



National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj

Ministry of Rural Development, Govt. of India
Rajendranagar, Hyderabad- 500 030, India

One Day Consultative Workshop on How to Strengthen the Health Committees of the Panchayat 18th January 2023

Venue – NIRDPR Hyderabad

Background

India's National Health Mission constituted Village Health Sanitation and Nutrition Committees (VHSNCs) as a key instrument for community health governance. Yet much remains to be learnt on how best to sustain health committees as vehicles for community health governance at scale.

National Rural Health Mission envisions the community to take leadership at local level, related to health and its related issues. It will be possible only when the community is sufficiently empowered to take leadership in health matters. Clearly, it requires involvement of Panchayati Raj Institutions in the management of the health system.

The VHC is intended to be a part of the local self-governance structure of the Panchayati Raj Institutions specifically the Gram Sabha. The purpose of the VHCs is to build and maintain accountability mechanisms for community-level health and nutrition services provided by the Government. The NRHM provides guidelines on the framework, functions and responsibilities of VHCs and has provided for a flexible "untied fund" of Rs.10,000 per health sub center facility to support local actions.

The NRHM guidelines suggest that the VHC should include representatives from the village Panchayat, Community-Based Organizations and NGOs, other community representatives and village health and nutrition workers and they note that the committee should include members from disadvantaged communities (e.g., scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, minority groups). The VHC is also expected to oversee the work of village health and nutrition functionaries such as the Auxiliary Nurse Midwife (ANM), Anganwadi Worker (AWW) and Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) and to be involved in managing the local sub-center, which is accountable to the *Gram Sabha*.

Though over the years Village Health and sanitation Committees has facilitated in addressing the health needs of the entire village with the help of health providers and health institutions. yet there are regional variations, particularly in the context of COVID 19.

The present workshop aims to provide a platform to interact with experts working in the area of public health offering broad perspective on the diversity of practices and suggest future directions to strengthen the health committees functioning under the panchayat.

Significance/Purpose of the Workshop

- To analyze and determine the key role of Village health committees in improvising health and nutrition outcomes in the villages
- To develop a common understanding on the strategies to strengthen the village health committees
- To develop effective mechanism for intersectoral coordination across line departments for effective functioning of the villages health committees under the panchayats to pave the way for better intersectoral specific interventions.

Resource Persons: Resource Persons with expertise in the area will invited for the thematic sessions.

Subjects/ contents proposed for discussion:

1. Strategies to strengthen community participation in health committees (Role of NGOs and CSOs)
2. Strategies for inter sectoral coordination for effective functioning of health committees under the panchayats / strengthening convergence mechanisms
3. Role of Contextual factors/ barriers in influencing the functioning of VHC in rural India
4. Recommendations and Conclusion

Clientele : Officials of State Rural Development & Panchayati Raj Departments, Department of Health , Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation and Faculty SIRD and ETCs

Duration: One Day (18th January 2023)

Venue and Accommodation

NIRDPR, Rajendranagar, Hyderabad- 500 030 (Telangana)

Workshop Coordinator: Dr Sucharita Pujari, Assistant Professor, NIRDPR, sucharitapujari.nird@gov.in Ph: 9640689320.

Registration Link: <https://forms.gle/R3uAKBSTfy4UMhKy8>