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Where Every Child Vaccinated Is a Building Block

Picture 1: Ms. Esther Das, ANM, Chandradeepa



Chandradeepa is a remote village in district Jamtara in the state of Jharkhand. Ms. Esther Das, an Auxiliary Nurse Midwife (ANM), caters to primary health care needs of the Chandradeepa community. She has been working in this post since 2006 and continues to play a key role in immunizing pregnant mothers and children of the community.

In February 2014, at the event “India celebrates three years of freedom from polio” held in New Delhi, the Government of India recognized Ms. Esther as the district’s best performer (ANM cadre) for her contributions to the polio immunization program.

Various coverage evaluation surveys and publications bring out the fact that a significant number of children are missing immunization (left-outs and drop-outs). However, the reports do not pinpoint the communities of these missing children. Thus the communities are not aware of the immunization status of their children and hence do not participate in the immunization program.

Picture 2: Ms. Esther reviewing the MVMH tool with community members



Since April 2011, Ms. Esther has been using a tool called “My Village My Home” (MVMH) to enlist and track the beneficiaries in her village. Additionally, the tool allowed parents to track their children’s immunization progress compared with other children in the same community. Each vaccine dose administered to a child in this tool signifies a brick in a home. As more children get vaccinated and complete their due vaccinations, more bricks are filled in, thus

“By using the tool, I am able to count all the infants/children in my community with their immunization status on a single chart. By just looking at the MVMH tool, I get to know the number of children missing immunization,” says Ms. Esther.

strengthening the home, which depicts the village. The tool is posted in a public place (Anganwadi center) in the community.

During 2011, MCHIP (the USAID-funded Maternal and Child Health Integrated Program) introduced this tool in 28 Anganwadi centers in Jamtara and Deoghar

districts to capture and follow up the immunization status of all children born in the village in a year (one birth cohort) up to the age of 24 months. Use of the MVMH tool yielded good results, with improved coverage for all antigens during the prospective study done in April 2012–13 (BCG-96%, OPV1-93%, DPT1-94%, HEP1-93.9%), and only 1.9% left unimmunized.

Also, the MVMH tool was highly appreciated by national and state-level program managers as an effective approach to tracking beneficiaries for immunization. Following the results achieved in the field, and sustained advocacy by MCHIP at the state level, the Government of Jharkhand decided to implement the tool across all immunization session sites in the state.

“I feel very proud when I see my child’s name in this chart. I have provided all the required vaccines to my child till date, as per this tool,” said Durga Kumari, mother of a one-year-old child.