				Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Positive	Negative
1	Narmada	Sagabara	Shri Jay Jalaram Ashram School - Chopdavav	95	95	190	10	06	16	00	16
2	Tapi	Vedchhi	Gandhi Vidyapith - Vedchhi,	68	123	191	68	123	191	23 (Boys -06, Girls -17)	168
3	Navsari	Gandevi	Ajarai Ashram School,	151	161	312	03	03	06	00	06
4	Surat	Bardoli	EMRS-Mota	153	225	378	00	00	00	00	00
5	Surat	Mandvi	EMRS- Mandvi	60	60	120	00	00	00	00	00
6	Surat	Bardoli	Sardar Kanya Vidyalaya	00	114	114	00	00	00	00	00
			Total	527	778	1305	81	132	213	23	190

- Note: Screening has been conducted for a total of 222 individuals, including 16 students from Narmada, 191 students from Tapi, and 6 children and 9 teachers and staff members from Ajrai in Navsari. A total of 1305 students are involved in the Sickle cell post-counselling activities.

Excusive activities conducted by GTRTS regarding Sickle cell

1. Counseling module for Sickle cell was translated from Hindi to Gujarati.
2. Awareness module for sickle cell was translated from Hindi to Gujarati.
3. Counseling module of Sickle cell was translated into Dehwali, Garasiya, Bhili, Gamit, and Konkani tribal dialects.
4. Awareness module of Sickle cell was translated into Dehwali, Garasiya, Bhili, Gamit, and Konkani tribal dialects.
5. GTRTS Prepared pamphlets and banners in Gujarati translated it from Hindi and English for awareness campaigns.
6. GTRTS display pamphlets and banners at each and every event.
7. GTRTS make digital Short documentary films, quickie, joki sponsored Ministry of Health and Family Welfare department. We had shown it during the awareness programs.
8. During awareness programs, children are informed about traditional nutritious foods rich in vitamins, iron, and proteins.
9. We organized rally, poster exhibition, quiz during programs.