

Two-day National Workshop on "Tribal Health: Status, Challenges and Possibilities"

The Tribal Research and Development Institute (TRI), GoMP organized a national workshop on **"Tribal Health: Status, Challenges and Possibilities"** on 17-18 December 2009. The School of Good Governance and Policy Analysis, Bhopal, provided Technical Consultancy for organizing the workshop.

The workshop was inaugurated by hon'ble Minister for Tribal Welfare Shri Kunwar Vijay Shah. Shri Sachchitanand, former Vice Chancellor, Ranchi University delivered the inaugural address and Shri R.P. Kapoor, former Chief Secretary, Madhya Pradesh chaired the inaugural session. Dr. Virginius Xaxa, Professor, Department of Sociology, Delhi University delivered the Valedictory Address and Shri K.S. Sharma, former Chief Secretary, Madhya Pradesh chaired the valedictory session.

The Workshop was designed to look at the issues of disparity in health standard of Tribals, in the context of service delivery, dovetailing of formal medical systems with traditional health systems, approaches being adopted for developing and delivering a holistic and comprehensive package of health services for them, focus on nutritional health of tribal women and children and also the larger medical challenge like various manifestations emerging from endogamous cultural practices.

Some of the areas focused in the workshop are:

1. Response of the State and strategy for addressing the wide gap in the health status of tribal's and non-tribals.
2. Whether the current approaches are inclusive enough to enable access to services by all vulnerable communities?
3. Has the State been able to adopt specific strategies for bridging the gap especially among the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)? (*like the Sahariyas, Baiga and Bhariyas in Madhya Pradesh*)
4. Analysis of trends in per capita expenditure on health of tribal communities over a period of time?

Issues highlighted during the discussions are:

- Tribal Health: Historical, Conceptual and Philosophical Issues.
- Tribal diseases and their Management: The role of the State (Policies/Schemes).
- Health and Nutrition Management: The Role of NGOs.
- Role of Traditional Healing Practices: Status, Challenges and Future.
- Health Status of PVTGs of Madhya Pradesh.
- Vital Demographic statistics about Tribes: Issues, Observations and Analysis.
- Tribal Women and their Health Status: Historical Overview.
- Tribes and their Health Management: Agenda for Action.

The participants in the workshop included senior government officials, medical practitioners working in tribal areas, institutions working on tribal medicine like the Regional Medical Research Centre for Tribal's-RMRCT, Jabalpur, officials of the Health Department, officials from Anthropological Survey of India, Civil Society organizations working on tribal health, subject specialists from universities and policy makers.