

2.28. Medical and Public Health

The Primary objective of the State is to actively promote the Welfare of the people by extending promotive, preventive, curative and rehabilitative health care services. To achieve the objective, the state has taken steps to improve the health care delivery system so that it can reach the poorest section of the society by construction of buildings to provide more beds, provision of sophisticated equipments, providing specialized services, enhancing the strength of the medical as well as paramedical personnel and by improving the quality of services rendered.

The important objectives of the Health and Family Welfare sector are as follows:

- To provide effective tertiary care to all sections of the public by making available the modern medical techniques and technologies in Government teaching hospitals
- To provide research relevant to human development and quality of life
- To increase the access and utilization of health services, particularly among the unreached and underserved population
- To design and implement the effective interventions in the area of Maternal and Child Health to reduce IMR and MMR to the expected levels
- To Implement schemes for prevention and control of communicable diseases and non-communicable diseases with special focus on newly emerging vector borne diseases and life style diseases
- To create awareness and to ensure timely availability of accident and trauma care services to reduce morbidity and mortality

- To upgrade the quality of educational standard in the Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy colleges in the State
- To draw up schemes for promotion, cultivation and regeneration of medicinal plants used in these systems
- To popularize the benefits of these systems among the public, both within our country and abroad

As a result of implementation of various programmes through the State's Department of Health and Family Welfare, there has been an overall improvement in the health situation and significant improvement in health indicators like life expectancy, birth rate, death rate, IMR and MMR. The combination of factors that have contributed to this remarkable improvement include, improvement in the quality of health care services, provision of infrastructure facilities to hospitals and PHCs, convergence of services provided by sectors of health, nutrition, social welfare and education, comprehensive package of MCH services, child survival and safe motherhood initiatives, coordination at the district and lower formations, special IEC campaigns, acceptance of contraception, appropriate supplies and services of contraception, adequate supply of drugs, training and reorientation, package of incentives and awards, monitoring etc. The demographic indicators- 2007 (estimated) for All India and Tamil Nadu are as follows:

Demographic Indicators - 2007		
Indicators	All India	Tamil Nadu
Crude Birth rate (per 1000 population)	24	16.5
Crude Death rate (per 1000 population)	8	7.4
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1000 live births)	58	37
Maternal Mortality Rate (per 1000 live births) as in 2004	4.00	0.9
Total Fertility Rate	2.9	1.7
Life Expectancy at Birth (2001-2006) (Years)		
Male	63	67
Female	64	70
Couple Protection Rate (%)	49	49
Natural Growth Rate (%)	1.6	0.9

Health Infrastructure

Towards the objective of providing cost effective, efficient and quality health care services to the people, the health physical infrastructure and personnel available in the State are outlined below:

Medical Education

At present 44 institutions provide their services under the overall control of the Directorate of Medical Education. These institutions have 4298 doctors, 4579 nurses and 4383 para medical staff. The total bed strength of these hospitals is 22461, with an average of 22375 inpatients and 72560 outpatients getting treatment per day. Besides the Government medical and para medical institutions, there has been a growth of self-financing institutions offering courses in medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, physiotherapy, nursing, and occupational therapy.

During 2007-08, Government have announced to start 3 new medical colleges at a total cost of Rs.300.00 crore. Central Sterile Supply Department (CSSD) has been set up at a cost of Rs.1.27 crore. The Department of Cardio Thoracic surgery at Institute of Child Health and Hospital for children, Chennai has been strengthened at a cost of Rs.60.95 lakh. An amount of Rs.1.06 crore has been provided for purchase of equipments for the department of Cardiology at Government Rajaji Hospital, Madurai.

For the year 2008-09, an amount of Rs.1.49 crore is proposed for the construction of buildings, purchase of equipments and provision of transport facilities to the medical colleges.

Medical and Rural Health Services

The services are rendered through a grid of 29 District Headquarters Hospitals, 155 Taluk Headquarters Hospitals, 80 Non-Taluk Hospitals, 12 Government Dispensaries and 11 mobile units, 7 women and children hospitals, 2 TB hospitals, 2 TB clinics and 7 leprosy hospitals under the administrative control of the Director of

Medical and Rural Health Services. Totally there are 304 Medical Institutions functioning with the bed strength of 21170. The Directorate is implementing various medical services programmes such as TB control, mental health, HIV, blood bank besides implementation of various schemes like Human Organ Transplantation Act and Private Clinical Establishment Regulation Act, Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques Act, recognition of private hospitals etc. The non taluk and taluk hospitals are the first referral units in the chain of medical services in the State and the 29 District Headquarters Hospitals are the second referral units have been strengthened in a phased manner under TNHSP.

During 2008-09, an amount of Rs.44.15 lakh is proposed for strengthening the infrastructure facilities in the District Head Quarters Hospitals.

Indian Medicine and Homoeopathy

In Tamil Nadu, special importance has been given to the Siddha system, which is an indigenous medicine system of our state which is intertwined with Tamil culture. Both the State and Central Government have taken many efforts to popularize these systems using a multi-pronged approach consisting of education, research and documentation of old documents as well as making these systems of medicine accessible to the people at the lowest level. The effort of the Government has also focused on production, standardization, and quality control of herbs and drugs, so as to improve the accessibility of these systems of medicine. The Government have started Medical colleges for the Indian System of Medicine (ISM). Private colleges are also allowed so long as they confirm to the required standards. During 2007-08 adequate funds have been provided for the improvement of hospitals, colleges, opening of ISM wings, setting up of Regional pharmacies imparting re-orientation training, translation of manuscripts, purchase of books for the libraries, printing and publishing of new books etc.

During 2008-09, an amount of Rs.83.89 lakh is proposed under new schemes viz., setting up of state licensing authority for Indian Medicine and Homoeopathy and opening of IS & M wings in Primary Health Centres.

Directorate of Public Health and Preventive Medicine

There are 1421 Primary Health Centres and 8706 Health Sub-Centres functioning in the state. Totally, 4773 beds and 2893 doctors are on roll of DPH to provide primary health care to the community and this Directorate is responsible for implementing all the National and State Health Programmes for Immunization, School health, Maternal and Child Health Care, Food Adulteration and Health education. Public Health and Preventive Medicine is also concerned with the prevention of diseases particularly vector borne diseases like malaria, filaria and Japanese encephalitis. The other programmes for the control of diseases relate to cholera, typhoid, acute gastro-enteritis, leptospirosis, dengue, chikungunya and infective hepatitis. This major flagship scheme viz., Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy Maternity Cash Benefit Scheme is mainly for improving the nutrition and health status of pregnant women is bound to have a major impact on the rapid reduction of MMR and IMR. Rs.1000/- p.m. for a total period of 6 months covering 3 months in ante-natal period and 3 months post-natal period. During the year 2007-08, an amount of Rs.200 crore has been released for the implementation of the scheme. As on 28.12.2007 a total of 3.05 lakh pregnant women were benefited. During 2008-09 an amount of Rs.250 crore is proposed (includes Rs.70 crore for SCSP).

Due to the successful implementation of the immunization programme, diphtheria, pertussis has almost controlled. To sustain this polio free status, 2 rounds of PPI campaigns were conducted during April and May 2007 benefiting 72 lakhs of children under 5 years.

The Varumun Kappom Thittam is an innovative and popular scheme to provide comprehensive health check up, treatment and health education to the public. Every week 3 camps are being conducted in each district. As on 21.12.2007, 4770 Varumun Kappom Thittam camps have been conducted. Totally, 50.09 lakh people were benefited under Varumun Kappom Thittam. During 2007-08 an amount of Rs.7.43 crore has been provided and for 2008-09, the same outlay is proposed for this scheme.

Drugs Control

The Directorate of Drugs control is the controlling and licensing authority for grant and renewal of licenses for manufacture and sale of medicines and cosmetics. The Drug Testing Laboratory attached to the Department undertakes testing of samples drawn by Drug Inspectors from retail and wholesale units, manufacturing units and hospitals.

An amount of Rs.75.05 lakh is proposed for the implementation of schemes viz., construction of buildings, strengthening the infrastructure facilities for 2008-09.

Tamil Nadu State Health Transport

The Tamil Nadu State Health Transport Department is attending to the maintenance and servicing of motor vehicles attached to the various Directorates relating to health.

Family Welfare

The Family Welfare Programme is implemented through 1421 Primary Health Centres including 69 Community Health Centres, 8706 Health Sub-Centres, 114 post- partum centres, 382 rural family welfare bureau, 193 urban health posts, 101 urban family welfare centres, 1513 Approved Nursing Homes and 27 Voluntary Organisations (N.G.Os).

An amount of Rs. 6.70 lakh is proposed for strengthening the infrastructure facilities in District Family Welfare Bureaux for the year 2008-09.

Out of the total sterilisations in the State, 58.9% are performed in the Government Institutions, 6.1% in Voluntary Organisations, 25.6% in the Approved Nursing Homes, 4.2% in the Local Bodies and the remaining in unapproved Nursing Homes.

The National Leprosy control programme has been in operation since 1954 with the main thrust on detection and sustained regular treatment of all leprosy patients. There are 102 leprosy control units and 1 leprosy hospital in the State. In 2004, the prevalence rate was 1.4 per 10,000 population. Now, Tamil Nadu is marching towards a caseload of less than one (0.6%).

Tuberculosis is a serious public health problem in the country. India accounts for nearly 1/2 of the global TB burden. To control TB, the National Tuberculosis Control Programme (NTCP) was launched in 1962. The Revised National TB Control Programme (RNTCP) using DOTS (Directly Observed Treatment Short Course) strategy was launched on 26th March, 1997 and is being implemented in a phased manner. The Government of India under external assistance component meets the expenditure of drugs, logistics and the establishment expenditure of contractual staff including IEC activities. The National Anti-Malaria Programme is the 'World's Biggest Health Programme' against a single communicable disease and continues to be the country's most comprehensive and multi-faceted public health activity.

The National Programme for Control of Blindness (NPCB) was launched in 1976. The main objective of the programme is to reduce the prevalence of blindness. Accordingly cataract operations have been proposed to be conducted in 30 districts.

State Health Society

The National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) has been launched in Tamil Nadu with the view to bring architectural correction of the health system to enable it to effectively handle increased allocations and promote policies that strengthen public health

management and service delivery. It aims to improve the health status of the people, especially those who live in the villages. The vision is to provide universal access to equitable, affordable and quality health care services, which is accountable and responsive to the needs of the people.

The major focus of NRHM will be on reproductive and child health, coupled with family welfare, the National Programme for Control of Blindness and Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme will also be implemented through the State Health Society as part of NRHM. There will also be a thrust towards control of vector borne diseases, especially newly emerging ones such as dengue and chikungunya which have affected the state in the past few years. The Integrated Disease Surveillance Project will also be continued during the Eleventh plan under the NRHM budget.

Tamil Nadu Health Systems Project

In order to reform the existing health system and also to upgrade the public hospitals and primary health centres by providing the necessary inputs, the Health System Development Project supported by the World Bank at a total cost of Rs.482.49 crore was launched in 2005 for a five year period, encompassing activities such as civil works, provision of equipments, IEC, training, health management information system, infrastructure development, provision of specialised medical personnel, NGO supported activities, tribal health, health care waste management, public private partnership and so on. The project has been implemented in 3 phases. The project had undertaken improvements to hospitals in 5 districts viz., Dharmapuri, Krishnagiri, Theni, Pudukottai and Kancheepuram districts during phase I - 2005-2006. During 2007-08 all the hospitals in the remaining districts have been taken up for improvement with provision of buildings, equipments, infrastructure and staff. During 2007-08, an amount of Rs.218.97 crore has been provided. For the year 2008-09, Rs.289.27 crore is proposed for this project.

National AIDS Control Programme

Tamil Nadu has been in the forefront in combating HIV/AIDS. Tamil Nadu was the first State in the country to create an independent and autonomous society viz., Tamil Nadu State AIDS Control Society (TANSACS) to implement intervention programmes through NGOs. The focus is on targeted intervention with specific population groups like commercial sex workers, truckers and helpers, youth in slum etc. The key activities of TANSACS include awareness programmes and social mobilization activities, targeted intervention programmes through NGOs, training and capacity building activities, STD/ RTI care and also outreach service, condom promotion activities, blood safety and voluntary blood donation activities, voluntary counselling and testing centres to identify HIV affected and to provide counselling etc.

The major new programmes implemented under Medical and Public Health during 2007-08 are setting up of Central Sterile Supply Department (CSSD) at Government General Hospital Chennai, Strengthening the Cardio Thoracic Surgery at institute of child Health and Hospital for Children Chennai, purchase of equipment for the department of Cardiology at Government Rajaji Hospital Maduari, strengthening of State Drug testing laboratory and establishment of quality control laboratories in the pharmacies etc.

Plan Outlay for 2008-09

The approved outlay for Eleventh Plan (2007-12) is Rs. 2730 crore for Medical and Public Health sector. The outlay provided for Medical and Public Health for 2007-08 is Rs.553.69 crore. The expenditure is expected to be the same amount. The outlay approved for Medical and Public Health for 2008-09 is Rs. 631.56 crore. Of this, an outlay of Rs.70.32 crore and Rs.5.49 crore is set apart for Scheduled Caste Sub Plan and Tribal Sub Plan respectively.