



Facts:

- Private sector actors are often not held to the same level of accountability as states, despite the obligation on states to regulate private actors to ensure human rights. There is an absence of a rights framework with little to no protections for communities against denial of rights.
- In 2013, India brought in the National Urban Health Mission (NUHM) with the intent of strengthening urban health systems. NUHM provides the mechanisms for community participation through women's health committees such as Mahila Arogya Samitis (MAS).

Project Cycle:

2022-2026

Partners:

- University of Cape Town (UCT), South Africa
- The Brazilian Center of Analysis and Planning (CEBRAP), Sao Paolo, Brazil
- Society for Promotion of Area Resource Center (SPARC), Mumbai, India

Supporters:

National Institute of Health Research (NIHR), UK

Principal Investigator:

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Background:

- Community participation has largely been envisaged as part of the public health system for better responsiveness and accountability.
- Brazil, India and South Africa have mixed health systems wherein public and private providers operate side-by-side to deliver the same set of services. By actively engaging private providers, governments in these countries are making health systems pluralistic.
- In such a pluralistic scenario, does the conventional understanding of community participation hold, and can community participation still facilitate better health system effectiveness?

Aims:

- To strengthen the participation and voice of communities and community structures in urban pluralistic health systems towards better alignment of health system actors around the common goals of accountable, responsive and inclusive health systems.

Methods:

- The project employs a multi-country, multi-city consortium approach, involving a diverse group of researchers and community organisations.
- The study design combines landscape analysis, indepth qualitative research, and tracking of selected indicators derived from available secondary data.
- An actor-centred implementation analysis combined with complex adaptive systems approaches will be employed in the project. This framework perceives implementation as a series of interactions and negotiations between actor groups within intricate social and organisational contexts.

Impact:

- More inclusive health systems that provide structured and meaningful opportunities for communities to voice their input into decision-making within pluralistic health systems.
- Services will be more accountable to citizen needs, helping to promote positive health outcomes and reduce health and social inequalities. Service providers will be supported to facilitate rather than feel threatened by community participation.

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