Innovative use of Technologies (ICTs) for Community Monitoring

Capacity Building Workshop, January 8-10, 2015 – Bhopal - COPASAH South Asia

Brief Summary

Community of Practitioners on Accountability and Social Action in Health (COPASAH) South Asia's 'Innovative Use of ICTs for Community Based Monitoring in Health' capacity building workshop was conducted between January 8th and 10th, 2015 at Bhopal. A group of practitioners in accountability was formed in each state, consisting of a collective of organizations working for social accountability, with an aim to facilitate grass root community practitioners to strengthen the community based monitoring work by the use of technology. Social media (facebook/blog etc.) will be used to share community based monitoring innovative practices, knowledge, information, evidence and documentation using techniques and methodologies such as Photo voice, video clippings, photo stories, photos with stories among others. These groups will be linked to the global COPASAH network to facilitate inter-state sharing as well as wider sharing and peer learning amongst practitioners on the global platform.

Regional Workshop

Nearly 30 grass roots practitioners from six states of India (Gujarat, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh) participated in the workshop which aimed to enhance the skills, and develop innovations, tools, thematic innovations and new constituencies for accountability practices in health using technology. The goal was to facilitate strengthening the processes of social accountability practices and strengthening the existing capacity of the community of practitioners to innovate in community monitoring practices especially with the use of technology such as Photo-Voice as the primary methodology. The value addition to the traditional Community Based Monitoring through this three day workshop was a move from theory to practice in the use of technology to document evidences for accountability and social mobilization.

The workshop had also invited proposals from the states based on their current work and how the groups would like to use ICTs for value addition to the community monitoring work to generate a photo voice product. Facilitated by a key person to

coordinate the work, the states groups chose a focus theme in the workshop to work further (January- March, 2015) within which they will use an ICT innovation as shown in the table below.

State	Issue	Districts	Communities	Methodology	Advocacy
Tamil Nadu	Functioning of committees(Anganwadi committees, Gram Panchayat committees, School management committees)	2-Vellore, Dharmagiri	3	Photo	News media, 3Photostories, Community level
Maharashtra	Sanitation and Hygiene in Primary Health Centres (PHCs)	3-Thane, Amravati, Gadchiroli	6 PHCs, 2 in each district	Photo/video	6 photo stories Jansamwad
Karnataka	Health Rights and Manual Scavenging and Safai Karamchari community	1-Tumkur	3 blocks Manual scavnegers	Photo	Exhibition, Photostory, Jansamwad
Madhya Pradesh	Maternal Health – Access to ANC, PNC and referrals	5	5 PHC, 5 SHC, 10 Villages Women in marginalized communities	Photo story, video audio	Photos story, community level
Uttar Pradesh	Quality of care in maternal health services	3-Chandauli, Gorakhpur, Kushinagar	6 blocks, 18 sub health centres, 6 block hospitals	Photo story, video	Block level Dialogue, RKS, use media and use ICT for sharing with officials
Gujarat	The theme is being decided in Gujarat			The methodology is under consideration in Gujarat	

The groups will primarily use photovoice methodology for evidence generation on the chosen themes. In addition they will select either a video or audio medium to supplement the same. They will engage with the community as well as health providers using the evidence and media platforms. The photovoice product and audio-visual product will be submitted, in its completed form, in March 2015 by the groups along with a final report on the process.