

Impact Assessment

FY 2021-2022



Niramoy

(Sabuj Sangha)

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Executive Summary

Urban slums in India have long grappled with an array of challenges, including the absence of accessible, high-quality, and affordable healthcare services, as well as a lack of awareness regarding essential health and nutrition practices. Consequently, these areas face numerous hurdles concerning maternal, child, and adolescent health, as well as overall community well-being.



To address these pressing issues, the Wipro Foundation, in partnership with Sabuj Sangha, initiated Project Niramoy. This project is aimed at delivering cost-effective primary healthcare services with a particular focus on maternal, child, and adolescent health. Additionally, it seeks to raise awareness among the urban slum residents of Kolkata and Bidhannagar districts in West Bengal about the importance of good health and sanitation practices.

As part of the impact assessment, on-site visits were conducted in three urban slum settlements, specifically in Sector 79 and Sector 80 of Kolkata, and in Sector 28 in Bidhannagar. Beneficiary surveys were administered with pregnant and lactating women, adolescents, and members of the general community, encompassing men and the elderly. Furthermore, in-depth interviews were conducted with key stakeholders, including the NGO program team, the ASHA workers, and the NGO community health volunteers.

The study uncovered that the program has effectively elevated awareness regarding essential pre and post-pregnancy practices including regular ANC check-ups, institutional deliveries, and routine immunization. Notably, ANC check-up registration reached 100%, and there was 30–35% increase in institutional deliveries following the project's implementation, resulting to an aggregate rate of 60%–65% of the total institutional deliveries. Additionally, the majority of community members are well-informed about and adhere to the routine immunization schedule for their children.

Regarding adolescent health, it was evident that they possessed a strong awareness of the significance of maintaining good sexual, reproductive, and menstrual health practices. Additionally, most adolescents had made dietary adjustments by including food items such as dal (lentils), chawal (rice), and green vegetables to combat anemia. Those who were screened and diagnosed with anemia received treatment in the form of iron tablets and multivitamins. However, there is still a need for adolescents to have access to sanitary napkins.

The adoption of family planning methods exhibited variation among the slum areas. The adoption of family planning methods was found to be consistent among women, with a combined total of 51% reporting that they do not use contraception methods. The primary reasons for not using contraceptives were attributed to a lack of awareness, followed by husbands' reluctance, particularly for women.

Recommendations include broadening the program's scope to encompass community sanitation initiatives and community empowerment initiatives. These steps would empower community members to advocate for their rights with the government. Additionally, the NGO could adopt a customized approach for each sector, tailored to the specific needs identified in that sector. These needs ranged from addressing the reluctance of men to participate in awareness sessions and health camps to increasing awareness about the health camps among community members.

Key Assessment Information

Program Name	Niramoy
Implementation Partner	Sabuj Sangha
Grant Amount	₹ 35,50,278 (1st June, 2021 - 31st May, 2022)
Assessment Location	Urban slum settlements in Kolkata and Bidhannagar, West Bengal.
Total Sample Size	277
Beneficiaries Surveyed	Community men & women, Pregnant & lactating mothers, and Adolescents
Stakeholders Surveyed	Program team, Community health workers, and community volunteers

Key Findings

Program Design

- The primary emphasis lies in addressing the health needs of mothers, children, and adolescents, thereby ensuring the overall well-being of the community.
- Health camps are conducted bi-weekly in each of the three urban slum settlements at a subsidized rate of ₹ 20 per check-up for consultation as well as for medicines.
- These camps have one doctor, a nurse, an ASHA worker, one NGO supervisor, and a lab technician.
- The health camps provide the following screening services:
 - Diabetes screening for community members
 - Malnutrition screening for children
 - Anemia screening for adolescents
- In addition, the other health interventions that are carried out as part of the program is through community volunteers. They are instrumental in providing the following services:
 - Monitoring of the immunization status of the children
 - Awareness and mobilisation of the community members for regular health check-ups
 - Awareness on different government schemes to ensure the community is aware of the benefits that can be availed. (example: Janani Suraksha Yojana, etc.)

Program Delivery

- **100% ANC registration has been recorded** as a result of the intervention from 78% based on initial interactions.
- **Institutional deliveries have surged by 30-35%** thereby current rate being in 60-65% range.
- 30% women were found to undergo partial ANC check-ups thereby indicating the need for increased awareness on the importance of such check-ups.
- **Low awareness about government scheme:** The awareness about government schemes among pregnant/lactating mothers were found to be low (30% have registered for government schemes to avail benefits) indicating the need for increased assistance and awareness by the NGO.
- 100% of primary beneficiaries stated that they adhere to their child's routine immunization schedule
- Adolescent awareness sessions have proven to be highly effective in educating about sexual and reproductive health, as well as menstrual hygiene.
- Men's participation in health clinic check-ups have been relatively lower including for awareness sessions. This is comparatively higher in sector 79 compared to sector 28 and 80.
- Sector 79 also showed **reluctance from men towards using any contraceptive methods** compared to the other two sectors.

Impact

- The program has effectively promoted the significance of good health and nutrition practices among women, contributing to improved well-being in the community.
- The program has successfully imparted knowledge about sexual and reproductive health, including menstrual hygiene, to adolescents, empowering them with essential information.
- The program has emphasized the importance of seeking prompt treatment among the majority of community members.
- However the potential challenge of long-term sustainability arises due to limited cooperation with government departments.

Recommendations

The program design should vary based on the specific characteristics of each location. Given the varying socio-economic conditions across different the slums in different sectors, there are also differences in community needs and awareness levels.

- Awareness sessions and health camp frequency should be tailored to the unique requirements of each location. This customization should aim to promote behavioral change among residents and prevent overcrowding at the health camps.
- In sectors where male participation in health camps and awareness sessions is low due to the perception that these activities are primarily for women, it is advisable to implement specialized mobilization strategies. These strategies should ideally involve male community volunteers who can work to shift their mindset, encouraging them to seek treatment through NGO camps and actively participate in awareness sessions.

There is a deficiency of specialized doctors in the fields of Geriatric health and women's health. Women in all sectors are keen to have access to female Gynecologists, while senior citizens have voiced a demand for orthopedic doctors who can address age-related arthritis issues, which are highly prevalent.

- Supplementary health camps can be arranged, potentially at reduced intervals, to address these specific healthcare needs. These additional camps can incorporate female gynecologists and orthopedic specialists, alongside other specialized doctors or screening services, such as liver and cancer screening.
- Alternatively, teleconsultation services, coupled with an on-demand transportation service, can be established to assist community members with their specific healthcare requirements.

Annexure: Research Methodology

Scope of study

OBJECTIVES

Assess the relevance and efficiency of the intervention and review the implementation pathways

Understand the effectiveness of the intervention

Find the areas of improvement across all the factors from program design to implementation

Understand the major success factors and challenges in the intervention.

Provide an assessment framework to be able to capture impacts in a manner that is an effective recommendation.

LIMITATIONS

The study could not reach the sample size as the majority of the families had migrated during COVID-19

Methodology

Three Point Assessment Framework



Program Design

We study program design through program strategies, inputs and resources, assumptions, outreach mechanisms, and much more. Give's Impact Assessment approach for program design is based on Assessment criteria like Relevance and Preparedness using methodologies such as need assessment of baseline survey.



Program Delivery

Give assesses the Program Delivery to understand the success of the program delivery mechanism in attaining the overall objectives such as cost effectiveness, resource efficiency, equity in service delivery, best practices and challenges, perception about the services among the relevant stakeholders, among other actors.



Impact and Sustainability

The program's impact potential was assessed to ascertain whether a change or the desired outcome can be attributed to the program intervention. Give uses criteria such as scale of Impact and sustainability of impact to understand the impact potential of the projects.

Sampling Strategy



245
Beneficiary
Outreached



245
Successful
interactions



244
In-person



1
Virtual

Key Informant Interviews



Program Team:1



Education Volunteers: 20

Dimapur,
Nagaland

