

'Don't replicate rural model in urban health mission'



• [Afshan Yasmeen](#)

Can the healthcare needs of the city's poor, given the concentration of industrial migratory workers, be based on the model applied in the rural context?

Participants of a consultative workshop on National Urban Health Mission (NUHM), organised in the city on Wednesday, said a firm "no" and resolved to urge the Union Health Ministry to have a comprehensive approach to catering to the health needs of the urban poor.

The participants felt that occupational hazards should also be part of NUHM as the urban poor population comprised largely of industrial workers. A panel of experts, including former Union Health Secretaries J.V.R. Prasad Rao and Keshav Desiraju; NUHM consultant Radha Reddy; and Jyotsna Jha, director of Centre for Budget and Policy Studies; emphasised the need for mapping diseases in the urban landscape as "the health issues of the urban poor are very different from the rural poor".

Mr. Prasad Rao pointed out that there is less focus on men's health, though they form a majority of the migratory workforce.

"Focussing on issues such as tobacco and alcohol abuse is important. Traditionally, government health programmes have largely focussed on reproductive and child health," Mr. Rao said.

Mr. Keshav Desiraju said there was a need to go beyond this and focus on mental health diseases, road traffic accidents and domestic violence issues.

There is a need to have male health workers in urban areas on the lines of the Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs) in rural areas, the panel noted.

Inaugurated by Health Minister U.T. Khader, the workshop was organised by the Centre for Budget and Policy Studies, in collaboration with Health Minds Consulting Pvt. Ltd. UNICEF- Hyderabad Office and International Institute of Information Technology Bangalore.

'There is a need to have male health workers in urban areas on the lines of the Accredited Social Health Activists in rural areas'

Printable version | Jan 13, 2016 4:18:15 PM | <http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/bangalore/dont-replicate-rural-model-in-urban-health-mission/article7709141.ece>

© The Hindu