

ICT intervention in rural health care services Focus – child health

Overview

One of the primary challenges faced today is the inability to track individual beneficiaries who need to be provided health care services. This challenge is even more pronounced in the rural areas. The various survey and reporting agencies do provide the number of beneficiaries served vs. the number that were left out. However, they stop at being statistical data without the information as to who these beneficiaries and children actually are.

It is well recognized today that the benefit of being able to identify individuals and track their health status centrally and provide them timely health care will go a long way in helping the concerned agencies reach their various health goals.

Various attempts have been made earlier to capture and record health information and service delivery schedules on an individual beneficiary basis. On careful analysis, one finds that the primary reasons that these did not see widespread implementation were the use of specialized / custom equipments and issues of replicability. The second reason was the perceived inability of the field level staff to ramp up and use such special devices.

About Janani

Janani is an ICT tool that –

- Identifies the beneficiary at the individual level and helps ensure
 - Delivery of service
 - Recording of service delivery
 - Tracking of beneficiary at the individual level
 - Monitoring at all levels – possible from any location

And how does it deliver this?

- Janani is a web based application that can be accessed from any browser on a computer that has internet connectivity.
- It captures data right at the point of service delivery using a simple low cost GPRS enabled mobile phone. There is no continuous dependency on the availability of mobile signals.
- Data capturing includes a two prong strategy to ensure service delivery – one a picture of the beneficiary is taken at the time of service delivery and two, the latitude and longitude of this position is captured in case the instrument has GPS capabilities.
- Tracking and care begins even when the baby is yet to be born. That is the pregnant woman is provided ANC and later institutional INC services.
- The tool alerts and notifies the care giver of the specific persons that need to be attended to.
- The tool captures the immunization details and the nutrition status of all children in the 0 to 5 age group.
- Migration issues are specifically handled. Thus ensuring continued care for the entire life-cycle – from pregnancy to childbirth and then further on till the child is of age 5.
- Aggregation of data and the analytics are taken care of by this tool. This provides an efficient monitoring and reporting capability.