Project Brief

Improving Access to Quality Health Services through Community Engagement in Tribal Districts of Rajasthan

The Problematique

Rajasthan ranks 16th among 19 large states in health indicators, with declining performance in neonatal and maternal mortality, tuberculosis treatment, institutional deliveries, and immunisation. Despite health schemes, like *Mukhyamantri Ayushman Arogya Yojana,* issues such as illiteracy, lack of awareness, inadequate facilities, and implementation challenges in tribal areas hinder effective healthcare access.

Aim

The project aims to ensure equitable healthcare in Rajasthan's tribal districts of Banswara and Pratapgarh through community engagement, sensitisation of healthcare providers and advocacy efforts to reduce health disparities and increase awareness of health entitlements. It promotes health equity, fosters trust, and enhances transparency among patients and healthcare providers through collaboration and community involvement.

Objectives

The project focuses on achieving quality healthcare by:

- Improving access through community engagement, healthcare provider sensitisation, and advocacy;
- Raising awareness about scheme entitlements & encouraging community participation;
- Sensitising healthcare providers on community needs, ethical practices, & effective implementation; and
- Advocating for policy interventions based on project findings.

Coverage

Implemented in 100-*gram panchayats* of Banswara and Pratapgarh, engaging rural communities including women, tribal, marginalised and low-income populations to promote equal access and a healthier society.

Strategies

- Improving access for rural communities through awareness and engagement initiatives
- Reviewing literature, assessing schemes, coverage, and implementation processes
- Collecting community feedback using Citizen Report Cards (CRCs)
- Orienting healthcare providers and conducting awareness campaigns
- Conducting interface meetings to discuss CRC findings and strengthen relationships
- Organising state-level advocacy and dissemination meetings

Outputs

- State-level Project Launch in Jaipur
- Assessment and Gap Analysis Study
- District-level Sensitisation Programmes
- Community Awareness Campaigns
- Interface Meetings between Health Service Providers & Community
- State-level Dissemination Meeting

Outcomes

- Increased awareness among the community and healthcare providers about government schemes and entitlements
- Enhanced implementation to ensure access to quality healthcare service
- Strengthened relationships between the community and healthcare providers through ethical practices and effective communication

Project Duration

Two years starting from July 2024

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