

MIS

JEEViKA'S MIS regularly informs the project on:

- i. Mobilization of target households into SHGs and VOs in the initial stage of the project
- ii. Performance of participating households, SHGs and VOs on savings, borrowing and repayment in later stages

The MIS is also used by JEEViKA to:

- i. Calibrate and fine tune strategies for social inclusion
- ii. Identify idle project funds under some interventions and reallocate them to other interventions

Other ongoing MIS initiatives:

- i. The MIS has recently moved to a comprehensive online system.
- ii. Additional MIS modules are being developed for Dairy, Nutrition Care Centers and Micro-Insurance (with modules for other verticals in the pipeline).
- iii. A focused effort is underway to develop an understanding of books of records, MIS indicators and interactive analytics for all levels of project management.

PROCESS MONITORING

Process Monitoring studies have informed JEEViKA about

- i. Mechanisms underlying social inclusion and mobilization
- ii. Strengths and weaknesses of implementation in core interventions

An expansion in the scale of Process Monitoring and the range of interventions under its purview is on agenda.

INTERNAL STUDIES FOR RAPID APPRAISAL OF NEW INTERVENTIONS

Jeevika has been conducting rigorous internal studies on its new interventions to build staff capacity in order to identify and implement rapid appraisals, standardize the books of records and improve the performance of these interventions.

Two studies– one on **VO-led Public Distribution Systems** and another on **information campaigns on the MGNREGA-** are being implemented. 1200 households across four districts were surveyed for each study, using principles of treatment and control. Currently, analysis of various aspects of these interventions is underway.

IMPACT EVALUATIONS

JEEViKA has initiated several **impact evaluations** to assess the causal impact of the project and its of key interventions.

- i. **Retrospective impact evaluation** for Phase-1 blocks completed
- ii. **RCT evaluation of the core JEEViKA intervention** with a sample 9000 households from 180 Panchayats- Baseline survey completed and end line survey planned for 2013-14
- iii. **For a subset of the RCT sample, qualitative studies** are underway **to understand the process of change and causal impact.**
- iv. **Behavioural studies** are being conducted on a subset of the RCT sample **to understand the cultural change in women, their families and communities.**
- v. **RCT evaluation** of JEEViKA's **food security intervention** is ongoing. Results are expected by end of 2013.
- vi. An **impact evaluation of an agricultural intervention** called the System of Crop Intensification is being designed.

MONITORING, EVALUATION & LEARNING IN JEEVIKA: A SOCIAL OBSERVATORY APPROACH

JEEViKA, implemented by Bihar Rural Livelihoods Project, aims to enhance the productive potential of the poor, as measured by increase in income, reduction in high-cost debt, access to credit and employment (self or wage-based), and improvement in health and well-being. The project is designed to address the multiple constraints on poor people's productivity, especially constraints faced by women. These constraints include lack of access to affordable credit, limited social networks and organizational capacity, inadequate nutrition and education, and exposure to health shocks. In response, **the project design emphasizes building institutional capacity among poor women for collective decision-making by pooling their resources (savings), accessing credit from banks, and availing services provided by public and private programs to enable them to build better livelihoods.** Institution building, in this project, has at its heart the creation of multiple self-help groups (SHGs) within each village, which are then aggregated to form a Village Organization (VO). These groups are (i) trained in methods of group-based lending and planning to prioritize resource allocation, (ii) informed about available public services and (iii) capacitated to access these services. The groups are then provided additional support in the form of grants, the Community Investment Fund (CIF) that is administered through VOs; and other local service providers who are contracted by the project to work with the groups and respond to their needs.

A complex, multi-dimensional project like JEEViKA needs an integrated learning system that will generate effective data for action – data that is accurate, indicators that are relevant and analysis that leads to action. Recognizing that the long-run success of the project depends on the quality of interventions and willingness to learn from successes and failures, JEEViKA is working to implement an integrated learning system in partnership with the World Bank's Social Observatory team.

Real time monitoring is the first element of JEEViKA's learning system. An *integrated Management Information System (MIS)* can foster regular and transparent feedback loops which can help the project monitor the implementation progress, identify key successes and failures, and take actions required to ensure a consistent and high quality implementation. *Well-designed process monitoring studies* can then examine the factors and processes underlying these successes and failures, and pinpoint implementation challenges. As the second element of the learning system, JEEViKA has initiated several **rigorous quantitative and qualitative impact evaluations that will facilitate long-term learning.** JEEViKA also conducts **special studies** that allow for rapid appraisal of new interventions. These studies also aid the understanding of key issues for project implementation and design.

JEEViKA's monitoring, impact evaluation and special study initiatives are described in this brief.

CONTACTS:

Upamanyu Datta (udatta@worldbank.org)

Vijayendra Rao (vrao@worldbank.org)

