Preface

The system of Rural Health Care in India forms the basis for providing Primary Health Care to a vast section of population residing in rural areas constituting about 69% of the total population of the country. Efficient and smooth functioning of such a vast network of Rural Health Care institutions needs careful planning and management of the available infrastructure, resources and manpower at the same time making proper assessment of the requirements in future as well. As such, Health planning in India has been an integral part of national socio-economic planning. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is the nodal agency addressing to the issues concerning health and family welfare in the country.

To cater to the basic need of effective planning, monitoring and management of health infrastructure data in rural areas, this Ministry has been bringing out this annual publication titled “Rural Health Statistics (RHS)” in India. The RHS Bulletin is compiling information on various aspects of Rural Health Care services, including rural health infrastructure, health human resources, their training need, building position of facilities, etc.

The present Bulletin of RHS titled “Rural Health Statistics 2015-16” provides data on rural health infrastructure including health manpower upto 31st March, 2016. The Bulletin is published in bilingual. The information are received from all State/UT Governments on a set of pre designed nine Proformas circulated by the Ministry. The data received from them are cross checked for consistency within and across years and are also validated with the data available from other sources.

Major Highlights of the Bulletin are placed at the beginning of the publication, enabling users to have a quick glance on the important findings. Besides highlights, the publication is arranged in two Parts. The Part-1 gives an analysis about the Rural Health Care System in India whereas the Part-2 provides detailed statistics. Further, the Part-2 of the Bulletin is divided into ten sections. The Section I provides comparative position of various
health infrastructure like number of facilities, the manpower employed etc. between 2005 (a year before launch of National Rural Health Mission) and 2016, the Section II provides the detailed statistics about a number of demographic indicators. Section III deals with Rural Health Infrastructure while Section IV is devoted to Health Manpower in rural areas. Section V and VI are providing statistics on status of facilities available & training of medical & paramedical personnels respectively. In section VII States/UTs are classified according to parameters of rural healthcare. The Section VIII provides detailed statistics on Rural Health infrastructure in Tribal Areas.

The Bulletin is available in soft copy at the Ministry's website. Detailed statistics of the Bulletin in Microsoft Excel format are also on the website for having ease in calculations during data analysis. I hope this Bulletin will prove beneficial to various users working in this field. Suggestions for further improvement of the Bulletin for future publications are most welcome.

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