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“ The Challenge Initiative (TCI) India has closely partnered with the government to expand the reach and impact and continue the commitment to deliver high-quality Family Planning and Adolescent and Youth Sexual and Reproductive Health (AYSRH) services. TCI India takes the Business Unusual approach that is both pragmatic and creative. Recent enhancements to TCI India's coaching and mentoring model include a focus on gender inclusiveness, encouraging adolescent and youth participation, and addressing gender-specific needs.

Hitesh Sahni, Chief of Party TCI India

Event Highlight

NATIONAL-LEVEL DATA DISSEMINATION MEETING

Together with the Population Council of India, TCI India hosted a national-level data dissemination meeting on 'Enabling Urban Family Planning with High Impact Interventions' on the 14th of June, in New Delhi, under the leadership of Dr Divya Valecha, Asst. Commissioner, FP, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MOHFW). The event was attended by senior government officials, donors & development partners from BMGF, USAID, UNICEF India, Jhpiego, UP TSU, IPAS, researchers, academia, NGO partners, and students etc.



The panels discussed expansion of the basket of choice, digitization, community engagement, adoption of new methods, unmet needs and better health management system, accessibility to Family Planning services, and strengthening quality service delivery through high-impact intervention.



“ Dr Divya Valecha stressed upon the need to expand the basket of choices to all through health system strengthening, digitization and community engagement. ”

Integrating Adolescent and Youth in SRH Services

According to National Health Mission, the adolescent population in India is 253 million, which makes up 21% of the country's population. Every fifth person in India is an adolescent, and it becomes even more important to have meaningful youth engagement so as to ensure easy access to facility-based counselling and [Adolescent Friendly Health Clinics \(AFHCs\)](#) for adolescents and youth.

PRIORITIZING AYSRH AMONG ALL STAKEHOLDERS



TCI India hosted a National Meeting on Adolescent and Youth with the Adolescent Health Division, Ministry of MoHFW, Government of India, on February 14th, 2023, under the theme, "Prioritizing AYSRH among all stakeholders".

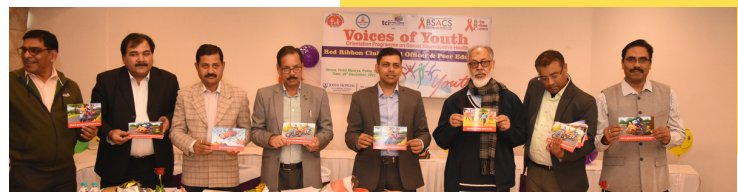
The meeting was chaired by Dr. Zoya Ali Rizvi, Deputy Commissioner (Adolescent Health), MoHFW.

“Dr Rizvi lauded the fascinating learning from young people present in the event and reminded 'Nothing for them without them'.”

Hitesh Sahni, COP, TCI India, affirmed TCI's commitment to scaling up Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram's (RKSK) strategies of AHD, Youth-led CCW in urban UP and [prioritizing AYSRH](#). Discussions were held on ways to support the government in developing guidelines and future policies to be more youth-centric for young people to live a holistic and purposeful life in which they can seek health services, including counselling and contraception, regardless of marital status. The event resulted in the youth's four demands: Shiksha, Sehat, Maan aur Pyaar (Education, Health, Respect and Affection).

'VOICES OF YOUTH' ORIENTATION CUM MEETING ON SRH

TCI India's 'Voices of Youth' orientation cum meeting on sexual reproductive health was held at Patna in collaboration with the SHS Bihar and Bihar State Aids Control Society (BSACS) under



the leadership of Program Director, Mr. Anshul Agarwal, IAS, in the presence of Dr Sajjad, State Program Officer (Family Planning) and Dr N.K. Gupta, Assistant Program Director (BSACS). The program provided orientation on SRH issues to nodal officers and many college students.

STATE-LEVEL RSKK PARTNERS GROUP MEETING TO STRENGTHEN AY SERVICES

TCI India discussed the learnings from the AYSRH initiatives conducted in urban areas at Lucknow. The meeting resulted in strategic engagement of TCI where TCI India would share a brief document on establishing facility Adolescent Health Day (F-AHD) as a best practice to



cater basic adolescent health services, including SRH, and that the national and state-level RSKK government officials will visit urban primary health centres (UPHCs) in Lucknow to observe F-AHD. Additionally, TCI India will support the RSKK division in organizing a state-level workshop on disseminating AYSRH learnings from TCI India initiatives.

Gender Inclusive Initiatives Yield Results

INCREASED MALE ENGAGEMENT IN FAMILY PLANNING

TCI India provided guidance and training on male engagement strategies to health workers in Bokaro, Jharkhand. TCI India aimed to increase male participation in family planning, promote gender equity and encourage adoption of male FP method. The strategy led to a number of NSV procedures at the secondary hospital and community health center (CHC) in Bokaro, known as Chhas increased to 21 in April-December 2022 from 3 in April-December 2021.

In addition, TCI India supported Community Health Workers (CHW) such as Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs), who demonstrated male community gatherings called 'Chauraha,' where men are encouraged to participate in family planning as individuals and partners actively. These efforts increased awareness and demand for NSV in the community, and the number of people coming to the [clinic seeking NSV methods has begun to rise](#).

FAMILY PLANNING (FP) COUNSELLING CORNER

The TCI team supported the government in creating a prototype of [FP counselling corner](#), a private space where people are more open to receiving FP services.



The Medical Officer in Charge (MOICs) entrusted Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANMs) with managing the FP counselling corner, where they counsel eligible clients and help them make an informed choice when selecting a family planning method. This initiative was appreciated by the state government, who then requested TCI India to support all other TCI intervention cities in having such corners.

Coaching and Mentoring Through TCI Mini University



In Bihar, TCI India unveiled its innovative [mini-university](#) program. The one-day Mini University workshop' was hosted jointly with the State Health Society (SHS) Bihar, where district urban health coordinators (DUHC) of 22 cities of Bihar, including seven intervention cities of TCI, participated. The master coaches shared their experience of operationalizing and scaling up high impact interventions /high impact practices (HII/HIP) in their cities. Through the mini-university, the TCI India model triggered demand from the SHS to provide coaching support in the non-TCI intervention cities.

Mentoring for Greater Impact

STATE-LEVEL CONSULTATION MEETING ON URBAN HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE IN BIHAR



A one-day meeting was organized in collaboration with the SHS Bihar, and TCI India on June 8th. TCI's efforts to improve access to family planning services in its seven supported cities were lauded by state health officials, who now will scale up (HII/HIP) across the entire state.

The meeting allowed stakeholders to discuss the implementation and achievements of the state's family planning program. They examined family planning services offered by the National Urban Health Mission (NUHM), challenges and opportunities, such as the encouraging positive results from the (HII/HIP) being [implemented in the seven Bihar cities](#) supported by TCI India.

STATE-LEVEL PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP MEETING, JHARKHAND



TCI India's rigorous coaching and advocacy efforts resulted in NHM–Jharkhand [prioritising private sector engagement](#) in the family planning program. As a result, NHM conducted PPP meetings at the state level, including all 24 districts, Govt. officials and private providers in three batches.

COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS TRAINED FOR GREATER REACH AND IMPACT

At the city government's request, TCI India provided technical support in organizing the training of [CHWs](#), such as [ASHAs](#) and ANMs, under the leadership of the district urban health coordinator (DUHC) and the city urban health manager (CUHM). The CHWs were inducted to boost the demand aggregation efforts in the intervention cities of UP, Bihar and Jharkhand. The major topics covered during the training included the importance of a basket of family planning choices, counselling, preparation of a FP due list, method-specific information to clarify myths, fertility awareness etc.



EXPOSURE CUM CROSS-LEARNING VISIT

A one-day exposure cross-learning visit was conducted in Gaya, Bihar, for all the TCI India Bihar team. The field visit aimed to provide an insight and the cross-learning among the city teams by observing two ideal [UPHCs of Gaya](#), which were also awarded as the best-performing UPHCs.

DIVISIONAL REVIEW MEETING

Master coaches with TCI India support shared family planning and the private sector's progress. During the meeting, the main discussion points were the implementation of HII, ASHA's incentives; review of the 2022-23 FMR budget and expenditure; monthly reporting on HMIS; Progress of Health and Wellness centre in Kanpur, Etawah, Farrukhabad and Auraiya under the 15th Finance Commission.



Rewards and Recognition for TCI India

- The government leadership under the chairmanship of AD Health & Family Welfare recognized TCI India for the excellent coaching and mentoring support to 'urban family planning' in Kanpur, Moradabad, Bijnor, Mau, and Jhansi.



- TCI India team received an award from the CMO at the district level for providing outstanding urban family planning support in Agra, Bulandshahar, Firozabad, Varanasi, Rampur, and Etawah. The urban UPHCs in Agra were also awarded second place for maximum injectable contraceptive (Antara) uptake.
- TCI India supported UPHCs were also awarded for best performance in family planning in Bihar for 2022, basis quality and quantity norms defined by the SHS.
- Seventy per cent (19 out of 27) UPHCs in Bihar were awarded for Kayakalp, a National initiative to ensure hygiene, sanitation and cleanliness in public health facilities.

Key Visits to TCI India's Projects

- Kate Graham, Sr. Program & Technical Manager, Bill & Melinda Gates Institute for Population and Reproductive Health, Johns Hopkins University Baltimore, visited India from September 19th to October 2nd, 2022. She visited to observe the implementation of the TCI program in India. During interaction with the TCI team in Bihar, Kate discussed the various issues related to TCI project implementation, roll out of HIPs and challenges in implementing these (HII/HIP).

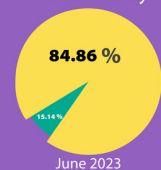


- The Executive Director of Gates Institute, Kojo Lokko, visited Bihar on February 16th 2023. During his trip, he visited District Hospital and State Health Society (SHS, Bihar). He also visited UPHC Marufganj, where he interacted with CHWs and observed mobilizing and serving of FP clients.



By the end of June 2023, 15.14% of TCI U visitors were from India. A total of 5,095 people from India visited TCI U, including 4,930 new visitors.

TCI University



June 2023

Publications

[Family Planning](#) Counselling Corners Expand in Jharkhand, India, to Help Clients Choose a Method

TCI India Urban Tales: Nothing Stops This Gaya ANM from Providing [Family Planning](#) Counselling

TCI Supports Jharkhand City of Bokaro with Strategies to [Increase Male Engagement in Family Planning](#)

TCI's Initial [Impact in Seven Cities in Bihar](#), India, Leads to State-wide Scale Up of Best Practices