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FOREWORD

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स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण विभाग
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Government of India
Department of Health and Family Welfare
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

Dated : 24th December, 2019

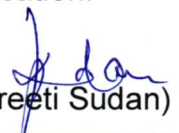
Irrespective of social, economic, religious, cultural or any such factors, proper, effective and efficient healthcare services are needed by everyone. Providing such services becomes more challenging in India considering the vast diversity of the country. Due to this diversity, the need of healthcare services varies from State to State and Region to Region.

However, the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare is committed to provide the optimum healthcare services available to its entire population despite of all such challenges. The needs of the population have to be addressed by fully utilizing the existing capacities in the most effective and efficient manner, in addition to creating new capacities by way of additional infrastructure, human resources and introducing new programmes. The National Health Mission has placed considerable emphasis on this. However, to access the quantum of future needs in this direction as well as progresses so far, availability of reliable and timely data is crucial.

'Rural Health Statistics' an annual publication is based on Health care administrative data generated by the health care system. It is an effort towards providing reliable and updated information on rural health infrastructure. The data given in this publication is based on the information upto March 2019, provided by States and UTs. In line with Ministry's flagship scheme "Ayushman Bharat", the data on parameters pertaining to Health & Wellness Centres has also been incorporated. Data regarding the Dental Surgeons at PHCs and CHCs level has been incorporated for the first time in this publication. To increase the scalability of the publication the data with respect to the Urban Health parameters have also been included in the publication. It provides data on rural, urban and tribal health infrastructure, human resources, distribution of facilities at SCs, PHCs, CHCs, HWCs etc., so as to provide the status of public health infrastructure available in the country.

The 'Rural Health Statistics' offers the most comprehensive source of comparable statistics on Rural health with additional components on urban health systems across the country. It is an essential tool to carry out comparative analyses and take policy decisions based on informed data. Findings based on this data can be vital to policymakers in understanding how utilization patterns differ among population subgroups and pinpointing geographic areas where problems are the most severe.

We will be happy to accept suggestions for further improvement of this publication.


(Preeti Sudan)