

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CLINIC

Empowering Women to take charge of their Health



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Karumarapakkam Village, Veerapuram Post,
Thirukazhukundram (via), Kancheepuram District.
Tamil Nadu, India.
Phone: 91-44-27491254



RUWSEC

Rural Women's Social Education Centre (RUWSEC) is a non governmental organization with a 27 year history of promoting women's reproductive health and rights through empowerment. The organization is based in Chengalpattu, Kancheepuram District of Tamil Nadu, South India.

To meet the objective of women's empowerment, RUWSEC has carried out a wide spectrum of activities including comprehensive community based reproductive health education and promotion, reproductive health research with a women-centred perspective, innovative work with adolescent girls and young women on reproductive/sexual health and rights education, work among men on gender and reproductive health, and a reproductive health services clinic.

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CLINIC

RUWSEC clinic is the outcome of several years of work around reproductive health and rights with women in the local communities, who, frustrated with the poor quality of service offered by the public sector, and the high cost and insensitive and irrational services of the private sector demanded a clinic of their own that will serve their interests. In response to this, RUWSEC started a Reproductive Health Clinic 14 years ago in order to provide an alternative facility for meeting women's health needs, even while continuing to lobby for changes in and more accountability of the existing health system.

WHERE WE ARE SITUATED

The clinic is situated in Karumarapakkam village of Thirukkazhukundram block of Kancheepuram district in Tamil Nadu, South India about 80 kms away from Chennai.

OUR VISION

We envisage RUWSEC's clinic/hospital to be an alternative health facility in all respects: in the quality of health care it provides, its approach to women's health as related to their low status, its focus on enabling women to take charge of their health instead of being passive recipients of health care, in its treatment of women as intelligent and capable persons who will work towards improving their health if given the means to do so.

UNIQUE FEATURES OF THE REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CLINIC

- ❖ Enabling women to take charge of their own health.
- ❖ Providing women centred care for health needs throughout a woman's life.
- ❖ Dedicated to promoting access to health care for economically and socially marginalized communities.
- ❖ Provision of rational, evidence based care.
- ❖ Enabling communities to actively participate in all aspects of the public health system.
- ❖ Enabling communities to appreciate and address the broader determinants of health.
- ❖ Research into the interface between health and gender, caste and poverty.
- ❖ Accountability to the communities that the clinic serves.



CLINICAL SERVICES WE PROVIDE

In addition to providing comprehensive primary and secondary level care, services in RUWSEC clinic include the following:

- 24 hours outpatient and emergency services.
- In patient services for care during labour and childbirth including emergency obstetric care, abortion / MTP services, minor surgeries etc.
- Functioning operation theatre.
- Pharmacy offering rational, generic medicines at subsidized prices.
- Laboratory offering haematological and biochemical tests at subsidized prices.
- 24 hours subsidized ambulance service.
- Counselling on medical, social, cultural and economic aspects of every illness for every patient.
- Integration with traditional systems of medicine.



OUTREACH PROGRAMME

RUWSEC clinic is envisaged as a holistic health centre rather than merely a curative centre and the out-reach programme is seen as one of the key dimensions of the Clinic. The outreach programme is not seen merely as a 'gap filler' to increase accessibility, but rather as a 'path finder' where there is an organic link between the community and the clinic and this link is an empowering and enabling one, facilitating the community to achieve health for all. The outreach programme is also a way by which to

develop more local ownership as well as establish and develop the accountability structures for RUWSEC.

The outreach programme primarily focuses on women, adolescents and the elderly and on those marginalized in other ways including *dalits* and economically weaker sections.

COMPONENTS OF THE OUTREACH PROGRAMME

- Curative services including diagnostic services
- Education and capacity building of community members to promote community action for health
- Awareness building on larger determinants of health to help communities organize for change.
- Social alliances with other sectors like education, employment etc.
- Policy advocacy



SOME ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR THE FUTURE

- Crisis response centre for women affected by domestic violence offering medical, legal, psychological, vocational support under one roof.
- De-addiction centre for victims of substance abuse.
- Services for occupational illnesses including for illnesses from new industries.
- Community based cancer prevention programme.
- Community based blindness control programme.

RESEARCH

RUWSEC has a rich history of research into health issues as seen from the marginalized women's perspectives. Research on the interface between health, gender, caste and poverty is one of the priority areas of interest for the project.

Research projects planned are:

- Women's perspectives on medical abortion
- Mental health dimensions of gender and reproductive health
- Effect of new industries on women's health

HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT US

You can support RUWSEC's continuing and expanding work. You could choose to contribute to any of the following.

- Patient subsidy fund - To support the treatment of needy patients.
- Infrastructure development - To help us continually upgrade our services.
- Core team support - To develop a continuous support for our core staff through a corpus fund.
- Outreach Programme - To support the various activities of the outreach programme.



ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS:

RUWSEC is a social service organization registered under Tamil Nadu societies Act (Number 61/1981, Chengalpattu, Kancheepuram District, Tamil Nadu). We are allowed to receive foreign contribution under the FCRA act 1976, Government of India. We welcome donations of all kinds, cash as well as equipments, books, video films. We have 12AA income tax exemption certificate and donations to our activities are eligible for tax exemption under Section 80G (5) of Income Tax Act 1961.

FOR FURTHER DETAILS PLEASE CONTACT

The Executive Director

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