TUFH 2020 Abstracts

Title	**Impact of strengthening of inter-sectoral co-ordination on women's health and empowerment in India**
Type	Oral Presentation *Working with Underserved Populations towards Community Empowerment*
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Content	Rural women suffer from ill-health due to lack of education, lack of social and economic empowerment and in-co ordination among service departments. Methods- Under strong political leadership, co ordination between multiple service sectors like health, education, agriculture, communication and broadcasting, women and child welfare was strengthened for improving health and nutrition of women from rural community. One thousand women of reproductive age, from five villages were targeted to implement health and nutrition education intervention programme, using participatory approach .Community radio was used as primary medium of change with the technical support from multiple service sectors. Women were educated and technically supported initially for forming self help groups as basis for economic empowerment. Results- Programme resulted in improvement in inter-sectoral co-ordination. There was capacity building of one thousand rural women, who later on served as "Change Agents" for the rural community. Endline evaluation revealed 72% improvement in the knowledge, practices and attitude level of women on health issues and dietary practices. Twenty new women self help groups (SHG) were formed, which helped in the social and economic empowerment. Project resulted in boosting up of the moral of less educated rural women and helped in their capacity building for solving health, nutrition, economy, domestic violence and gender related issues. Conclusion-Strengthening inter-sectoral co-ordination between health and allied departments under strong political leadership resulted in significant improvement in health and nutrition practices of rural community and resulted in sustained social and economic empowerment of rural women.