

## Village Convergence Planning Committee (VCPC)

### Structure and Function

**GOAL:** To identify convergent solutions to address issues and problems faced by girls and women in accessing health and education services and economic opportunities, as well as guaranteeing their safety.

#### **OBJECTIVES:**

1. Identify and communicate issues and problems facing girls and women through community dialogue and monitoring of services and programs
2. Develop multi-sectoral convergent solutions and recommendations to address the issues and problems faced by girls and women
3. Link to the processes of the Block Convergence Planning Committee (BCPC) and District Convergence Planning Committee (DCPC)

#### **STRUCTURE AND MEMBERSHIP:**

The committee will consist of three components - 1) the Executive Committee, 2) the General Body members.

##### **1) Executive Committee**

###### ***Rationale:***

The members for this committee mainly represent different departments and have the responsibility of providing information on the schemes/programs at the village level. These members can take issues at the grassroot level to their departments/program committees (VHSNC, Village Vigilance Committee, Parent Teachers Association, SMCs, other committees at the Gram Panchayat) to seek solutions and support for convergent action. This committee ensures the participation in planning and decision-making of youth, women and marginalized communities. This committee gives it's members a platform to discuss and influence the budget at the village level (gram panchayat, untied funds at the health sub-centers, funds under 14<sup>th</sup> financial commission, etc.) for the empowerment of girls and women.

###### ***Role and Functions:***

1. Direct the functioning of the VCPC
2. Co-ordinate the committee's interaction with the community and the block level officials
3. Monitor services and facilities through data collection twice a year
4. Report on actions taken to the community in the Gram Sabha and at the block level
5. Undergo training and capacity building on gender analysis, data collection and monitoring

**Membership: - suggest you cluster by sector**

1. Gram Panchayat Mahila Member
2. Sarpanch/Deputy Sarpanch (as and when required)
3. Primary-Secondary Principal/Senior teacher (one from each level for a total of 02)
4. Anganwadi worker/ Anganwadi helper
5. ANM
6. ASHA
7. Gram Suraksha committee member (village Dakshata Committee)
8. Police Patil
9. Youth members (02)
10. Women member (01 member each from the CBO- 01 Dalit/Muslim for a total of 02)
11. Civil society member

Total: 14 members

**Chair of Executive Committee of the VCPC:** Gram Panchayat Mahila Member

**Convener of Executive Committee of the VCPC meetings:** ASHA

**Quorum will be reached with one-third of members present.**

**2) Additional members to be invited (as and when necessary)**

**Rationale:**

The invited members will represent different departments from the block level and guide the VCPC towards drawing sustainable solutions. They will serve as the link between the Village Convergence Planning Committee and the departments at the block level. The discussions and convergent solutions and recommendations to address the issues and problems faced by girls and women at the village level will be taken to the Block Convergence Planning Committee. The invited members will provide information on schemes/program to the VCPC and develop strategies in discussion with the Executive Committee members to reach the beneficiaries.

**Role and Functions:**

1. Support and guide the Executive Committee in its functions
2. Promote the recommended actions of the Executive Committee
3. Interact regularly with the Executive Committee members
4. Undergo training for capacity building in gender analysis and monitoring (this is a requirement of membership)
5. Link the Executive Committee to the elected and administrative officials within the village and at the block level

**Pool of Members:**

1. Gram Sevak
2. Block level Dakshata Committee member
3. Nirbhaya squad member
4. Beat Marshal
5. Senior Police inspector
6. State Transportation representative
7. Block level Depot Manager, State Transportation
8. School Management Committee representative
9. Representation from the ITI (Industrial Training Institutes)
10. RKSK representative
11. Medical Officer - Primary Health Centre
12. Public Works Department Engineer
13. Block Agricultural Officer
14. Circle Office- Block Revenue Department
15. Talathi

**OTHER ROLES AND FUNCTIONS:****Convener's Role:**

1. Call and conduct meetings
2. Maintain the meeting minutes and committee records
3. Co-ordinate the interactions of the Village Level Convergence Committee with block officials
4. Report to the Block Level Convergence Committee

**Frequency of Meetings:** The Executive Committee will meet once a month and the Advisory Members will join for one meeting every quarter. Members of the General Body will be called to attend select meetings of the executive committee based on the issues on the agenda.

**Essential Requirements:** To be effective, the Village Level Convergence Committee should be approved and supported by the CEO and other officials of the Pune Zilla Parishad, Block elected and administrative functionaries, and village level elected and administrative functionaries.

**Risks and Mitigation Strategies Principles**

1. Risk: VCPC can prove to be more powerful than the people.

Mitigation: The VCPC should be answerable to the community. This can be established by setting a democratic precedence through reporting to the Gram Sabha. Issues and ideas should be presented to the Mahila groups, and then the committee to make decisions.

2. Risk: May create rivalries with other committees.

Mitigation: Create lateral and vertical linkages to facilitate cooperation and minimize competition with other committees.

3. Risk: The VCPC could operate as an independent entity.

Mitigation: Ensure clear lines of communication between VCPC, BCPC and DCPC.