



Mission Directorate

National Rural Health Mission, Orissa
Department of Health & Family Welfare,
Government of Odisha.

Letter No.: OSH & FWS/ 13561 / 51508
From

Date: 10/10/11

Dr. Pramod Meherda, I.A.S.
Mission Director, NRHM &
Ex-Officio Addl. Secretary to Govt.

To

The Director, Social Welfare
Women and Child Development Deptt.
Govt. of Orissa

Sub: Expansion of the role of Gaon Kalyan Samiti (GKS) to include Nutrition as one of its core activities.

Madam,

As per recent communication received from Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of India, the Village Health and Sanitation committee (VHSC) which is known as Gaon Kalyan Samiti (GKS) in Orissa will be renamed as Village Health, Sanitation and Nutrition Committee (VHSNC) to expand its scope to include nutrition as one of its core activities. Thus, in addition to the defined activities of GKS, it will also engage with and monitor the status, issues and activities relating to nutrition. The broadened mandate of GKS will henceforward include the following activities in addition to the existing mandate of GKS.

- i) Create awareness about nutrition issues and significance of nutrition as an important determinant of health.
- ii) Carry out survey on nutritional status and nutritional deficiencies in the village especially among women and children.
- iii) 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.
- iv) 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.
- v) 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.
- vi) Facilitate early detection of malnourished children in the community, tie up referral to the nearest Nutritional Rehabitational Center (NRC) as well as follow up for sustained outcome:



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- vii) Supervise the functioning of Anganwadi Center (AWC) in the village and facilitate its working in improving nutritional status of women and children.
- viii) Act as a grievances redressal forum on health and nutrition issues.

Till date, more than 45000 Gaon Kalyan Samitis (GKS) are functional at the revenue village level of our State. Headed by Ward Member as the Chairperson, AWW as Convener and with the support of ASHA, SEM and other community members, it creates a wonderful opportunity to bring in intersectoral coordination and convergence to address the determinants of health through local level community action. To discuss the matter a meeting was held on 8th September, 2011 in the Mini Conference Hall of NRHM.

In view of the above, you are requested to issue necessary instructions to all concerned field level functionaries regarding the broadened mandate of GKS to include nutrition as one of its core activities. You may also like to instruct them to review the same in joint Health and ICDS meetings.

Yours faithfully

[Signature]
20/07/2011

Mission Director, NRHM, Odisha &
Ex-Officio Addl. Secretary to Govt.

Dated 10/10/11

Memo no. 13562

Copy submitted to Commissioner-cum-Secretary, H & FW Department, Govt. of Orissa for kind information.

[Signature]
20/07/2011

Mission Director, NRHM, Odisha &
Ex-Officio Addl. Secretary to Govt.

Dated 10/10/11

Memo no. 13563

Copy submitted to Commissioner-cum-Secretary, W&CD Department, Govt. of Orissa for kind information.

[Signature]
20/07/2011

Mission Director, NRHM, Odisha &
Ex-Officio Addl. Secretary to Govt.

Dated 10/10/11

Memo no. 13564

Copy forwarded to all District Magistrate and Collectors for information.

[Signature]
20/07/2011

Mission Director, NRHM, Odisha &
Ex-Officio Addl. Secretary to Govt.

Dated 10/10/11

Memo no. 13565

Copy forwarded to all CDMOs for information.

[Signature]
20/07/2011

Mission Director, NRHM, Odisha &
Ex-Officio Addl. Secretary to Govt.