

Strengthening Community Health through Participatory Health Governance

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Background: *Good governance, an assumed precondition for effective service delivery leads to over all social and economic development in the society. governance in health involves processes along with mechanisms and institutions through which health service providers are able to meet the articulated and felt-needs of people. It also involves a provision of mechanism for participation of civil society and private sector along with the government in designing, implementing and monitoring of health policies, programmes and activities effectively. This study is about the people's participation in health governance thus strengthening health system and improving health outcomes.*

Objective: *To study the role of people's participation in the public health system at community level thus strengthening the health system and improving health outcomes.*

Methodology: *The study was carried out in the Chirang district of Assam in a Primary Health Center. The study included interaction with Medical Officers, Nurses, ASHAs and community members.*

Findings: *The Medical Officers reported 'improvement in health service delivery', the nurses felt 'sense of security to work due to community support and participation', ASHAs expressed 'sense of achievement about their work especially pregnant women' and community members expressed sense of 'health security' as a result of 'functioning health system' in the community. The community reported also about 90 percent reduction in home delivery.*

Key Terms: *Rural Health, Participatory Health Governance, Public Health System, Health Security, Health Outcomes.*