

ADVOCACY SEMINAR
ON
COLLUSIVE BEHAVIOR IN HEALTH DELIVERY SYSTEM-
NEEDS EFFECTIVE REGULATION in CHHATTISGARH

VENUE

HOTEL BABYLON INN
Jail Road
RAIPUR (CHHATTISGARH)

ORGANISED BY

Sutra SUSTAINABLE
Consulting AND INNOVATIVE
SOLUTIONS

Sutra Consulting Pvt Ltd, Bhubaneswar, Orrissa



CUTS International , Jaipur (Rajasthan)

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BACKGROUND

Healthcare services in the country are characterized by a profound contrast in performance between the private and the public sectors. While the upsurge in private participation in this sector would continue to meet the demand of the increasing populace, government needs to assess and adjust its role in this emerging environment. Through the initiation of the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) in 2005, a number of states have made progress with provision of quality healthcare services to its citizens. However, a number of challenges remain in the sector, especially since a large number of Indians still remain outside the reach of healthcare services.

Various imperfections in the market for healthcare services remain due to the combination of a number of factors, including huge information asymmetry between consumers and the providers, lack of coherency in policy formulation and implementation between the Centre and State, absence of proper regulatory oversight, etc. These imperfections have led to proliferation of market malpractices, which provide greater commercial benefits to providers at the detriment of the consumers. It is therefore logical to assume that curbing such market malpractices would be beneficial for consumers, not only in terms of monetary benefits (reduced costs of healthcare services) but also in enabling greater access to quality healthcare services.

A study in this direction named – ***“Collusive Behaviour in Healthcare Delivery in India: Need for Effective Regulation”*** referred to as the **COHED Project**, was initiated by CUTS with Sutra Consulting pvt. Ltd as the local counterpart of Chhattisgarh aiming at identifying possible medical malpractices in health delivery sector, assessing the scope and effectiveness of present regulatory mechanism to cope with the malpractices and to make recommendation for better regulatory outcome. The study includes a two phased survey first on the patients interacted from government hospitals of three district head quarters with a sample size of more than 300 . Also samples from diagnostic centres were covered. The second survey was on analysis of 250 medical prescription at the same places .

OBJECTIVES

- To share the study findings with the stakeholders including government counterparts
- To sensitize the civil society organisations for garnering support for advocating modified regulations for curbing the market malpractices

- To sensitize the issue in media

PARTICIPANTS PROFILE

There were more than 35 participants in the seminar who include from CSOs working on health issues, senior programme manager of SHRC, HOD of community medicines, CMO of district hospital, Activists, representatives from SAMARTHAN, CG Health Watch and CG Social Forum , representatives of HUP programme, HLPPT, CGVHA , PFI etc. Also there were representatives of media (five prominent daily newspapers from Chhattisgarh) .

PROCEEDINGS

The seminar started with a formal welcome address by Alok Acharya from Sutra Consulting Pvt Ltd. Deepak Xavier, from Oxfam again thrown light on the need to take up the study and touched the broad activities of Oxfam in health sector. He urged the participants present to take on the study findings and help the local government to adopt regulations that will curb the market malpractices. Vikash Batham of CUTS introduced the project and gave a brief introduction

The next session was taken by Dr Kamlesh Jain from SHRC who talked on the basic health profile of Chhattisgarh and the service delivery mechanism in the state. He highlighted the initiatives of Chhattisgarh government to ensure better health facilities and progress on clinical establishment act in Chhattisgarh. After his presentation, there were lot of debate on the various functions and malfunctions of government on health delivery mechanism. Prominent among them includes the questions raised by Dr Lalit Surjan from CG Social Watch, Dr Dhar Badgainya from CIMS Bilaspur, Ms Maneesha Sharma , Mr Sarvat Hussain Naqvi from UNDP etc.

The next session was on the presentation of the study findings by Vikas Batham from CUTS. Through a power point presentation he elaborated the study and its findings with deeper insight into the findings of the samples taken. The session continued with discussion with participants on the study outcome which points out to high cost of health care for patients, unavailability of medicines in public hospitals and incomplete diagnosis by doctors. Good practices of displaying hospital stock in District Hospital Pandri and availability of medicines within its dispensary was also highlighted. The study suggested government machinery as well as civil society to act positively and bring in regulatory provisions for containing collusion, make drug procurement transparent, display stock registers in the hospital and make the patients more aware about their rights and legal provisions.

The session followed with discussion and debate again on the various points. Dr. Yogendra Dhar Badgaiyan, HOD Department of Community Medicine, CIIMS Bilaspur stressed on the nexus between drug companies and doctors and revealed the fact that medicines are being purchased from private sources even if they are available within government hospitals. Mr. Peter Joseph, Project Director HUP Program, Raipur drew attention of the audience to the urgent need for public health facilities for urban poor and slum dwellers. Dr. Lalit Surjan, State convener, CG Social Watch Raipur questioned the effective functioning of Jeevn Deep Samities, community involvement in health rights and enhancing

efforts for IEC to create awareness and demand for just healthcare. Ms Maneesha Sharma from Sankalp, questioned on the methods and strategies of carrying forward the idea and ensuring regulation.

During the discussion, Dr Kamlesh Jain requested CUTS and Sutra consulting to approach the health department for taking up evaluation studies on Rastriya Swasthya Bima Yojna in Chhattisgarh. On a question he also updated the status of the policy initiation of state government on Nursing Home Act, Drugs controlling Act, Integrated Health and population Policy of the state etc.

After a prolonged discussion and interaction, Mr Alok Achary gave the note of thanks to all the participants and to CUTS .

The post Lunch session was continued with the updating and briefing to media representatives. More than five newspaper representatives have taken stock of situation. Major amongst them are representatives of Central Chronicle, Nav Bharat, Dainik Bhaskar, Hitawada, haribhoomi etc. All the media member were given the fact sheet and press report.