

AID Conference 2004

Minutes for Session Named Tamil Nadu Cell

Date: 5/30/04

Time From: 12:30 PM

To: 1:30 PM

Minutes Taken By:

Anitha Sampath

Number of attendees:

15-18

Audio/Visual Component?

Speaker/Panelist Names:

1. Gayathri
2. Priya
3. Govind
4. Chandrika
5. Alok
- 6.

What they are speaking about:

Goals and objectives of TN cell, existing models of interaction and collaboration between TN and chapters

Main Presentation:

Objectives of TN Cell

HBP is a set of interventions and models in TN that can be replicated and localized in other states. From the TN cell, the focus will be to educate chapters on HBP, get them to commit resources, funds and non monetary support.

The TN cell will also explore funding avenues from local communities such as Tamil sangams.

Studies in TN for policy intervention, create new components and/or to evaluate the existing components.

Cross networking with other cells such as water and women to create a expert model.

Identify regions where TNSF does not have a reach, build a network of groups to intervene.

Key Stats of TN

Sex ratio was at 986. In children of 0-6 years sex ratio has declined over the years.

Infant mortality rate is 51% and malnutrition rate is also very high.

Interventions focus on villages to reduce the urban rural divide. Based on reports filed by UN, increased female literacy reduces malnutrition level for children.

HBP

HBP is trying to address the above issues from the statistics.

Why Focus on HBP?

Most issues are interconnected and hence they cannot be solved separately. Issues being worked in HBP are prevalent in many regions of India. HBP is creation of models which can be replicated in other states. HBP is present now in TN, Bihar and Jharkand. Several NGOs are also evaluating the program as well.

Key Strengths of HBP:

Gender sensitive, especially Dalit women are the focus of this program.

Community driven intervention

Components tried and improved in a smaller scale and then implemented in large scale.

Next Phase of HBP:

Impact analysis of HBP in large scale

Associated campaigns for policy intervention and institutionalization

Vision 2010 expands the program to a large scale .

Policy Studies

An example of the study done by Chandrika in TNSF over a period of 2.5 months discusses about quality of math in 3rd and 4th grade of public schools. The study was started in 2 villages where the children were tested individually and collectively in math questions. Wrong answers were analyzed and the inadequacies in prerequisite topics were found to be the reason. Such programs can be used to structure better intervention programs and evaluate the programs and can also be used to intervene in policies or curriculums. This was already followed by PROBE report. As AID Chennai is busy implementing programs, AID US can help in creating such policy studies.

AID and TN

TN receives 13% of funds with 9% to AID-TNSF programs. Programs are distributed in several districts.

Categories of programs : Mainly in health and education but also in other areas

Strong relationship with AID-TNSF.

Other potential NGOs for interaction include MERDS and trust for village self governance, vasanth memorial, DOVE and READ.

Non monetary support from AID US

Publications and pamphlets

Peahal:

A group of AIDers and non AIDers have formed a group PEHAL in State college to use our scientific knowledge with traditional knowledge to develop solutions working with resource networks such as AID-Chennai Eureka network.

Goals of the group includes promoting education and literacy, disseminating knowledge of existing technological solutions, use our expertise to develop cheap and innovative solutions to technological problems, build database of like minded people to facilitate networking.

Till date, the group has developed some poster material for Eureka educational network, help translation of pictorial material by CEHAT. There is work in progress on posters to explain simple physics concepts.

Other issues

Question/Answer Session:

Additional Notes/ Observations:

Savings groups have been very active in TN. Observation by Kalpana K is that loans through micro-credit is silencing more important movements - since bank officers can now dictate women not to take out Morchas etc.