

## Rural Health Care System in India

### Rural Health Care System – the structure and current scenario

The health care infrastructure in rural areas has been developed as a three tier system (see *Chart 1*) and is based on the following population norms:

Table 1.

#### Sub-Centres (SCs)

1.2. The Sub-Centre is the most peripheral and first contact point between the primary health care system and the community. Each Sub-Centre is manned by one Auxiliary Nurse Midwife (ANM) and one Male Health Worker MPW(M) (for details of staffing pattern, see *Box 1*). One Lady Health Worker (LHV) is entrusted with the task of supervision of six Sub-Centres. Sub-Centres are assigned tasks relating to interpersonal communication in order to bring about behavioral change and provide services in relation to maternal and child health, family welfare, nutrition, immunization, diarrhea control and control of communicable diseases programmes. The Sub-Centres are provided with basic drugs for minor ailments needed for taking care of essential health needs of men, women and children. The Department of Family Welfare is providing 100% Central assistance to all the Sub-Centres in the country since April 2002 in the form of salary of ANMs and LHVs, rent at the rate of Rs. 3000/- per annum and contingency at the rate of Rs. 3200/- per annum, in addition to drugs and equipment kits. The salary of the Male Worker is borne by the State Governments. Under the Swap Scheme, the Government of India has taken over an additional 39554 Sub Centres from State Governments / Union Territories since April, 2002 in lieu of 5434 number of Rural Family Welfare Centres transferred to the State Governments / Union Territories. There are 146026 Sub Centres functioning in the country as on September, 2005 as compared to 142655 in September, 2004.

#### Primary Health Centres (PHCs)

1.3. PHC is the first contact point between village community and the Medical Officer. The PHCs were envisaged to provide an integrated curative and preventive health care to the rural population with emphasis on preventive and promotive aspects of health care. The PHCs are established and maintained by the State Governments under the Minimum Needs Programme (MNP)/ Basic Minimum Services Programme (BMS). At present, a PHC is manned by a Medical Officer supported by 14 paramedical and other staff. It acts as a referral unit for 6 Sub Centres. It has 4 - 6 beds for patients. The activities of PHC involve curative, preventive, primitive and Family Welfare Services. There are 23236 PHCs functioning as on September, 2005 in the country as compared to 23109 in September, 2004.

Chart 1.

## **RURAL HEALTH CARE SYSTEM IN INDIA**

### **Community Health Centre (CHC)**

**A 30 bedded Hospital/Referral Unit for 4 PHCs with Specialised services**



### **Primary Health Centre (PHC)**

**A Referral Unit for 6 Sub Centres 4-6 bedded manned with a Medical Officer Incharge and 14 subordinate paramedical staff**



### **Sub Centre (SC)**

**Most peripheral contact point between Primary Health Care System & Community manned with one MPW(F)/ANM & one MPW(M)**

**Box 1.****STAFFING PATTERN**

A. <u>STAFF FOR SUB - CENTRE:</u>	<u>Number of Posts</u>
1. Health Worker (Female)/ANM.....	1
2. Health Worker (Male).....	1
3. Voluntary Worker (Paid @ Rs.100/- p.m. as honorarium).....	1
Total:.....	3
B. <u>STAFF FOR NEW PRIMARY HEALTH CENTRE</u>	
1. Medical Officer.....	1
2. Pharmacist.....	1
3. Nurse Mid-wife (Staff Nurse).....	1
4. Health Worker (Female)/ANM.....	1
5. Health Educator.....	1
6. Health Assistant (Male).....	1
7. Health Assistant (Female)/LHV.....	1
8. Upper Division Clerk.....	1
9. Lower Division Clerk.....	1
10. Laboratory Technician.....	1
11. Driver (Subject to availability of Vehicle).....	1
12. Class IV.....	4
Total:.....	15
C. <u>STAFF FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRE:</u>	
1. Medical Officer #.....	4
2. Nurse Mid- Wife(staff Nurse).....	7
3. Dresser.....	1
4. Pharmacist/Compounder.....	1
5. Laboratory Technician.....	1
6. Radiographer.....	1
7. Ward Boys.....	2
8. Dhobi.....	1
9. Sweepers.....	3
10. Mali.....	1
11. Chowkidar .....	1
12. Aya.....	1
13. Peon.....	1
Total:.....	25

# :Either qualified or specially trained to work as Surgeon, Obstetrician, Physician and Pediatrician. One of the existing Medical Officers similarly should be either qualified or specially trained in Public Health).

**Box 2.**

**RURAL HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE - NORMS AND LEVEL OF ACHIEVEMENTS (ALL INDIA)**

Indicator	National Norms		Achievements
	General	Tribal/Hilly/Desert	
10. Rural Population (2001) covered by a: Sub Centre	5000	3000	5085

Primary Health Centre (PHC)	30000	20000	31954
Community Health Centre (CHC)	120000	80000	2.21 lakhs
Number of Sub Centres per PHC	6		6
Number of PHCs per CHC	4		7
<b>Rural Population (2001) covered by a:</b>			
MPW (F)	5000	3000	5574
MPW (M)	5000	3000	11994
Ratio of HA (M) to MPW (M)	1:6.0		1:3
Ratio of HA (F) to MPW (F)	1:6.0		1:8
<b>Average Rural Area (Sq. Km) covered by a:</b>			
Sub Centre	--		21.35