

CAPACITY BUILDING OF GAON KALYAN SAMITI: EFFORTS TO PROMOTE EFFECTIVE COMMUNITY LEVEL INITIATIVES TO ADDRESS ISSUES RELATED TO HEALTH AND SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH

Before & After...



*GKS members mobilised community to take ownership of making this drain clean
....Household wise manual/cost contribution & supervision by GKS members*

Problem Statement

Raygada is one of the high focus districts of Odisha with its inherent difficulties; in terms of its hilly terrains, left wing extremism, low literacy, poor status of health, sanitations and nutrition indicators etc. The outbreak of epidemics has been one of the huge problems for the district administration in recent years. About 2297 Gaon Kalyan Samitis were formed in the district.

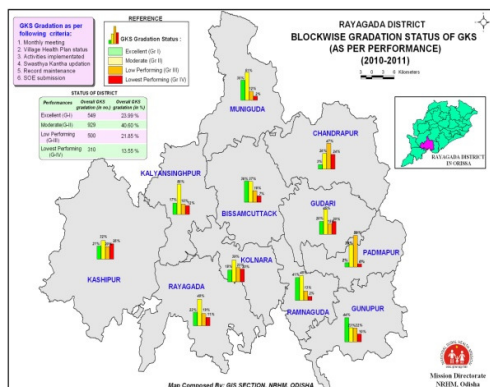
However district faced the challenge to train the GKS members and equip them adequately to fulfil the roles and responsibilities of the committee in order to address the local public health issues

Programme Description

The State entered in to a partnership with CARE India, Odisha in the year 2010, to act as the Nodal agency in eight high focus districts for strengthening of GKS with involvement of local NGO partners. Raygada was identified as a pilot district for this model. Four members of 14760 GKS in 8 districts were trained through local NGOs on their roles & responsibilities, preparation of need based village health plan, implementation and monitoring of the plan, fund utilization, mobilization of resources, proper and record maintenance.



In Raygada district, local NGO partners were selected and oriented to select trainers for GKS members on “**SURABHI**” Module developed by NRHM, Odisha. To ensure quality of training, locally based training venues and local trainers who could conduct the training sessions in local language and adopting adult learning principles were selected by the NGOs.



The GKS members were trained comprehensively on all the aspects of the GKS functioning. Simultaneously, GKS wise gradation exercise process was initiated by filling up the ‘AmaSamiti O-AmeKeunthi’ – Oriya format for each of the GKS during the training. The block wise GKS Gradation process indicated the low & lowest performing Gaon Kalyan Samiti (Gr-III & IV) where as the better performing GKS were also marked under Excellent & Moderate Group (Gr-I & II) . This process allowed identification of GKS which belonged to Grade III and

IV categories, which were then provided more intensive hand holding and support through the local NGOs.

Program Impact

As a result of the capacity building and support provided by NGOs, GKS of Guakana village of Kolanara Block in Raygada district made the village health plan in consultation with the community members and field functionaries. After the detailed analysis, the members found that village drain was one of the important factors contributing to high incidences of malaria and diarrhoea in the village. To address this issue, the GKS members decided to clean the drain and not to use the water of the drain for any domestic purpose. As planned, the drain was cleaned by the villagers themselves, 29 people contributed for the cause and the task was completed in four hours.

Scalability

Similar success stories have also emerged from other villages showing a positive outcome of the concerted effort of GKS capacity building and strengthening programme in the eight high focus districts. This indicates the feasibility of scaling up the model of State and District health departments working in partnerships with local NGOs to strengthen the community engagement through the platform of GKS. Thus with more number of GKS striving to achieve the objective of transforming their village as “SusthaGaon”, the dream of “Sustha Odisha” can be achieved.

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