New Approaches for Reaching the Poor in India

Himani Sethi

September 20, 2010
Uttarakhand, India
Challenges

- High maternal mortality, infant mortality, and total fertility rates among the poor
- Use of FP methods and institutional facilities for deliveries is the lowest among the poor
- Out-of-pocket expenditure on reproductive and child health (RCH) services
- Enormous health barriers to the poor
- Staff vacancies, lack of trained staff
- Difficult geographic terrain, remote populations

Photo by Michael Foley
Opportunities

- Stable and decentralized governance
- Enabling environment under National Rural Health Mission
- Emphasis on reducing inequities and improving access to MH and FP services
- Capitalize on private sector market presence
- Private sector is preferred provider of choice in urban areas
- Increased demand for high-quality healthcare services
Integrating Equity into Policies and Plans

Analysis

- Policy
- Financing
- Market
- Poverty

Advocacy and Dialogue

- High-level policy dialogue
- Demographic projection modeling
- Multisectoral planning meetings

Action
New policy calls for

- Tailored approaches for
  - Urban
  - Rural
  - Hill region

- Public-Private Partnership models
  - Mobile health vans in remote rural areas
  - Community mobilization in rural plains
  - Contracting out in urban areas
  - Outreach for the urban poor
New policy also calls for

- Financing mechanisms
  - Health insurance
  - Voucher scheme
  - Community savings plans

- Increase health budget to 7% of state domestic product from 5% (current level)

- Redistribute resources
  - Regional disparities
  - Level of poverty
  - Disease pattern
  - Underserved groups
Jharkhand, India
Challenges

❖ Socio-cultural and religious barriers
  • 38% women aged 15-19 years are married
  • 25% adolescents experience childbearing
  • Low male engagement

❖ Inequality in modern method use
  • Rural poorest (17.6%) and wealthiest (42.6%)
  • Urban poorest (36.5%) and wealthiest (52.4%)

❖ Staff vacancies, inadequate trained staff
Opportunities

- Policies recognize role of FP in meeting health and development goals
- Integrated approaches and adequate financial resources under NRHM
- Newly formed Family Planning Cell to provide implementation support
- High-powered Family Planning Taskforce
- Effective corporate sector models and initiatives
- A cadre of grassroots volunteers in Sahiyyas
- High demand for FP services

Photo by Steve Evans
Integrating Equity into Policies and Plans

Analysis

Policy
- Barriers
- Market
- Financing
- Poverty

Advocacy and Dialogue

- Multisectoral planning meetings
- Demographic projection modeling

Action
Jharkhand’s Family Planning Strategy 2010-2020 calls for targeted efforts

Goals

- Increase modern CPR among the poor from 24% (2007/08) to 52.4% (2020)

Equity interventions

- Rolling out in 10 poorest districts
- Reaching poor (rural, urban, and tribal) and other marginalized populations
  - Mapping of urban slums and poverty pockets
  - Mobile clinics
  - Training front-line workers and engaging tribal women
  - PPP interventions for urban slums
Next Steps for Uttarakhand and Jharkhand

- Evidence-based process to move policy to action
  - Execution according to plan
  - Equity-based monitoring

- Keep family planning and equity front and center

Photos by Suneeta Sharma (top) and Simply CVR (bottom)
Thank you!

www.healthpolicyinitiative.com