

HEALTH PROJECT

'Strengthening the Child Health Co-operative and Indigenous Medicinal Knowledge'

Health intervention is an integral component of the programme run by Butterflies in Andaman and Nicobar Islands to promote health awareness and lead healthier lifestyles among the children, youth and community of Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Under this component Butterflies promoted health cooperatives as a platform for the children to form a movement through collective participation and health awareness to secure their health rights (Article 24) as well as bring about a change in the health sector. Health Co-operatives have been formed in all the villages of South Andaman, Little Andaman and Car Nicobar. Child health educators are selected from amongst the children of the community and are given training in endemic diseases and other health related issues.

OBJECTIVE

The major objectives of Health Cooperatives are as follows:

- a. Advocacy for free and easy access to the government health care system for all children.
- b. Create awareness on health issues amongst the children and thereby the community.
- c. Provide information and uses of naturally available herbal and medicinal plants to the community and thus preserving the traditional knowledge of these plants and their usage.
- d. Develop a cadre of Child Health Educators (CHE) who spread the health awareness messages to the children and community through formal and informal peer group discussion.

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

One of the major achievements during this period is that Butterflies has been able to work more closely with the Government Health System. Our Child Health Educators and staff were able to get assistance of Government doctors and health workers for child health educator trainings and workshops. Various issues and endemic diseases were covered and we got extensive support from the Department of Health Service, Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

The **Health Workshop** through children has indirectly improved the knowledge and awareness about the dreadful diseases and health related problems among the community people also. Child Health Cooperative workshops have been organized with active support from Directorate of Health Services.