

Program Impact Overview: Achievements of V/WCPC

A LOVING FAMILY FOR EVERY CHILD:
TRANSFORMING INSTITUTIONAL CARE TOWARDS FAMILY
BASED CARE



Ward/Village Child Protection Committees (W/VCP)

The Integrated Child Protection Scheme, made it mandatory to form child protection committees in all districts and villages in India. The scheme was introduced in 2009 by the Department of Women & Child Development where village Child Protection Committees (CPCs) were combined with block and district level CPCs. This is the first time a community-based step towards child protection was taken where different members of the community identify and look out for children at risk and aid unprotected children and their families.

In the initial need assessment study conducted by Deepak Foundation in collaboration with Miracle Foundation India in 2020, absence of child protection committees at community level was identified.

It was found that there are no active child protection committees present in the community which is an important aspect as laid in the JJ Act, 2015. It was also identified that even the community members in Ramnagar and Chota Udepur were not aware about the Village/Ward level Child Protection committee (V/WCP).

V/WCPs are essential component of the project, as it establishes a gatekeeping mechanism at community level and prevents family separation. This moved Miracle Foundation India along with Deepak Foundation, to facilitate the establishment of a Village/Ward level Child Protection Committee (WCP) in these districts.

The model partnership project brings together partners including UNICEF India, the Department of Social Justice & Empowerment, Governments of Gujarat, Department of Women and Child Development Maharashtra and Deepak Foundation for the promotion of quality family based and alternative care for children



KPMG's Approach and Methodology For Impact Evaluation

The endline assessment conducted by KPMG aims to explain what has been done well and what can be improved, moving forward. It will not only assist in determining the significance of the project, including the efficiency of project design and interventions, sustainability of results, and impact of the intervention on the target community, but it will also provide guidance for expanding or replicating the successful initiatives while redesigning or ending the projects/initiatives that were unable to have the intended impact.

The study was conducted through a combination of qualitative and quantitative data collection techniques. These include in-depth interviews and focus group discussions with beneficiaries and key stakeholders, as well as secondary research in the multiple thematic areas for a baseline perspective.

SAMPLING

The community pilot project is being facilitated by Miracle Foundation India with the local implementing partner organization, Deepak Foundation in Gujarat and Maharashtra.

KPMG conducted focused group discussion (FGD) with Village/Ward Child Protection Committee members to collect data. 1 FGD was conducted in Chota Udepur, Gujarat wherein a total of 10 members participated. On the other hand, 1 FGD was conducted in Ramnagar, Pune, Maharashtra wherein 10 V/WCPC members were present.

KPMG asked them questions regarding:

- Major issues identified by V/WCPC
- The major impact of the trainings
- Their understanding of their roles and responsibilities
- The changes they have observed in the community



Journey Of V/WCPC Formation

Miracle visited the target location, wherein the observed that people of the community were not aware V/WCPC. They visited the Sarpanch of the village to check the level of awareness about V/WCPC, and it was identified that even the Sarpanch was not aware of V/WCPC. The team at Miracle Foundation India, then visit the DCPU Office. There they observed that a VCPC did exist on papers. The team lastly went to meet the people mentioned in the list, however none of them were aware that they are a part of the VCPC, neither were they aware of their roles and responsibilities.

In one of the Sarpanch meetings, Miracle facilitated the process of passing a resolution for forming a V/WCPC. 10 members from the community were nominated in the V/WCPC. These members were primarily the Sarpanch, duty bearers like ASHA/ ANM/ Anganwadi workers and some people from the village. Miracle assisted in formulation of 3 VCPCs in Chhota Udaipur in Gujarat and 1 WCPC in Pune, Maharashtra.

Lack of Awareness About V/WCPC

Capacity Building By Miracle

Formation Of New V/WCPC

Active And Functioning V/WCPC

V/WCPC is an essential component of the project undertaken by Miracle*. V/WCPC establishes a gatekeeping mechanism at community level and prevents family separation. Hence, to spread awareness about V/WCPC, Miracle organized various meetings at the Gram Sabha level along with the Sarpanch. In these meetings Miracle informed the people about the importance of V/WCPC, their roles and responsibilities, process of formation and the need for child protection and importance of family & family based alternative care in the child development process.

After the formation of a new V/WCPC, Miracle Foundation India counselled the local DCPU in assisting the V/WCPC with their task. The district child protection unit would send one of their outreach workers to the V/WCPC meetings wherein the outreach worker would guide the V/WCPC.

The V/WCPC has been successful in their initiatives recently and has gathered a lot of community support. This has built confidence amongst the V/WCPC members for working towards child protection more vigorously.

**Technical support provided by LEHER*

Impact Of The Project

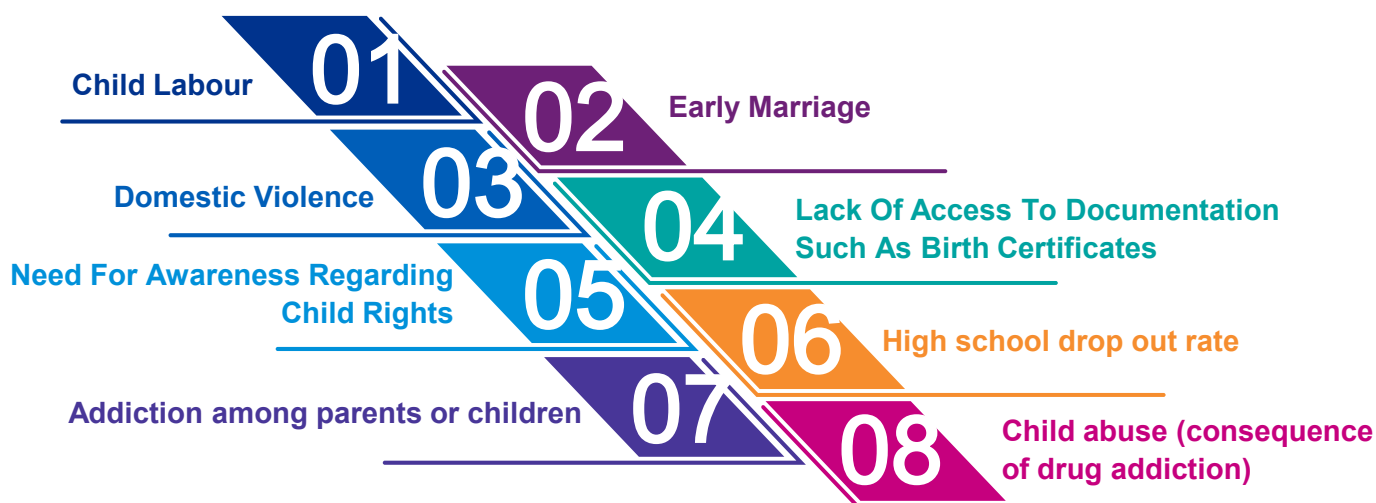
V/WCPC members were trained under the project which assisted them in understanding their roles. The committee meets once or twice a month and sometimes as per need depending upon the issue. In case of any child marriage, the committee meets more frequently. The attendance is typically 60-80 percent. However, in case of absence, the V/WCPC members ensure that they catch up on the issues discussed and the next plan.

The major agendas of the meetings conducted by V/WCPC includes the issues raised by Bal Panchayat, issues that need special attention (Child marriage, addiction, child labor, missing children, child safety, etc.), work done so far, and the agenda for the next month.

The V/WCPC identifies the issues faced by the children and solve them in an agile manner. To address issues of children they take various steps at the community level for child protection and to prevent children from going to childcare institutions (CCIs).

Issues Identified By V/WCPC

Since the inception of the V/WCPC, the V/WCPC has identified various issues pertinent in the community basis their frequent interaction with the community members.

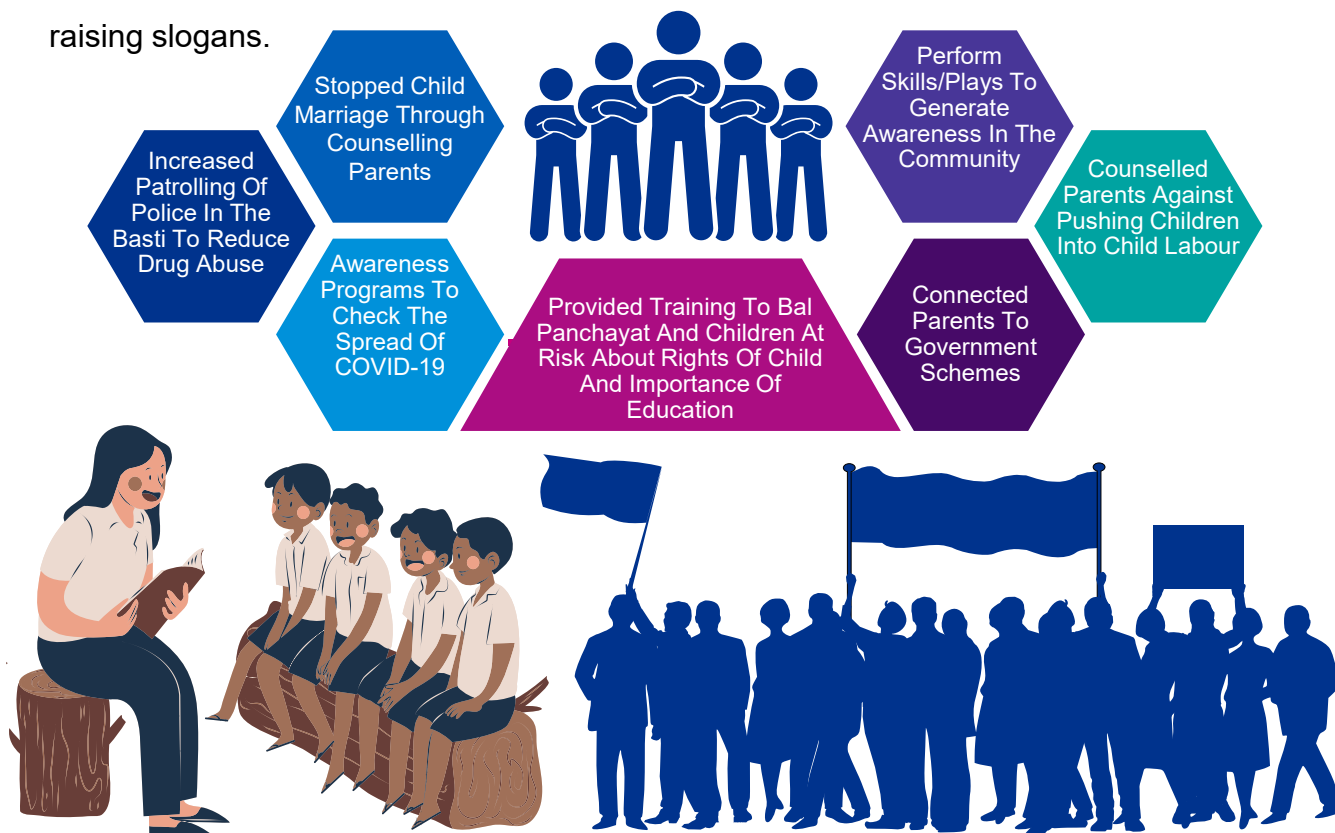


Actions Taken By V/WCPC

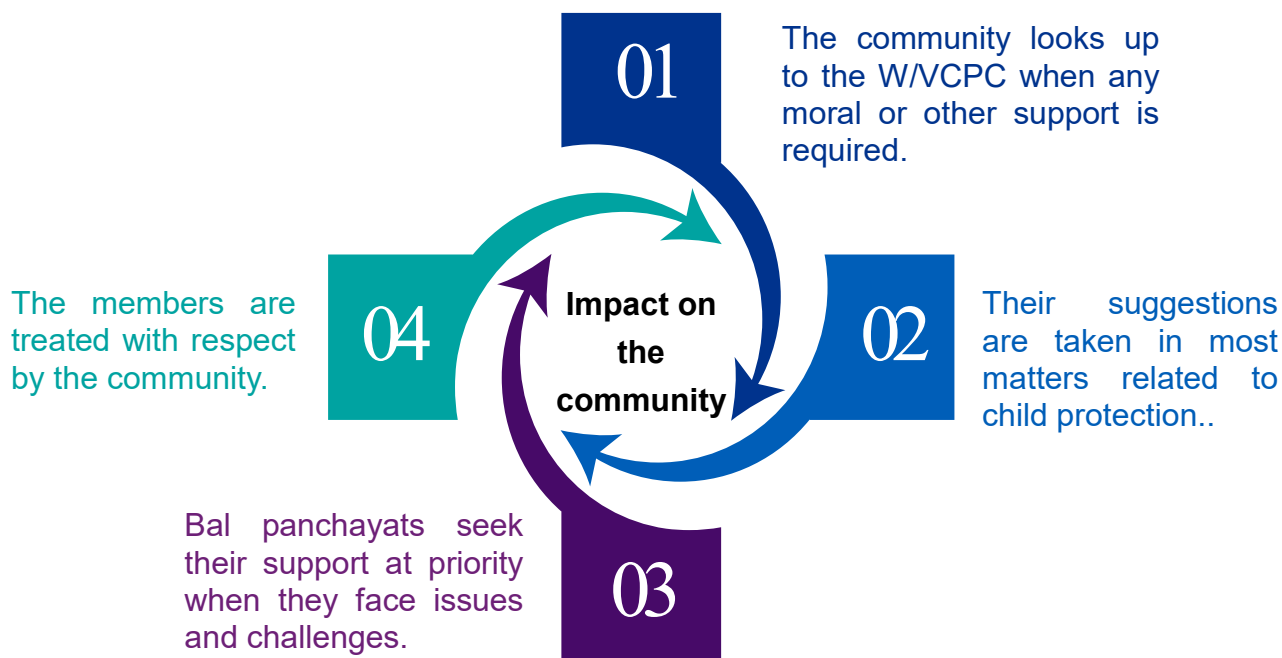
Based on the understanding of the community and the various issues identified by the V/WCPC, they have undertaken many initiatives to mitigate the issues of the community. For the greater health and safety of the community, the V/WCPC have conducted awareness programmes to check the spread of COVID-19,

After the sanitization of V/WCPC members regarding various child rights issues, they have taken certain steps to mitigate community level problems. These include raising awareness on child rights, raising voice against child marriage and in some cases stopping it as well. They further shared that there are increased police patrolling in the basti to keep a check on cases of drug abuse. V/WCPC has also counselled parents regarding the need to educate their children and prevent them from getting into the trap of child labour.

They assist the Bal Panchayat members with their roles, decision making, and taking actions to generate awareness in the community like performing skits , plays and raising slogans.



Impact Of V/WCPC On The Community



The V/WCPC has interacted with the community and worked towards primary level gatekeeping. They have tried to connect the families with various government schemes and services like ration card, government health card, aadhar card, E-Shram, PPF, ABHA, Sukanya Samridhi Yojana, and Mahila Sakshni. Connection with these schemes have assisted them in getting a better access to healthcare services and educational services as well as aided in increasing the household economy. The V/WCPCs have also assisted the families in finding resources for improving health and other basic amenities such as safe drinking water, sanitation, cooking facilities, etc. Through counselling, awareness generation and skits and rallies the V/WCPC have contributed significantly towards family strengthening and improving community/social relationships. Through these efforts V/WCPC is ensuring in creating a positive environment for children to thrive. Their efforts towards creating awareness amongst family members has helped in strengthening families and creating safe spaces for children.

Challenges Faced By V/WCPC

01

People don't come in Gram Sabha meetings hence it becomes difficult to nominate a V/WCPC that is aware about its roles and responsibilities

02

People tend to migrate from one place to another in search of better employment. As a result, the V/WCPC becomes non-functional. However, the V/WCPC continues to exist on papers.

03

There is a need for mindset change as people do not consider eloping as a form of child marriage or children working in the fields as a part of child labour

04

Some V/WCPC members do not report the cases adequately because they fear the police and police cases. At the same time, they do not tell the police of the ill practices because they feel that if they involve the police, then the community members will not accept them in the community. They let things be as child marriage and child labour are a part of their culture and practices.

Scaling Up The V/WCPC

To scale the V/WCPC it is extremely important to take fourth the best practices of the V/WCPC established in the pilot areas like Ram Nagar and Chotta Udaipur. Practices like connecting the families with various government schemes and services like ration card, government health card, aadhar card, E-Shram, PPF, ABHA, Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana, and Mahila Sakshni. Should be encouraged. Such practices build a sense of trust amongst the community members. It elevates the position and respect of V/WCPC members in the community, making them an imperative agent of change that reduced family separation and ensures child protection.



Aspirations For The Future



Ensure education for all children in the community

Stop drug addiction in children

End child marriages in the community



Thank You!



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