

Village Health & Sanitation Committee

National Rural Health Mission envisages the community to take leadership at local level, related to health and its related issues. It will be possible only when the community is sufficiently empowered to take leadership in health matters. Clearly, it requires involvement of Panchayati Raj Institutions in the management of the health system. This could be possible if a committee is formed in each village under the chairmanship of Gram Panchayat member and representative from the community such as gaon budha, women's group, and SC/ST/OBC / minority communities etc. Hence, for the development of the village in each village wherever there is an ASHA Village Health & Sanitation Committee has been formed by providing untied grant for village level activities.

For efficient functioning of the VHSC few roles and responsibilities have been laid down for the committee –

A. Role of the VHSC

1. The VHSC will be responsible for the overall health of the village. It will take into consideration of the problems of the community and the health and nutrition care providers and suggest mechanism to solve it
2. It will create public awareness about the essentials of health programmes, with focus on people's knowledge of entitlements to enable their involvement in the monitoring.
3. It will discuss and develop a village health plan based on an assessment of the village situation and priorities identified by the village community.
4. Analyze key issues and problems related to village level health and nutrition activities, give feedback on these to the Medical Officer of the PHC.
5. The committee will monitor all the health activities that are conducted in the village such as Village Health & Nutrition Day, mothers meeting etc.
6. VHSC along with the ANM will be responsible to conduct household survey in the village.

7. It will maintain village health register and the health information board. The health register and board will be put up at the most frequented section of the village and will have information about the mandated services in the Sub Centre/PHC.
8. It will ensure that the ANM visit the village on the fixed days and perform the stipulated activity as per the Sub Centre workplan; oversee the village health and nutrition functionaries like ANM.
9. The committee will monitor all the health activities that are conducted in the village such as Village Health & Nutrition Day, mothers meeting etc.
10. ANM will submit a bi monthly village report to the committee along with the plan for next two months. Formats and contents would be decided by the village health committee. Discuss the report submitted by ANM in the village level meeting and take appropriate action.
11. It will discuss every maternal or neonatal death that occurs in their village, analyze it and suggest necessary action to prevent such deaths. Get these deaths registered in the Panchayat.

12. The committee will organize regular monthly meeting to discuss various issues in the village and document the minutes of the meeting.

13. The committee shall ensure that **Public Dialogue** is organized at regular intervals (once in six month) in the presence of Medical Officer of the Primary Health Care Centre. The committee shall ensure that all the issues discussed are recorded and action taken on the issues discussed.
14. The VHSC will also play vital role for selecting and supporting the ASHA from the community
15. Other than health related issues VHSC will also be responsible for the development of the village.
16. The VHSC will also take care of the Sub Centre.
17. The VHSC will be responsible to inform the community about all the government schemes.

B. Utilization of the Untied Grant

1. The untied grant is a resource for community action at the local level and shall only be utilized for community activities that involve and benefit more than one house hold.

2. The committee will utilize the fund after taking resolution in the VHSC monthly meeting and also share the information of utilization of fund with the villagers during village meeting or public dialogue.
3. The committee will not withdraw the total amount of Rs. 10,000/- at one go.
4. The VHSC will be responsible for arranging all the essential instruments such as BP instruments, weighing machine, examination table, screen for maintenance of privacy during health check up and other support required in organizing Village Health & Nutrition Day in the village by the ANM. It will also provide Rs.100/- to ASHA for organizing monthly Village Health & Nutrition Day.
5. The procured instruments will remain in the custody of VHSC and during health day or for other health related events the health workers will use the instruments and return it to the committee at the end of the day
6. The committee from its untied fund of Rs. 10,000/- will arrange for the tea/ snacks for the gathered women, children and other beneficiaries during the Village Health & Nutrition Day.
7. The committee will contribute on behalf of 10 poor BPL families in a year @ Rs. 300/- for allotment of sanitary latrine under Total Sanitation Campaign
8. The fund can be utilized for village level activities such as cleanliness and sanitation drive, school health activities, building transport communication link for transferring the patient to health facilities, health awareness activities, house hold surveys, improving the facilities of the Anganwadi Centre and any other developmental activities for the village/community.
9. The committee will also utilize the fund for wall writing of slogan on health and sanitation along with awareness activities in the village.
10. During emergency like flood or any epidemic the committee will utilize the fund for the relief camps or supplies such as in case of flood it can supply Halogen tablet for purification of water, ORS, Bleaching powder etc.
11. The committee can procure bicycle for ASHA if it feel that the distance covered by them is too far within the village to reach the households and provide health care service and therefore causing hindrance for them to cater all the households.
12. The committee will utilized the fund for making signboard in the meeting place of VHSC.

C. Maintenance of Funds

1. The committee will be entitled for annual grant of Rs. 10,000 for village level activities.
2. The VHSC shall maintain a register of funds received and expenditure incurred and relating it to the activities undertaken.
3. The committee will manage the village health fund for various health activities including public awareness about family welfare, immunization, pregnancy, malaria and other issues including health, preparation of health register, and organization of meetings at the village level, house hold survey, sanitation drives or any requirement in conducting the health activities as per the discretion of the VHSC.
4. The committee will maintain accounts and timely submit the utilization certificate and statement of expenditure for the money received to the Primary Health Centre.

D. Maintenance of Registers

- Village Health Register
- Birth & Death Register
- Public Dialogue Register
- Referral Register
- Untied Grant Register