

Minutes of the meeting of the State Mentoring Group on Community Based Monitoring of Health Services under Jharkhand State Rural Health Mission

6th November 2007, Ranchi

Introduction

Community based monitoring of health services are integral component of National Health Mission GOI, and is taken as an important aspect of people involvement as well maintaining transparency and accountability. The monitoring mechanism of NRHM includes three important dimensions and community monitoring is seen as a crucial dimension. (HMIS and occasional studies are seen as the two other mechanisms). The NRHM Directorate at the MOHFW, Government of India has facilitated setting up of the Advisory Group on Community Monitoring (AGCA) to develop the mechanism and implement Community Monitoring in selected districts of 9 states in the first phase. State of Jharkhand has setup its state level advisory group on community monitoring for implementing Community Based Monitoring in the pilot phase.

With reference to letter of Health Secretary Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Govt of Jharkhand, dated 16th October 2007 regarding of Community Based Monitoring in the State of Jharkhand, State RCH Officer, Government of Jharkhand, has called on state mentoring group meeting, for **initiating the first phase of Community Based Monitoring under NRHM.**

The meeting of the state mentoring committee was held at **JHS building, RCH Directorate, Namkum, Ranchi on 5th November 2007.** The meeting was started at 11.30 am and ended at 1.30 pm.

Meeting agenda :

1. Process of initiating Community Based Monitoring under NRHM in the pilot district.
2. Finalisation of District, Block and Panchayats (villages)
3. State and district level capacity building exercise.
4. Approaches to Community Monitoring
5. Follow ups

Participants:

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| 1. Dr. Priscilla Minz | Director Health Services, Govt of Jharkhand |
| 2. Dr. Sanjit Nayak | Population Foundation of India, New Delhi |
| 3. Mr. Kaushik Saikia | Population Foundation of India, Ranchi |
| 4. Ms. Rupa | Population Foundation of India,, Ranch |
| 5. Dr. Ruth Vivek | Centre for Health & Social Justice, New Delhi |
| 6. Dr. Suranjeen Prasad | Child In Need Institute, Ranchi, Jharkhand |
| 7. Dr. Prasanta Tripathy Secretary, | EKJUT, Singhbhum West, Jharkhand |
| 8. Sister Lisa | Catholic Health Association of Bihar & Jharkhand, Ranchi |
| 9. Manoj Xalxa | Catholic Health Association of Bihar & Jharkhand, Ranchi |
| 10. Tanwir Ahmad | Child In Need Institute, Ranchi |

State RCH Officer was unable to attend the meeting due to state level meeting of Joint Health Secretary Ministry of Health & Family Welfare Govt of India & Health Secretary Govt of Jharkhand.

Process :

Dr. Suranjeen Prasad, Unit Head, CINI, Ranchi and Dr. Sanjit Nayak, Programme Officer Population Foundation of India explain the **concept , objective & implementation of initiating the Pilot on Community Monitoring in the nine states**. It was mentioned that in **first phase the objective was to roll the programme in three districts, nine blocks and 135 villages and develop mechanism for community monitoring under NRHM, at each levels leaving people's health in people's hand**. The **basic objective is to strengthen the existing system and triangulate the data to ensure entitlements and service provisions**. One of the key processes has being building capacities at the village level and implementing through VHSC (Panchayati Raj Institutions) but in case of Jharkhand there is a need to strengthen the Gram Sabha's as PRIs do not exist.

There was also a **sharing of experience by Dr. Sanjit Nayak and Dr. Ruth Vivek** on the community monitoring processes in other states. **Dr. Prashant Tripathy** of Ekjut who is implementing a project entitled 'Empowerment of Women' leading to reduction in neo- natal mortality and maternal mortality that is being done through a tool known as **Appreciative Enquiry**. They are implementing this programme for two years and is a successful tool. **Sr. Lisa from CHABIJ** also shared her experience

of implemented health programme through **Village Health Committees** involving community at each level. Participants had discussions on components of the pilot projects and processes to follow, community linkages with block & district health delivery system, reporting, information generation and follow-ups, role of state mentoring committee, civil society etc. It has been decided that discussions of the meeting will be shared with the Secretary Health & Family Welfare Govt of Jharkhand for guidance and support. Meeting was concluded with vote of thanks given by Dr. Suranjeen, CINI Jharkhand.

Outcomes:

1. The district chosen for the pilots are Palamu, Hazaribagh and West Singhbhum .
2. The Civil Society Organization that will coordinate at the district level are Ekjut in West Singhbhum, Nav Bharat Jagriti Kendra in Hazaribhag and Xavier Institute of Social Service, in Palamu.
3. Three different approaches will be carried in three different districts namely-
 - a. Monitoring through Self Help Groups in West Singhbhum
 - b. Monitoring through Village Health and Sanitation Committee in Hazaribagh.
 - c. Monitoring in Palamu will be one as suggested by National Guidelines.
4. The members of the Mentoring Group proposed that Ministry of Health & Family Welfare Govt of Jharkhand should issue a Government Order to the district level Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) so that they can further identify block level CSOs and initiate the activity at the earliest.
5. The Ministry of Health & Family Welfare Govt of Jharkhand should also issue letters to the Chief Medical Officers cum Civil Surgeon of pilot district on supporting Community Based Monitoring by all means in selected blocks / PHC areas.
6. The dates of the State level Training of Trainers cum Orientation workshop has to be finalised. The tentative date of the state level TOT and the Orientation workshop will be in between **19th to 28th of November**. The TOT cum Orientation workshop should have participants from concerned district CSO and Health Officials. The opportunity should be used for brainstorming on community level process and ways of participation. On the last day of the TOT cum workshop will have formal inauguration of the project by **Mission Director Jharkhand State Rural Health Mission**.