

**Project name:** People's Initiative for Health Security; Partner- Prayas.

**Project Location:** 141 villages of Chhoti Sadari block of Pratapgarh district in Rajasthan.

**Target audience/target group:** The major target groups for the project are women and children. However project activities and programmes are oriented to impact everybody in the project area.



### About the Project:

The overall objective of the project is to showcase a community based model for attainment of best health status of community through reduction in morbidity, disability and premature mortality. The major components of the project are planning and monitoring committees at village, PHC and CHC levels, village health animators (cadre for community mobilisation around health issues ), promoting community action by orienting different groups such as that of women's SHGs, adolescent girls and boys, Traditional Birth Attendants, traditional faith healers, local community heads, PRIs, and health service providers.

### Project Outcomes:



1. Increase in birth registrations and antenatal care received by pregnant women.
2. Rise in the numbers of institutional deliveries.
3. There has been a good increase in immediate breast feeding to new borne. The practice of artificial feeding has almost disappeared.
4. Increase in immunization of pregnant women & infants.
5. Through orientation of adolescent boys and girls there has been an increase in awareness amongst adolescents about the physical and psychological issues.
6. Increased awareness in the community on issues of reproductive hygiene, reduction in reproductive tract morbidities and increase in management of maternal health complications.

## ***“Unity for LIFE and to Combat Against Social Evils”***

Animator Govinda Sharma, of village Jhamvala, Rajasthan, used to convene regular meetings for her Self – Help Group. However, for the past two months she found Phool Kunwar, one of the SHG members, absent from the SHG meetings.

She felt the need to know the reason for her absenteeism. Govinda visited Phool’s house and found that Phool’s daughter Dhaapu was lying on the bed and she was very sick. Govinda noticed that Phool, instead of taking her daughter to the Government hospital, is seeking help from *Ojha (local Bhopa)*. Phool told that she has been seeking help of this another women from some village to make voodoo dolls which the Bhopa has asked for.

Govinda could clearly see that Dhaapu was suffering from jaundice as she had turned all yellow. She advised Phool to take her to hospital for treatment. At this Phool could not help but wept saying that she did not have enough money for her treatment and

that it was due to the same reason that she had also not contributed in the SHG for last 2 months. Govinda assured Phool that she can seek help from the SHG savings for her daughter’s treatment, which she can gradually repay after some time in installments. Phool was very happy that now she would be able to save her daughter’s life. Govinda immediately fetched her sum of two thousand rupees and took her to seek treatment from the nearby Government hospital. Dhaapu remained under treatment for almost 20 days and day by day was recovering. Phool thanked Govinda for her timely help and advice and assured that she would never fall in trap of bhopas in the future.

“I have attended dai training organized by Prayas twice. After the training I feel more confident about conducting deliveries. Earlier I was hardly aware of the human anatomy and how the baby grows inside the womb. But now I am better able to identify the position of the baby in the womb and I am more aware of the danger signs. I have also become highly hygiene conscious while I conduct the deliveries now, while earlier I hardly used to take so much care on hygiene issues. Now I also know the harmful effects of gulla (artificial feed to babies after birth) and hence I advocate for breast feeding immediately after birth. I also advocate for immunization of children as I know that it would prevent them from various diseases. The Dai kits (mamta kits) so provided to me after the training have been of great help to me. I have conducted 20 deliveries after receiving training from Prayas and I am happy that all of them are safe”. (Narmada Devi Dai Village Khakhriyakhedi )