

January 2016

Dr Yogesh Jain founder member of JSS was in London this year. He sends a brief summary of his stay in UK.

The premier journal, The Lancet, as part of its global leadership role in health, set up a commission on the problem of ' Non communicable diseases (NCDs) among the poorest billion' in October 2015. And the first full meeting of its commissioners was organised in London in January 2016.

While NCDs have been increasingly considered important, especially diabetes, ischemic heart disease, chronic lung diseases and cancers, its rise has been unfortunately attributed to prosperity. Taking cognisance of a much wider spectrum of such NCDs and a wider environmental risk factor basket including under-nutrition, this commission attempts to bring concerns of equity back to centre stage. It was fortuitous that Yogesh Jain of Jan Swasthya Sahyog (JSS) was appointed as one of the initial commissioners for this commission and also made the working group lead for the ' burden and pattern of NCDs ' in the commission.

I made a keynote presentation in this 3 day meeting using data and analysis from our experience of work at Ganiyari in the last 16 years, and especially of all consecutive OPD patients seen in the last 3 months. This set the ground for the discussions for the next three days in which plans for the next year were made, with the Lancet and the Wellcome Trust also participated, and in fact hosted the meeting. The next meeting of the commission will be held at JSS, Ganiyari, Bilaspur in January 2017.

I also spoke with the global health team at the King's College, London while I was there. While I talked about how global health work can reduce inequity, I also encouraged collaborative research and learning for fellows in mental health and surgery and general public health to work with us in India. And the role of FOJSS in UK as a facilitator in this process was brought up too. It remains to be seen how the leadership at the King's College warms up to this possibility.

Finally, I had the wonderful opportunity to attend the full meeting of the FOJSS In UK on January 23, 2016. I could share a small report on work at JSS, listen to plans of FOJSS and also meet with representative of Hospital Fur Indien, Germany, who also supports JSS from there. I was impressed with the large membership that FOJSS in UK now has.

And I returned to Bilaspur feeling enthused and confident about future support for our work.

Yogesh Jain