

Systems strengthening for better urban healthcare delivery through collaboration with Medical Colleges – Karnataka

Introduction

The Karnataka health department collaborated with Bangalore Medical College & Research Institute [BMCRI] to provide technical support like training, research and field activities medical academicians provide useful insights to improve public health system in urban areas.

Key Stakeholders

Department of Community Medicine

- Implementation partner for National Health Mission and Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike programmes
- Plans and carryout feild actitives like vaccination campaign, other intervention progammes etc.

Bangalore Medical & Research Institute

- Knowledge Partner
- Provides technical support, training feild workers, research activities etc.

Implementation of the practice

The Department of Community Medicine collaborated with Bangalore Medical & Research Institute to work on National Health Mission and Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike initiatives. They offer technical support in to improve health care services as follows:

- Trained manpower for planning and field level activities like subject experts in respective fields, postgraduate and undergraduate medical students, students pursuing Diploma in Health Inspector (DHI), student nurses
- Field activities like: Pulse Polio campaign, Mission Indradhanush, surveys like Active Case Finding for TB, Leprosy Case Detection Campaign, Vulnerability assessment.
- Research activities like time motion study to decrease wait time at UCHC, Awareness & Client satisfaction of NUHM at UPHC, intermediate term evaluation of NUHM in BBMP, Focused Group Discussion on Drug Abuse & Illicit Trafficking
- Convergence through Urban Health Training Centres: Health care services are being provided to the patients visiting the Outpatient Department of the UPHC, assist in immunization sessions, ANC clinics, high risk pregnancy detection & in providing services at specialty OPDs like Medicine, Paediatrics, evening clinics of Surgery Orthopaedics, Psychiatry
- Space and resource persons for regular training activities



Results of the practice

The collaboration becomes a win-win situation for NHM and medical colleges. Participation of academicians in NHM programs brings in additional perspectives and innovative ideas to improve the standard of the programs. The inclusivity with medical college also provides the students and research participants a chance to solve real-life challenges.

Lessons Learnt

In long run, the sustainability of the project will be a major challenge. The continual availability of the college guidance will be difficult in long run NHM programs due to the churn rate of researchers and human resources. An efficient knowledge management system is required to improve the knowledge transfer and continuity of the project. Scaling this collaborative initiative to other districts is also hard since infrastructure and robust networks of people are challenging in other parts of the state.

Conclusion

Apart from the scalability and sustainability challenges this collaboration provides availability of additional resources to the NHM, helps in upgrading and remains relevant to the changing needs of the community and growing requirements of the healthcare delivery system. Adapting to robust collaborative methods will deliver extended benefits to both the Karnataka health department and BMCRI.