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MSU-FNAA NEWSLETTER

MSU-FN Alumni Association (MSU-FNAA), Department of Foods and Nutrition,
The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, Vadodara - 390002, Gujarat, INDIA

Number 9



Wishing you all a prosperous New Year 2018!

This issue shares the highlights of the FNAA meeting held on 4th Dec 2017

About our Patron FNAA



(Late Dr. Mrunalini Devi Puar, Patron FNAA, Former Chancellor, MSU Baroda)

Late Dr. Mrunalini Devi Puar (25th June, 1931 to 2nd Jan, 2015) has carved her name in our hearts and has etched a legacy in the minds of alumni of FN, MSU Baroda.

Dr. Puar was the titular Maharani of Dhar State, married to Maharaja Anand Rao IV Puar, and a member of the Gaekwad dynasty, both former Maratha princely states.

She succeeded her brother Fatehsingh Rao Gaekwad, Maharaja of Baroda, as Chancellor of the Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, in 1988. Born on June 25, 1931, Dr. Puar completed her B.Sc. Home from the Baroda University and did her M.S. (Food & Nutrition) from Iowa State University of Science and Technology in the United States. She later completed her Ph.D. in Food and Nutrition from the Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda and taught at Baroda University for about 12 years before she became its Chancellor and continued the Gaekwad family's glorious tradition of service through education. Dr. Puar was the first woman Chancellor of a recognized Indian University with more than 35,000 students.

She served as a member of the Commission on Education and Training, the International Union for Conservation of Nature & Natural Resources (IUCNNR), Switzerland and as Chairperson, Food & Nutrition Programme Committee, International Federation For Home Economics (IFHE), France.

She was also a member of the steering group on Nutrition, Planning Commission, and Government of India and of the Governing Body, Institute Of Home Economics, New Delhi, member of the Advisory Committee for Rajiv Gandhi Institute for Contemporary Studies, Rajiv Gandhi Foundation, New Delhi and a variety of other organizations.

She had published several research and popular articles in national and International Journals of repute.

We all alumni pay our homage to dear Puar madam on her 3rd death anniversary and dearly miss her. May her soul rest in peace!

MSU-FNAA has instituted an oration in her name and previous recipients of the Mrunalini Devi Puar Memorial Orations were:

- Prof Tara Gopaldas (2001), Former Dean, faculty of Home Science, Former Head, Department of Foods and Nutrition, MSU, Baroda
- Prof Subhadra Seshadri (2009) Former Head, Department of Foods and Nutrition, MSU, Baroda;
- Dr. Prema Ramachandran (2010), Director, Nutrition Foundation of India, New Delhi
- Prof Ramesh Goel (2011), Vice Chancellor, The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda
- Padma Shree Dr V Mohan (2012), Chairman and Chief Diabetologist, MDRF, Chennai
- Prof Shubhada Kanani (2016), Former Professor, Department of Foods and Nutrition, MSU, Baroda
- Dr. Purnima Kashyap (2017), Special Adviser, Scaling Up Nutrition-SUN, Geneva, Switzerland



MSU-FNAAL PROGRAM 4th Dec'17

Welcome address	Prof. Meenakshi Bakshi Mehan President MSU-FNAAL, Head, Dept of FN, MSU
Address by Past President- MSUFNAAL	Prof. Uma Iyer Past President, MSU-FNAAL, Ex-Head, Dept of FN, MSU
Homage to our beloved Mentors	
Dr. Mrunalini Devi Puar Memorial Oration by Dr Purnima Kashyap	
Introduction of the Speaker	Prof. Mini Sheth Vice-President, MSU-FNAAL
Oration on "Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) movement in India: Present scenario, gaps and way forward and the role of SUN movement for humanitarian assistance programs, globally and in India"	Dr. Purnima Kashyap Senior Advisor, Scaling Up Nutrition Geneva, Switzerland
Felicitation of the recipient of Dr. Mrunalini Devi Puar Memorial Oration	Rajmata Shubhangini Raje Gaekwad Chancellor The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda
Outstanding MSU-FNAAL Alumni Achievement Award to Dr Purnima Kashyap	
Felicitation of the Awardee	Prof. Meenakshi Bakshi Mehan President MSU-FNAAL, Head, Dept of FN, MSU
Interaction with staff and students	
Indulge in the journey of FN department since 1950 – a pictorial gallery with live mandolin performance by our alumni Shivani Dalvi	
General Body Meeting- MSU-FNAAL	
Vote of Thanks	Prof. Vanisha Nambiar Vice-President, MSU-FNAAL



DR. MRUNALINI DEVI PUAR MEMORIAL ORATION, Delivered by Dr Purnima Kashyap, Senior advisor, Scaling up Nutrition (SUN), Geneva, Switzerland .

"The Scaling Up Nutrition Movement, better known as the SUN Movement, was started in 2010, with a recognition that there is an urgent need for collaboration, to end all forms of malnutrition. The SUN Movement has inspired many Governments to lead collaborative efforts, and unites people from civil society, the United Nations, donors, businesses and researchers in a collective effort to improve nutritional status of the populations.

With growing attention to increased food and fuel prices in 2008 attention was focused on the cost of hunger and global malnutrition. A series of high level meetings took place and eventually, in March 2010, a policy brief "Scaling Up Nutrition: A Framework for Action" was published in the Food and Nutrition Bulletin, and several high level events and commitments followed, leading to the birth of the SUN Movement in the end of 2010 with Dr David Nabarro as its first Coordinator. Since then 60 countries and three Indian States (Jharkhand, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh) have become active members of the Movement. The current Coordinator for the SUN Movement is Ms Gerda Verburg, as like her predecessor, she is based in Geneva. The SUN Movement is not a fund, an institution or an agency, rather the Movement focusses on strengthening political commitments and accountability for zero hunger and eradication of all forms of malnutrition globally. Its membership is voluntary and it **belongs to all those who support it** - United Nations agencies, scientists, parliamentarians, journalists, entrepreneurs, professional associations, community organizers, medical practitioners, civil servants and business leaders who understand that improving nutrition is key to unlocking a better future for children across the globe. Within each SUN Country, the government nominates a SUN Government

Focal Point who convenes multi-stakeholder platforms (MSPs) that bring together actors from all sectors that are relevant to nutrition.

Mr Ban Ki-moon, United Nations 8th Secretary General, in a message for the SUN Movement Strategy and Roadmap (2016-2020) said, and I quote “Nutrition is both a maker and a marker of development. Improved nutrition is the platform for progress in health, education, employment, empowerment of women and the reduction of poverty and inequality, and can lay the foundation for peaceful, secure and stable societies.” End quote.



(Felicitation to Dr Purnima Kashyap, the recipient of Dr. Mrunalini Devi Puar Memorial Oration by Hon’ble Chancellor, Rajmata Shubhangini Raje Gaekwad)

Malnutrition has been recognized as the invisible impediment to the successful achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It results, not just from a lack of sufficient and adequately nutritious and safe food, but from a host of intertwined factors linking health, care, education, water, sanitation and hygiene, access to food and resources, women’s empowerment and more. Without adequate and sustained investments in good nutrition, the Agenda 2030 of Sustainable Development Goals will not be realized. The ambition to ‘End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture’ is captured in SDG 2,

however, at least 12 of the 17 Goals contain indicators that are highly relevant to nutrition. Therefore, tackling all forms of malnutrition needs:

-multiple stakeholders, led by Governments, supported by the UN, Civil Society, Business, Academia and Donors

-multiple sectors, including health, agriculture, women’s empowerment, water and sanitation, planning, social protection, education and more

-engagement at multiple levels, from the highest levels of government to local community leaders.

The recently released Global Nutrition Report 2017 clearly states that improving nutrition can have a powerful multiplier effect across the SDGs. Indeed, it indicates that it will be a challenge to achieve any SDG without addressing nutrition. The report shows that there is an exciting opportunity to achieving global nutrition targets while catalyzing other development goals through ‘double duty’ actions, which tackle more than one form of malnutrition at once. Likewise, potential ‘triple duty actions’, which tackle malnutrition and other development challenges, could yield multiple benefits across the SDGs. The report found the vast majority (about 88%) of countries studied, face a serious burden of two or three of these forms of malnutrition.

Emphasis in the SDGs is on leaving no one behind; reach the farthest behind to make real progress for all. It is in this context and based on my several years’ experience in humanitarian and development actions, that I started to work with the SUN Movement to review nutrition challenges in the context of crisis and find ways to support SUN Movement countries to overcome those. The SUN Movement Annual progress report 2017, indicates that many countries engaged in multi-sectoral, multi-stakeholder approach to nutrition are making progress in the nutritional status of their people. There is increased recognition of the fact that tackling the challenges of malnutrition requires not just

nutrition-specific interventions but a whole array of nutrition-sensitive actions.



This is not the case in crisis where responses focus primarily on saving lives and reducing the severe and moderate wasting in the populations, despite the fact that health, water-sanitation, food security and nutrition interventions are also ongoing simultaneously. If the same development principles of multi sectoral/multi-stakeholder approach is used and integrated interventions were undertaken, there would be longer term impact on the populations leading to more sustainability of all efforts. It has also been recognized that SUN countries would probably show better achievement of nutrition goals if the same principles were applied in crisis.

Currently in many countries the overall development gains are being negated due to crisis. I am proud to state that as a result of my work with several SUN Government Focal Points, UN agencies, civil society, donors and private sector entities, a guidance note has been issued by the Emergency Relief Coordinator in OCHA to all Humanitarian Coordinators, preparing appeals for 2018. With global commitments and accountability to the affected populations in mind, the emphasis has now been placed on use of multi-stake holder, multi sectoral approach in crisis, with long term financial and programme commitment. It is recognized that breaking sectoral silos and bridging the development and humanitarian divide, is of urgency and importance, if a world without malnutrition is to be realized by 2030.

The State of Food and Nutrition Security in the World report 2017 highlights that the number of undernourished people in the world increased from 777 m in 2015 to 815 m in 2016, though still lower than 900 m in 2000. While there is some reduction in stunting it is not significant. Among other reasons cited in the report are protracted and new crisis in the world due to climate change, natural disasters and conflicts. Therefore the work of the SUN Movement in fragile and conflict context is very timely.

As far as India is concerned, the numbers in the Global Nutrition Report 2017, are disappointing. About 38 per cent of the children under five are affected by stunting and about 21 per cent of children under 5 have been defined as 'wasted' or 'severely wasted' – which means that they do not weigh enough for their height. Moreover, 51 per cent of the women of reproductive age suffer from anemia and more than 22 per cent of adult women are overweight. The percentage of overweight men in the country is slightly lower and stands at 16 per cent of adult men.

While the report does indicate that India has shown some progress in addressing childhood stunting for children under the age of 5, no real progress is noted in % children wasted over the last decade and it presents worse outcomes in the percentage of reproductive-age women with anaemia, and India is off course in terms of reaching its targets for reducing adult obesity and diabetes. India still lags behind in ante-natal care, initiation of breast feeding within first hour of birth and exclusive breast feeding in the first six months of life. We are far behind in access to safe drinking water, basic sanitation and open defecation still persists with nearly 40% of the population.

While a lot needs to be done, it is not doom and gloom for India. Both under and over nutrition have found clear reference in national development plans and economic growth strategies. There are efforts to increase

availability of fortified foods, including double fortification. There is recognition, nationally, at state level, that basic hygiene, sanitation, access to health services and basic education are essential components of development. Healthy bodies will create healthy minds and the full potential of the populations will be achieved. It is important not just to have equality but equity as well, to make sure that the most distant individual has access to equal opportunity to maximize his or her potential to contribute to overall national development.



(Qawwali Performance by the Students of the Department during the FNAA meet)

I am pleased today the India's National Nutrition Policy and the Nutrition Mission clearly highlights the importance of integrating nutrition-related interventions cutting across sectors like women and child development, health, food and public distribution, sanitation, drinking water and rural development. It is rooted in decentralization with local level planning, encourages innovation and very importantly accountability for nutrition outcomes and focusses on the most vulnerable populations to achieve the SDG commitments by 2030. Sustainable development has been defined as development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. It also embodies the three principles I highlighted above – need for **multiple stakeholder engagement**, led by Governments, supported by the UN, Civil

Society, Business, Academia and Donors; **multiple sector involvement**, including health, agriculture, women's empowerment, water and sanitation, planning, social protection, education and more; and finally **engagement at multiple levels**, from grassroots to policy making.

For the sustainable development goals to be reached, everyone needs to play their part: governments, the private sector, civil society, academicians, parliamentarians and people like you – in short it is all of us together that will make the difference.

Today, I wish to use this platform, to urge all of you, whichever area of specialization you may come from, to be the message bearers, be the change agents and work with communities that are not so privileged, to reach their full potential and help them become meaningful partners in nation building and development. Collaboration and partnerships are of essence and collectively, I strongly believe, we can improve the food and nutrition security of all Indians, anywhere and everywhere in the country.

I once again thank you for this opportunity to be here and share some of my thoughts with you. I hope I will have the opportunity to speak to many of you and discuss this massive agenda. I dedicate this recognition today, to all the vulnerable populations, world over, who have continued to be my daily inspiration to do more and reach out to many more and contribute towards changing their lives and those of their next generation”.





Dr Purnima Kashyap,
 Recipient of Outstanding MSU-FNAA Alumni Achievement Award from Prof. Meenakshi Bakshi Mehani, President-MSU-FNAA & Head, Department of Foods and Nutrition



VOICES OF ALUMNI AT FNAA MEET 2017

Dr Purnima Kashyap (Sr Advisor SUN)- *“There is a need to formulate vision for the next 5 years for the Department and have a roadmap by joining hands with agencies from backgrounds like agriculture, water and sanitation, gender issues etc”.*



Indu Capoor (Previous recipient of FNAA outstanding achievement award, former Director CHETNA)- *“I started Chetna when I was 23 years old and it’s now been 37 years! Never think that you are too young to do something” Gujarat has the soil that fosters NGOs. There is a need to increase interaction amongst students and host Webinars once in a while”.*

Sandhya Shah (Shroff Foundation)- *“Once you are clear about your mission, you become partners with Government and work with them. You have to be a catalyst between Government and community and that gives good results. Collaborate with Governments and research institutes and work with them to make sure that the research findings reach to the field level.”*

Vaishali Zararia (Sahaj)- *“PHN students can approach us for short-term internships. Even the dietetics people can help development of recipes and work with PHN collaboration to come up with some good short term work.”*

Dr Neeru Mittal (former teacher MSU)- *“Start with your own surroundings, near and dear ones, your own families, your in-laws, your children, your neighbours, your friends, your maids, drivers.. go to their places and help them. In this way we all can contribute to the community”*

Qudshiya Motiwala (Free Lancer)- *“I am a young alumni working for awareness generation in community by carrying out awareness generation camps”*

RESPONSES OF OUR ALUMNI- POST 4TH Dec 2017 ALUMNI MEETING

Prof. S. Seshadri (Former Head, 1994-2002)

“The FNAA meet has been a great success. You have enlarged the membership and opened up the annual meeting to something everyone will look forward to. This was possible only through help and co-operation from the staff teaching and non-teaching and the alumni. Accept my hearty congratulations on a very grand alumni day befitting the memory of Mrs. Puar. Thank you for the photographs and live transmission of the FNAA meet. It appears to have been a great success. It was quite like being present physically only the interaction could not occur.”

Prof. UV Mani (Former Head, 2002-2007)

"Dear all, indeed well thought out and organized alumni meet. Congrats to all of FNAA for the successful annual meeting. Three cheers. Wishing a still brighter and prosperous future."

Prof. Pallavi Mehta (Former Head, 2007-2011)

"The program went off very well. Congrats I saw the pictures. You worked very hard along with your team. Keep it up. Sense of ownership is very important in any kind of success of institution. I have special love for this association and wish you the best. Well done"

Dr. Meeru Mittal Loya (Former staff, FND, currently in Auranabad)

"Very well organized program – Purnima gave an excellent oration. It was so nostalgic to be back to the department."

Dr. Neha Shah (Florida) *"Wow, wonderful event. Thanks for sharing. Wish I was in Baroda. I always visit the department when I am in India and go through every class and labs."*

Mrs. Amita Sanghvi (Former staff, FND , currently in USA)

"Wow wonderful program. Made me nostalgic and especially seeing Suneeta, Meenu. Neeru, Uma, vanisha, Mini. It has been a long time. The mug is

excellent and would love to have one of so many of many favorite teachers. Thank you for sharing this with us."

Ms. V. Zararia (Sahaj, Vadodara)

"The FNAA was a nostalgic moment...like a déjà vu....back in time and yet present. It was great connecting with the familiar faces and meeting new faces. A time to bond and reflect and take the department forward by encouraging the FNAA committee, motivating the next generation and converging with alumni to bring forth different experiences and ideas. All the best."

FNAA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE- 2017-2022

Patron: Late Dr. (Smt) Mrunalini Devi Puar

Past President: Prof. Uma Iyer

President: Prof. Meenakshi Bakshi Mehan

Vice Presidents:

Prof. Mini Sheth & Prof. Vanisha Nambiar

Secretary: Dr. Vijayata Sengar

Joint secretary: Dr. Mital Dave

Treasurer: Dr. Hemangini Gandhi

Executive Committee members:

Ms. Mansi Diwanji, Ms. Dhara Jaiswal, Ms. Aditi Joshi, Ms. Yamee Bardoliwala, Ms. Nikita Joshi

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