



Sankala Foundation

National Conference
on
Universal Access to Healthcare: Digital Solutions

With the support of

NITI Aayog

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
National Human Rights Commission, India

Date

6th September, 2024

Time

9:30 am onwards

Venue

Gulmohar Hall, India Habitat Centre, New Delhi



Healthcare Scenario in India

India has made impressive strides in improving its healthcare delivery system to make quality services accessible and affordable to all. Particularly, significant gains have been made in improving the reproductive, maternal, newborn, child, and adolescent health, and nutritional status (RMNCHA+N) that are central to the achievement of national health goals under the National Health Mission (NHM).

- **Maternal Mortality Ratio declined 77% during 1990-2015 to 130/1,00,000 live births as against the global decline of 44%.**
- **Maternal Mortality Ratio in 2022 was 97/1,00,000 live births.**
- **Under-five Mortality Rate declined 71% between 1990-2017 to 32/1,000 live births against a global decline of 59%.**
- **Under-five Mortality Rate in 2022 was 32/1,000 live births.**
- **The number of medical colleges increased from 387 in 2014 to 731 in 2024.**
- **Undergraduate medical seats increased from 51,185 before 2014 to 1,12,112 in 2024.**
- **Postgraduate medical seats increased from 31,185 before 2014 to 72,627 in 2024.**
- **Ten crore accredited social health activists (ASHAs) trained to deliver basic healthcare.**
- **Over 10 crore tele-consultations held under eSanjeevani programme.**
- **Close to six lakh villages declared Open Defecation Free since 2014.**
- **35 Open Defecation Free States/UTs as of 2024.**
- **Annually seven crore under-five children covered through Intensified Diarrhoea Control Initiative.**
- **Moreover, 2.8 crore children dewormed annually under National Deworming Day.**
- **The National Adolescent Health Programme covers 25.3 crore adolescents.**
- **Annually, 7 crore adolescents provided health services through 7,500 dedicated adolescent clinics.**
- **Iron Folic Acid tablets given to 4 crore adolescents every week.**

Universal Health Coverage

India has also committed to providing Universal Health Coverage by the year 2030. The UHC is based on three verticals – accessibility, affordability and quality.

Strengthening the public health infrastructure and leveraging digital technology are the first steps towards reaching this ambitious goal. The second step is using technology to take healthcare services to every individual.

Government Initiatives

The National Health Authority (NHA) has been set up as the apex body, under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, responsible for implementing India's flagship public health insurance scheme, designing strategy, building technological infrastructure, and implementing the 'National Digital Health Mission' to create a National Digital Health Eco-system.

The ambitious Ayushman Bharat scheme has been a game-changer in making quality healthcare accessible and affordable. The setting up of 1,50,000 Health and Wellness Centres (HWCs) has helped in delivering universal and free comprehensive primary healthcare closer to the homes. The Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY) has provided cashless treatment at higher healthcare facilities to over 50 crore people.

eSanjeevani – the National Telemedicine Service of India is another step connecting patients in remote areas with doctors using smartphones. It has resulted in more than 10 crore tele-consultations with close to 5 lakh people using the eSanjeevani to seek treatment.

Private Sector Participation

Karnataka Government and Tata Medical and Diagnostics have developed a unique Digital Nerve Centre (DiNC) to enhance patient experience and care in the Kolar district in Karnataka. This will be showcased at the conference.

Andhra Pradesh will present its State Telemedicine Programme that provides accessible and affordable treatment to citizens, particularly those living in difficult geographic terrains and the underserved.

Role of NITI Aayog

NITI Aayog has been providing critical policy inputs to make India's health sector robust, economically affordable, and accessible. It gives advice and policy guidance to key stakeholders involved in public health development and management.

Human Rights and Universal Access to Health

Universal access to healthcare has also emerged as a basic human right. The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), India is actively engaged with various stakeholders, including governments, parastatal organisations, NITI Aayog, domain experts, and medical professionals, from a human rights perspective. The Commission also has a Core Group on Healthcare.

Conference on Digital Solutions

Focussing on the strengths of digitisation in healthcare, the National Conference on 'Universal Access to Healthcare: Digital Solutions' aims to bring together practitioners, government officials, leading experts, innovators and thought leaders in the field of health and health technology to explore the intersection of these crucial sectors.

Programme

Inaugural Session: 9:30 am	
Technical Session-I	Models of Change in Healthcare The session will discuss successful digital healthcare delivery models in India.
Technical Session-II	Future Frontiers in Digital Health This session brings an insight into how digitisation can be a gamechanger in ensuring Universal Health Coverage.
Technical Session-III	Digitally-enabled Universal Health Coverage The conference concludes with the experts discussing the roadmap for using digital technology for Universal Health Coverage.
Closing Session: 2:00 pm	



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