

Sensitization/Mobilization Workshop
on
‘Role of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in Health, Women Empowerment and other related issues’

Auhar, District Bilaspur, Himachal Pradesh
12th February, 2024

In an effort to strengthen the understanding and capabilities of Gram Pradhans of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) and Zila Parishads regarding their crucial role in health, women's empowerment, and related matters, and to cultivate their proficiency in effectively communicating with their constituents on these critical



subjects, a workshop was organized in Auhar, District Bilaspur, Himachal Pradesh on 12th February, 2024.

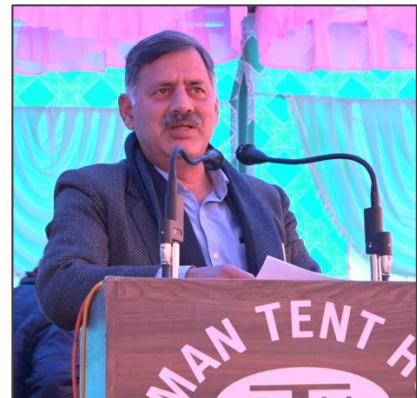
This workshop was organized on the initiative of Mr. Rajesh Dharmani, Minister of Technical Education, Government of Himachal Pradesh, a Member of the Standing Committee of IAPPD. Previously, IAPPD had successfully conducted a similar workshop for Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in Ghumarwin in February 2017.



Approximately 100 participants from Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs)/Zila Parishad, including Anganwadi Workers (AWW) and representatives from district health and Panchayat departments, actively participated in the workshop.

Mr. Tilak Raj Sharma, Ex-MLA, and Mrs. Bimla Devi, Chairperson, Zila Parishad, were also present on this occasion.

In his address, Mr. Rajesh Dharmani appreciated the commendable efforts of IAPPD. He highlighted the crucial role played by elected representatives in the effective implementation of government policies and programs designed for the welfare of the people. He stressed the significance of women's literacy, emphasizing that when women are educated, it leads to the education of the entire family, thereby contributing to the formation of an enlightened society. Additionally, he addressed the pressing issues of violence against women and the menace of drug abuse in our community.



Mr. Tilak Raj Sharma provided a comprehensive overview of the diverse schemes implemented by the Government of Himachal Pradesh, focusing on health, women's empowerment, education, and overall development in the region. Expressing optimism, he anticipated that the insights gained by the participants during this workshop would equip them to serve their respective areas and constituencies more effectively. Additionally, he extended gratitude to Mr. Rajesh Dharmani for his dedicated efforts in organizing this impactful workshop.

Speaking on behalf of the Members of PRIs/Zila Parishad, Mrs. Mridula Devi, Gram Pradhan, expressed her appreciation for the inclusive approach of this workshop. This marks the first occasion for her to witness such a

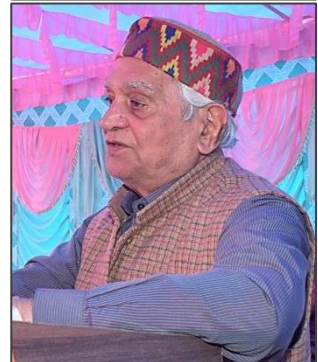


significant number of female elected representatives (ERs) being invited, especially in a workshop focusing on women's empowerment and health. Mrs. Devi highlighted the valuable learning experience these workshops provide to ERs, enabling them to share insights with their constituents and advocate for necessary actions from relevant authorities. She touched upon crucial topics such as sex ratio, education, and gender equality, expressing her hope for the continuation of such workshops in the future.

Mr. Susheel Kumar, District Statistics Officer, Bilaspur, made a technical presentation that explained numerous health indicators for both the district and the state. He emphasized the crucial role of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in addressing concerns related to education and health. Additionally, Mr. Kumar highlighted the importance of focusing on women's participation in the workforce, enhancing women's literacy, addressing crimes against women, and improving per capita income for women.



Another presentation was made by Prof. J.S. Yadav, a Member of the IAPPD Technical Advisory Committee. His presentation centered on advocacy, support, monitoring, and engaging with the community to apprise them of available services and encourage their acceptance. Prof.



Yadav highlighted that the active involvement of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in health services and programmes, including the Family Planning Programme, is not only good governance but also a strategic political move, creating a 'win-win situation' for all stakeholders.

Both of these presentations were received positively by the participants.

Mr. Manmohan Sharma, Executive Secretary, provided a comprehensive overview of the activities of IAPPD and explained the workshop's objectives. He hoped that the insights gained by participants from the workshop on women empowerment, health, and related issues would enhance their understanding of government policies and programmes. This knowledge, in turn, would empower them to effectively advocate within their constituencies and on relevant platforms.



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To conclude the event, participants were honored with participation certificates and IAPPD mementos. A lunch (*Dhaam*) featuring traditional Himachal cuisine was extended to all participants as a token of appreciation for their enthusiastic participation in the workshop.

