Exposure Visit to understand the work being done by Nutrition Rights Coalition, Maharashtra

TINI Officials undertook an exposure visit to Pune on 3rd and 4th December 2018 with the objective of understanding the nutrition related work being carried out by Nutrition Rights Coalition, Maharashtra. Meetings with Disha Kendra workers, key stakeholders and PRI Members of Karjat block and Anganwadi workers across the sector were also lined up.

The first day at BAIF Institute included discussions on initiatives taken up by TINI to curb malnutrition, CBMP health and CBMA ICDS, SATHHI involvement of PRI through community-based monitoring and ownership in different activities and an open discussion on how to strengthen AWCs and its services by involving PRIs.

The following day, members of Disha (a Kajrat based organization working on issues related to rights) enlightened the meeting participants of their work approaches and involvement in reduction of malnutrition. They work in tribal areas with a focus on community-based management of malnutrition. They take the help of print media and electronic media to raise the issues. Through advocacy, they succeed in getting support to utilize district magistrate fund to run village centres for management of severely-acute malnutrition. They also spoke about how different departments like health, ICDS, Police, Media, panchayat raj, water resource and district and block officials can work together to wipe out the severity of malnutrition.

Urban and rural CDPO of Kajrat also joined the TINI Officials for a meeting and discussed their present approaches to tackle malnutrition and their progress till date. Nearly 130 severely malnourished children had been made healthy from the tribal belt. The Tahsildar of Kajrat explained the collaboration of various departments that initiated joint supportive supervision towards malnutrition and AWC services. Brief introduction on different government programs were given by government officials.

The TINI Officials also attended a sector level meet and interacted with AWWs and discussed about Village child development centres and Amylase rich food. After which, Anganwadi centre visits were undertaken to observe the work going on in the centres and interact with the beneficiaries to get a better picture of what works for them and their likes and dislikes.

Key learnings from the model came from community-based monitoring system, strengthen of VHSNC, and Village child development centre.