

Lecture: Jamkhed and Gadchiroli, India

Conceptual and Technical Breakthroughs in the Demonstration and Field Research about Community Health Care

Learning Objectives

By the end of this session participants will be able to:

1. Appraise the relative importance of community empowerment and of pure field research as means to identify and promote effective and feasible CBPHC interventions and approaches
2. Identify the strong and weak points of Jamkhed and Gadchiroli and whether field research interferes with promoting community empowerment
3. Identify some of the potential requirements for success and problems to be avoided in participatory community-level research

Focusing Paragraph

The Jamkhed project is one of the world's most successful community projects, demonstrating pure community empowerment. The VHWs (village health workers) provided almost 90% of all services. In 10 years the VHW, as described in the Jamkhed book, dropped IMR from 175 to about 20 per 1000 live births. The birth rate fell from 40 to 17 per 1000. The project expanded to over 500,000. The empowerment also expanded to all aspects of village life, including breaking down caste restrictions. Jamkhed has now become an International Training Center.

Gadchiroli is just 200 miles from Jamkhed in Maharashtra state, in an even poorer area. This project has focused on excellence in field research but also did some community empowerment. In a series of Lancet papers with precise scientific rigor, they demonstrated dramatic declines in child pneumonia mortality and in neonatal mortality. They also used village workers and Trained Traditional Birth Attendants. The chapter in the book, however, is their main example of using a purely community based approach to support a women's initiative. Their many other pure research projects brought the Bang's great international acclaim, especially for dropping neonatal mortality by over 60%. The Bangs are now focusing on Scaling Up.

Reflective Questions

1. What would be your approach to involve the community if you carry out a project? How would you balance the goal of developing effective PHC interventions for specific diseases with the goal of using participatory research methods to promote community ownership of the process? Are the two goals in automatic conflict or can they be synergistic?
2. What are the challenges in trying to balance scientific rigor with the participatory approach? Specifically consider the lessons learned in Gadchiroli as compared with Jamkhed?

3. How important is it to have scientifically valid data to support the findings of community-based PHC interventions?
4. What were some of the important lessons learned at Jamkhed and Gadchiroli that would help in:
 - a. Testing the impact of specific technical interventions; and
 - b. Planning a community-based project?
5. What were the positive breakthroughs in research methodology from Gadchiroli and Jamkhed?

Required Readings

Required Readings

- Chapter 12: Jamkhed - The Evolution of a World Training Center, in Just and Lasting Change: When Communities Own Their Futures, D. Taylor-Ide and C.E. Taylor, Editors. 2002, Johns Hopkins University Press: Baltimore and London. P.200-207
- Chapter 13: Gadchiroli - Addiction as a Barrier to , in Just and Lasting Change: When Communities Own Their Futures, D. Taylor-Ide and C.E. Taylor, Editors. 2002, Johns Hopkins University Press: Baltimore and London. P.200-207
- Bang, AT., Bang RA., Reddy, HM., *Home-based Neonatal Care: Summary and Applications of the Field Trial in Rural Gadchiroli, (1993 to 2003)*. Journal of Perinatology 2005, 25:S108-S122 Journal available online via Welch Library Full Text e-journals link:
<http://www.nature.com/jp/journal/v25/n1s/pdf/7211278a.pdf>

Optional Reading

- Arole & Arole (1994). Jamkhed - A Comprehensive Rural Health Project. London: MacMillan Press and Jamkhed Foundation in North Carolina
- Jamkhed International Brochure
- Jamkhed Gates Nominations Letter

Supplementary Reading

- <http://www.jamkhed.org/>
- www.searchgadchiroli.org