

## **IMPROVING COMMUNITY HEALTH THROUGH COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIPS:AS A STRATEGY**

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### **Introduction:**

Health is a fundamental human right and a global social goal. It is pertinent for the realization of basic human needs and for a better quality of life.

India is one of the fastest growing economies of the world. The very essential components of primary health care are:

- ✓ promotion of food supply
- ✓ proper nutrition
- ✓ safe water and basic sanitation
- ✓ provision for quality health information concerning the prevailing health problems

The above mentioned prevailing problems are largely ignored. Access to healthcare services, provision of essential medicines and scarcity of doctors are other blockage in the primary health care setting.

In developing countries, there is growing awareness that detaining the increase in health costs and improving the health outcomes will require approaches that address the full

arrangement of factors that affect health. More attention and resources must be dedicated to promoting a safer environment, healthy lifestyles, prevention of illnesses and injuries, and early detection and treatment of health problems, as well as dealing with the underlying determinants of health.

A collaborative partnership is a union among people and organizations from multiple sectors, such as schools and businesses, working together to achieve a common purpose. In public health, collaborative partnerships try to improve conditions and outcomes related to the health and well-being of entire communities. When the focus is a community, those affected may include people who share a common place, such as a rural community or an urban community or an experience, such as being a child or living in poverty.

Collaborative partnerships is a proposal of opportunities to develop, transfer and/or implement innovative outputs and/or engage into intensive dissemination and exploitation activities of existing and newly products or innovative ideas in different areas relating to sport and physical activity. Collaborative partnerships are a prominent strategy for community health improvement.

Collaborative partnerships are frequently fusion strategies that may include aspects of social planning, community organizing, community development, policy advocacy, and acting as a catalyst for modifications in community health.

The “Indian States Health Innovation Partnership,” seeks to address health information gap and encourage subnational health care cooperation between Indian government entities and external partners. The primary goal is to strengthen health outcomes in India by methodically identifying which Indian states are ripe for innovative partnerships with international institutions and broadcasting these opportunities publicly to spur future partnerships.

Many countries have made significant progress towards achieving the 2015 Millennium Development Goals, particularly in health. The global community is now considering the development priorities and challenges with a focus on impact, equity and sustainability. An intergovernmental working group has proposed a 2030 sustainable development goal (SDG) for health that aims “to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages”.

In order to improve the health of community health a collaborative partnerships which is intended to identify and examine a set of successful partnerships including hospitals, public health departments, and other organizations that are working together to improve the health of communities they serve and establish lessons learned from their collective experience.

**Purpose:**

- For successful collaborative partnerships sectors such as hospitals, public health departments, and other stakeholders who pledge to improve the health of communities they serve.
- Collaborative partnerships are a promising strategy for engaging people and organizations in the common purpose of addressing community-determined issues of health and well-being.
- Understanding and improving the way partnerships create community and systems change and related improvement in widespread behaviour and population-level health outcomes offer an abundance of opportunities for improving the science and practice of community health promotion.

**Objectives:**

- To identify collaborative partnerships including hospitals and public health departments that are focused on improving community health;
- To create information and insights that will contribute leaders of public and private organizations and policy makers in building strong, successful partnerships designed to improve community health.
- To describe the elements of successful collaboration between health care and public health organizations and professionals.

**Need for collaborative partnerships improving community health.**

1. An estimated 469 million people in India do not have regular access to essential medicines.
2. Around 63% of primary health centres did not have an operation theatre and 29% lacked a labour room, community health centres were short of 81.5% specialists like surgeon, gynaecologists and paediatricians.
3. In 2014, 58% Indians in rural areas and 68% in urban areas said they use private facilities for inpatient care, according to the 71st round of the National Sample Survey.
4. Various studies have shown the rising out-of-pocket expenditures on healthcare is pushing around 32-39 million Indians below the poverty line annually.
5. 7% of Indians fall below the poverty line just because of indebtedness due to this expenditure, as well as that this figure hasn't changed much in a decade. About 23% of the sick can't afford healthcare because of these payments.

6. 55 million Indians were pushed into poverty in a single year due to unaffordable healthcare.
7. 33 out of 55 million fell under the poverty line due to expenditure on medicines alone.

### **Fundamental Features of Fruitful Collaborative Partnerships**

1. **Vision, Mission, and Values:** The partnership's vision, mission, and values are clearly stated, reflect a strong focus on improving community health, and are firmly supported by the partners.
2. **Partners:** The partners demonstrate a culture of collaboration with other group/organizations understand the challenges in forming and operating partnerships and enjoy mutual respect and trust.
3. **Goals and Objectives:** The goals and objectives of the partnership are clearly stated, widely communicated, and strongly supported by the partners and the partnership staff.
4. **Organizational Structure:** A durable structure is in place to carry out the mission and goals of the collaborative arrangement. This can take the form of a legal entity, affiliation agreement, memorandum of understanding, or other less formal arrangements such as community coalitions.
5. **Leadership:** The partners jointly have designated highly qualified and dedicated persons to manage the partnership and its task.
6. **Partnership Operations:** The partnership institutes programs and drives them effectively.
7. **Program Success and Sustainability:** The partnership is effective and clearly has demonstrated successful performance.
8. **Performance Evaluation and Improvement:** The partnership monitors and measures its performance periodically against agreed-upon goals, objectives and effectiveness.

### **Effective ways for refining collaborative partnerships for improving community health are:**

- Create and maintain interest
- Coordinate efforts
- Control of resources
- Address encounters that arise
- Recognize and involve additional partnering networks to expand and sustain health care services access and
- Share new resources and lessons learned as quickly as possible.

**Endorsements for community leaders, health care workers and policy makers to consider when developing effective and durable partnerships:**

1. Partnerships should be focused on improving community health includes hospitals and public health departments as core partners.
2. Partnerships should be built on a foundation of pre-existing, trust-based relationships among principal founding partners. Other partners can and should be added as the organization becomes operational, but building and maintaining trust among all members is essential.
3. In the context of their particular community's health needs, the capabilities of existing organizations, and resource restrictions, those who decide to establish a new partnership devoted to improving community health should adopt a statement of mission and goals that focuses on clearly-defined, high priority needs and will inspire community-wide interest, engagement and support.
4. For long-term achievement, partnerships need to have one or more "anchor institutions" with commitment to the partnership's mission and strong promise to provide on-going financial support for it.
5. Partnerships focused on improving community health should have a designated body with a clearly-defined charter that is empowered by the principal partners to set policy and provide strategic leadership for the partnership.
6. Partnership leaders should strive to build a clear, mutual understanding of "population health" in so far as possible the community at large.
7. To enable evidence-based evaluation of a partnership's progress in achieving its mission and goals and fulfil its accountability to key stakeholders, the partnership's leadership must specify the community health measures they want to address, the particular objectives and targets they intend to achieve, and the metrics they will use to track and monitor progress.
8. All partnerships focused on improving community health should place priority on developing and disseminating "impact statements" that present an evidence-based picture of the effects the partnership's efforts are having in relation to the direct and indirect costs it is incurring.
9. To enhance sustainability all partnerships focused on community health improvement should develop a deliberate strategy for broadening and diversifying their sources of funding support.

10. If they have not already done so, the governing boards of non-profit hospitals and health systems and the boards of local health departments should establish standing committees with oversight responsibility for their organization's engagement in examining community health needs, establishing priorities, and developing strategies for addressing them, including multi-sector collaboration focused on community health improvement.
11. If they have not already done so, local, state, and federal agencies with responsibilities related to population health improvement and hospital and public health associations should adopt policy positions that promote the development of collaborative partnerships involving hospitals, public health departments, and other stakeholders focused on assessing and improving the health of the communities they serve.

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