



Spectrum



RI District 3291

October 14, 2023

PRESIDENT KUSUM CHAMARIA

CLUB NO 78956

Weekly bulletin of Rotary Club of Salt Lake Metropolitan Kolkata

SECRETARY DR CHITRA RAY

CHARTERED ON APRIL 30, 2008

VOL 17 NO 16

EDITOR DR OM TANTIA

WEBSITE www.rcslmk.org

“Matri Raksha” Fighting Anemia in Women: 32nd screening & treatment Camp

Held on October 8, 2023 at Vivekananda JIIT Gnanashram, Ramkrishnapur, Kulpi 24 Parganas south in association with Rotary Kolkata Galaxy

Past President Dr Aruna Tantia writes



Team of Doctors and technicians, led by Dr Aruna Tantia left early morning by 9 am and travelled two and half hours to reach the venue. Team was greeted by RCSLMK President Elect Rtn Sunil Singhi, Dr Arun Kumar of Rotary Kolkata Galaxy and Maharaj of the Ashram.



About 109 women were waiting impatiently for the team, who soon settled to register, test screen for High BP, Sugar, Anemia. Each desk was aided by local volunteer ladies and members & president of Rotary Kolkata Galaxy. Both the doctors gave free consultation to 109 women, many of them suffered from low Hemoglobin in spite of menopause.



A lady of 72 years had very high BP, 180/110 mmHg, and was complaining of reeling of head. She was given medicines and advised to consult physician immediately.



Another 85 years old had knee problem though she was fit enough to carry buckets of water.

Stories were endless and each touched us; like the little girl who very confidentially recited a poem.



President Elect Rtn Sunil assisted Dr Aruna in noting down the parameters.

By 3 .30 pm the team compelled to close registration and had a lunch break.

This place is the hub for MURI, puffed rice production, MASALA, spice grinding and rice cultivation by women

We meet calendar months' 2nd & 4th Saturdays at GPT Group, JC 25, Salt Lake, Kolkata 700098 at 6.00 PM

Printed by Kusum Chamaria, President, Rotary Club of Salt Lake Metropolitan Kolkata • Editor: Dr. Om Tantia

For private circulation only • Web site: www.rcslmk.weebly.com • Email: es.rcslm@gmail.com

entrepreneurs of self-help groups. The Maharaj of the Ashram helped the group of women form, run and earn, who already had necessary skills.



They Ashram has started constructing a building that would house a school for especially abled children and is looking for fund for completing its construction.



Further, the Ashram has plans to set up a health center for local people.

The team returned to Salt Lake tired but satisfied by 8 pm taking three and half hours of travel.

A big thank you to the technical volunteers Jhuma, Amit, Alok, Arunabha, sister and Dr Debasmita who are always there with RCSLMK endeavors.

Summary of 32 Matriraksha camps

No of women examined: 2775 (87 women per camp)

No of anemic women: 1813 (65.3%)

No of diabetes mellitus cases, DM: 352 (12.68%)

No of Hypertension cases, HTN: 521 (18.77%)

RCSLM celebrates World Girl Child Day with girls of a High School



On October 11, 2023, President Kusum Chamaria and past President Dr Aruna Tantia celebrated World Girl Child Day with senior students of Laban Hrad Vidyapith for Girls situated near EC Block market, Salt Lake.

PP Dr Aruna spoke before the students on the necessity of menstrual hygiene. Dr Aruna and President Kusum, thereafter, distributed sanitary napkins arranged by Rtn Rajesh Chirimer. The school building and adjacent playground and lawn within the campus need immediate repair and upkeep for which Rtn rajesh Chirimar assured Government allocation of necessary fund soon.



PP Dr Aruna committed to hold free Thalassemia, Anemia, Eye and Dental screening and treatment Camps for students at the school campus on reopening of school after Puja vacation. Further, RCSLMK wishes to initiate scholarships for 3 outgoing meritorious students.

Rotary History and Anecdotes

Rotary is a global network of 1.4 million neighbors, friends, leaders, and problem-solvers who see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change – *across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves.*

Rotary International is a global service organization whose stated human rights purpose is to bring together business and professional leaders in order to *provide humanitarian services, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and to advance goodwill and peace around the world.*

Over last 118 years, Rotary, like other surviving institutions, has changed itself to remain inclusive and contemporary *without compromising its dynamism and relevance.*

In this section, the editorial team of Spectrum, so far, has touched upon and shared the following anecdotes of Rotary during the current Rotary year:

- *History of Women in Rotary in the July 7, 2023 issue*
- *History of the 4 Way test in the July 15, 2023 issue*
- *Rotary's two official mottos in the July 22, 2023 issue*
- *Rotary's Work Commemorated in Stamps in July 29, 2023 issue*
- *Rotary and the United Nations in September 9, 2023 issue*
- *Why Rotary year begins 1 July in September 16, 2023 issue*
- *Rotary & Polio – World's largest global public health initiative in the history in September 23, 2023 issue*
- *Rotary Themes in September 30, 2023 issue*
- *Rotary partners in October 7, 2023 issue*

We appreciate and welcome opinion and views of our readers.

Interact as Rotary's service club program

Rotary Interact ("International Action" shortened to Interact) is a high school service club founded in 1962 by Rotary International, when Nitish Lahirry of Rotary Calcutta was RI President. It is a student-led, non-profit organization in which, as of date, 342953 young people aged 12-18 currently participate. These students, referred to as Interactors, comprise over 14911 clubs in 145 countries and model themselves after Rotary International's motto "service above self" and 4-Way Test.

Mission statement: Interact aims to have its members develop leadership skills and personal integrity, demonstrate helpfulness and respect for others, and advance international understanding and goodwill.

Rotary International officially recognized Interact as its service club program for youths on October 28, 1962, with the intention to not only serve youth but also empower them to serve others as well.

Prior to Interact were Ro Club, a high school service club with similar goals to those of Interact clubs today, and Yrator ("Rotary spelled backwards") Club, a club for outstanding high school students.

Throughout the years, Rotary has encouraged Interact Clubs to be involved in projects that advanced international understanding and goodwill. Today, Interact clubs are still continuing to thrive and grow with the United States, Brazil, India, and Japan having the highest number of Interact clubs.

1962: Interact Takes Action

As early as the 1920s, individual Rotary clubs supported youth activities, sponsoring troops of scouts, and taking part in a Boys' Week that encouraged young people to be good citizens and promoted education, health, hygiene, and vocation.



Members of the first Interact club, the Interact Club of Melbourne High School, form the letter I, surrounded by members of their sponsor club, the Rotary Club of Melbourne, Florida, USA. 1962.

Rotary clubs also sponsored regional programs like Uthrotar in Michigan and Wisconsin in the U.S. In Florida, Rotary clubs worked with Wheel clubs for teenage boys.



Interactors at a district conference in Quebec City, Quebec, Canada. 1964.

By the late 1950s, Rotary members were discussing ways to strengthen their efforts to interest young people in community service and expand their worldviews, possibly through a Rotary-wide program designed for them. After a

few years of study and planning, Rotary's Board of Directors in 1962 approved the name Interact, which had been suggested by a committee to express "inter-club and inter-member cooperation on all planes of activity - local, national, and international."



Interact members in Ulverston, Cumbria, England, hold a car wash to raise money for a public swimming pool. 1964.

Rotary members, along with students, put Interact into action. The Interact Club of Melbourne High School, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Melbourne, Florida, USA, became the first Interact club on 5 November 1962.



An Interactor from Sheffield, Alabama, USA, speaks at the Interact District 686 Conference. Other panelists represent clubs in the United States, New Zealand, England, and Cyprus. 1974.

One of the Interact club's founding members spoke on a panel at the 1963 Rotary International Convention, telling attendees how enthusiastic students were about the club. Although his school offered many other clubs, he noted that Interact was unique because its association with Rotary allowed students insight into a wide variety of professions and offered them an international perspective.

Through Interact, students ages 12-18 make positive change in their schools and communities. Rotary clubs are sponsors that guide and mentor Interact members as they carry out service projects and develop leadership skills.

Interact facts and firsts:

- The name "Interact" is a blend of the words "international" and "action."
- The first Interact club outside the United States was certified in India in January 1963.
- World Interact Week was first observed in 1964.
- In response to input from clubs and Rotary committees, Rotary opened Interact membership to young women in 1968.

- The annual Interact Video Awards were introduced in 2009.
- In 2010, the minimum age for participation in Interact changed from 14 to 12.



Registration for the Interact District 686 Conference in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, USA. 1974.



Members of the Interact Club of Mount Isa, Queensland, Australia, display their club charter. 1971.



Interactors in Penang welcome 1966-67 RI President Richard L. Evans during his trip to Malaysia.



Sanjay Agarwal on October 5, 2023
Ansul Agrawal on October 7, 2023
Past President Dr Chitra Ray on October 15, 2023

October is Economic & Community Development Month

Upcoming Anemia screening and treatment camps under Global Grant 1991152 titled “Matri Raksha”

The 33rd camp shall be tentatively on Sunday October 22, 2023 at Patharpratima, in association with Rotary Kolkata Galaxy

TAILPIECE

Half a million children die of malaria every year. Finally, we can change that

Summarized from Nature Editorial dated 11 October, 2023
With two vaccines available, this killer disease could now be eliminated, but will the world pull together to make it happen?
Malaria is likely to kill more than 600,000 people this year. Nearly four out of five will be children under five years old, mostly in Africa. The disease is one of the largest causes of child mortality.

Last week saw reason for hope. Scientific advisers to the World Health Organization (WHO) recommended a second malaria vaccine, after decades of development. It is called R21 and has been developed by researchers at the University of Oxford, UK, and the Serum Institute of India in Pune. It uses technology from US biotechnology company Novavax and was funded by European Union institutions and by Wellcome, a biomedical research funder in London. R21 follows RTS,S (or Mosquirix), the world’s first malaria vaccine, developed by the pharmaceutical company GSK with support from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and others, which in 2021 received WHO endorsement for broad use in children.

After additional WHO approvals, the vaccine could be ready for use by the middle of next year. But without step changes in planning, funding and local vaccine manufacturing, progress towards reducing the disease’s toll will be too slow.

The WHO estimates that 40 million to 60 million malaria-vaccine doses will be needed annually by 2026. Demand is expected to grow to between 80 million and 100 million doses each year by 2030. The Serum Institute currently has the capacity to make 100 million doses of R21 each year, and this is expected to double to 200 million by 2025.

This is undoubtedly positive, but questions remain over funding. Malaria programs are already short by around US\$1.5 billion annually to meet their existing targets. This deficit is set to increase to \$3.8 billion by 2026. It’s one thing to have the capacity to design and make vaccines, but another to find the money to fund them.

And vaccine manufacturing capacity must be ramped up in Africa. As was laid bare during the pandemic, the continent’s 54 countries import 99% of their vaccines. The poorest countries must wait for donations to pay for doses and depend on other nations to manufacture vaccines. That is not how an endemic disease is ended.

Last week’s development is a significant step: it offers a path to fewer deaths among very young children. As Charles told Nature, “These are not just figures. They are lives.” But vaccine approval must be accompanied by a comprehensive funding and eradication plan.

This will require money for vaccine manufacturing, plus programs to increase the availability of clean water, good sanitation, insecticide-treated bed-nets and other preventive measures. Only with all these in place can the world say it is doing everything it can to capitalize on scientific advances and reduce malaria’s death toll, especially among children.