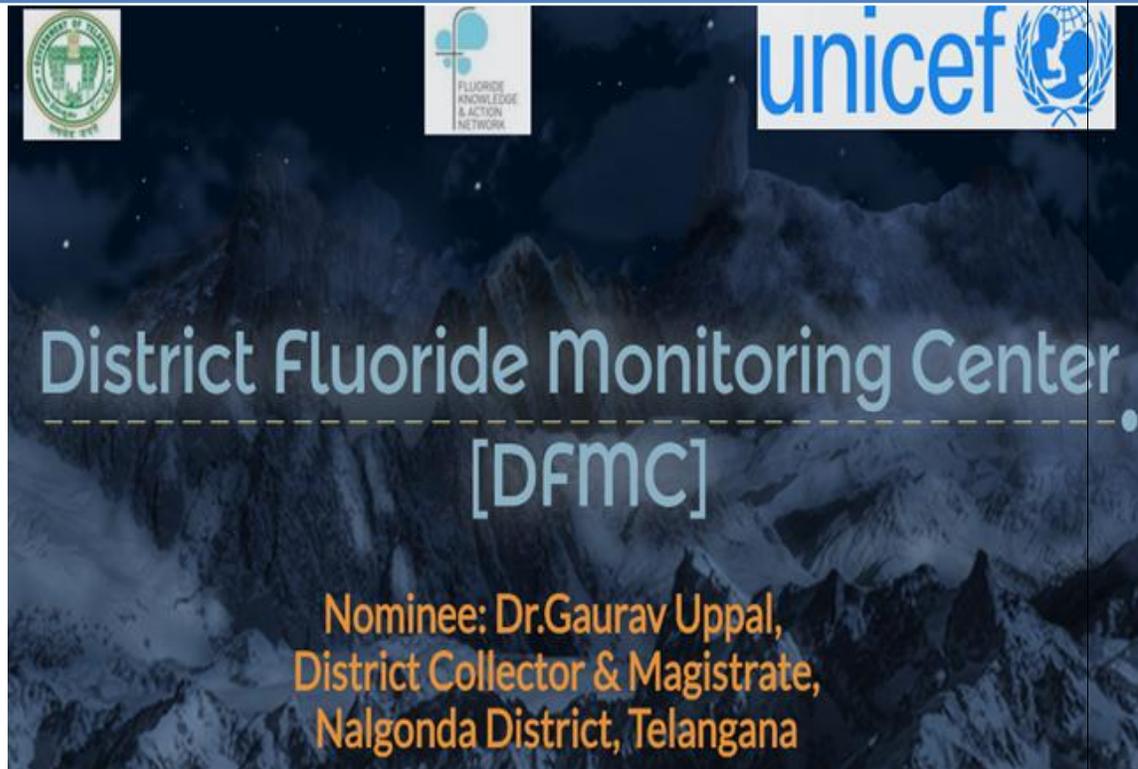


2017

DFMC receives Skoch Order-of-Merit Award



Compiled By
K.Spurthi,
Team Lead, DFMC - FKAN

I. Introduction to DFMC

Nalgonda in Telangana was one of the first places in the world detected with the Water quality problem of fluoride in 1937. Generations of victims here have suffered from Skeletal fluorosis that causes bone deformities, and neurological problems. The need for addressing this most severely Fluorosis affected place had been pressing strong and there was some attention necessary at a large scale.

In 2013, a response to this problem was the formation of the District Fluoride Monitoring Centre (DFMC) that is a platform which aims to address the problem of mitigating Fluorosis in Nalgonda. The District Fluoride Monitoring Centre (DFMC) is a tripartite partnership between District Administration of Nalgonda, UNICEF and FKAN (Fluoride Knowledge Action Network). The needs of the community were assessed and it was found that many departments of the district need to be involved since apart from Safe drinking water, there are many other needs such as Health detection, Rehabilitation of victims, agricultural improvement, and others. Over the course of 3 years, a total of 21 departments of the district have now joined forces and work together on Fluorosis Mitigation.

In the first phase, DFMC reached out to all Fluorosis victims and patients by providing aid in terms of pensions, wheelchairs, civil supplies etc. In this second phase, DFMC has mass awareness campaigns and capacity building trainings sensitizing government functionaries and institutions.

II. About Skoch Awards

Skoch Group is a Gurgaon based think tank dealing with socio-economic issues with a focus on inclusive growth since 1997. The Skoch Awards celebrate human excellence and agents of change in Indian society. Since 2003, when these were instituted, the Skoch Awards have become the only independent benchmark of best practices in India in the fields of governance, finance, banking, technology, corporate citizenship, economics and inclusive growth. These Awards salute individuals, highlight projects and focus institutions that go the extra mile to make India a better nation. The Awards are conferred on the mighty and the ordinary alike.

III. Activities undertaken

Recognizing these efforts and the innovative model of partnership, DFMC was conferred with SKOCH Order-of-Merit Award on 8th September at Constitution Club of India, New Delhi.

The following details mention about the entire process:

Timeline	
Skoch Award write up	May 20, 2017
Skoch Award jury presentation in Mumbai	June 20, 2017
Skoch Award popular voting	July 3-12, 2017
Skoch Award conferred	September 8-9, 2017
Skoch Award celebrations in District	September 16, 2017

A [Write up](#) of 9 Q&As were answered to apply for the nomination.

On June 20, thirty nominations were shortlisted from across the country to make a presentation to an esteemed panel of jury members. This was held at BSE, Mumbai.



Presenting to the jury

We received a mail saying we have made it to the next round which is popular voting. DFMC used this opportunity to spread more awareness about the existence of such an institution and the activities undertaken by it alongwith Do's and Dont's for Fluorosis Mitigation. The voting process required an individual to have a twitter account to log in and cast a vote. A team of 20 interns from kakatiya MSW college learnt to create twitter accounts and cast votes. A schedule was drawn to mobilize people and spread awareness. Colleges, govt offices, SHG groups, police batallions, waste picker associations, village members etc and several such communities were approached & mobilized for this process. More than the votes, it turned out to be a good experience to interact with different communities.



DFMC team at AR Police training campus



DFMC team in NG college



DFMC team mobilizing the 12th batallion



DFMC team at DRDA office



DFMC team with 12th batallion

The total score for the awards was based on 15% voting score weightage + 15% final day delegate voting + 70% presentation score weightage.

On September 8th, DFMC was conferred with the award by Manisha Kochhar. On 9th September, Hon'ble minister for IT, Telangana KTR garu received the Skoch Award too for his initiatives.



Team Lead - DFMC, receiving the Award on behalf of the entire team.



Hon'ble Minister KTR commending the good efforts of DFMC

Under the guidance and leadership of Dr.Gaurav Uppal, District Collector & Chairman, DFMC; the team has been working zealously towards Fluorosis Mitigation and the Skoch Award is another feather in the cap.