



Avoidable Deaths Network

India Hub

2024

Avoidable Deaths Network (ADN) India Hub Annual Newsletter



VOLUNTARY COMMITMENTS
SENDAI FRAMEWORK
FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION 2015-2030

Letter from Editor

We live in a very fragile environment, where climate change is impacting badly on each and every one of us. The occurrences of sudden disasters of various nature and magnitude, brings immediate destruction of livelihood, assets, accompanied by injuries, partial disability and sometimes deaths of dear ones. These disasters often result in consequences that stays with the survivors for a longer period of time. It also brings in emotional stress and impoverished condition for the victims.

The discourse about such deaths and loss of lives is very limited and gets confined to numbers only when there is any discussion about relief and rehabilitation of such families. However, this does not address the issues of the survivors in totality but only addresses the need to some extent. It is important that we rebuild the lives of such families and also build the capacities of the people and state so that such deaths do not happen in future.

In this context Avoidable Death Network (AND) makes an attempt to create public discourses around avoidable and preventable deaths, so that the necessary capacity of the people and various institutions are built to save the lives of the people. In this regard, ADN India hub, hosted by OSVWA in Bhubaneswar is making strides in building awareness about such issues and collaborating with various institutions to address these issues. The research and community-based initiative on snakebite in Burujhari, Ganjam district in Odisha is noteworthy in this direction.

The ADN India Hub is coming up with a Newsletter and we are happy to share some of these activities undertaken in India to raise public awareness and initiate changes in public policies through our research and advocacy.

Professor Shakuntala Pratihary

Steering Committee Member, ADN India Hub
Professor of Practice, Sri Sri University



Letter from ADN India Hub Lead

The Avoidable Deaths Network (ADN) is a diverse, dynamic, inclusive and innovative global membership network dedicated to avoiding human deaths from natural hazards, naturally triggered technological hazards and human-made disasters in low- and middle-income countries. The India Chapter was launched on 11 September 2019, bringing together a number of actors to create a community representing different sectors, networks, and at-risk groups involved in reducing avoidable disaster deaths. The India Chapter is a platform to share knowledge and raise awareness on avoidable deaths and focuses on research and public engagement activities related to preventing snakebite deaths and celebrating International Awareness Day for Avoidable Deaths on 12 March annually.

The India Chapter is led by ADN Regional Coordinator Mr. Dillip Pattanaik, Executive Director of the host organisation, Orissa State Volunteers and Social Workers Association (OSVSWA). The Steering and Management Committee comprises Dr. Sakuntala Pratihary Nanda, Dr. Subasish Behera, Ms. Basanti Sarangi and Mr. Bibhuti Gadanayak. The Advisory Board Members are Dr. Ambika Prasad Nanda, Mr. Mihir Bhatt, Dr. Amarendra Mohapatra, Dr. Ravinder Soni, Col. Sanjay Srivastava and Ms. Bharti Chakra. The India Hub was launched on 18 December 2019 to carry out collaborative research projects related to reducing avoidable disaster deaths. Furthermore, OSVSWA provides opportunities to Europeans to work with the communities in Odisha to facilitate disaster resilience. The ADN India Hub has participated in projects related to three research themes: Disaster Education, Direct and Indirect Disaster Deaths and Snakebite Deaths.

Mr. Dillip Pattanaik

Regional Coordinator and Lead, ADN India Hub
Executive Director, Orissa State Volunteers and Social Workers Association

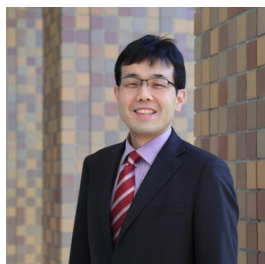


Letter from ADN Presidents

We are grateful to Mr. Dillip Pattanaik for launching the ADN India Hub Annual Newsletter on the first anniversary of the Global Campaign: International Awareness Day for Avoidable Deaths (IAD4AD). We thank Professor Shakuntala Pratihary for taking on the editorial role for this Newsletter. We are confident that under her leadership, the Newsletter will capture the wonderful and impactful activities of the ADN India Hub. Furthermore, we would like to thank Ms. Lauren MacLeod for her relentless effort to materialise this Newsletter in time. We are confident that this Newsletter will act as cultural capital in the coming months and years ahead.

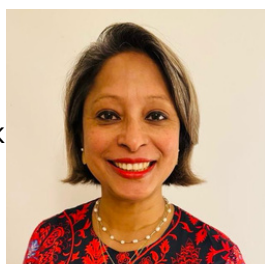
Dr. Hideyuki Shiroshita

Founding President, ADN
Associate Professor in
Disaster Mitigation and
Safety Education, Kansai
University



Dr. Nibedita Ray-Bennett

Founding President and
Convenor, ADN
Associate Professor in Risk
Management, University
of Leicester



Letter from ADN Advisor

All disaster deaths may not be avoidable but all heatwave deaths are avoidable. Let us see why. We know enough how to reduce heatwave caused mortality now. We know enough to reduce the number of heatwave affected people who may suffer loss of life.

We also know how best to reduce and avoid direct heatwave related economic losses that leads to deprivation and to deaths. We also know how to reduce damage to health and life during a heatwave.

We also have more and more cities come up with heatwave action plans that can protect life and therefore prevent deaths.

We know how to cooperate around heatwaves to save lives, may it be through local or international collaboration among the best expert and experienced agencies. And we have universal multi-hazard early warning system that is effectively focused on heatwave warning to each citizen who can take actions to save lives.

Therefore, there is no reason to have any more heatwave deaths in India. Heatwave deaths are avoidable. And we must do all that we can. In this regard we need to build the capacities of the institutions and communities, so that precautionary measures are taken to save lives. We have seen how Odisha has done exemplary work after 1998 heat wave related deaths and similar campaigns can be undertaken by other states.

Avoidable Death Network has clearly shown a way ahead for us all. We must move ahead on that path to save lives during any heatwave in 2024.

Mr. Mihir Bhatt
Director, All India Disaster
Mitigation Institute
Advisory Board Member,
ADN



Update on Events and Activities

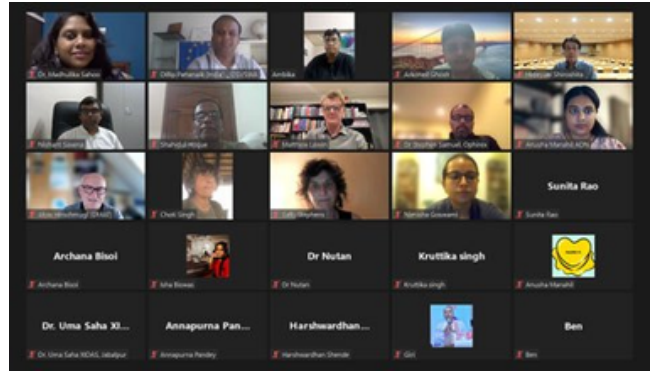
On 11 September 2019, the ADN India Chapter was launched by the Speaker of the Odisha Assembly, Mr. Surya Narayan Patro, at the Hotel Hindustan International in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.



On 10 November 2021, the ADN India Hub participated the knowledge-exchange event, STEM for All and the Climate Crisis at the Conference of Parties (COP) 26. Participants included Mr. Dillip Pattanaik (Orissa State Volunteers and Social Workers Association), Dr. Nibedita S. Ray-Bennett (University of Leicester) and COP26 delegates.



On 7 May 2021, the ADN India Hub facilitated the knowledge-exchange event, Let's Talk About Silent Deaths. The event was attended by four speakers and virtual participants.



On 30 September 2022, the ADN India Hub facilitated the knowledge-exchange event, *International Snakebite Awareness Day: Challenges and Opportunities to Reduce Avoidable Snakebite Deaths in Odisha/India*. Participants included nine speakers and virtual participants.



On 18 June 2023, Mr. Dillip Pattanaik (ADN India Hub Lead) attended the launch of the ADN Bangladesh Chapter at the University of Dhaka, Bangladesh.



Led by Dr. Nibedita Ray-Bennett (ADN UK), the ADN India Hub organised a Two-Day Symposium on 20 – 21 June 2023 in Bhubaneswar, Odisha, India.



Entitled 'Exploring the Feasibility and Value of Pioneering Partnerships and a Knowledge-Sharing Network to Reduce Avoidable Snakebite Deaths in India', the two-day symposium comprised a Brainstorming workshop and a day of Experts Presentations. The first day was attended by 41 participants.



The second day featured 15 experts who shared their perspectives on the issue of snakebite from the six emergent categories of stakeholders.

On 23 June 2023, led by ADN Advisory Board Member, Col. Sanjay Srivastava (Climate Resilient Observing Systems Promotion Council), the ADN India Hub conducted a half-day High-Level Round Table Meeting to orientate 28 key stakeholders in New Delhi on the project.



On 25 June 2023, Mr. Dillip Pattanaik (ADN India Hub Lead) attended the launch of the ADN Sultanate of Oman Chapter at the YAS Centre for Environment and Health in Al Buraimi, Sultanate of Oman.



On 19 September 2023, the ADN India Hub launched the Case Station for Avoidable Snakebite Deaths (CaSA) in Burujhari village of Ganjam district, Odisha to promote a social learning laboratory at the village level; foster village-level communities of practice to find solutions at scale; and develop the capacity of primary and secondary responders to reduce avoidable snakebite deaths. Participants included five speakers and 130 local participants.



On 11 October 2023, Junior Champion, Arkoneil Ghosh visited the ADN India Hub in Bhubaneswar to meet ADN India Hub Activity Coordinator, Ms. Lauren MacLeod and Steering and Management Committee Member, Ms. Basanti Sarangi.



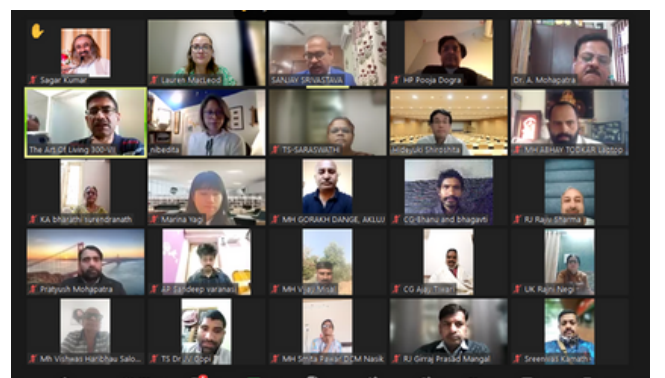
On 12 October 2023, led by two Junior Champion Editors, Arkoneil Ghosh and Miss Prarthona Datta, the first issue of the ADN Junior Champion Magazine (ISSN 2759-0380) was published. The issue centred around the theme of listening to the experiences of children and youths in the summer floods of 2023, which affected 15 states of India. Hosted by Dr. Madhulika Sahoo, the ADN Junior Champion Magazine was launched at Kalahandi University in Kalahandi District. The event featured seven speakers and was attended by students and faculty of Kalahandi University and virtual participants.



From 20 to 23 October 2023, the Regional Coordinator for West Bengal, Mr. Snehendu Konar organised three awareness raising avoidable deaths stalls at the UNESCO non-tangible cultural heritage Durga Puja festival in Kolkata. The stalls were manned by local volunteers and EU Humanitarian Aid Volunteers based at the Orissa State Volunteers and Social Workers Association.



On 17 January, ADN Advisory Board Member Col. Sanjay Srivastava (Climate Resilient Observing-Systems Promotion Council) facilitated a closed Special Session webinar entitled 'Snakebite Deaths Are Avoidable: Awareness Raising Webinar for The Art of Living Volunteers'. The webinar focused on educating 131 members of the Art of Living community (including the at-risk community of farmers) on how they can contribute to reducing the burden of avoidable snakebite deaths in India.



Update on Projects

Led by ADN UK and ADN Japan, the ADN India Hub has participated in projects related to three research themes: Disaster Education, Direct and Indirect Disaster Deaths and Snakebite Deaths.

From May 2021 to July 2022, the ADN India Hub facilitated the novel initiative **Meals on Wheels** in response to the second surge of COVID-19 in India. Our target was to reduce avoidable deaths from nutritional crisis and starvation amongst the tribal community of Kandamahal district in Odisha who were the hardest hit by the impact of economic lockdown. The project raised £1,255 through the GoFund Platform in the UK, and INR19,100 in India. During the first phase of distribution, 821 food parcels across 18 villages of Kandamahal district from 2 - 5 July 2021. During the second phase, 298 packets of food were distributed from 9 - 10 July 2022 across eight villages in Nayagarh district.



A total of 1,119 packets/ meals were distributed to reduce avoidable deaths from nutritional crisis and starvation amongst the socio-economically vulnerable groups of population in Odisha.



From February 2021 - December 2022, the ADN India Hub facilitated the project **Avoidable Deaths from Snakebites during Disasters in Odisha, India** to understand the cause and circumstances that lead to snakebite deaths during disasters.

From September 2020 - 20 February 2021, ADN Operations Team and ADN India Hub conducted a literature review on snakebite deaths in Odisha.



From 25 - 30 July 2022 MSc, the ADN India Hub hosted ADN Operations Member, Ms. Nimisha Goswami, facilitating her thesis fieldwork in Ganjam district.



From September - December 2022, led by ADN Founding President and Convenor Dr. Nibedita Ray-Bennett, submitted a successful proposal for the project 'Exploring the Feasibility and Value of Pioneering Partnerships to Reduce Avoidable Snakebite Deaths in India' to the Leicester Institute for Advanced Studies.

From January to August 2023, the ADN India Hub participated in Dr. Nibedita Ray-Bennett's project **Exploring the Feasibility and Value of Pioneering Partnerships to Reduce Avoidable Snakebite Deaths in India** which engaged with over 100 stakeholders. This project was funded by the University of Leicester Institute for Advanced Studies and the Institute for Environmental Futures. To achieve our objectives, the qualitative methods of stakeholder mapping, interview, focus group discussion, consultation, symposium, and high-level round-table meeting were used.



On 18 August 2023, ADN and ADN India Hub Advisor, Dr. Ambika Prasad Nanda submitted the Proceedings Report to Mr. Pritiranjana Gharai – Honourable Minister of Rural Development, Skill Development and Technical Education of Odisha, India.

The report provides actionable recommendations to reduce avoidable snakebite deaths in Odisha with relevance for other high-burden snakebite states.



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