

Spark Lunchtime Discussion-20th May 2008: People's Rural Health Watch on India's National Rural Health Mission

On Tuesday 20th May 2008, Healthlink Worldwide co-hosted an informal lunchtime discussion with Panos London on the People's Rural Health Watch (PRHW) in India. It was our great pleasure to have Dr Vijay Aruldas, CEO of the Christian Medical Association of India (CMAI), a fellowship of health professionals and health institutions working to assist India's poorest and most deprived sections of society, attend as speaker.

The People's Health Movement (PHM) has its roots in the grassroots people's movement and grew from the many health networks and activists who have been concerned by the growing inequities in health over the last 25 years. The PHM calls for a revitalization of the principles of the Alma-Ata Declaration which promised Health for All by the year 2000 and complete revision of international and domestic policy that has shown to impact negatively on health status and systems.

The Jan Swasthya Abhiyan (JSA) is the Indian circle of the PHM, a worldwide movement to establish health and equitable development as to priorities through comprehensive primary healthcare and action on the social determinants of health.

The JSA coalition consists of over 20 networks and 1000 organisations as well as a large number of individuals that endorse the Indian People's Health Charter-a consensus document that arose out of the Jan Swasthya Sabha held in December 2000 when concerned network, organisations and individuals met to discuss the Health for All Challenge.

The People's Rural Health Watch (PRHW) was initiated by JSA after the public hearing on the Right to Healthcare Campaign and is an activity to assess the implementation, and impact of the National Rural Health Movement on the health services.

Please see Dr Vijay Aruldas's fascinating presentation below for further information.