



SMCH/NHPP/35: National Health Policy-2017

QUADRANT I

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Description of Module

Items	Description of Module
Subject name	Social Medicine & Community Health
Paper name	NATIONAL HEALTH PROGRAMME AND POLICIES
Module name/Title	National Health Policy 2017
Module Id	SMCH/NHPP/35
Pre-requisites	Understanding of scenario of health indicators in India and achievements of MDGs
Objectives	To understand key policy principles, specific quantitative goals and objectives as well as policy thrust of NHP 2017.
Keywords	Universality, Pluralism, Policy thrust



Introduction:

India is now the world's third largest economy in terms of its Gross National Income, the inequities in health outcomes continue to remain. Achievements of Millennium Development Goals have been mixed. It has also shown consistent investment in population stabilization. However, the persistent challenge on the population stabilisation front is the declining sex ratio. India is currently experiencing a rapid health transition. There is an unfinished agenda of addressing infectious diseases, nutritional deficiencies, escalating of non communicable diseases (NCDs), accidents/injuries and on safe motherhood. Health of the population is determined largely by lifestyle (50%) followed by biological and environmental factor (20% each), whereas health system related factors contribute only 10%. There are concerns on quality of care. Performance in disease control programmes has not been optimal. Issues pertaining to urban health and financial protection need to be addressed. Health care industry on the whole need to be geared up and investment in health care, health research and regulation need and priority attention, against this backdrop National Health Policy enacted in India in 2017.

Learning Outcomes:

After completion of this module the reader should be able to:

- State goal of NHP 2017
- Enumerate key policy principles
- List objectives of NHP 2017.
- Identify specific quantitative goals and objectives in terms of:
 - Health status and program impact
 - Health system performance
 - Health system strengthening
- Identify policy thrust and their relevance.
- Mention Key issues pertaining to various national health programs

Main Text:



1- Goal of NHP 2017

Growing burden of non communicable diseases and some infectious diseases, emergence of a robust health care industry and growing incidences of catastrophic expenditure due to health care cost and rising economic growth enables enhanced fiscal capacity. Therefore a new health policy responsive to these contextual changes is required.

1.1-Primary aim:

The primary aim of the National Health Policy, 2017 is to inform, clarify, strengthen and prioritize the role of the Government in shaping health systems in all its dimensions- investments in health, organization of healthcare services, prevention of diseases and promotion of good health through cross-sectoral actions, access to technologies, developing human resources, encouraging medical pluralism, building knowledge base, developing better financial protection strategies, strengthening regulation and health assurance.

1.2-Goal, principles and objectives:

Highest possible level of health and well-being for all at all ages, through a preventive and promotive health care orientation in all developmental policies, and universal access to good quality health care services without anyone having to face hardship as a consequence.

2- Key policy principles

- Professionalism, Integrity and Ethics
- Equity
- Affordability
- Universality
- Patient Centered & Quality of Care:
- Accountability
- Inclusive Partnerships
- Pluralism by streamlining AYUSH
- Decentralization
- Dynamism and Addictiveness

3- Objectives

3.1- Progressively achieve Universal Health Coverage:

[A] Assuring availability of free, comprehensive primary health care services, for all aspects of reproductive, maternal, child and adolescent health and for the most prevalent communicable and non



communicable and occupational diseases in the population. Optimum use of existing manpower and infrastructure as available in the health sector.

[B] Ensuring improved access and affordability of quality secondary and tertiary care services through a combination of public hospitals and well measured strategic purchasing of services in health care deficit areas, from private care providers, especially the not for profit providers.

[C] Achieving a significant reduction in out of pocket expenditure due to health care costs and achieving reduction in proportion of households experiencing catastrophic health expenditures and consequent impoverishment.

3.2-Reinforcing Trust in Public Health Care System: Making public health care system predictable, efficient, and patient centric, affordable and effective with a comprehensive package of services and products that meet immediate health care need of most people.

3.3- Align the growth of private health care sector with public health goals: Influence the operation and growth of private health care sector and medical technologies to ensure alignment with public health goals.

4- Specific quantitative Goals and Objectives:

It is outlined under three broad components:

[A] Health status and programme impact

[B] Health system performance

[C] Health system strengthening

4.1- Health status and programme impact

Life Expectancy and healthy life

- Increase Life Expectancy at birth 67.5 to 70 by 2025.
- Establish regular tracking of Disability Adjusted Life years (DALY) Index as a measure of burden of disease and its trends major categories by 2022.
- Reduction of TFR to 2.1 at national and sub-national level by 2025.

Mortality by Age and/or cause

- Reduce Under five Mortality to 23 by 2025 and MMR from current levels to 100 by 2020.
- Reduce infant mortality rate to 28 by 2019



- Reduce neo- natal mortality to 16 and still birth rate to “single digit” by 2025.

Reduction of disease prevalence/incidence:

- Achieve global target of 2020 which is also termed as target of 90:90:90, for HIV/AIDS i.e, 90% of all people living with HIV known
- Achieve and maintain elimination status of Leprosy by 2018, Kala-Azar by 2017 and Lymphatic Filariasis in endemic pockets by 2017.
- To achieve and maintain a cure rate of > 85% in new sputum positive patients for TB and reduce incidence of new cases, to reach elimination status by 2025.
- To reduce the prevalence of blindness to 0.25/1000 by 2025 and disease burden by one third from current levels.
- To reduce premature mortality from cardiovascular diseases, cancer, diabetes or chronic respiratory diseases by 25% by 2025

4.2- Health System Performance

Coverage of health services

- Increase utilization of public health facilities by 50% from current level by 2025.
- Antenatal care coverage to be sustained above 90% and skilled attendance at birth above 90% by 2025.
- More than 90% of the new born are fully immunized by one year of age by 2025.
- Meet need of family planning above 90% at national and sub national level by 2025.
- 80% of known hypertensive and diabetic individuals at household level maintain “controlled disease status” by 2025.

Cross Sectoral goals related to health

- Relative reduction in prevalence of current tobacco use by 15% by 2020 and 30% by 2025.
- Reduction of 40% in prevalence of stunting of under-five children by 2025.
- Access to safe water and sanitation to all by 2020 (Swachh Bharat Mission).
- Reduction of occupational injury by half from current levels of 334 per lakh agricultural workers by 2020.
- National/ state level tracking of selected health behavior.



4.3- Health System Strengthening

Health finance

- Increase health expenditure by Government as a percentage of GDP from the existing 1.15% to 2.5% by 2025.
- Increase State sector health spending to >8% of their budget by 2020.
- Decrease in proportion of households facing catastrophic health expenditure from the current levels by 25% by 2025.

Health Infrastructure and Human Resource

- Ensure availability of paramedics and doctors as per Indian Public Health Standard (IPHS) norms in high priority districts by 2020.
- Increase community health volunteers to population ratio as per IPHS norms, in high priority districts by 2025.
- Established primary and secondary care facility as per norms in high priority districts (population as well as time to reach norms) by 2025.

Health Management Information

- Ensure district-level electronic database of information on health system components by 2020
- Strengthen the health surveillance system and establish registries for diseases of public health importance by 2020.
- Establish Federated integrated health information architecture, Health Information Exchanges and Health Information Network by 2025.

5- Policy thrust and their relevance

5.1- Ensuring Adequate Investment: raising public health expenditure to 2.5% of the GDP in a time bound manner.

5.2- Preventive and Promotive Health

Seven priority areas for improving the environment for health by coordinated action are:

- The *Swachh Bharat Abhiyan*
- Balanced, Healthy diets and regular exercises.



- Addressing tobacco, alcohol and substance abuse.
- *Yatri Suraksha*- preventive deaths due to rail and road traffic accidents
- *Nirbhaya Nari*- action against gender violence
- Reduced stress and improved safety in the work place.
- Reducing indoor and outdoor air pollution

5.3- Organization of Public Health Care Delivery: The policy proposes seven key policy shifts in organizing health care services:

Primary Care	From Selective care to assured comprehensive care with linkages to referral hospitals
Secondary and Tertiary Care	From an input oriented to an output based strategic purchasing
Public hospitals	From user fees & cost recovery to assured free drugs, diagnostics and emergency services to all
Infrastructure and human resource development	From normative approach to targeted approach to reach under-served areas.
Urban Health	From token interventions to on-scale assured interventions, to organize Primary Health Care delivery and referral support for urban poor. Collaboration with other sectors to address wider determinants of urban health is advocated.
National Health Programmes	Integration with health systems for programme effectiveness and in turn contributing to strengthening of health systems for efficiency.
AYUSH Services	From Stand- alone to a three dimensional mainstreaming.

6- Key issues pertaining to various national health programs

6.1- RMNCH+A: Policy has strongly endorsed strengthening of general health system to prevent and manage maternal complications. There should be a system of ensuring continuity of care and emergency services for maternal health.

6.2- Child and Adolescent Health: The policy emphasis on neonatal survival, screening and treatment of growth related problems, birth defects and genetic diseases. It also envisages school health and adolescents and major focus areas.



6.3- Interventions to Address Malnutrition and Micronutrients Deficiencies:

Micronutrients Deficiencies would be addressed through a well planned strategy on micronutrient interventions. Focus would be reducing micronutrient malnourishment and augmenting initiatives like micro nutrient supplementation, food fortification, screening for anemia and public awareness.

6.4- Universal Immunization: For universal immunization focus will be to build upon the success of Mission Indra Dhanush.

6.5- Communicable Diseases: For Integrated disease surveillance programme, the policy recognizes the need for districts to respond to the communicable diseases priorities of their locality. It envisages major attention for control of tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS, elimination of leprosy, vector born disease control.

6.6- Non-Communicable Diseases: The policy recognizes the need to halt and reverse the growing incidence of chronic diseases and commits itself to culturally appropriate community centered solutions to meet the health needs of the ageing community in addition to compliance with constitutional obligations as per the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007.

6.7- Mental Health: This policy will take into consideration the provisions of the National Mental Health Policy 2014

6.8- Population Stabilization: The National Health Policy recognizes that improved access, education and empowerment would be the basis of successful population stabilization.

Other priority area for action would be for:

- Women's Health & Gender Mainstreaming
- Gender Based Violence (GBV)
- Supportive Supervision
- Emergency Care and Disaster Preparedness:
- Mainstreaming the Potential of AYUSH:
- Tertiary care Services:
- Human Resources for Health
- Financing of Health Care
- Collaboration with Non-Government Sector and engagement with private sector in all potential areas viz, Capacity Building, Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), Disaster Management, Stewardship etc.
- Regulatory Framework



- Professional Education Regulation through Regulation of Clinical Establishments, Food Safety, Drug Regulation, Medical Devices Regulation and Clinical Trial Regulation
- Vaccine Safety
- Medical Technologies
- Public Procurement
- Availability of Drugs and Medical Devices
- Aligning other policies for medical devices and equipment with public health goals
- Improving Public Sector Capacity for Manufacturing Essential Drugs and Vaccines
- Anti-microbial resistance
- Health Technology Assessment
- Digital Health Technology Eco- System
- Health survey
- Health Research in terms of Strengthening Knowledge for Health, Drug innovation and discovery, Development of information Databases and Research Collaboration
- Governance

The National Policy envisages that a roadmap with clear deliverables and milestone be place to achieve the goals and objectives of the policy.

Summary:

NHP 2017 envisages addressing the urgent need to improve performance of the health systems in this the global context to sustainable development goals. Besides identifying aims and objectives in terms of health status and programme impact, health system performance and health system strengthening it gives an account of policy thrust and their relevance and mention key issues pertaining to various national health programmes, it also visits other priority areas for action for advancing the agenda of Universal Health Coverage and provision of comprehensive health. The National Health policy envisages that roadmap with clear deliverables and milestone is place to achieve the goals and objectives of the policy.

References

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