

Khanewal: focus district for intensive evidence-based planning in Pakistan

Progress Report - 2005

Khanewal:

Area:
Population: 1,950,854
Tehsils: 4
Union Councils: 100
General location: South/central
Punjab, bordering Multan and
Sahiwal



The Zila Nazim expressed interest in developing a social audit scheme in Khanewal during the discussions on the baseline social audit in Multan in December 2003. CIET organized an initial meeting to explore such possibilities with the Zila Nazim in April 2004. CIET selected Khanewal as a focus district for the social audit scheme in August 2004.

Design and set-up phase

To take the process forward and to ensure strong district involvement in the social audit, CIET organized orientation meetings at district and tehsil level in October 2004 that were marked by an overwhelming response from the district and tehsil stakeholders in terms of participation and interest. Participants to these meetings nominated the district steering group. The group is representative of the district government with good representation from public representatives and the district administration. The steering group met in November to facilitate and provide guidelines for the social audit scheme in the district. CIET sought recommendations from the district government representatives on the selection of the priority for the first district cycle.

The Zila Nazim, the District Coordinating Officer (DCO) and representatives of the provincial local government department Punjab are members of the focus district national core group. The core group in its inaugural meeting in December 2004 in Islamabad endorsed health, with a focus on public and preventive health, as the topic for the first district social audit cycle.

The technical group that was nominated by the participants of the orientation meetings met several times in December 2004 to identify specific issues and indicators vital in collecting information. CIET shared field instruments and list of indicators with the group. The technical group helped in identifying a random stratified community sample of 23 union councils representative of the district. In January 2005, CIET shared field instruments with the technical group.

Training and fieldwork

CIET finalized field team members, after consulting the technical group, and organized an intensive four-day training of 28 field team members in March 2005. The teams started data collection immediately and completed the task by mid-April 2005.

The teams conducted household interviews, institutional reviews in government health facilities serving the communities and key informant interviews with health providers including health facility heads, vaccinators and Lady Health Workers (LHWs).



Data collection in Khanewal, 2005
Photo:CIET