

Testimonials:

Priti Bhojan held on Sunday, 6th September 2009

"When I arrived at the Navnat Centre I was impressed with the volunteers who were directing all the cars. Having done this type of work in past I know it is not easy. However, they were managing very well. The donation collectors at the entrance were making sure everyone entering was politely but firmly requested to give donations for all the good causes.

Once inside the hall, which was quite full, people were quite happily socialising with the nearest and dearest to the extent that Bhupendrabhai had to request several times for silence.

I was quite impressed with the planning ahead of the event and to see the plan being executed was proof in itself that planning ahead is winning half the battle. As soon as it was announced for the army of volunteers to take their positions they were straight away in their pre-allocated posts. It felt like an army going into the battle with Mahendrabhai its Commander-in-Chief.

It also felt good that the elderly and disabled people were looked after properly.

I went to look at the medical "camps" on the stage and upstairs. It was good to see that people were taking advantage of the facilities provided by all the medical volunteers. We have to congratulate Dr Amit Bakhai for all the hard work in arranging these facilities. Even if nobody was diagnosed with any serious illness, at least many people will have got good advise on preventing or delaying ailments which are more common in our ethnic group.

Apart from the initial rush, which is expected, there was hardly any waiting period for the people to their lunch.

Having sounded out various peoples' opinions I heard not a single negative comment.

It was also good to see that the web-site table was quite busy. It shows that as people were happy/satisfied with the way the recent events have been organised they were hungry for more information which is readily available on the web-site.

Overall it went very well. It proves that a well pre-planned event with good team work will have better chance of succeeding.

Congratulations to the organising committee and all the volunteers in making this event a success.

Kind regards, Kanak Juthani, Board of Trustees - Chairman".

"We would like to express our appreciation of the excellent support from Dhiru, Nitin and Nemish - it was very refreshing to have such committed and unstinting support - whatever the request! The same goes for all the volunteers and the front desk managing the appointments.

Also, a thanks to Ameet for the general guidance and organising the whole event. It was hard work because of the unexpected lose of a week (our mistake) but it all seemed to work out well. Our number for pateints examined was 15, (all were patients with issues that needed addressing - some severe) and estimate that people informally screened about 200, so a worthwhile day. Thanks also to Snehal, who has just started her 4th year at Dental School and offered to advise patients on oral hygiene maintenance. A special thanks to Anita Kamdar for taking on the screening after having just arrived from the USA in the morning!!!

I have about 50 feedback sheets with the screening data - will send a spreadsheet once it's all entered and analyzed. I am hopeful that it would help the PCT as part of an overall approach to such days.

There were some operational issues that we would do better with next time, but a great day.

The food was very good too, and the queue management seemed excellent this time. Good to see the Pres walking around looking relaxed.

Best Regards,

Nemish, Sonali, Sonal and Stephanie and Komal.

(The goodie bag team : Chandrikaben, Annika, Raahan, and all those who helped on the day : Asha, Ashwin, Riya, Rahil, Kavir, Ravin)".

"On behalf of the Pharmacy team I would like to convey my congratulations to the Navnat Committee for organising such a FAB and worthwhile event.

We had great fun chatting to and, hopefully, helping patients with medical problems.(although we seemed to be inundated with B.P. monitoring).

Hopefully next time we will be more organised with the equipment.

Once again well done to all involved.

Regards, Vinay Mehta".

"Congratulations to Navnat committee for an excellent organisation of Pritibhojan. Things are definitely moving on the upside curve.

One thing I personally noticed, the car park volunteers were rather rude and ruthless abusing their authority, in future care should be taken as to who is allocated this jobs.

Kind regards, R Mehta".

"This time the workshop was organised in a much more sensible way and also it was conducted more in a systematic and professional way so that majority of the members of the community had the opportunity to take the benefits of all the professionals gathered there.

I do understand that it takes lots of hard work but it was a very successful day for all of us.

keep it up my man

if you need any help, you know I am always there with you guys.

Harshad Mehta".

"Thanks for organising such an excellent event (Health Screening) and giving me an opportunity to serve our community. Your hard work was certainly appreciated by our members. I would be happy to contribute in future events

Regards, Pragna Mandalia".

"It was a pleasure to be able to serve the community. All the hard work of the committee and volunteers were a joy to see.

Regards, Mehul Kamdar".

"Just a quick note to say well done to everyone who helped out at the Medical event on Sunday. I think everyone was well impressed with the services provided. Dr Ameet and team did a great job organising and structuring the event. On behalf of the pharmacy team I think all the pharmacists did well advising and doing B.P. checks all day maybe next time we could offer more apart from B.P checks and general advice on health we could do medicine usage reviews and more cholesterol/diabetes checking and offer smoking cessation as well, but overall everyone did immensely well.

This really is a good service to provide voluntarily, helping people without any material gain may Mahavir bless everyone who helped at Navnat Bhavan on Sunday and hopefully do more events in the future.

Kind Regards, Jitendra Sheth".

"Thanks for organising excellent screening programme. Diabetes and Hypertension are very common in Asian community and it is diagnosed very late. Early diagnosis will help in preventing major complications. It is worth making people aware of such conditions. Please let me know if you require my help in future.

Thanks, Dr Jagdish Shah".

"With regards to the above subject, It gives me Immense pleasure in

putting my pen to paper today and say that in the years that have passed by , I along with lots of others would agree with me in saying that it was an extra ordinarily organised event.

Volunteers

To say it in more detail, the volunteers have done an A1 job right from parking the car to serving the food and at every few yards in the hall we were very nicely and politely guided and given directions.

Health Checks

Another achievement really to be proud of was the health checking tables. Never before in the history of our community it has ever taken place at this scale. I am sure lots of our members took the advantage of the free health check ups and advice from our young generation of qualified medical professional.

Catering

Another outstanding performance from Ronak and all our kitchen staff. The food was just the right taste and was properly heated to serve at the right temperature. even the quantity served by all volunteers was just right with a smile too.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Bhupendrabhai and all members of his committee, sub committees, and those who were involved in this event. I am sure that all our members are not only delighted , but honoured to have enjoyed such a wonderful day.

A job very well done.....keep it up !!!

Kind regards, Ashok Mehta".

Dear new TEAM, let me compliment you on the effort you showed on the Priti bhojan day. I am quite pleased at the effort the new team takes and this does encourage me and my family to travel an extra mile to support THE NEW TEAM by coming to Printing house lane.

My humble request is you guys (have not to be told....., but) ignore the critics who see a small error and create a hoo hoo about it, but once in a while forget to appreciate the job you do. ONCE AGAIN....WELL DONE new team.

NAVNAT no ekaj nano manas, Hitesh Rayani

"The priti bhojan was excellent, very well organised, We hardly waited for 2 minutes and the food was served. Please keep it up and hats off to all volunteers.

With best wishes, from JasuDolat Sheth & Family".

"Hi Ameet,

I just wanted to say thank you to you and everyone at the Navnat centre for making us feel so welcome on Sunday. Some of the health checks certainly were very popular and I'm glad that you were able to see so many people.

From the smoking cessation service point of view, we have some reflections about the event that are worth sharing with you.

The utilization of space within the centre was obviously going to be difficult. Although the idea of us being in the adjoining building was not appealing, I feel this might have worked if all of the health checks had been done there. Our position on the stage put us very much in view of everyone and I am sure that this put off some of the "secret smokers" who didn't want this to be broadcast to their family and friends. I don't think that closing the curtain would have made much difference.

We talked to over 20 people and did spirometry/lung age tests on about 12 of them. We learned the hard way that even when using new CO monitors, we should check the contents of the box so that we have the connectors! Thanks to Sainsbury's pharmacy and Chetna's powers of persuasion for getting us over the hurdle. We should also carry spare batteries just in case.

Chewing tobacco was raised a number of times. This is not something that NHS stop smoking services have done much work on and we will look into whether we need to get some new resources/marketing materials to target this group. We have already found some information leaflets on oral cancer and have ordered a batch of them. We are also looking into a training event for the local smoking cessation advisors in pharmacies on supporting people who use chewing tobacco. I will also raise this with my colleagues in trading standards as we believe there is a lack of labeling on these products which may need to be addressed. We will keep your community informed about this work and send along resources as they become available.

Shisha smoking was also mentioned and this fits with our experience that Shisha is becoming popular with young Asian people. We had already been planning to do some work on this topic and will be looking at how to get the message across and how to support people who only use shisha. I briefly spoke to one of the Young Navnat Group members and we may be able to come along to speak to them about this topic to them away from the eyes of parents and wider family members.

All the best, Carole Furlong, Consultant in Public Health, NHS Harrow".