medico friend circle

40 Years and Onwards!
The Journey that is MFC
A letter to a friend: the beginning

A young medical intern (Abhay Bang) posted in 1972 in famine-struck Maharashtra who, wrote to a friend, realised the futility and irrelevance of medical and relief measures in tackling the root causes of socio-economic imbalance.

The friend, (Ashok Bhargava) then National Convenor of the Tarun Shanti Sena (TSS) [a socio-political youth movement Tarun Shanti Sena (TSS) with close links to the JP (Jai Prakash Narayan) Movement] circulated the letter to the doctors in the TSS. Many letters endorsing the views expressed by Abhay Bang were received.

It was decided to start a small discussion forum to discuss the health problems of rural areas and medical education.

And thus, the Medico Friend Circle (MFC) came into being!
Evolving into...
A nation-wide platform of secular, pluralist, non-funded pro–people, pro-poor health practitioners, scientists and social activists interested in the health problems of the people of India.

A group of friends and members from various backgrounds from across the country - public health professionals, medical doctors, nurses, health activists, researchers, students, teachers, and others.

A group involved in health and health related activities, dissatisfied with the present system of health services in India and conscious about the problems and their responsibilities in relation to society.
The Seventies...
The mfc bulletin

The Bulletin began as a monthly, with the edition for January-February, 1976. This was decided during the second Annual Meet of MFC at Sewagram in December 1975. Ashwin Patel was the editor of the first printed bulletin and the Editorial Committee included Imrana Qadeer, Prakash Bombatkar, Satish Tibrewala, Kamala Jayarao, Mira Sadgopal, Abhay Bang, George Isaac, Bhoomi Kumar Jaganathan, Suhas Jaju, and Lalit Khanra.

The Bulletin was registered in 1976 as a bilingual (Hindi and English) monthly publication.

Since 1976, except for a brief period of nine months from December 1985 to August 1986 when the publication of the Bulletin had to be suspended because of “some new government regulations”, it has been a regular and much awaited feature.
medico friend circle bulletin
Editors in 1970s...

Ashvin Patel
January 1976 to May 1978,
(1 to 29)

Abhay Bang
June 1978 to June 1980,
(30 to 54)
Liberation of VHW

Local Resources for Bridging Educational Gap (VHW's Native Intelligence, Skills, Traditions, etc.)

Village Health Worker

Weight of Long History of Oppression, Dependency and Stasis

Temptation of Greed and Corruption

Limits

Bigger Educational Gap Could Be Bridged if Barriers Were Lifted and Tools Provided

Tools for Helping Bridge Gap (Carefully Guarded)
On The Eve Of The International Children’s Year
1979

NO CHILD SHALL DRINK IT’S MOTHER’S TEARS AS MILK

Fight!!
So that your children know how

to speak without fear,
to hold their heads high,
to love and to be loved,
to dare and to win.

Dialogue: हृदय, विचार देश ने

Chloroform

Dear Friend

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In search of appropriate medicine ? 4
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Dialogue: हृदय, विचार देश ने

Chloroform

Dear Friend

Regd. No. A-93 WD
July 1979

मुख्य सूची

पक्षीस मील की दूरी के
खिदाये पर अंकार जिते
झिलना की लक्ष्मी से पुल कही लायें हो, बढ़ लाय।
मेरे पोस्ती, बढ़ लाय गरीब सुखनिया की नहीं है
बढ़ लाय है जिस देख को बीमारी की जोरदारी की,
जिसे सत्ता माया में स्वास्थ्य सेवा भी कहते हैं।

कहा था किसी ने यथापि
कि अंक मां अपने बीमार हबल को गोद में देखकर
kड़ी धूप में नगे पाँव झिता। फालता पेंदी
बढ़ से
अधिक से अधिक बुझनी दूरी पर
हर किसी भी झिलना अुपलब्ध होना चाहिए,
फिर भी सुखनिया तो मर गयी राजते ही!
बढ़ी खुन, पक्षीस मील राजत, पेंदी चाल राजत
बहुत भांग है, चाल बहुत धीरी,
आजानी के बांद बलीस साल बिस चाल से
हमारी स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं चलती रहीं
और अब ही तक पक्षीस मील की दूरी तब नहीं कर

पाया हो।

दोरान किसके सुखनियाओं मरती रहीं,
कोई कड़ी होती रहीं।

देख कर जिसे
महीने के काम मन को कहत पहुँचा
आई पढ़ा अच्छी दिल का दोरा
तो छाया है, बन गया
काङडाइंडा सेंटर राजधानी में
नेता की लाय किंजा रखने के लिये
अंक करोड़ ही स्व खड़े हैं रिपोर्ट!
The Joke Of The Year

OPPI (Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India) is repeatedly advertising following, and expects you to believe it.

—Drug prices in India are among the lowest in the world.
—Allegation of high prices of drugs and excessive profits are irrelevant in Indian context.
—The poor can not buy medicines because they are too poor and not because the drugs are costly.
—Expenditure on the medicines is less than 10% of the total cost of medical care. Hence the cost of the drugs is a negligible factor. Neglect it. Make noise about the cost of other components of medical care.

“I did take the tonic, Sir! But had to starve for days to buy it.”
medico friend circle
Conveners in 1970s........

Ashok Bhargava
1974 to 1979

Binayak Sen
1979 to March 1981
medico friend circle annual meets in 1970s........

I Annual Meet

Theme: Relevance of Present System of Health Services in India
Place: In a Dharamshala, Opp Railway Station, Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh
Date & Year: 29-30 December, 1974
Convener: Ashok Bhargava

II Annual Meet

Theme: Our Present Day Health Problems and Needs
Place: Sevagram, Wardha, Maharashtra
Date & Year: 27-29 December, 1975
Convener: Ashok Bhargava
medico friend circle annual meets in 1970s

III Annual Meet
Theme: Problem of Under Nutrition
Place: Friends Rural Centre, Rasulia, Hoshangabad, Madhya Pradesh
Date & Year: 25-27 December, 1976
Convener: Ashok Bhargava

IV Annual Meet
Theme: What is the Role of Doctor in Society, and the Scope of Health Projects
Place: Sewa Mandir, Ramanatakara, Calicut, Kerala
Date & Year: 29-31 December, 1977
Convener: Ashok Bhargava
medico friend circle annual meets in 1970s........

V Annual Meet

**Theme: Unemployment among Doctors**

Place: School of Social Work – Kashi Vidyapeeth, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh

Date & Year: 26–28 January, 1979

Convener: Ashok Bhargava
Editor:
Ashwin Patel
1977
The eighties...
medico friend circle bulletin
Editors in 1980s

Kamala Jayarao
July 1980 to May 1984,
(55 to 101)

Ravi Narayan
June 1984 to November 1985,
(102 to 119)

Sathyamala C
September 1986 to February 1989,
(120 to 148)

Kalantri S P
March 1989 to October 1990,
(149 to 168)
MFC published an epidemiological study of the impact of the Bhopal gas disaster on the health of the people and on the reproductive health of women living in the bastis surrounding the Union Carbide factory.
MEDICAL RELIEF
and
RESEARCH IN BHOPAL

The Realities and Recommendations

medico friend circle
medico friend circle Conveners in 1980s.......
**medico friend circle annual meets in 1980s**

*VI Annual Meet*
**Theme:** The Community Health Worker  
**Place:** Jamkhed, Maharashtra  
**Date & Year:** 24–27 January, 1980  
**Convener:** Binayak Sen

*VII Annual Meet*
**Theme:** RUHSA, and other topics such as Immunisation, Nutrition, Diarrhoea  
**Place:** Rural Unit for Health and Social Affairs (RUHSA), Vellore, Tamil Nadu  
**Date & Year:** 30 January-2 February, 1981  
**Convener:** Binayak Sen
medico friend circle annual meets in 1980s........

**VIII Annual Meet**
**Theme:** Misuse of commonly employed drugs by allopathic practitioners
**Place:** Yusuf Meharally Centre, Tara, Maharashtra
**Date & Year:** 23-25 January, 1982
**Convener:** Anant Phadke

**IX Annual Meet**
**Theme:** Prejudice against Women in Health Care
**Place:** Anand, Gujarat
**Date & Year:** 29-31 January, 1983
**Convener:** Anant Phadke
Editors:
Abhay Bang and
Ashwin Patel
Oct 1982
medico friend circle annual meets in 1980s

**X Annual Meet**  
**Theme:** Why alternative medical education is necessary  
**Place:** Child in Need Institute, (CINI), Calcutta, West Bengal  
**Date & Year:** 27-29 January, 1984  
**Convener:** Anant Phadke

Reference: MFC Bulletin No. 96, December, 1983

**XI Annual Meet**  
**Theme:** Tuberculosis and Society  
**Place:** Indian Social Institute, Bangalore, Karnataka  
**Date & Year:** 26-29 January, 1985  
**Convener:** Ravi Narayan
medico friend circle annual meets in 1980s........

XII Annual Meet
Theme: Occupational and Environment Health
Place: Khandala, Maharashtra
Date & Year: 27-29 January, 1986
Convener: Ravi Narayan

XIII Annual Meet
Theme: Family Planning: Theoretical Assumptions, Implementation and Alternatives
Place: Seva Mandir, Training Centre, Kaya (near Udaipur), Rajasthan
Date & Year: 26-27 January, 1987
Convener: Dhruv Mankad
medico friend circle annual meets in 1980s

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<th>XIV Annual Meet</th>
<th>Theme: Determinants of Child Survival and Child Mortality and their Impact</th>
<th>Place: Jaipur, Rajasthan</th>
<th>Date &amp; Year: 20-21 January, 1988</th>
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<td>Convener: Dhruv Mankad</td>
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<th>XV Annual Meet</th>
<th>Theme: Technology in Health Care</th>
<th>Place: Kerala Shastra Sahitya Parishad, Alwaye, Kerala</th>
<th>Date &amp; Year: 26-28 January, 1989</th>
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<td>Convener: Narendra Gupta</td>
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The nineties...
medico friend circle bulletin

Editors in 1990s........

Sham Ashtekar and Anita Borkar
February 1991 to April 1993,
(169 to 193)

Mira Shiva and Unnikrishnan P V
May 1993 to December 1994,
(194 to 213)

Sathyamala C
January 1995 to February 2000,
(214 to 269)
medico friend circle
Conveners in 1990s........

Anil Pilgaonkar
April 1990 to March 1992

Manisha Gupte
April 1992 to March 1994

Ravi Duggal
April 1994 to March 1996

Vijay Jani
April 1996 to March 1997
medico friend circle

Conveners in 1990s........

Anand Zachariah, Madhukar Pai and Prabir Chatterjee
April 1997 to March 2000
**medico friend circle annual meets in 1990s**

**XVI Annual Meet**

**Theme:** Radiation and Health

**Place:** Gandhigram Rural Institute, Dindigul Dt., Tamil Nadu.

**Date & Year:** 26-28 January, 1990

**Convener:** Narendra Gupta

**XVII Annual Meet**

**Theme:** Issue Based Cells in MFC, Revitalisation process

**Place:** Sevagram, Wardha, Maharashtra

**Year:** January, 1991

**Convener:** Anil Pilgaonkar
medico friend circle annual meets in 1990s......

**XVIII Annual Meet**
- **Theme:** Privatisation of Health Care
- **Place:** Vinayalay, Mumbai, Maharashtra
- **Date & Year:** 5-6 September, 1991
- **Convener:** Anil Pilgaonkar

**XIX Annual Meet**
- **Non Theme Meet**
- **Place:** Yatri Niwas, Sevagram, Wardha, Maharashtra
- **Date & Year:** 12-14 September, 1992
- **Convener:** Manisha Gupte
medico friend circle annual meets in 1990s........

XX Annual Meet
Theme: National Medical Care Policy
Place: Calcutta, West Bengal
Date & Year: 23-25 January, 1993
Convener: Manisha Gupte

XXI Annual Meet
Theme: Reproductive Health
Place: Yatri Niwas, Sevagram, Wardha, Maharashtra
Date & Year: 12-15 January, 1994
Convener: Manisha Gupte
medico friend circle annual meets in 1990s........

**XXII Annual Meet**
**Theme:** Multi Theme meet (Women’s Health, PHC, Training of Health Workers)
**Place:** Yatri Niwas, Sevagram, Wardha, Maharashtra
**Date & Year:** 4-5 January, 1995
**Convener:** Ravi Duggal

**XXIII Annual Meet**
**Theme:** Ethics in Health Care
**Place:** Yatri Niwas, Sevagram, Wardha, Maharashtra
**Date & Year:** 27-28-29 December, 1995
**Convener:** Ravi Duggal
medico friend circle annual meets in 1990s........

**XXIV Annual Meet**

**Theme:** Sharing of Experiences  
Place: Yatri Niwas, Sevagram, Wardha, Maharashtra  
Date & Year: 27-28-29 December, 1996  
Convener: Ravi Duggal

**XXV Annual Meet**

**Theme:** Resurgence of Infectious Diseases  
Place: Yatri Niwas, Sevagram, Wardha, Maharashtra  
Date & Year: 1-4 January, 1998  
Conveners: Anand Zachariah, Madhukar Pai and Prabir Chatterjee
The 2000s...
medico friend circle bulletin
Editors in 2000s........

Sathyamala C
January 1995 to February 2000, (214 to 269)

Neha Madhiwalla
March 2000 to November 2002, (270 to 303)

Srinivasan S (Chinu)
April 2004 (304) to Present
medico friend circle
Conveners in 2000s........

Sridhar
April 2000 to March 2002

Sarojini N.
April 2002 to March 2005

Ritu Priya
April 2005 to March 2007
In May 2002, MFC published a report, *Carnage in Gujarat: A Public Health Crisis*. This report was unique – developed by a health team and was a substantive knowledge resource for activists, doctors, nurses and others on the health and health care for the survivors living in the relief camps.
medico friend circle
Conveners in 2000s

Yogesh Jain, Anurag Bhargava, Ravi D’Souza and Raman Kataria
April 2007 to March 2009

Rakhal Gaitonde and Eddie Premdas, Sukanya
April 2009 to March 2012
medico friend circle
Conveners in 2000s……..

April 2012 to March 2014

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<tr>
<td>Sunil Kaul</td>
<td>Jennifer Liang</td>
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<tr>
<td>Raju Narzary</td>
<td>Shelley Dhar</td>
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medico friend circle
Conveners in 2000s........
Forthcoming...........
R. Srivats and Veena Shatrugna
April 2014 to March 2016
AN EPIDEMIOLOGICAL REVIEW
OF THE INJECTABLE CONTRACEPTIVE,
DEPO-PROVERA
medico friend circle annual meets in 2000s........

**XXVII Annual Meet**
**Theme:** Universal Access to Health Care through Insurance: Problems and Alternatives
**Place:** Sevagram, Wardha, Maharashtra
**Date & Year:** 18-20 January, 2001
**Convener:** Sridhar

**XXVIII Annual Meet**
**Theme:** Food Security and Nutrition
**Place:** Sevagram, Wardha, Maharashtra
**Date & Year:** 24-26 January, 2002
**Convener:** Sarojini N. / Sridhar
medico friend circle annual meets in 2000s

XXIX Annual Meet
Theme: Communalism, Conflict and Role of Medical/Health Professionals
Place: Jeevan Darshan Retreat house, Baroda, Gujarat
Date & Year: 28-30 December, 2002
Convener: Sarojini N.

XXX Annual Meet
Theme: Public Health Care System: Threats and Options
Place: AICUF Ashram, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh
Date & Year: 27-29 February, 2004
Convener: Sarojini N.
XXXI Annual Meet
Theme: Right to Health Care
Place: Mumbai, Maharashtra
Date & Year: 21-22 January, 2005
Convener: Sarojini N.

XXXII Annual Meet
Theme: Social Regulation of Costs and Quality of Care in the Context of Universal Access to Health Care
Place: Sneha Deepam, Vellore, Tamil Nadu
Date & Year: 27-28 January, 2006
Convener: Ritu Priya
medico friend circle annual meets in 2000s........

XXXIII Annual Meet
Theme: Public Health Education in India: Lacunae, Challenges and the Way Ahead
Place: National Tuberculosis Institute, Bangalore, Karnataka
Date & Year: 28-29 December, 2006
Convener: Ritu Priya

XXXIV Annual Meet
Theme: Solidarity with Binayak Sen
Place: Dalli Rajhara, Chhattisgarh
Year: December, 2007
Convener: Ritu Priya
PEOPLE OF BENGAL DEMAND THE RELEASE OF DR. BINAYAK SEN

26 April 2009
medico friend circle annual meets in 2000s........

XXXV Annual Meet
Theme: Health and Displacement
Place: the ant, District Chirang, Assam
Date & Year: 16-17 January, 2009
Conveners: Yogesh Jain, Anurag Bhargava, Ravi D’Souza and Raman

XXXVI Annual Meet
Theme: Concept of UHC – Mapping out Current Situation of Health Care in India
Place: Sevagram, Wardha, Maharashtra
Date & Year: 8-10 January, 2010
Conveners: Rakhal Gaitonde & Eddie Premdas
medico friend circle annual meets in 2000s........

XXXVII Annual Meet
Theme: Towards Achieving Universal Access to Health Care
Place: Nagpur, Maharashtra
Date & Year: 7-9 January, 2011
Conveners: Rakhal Gaitonde, Sukanya R & Eddie Premdas

XXXVIII Annual Meet
Theme: Exploring Road Map to UAHC
Place: Sevagram, Wardha, Maharashtra
Date & Year: 5-7 January, 2012
Conveners: Rakhal Gaitonde, Sukanya R & Eddie Premdas
medico friend circle annual meets in 2000s……..

XXXIX Annual Meet
Theme: Work, Health and Rights
Place: Satyodayam, Near Tarnaka, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh
Date & Year: 8-9 February, 2013
Conveners: Sunil Kaul, Jennifer Liang, Raju Narzary and Shelley Dhar

XXXX Annual Meet
Theme: Social Discrimination and Health
Place: Indian Social Institute, New Delhi
Date & Year: 13-15 February, 2014
Conveners: Sunil Kaul, Jennifer Liang, Raju Narzary and Shelley Dhar
Gen Next: from accompanying parents to contributing to mfc

Solidarity with Binayak Sen in Raipur...

Ritwik (Sarojini-Ranjan’s Son), Priya (Manisha-Ramesh’s Daughter), and Lubna (Ravi Duggal-Satjot’s daughter)
Gen-Next: From accompanying parents to contributing to mfc
Pranhita and Aparajita (Binayak-Illina’s daughters) participate in the
campaign against the unconstitutional arrest of their father
Gen Next: from accompanying parents to contributing to mfc

Putting mfc on the World wide web...

Lalit (Ravi-Thelma’s Son)

Shashwat (Sridhar-Manju’s Son)

Pakhi (Sarojini-Ranjan’s daughter) working on the banner for 40th meet...
mfc office

For some reason, mfc’s registered office has remained in Pune, Maharashtra!

From the 1980s until 1994, the office was held by Anant Phadke in his residence (50, LIC Quarters, Pune 411016)
mfc office

The present registered office of mfc (since 1994)

From 1994 to date, the mfc registered office is held by Manisha Gupte in her residence at:
11 Archana, 163 Solapur Road, Hadapsar, Pune 411028.
30 years of mfc
40 Years and Onwards!

The Journey that is medico friend circle (mfc)