

**Murshidabad**

**Community  
Health  
Impact  
Assessment  
Tool**

**Association for Social and Health Advancement (ASHA)**

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***“Seeking Change in the Lives of the Disadvantaged”***

The **Association for Social and Health Advancement** (ASHA) is a non-profit, non-political, non-government organization which since its inception in 1997, has been working to improve the socio-economic and health status of disadvantaged communities.

This process of community health impact assessment was undertaken with Field Volunteers/Community Organizers of ASHA at Murshidabad Project Office, Omarpur, District Murshidabad, West Bengal, India.  
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The template for this Community Health Impact Assessment Tool was developed by the Antigonish Town & County Community Health Board in Nova Scotia, Canada.

Community Health Impact Assessment is a process developed by the People Assessing Their Health (PATH) Network in Nova Scotia, Canada.

The process undertaken with ASHA was facilitated by staff of the Coady International Institute, St. Francis Xavier University, Nova Scotia, Canada

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## OUR VISION OF A HEALTHY COMMUNITY

### *In a healthy community there will be...*

- Education for all
- Adequate nutritious food, shelter and clothing for everyone
- Improved economic conditions (adequate opportunities for income generation for both men and women)
- Health awareness for all
- Available and appropriate health care facilities
- Well planned small families
- Availability of safe drinking water and sanitation facilities for all households
- Healthy environment
- No gender discrimination
- Good roads and better communication facilities
- Educated Panchayet representatives (local self-government)
- Peace and harmony in the village
- Opportunities for social cultural and religious activities.
- Presence of community based organizations including women's groups.

### **Factors that determine health:**

- Adequate nutritious diet
- Healthy environment
- Safe drinking water and sanitation facilities
- Education
- Consciousness regarding healthy practices
- Easily available & accessible health services
- Good economic conditions (opportunity for income generation)
- Traditional practices and social customs
- Family size (one or two children)
- Gender bias
- Healthy child development
- Facilities for sports and other recreational activities
- Better communication facilities
- Peace and nonviolence

## The Story-telling Process

To create this community health impact assessment tool, ASHA brought together 12 Community Organizers/Volunteers at their Murshidabad Project Office, Omarpur, Murshidabad District, West Bengal over a three-day period.

Introductions were made and the purpose for the meeting was explained. The volunteers were then asked to think about some stories that affected their health. A number of stories were told and one story was chosen for reflection through the “structured dialogue” story-telling process.

The story was analyzed using the following steps:

- The group was asked to identify or describe everything that happened in the story (the *what*). Careful attention was paid to not get into discussion of “why” things happened.
- The next step was to have the women look at each of the “what” elements and describe *why* these things happened.
- The third step was to discuss what these things mean about health (*so what*).
- A fourth step in the process, which looks at next steps (*now what*) was not included in the reflection at this time.

Following the story-telling process, the volunteers were asked to go into small groups and identify all of the factors that contribute to health and well-being.

The next activity was to ask the groups to imagine what a healthy community would be. This would form the basis of their “vision of a healthy community”.

The small groups then shared their visions of a healthy community with the whole group.

Back in the small groups, the volunteers were asked to discuss and make a list of all the things that could be done to help achieve this vision.

A small group used the information generated in the volunteer’s meeting to create this community health impact assessment tool. It includes all of the suggestions made in the gathering.

## STEP 1: ASSESSMENT WORKSHEET

Will _____ help us to make our community healthy in the following ways:	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments</i>
• Improved agricultural practices (better seeds, fertilizers, small irrigation facilities)			
• Availability of regular, nutritious food			
• Availability of safe drinking water			
• Electrical supply in the village			
• Good roads & better communication facilities			
• Access to credit			
• Opportunities for starting new micro-enterprises for both men and women			
• Facilities of market			
• Primary education for all			
• Quality education and well trained and motivated teachers in the school			
• Efficient public distribution system			
• Opportunities for higher education			
• Health sub-center in the village			

	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments</i>
• Regular supply of medicine at the sub-center and good behaviour of, health worker.			
• Easily available and accessible secondary health care facilities			
• ICDS Center (child development center) in the village			

• Health awareness programs for members of the community			
• Awareness programs for preventing early marriage and dowry			
• Non-formal education center for illiterate adults			
• Presence of rural libraries			
• Presence of women's groups & youth clubs			
• Vocational training opportunities for women			
• Sanitation and proper drainage facilities			
• Space for sports and cultural activities			
• Peace and harmony in the village			
• Educated Panchayet representatives			
• Create equal opportunities for boys and girls			
• Equal opportunities for disabled people.			
• Participation of both men and women in village development activities			

- Looking back at how the proposed project will affect the different things you have discussed, how do you think the project in general will contribute to the overall well-being and health of the community?
- Are there any special things to be considered?
- Is there anything else that can be done to make this project better?

## STEP 2: NEXT STEPS

When you have decided that other things needs to be done to make this project better, below you can list what the steps are, who is responsible, etc.

Next Step (What)	Who to Involve	When	Person Responsible	Report Back (by when)