



## *Sambhavna Trust Clinic*

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### **Press Conference**

December 01,

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At a Press Conference on the occasion of the 36<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Union Carbide disaster in Bhopal, members of the Sambhavna Trust Clinic presented evidence of significantly higher prevalence of obesity and thyroid disorders among the survivors of the disaster. They also presented an account of the successful community health work carried out by the Clinic in the last eight months to address the COVID-19 Pandemic.

“Our analysis of data on Body Mass Index and diagnosis of thyroid malfunction of 27,155 survivors and others under care for the last 15 years at the clinic, shows that persons exposed to Union Carbide’s poisonous gases have 2.4 times higher odds of having a low or normal BMI and that they have 1.81 times higher odds of suffering from thyroid diseases compared to those who had not been exposed.” said Dr Sanjay Shrivastav, Physician at the Clinic.

According to Satinath Sarangi, Managing Trustee of the Sambhavna Trust, higher obesity due to gas exposure is likely to have made survivors vulnerable to diabetes, hypertension, coronary heart disease, osteo-arthritis and cancers of the liver, kidney, breast and ovary and other diseases. “Survivors having thyroid diseases at almost double the usual rate, indicates that in addition to several other systems in human bodies, the Endocrine system has also been damaged due to exposure to Union Carbide’s gases.” he said.

Community Health Worker, Tabassum Ara said that the staff of Sambhavna Trust Clinic and the Chingari Rehabilitation Centre have carried out work of awareness raising, recruitment of community health volunteers, attention to those with special needs and facilitating the testing and care for COVID 19 in 15 communities with a population of 42000 for last eight months. “We are happy to share that our work has been commended in international publications as an example of community-based response to the Pandemic.” she said.

Established in 1996 to provide free medical care to victims of Union Carbide, the Sambhavna Trust Clinic has treated Over 20,000 of persons with acute exposure to Methyl Iso Cyanate and other toxic gases and over 5000 persons with chronic exposure to groundwater contaminated by Union Carbide’s poisonous wastes. The Sambhavna Trust is funded solely through donations from over 30,000 individuals.

Dr. Sanjay Shrivastav	Tabassum Ara	Satinath Sarangi
Physician	Community Health Worker	Managing Trustee, Sambhavna Trust