

WORKSHOP ON CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT
INDIAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS (IAP)
INTERNATIONAL PEDIATRIC ASSOCIATION (IPA)
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO)

New Delhi, India
February 23-25, 2007

The Indian Academy of Pediatrics (IAP), the International Pediatric Association (IPA), and the World Health Organization (WHO) organized a Workshop on Children's Health and the Environment in New Delhi, India on February 23-25, 2007 with support from a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The workshop, hosted by the IAP and co-hosted by its Environment and Child Health Group, was held at the Hotel Samrat in New Delhi. Participants were a group of 44 pediatricians from India, a representative of the national pediatric organization of Thailand and one from an intergovernmental body (UNICEF).

This workshop provided an opportunity to adapt and use the WHO Training Package for Health Care Providers (HCP) with a group of Indian participants. The workshop focused on pediatric diseases linked to environmental contaminants, using actual pediatric cases to illustrate the problems and solutions. The main challenges and controversies in the field of environmental pediatrics were presented, including time to discuss prevention strategies.

This workshop responds to the recommendations of the Bangkok Statement (March 2002) that urged WHO to promote the recognition, assessment and study of environmental factors that have an impact on the health and development of children. More specifically, to incorporate children's environmental health into the training of health care providers and to promote the use of the pediatric environmental history. It builds upon preparatory meetings that were organized with IAP in 2001 and 2002 for the planning and pilot-testing of training materials on children's environmental health (CEH) and aims at the dissemination of the current training materials through activities to take place in other regions and settings in India. The agenda of the workshop is under Appendix I.

The workshop was designed to enable participants to achieve the following learning objectives:

Identify risks to children from environmental tobacco smoke, chemicals (e.g. lead, mercury, pesticides, persistent organic pollutants), air, water and food contaminants, emerging issues (e.g. endocrine disruptors, climate change), household and industrial products, and other environmental hazards.

Recognize, diagnose, prevent and manage adverse effects linked to these environmental risk factors.

Describe why children may be at increased risk of adverse health outcomes and developmental consequence from environmental exposures to chemical, physical and biological agents.

Describe when and how the fetus, the child and the adolescent may be exposed to environmental hazards in different rural and urban settings.

Final Report of Workshop on Children's Health and the Environment

Discuss a wide spectrum of exposures including exposures to men and women prior to conception and exposures because of particular cultural practices and diets, poverty, malnutrition, conflict or child labor.

Practice becoming leaders in environmental health education and prevention in the community.

Discuss the problems faced during disaster situations, e.g. floods, earthquakes

At the beginning of the workshop, Dr. R.K. Agarwal, President Elect of the IAP, welcomed participants on behalf of the Indian Academy of Pediatrics, Dr. J. Pronczuk (WHO/HQ) welcomed the participants on behalf of WHO, and Mr. A. von Hildebrand welcomed them on behalf of WHO/SEARO and the WHO office in India (as the Representative was unable to participate). Dr. J. Schaller, IPA Executive Director, gave a welcome from the IPA. Dr. R. Etzel, Chair of the Committee on Environmental Health of the IPA explained the background of the IPA activities on children's health and the environment and gave an overview of the requirements for special qualifications in pediatric environmental health. Dr. S. Bhawe, Chairperson of the IAP Environment and Child Health Group and member of the IPA Committee on Environmental Health, began the workshop with an introductory lecture on environmental issues in India, and took the opportunity to acknowledge the valuable contribution of the Indian Ministry of Environment and Forestry.

The following presentations were based upon the use of slides prepared by the WHO Working Group on the "Training Package for Health Care Providers". These PowerPoint presentations were prepared by an international expert group and went through an intensive peer review led by Dr. K. Shea (USA) and Dr. Pronczuk, with the assistance of M.-N. Bruné-Drisse (WH/HQ), who did the pre-adaptation of the modules that were then sent ahead of the workshop to all speakers for their own preparation (slide selections, incorporation of local data and information).

Dr. Pronczuk gave a presentation on why children are uniquely vulnerable to environmental contaminants and on "children are not little adults". Next, R. Agarwal, Director of Toxics Link presented a talk on toxic toys. Dr. H. Paramesh followed with a presentation on persistent organic pollutants and emerging issues in environmental health. The excellent presentations were followed by a very intensive discussion with the participants. The next two presentations were case studies: Dr. Bhawe presented a case study from Pune about indoor air pollution monitoring and Dr. N. Dogra (Tata Energy Research Institute) on indoor air pollution from domestic fuel in Delhi.

During the third session, Dr. A. Sachdeva spoke about prevention of injuries and Dr. H. Pemde about endocrine disruptors. The final talk was about global climate change from Dr. Paramesh. A lively discussion followed.

On the second day, Dr. T.U. Sukumaran gave a talk on "Food Safety" using the WHO materials supplemented by a variety of interesting examples from India. Dr. S.S. Kamath talked about the problem of lead poisoning in India. Dr. P.L. Chintan described the problem of water pollution and Dr. Bhawe presented her own lecture on obesity and nutrition. A long and intensive discussion followed the presentations.

Dr. Pemde presented his own material on general principles for children in disasters and earthquakes. He showed data about the tremendous impact of disasters in India. Dr. D. Ugra talked about children in flood situations and Dr. Sachdeva spoke about the problem of pesticide poisoning, enriched with examples from his own experience.

Dr. Bhawe used the WHO Training Module on indoor air pollution to deliver a talk that was followed by a case study presentation from Dr. Paramesh about outdoor air pollution, traffic police and children. Using the WHO materials, Dr. Sukumaran stressed the enormous importance of sanitation for children and their health. During the next 2 hours, participants broke into four small groups to discuss case studies from their home universities.

On the third day, Dr. Etzel demonstrated how to play "Jeopardy", an interactive computer game based on questions about environmental pediatrics. It was shown as an example of a way to enliven the topic for students and residents. During the next session, each participant from the four small groups was provided with an opportunity to give a 5 minute talk concerning a case or a problem that he/she had encountered, and describing how it was handled and how it might have been prevented.

Dr. Etzel briefly described the environmental health history and the use of the "green sheet" and encouraged the pediatricians to begin using it in their daily practices. She also encouraged the participants to begin working towards certification in environmental health. To be eligible for sit for the credentialing examination, the candidate pediatricians will be required to fulfil the following criteria:

- i. Attend a training workshop in its totality and take the pre- and post-workshop individual evaluation.
- ii. Present a seminar about children's environmental health at their home hospital or university.
- iii. Record, file and analyze the pediatric environmental history forms from children with illnesses from environmental contaminants and record and report environmentally-related cases from their practices.
- iv. Propose and discuss a community project on an environmental health problem. Both the seminar and the community project proposal will be initiated by the candidate in his/her country within the first 6 months after the workshop in order to share with others in the home institution the knowledge acquired and to begin community-oriented actions.
- v. Present a second seminar after the community-oriented project has been implemented, in order to present and discuss the results with the community.

The first Pediatric Environmental Health credentialing examination will be on August 24, 2007 in Athens, Greece, immediately before the 25th International Congress of Pediatrics. It will consist of a 1-day oral and written examination. It was agreed that the IPA would consider offering the examination in India, which would enable more Indian pediatricians to become credentialed. The possibility of a follow-up meeting in India in January 2008 was proposed.

The participants agreed to issue a document that will express their concern and willingness to take action. The draft Delhi Statement was discussed very actively, in plenary session and substantial suggestions were incorporated. The final draft will be circulated by e-mail by the IAP for ratification by all participants and will then be adopted.

At the close of the workshop, all participants received a CD with the WHO original version of the training modules (that were sent to speakers in preparation for the event). Another version will be sent with the presentation actually given at the time of the event. Participants were encouraged to promote the topic within their own university, as well as to use the WHO training materials as the basis for their own presentations and organize training sessions in their own states. It was emphasized that as each module contains a large amount of slides, it is important to use only 20 to 25 slides per single presentation. Speakers were encouraged to select only those slides most relevant to the audience and the purpose of the event.

Final Report of Workshop on Children's Health and the Environment

All participants completed a post-workshop evaluation and received the two volume book *Pediatric and Adolescent Environmental Health* by Dr. Sachdeva, the American Academy of Pediatrics book *Pediatric Environmental Health* (2nd Edition), and the WHO Resource Manual on *Children's Health and the Environment: A Global Perspective. A Resource Manual for the Health Sector* (published in 2006). Each participant will receive a certificate of attendance. A list containing contact details such as electronic mail addresses was provided to all participants.

At the closing, all assistants were thanked for their active participation, for contributing to the discussions and making useful suggestions. Speakers and organizers were thanked for the excellent work undertaken in preparation for the event, and the contribution of US EPA and the Indian Ministry of the Environment and Forestry was acknowledged. Participants agreed to plan and implement similar events in their own states/settings, and to ensure that CEH issues will be addressed at coming events in their own states/settings, and to ensure that CEH issues will be addressed at coming pediatric events, such as the next national pediatrics congress (January 2008), that will provide an excellent opportunity to assess progress made towards CEH.

Appendix I

Agenda

Friday, February 23, 2007

9:00 – 10:00		Registration
Inaugural function		
10:00 – 10:20	(20 min)	Introduction to environmental issues in India Dr. S. Bhave Chairperson IAP Environment group
10:20 – 10:30	(10 min)	Welcome from IAP Dr. RK Agarwal President Elect IAP
10:30 – 10:40	(10 min)	Welcome from WHO Dr. J. Pronczuk, WHO
10:40 – 10:50	(10 min)	Welcome from WHO India A. Hildebrand WHO
10:50 -- 11:00	(10 min)	Welcome from IPA Dr. J. Schaller Executive Director IPA
11:00 -- 11:10	(10 min)	Children's Environmental Health Institute goals Dr. R. Etzel Chairperson environment committee IPA
11:10 -- 11:20	(10 min)	Vote of thanks Dr. A. Sachdeva organising secretary
11:20 – 11:40	(10 min)	tea break
Session I		
Chairpersons: Dr. R.K. Agarwal / A. von Hildebrand		
11:30 -- 12:05	(35 min)	Why are children uniquely vulnerable to environmental contaminants and children are not little adults Dr. J. Pronczuk, WHO
12.05 -- 12:35	(30 min)	Children and toxic toys R. Agarwal
12: 35 -- 1:05	(30 min)	Persistent Organic Pollutants and Emerging Issues in Environmental Health Dr. H. Paramesh
1:05 -- 1:25	(20 min)	Questions / answers for all the above presentations
1:25 -- 2:30	(65 min)	Lunch Break
Session II		
Chairpersons Dr. R. Etzel / Dr. J. Pronczuk		
2:30 -- 3:00	(30 min)	Case study I Dr. S. Bhave (from Pune on indoor pollution monitoring)

Final Report of Workshop on Children's Health and the Environment

3:00 -- 3:30	(30 min)	Case study II Nitish Dogra TERI (from Delhi indoor air pollution domestic fuel)
3:30 -- 3:45	(15 min)	Question answers for all the above presentations
3:45 -- 4:00	(15 min)	tea break
Session III	Chairpersons	A. Gambhir / P. Choudhary
4:00 -- 4:30	(30 min)	Prevention of Injuries Dr. A. Sachdeva
4:30 -- 5:00	(30 min)	Endocrine disrupters Dr. H. Pemde
5:00 -- 5:40	(40 min)	Global Climate Change Dr. H. Paramesh
5:40 -- 6:00	(20 min)	Questions / Answers

Saturday, February 24, 2007

Session I

Chairpersons Dr. H. Paramesh / V. Kumar

8:00 -- 8:30	(30 min)	Food safety Dr. T.U. Sukumaran
8:30 -- 9:30	(30 min)	Lead poisoning Dr. S.S. Kamath
9:30 -- 10:00	(30 min)	Water Pollution Pranaya Lal Chintan
10:00 -- 10:40	(40 min)	Obesity & Nutrition Dr. S. Bhave
10:40 -- 11:00	(20 min)	Question answer session
11:00 -- 11:30	(30 min)	tea break

Session II

Chairpersons Dr. N. Thacker / Dr. J. Schaller

11:30 -- 12:00	(30 min)	General principles for children in disasters and earthquakes Dr. H. Pemde
12:00 -- 12:30	(30 min)	Children in flood situations Dr. D. Ugra
12:30 -- 1:00	(30 min)	Pesticides Dr. A. Sachdeva
1:00 -- 1:20	(20 min)	Questions / answers
1:20 -- 2:00	(40 min)	Lunch Break

Session III

Chairpersons Dr. D. Ugra / Sangeeta Yadav

2:00 -- 2:30	(30 min)	Indoor air pollution Dr. S. Bhave
2:30 -- 3:00	(30 min)	Case study III Dr. H. Paramesh Outdoor pollution-“Traffic police and children”
3:00 -- 3:20	(20 Min)	Sanitation and Hygiene Dr. T.U. Sukumaran
3:20 -- 3:45	(20 min)	Question answer session

Final Report of Workshop on Children's Health and the Environment

3:45 -- 4:00 (15 min) Tea Break
4:00 -- 5:00 (60 min) General discussion

Sunday, February 25, 2007

Session I

Chairpersons Dr. A. Sachdeva / Dr. S.S. Kamath

8:00 -- 8:45 (45 min) Jeopardy "Environmental Pediatrics" Dr. R. Etzel

Session II

8:45 -- 10:45 am (2 hrs) Participant breakout session

(four groups- please check group leader and group –list on board)

10:45 -- 11:00 (15 min) Tea Break

Session III

Chairpersons Dr. S. Bhave / Dr. J. Pronczuk

11:00 -- 11:15 (15 min) Environmental health history Dr. R. Etzel

11:15 -- 12:00 (45 min) Certification in Environmental Health Dr. R. Etzel

12:00 -- 12:30 (30 min) Discussion of Draft "Delhi Declaration"

12:30 -- 1:30 (60 min) Post-workshop evaluation

1:30 -- 2:15 (45 min) Concluding session

(Participant feedback. plans for future)

Vote of thanks Dr S. Yadav, President Delhi Branch

2:15 -- 3:00 Lunch Break

3:00 -- 4:00 Administrative meeting