



A practical demonstration of the anthropometric techniques.



A lecture cum demonstration session for the participants of training programme

formation of a National Health Scout Movement based on the following considerations:

- national development depends upon quality of human resource, especially adolescents
- concentrating on training adolescents will pay rich dividends – both in promoting community acceptance and in shaping the attitudes of youth.

Unfortunately, due to multiplicity of overlapping programmes involving youth, it has been difficult to carve out a meaningful National Health Scout Movement. The Foundation proposes to take a fresh initiative towards evolving such a movement. It is expected that the National Health Scout Movement will provide a new direction to health programmes in the country.

Training Programme at NFI

NFI has been participating in the Reproductive Health Training Programme for master trainers, programme officers, medical college faculty and health care providers by National Institute of Health and Family Welfare, New Delhi. In addition to lectures to update the knowledge on nutritional components of RCH programme, NFI staff undertakes practical demonstration of techniques used for assessment of nutritional status and quality control measures to be used to ensure accuracy in measurement of parameters used for assessment of nutritional status. NFI has undertaken a similar lecture cum demonstration session on nutrition for the participants in field epidemiology training programme of National Institute of Communicable Diseases, Delhi.

LIBRARY AND DOCUMENTATION CENTRE

Dr. Mrunalini Devi Puar, Chancellor of the M.S. University, Baroda, a member of the Governing Body and well-wisher of the Foundation had made a generous donation for setting up a Library for the Foundation. The ground floor of the NFI building now houses the Library. Over the years the Foundation had collected several useful publica-

tions related to nutrition, health and related subjects from India and abroad. Many journals, periodicals, bulletins and newsletters so collected are now available here. The Foundation is receiving a number of journals (national and international) and newsletters on complimentary/ exchange basis. The library also maintains a collection of 'fu-



Inauguration of the Library



The Library

gitive' literature of the type not available in standard libraries such as mimeographed department reports and research theses. Special attention has been paid to the collection of literature from developing countries especially from Asia.

The Library is being developed as a 'Nodal Nutrition Information Centre' with the following objectives:-

- to provide information with respect to nutrition and related topics, specially those Asia
- to create a national database related of international standards, on nutritional topics of relevance to India from materials which are presently not covered in international databases
- to establish a modern audio-visual information system for community nutrition education programmes.

The Nodal Nutrition Information Centre serves a wide spectrum of users such as scholars and scientists (Indian and foreign) interested in community nutrition problems, policy makers and planners interested in the implementation of nutrition/ development programmes, enlightened lay public seeking information on dietary guidelines for healthful living and nutritious diets, and schools and college students.

The Library plans to provide completely computerized services like Selective Dissemination of Information (SDI) and Current Awareness Service (CAS) for scientists and research workers. It also plans to create a bibliographic database for the books as well as journals, index of the selected journals and provide press clipping and an Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC) serving for all users.

In order to effectively disseminate information, the NFI has acquired Internet facilities, which have helped NFI research scientists to keep pace with the latest development in the field of nutrition. Scientists have used this facility to acquire information and research material from other parts of the world, which might not be available in print. The Internet has also helped NFI in developing an information network with other research institutes and organizations engaged in research in nutrition and community health. Thus, with the help of the Internet, NFI is able to be in touch with the most recent developments in research being carried out in universities and research centres around the world.

Website of NFI

In order to disseminate information related to nutrition more effectively, NFI has

created its own website (www.nutritionfoundationofindia.org). This has enabled people around the world to become aware of research being carried out at the Foundation. The NFI Bulletins as well

as studies carried out by NFI since its inception have become available to researchers across the world. Feedback from users is being encouraged to enable NFI to further strengthen and improve the website.

CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

An important objective of the Foundation has been to bring together the scientists and experts in the field of nutrition to discuss major nutritional problems and to identify practical leads for action. A brief report of the international and national conferences, symposia and workshops organized by the Foundation is presented below.

International Symposium on 'Recent Trends in Nutrition'

The International Symposium on 'Recent Trends in Nutrition', was organised by the Foundation on December 5 and 6, 1991, to mark the successful completion of 10 years of service. The participants in the symposium included leading scientists from India and abroad. Over 350 delegates participated in the symposium.

The eight sessions which covered the ba-

sic issues were Reflections of stunting; Adaptation in chronic undernutrition, Thermogenesis in chronic undernutrition and Energy requirements in infancy; Protein Nutrition; Nutrition, immunity and infection interactions; Trace elements in nutrition; PUFA in Indian dietaries; Neonatal hypothyroidism and Undernutrition and cognitive development.

Symposium on Nutrition Related Chronic Diseases of Asia

A symposium jointly sponsored by the Asian Nutrition Forum and WHO was organised by the Nutrition Foundation of India at the India International Centre from February 10th to 12th, 1997.

There were in all 75 participants including leading Physicians, Nutrition Scientists, Dietitians, planners and policy makers. The



Delegates participating in the symposium on "Nutrition Related Chronic Diseases of Asia".