

BangaloreMirror

MUMBAI MIRROR | AHMEDABAD MIRROR | PUNE MIRROR

IS HEALTH MISSION LOSING ITS STEAM?

By Vandana Kamath, Bangalore Mirror Bureau | Oct 1, 2015, 04.00 AM IST



Members of think tanks inaugurate the discussion on urban health

That's what experts feel; say focus needs to be further broadened on multiple fronts

The National Urban Health Mission (NUHM) was introduced in 2014 in Karnataka to focus on urban health related issues. But is it really doing so? Think tanks from across the country came together to discuss the major loopholes in the mission at a closed room discussion recently. The stakeholders represented the Centre for Budget and Policy Studies (CBPS), Bangalore in

collaboration with Health Minds Consulting Pvt. Ltd(Bangalore), UNICEF- Hyderabad Office and International Institute for Information Technology-Bangalore (IIIT-B) as part of a consultation workshop on the NUHM.

The key highlights that brought out some startling loopholes included a lack of focus on women and child more than men's health. There is a lack of mapping of diseases in urban areas, lack of focus on mental health, suicides and domestic violence. The recommendations for the same will be submitted to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. J V R Prasada Rao, former health secretary, Government of India, and currently the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Aids (Asia & Pacific) said, "There is a need for focus on men because they form a majority of the migratory workforce and issues such as tobacco and alcohol abuse.

The focus has to be shifted and there is a need for equal attention to both men and women." NUHM was introduced in Bengaluru, Mysuru, Bagalkote and Mangaluru and was later adopted in 18 cities. It essentially focused on improvising several health-related goals, one of them being prevention of diseases and improving health and nutrition. Keshav Desiraju, former health secretary, Government of India, said that while the focus of NUHM was specific, there was a need to go beyond this and focus on mental health diseases, road traffic accidents and domestic violence issues.

As far as mapping of diseases, this could be done through mapping of employment patterns to understand the disease burden. Dr Jyostna Jha, director of the Centre for Budget and Policy studies said Bengaluru had a large number of garment industry workers, equal to IT industry, and by mapping the disease burden among them, a lot of issues could be understood.

* Increase in state government's health spending need of the hour; *Participation of urban local bodies crucial component in providing healthcare; * Constitution of an in-house recruitment commission like the public service commission to meet shortage of people; * Most Auxilliary Nurse Midwifery now deskilled due to institutional deliveries; hence increased focus on nurse practitioners

 GALLERIES



Bangalore
Mirror

The year that it was!



Bangalore
Mirror

Stardust 2015



Bangalore
Mirror

**HAL Platinum Jubilee
celebrat...**



Bangalore
Mirror

Drive me crazy 6