

Internship
at
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Internship Report

The India Nutrition Initiative, TATA TRUSTS

Addressing the malnutrition challenge in the Indian context is one of the key focus area for the Trusts. Tata Trusts, under the leadership of Mr. Tata, have prioritized malnutrition because of the alarming statistics that we have in the country and the inter-generational consequences the problem has. Malnutrition is believed to be the underlying cause of over 45 percent of under-five mortality. India has a high prevalence of childhood stunting and maternal and childhood anemia. These can have long-term effects on cognition and overall productivity. There is evidence that malnutrition can result in potential Gross Domestic Product (GDP) losses of 2-3 percent and a more than 10 percent potential reduction in lifetime earnings for each malnourished individual.

Given the multi-factor and complex nature of the issue, Tata Trusts have adopted a multi-pronged approach to be able to address the issue of malnutrition effectively and at scale. Tata Trusts will make strategic investments that will play a gap filling or a catalytic role in the ecosystem and engender better health outcomes. The effort broadly, has been to look for existing and emerging 'platforms' to deliver enhanced nutrition. To address the challenge of stunting, Tata Trusts are taking an intense multi-sectoral approach looking at maternal care, water and sanitation, behavioral change communication and poverty alleviation in an integrated way. To address the challenge of micronutrient deficiencies, Tata Trusts are looking at fortification of staple food vehicles such as flour, salt, oil, and milk.

Some of the key initiatives undertaken by the Trusts are:

- i. Community based Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) in Nandurbar, Maharashtra - a three arm trial run using existing Government machinery
- ii. Centralised kitchens for Tribal schools - hygienic, nutritious food reaches 15,000 children everyday through these kitchens
- iii. Promotion of double fortified salt- ensuring availability and affordability through demand and supply aggregation. In addition, Tata Trusts have created 'The India Nutrition Initiative' with a panel of leading experts, in order to develop and advocate an informed stand on policy relating to nutrition. Tata Trusts are also investing in the development of a rapid survey tool for effective programming and

planning of a multi-sectorial approach towards nutrition and a data portal to access nutrition data on a click of a button.