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ANAMAYA, THE TRIBAL HEALTH COLLABORATIVE


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Vision

To end preventable deaths among the tribal communities of India.

The Tribal Health Collaborative (THC) focusses on overcoming key health challenges faced by the 104 million tribal population across 177 tribal districts of India.

It aims to improve the following health indicators of tribal communities:

- Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child Health (RMNCH)
- Nutrition
- Communicable diseases, eg malaria, TB
- Non-communicable diseases, eg diabetes, hypertension

The Genesis

Tribal populations are amongst the most socio-economically marginalized sections, and while tribal healthcare usually falls within the ambit of rural healthcare, the difference in terrain, environment, social systems and culture, lead to tribal communities having their unique set of healthcare needs. It is crucial to identify the missing links in the story of tribal health in India starting with customized research that provides relevant, tailor-made solutions for tribal populations.

Anamaya was born from the dire need to bridge gaps in healthcare for tribal communities and bring their health coverage and indicators at par with the state average.

The significance of this collaborative is evident from the fact that it was launched by Hon. Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare Dr Harsh Vardhan and Hon. Union Minister of Tribal Affairs Shri Arjun Munda in April 2021.

Tribal Health Collaborative, pegged on collaboration and partnerships, brings together Central and State Governments, philanthropists, national and international foundations, NGOs, and institutions in tribal health research.

The Journey so far

Tribal Health Collaborative has already made considerable headway in its approach to improve tribal health

- Interacted with key community stakeholders – 2500 Tribal Healers, NGOs, Tribal Panchayati Raj Institution (PRI) members and Self-help groups (SHGs) across 5 states, to explore partnership models and to drive the design of the programme.
- Engaged with Tribal youth to gauge interest in leadership capability building
- Initiated partnerships with international and national research organizations to understand and serve the tribal health landscape better. Partnerships have been forged with National Institute of Research in Tribal Health, John Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, and University of Manitoba to name a few
- Partnered with Government – Signed 3 MoUs with Government and set up National Technical Support Unit (NTSU) for Tribal TB within the Central TB Division, Health Ministry
 - Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
 - Ministry of Tribal Affairs
 - Central Tuberculosis Division, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

Tribal Health Collaborative's 3-Pronged Approach:

1. Improve Community Participation: Onboard 10,000 Tribal healers/NGOs to eliminate preventable death.

- Building participatory spaces to understand and co-create solutions to address unique problems of tribal communities.
- Integrating tribal medicine by engaging with tribal healers for trust building, knowledge exchange, etc.
- Establishing exchange platform to facilitate knowledge exchange and improve participation at the grassroots level. A strong partnership ecosystem has been built along with PATH, JHPIEGO, Deloitte on improving tribal maternal and child health; and with USAID, BMGF, Min. of Tribal Affairs on Active Case Findings on TB.

3 campaigns to reach 2 crore tribal population are already underway:

- Aashwasan (Tribal TB Initiative, in partnership with Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, BMGF & USAID) launched in January 2022, to address vaccine hesitancy and TB Active Case Finding in 177 tribal districts.
- Vardaan – reducing vaccine hesitancy
- Saksham – improving maternal and child health, through good Governance and Accountability, Programme implementation and Operation at scale

2. Strengthen Research and Knowledge to influence Tribal Health Policies: Document, amplify and integrate 100 traditional tribal health practices

- Research, document and share existing tribe-specific knowledge and learnings by academic institutions and research bodies on different tribal health programmes widely. 5 knowledge products covering tribal health practices and tribal healers' ecosystem have already been documented.
- Influence tribal health policies while facilitating knowledge exchange between tribal health practitioners, think tanks and governments around tribal people's health seeking behaviour and challenges in delivery of health services.

3. Strengthen Public Health Systems that serve tribal populations

- Strengthen service delivery through capacity development of frontline workers and upgrade facilities like primary health centres (PHC), community health centres (CHC) and district hospitals
- Augment digital transformation to standardize patient health information, build technology capabilities of frontline workers and streamline supply chains