

Acute encephalitis syndrome (AES), is characterized by an acute onset of fever and clinical neurological manifestation that includes mental confusion, disorientation, delirium, or coma. Mainly AES occurs in very hot and humid summer from May to August. Malnutrition, climate, hygiene and lack of awareness are considered as contributing factors. It has been found that AES affects undernourished children and well-nourished children remain unaffected.

## Program Background

- In June 2019, an outbreak of AES occurred in Muzaffarpur and the adjoining districts in Bihar and total 154 children died in first three weeks of June 2019.
- Muzaffarpur reported twice the total number of deaths jointly registered in all the other districts.

## Program Objective

- Generate sustainable community response and address the preventable causes of AES through Women Collectives of JEEVIKA.
- Engage households and communities to prevent hypoglycemia among children with a focused nutritional agenda

## Strategy & Approach

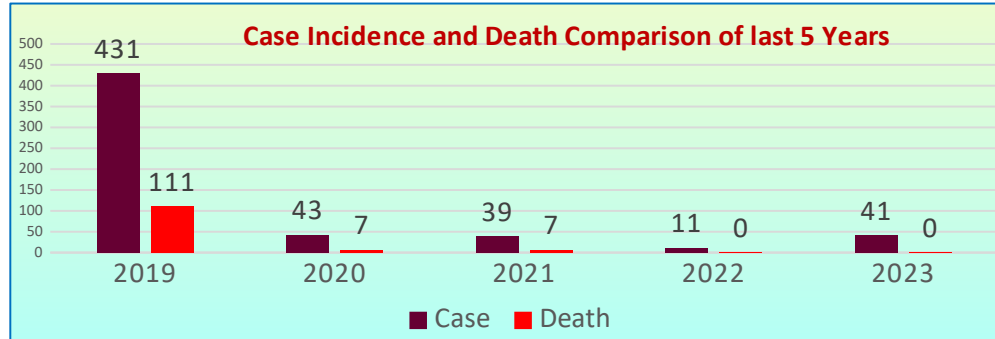
A multi-pronged approach of providing promotive, preventive and curative care against AES

- collaborating with Health, ICDS departments
- utilizing different touch points of women collectives
- Preventive aspects included ensuring bed-time meals and glucose supplements.
- Early case detection of AES by increasing awareness of symptoms and reducing delay in availing appropriate care

## Simultaneous interventions at different levels

The collage illustrates various levels of intervention: community meetings, educational posters, and a map of Muzaffarpur, Bihar.

## Impact



Data Source: District Health Society, Muzaffarpur

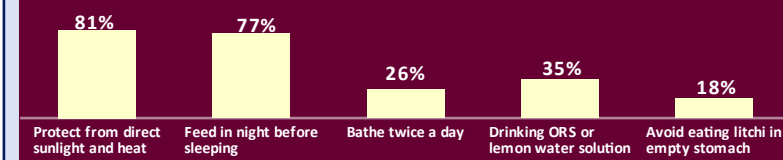


## Result

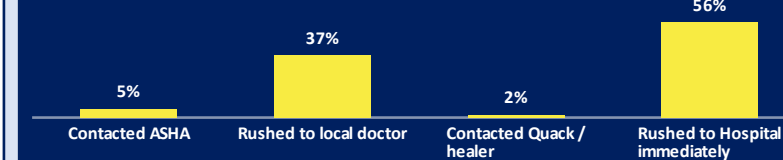
289 SHG members were interviewed to assess the outcome of the intervention.

- 55% respondents reported to have proper understanding & knowledge of signs & symptoms of AES and the measures to prevent delay in reaching at facility.
- 53% respondents were found to have proper knowledge & practices around child nutrition and immediate care to be given in case of the onset AES symptoms.

### Knowledge on Preventable Measures (N-289)



### Response & Action after onset of AES like Symptoms (N-51)



## Impact / Implications

The approach of engaging the women collectives for educating and reinforcing messages and providing nutrition supplements among vulnerable SHG members, enabled the community to ensure adoption and sustenance of recommended nutrition behaviors as an effective measure for prevention of AES. Such intervention is one of the key factors in sharp decline of AES case reporting and deaths after 2019