

A
**Campaign to Increase VHSNC Membership
and Participations**
(Sahbhagita Badhao Abhiyan)

Report 2014-15



(State Health Resource Centre, Chhattisgarh)

Village Health Sanitation and Nutrition Committee (VHSNC):

NRHM introduced VHSNCs as a mechanism for community participation. In Chhattisgarh VHSNCs were constituted in 2007 and 2008 as a village level sub-committee of the Standing Committee of the Gram Panchayat of education, health and social welfare committee. It has been formed at every revenue village level. At present there are 19148 VHSNCs in the State. Committee's main objectives are:-

- To strengthen the gram Panchayats education, health and social welfare committees.
- Increase the participation of the panchayat in the area of Health, Sanitation and nutrition.
- Monitoring at the community level on health, hygiene and nutrition and try to solve problems jointly in a systematic manner.

The members of this committee are Gram Panchayat Sarpanch, Ward Panch, Mitanins, Anganwadi worker, ANM, president of the village level committees and active residents of the village. Meeting of the committee is held every month on a fixed day. In this meeting, the main activities are filling of monitoring register to assess the status of government schemes at the village level , having discussion on the deaths in the village, discussion on the village level problems and making action plan etc. Due to the formation and smooth operation of the committee the participation of the panchayat is increasing in health, sanitation and nutrition and the village level problems are also being solved. In addition, through the committee there is an ongoing effort to empower the women and other vulnerable groups of the society.

Campaign to Increase Participation:

Over the years, an average of approximately 11 participants out of which 6-7 committee members and 4-5 other residents are attending the meeting. Generally committee meeting was organized at Panchayat Bhawan or Anganwadi centre. The committee through its work have been able to raise awareness on health, sanitation, nutrition, government schemes, social responsibility etc. At the same time the committee also making effort to empower the weaker and backward section of the society, improving the government schemes through monitoring and to solve the village level problems in a systematic manner.

Therefore, it was realized that through strengthening the committees the committee will be able to work with more efficiency and achieve more success. Activities like increasing the membership of the committee, organizing committee meetings in public place or open

stage, giving information about the meeting to all the villagers and other such activities were started as a campaign to increase participation in October 2014 in all the Blocks of the State.

Process of the Campaign:

Campaign to increase participation was organized in all the blocks of the State. Discussion was organized in every VHSNC Meeting on the selection of new members. After the meeting was over, members of the committee visited families in the village and help about 10-10 families to choose their representative. Mainly interested and active women were selected by the families as their representative on the priority basis but along with the selection of women members, interested men, retired workers etc. have also been selected as new member of the committee. Some committees accepted new members of the committee by putting gulal (traditional way of honouring) on them. The main points which have been focused during the campaign are -



1. One active female member out of every 10-10 families was selected as a member of the committee to represent them.
2. The president panch and other panchs were once again actively involved with the committee. These people's representatives were given proper importance & place during the meeting to ensure that their interest remain alive in the committee.
3. The newly appointed president, vice-president of the village committees and others were included as members of this committee.
4. The meetings of the committee were not organized in the Anganwadi centres, instead they were organized in public places like kala manch, open veranda, etc. where the people would get information about the meeting and the men have also started attending it.
5. Prior information about the meeting was given to the members through information register.
6. Information about the meeting was given to the general public through public announcement through the kotwar.
7. Information about the day of the meeting, time and place and names of the members of the committee is displayed by writing on the wall.



8. Some committees used banners during the meetings.
9. With the objective of ensuring that the ANM, Aganwadi worker and teacher be present during the meeting orders were issued by the block level officer of the concerned department.
10. Place where the vaccination/immunization process take longer, the committee meeting is organized before the immunization session.

Major Achievements:

No.	Particulars	Status
1	Information is collected of how many blocks	122
2	What percentage of the committee discussed on the campaign for increasing participation	91%
3	What percentage of the committee have inducted new members	81%
4	At an average how many members are there in each committee (including the old and the new)	20
5	What percentage of the committees have changed the meeting location to a more suitable site for improved participation	48%
6	What percentage of the committee have given information about the meeting date through public announcement	22%
7	At an average how many members are attending Committee's meeting now	13

Review of the Result:

Every month Report on VHSNC meeting is taken from M.T. Based on this report it has been known that, before the campaign the attendance of the member in meeting was about 7 members per committee whereas, now it has gone upto 13 members per committee.

Conclusions:

Activities undertaken during this campaign such as selection of new members, change in the venue of the meeting, giving information about the meeting by making announcement, writing the venue of the meeting, time & the name of the members on the wall, giving importance during the meeting of the panch of gram panchayat, getting the officials to order the ANMs and Anganwadi workers to attend the meetings, etc, increased participations are providing strength to the VHSNC.



With the selection of new members there has been an increase in aware members in the committee. Earlier there were only 11 members in the committee but now there are 20 members. By changing the place of the meeting from Anganwadi bhawan to kala manch or any other public place has ensured that apart from the members the beneficiaries/general people are attending the meeting. By making public announcement of the meeting there has been an increase in the participation of general public in the meeting.

As the participation in the meetings are as per the expectation hence discussion on monitoring the government schemes, preparing action plan, passing resolution, discussion on social issues, manual work etc. work are being done in an effective manner. VHSNC has witnessed new energy and strength from this “Sahbhagita Badhao Abhiyan” (campaign to increase membership and participation).

*****XXXXX*****