Bandhan Health Program (BHP)
JOURNEY OF BANDHAN HEALTH PROGRAM (BHP)

Bandhan Konnagar (BK), founded by Mr. Chandra Shekhar Ghosh, is a not-for-profit organization, registered in 2001 under the Societies Registration Act 1961.

In 2007, BK started its health program in Howrah district, West Bengal. It is continuing its journey with significant growth and now spread across in Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha, Rajasthan, Tripura and West Bengal. As on March, 2019 it has more than 580 motivated staffs and around 7150 Health Volunteers (Swastha Sahayika), and is catering around 1.4 million households, out of which the program facilitates installation of WATSAN products to around 1.25 lakh households, and also provides services to around 17 thousand households through its safe water initiatives.
OBJECTIVES

- To increase health awareness and behavioral change of the rural community
- To create linkages/referrals with existing health institutions for ensuring easy accessibility
- To provide affordable medical services
- To develop health entrepreneurs/volunteers
- To facilitate in financial linkage for WATSAN
- To provide treated drinking water at low cost

TARGET GROUP

The health initiative targets all households of selected Gram Panchayats with special focus on children, adolescent girls and women

WORKING AREA SELECTION CRITERIA

- Backward districts of India.

MAJOR ACTIVITIES

Bandhan Health Program conducts its activities in the community from a residential branch for 3 years by trained staffs (Health Community Organizer- HCO) with the help of Health volunteers (Swastha Sahayika – SS) who are locally recruited from the community. Each SS is responsible to look after 150-200 households. Baseline and end line surveys are done to know the current status of health issues and improvement as per certain indicators.

- Monthly village level health awareness forum with target beneficiaries on different health issues (Maternal & child health, Family planning, Nutrition, Sanitation & hygiene, prevention of communicable diseases, Non communicable diseases etc.)
- Regular household level counseling to ensure adoption of healthy behavior
- Technical assistance in accessing financial support for setting up water connection and sanitary latrine
- Community awareness initiative (Seminar/ Rally) on different issues (World health day, World sanitation day, World breastfeeding week, National Nutrition Week etc.)
- Service centers:
  - Water treatment plant for providing safe drinking water.
  - Bandhan health care – Polyclinic with complete doctor’s consultation, diagnostics and pharmaceutical provision.
  - Rural health center – Only doctor’s consultation provision
- Kitchen garden to improve nutritional status
- Offering health products by Swastha Sahayika
PARTNERS DURING THE JOURNEY OF BHP

- At present BHP works with Bandhan Bank Ltd, HDFC Life, Bajaj Finance Ltd, Water.org, Eureka Forbes
- In the past BHP worked with FFHIT, FWWB-India, PSI-India, Disha Eye Hospital, Susrut Eye Foundation, P&RDD, MOH&FW (West Bengal Govt.)

IMPACT SUSTAINABILITY

Usually BHP withdraws its operation from working area after 3 years and we believe that once a community adopt healthy behavior it contributes to good health and persists for long time and it has been visualized in a study done by Brigham Young University, Department of Health Science, Provo, UT, after 4 years of completion of a project (MAHP) with FFHIT.

Potential areas for collaboration: Health care centers and Water treatment plant.

Some of the issues discussed at the health forums are:
- Planning for better health
- Family planning
- Care of pregnant women
- Antenatal care
- Safe delivery
- Care of sick child
- Breast feeding
- Nutrition
- Water & sanitation
- Diarrhea

Program Highlights

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