



Community Engagement Practice in Bangladesh

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Health system

- Shortage of everything
- Rural urban disparity in distribution



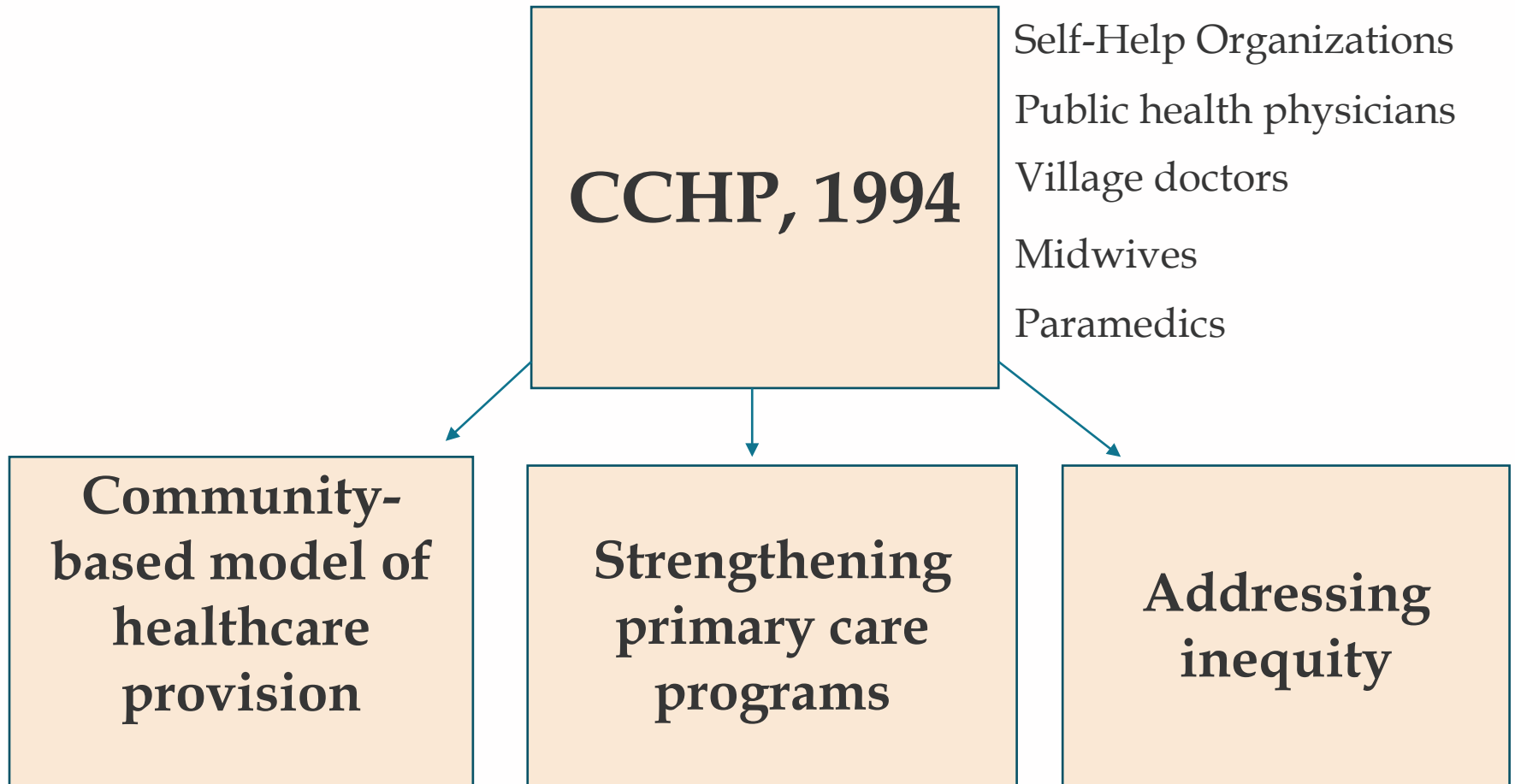
Why community engagement is needed?

Value for Primary Health :

- **Establish networks, relationships and processes** in the local community
- **Community contributions mobilized**
- **Increased credibility and accountability** for primary health
- **Improve democratic outcomes** including equity or fairness of a policy or project
- **Developed a deeper understanding** around issues through public information sharing, discussion and deliberation.
- **Better decisions** that incorporate the communities' aspirations, have less duplication, and are sustainable.

(NSW, 2003)

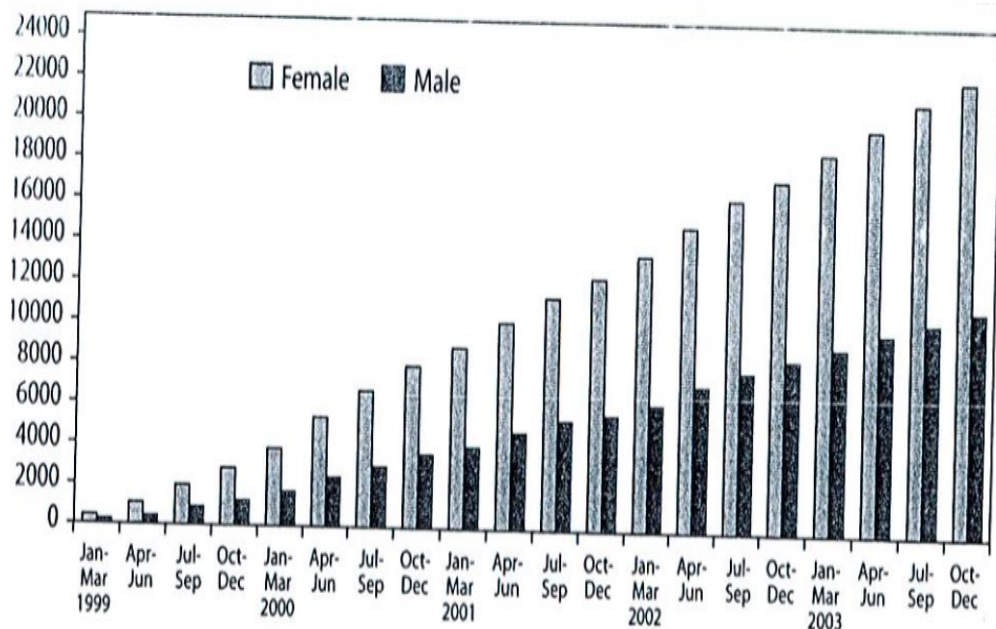
Community engagement in health: Lessons from a long term project in rural Bangladesh



Model of Community based healthcare provision

intervention:

- Building relationship with community
- Identification of SHOs and bringing health in their agenda
- Creating volunteers
- Village health posts (funded and managed by the community)

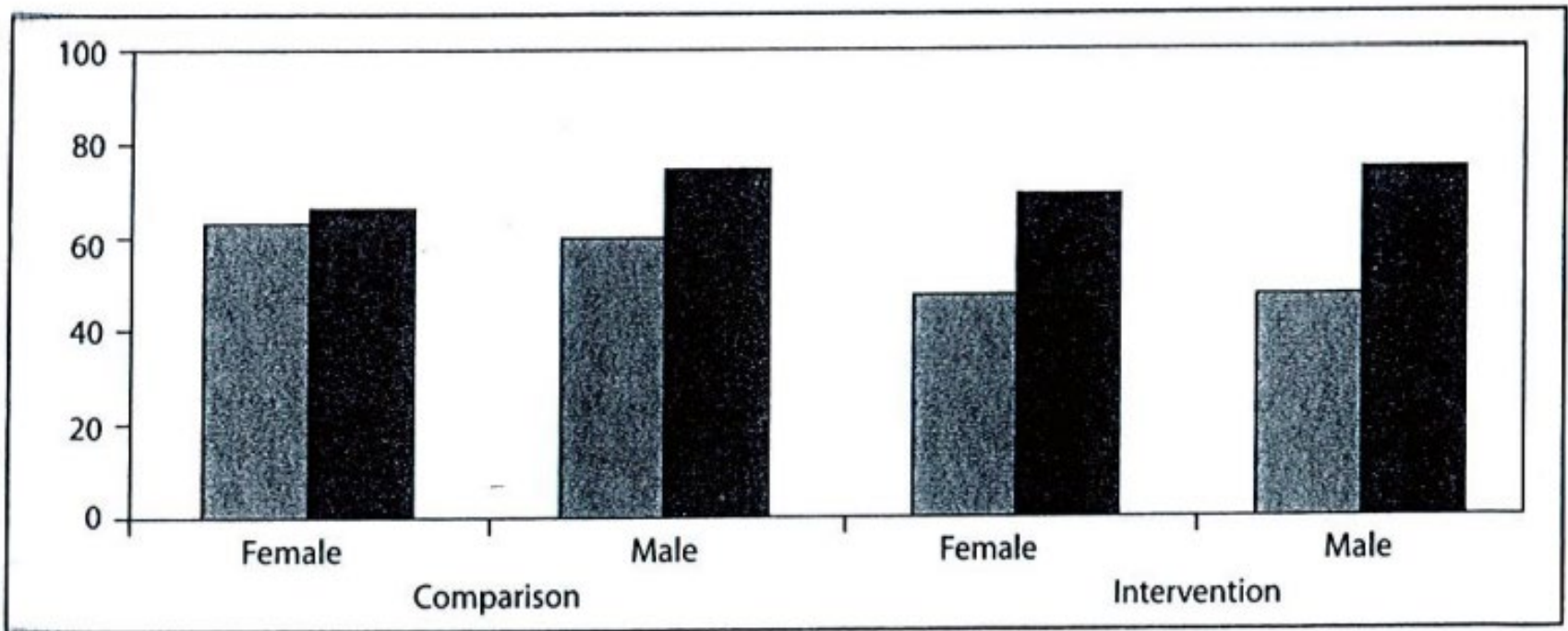


- About 8% of the poorest families attended the VHP
- From 1998-2000, the number of patients attending the VHPs steadily increased
- ANC, PNC and safe delivery services utilization increased

Community engagement for immunization

- Child immunization in the intervention areas increased (52%), significant compared to the comparison areas (15%)

Figure 6.1: Proportion of fully immunized children between 1994 and 1999



Addressing in inequity in service provision – performance based payment

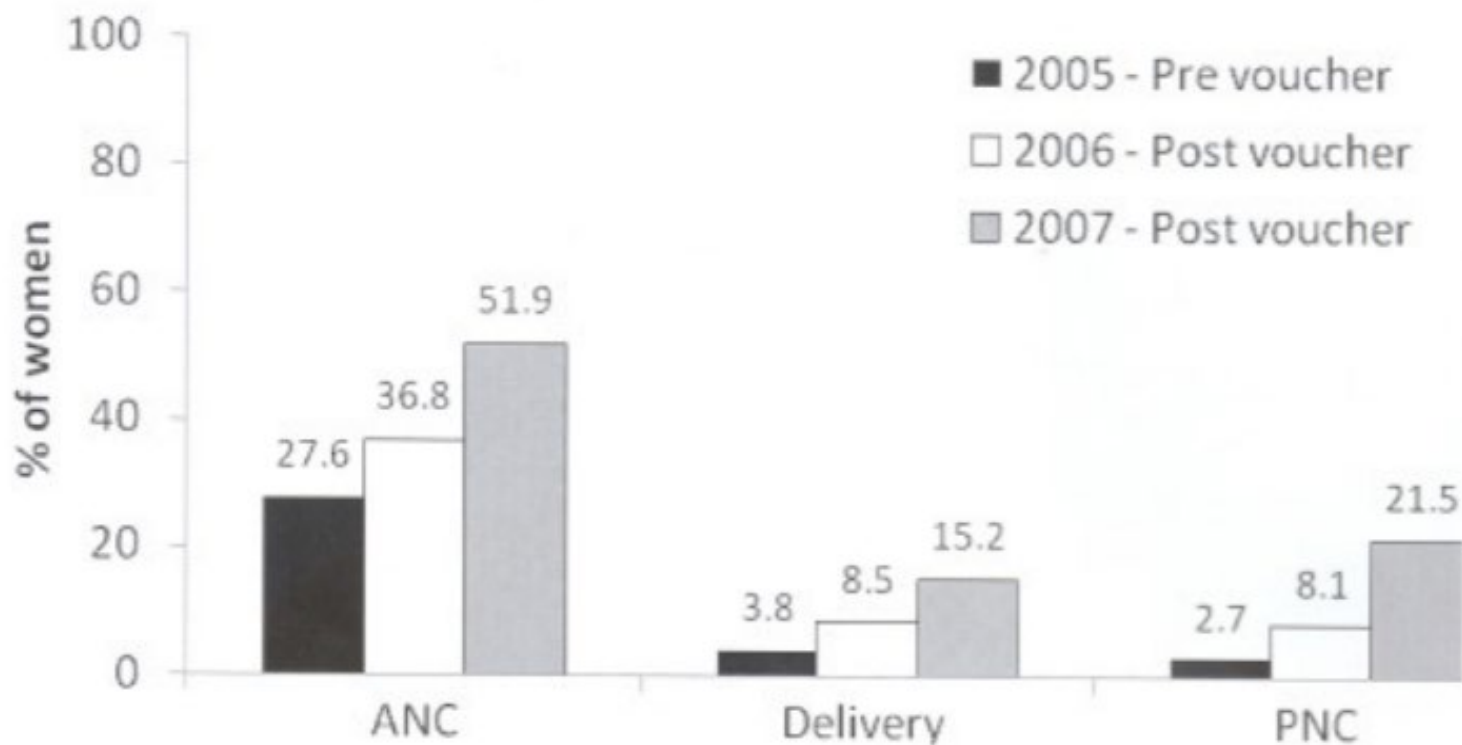
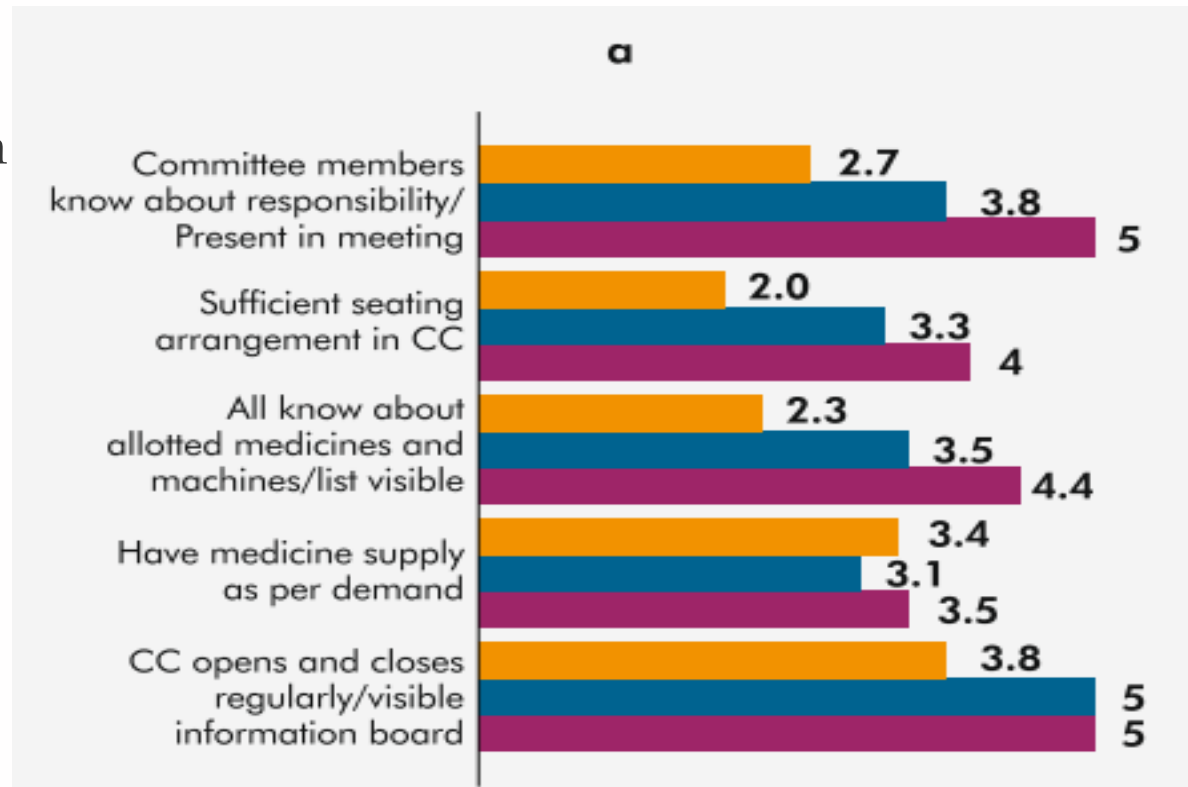


Fig. 1: Proportion (%) of women from lowest two asset quintiles using safe delivery services before and after the introduction of vouchers

Strengthening the health systems - Community score cards

Implementing Community Score Card to engage existing community support groups to enhance accountability of primary health care provision

- Transparency
- Resource mobilization
- Quality of service



Lessons learned

- Takes time to engage and bring health in their agenda
- Flexibility to address needs
- Important to engage already existing groups
- Engagement has to be respectful and designed with ability in mind
- Understand the embeddedness of inequity in the fabric of the community
- Importance of thinking through financial sustainability
- Need is not enough- There has to be an Environment for Action

Thank You