

# Jan Swasthya Abhiyan

(Peoples Health Movement – India)

*Health for All - Now!*

*Health is a Basic Human Right!*

Dated: 04/07/2017

*National Convenors:*

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**Amitava Guha**  
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**Sanjeev Sharma**  
**Sulakhana Nandi**  
**T. Sundararaman**  
**Thelma Narayan**  
**Vandana Prasad**

*National Co-ordination Committee:*

All India People's Science Network (AIPSN)  
All India Drug Action Network (AIDAN)  
All India Democratic Women's Association (AIDWA)  
Bharat Gyan Vigyan Samiti (BGVS)  
Breast Feeding Promotion Network in India (BPNI)  
Catholic Health Association of India (CHAI)  
Centre for Community Health and Social Medicine, JNU  
Christian Medical Association of India (CMAI)  
Forum for Creche and Child Care Services (FORCES)  
Fed. of Medical Representative Assns. of India (FMRAI)  
Health Watch  
Joint Women's Programme (JWP)  
Medico Friends Circle (MFC)  
National Alliance of People's Movements (NAPM)  
National Federation of Indian Women (NFIW)  
National Association of Women's Orgs. (NAWO)  
Public Health Resource Network (PHRN)  
SAMA – Resource Group on Women's Health  
SATHI – CEHAT  
Society for Community Health Awareness  
Research and Action [SOCHARA]

*Participating Organisations:*

Over 1000 organisations concerned with health care and health policy from both within and outside the above networks.

## JSA Condemns Assault on the Lives and Health of Dam Affected People in the Narmada Valley

Jan Swasthya Abhiyan decries the inhuman attitude of the Gujarat government in risking the lives of thousands people in the Narmada Valley, by closing the gates of the Sardar Sarovar dam on 17<sup>th</sup> June when the rehabilitation of the dam-affected people has not been at all completed. This is despite the Supreme Court directive on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2017 to complete this rehabilitation within three months, i.e. before by 8<sup>th</sup> May 2017. Unjust displacement without proper rehabilitation in developmental projects is an important social determinant of ill health in many parts of in India. The Sardar Sarovar project is a classic example. Currently thousands of people in the Narmada valley face an assault on their health and well being, and even on their lives, due to this closure of the gates. JSA is deeply concerned about this very unhealthy development.

After completion of rehabilitation by 8<sup>th</sup> May the valley was to be cleared of human habitation by 31<sup>st</sup> July, to avoid drowning due to the rising waters of the now 139 meter high Sardar Sarovar dam. But the **Gujarat govt has decided to go ahead with closing of the gates, and MP govt started forceful eviction of the dam-affected people, despite non-completion of rehabilitation of about 18,000 families.** Fortunately on 31<sup>st</sup> July, in a hearing, the SC was convinced that the rehabilitation is incomplete and withdrew its directive that the valley may be emptied by 31<sup>st</sup> July. The govt does not have the sanctity any more from the SC for the forceful eviction. But this is not enough. **We demand that the gates of the Sardar Sarovar dam should be opened immediately, without waiting for directive from the SC in the forthcoming hearing. Otherwise thousands of people in the Valley would be exposed to the immediate risk of drowning in the rising waters of the Narmada.**

JSA notes that at many of the rehabilitation sites, the dwellings erected are not fit for human beings. Moreover there are absolutely no health care facilities in these rehabilitation sites. Hence tens of thousands of ordinary people are being forced into inhuman and extremely unhealthy conditions.

**Addresses for Correspondence:**

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c/o **Delhi Science Forum**, D-158, Lower Ground Floor, Saket, New Delhi-17. Ph: (011) 26524323, 26862716 (Telfax).  
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We support the current peaceful agitation of the Narmada dam affected people and the indefinite fast undertaken by Medha Patkar and 11 other activists. We are concerned about the health and lives of these activists, and urge the Gujarat govt to immediately re-open the gates of the Sardar Sarovar dam, to ensure complete and comprehensive rehabilitation to all affected people, and desist from any repressive action against the agitation.

(One behalf of Jan Swasthya Abhiyan)

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