

Foundations in Public Mental Health 2.0

Dava and Dua Project (DDP), Public Mental Health Model

- **Who?** Milesh Hamlai, NGO Altruist, Ahmedabad, Gujarat sponsored by State Government
- **When?** 2008
- **What?** Amalgamation of faith and science to treat their mental illnesses i.e how places of worship can play a role in the detection and treatment of mental illness
- **Why?** Co-operation between traditional healers and professionals may increase patients' compliance for medical treatment. Advise patients to continue their medical treatment and follow up while keeping religious faith intact.
- **How?**
 - Identify religious places where mentally ill people are referred to traditional healers and priests.
 - Sensitize the concerned priests on the rights of the mentally ill.
 - Sensitize the Department of Health and Family Welfare and the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment to the existence of these places.
 - Establish a link between mental health professionals and the traditional healers.
 - Form a network of government departments, local administration, priests and mental health professionals.
 - Train traditional healers in mental health practices.
 - Conduct Information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities within religious places.
 - Establish Dava and Dua centers at religious places and appoint trained workers.
 - Provide free psychiatric consultation, psychological assessment and therapies along with medicine supplies at every Dava and Dua center.
 - Establish a referral and follow-up system for the users for continuity of care.
 - Establish a monitoring committee chaired by the District Magistrate / District Judge, with the District Health Officer, a local police officer, a local medical officer, two representatives from the local community, a representative from the religious place, and a mental health professional as other members.
- **Where at Present?** Mira Datar Dargah in Unava (Mehsana District, Ahmedabad), Shrine of Hazrat Sayed Ali Mira Datar, Erwadi, Tamil Nadu, Hyderabad, Telangana and Nagpur, Maharashtra