

Summary of the proposals submitted under the BHSRC Grant

Financing Primary Healthcare Innovations

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Overview. Many states have been strengthening their urban primary health setup through innovative practices and revamping primary healthcare to address the changing needs of the population and have developed a family healthcare model. This study aims to understanding lessons for other states from these states by proposing a comparative study of states.

Objectives

- An in-depth analysis of the major Primary Health Care reforms to date in India, along with their lessons learned from both a technical (e.g. provider payment methods, HR constraints, supply chain constraints, etc.) and political (pushback from organized providers, etc.) perspectives.³
- Development of a taxonomy of the main PHC delivery models so far existing in India (public and private), and their main barriers/catalysts for scalability.
- The study will analyse broader changes in the delivery mechanisms in the provision of primary healthcare; it will in particular (a) examine innovative delivery mechanisms that would improve the overall efficiency and effectiveness of primary healthcare system, and (b) identify incentives for engaging with primary care providers to join SP schemes.

Methodology. To develop a taxonomy of the existing PHC delivery models in India (public and private), understand the incentives of PHC providers (particularly organized private providers) to join strategic purchasing schemes of the Government, and identify the enablers and hindrances in the process followed, the research team will undertake the following sequence of activities:

- Review of the existing national policies and guidelines will be undertaken to understand the major primary health care reforms introduced in India, along with their lessons learned from both a technical (e.g. provider payment methods, HR constraints, supply chain constraints, etc.) and political (pushback from organized providers, etc.) perspectives
- Information will be elucidated through KIIs to analyze the implications and implementation challenges of such reforms.
- In consultation with the DoH, the sample districts/blocks will be selected to study the innovations made by the health providers in order to provide the primary health care to the citizens. Care will be exercised to make the sample as heterogenous as possible to capture variations.
- An exit interview will be designed and administered to the beneficiaries to understand the level of satisfaction, availability of primary care at an affordable price/time.
- Based on the findings and observations, guidelines and policy recommendations will be framed and suggested to make the primary health care delivery more efficient and effective. Besides, the team shall organize dissemination workshops and consultations with various stakeholders involved in the delivery of primary health care.

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The secondary data will be collected and synthesized from various of sources including guidelines, circulars, notifications issued by DoH, websites of Department Health and Family Welfare (National & State). Primary data will be collected from the beneficiaries by administering a closed ended questionnaire while in-depth interviews/observations will be used to collect information from relevant stakeholders who are associated with the delivery of primary health care.

Output

At the end of the study, it is expected to produce

- A taxonomy of the PHC delivery models existing in India (public and private), and what are the major barriers/catalysts for scalability of these models
- critically analyze the incentives of PHC providers (particularly organized providers) to join strategic purchasing schemes lunched by the Government.