

Partners' Review Meeting

Exploring the interplay between business regulation and corporate conduct in India (BRCC project)

New Delhi, June 26, 2012

Partners' Experience

This meeting aimed to gauge the status of fieldwork and the challenges faced by the partners in executing the same so that they could be addressed in time. To begin with the State Partners discussed their experience from the first phase of field work, estimating the tentative span of time required to complete the concerned phase.

West Bengal State Partners shall tentatively take another 10-15 days, to conclude the first Phase. The Partners specified that some medical representatives would need to be studied in Phase II when the team visits Darjeeling. They also brought forth the challenges they had to deal with. Out of which resistance faced from the interviewees was the one faced by almost all state partners.

Himachal Pradesh State Partners shared the unfortunate experience they had during the fieldwork in which their investigators were manhandled by hospital authorities at the time of collection of prescriptions.

It was clarified that the data so far collected has been analysed and subsequently the statistical observations have been produced. It was estimated that within 15-20 days the field work for phase I is due to get completed.

The State Report to be written shall be outsourced.

While in case of the Gujarat State Partners, the report shall be written in-house by Mr. Rajendra Jani & Dr. Ketan Gandhi.

Pharmaceutical companies are generally seen in a rather bad light in Andhra Pradesh for the environmental damage they do, much like the police and the politicians for their corruption.

Even though the pharma firms continue to deny they have any adverse impact on the environment, cities like Hyderabad ó the bulk drug capital of the country and Jedimetla continue to suffer from rising levels of pollution.

Of late many media- sting operations in pharmaceutical firms have been conducted which has made it difficult for surveyors to go about conducting interviews. For this reason as well as others getting appointments is difficult and time-consuming.

An observation made in Himachal Pradesh was that the State Pollution Control Board circulated certain circulars to pharma firms whose meaning/ intention was very difficult to understand, thus their implementation being all the more farfetched.

The pharma players thus need training both in terms of technical details as well as legal expertise.

Briefing Paper

It was suggested to the State Partners that they should attempt to come up with a briefing paper or relevant publication on interesting issues that keep coming up in the course of the project.

State Reports

The Terms of Reference was shared with the project partners. The Partners have to submit two state level reports, one each on the pharmaceutical and the private healthcare sector.

Questionnaires for Phase II

The second phase of the fieldwork is due to start now. Five of the concerned questionnaires have been shared with the partners. The structure of the questionnaires was discussed and some changes have been incorporated in one of them to be followed as a reference for the others. Some need for an element of diplomacy and indirectness was felt in the questionnaires which was tried to be addressed.

Synthesis Report

The synthesis report for the project shall be written by Mr. Jens Christopher Andvig, NUPI. The overview of the same was shared within the Project team.