

## MONITORING

The Social Observatory has **two ongoing monitoring initiatives**.

The first initiative is **developing dashboards** that will facilitate real time learning from monitoring.

*At present, we are developing prototype dashboards. The next steps are to test the feasibility of using these prototypes with the data, and to integrate the dashboards into the MIS.*

The second monitoring initiative is focused on **tracking the health and nutrition status of women through MIS data**. PVP is currently rolling out a health cards intervention, that will track key health and nutrition indicators with the goal of using a community-based mechanism to provide health related information and referral services. The Social observatory is working with PVP to integrate this information with the MIS.

*At present, we are working to determine the technical feasibility of this initiative. The next step is to identify implementing partners for PVP.*

### CONTACTS

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## IMPACT EVALUATIONS OF CORE INTERVENTIONS

The Social Observatory has initiated **a set of impact evaluations** that will

- i. **Evaluate the impact of the core model** of empowerment and poverty reduction on the welfare of the target rural poor.
- ii. **Evaluate new initiatives and identify innovative interventions** for scale up.

## IMPACT EVALUATIONS OF CORE MODEL

Two ongoing evaluations will examine the impact of PVPs core model.

- i. **A retrospective evaluation that uses propensity score matching methods**, and focuses on existing project areas. This is accompanied by a qualitative evaluation that will examine key pathways of impact.
- ii. **A prospective evaluation that focuses on new project areas and uses a Regression Discontinuity**. This evaluation uses both quantitative and qualitative methods.

*Quantitative data collection is ongoing for (i), and qualitative data will be collected shortly.*

*Baseline data collection is ongoing for (ii) .*

## IMPACT EVALUATIONS OF NEW INITIATIVES

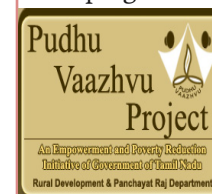
PVP is evaluating two new initiatives

- i. In a new initiative, PVP will be implementing an **information based, bottom up approach to delivering preventive and referral health and nutrition services for women**. A regression discontinuity design will be used to compare this approach to the more top-down model implemented in control villages.
- ii. In 150 Panchayats, PVP is implementing an **experimental pilot that will use an RCT design test the role of incentives to the village panchayat in fulfilling key targeting mandates** of the program.

## SPECIAL STUDIES

There are two ongoing special studies

- A study focused on the institutional sustainability of Community Based Organizations of PVP
- An analysis of PVPs skills program.



## PUDHU VAAZHVU PROJECT SOCIAL OBSERVATORY

ALL EFFECTIVE PROJECTS REQUIRE EFFECTIVE DATA FOR ACTION – DATA THAT IS ACCURATE, INDICATORS THAT ARE RELEVANT, AND ANALYSIS THAT LEADS TO ACTION. THE SOCIAL OBSERVATORY FOR THE PUDHU VAAZHVU PROJECT IS AN INTEGRATED LEARNING SYSTEM THAT WILL GENERATE DATA FOR ACTION.

**The Pudhu Vaazhvu Project (PVP) works to empower, and reduce poverty among the poorest households in Tamil Nadu.** With a focus on Self Help Groups (SHGs) with marginalized households, that include the differently abled, tribals, and the extremely poor and vulnerable, PVP works to build sustainable institutions and federations of SHGs, that are closely linked to both financial institutions and markets.

In order to make the local state work for the rural poor, PVP is implemented in partnership with Village Panchayats. These panchayats work closely with PVP to ensure the inclusion of marginalized households, and to target other national and state sponsored social welfare programs to these households.

From October 2006, the PVP project has worked in 2300 Village Panchayats from 70 blocks in 15 districts. In December 2010, the project was approved for an additional financing component to expand into an additional 50 blocks. **By October 2015, the project will cover one-third of the state.**

All effective projects require effective data for action – data that is accurate, indicators that are relevant, and analysis that leads to action. In recognition of this need, PVP is working with World Bank's Social Observatory team to implement an integrated learning system. **The Social Observatory incorporates various monitoring and evaluation**

**tools to measure change, assess the effectiveness of the project, and pinpoint design and implementation challenges.**

**The Social Observatory for the PVP is driven by the following principles:**

- (i) Real time learning from monitoring
- (ii) Long term learning from periodic quantitative and qualitative evaluations
- (iii) Special studies to understand key issues for project implementation and design

The ongoing learning initiatives in PVP are summarized in this brief.



### MONITORING

- Dashboards for MIS
- MIS for PVPs health card initiative

### IMPACT EVALUATIONS

- Has PVP improved the welfare of the rural poor? In what ways, and how?
  - Retrospective evaluation of the project impact in old blocks.
  - Prospective evaluation in new project areas
  - Qualitative study of the key impact pathways.
- Do community-based health interventions work to improve the health and nutrition status of women? An impact evaluation of PVPs health cards initiative
- Do incentives to local governments matter to targeting the poor? An evaluation of the Gram Panchayat Incentive Fund.

### SPECIAL STUDIES

- Institutional sustainability for key CBOs.
- Has the PVP skills program worked? For whom? And in which sectors?