

Dynamics of Rural Development: Lessons from Ralegan Siddhi

A joint study by

The Foundation for Research in Community Health, Pune

and

Center for Multidisciplinary Development Research, Dharwad

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What is FRCH ?

The Foundation was established in 1975 as a non-profit voluntary organisation to promote the concept of health care rather than the mere care of illness. This entails the study of health in its wider perspective in order to improve the health of our people. The emphasis is on the problems of the underprivileged sections of our society, especially women and children.

Our staff from various disciplines are engaged in conducting both conceptual research as well as field studies into the problems faced in achieving Health for All. This is to help in devising alternate models of health and medical care in keeping with the social, economic and cultural reality of the country. The aim is to influence government policy and sensitize the people at all levels to the problems and possibility of achieving good health at affordable cost.

FRCH believes that health is a reflection of the overall quality of life: In fact, 80 percent of the diseases in India are the diseases of poverty and true health can exist only when there is a positive improvement in the socio-economic scenario of the country. This can only be achieved through the people's own efforts. Hence, FRCH aims to create a People's Health Movement by demystifying medicine and increasing public awareness on health, especially at the grassroots level, and by strengthening the age old health culture of our people based on our own systems of health and medical care. This is to be achieved, by publishing and disseminating information on all aspects of health and related subjects, and also by conducting participatory training and interacting with the community.