

A study on Access and Demand Generation of Pneumococcal Vaccine in 4 Districts of Punjab (Summer Internship Project at John Snow International)

Brief History:- John Snow Inc. (JSI) is a Global Public Health consulting organization dedicated to greater health equity and improving the health of individuals and communities and providing an environment where people of passion can pursue this cause.

Department of Health and Family Welfare, Punjab, provides Primary and Secondary Healthcare to nearly 3 crore population of the State. The State has a very good routine immunization coverage and is among the frontrunners in the country for Full Immunisation Coverage (FIC).

Organization vision- Building stronger Health Systems and Healthier communities.

Organisation Mission- To improve the health of underserved people and communities and to provide a place where people of passion and commitment can pursue their cause.

Organization structure - JSI has implemented projects in 106 countries and currently operates from eight U.S. and 60 international offices, with more than 500 US-based professionals and 1,600 host country staff. JSI collaborates with government agencies, the private sector, and local non-profit and civil society organizations to identify and implement solutions to public health challenges with emphasis on the technical areas, like, Ageing, Adolescent health, Behavioural health including substance use, Environmental health, Emergency preparedness, Family planning, HIV/AIDS, Health care financing, Healthcare reform, Health services delivery, Health supply chain logistics including contraceptive security, Immunization, Infectious diseases, Health Information Technology, Public Health Systems, Quality Management, Women's health, Emerging health threats.

JSI was entrusted with the task to provide

- overall techno-managerial support for the rollout of PCV
- development of the preparedness assessment tool
- plan for PCV introduction in States/UTs in coordination with partners, and support Government and Partners for capacity building of health personnel at various levels for PCV introduction
- assist in cold chain assessment in states as required
- up-gradation of existing guidelines and select IEC materials to support PCV introduction in States/UT
- Track the progress of PCV introduction, prepare progress reports, dashboards, and bulletins and share with MoHFW and other stakeholders for necessary corrective measures.

Learning and Value additions done during internship

* The current Project was carried out in 4 districts of Punjab (Ludhiana,

Gurdaspur, Amritsar and SAS Nagar).

* **Designing and pretesting a questionnaire**

* **Conducting fieldwork** - An important learning was the art of interviewing and interacting with the Government Officers and Officials

* **Data collection, data entry, data analysis and presentation**- Data collection, analysis, preparation of the report and finally presentation of data were the important learnings of the Project.



Difference between practical exposure and theoretical work

* Though the theory was well taught/discussed by the faculty of IIHMR, the practical exposure in the field gave an opportunity to apply the theoretical knowledge practically and thus learn the actual application of what was discussed

STRENGTHS

- * Renewed and established Organization
- * Robust Immunization coverage in the State
- * Good Theoretical background

OPPORTUNITIES

- * Learned Analysis
- * Forming Questionnaire
- * Conducting Interview



WEAKNESS

- * Designing and Pretesting Questionnaire
- * Analysis

THREATS

- * Wastage of resources due to lack of expertise in IT- wastage of time in filling forms, interviews, data entry etc.

4. Challenges faced during Internship:

* Interaction with the Healthcare Providers was a Challenge as they were too busy with their official work.

5. Usefulness of Internship:

* The Internship has helped widen my horizons and made me recognize the importance of fieldwork vis-à-vis classroom teaching.

* I am now able to

- Create a survey questionnaire
- Create data sheets and analyze data
- Understand the importance of fieldwork

Conclusion:

At the end of the survey, it was concluded that the introduction of PCV in all the surveyed districts was done successfully and it was taken positively by the health care providers as well as the community. Since the literacy and full immunization coverage are both high in Punjab, no major challenges were faced by the health workers in motivating the community or administration of vaccines. Good training sessions conducted at block and district levels for the ANMs/ ASHAs to make them understand the importance of the vaccine were of great help in introduction of new vaccine. The cold-chain space available was sufficient to keep the vaccine safe. Also, the health workers did not feel any extra burden due to new vaccine introduction.

Suggestions:

- The State should plan training for the ANM and ASHA at regular intervals
- Keep a record of the progress of vaccination and maintain Health Worker copies of MCP Cards for easy accessibility of