

Men's Initiative E-newsletter

WABA Forum for Men's Involvement in the Protection, Promotion & Support of Breastfeeding

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Editor's note

WABA Men's Initiative E-newsletter Takes Off

The Men's newsletter is taking off small and will grow as the readership and contributors increase. As you will find on page 5 of this edition, we have presented contributors' guidelines. With this, we are requesting that the Men's Working Group (MWG) team becomes fully engaged, as the voice of the men for breastfeeding promotion echoed here with a few articles related to men's involvement.

For good reading, we require the articles to be short, succinct and interesting. Members can write on activities related to breastfeeding support, mother and child support etc that they/their organisations are embarking on. Other suggestions include articles/items of their efforts on the issue of men's involvement in gender justice. The articles may be on men's/young male's involvement in sharing domestic responsibilities, opposing gender violence.

The MWG would also like to receive your ideas on what you think of the current WABA's MWG action plans, since the key to producing the newsletter is to pull together news that will excite people to get involved in all the regions. We are inviting all regions to be reflected in the MI-E newsletter.

This information aims at fostering the network and cooperation with the members and to have a joint action to produce the newsletter as a team.

The WABA Global Breastfeeding Partners Meeting (GBPM) 2008



Breastfeeding Icons at WABA GBPM VII 2008

Optimal infant and young child feeding - early and exclusive breastfeeding, continued breastfeeding for up to 24 months and longer with age-appropriate complementary feeding, and healthy pregnant and lactating mothers could save more lives every day around the world, and lessen the healthcare burden of excess disease and death associated with poor feeding practices. These issues were echoed for several days during the GBPM VII. Click on the following link: www.waba.org.my to get joint statement.

Men can make a Difference

By Lakshmi Menon, Mumbai Women's Network

Yuva Maitri, a two-year programme aimed at redefining masculinity has changed the lives of boys who participated in it. The programme, which ended in July 2008, was conceived by Harish Sadani, founder of Men against Violence and Abuse (MAVA). Wanting to work with boys from a rural background, Harish chose six colleges from Pune district, in India to execute the Population Council-funded programme. At the beginning, 33 boys signed up, but only 17 stayed on for the second year. In the first year, workshops were conducted on themes like health, gender equality and

sexuality; and in the second year, the boys were told to relay what they had imbibed to their peers.

At NSS camps the 'males only' course was on issues such as rape, Khairlanji, eve teasing and anaemia that attracted girls. From menstruation to masturbation, there seem to be no taboos in the discussions with their female friends. What's the secret of your success, ask their envious friends. "It's simple," explains Ganesh Phule. "It's our behaviour that makes girls run away from us—the way we ogle them, pass comments, and yet, address them when they talk to us. Girls do not feel secure with us, the boys"

20-year-old Sunil Chachar who works in the fields in Jejuri, a small town in Maharashtra, is one of the 17 boys whose lives have been changed by Yuva Maitri programme. Sunil cooks and does housework, but he is unapologetically non-macho, when his relatives taunt him for doing 'women's work'. At the NSS camp, Sunil volunteered to undergo the punishment reserved for undisciplined boys, i.e. washing utensils. Confident that he could influence his friends the way Yuva Maitri changed him, Sunil requested his college principal to give him two months to work on a group of boys who were to be rusticated for rowdiness. He also requested his female friends to start talking to these boys. Within a month, one of them had attended an NSS camp where he was nominated 'Ideal Student'. "That was for me the real certificate of having passed the course," smiles Sunil.

The main reason the boys from the Yuva Maitri programme have been able to change their immediate world is because they are males in a male-dominated system. Being men, they are confident that when it comes to marriage, they will be able to change their wives too. In contrast, girls feel apprehensive about how their future husbands will react when they develop independent ways of thinking.

This is one of the reasons why feminism is as important for men as it is for women. Dr. K N Bawle, ex-principal of Gramonnati Mandal College, Narayangaon, pointed out that it is time that Yuva Maitri became part of the college curriculum. Having encouraged his students to join Yuva Maitri, Bawle said, "There has never been a programme like this. It changed me too, into organising unconventional college activities. Every college must have a permanent Personality and Life Skills Development Centre run by Yuva Maitri and financed by the UGC."

Paps International Father Project

Academia Socio-Cultural of Sweden is undertaking a father support initiative called "Paps International Father Project". The initiative is undertaken with several

Swedish partners including the Stockholm University. Per Gunnar Engblom, the former WABA MWG Coordinator is involved in the project which highlights the special relationship between fathers and their children.

Paps International Father Project is hoping in the long term to contribute in building a network of father support groups around the world. The Swedish State Television has shown interest in making a documentary on the issue with examples from all over the world.

You can send a contribution to the project by writing an e-mail to Per Gunnar Engblom at:

pgengblom@hotmail.com

Birthing the World in Quebec 2010

One of the resolutions taken during the Global Breastfeeding Partners Meeting, GBPM VII 2008 in Penang was the hosting of the 3rd WABA Global Forum in 2010 in Quebec, Canada. During the deliberations, representatives of Quebec Public Health Association, ASPQ, made a presentation on the level of preparations. ASPQ invited all Core Partners of WABA to join them in Quebec during summer 2010 to rebirth the world in Canada's historic city.



**Canada's mothers prepare Global Forum 2010.
Are the men ready ?**

The preparation of this project started in 2001 with the adoption of Quebec's Breastfeeding Guidelines before the 2nd WABA Forum in Monik St.Pierre in 2002. Canadians see the event as an event that belongs to the community on a long path of human evolution and participants will not only talk to themselves but to the world as a whole.

The visit of WABA's Co-Directors to Canada in 2007 for a feasibility study with ASPQ led to the take off of preparations presented at the GBPM VII 2008 in Penang. Canada has 23 certified Baby Friendly Hospitals,

birthing centres and community health services. Out of the 23, 17 are found in Quebec. This could have been a good reason for letting Quebec host the WABA Forum which is usually a fertile ground for learning and exchange of experiences. The MWG will be getting involved in the global forum for the first time and plan for concrete ideas to promote, protect and support breastfeeding.

MWG Benefits From First WABA Orientation Fellowship



From left to right: Lakshmi Menon, Pamela Morrison, Susan Siew, Sarah Amin and James Achanyi-Fontem

WABA organized the first men’s fellowship training in October 2008. The policy orientation training led to carving out clear areas of the men’s initiative work and collaboration with the different taskforces, working groups, regional core partners and organizations. Some of the areas of work include:

- continued involvement of men in World Breastfeeding Week and other social mobilisation activities;
- Joint and/or coordinated advocacy strategies on various key issues (mother support, women and work, HIV, birthing, BFHI, community support and assistance), including a Rapid Response System.

Group discussions and exchanges in plenary were enriching as the WABA icons worked out a plan for the MWG new cycle from 2008 – 2012. Please send an email to James Achanyi-Fontem for more information on the men’s initiative activity sheet and action plans.

Fathers and Mothers Share Birthing Support Holidays

The Ambassador of Sweden in India, Lars-Olof Lindgren, has revealed that the Swedish Government gives 16-month long paid holiday which includes 2 months' father support holiday to the lactating mothers. The declaration was made during the launching of a campaign to support breastfeeding mothers last February 9, 2009 in Delhi. 30 other countries are reported to have joined launching in other parts of the globe. Ambassador Lindgren added that Swedish mothers are educated about the benefits of breastfeeding which is supported by scientific evidences. In the past, Swedish women had the perception that they might suffer in term of looks if they breastfed their babies but "now they have been educated that nothing of this sort will happen", the diplomat concluded. According to the most recent ratings. 97 per cent of Swedish women breastfeed their kids.

HIV Stigma among Nursing Students **By Lilian Nkenganyi, Cameroon Link**

Dr. Neal Rosenburg and Professor Donna Taliaferro of Washington University and Goldfarb School of Nursing at Barnes Jewish College in St. Louis, Missouri, USA ended a 10-day long survey on HIV related stigma among nursing students in Cameroon on the 10th March 2009. The survey was organised with the technical support of University of Buea and Cameroon Link aimed at identifying aspects of experiences among culturally diverse populations of HIV positive individuals in the United States of America and Cameroon.

The outcome of the survey is to facilitate understanding of circumstances affecting culturally appropriate care for HIV positive clients, by analysing the impact of perceptions among nursing students on global healthcare issues surrounding HIV nursing. Data was collected from over 400 nursing students of the Douala University Complex (INSAM), University of Buea, CEFOP Bonaberi-Douala and the National Nursing College in Nkongsamba, Cameroon.



Stigma is associated with various societal, personal attributes and attitudes. The deficit of a clearly accepted definition contributes to the problematic nature of measuring the impact and outcomes of stigma in the research setting. A repetitive element in the definition of stigma is that of a mark or a well defined stain on, or associated with an individual. The common usages exclude a redundant usage of the term in the context of behaviour, culture and physical attributes that are also associated with stigma. WABA MWG Coordinator seized the opportunity in each nursing college to address the issue of Breastfeeding in the context of HIV and how stigma is connected to the theme of the World Breastfeeding Week 2009. The theme of this year's WBW is « Breastfeeding– A Vital Emergency Response. Are You Ready ? ». For more information, see www.waba.org.my

Engaging Men and Boys in Gender Equality

The Global Symposium on Engaging Men and Boys in Gender Equality, takes place in Rio de Janeiro, from March 30 – April 3, 2009. Deliberations by delegates will be centred on programs, policy, or applied research in the areas of :

1. Men and violence – including physical violence against women, sexual violence, and the gendered dimensions of violence between men;
2. Men and health – including sexual and reproductive health, HIV/AIDS, substance use, maternal and child health, and mental health;
3. Men, care giving and fatherhood – including work-life balance and engaging men to a greater extent in care giving.

Side attractions at the symposium are the hosting of booths in the Global Village with the display of posters in an exhibition. Forum for Engaging Men and Boys (FEM) for Gender Equality is a coalition of individuals,

groups, civil society organisations and networks working in India for working with men and boys to bring Gender Equality and Social Justice.

FEM emerged as a process in India where individuals, organizations and institutions working and acting in separate spheres on the issue of masculinities came together to create a platform. It has emerged as a forum to share work, ideas and learning to make more public the discussion on masculinities and reach out to more boys and men in support of gender equality and non violence.

As part of this, a small group of individuals started meeting to discuss the vision and direction of this process. It resulted in a draft concept note that was circulated for discussion and which is still in the process getting insights from multifaceted dimensions of masculinities in Indian context and sighting its inter linkages with other social justice movements including women's movement in India. A couple of meetings took place in Delhi in July and August 2007 and in Pune October 2007 to facilitating the process towards making it more broad-based and inclusive, both conceptually and regionally. It was also decided collectively that such further meetings should be organised in different parts of country. For more information visit the group at <http://groups.google.com/group/engagingmen?hl=en> or send a mail to : engagingmen@googlegroups.com

2nd FECABPA AGM Holds In Douala

By Alice Ndeloh, COGESID Bonaberi

Health organisations (NGO, CBO and FBO) affiliated to the Federation of Cameroon Breastfeeding Promotion Associations, FECABPA, met in Douala on March 24, 2009 to evaluate activities of the national breastfeeding movement and to deliberate on a new action plan during its second annual general meeting. FECABPA was registered by the Cameroon government on the 10th December 2007 under the reference no. 00135/RDA/JO6/BAPP as a plat form for exchanges and negotiations between associations on the one hand, and between FECABPA and other partners.

During the 2nd annual general meeting, members deliberated on the WABA joint statement based on the workshop and Global Breastfeeding Partners Meeting, GBPM, VII in Penang, Malaysia in October 2008. Participants endorsed WABA's joint statement, with the initiation of its action plan for 2009/2010 within the context of the resolutions of the 2008 GBPM VII.

Delegates at the FECABPA AGM from ASSF, COGESID, OPTIMEO, MALEO santé +, NOLFOWOP, Alternative Santé, MUTSAN, AFFE and Cameroon Link received highlights on the Men's initiative and activity

sheet, the current One Million Campaign launched by IBFAN Asia, WABA Global Forum 3 preparation in Quebec, Canada in 2010.



FECABPA Chair holding 2 hour -old baby born during AGM 2009 at ASSF Community Health Centre in Bonaberi-Douala

A call for active preparation and participation when the time comes was made by the coordinator of MWG. The next general meeting of FECABPA scheduled on the 12th June 2009 will be hosted by NOLFOWOP Yaoundé, For more, click on the following link at <http://cameroonlink.blogspot.com>

Psychology of Fatherhood

Father's Day salutes the world's greatest dads, but it takes science to explain why some aren't so great. Dads all over the world are preparing to have their very good day on June 17. That's when more than 100 million ubiquitous cards change hands to over 50 million dads across the world in observation of Father's Day. This number remains short of the more than 250 million cards sold on Mother's Day, though it's still quite a tribute. What's less clear is whether dads--at least as a group--have done a good enough job to deserve the honour attributed to them on that day. Statistics show that worldwide, 10 % - 40 % of children grow up in households with no father at all, while in some parts of the world, more than half of divorced fathers lose contact with their kids within a few years. By the end of 10 years of separation, as many as two-thirds of them have drifted out of their children's lives, according to a 1994 study by the Children's Defense Fund. Men are more likely to default today on a child-support

payment (49%) than a used-car payment (3%). Even fathers in intact families spend a lot less time focused on their kids than they think, another study reveals. As fathers' day gets closer, it is important that men start evaluating how much support they have given their partners.

Men Invited To Join ONE MILLION CAMPAIGN

WABA Men's Working Group is inviting its members to support the new and unique innovation – "ONE MILLION CAMPAIGN: Support Women to Breastfeed" launched in across the globe including Bangladesh, China, Costa Rica, Francophone Africa, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, Philippines, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Uganda, UK and US.

The CAMPAIGN, initiated by International Baby Food Action Network – Asia, (IBFAN-Asia) is a global response to the preventable tragedies like one which happened last year in which 300,000 infants, several of them under one year of age, developing incurable kidney disease as a result of consuming contaminated infant formula in China. These catastrophe could be prevented if women are supported to breastfeed their babies

Whether it contains melamine or not, there is growing evidence that the powdered formula is not a sterile product and there could be intrinsic contamination with lethal pathogenic micro-organisms like E. Sakazakii and Salmonella which may lead to life threatening illness in neonates. Products of companies such as Nestle and Mead Johnson have had to be recalled from across the world because of such contamination.

The CAMPAIGN is unique in that it brings together people from all over the world to take action ranging from signing petitions demanding support to women to breastfeed on the website www.onemillioncampaign.org to individual actions such as pledging to support at least one woman for breastfeeding.

Growing scientific evidence points out how vital breastfeeding is to infant survival with health. Women are being forced to stop breastfeeding and give their babies milk formulas because they lack support to breastfeed, whether at the time of birth in family or institutions, or when they are at work, and more importantly due to increasing commercial push to milk formula feeding. Potential disasters are thus waiting to happen across the world.

The WHO has taken it seriously and issued some guidelines.

<http://www.who.int/foodsafety/micro/jemra/assessment/>

esakazakii/en/. Irrespective of contamination, there is enough evidence that no infant formula can match breastmilk as the best food for babies. Further, dangers of infant formula are well known and suggest that women be supported overwhelmingly to be able to provide optimal care to their children.

For more information contact the following: Radha Holla Bhar, Email: radhab@yahoo.com, Arun Gupta, Email: arun@ibfanasia.org, JP Dadhich, Email: jpdadhich@bpni.org

Wellstart International launches Lactation Management Self-Study Modules

Wellstart International launched the 3rd Edition of its Lactation Management Self-Study Modules, Level 1 in conjunction with Mother's Day 2009. This tool is intended for use by medical and nursing students as they begin their clinical assignments, but can also be used by anyone who has never been exposed to breastfeeding issues before or those who need a quick review. The Third Edition of the lactation management modules was reviewed by 15 US and 15 international reviewers who are experienced health provider educators and/or care givers. Wellstart International hopes that this tool will be able to help increase the general knowledge about lactation and breastfeeding promotion among the world's health care providers irrespective of their areas of specialisation. This educational tool is downloadable for free from www.wellstart.org

How to submit articles for publication in MS E-newsletter

The themes of interest should refer to any actions taken, specific work done, investigations and projects carried out from different perspectives and from different parts of the world which have provided support to women in their role as breastfeeding mothers.

The guidelines for contributing an article are as follows:

- Up to, but not exceeding 250 words.
- Name, Title, Address, Telephone, Fax and e-mail of the author
- Affiliation
- Brief biography (5-10 lines)
- Web site (if available)

Please be specific in including details where relevant: names of places, persons and exact dates of events. Try as much as possible for your contributions to meet datelines for publication.

If there is a lot of information, please write a summary of 250 words or less and provide a website url or link for readers to access the full report or article or send the full report or article and the MWG will send it to WABA for considering placing on the WABA website on the Men's Initiative web page.

The deadline for submitting articles for consideration for January to June edition is May 15 and for the July to December edition is November 15.

If you submit an article and it does not appear in an edition, it may be reserved or used for a future issue.

WABA MWG Core Group Members

Coordinator: James Achanyi-Fontem, Cameroon
Per Gunnar Engblom, Sweden
Ray Maseko, Swaziland
Qamar Naseem, Pakistan
Arturo Arteaga Villaroel, Mexico
Peter Breife, Sweden
Jose Quiros, Costa Rica
Santiago Vallone, Argentina

The Men's Initiative Newsletter is designed to share news, plans and actions of men's/young males involvement and roles in the breastfeeding movement, mother support, gender justice and other areas of interest.

The views expressed in the articles, supplements and inserts, however, do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of WABA or its Core Partners.

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The World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action (WABA) is a global network of individuals and organisations concerned with the protection, promotion and support of breastfeeding worldwide based on the Innocenti Declarations, the Ten Links for Nurturing the Future and the WHO/UNICEF Global Strategy for Infant and Young Child Feeding. Its core partners are International Baby Food Action Network (IBFAN), La Leche League International (LLL), International Lactation Consultant Association (ILCA), Wellstart International and Academy of Breastfeeding Medicine (ABM). WABA is in consultative status with UNICEF and an NGO in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC).

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