Gramin Vikas Samiti virtual site visit report (by Shivani Prasad)

Date and time : 20th Sept’23 @ 7.30 PM PT
Attendees: Shivani Prasad, Krishna Pagadala, Shoba Vishwanath, Abhinav Tyagi
Project partner: Govind Yadav

Background on the project

GVS is one of the projects added to Asha SV with Edu impact 2020. This project is implementation of Childline 1098 in Damoh district of Madhya Pradesh. The proposal for Edu impact 2020 was to sponsor GVS with a vehicle equipped with basic medical facilities. In addition, they also needed support for driver’s and counselor’s salaries. They also have some admin expenses. Asha SV disbursed the funds for the vehicle in 2020 and they have been utilizing it in rescue and rehabilitation efforts.

Discussed during the meeting

Approximately 640 districts in India had this helpline running but due to a policy change in Central govt, the funding has gone away. Child helpline is now going to be run by the State Govt. and GVS isn't receiving funding from the India Foundation, applicable 1st September 2023. Financial support from the government is gone now.

Volunteers have still been working without pay as of now and have been providing their own phone number for rescue and rehabilitation efforts. GVS is still getting calls for help but the number has dropped. Rescue and rehabilitation efforts are still happening but the help is now available only till 10pm in the night, not 24*7.

Two GVS staff members sit in Mahina Bal Vikas office(without any pay) and if they need help, they call GVS and have them rescued and rehabilitated.

October onwards, the state Government is starting a new office for CHILDLINE. They might ask some of the GVS staff to join them.

GVS’ registered office is where the meeting happened. The team had to vacate the other office because they weren’t able to afford the rent and utilities without financial aid from the Government.

They have received 20 phone calls for help since Sept beginning.
The project partner showed us around the new office and 4 staff members, it seemed like a residential area and the office was on the ground floor of a house. This office works because the team doesn’t need any space for the kids to stay (for a few hours) in the office anymore.

Budget sponsored by the Government - 14.36 lakhs
Total budget - 36 lakhs

The new authorities are not trained in record keeping and management of rescue and rehabilitation efforts. They have requested GVS for help in all these.

GVS requested that the support from Asha be continued so that the morale of the team is lifted.

Questions:

1. What is the new number?
   a. 800-599-1480 Madhya Pradesh state has this childline number
2. Will the state government work better than being controlled by the central government?
   a. Jerro Billimoria started this by giving their phone number and later Childline India Foundation was founded
   b. Once the new number is publicized, new staff trained and new government division starts to work efficiently, it might take a while for this to pick up
   c. Indian Govt might give 112 as a phone number for the same: this is a possibility
3. What is the biggest expenditure in the GVS budget that was affected by new changes in Government policy?
   a. Salary of the employees
   b. Rent
4. On an average, how many cases a month
   a. In August, 76 cases were registered
      i. Sponsorship for orphans - documentation for the children missing
      ii. Counseling cases - children are begging
      iii. A newborn child was found in the bushes
      iv. Child is disabled and no documentation is unavailable
      v. Child wasn’t keeping well, parents thought witchcraft; took child to the hospital and she recovered within 2 days
      vi. Nat community children who do neither have documentation nor go to school - Birth certificate, Aadhar card, other documentation
      vii. Children can’t get ration because they aren’t enrolled in the system
      viii. Teachers are not going to classes
      ix. Pregnant women who need help to reach the hospital during labor; Government scheme gives 10k INR to pregnant women
b. From October on, Child marriage cases will rise
   i. From there on - malnutrition cases will rise
5. Has it been a month since the number change?
   a. Yes, average used to be 2-3 calls per day
   b. Now, it is 1 calls per day but some days there aren’t any calls