

January 17, 2005

INTERNAL MEMO

Bhoomika Policy On PSYCHO_SOCIAL SUPPORT

Bhoomika Trust has been receiving several requests to provide psycho-social support and counseling to tsunami affected. In this context, we have circumscribed our role as a co-coordinating and planning agency and will not be directly involved on the field. We believe that our most productive role is as a catalyst and liaison between groups providing services and affected individuals.

There is a definite and urgent need for such services in the affected communities. Certain segments of the directly and indirectly affected population require specific and special intervention such as women, children, elderly and the disabled. Volunteers are another vulnerable group as the stressful circumstances in which they are currently working, makes psycho-emotional care and support of volunteers a necessity to prevent burnout.

Within this context, the Bhoomika Trust sees its most effective role in providing structure to the process of providing psycho-social support. We will do the following:

- Suggest approaches to counseling
- Design and facilitate a Training of Trainers (TOT) Process for the counselors. While the design of this is being finalized, the TOT will include
 - Approaches to counseling
 - Delivery mechanisms
 - Simple documentation skills for the recording of oral histories, case studies
- Create a User Manual for the counselors, which will contain the above and also have some guidelines and answers to Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs).

We have a vast knowledge and resource base (from CCC Vellore, NIMHANS, IBHAS, Lakshmy Parameswaran, UNHCR and other practitioners) on psycho-social support and will share this information with those engaged in rehabilitation efforts. We will strive to ensure transparency in intellectual and knowledge transfer and will make available this information on our website, as well as to organizations that request this information from us. We are also in the process of translating some of these manuals and these will be made available as they are ready.

On policy and intervention related issues, such as adoption, housing, livelihood, Bhoomika Trust will only act as a referral node. We will act as an information-clearing house for needs and resources but we will not be engaging in these issues directly.

We would really appreciate your feedback. If you would like to add or remove anything from this policy, or would like clarifications or more information please contact Dr. Lakshmi Ravikanth. A small group will be meeting to deliberate and finalize this policy on Wednesday, 19th January at 11:30 a.m. at Real Image so we would like any feedback on this before then.

Sudha, Priya and Lakshmi

BHOOMIKA TRUST SECRETARIAT

c/o REAL IMAGE, 7 B, 3rd STREET, BALAJINAGAR, ROYAPETTAH, CHENNAI – 600014, TAMILNADU.

Phone: +91 44-52041505 Fax : +91 44-52060761 Email: bhoomikaindia@yahoo.co.in

Web: www.tsunami-india.org **HOTLINE: 9840082793**