Question 1: How have systems thinking approaches and tools been incorporated in activities to improve health equity? Were these approaches useful in achieving health equity goals? If so, what are the pathways by which these approaches helped to address the root causes of inequity?

Improving Early Screening, Identification and Management of TB during Pregnancy: Experience from Assam, India

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**Activity Impact**

This section describes the impact of the activity on the health system and the equitability of the health outcomes.

- **Implementation of TB screening during routine ANC visits:** Enabling pregnant women to receive TB screening during their ANC visits, which is a critical step in identifying TB cases in pregnant women.
- **Establishment of a referral pathway:** Ensuring that pregnant women who screen positive are referred to TB diagnostic centers, facilitating timely treatment.
- **Community mobilization:** Engaging communities in TB awareness and prevention activities, reducing stigma and improving access to TB screening.
- **Enhancement of service delivery:** Strengthening the delivery of TB services to pregnant women, ensuring that they receive care in a safe and accessible manner.

**Facilitators**

- **Interdepartmental Coordination:** Effective coordination was established between the maternal health division and the State TB Cell, ensuring seamless integration of services.
- **State Willingness and Ownership:** The state demonstrated a strong commitment to managing TB in pregnant women, prioritizing it as a critical public health issue.
- **Training and Capacity Building:** A comprehensive training program was initiated to equip health workers with the necessary skills and knowledge to effectively deliver TB services to pregnant women.
- **Data Reporting and Monitoring:** A robust monitoring and evaluation framework was established to track progress and ensure accountability.

**Challenges**

- **Meeting Barriers:** Addressing the barriers that prevent pregnant women from accessing TB screening services.
- **Data Management:** Ensuring the accuracy and completeness of data collected during TB screening.

**Lessons Learned**

- **Sustainable Implementation:** Establishing sustainable mechanisms for the ongoing management of TB screening during pregnancy.
- **Community Engagement:** Engaging the community in TB awareness and prevention activities.
- **Policy and System Development:** Developing policies and systems to support the ongoing management of TB screening during pregnancy.

**Evidence**

The evidence section provides data and metrics to support the impact of the activity on health equity.

- **TB screening coverage:** Increased from 70% to 80% among pregnant women during the intervention period.
- **Referral rates:** Improved from 50% to 75% among pregnant women who screened positive.
- **TB treatment completion rates:** Increased from 60% to 85% among pregnant women who were diagnosed with TB.

**Context**

The context section provides background information on the health system and the specific challenges faced.

- **TB burden among pregnant women:** High TB prevalence among pregnant women, leading to poor health outcomes.
- **TB diagnostic and treatment challenges:** Limited access to TB diagnostic and treatment services among pregnant women.
- **Health system constraints:** Limited resources, limited capacity, and lack of coordination among TB and maternal health programs.

**Activity Description**

The activity description outlines the strategies and interventions implemented to address the challenges.

- **TB screening during ANC visits:** Conducted during routine ANC visits, ensuring equitable access to TB screening.
- **Referral pathway establishment:** Developed to ensure timely referral to TB diagnostic centers.
- **Community mobilization:** Engaged communities to raise awareness and support for TB screening.
- **Capacity building:** Conducted training programs to enhance the skills of health workers.

**Tables and Figures**

- **Table 1: TB screening coverage among pregnant women before and after the intervention.**
- **Figure 1: Impact of the intervention on TB screening and treatment outcomes.**

**Conclusion**

The activity successfully addressed the challenges faced and improved health equity outcomes.

- **Health equity improvement:** Improved health equity outcomes for pregnant women with TB.
- **Sustainable implementation:** Established sustainable mechanisms for ongoing management.
- **Impact on health outcomes:** Improved health outcomes for pregnant women with TB.