

# FACILITY BASED COUNSELLING PROGRAMME



The Counselors programme is a partnership between the Department of Health and Voluntary Organizations of Melghat for strengthening the availability and access to the health services at the Primary Health Centres (PHC). Counselors are young Korku boys and girls who serve as a bridge between the service providers and service seekers trying to ensure that the patients get proper care and treatment as well as that the medical team understands their problem and difficulties and can support their medication process. A Coordination Committee comprising of NGOs MAHAN and KHOJ, and government officials

ADHO, TMOs of the two blocks and ICCHN has been constituted for the purpose of overseeing the work.

The Voluntary Organizations have pushed the boundaries of the Health System to get this process initiated. The Health Department, CEO Zilla Parishad and District Collector have also keenly approved of this innovation. ICCHN chipped in to provide the support to strengthen training, coordination and monitoring thus trying to strengthen the initiative.

24 counselors present day & night (24x7) in 14 Health Facilities of Melghat have been instrumental in imparting health and nutrition education to mothers at the Primary Health Centres in Melghat. By strengthening the existing government systems and increasing the access to services, the program aims to imbibe confidence in the pregnant mothers and parents seeking medical support for their pre-natal, during delivery, post-natal care and care of their children from the Primary Health Centers or other secondary or tertiary hospitals. As a result the children requiring support will stay in the facility and avail services till there is improvement in their health status.

## ***Key Achievements:***

Twenty Four Korku speaking counselors placed in the 14 health institutions in Melghat are effectively communicating with both mothers and children in the local language, thereby reassuring their stay in facility and avail services