

## **Report of 4th DPE-UNICEF Joint Workshop on Capacity Building of CPSEs with focus on Identified CSR Themes for Aspirational Districts of Chhattisgarh**

The 4th interactive regional workshop is organised at Raipur, 2024 focussed on Aspirational Districts of Chhattisgarh. The objective of the workshop was to provide a platform for officials of district administration and CSR nodal officers of CPSEs to collectively brainstorm and get technical insights from state sectoral ministries and CSR experts on identified CSR themes. Around 75 persons including officials of DPE, ADs of Chhattisgarh, State Sectoral ministries/ Departments viz. Department of School Education, Department of Health & Family Welfare & Medical education, Department of Sports and Youth welfare, Department of Tribal and Scheduled Caste Development, CSR nodal Officers of CPSEs, UNICEF and implementing agencies participated in the Workshop.

In the inaugural session, Dr. Balpariposh Dash emphasized equity, malnutrition, and the impact of multidimensional poverty, while Dr. Sumantra Pal urged CPSEs to avoid duplicating government efforts, stressing the need for behavioral change and support for children with malnutrition.

The first Session of the workshop was delivered by the representatives of concerned sectoral state departments. Dr. Fariha Alam Siddique, Deputy Secretary Department of School Education in Chhattisgarh, highlighted dropout rates, inadequate infrastructure, and the need for ICT resources and facilities for students with disabilities. Ms. Lovina Pandey, Deputy Secretary Department of Tribal Development, presented an overview of various projects undertaken by the department. She emphasized the importance of Anganwadi infrastructure and anemia-free initiatives in tribal areas. Dr. Vishnu Kumar Shrivastava, OSD at Chhattisgarh Khel Vikas Pradhikaran, outlined the state's vision for sports academies and youth development. Dr. D.K. Durre from the Department of Health & Family Welfare and Medical Education, addressed critical issues related to malnutrition and the importance of antenatal care (ANC) for mothers, particularly highlighting the role of folic acid and the role of ASHA workers (Mitans) in health outreach. Dr. Gagan Raj Gupta, Associate Professor at IIT Bhilai, advocated for innovative health technology, including anemia screening and cancer detection, alongside activity-based learning in schools. Dr. Poulumi Banerjee presented the models like "Prayas se Parinam" and "Pahal Poshan Ki," which focus on women's empowerment, health, and community well-being.

In the second session of the workshop, representatives from various districts shared their successful projects on the CSR activities of CPSEs. Officials from five districts presented their perspectives, highlighting the types of interventions required see through CSR initiatives.

Shri Hemender Bhewal from Bijapur, discussed malnutrition interventions and collaborations with IB Group and Piramal Foundation. Shri Abhishek Tiwari, SDM & Nodal Officer, CSR of Dantewada district, highlighted logistical challenges due to remoteness, impacting consistent service delivery. Shri Rajeev Kumar Singh, DPM Health from Narayanpur district, addressed the logistical hurdles and ASHA workers' critical role in maternal and child health.

Day two of the workshop focused on showcasing best practices in Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) from Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) in Chhattisgarh. Shri Mrinal Kumar from ALIMCO presented their portfolio and requested support from other CPSEs. Following this, Shri S. Chatterjee, GM, NMDC highlighted the projects and best practices undertaken by NMDC in the state. He described the NMDC model and its comprehensive stakeholder consultative mechanism, emphasizing collaboration and community engagement in their initiatives. Shri Shivrajan, GM, SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant, highlighted challenges in CSR operations due to naxalism and unionism, appealing for improved district-level coordination. Shri CM Verma, GM, SECL presented their work and achievements, highlighting projects such as "SECL Ki Dhadkan" and other flagship programs aimed at community upliftment. Finally, Shri Shashank Chhajer of NTPC presented their interventions in Korba district, discussing daily activities related to education projects, women empowerment programs, and the holistic development of villages.

In the last session, Dr. Aparna Deshpande, Nutrition Specialist, UNICEF, Chhattisgarh emphasized the critical importance of nutrition and the need to invest in this cause. She discussed issues of affordability and availability of nutritious food, and highlighted the concerning rates of infant mortality and neonatal mortality in Chhattisgarh. Dr. Deshpande underscored that addressing these challenges is essential for improving overall health outcomes in the region. Shri Dilip Sarwate of Centre for Catalysing Change talked about the replicable strategies adopted by C3 in the domain of Adolescent Health in particular.

Following the session, an engaging discussion unfolded among the Aspirational Districts (ADs), Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs), and implementing agencies. Participants engaged in collaborative discussions, focusing on the "One Aspirational District, One CPSE" model, aimed to foster collaboration and ensure targeted efforts to address the unique challenges faced by each district, thereby enhancing the effectiveness of CSR initiatives in Chhattisgarh. The event culminated in a successful mapping of districts with CPSEs and strengthened interagency collaboration, fostering a unified approach to CSR initiatives ultimately driving sustainable development in the region.

The workshop concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Ms. Kranti E. Khobragade, Deputy Secretary, DPE. She expressed her gratitude to all the speakers and participants for their valuable contributions and insights, emphasizing the importance of collaboration in addressing the challenges discussed throughout the sessions.