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F.No:2-38/UTHM/VHSNC/2011
Port Blair, Dated: 6th April, 2012

Office Order No: 497

The Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, GOI has decided to expand the role of Village Health & Sanitation Committee (VHSC) so as to include 'Nutrition' within its ambit with the active participation of Anganwadi Workers, ANMs and ASHAs. The committee henceforth will be named as Village Health, Sanitation and Nutrition Committee (VHSNC). In addition to the defined activities of VHSC as per NRHM framework of implementation, VHSNC will also engage with and monitor status, issues and action pertaining to nutrition.

The broadened mandate of VHSNC will include the following activities in addition to the existing mandate of VHSC.

- Create awareness about nutritional issues and significance of nutrition as an important determinant of health.
- Carry out survey on nutritional status and nutritional deficiencies in the village especially among women and children.
- Identify locally available food stuffs of high nutrient value as well as disseminate and promote best practices (traditional wisdom) congruent with local culture, capabilities and physical environment through a process of community consultation.
- Inclusion of Nutritional needs in the Village Health Plan – The committee will do an in-depth analysis of causes of malnutrition at the community and household levels, by involving the ANM, AWW, ASHA and ICDS Supervisors.
- Monitoring and Supervision of Village Health and Nutrition Day to ensure that it is organized every month in the village with the active participation of the whole village.
- Facilitate early detection of malnourished children in the community, tie up referral to the nearest Nutritional Rehabilitation Centre (NRC) as well as follow up for sustained outcome.
- Supervise the functioning of Anganwadi Centre (AWC) in the village and facilitate its working in improving nutritional status of women and children.
- Act as a grievances redressal forum on health and nutrition issues.

The committee may, preferably, act as a Sub-Committee of Gram Panchayat and function under the overall supervision of Gram Panchayat.

The Chairman, District Health Society of the concerned Districts are requested to include Nutritional activities within the ambit of Village Health & Sanitation Committee and implement the same as per the revised guidelines mentioned above with the new name "Village Health, Sanitation & Nutrition Committee."


(Dr.S.K.Paul)

Mission Director(UTHM)

Copy to :

- 1) The Chief Secretary, A & N Administration for kind information.
- 2) The Commissioner Cum Secretary (Health) for kind information.
- 3) Guard File


Mission Director(UTHM)