**Scope of Work**

Mentor-Mentee Program

**Concept Note**

**Exploring processes of community participation in health in urban informal settlements of Mumbai**

**Background**

Community participation is one of the core components of primary health care and an indispensable strategy for health systems strengthening [1, 2]. It is a process which empowers individuals, communities to enhance self-care and become self-reliant to take charge of their health by actively engaging in policy decisions, program planning and implementation [3]. In India, the National Health Mission builds on the notion of community processes to achieve universal access to health care. Village Health Sanitation Committees (VHSNCs), Jan Arogya Samitis and Rogi Kalyan Samiti (RKS) facilitates the community participation in rural areas whereas Mahila Arogya Samiti (MAS) were created in urban areas to enable communities to actively participate, support and monitor the delivery of services concerning wider social determinants of health [4].

Literature suggests that community participation is a relevant strategy for health programs to improve health status of the people especially in vulnerable communities [5, 6, 7]. However, it is a complex process and may not always achieve the desired outcomes [8, 9]. It is crucial to design context specific community participation interventions to improve the access and acceptance to the health services [8, 10, 11, 12]. Globally, various studies have assessed the role of community participation in health programs [13, 14]. In the Indian context, few studies have examined the role of VHSNCs and RKSs in health systems and highlighted the challenges to sustain these communities [15, 16, 17, 18, 19]. But, similar processes of community participation in urban areas have been less explored. Review of literature suggests that very little is known about the urban participatory processes. One systematic review has explored the outcome of community participation in high-and-middle-income countries [5] and one scoping review has explored community participation in the context of rural health [20]. One systematic review has explored the extent, nature and quality of community participation in health systems intervention in low-and-middle-income countries [21]. To the best of our knowledge there are very few studies which have examined the community participation in health in urban informal settlements. We seek to fill this knowledge gap through our study.

With this background, we propose this study to explore the processes of community participation and document the experiences of community volunteers in context of the challenging circumstances of urban informal settlements. This study aims to

1. To explore the processes of community participation in health in urban informal settlements 2. To understand community participation in health in urban informal settlements

**Methodology**

For the first objective ‘To explore the processes of community participation in health in urban informal settlements’ we will conduct a scoping review of available literature on the topic [22]. We will summarize evidence to identify key concepts, theories and knowledge gaps which might have policy implications. For our second objective ‘To understand community participation in urban informal settlements’ we plan to document the experiences of an NGO in implementing participatory processes as evidence suggests

that NGOs have successfully utilized such processes for sustainable community development [7, 23]. In addition, we will interview the volunteers associated with the NGO to learn from their experiences of working in the field of health and also to capture rich insights around themes emerging from scoping review.

| **Objectives** | **Methods** |
| --- | --- |
| To explore the processes of community participation in health in urban informal settlements | A scoping review of literature on community participation in urban informal settlements across Lower- and Middle-Income Countries (LMICs) |

|  | -develop protocol and eligibility criteria for the selection of sources of evidence  -comprehensive literature search to identify sources of evidence  -screen relevant sources of evidence  -extract results |
| --- | --- |
| To understand community participation in urban areas better by  1. documenting the experiences of an NGO, SNEHA\*, that have tried to implement such processes  2. doing case-stories of urban community volunteers working on health to understand their lived experiences | In-depth interviews#  -purposively select study participants to get a diverse sample according to age, gender and duration as a volunteer  -prepare interview guide and conduct in-depth interviews with community volunteers  -interview transcription, coding using NVivo and MS word  -identify patterns and emerging themes -finalization of themes  -results |

*\*The Society for Nutrition, Education and Health Action (SNEHA)- A non-governmental Organization working in urban informal settlements of Mumbai.*

*#Researcher plans to conduct interviews with the community volunteers of a project in SNEHA. The project has received ethical approval and some data from community volunteers have been collected. Researcher might do more interviews as needed by the scope of the study.*

**Relevance of the study**

Fast and unplanned urbanization in the country has resulted in the increase in population living in urban informal settlements [24]. Health status of the people living in urban slums is much worse than their rural counterparts [25]. Public health system in urban areas is overburdened and any public health emergency similar to COVID-19 can easily push it into the verge of collapse. Responding to a crisis of this magnitude requires a robust and resilient health system which will need strengthening of all aspects including community participation. It can play a major role in health promotion, disease prevention and improving access to the health services. For this it is imperative to understand what processes can be adopted in urban context to have a successful community participation in health.

The scoping review in our study will give a better understanding of the community processes related concepts and theories relevant in urban setting. And, case stories of urban community volunteers will help us in identifying contextual factors which facilitates or hinders implementation of such initiatives. This study intends to provide some policy inputs for enhanced and sustained community participation in health in urban areas.

**Study timeline**

**September 2021**

**October 2021 November 2021 December 2021**

**Week 1 & 2 Week 3 & 4 Week 1 & 2 Week 3 & 4**

Develop

protocol for

selection of

sources of

evidence

Comprehensive literature search and screening of relevant

sources of

evidence

Extract results from selected evidences

Revise

interview

guide, if

needed

Review of

existing data, begin

interviews

Complete

interviews, begin data analysis

Finalize

findings

Prepare first draft of the report,

receive

inputs

Incorporate suggestions and finalize research

paper/policy brief

Research

paper /policy brief

submission and

presentation

**References**

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**Compensation**

The Consultancy fee for this engagement is USD 5,000(Inclusive of all indirect taxes). The payment will be disbursed in three instalments, in the proportions given below and the consultant should provide the invoice against each deliverable.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Instalment** | **Percentage** | **Amount (USD)** | **Deliverable/ Milestone** |
| 1 | 25 | 1250 | On Signing Contract |
| 2 | 25 | 1250 | On submission of literature review and methodology (including stakeholders for a qualitative interview and analysis plan) approved by the Mentor, and |
| 3 | 50 | 2500 | On submission of the final deliverable approved and accepted by the Mentor & AHI Team. |

**Term**

This engagement shall commence upon execution of this Agreement. The Agreement shall continue in full force and is effect from **September 15, 2021** to **December 15, 2021** and is extendable based on the review of Consultant’s performance by the Foundation and mutual concurrence on revised terms of engagement.