

## INSECTICIDE TREATMENT OF BED NETS (ITN) IS THE ANSWER TO MALARIA & KALA-AZAR

Year 2001-2010 has been declared by the United Nations as the **Decade to Roll Back Malaria** ! Globally, 300–500 million episodes of malarial illness occur each year, resulting in over one million deaths, most of which are among children under five years of age. The greatest burden of malarial disease and death lies with the poor, who also have the least access to interventions against malaria. Malaria control requires an integrated approach, comprising prevention (including vector control) and treatment with effective antimalarial agents. Lack of information, education and access to early diagnosis and prompt, effective treatment has impeded the success of the global malaria programme in reducing severe morbidity and mortality from the disease.<sup>1</sup>

Santhal Pargana (Six Districts of Jharkhand State, India, mostly inhabited by the Santhal tribe; Pargana comes from a Persian word meaning “district”) plays an important role in state politics, as they constitute a significant population. However the Santhal Pargana region has been languishing with apathies of under development. To add to these problems are the high risk areas of Malaria and Kala-Azar. These endemic diseases affect the poor inhabitants the most, as they cannot afford tribal people are suffering from this disease. In spite of lots of efforts the situation still not under control.

**CHURCH'S AUXILIARY FOR SOCIAL ACTION (CASA)** has launched its pioneer programme on Elimination of Malaria and Kala Azar in Jharkhand in the Month of March 2011 with the support of Episcopal Relief & Development (ERD), Inter Church Medical Assistance World Health (IMA-WH) and GOVT of Jharkhand as collaborative form of cooperation. We are working among the Santhal and pharia tribes in 15 selected villages of most unreached region, which are Malaria and Kala Azar prone area, including the Santhal Pargana. These vector borne diseases take its heaviest toll on the poor and vulnerable community, who cannot afford the preventive measures.

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<sup>1</sup> Malaria case management: Operations manual, WHO

## Promotion of treatment of Bed nets

Malaria is spread through mosquito bites of Malaria parasite carrying mosquitoes – particularly the Anopheles mosquitoes. Once infected with the Malarial parasites, if not treated properly, it is fatal. Kala-Azar (black fever) also a vector borne disease and is more dangerous than malaria, as it is a fatal disease in almost all cases, if not detected and treated at an early stage. People are prone to mosquito bites while they are asleep. Bed Nets, otherwise known as Mosquito Nets protect people from mosquito bites, and thereby prevent infection from both Malaria as well as Kala-Azar. It is therefore very important that people from the malaria – kala-azar prone region, use mosquito nets while sleeping. It has been observed that Mosquito nets provide much better protection if they are treated with insecticide. This insecticide is not harmful to people if used correctly, but it kills mosquitoes when they come in contact with it and keeps them away from the house. Insecticide Treated Nets (ITNs) also kill bed bugs and other insects.



*(A CASA worker is giving a demo of treating nets with insecticide)*

Even the the WHO Global Malaria Programme (WHO/GMP) describes a shift in guidance on malaria prevention through the use of insecticidetreated nets (ITNs).

CASA has organised a community based Mosquito net treatment training programme on dated 9-11-2011 at village Bhatikander under Dumarchir gram panchyat. 15 Health workers 3 Supervisors along with laege number

*(CASA workers with villagers are treating the mosquitos with Insecticides)*



ITNs have been shown to reduce childhood mortality in malaria endemic areas in many parts of the world. The other added advatnage of ITNs is the mass effect, whereby, usgae of ITNs in large numbers by a community reduce the mosquito population.

of villagers joined and learned the skill and technique of treatment of mosquito net which is known as impregnation of mosquito net.

This programme is going on in these area and by the end of December 2011 we hope the community will be able to treat all the mosquito nets of 1200 households, which would go a long way in keeping this pandemic at bay !



*(UNIFORM OF THE TASK FORCE MEMBERS OF MALARIA AND KALA AZAR CONTROL PROGRAMME IN JHARKHAND )*