

APPENDIX VII

Narratives related to family planning and immunization

1. Family planning

a) One rural LHV narrated an incident as follows:

"A woman developed sepsis after she was operated upon for family planning. I requested the Medical Officer (MO) on duty to examine the patient. In the meanwhile the woman's husband arrived, saw the male MO and turned violent. He caught hold of the MO's shirt collar and threw him out in front of everybody, all the while shouting - how can a man examine his wife when a sister' was available to do that?' The MO had tears in his eyes ("Doctor saheb ki aankhon mein aansoon aa gaye the"); the man had thrown him out in front of everybody ("Sabke saamne dhakke deke baahar nikaal diya tha"). We tried to explain to the husband but to no avail.

b) In the words of an urban ANM:

Once we brought a vasectomy case from the field and he was taken to the operation theatre. His wife, on learning about it, came running and created a furore. With great difficulty she was convinced that we had not brought her husband forcefully and he had come of his own free will.

2. Immunization

a) An experience with immunization was narrated by an urban ANM:

Once sepsis occurred after we did vaccination in a school. The child's father and brother came to fight with us, they gave our names in newspapers that we did not vaccinate properly (Tika phel ho gaya, pak gaya) and after that we were scared to go to that area because we thought that the students of that school will pelt stones at us. They were all very angry at us.

b) A BEE described an incident in a tribal area:

Once I went with the health team to a tribal area - which had a high incidence of diarrhoea - to vaccinate the community against cholera. Many people developed swelling and fever on the subsequent day. They pelted stones at the team, the window panes of the PHC jeep broke and a case had to be registered with the police.