



**Indian Council of Medical Research  
and  
All India Heart Foundation**



**Control of Rheumatic Fever/  
Rheumatic Heart Disease  
in India through  
School Health Services**

**Executive Summary of an ICMR  
Pilot Project**

*S. Padmavati & Durga Bhatia*

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**Control of Rheumatic Fever/ Rheumatic  
Heart Disease in India Through  
School Health Services  
Executive Summary of an  
ICMR Pilot Project**

*S. Padmavati & Durga Bhatia*

- 1. Title of the Research**  
Pilot Study of the feasibility of utilizing the existing School Health Services in Delhi for the control of Rheumatic Fever/Rheumatic Heart Disease.
- 2. Location**
  - All India Heart Foundation  
4874 (1<sup>st</sup> Floor), Ansari Road,  
24, Daryaganj, New Delhi – 110 002
  - W.H.O./I.C.M.R. Streptococcal  
Disease Reference Laboratory  
Department of Microbiology  
Lady Hardinge Medical College  
New Delhi – 110 001
- 3. Name and Designation of the Chief Investigator**  
Dr. S. Padmavati  
*President, All India Heart Foundation*
- 4. Co-Investigator**  
Dr. K. Prakash  
*Prof. & Head, Department of Microbiology  
Lady Hardinge Medical College*
- 5. Date of Starting the Project**  
April 01, 1984
- 6. Date of Termination**  
March 31, 1990
- 7. Objectives**  
To study the feasibility and effectiveness of a secondary prophylaxis programme in primary school children (Class I to V) utilizing the existing School Health Services.

**8. Project Staff**

Dr. Durga Bhatia  
 Dr. S.C. Juneja  
 Mr. P.P. Sharma  
 Mr. Anil C. Mathew  
 Mrs. Sushma Mitter  
 Mrs. A. Kabra  
 Ms. Kiran Bala  
 Mr. Pradeep Ranade  
 Mrs. Mary Philip  
 Mr. Sunil K. Lall  
 Ms. Saly Varghese  
 Mr. Ram Singh  
 Mr. Inderjeet Singh

**Designation**

Research Officer  
 Asstt. Research Officer  
 Asstt. Statistician  
 Asstt. Statistician  
 Social Worker  
 Social Worker  
 Social Worker  
 Social Worker  
 Staff Nurse  
 Lab Technician  
 Lab Technician  
 Lab Assistant  
 Driver

**9. Experts**

1. Prof. M.L. Bhatia  
 Department of Cardiology  
 All India Institute of Medical Sciences  
 New Delhi
2. Prof. Abraham Joseph  
 Prof. of PSM  
 Department of Community Health  
 Christian Medical College  
 Vellore
3. Dr. P.L. Wahi  
 Director  
 Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education & Research  
 Chandigarh
4. Dr. K.G. Nair  
 Cardiologist  
 KEM Hospital  
 Mumbai

**10. ICMR Co-ordinating Unit (Division of NCD)**

1. Dr. Usha K. Luthra  
Addl. DG & Sr. DDG
2. Dr. C.R. Ramachandran  
Director Grade Scientist
3. Dr. Bela Shah  
Assistant Director-General
4. Dr. A.K. Prabhakar  
Assistant Director-General
5. Dr. T.C. Gupta  
Sr. Research Officer

## INTRODUCTION

Because of the high prevalence of Rheumatic Fever/Rheumatic Heart Disease in India after World War II as reported in medical publications, the ICMR (and to a smaller extent the WHO and DST) embarked on several projects to determine; the prevalence of the disease in different parts of India, epidemiological features, the applicability of the Jones' Criteria, seasonal variations in streptococcal isolation and types involved and the efficacy of a pilot programme on secondary prophylaxis<sup>1</sup>. WHO had postulated the following requirements of successful control, all of which except the last had been achieved in India by 1982:

- a) Epidemiology of RHD in the area in schools
- b) Streptococcal epidemiology in the adjoining areas in schools
- c) A Streptococcal Reference Laboratory
- d) Free availability of Penicillin
- e) Cost of a Pilot Programme
- f) Formulation of a National Programme for RHD control
- g) Integration into the health care delivery systems of the country.

The ICMR embarked on a programme for integrating Rheumatic Fever/Rheumatic Heart Disease control into the regular health care delivery systems of the country utilizing (1) Primary Health Care Centre (PHCs) and (2) School Health Services (SHS). The work done under PHCs has been published<sup>2</sup>. This paper concerns the work done under the School Health Services in Delhi. A detailed report was submitted to the ICMR

