

Innovative health-care facilities for needy lauded

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Even as most of the States in the country are grappling to ensure better health facilities, Assam, Maharashtra, Chandigarh and Kerala have been taking innovative steps to reach out to the needy.

The 4th Common Review Mission of the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) under the Union Health Ministry has lauded the unique boat clinics initiatives in Kerala and Assam to improve health care facilities to people living on the river island.

In Assam, evening OPDs are reported to be functioning very well with 50 per cent attendance. The other 50 per cent attends the morning OPDs. "PPP models for service delivery are working well in the Lakhimpur and Harmoti tea gardens. A computerised drug utilisation model has been initiated in Assam," the report says.

It has recorded "an interesting observation" from the Lakhimpur district. "Since boat clinic visit takes place only once a month in these difficult riverine island localities, medicines and ampoules are given along with prescriptions to the patients and the ASHAs in these villages are trained to provide follow-up care including administering injections where needed"



Kerala and Assam have introduced unique boat clinics to improve health-care facilities to people living on the river island

The CRM has called for scaling up such efforts in other States too wherever it is needed.

The other major innovation reported is palliative care in Kerala while in Chandigarh a Project foundation, a programme of Chandigarh health department, adopts the village for six months which helps carrying out survey, screening, diagnosing and treating the population in a phased manner making it a ideal village as per the parameter of the programme.

In Maharashtra, the CRM has welcomed schemes such as Mehar in Gondia wherein a birth waiting home model to promote institutional deliveries is working effectively in the tribal areas. "The waiting room

is adequately equipped with bathroom, solar heating with beds and food for each patient and one attendant," it noted.

Similarly, promotion of breast feeding by provision of Hirakani Chamber in Kolhapur is worth assessing for scaling-up, it added.

The financial capital of the country has also been lauded for improving sex ratio by deploying "Silent Observer" to check misuse of ultrasound clinics for sex determination.

Similarly, felicitation of mothers delivering a female child with a thermal set, baby kits, sarees and birth certificate through the Lakshmi Ali Ghari scheme has also been lauded by the CRM.

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