

National Programme for Prevention and Control of Deafness

The Ministry of Health Family Welfare, Government of India launched National Programme for Prevention and Control of Deafness (NPPCD) on the pilot phase basis in the year 2006-07(January 2007) covering 25 districts because current burden of disease as per NSSO survey is that 291 persons per one lac population are suffering from Deafness and as per WHO estimates 63 million in India people are already disabled.

The Programme has been launched with the following objectives:

1. To prevent the avoidable hearing loss on account of disease or injury.
2. Early identification, diagnosis and treatment of ear problems responsible for hearing loss and deafness.
3. To medically rehabilitate persons of all age groups, suffering with deafness.
4. To strengthen the existing inter-sectoral linkages for continuity of the rehabilitation programme, for persons with deafness.
5. To develop institutional capacity for ear care services by providing support for equipment and material and training personnel.

Strategies:

- To strengthen the service delivery for ear care.
- To develop human resource for ear care services.
- To promote public awareness through appropriate and effective IEC strategies with special emphasis on prevention of deafness.
- To develop institutional capacity of the district hospitals, community health centers and primary health centers selected under the Programme.

The components of the Programme are:-

1. **Manpower Training & Development** - for prevention, early identification and management of hearing impaired and deafness cases, training would be provided from medical college level specialists (ENT and Audiology) to grass root level workers.
2. **Capacity building** - for the district hospital, community health centers and primary health center in respect of ENT/Audiology infrastructure.
3. **Service provision** – Early detection and management of hearing and speech impaired cases and rehabilitation at different levels of health care delivery system.
4. **Awareness generation through IEC/BCC activities** – for early identification of hearing impaired, especially children so that timely management of such cases is possible and to remove the stigma attached to deafness.

Till 2013-14 the funds were released to the State Health Societies. From 2014-15 onwards release of funds is through the treasury route. In 2015-16 the programme has been included in health system strengthening component of NHM.

Since the inception of the programme the sanctions have been given to implement the programme in 595 districts.

For the Financial Year 2022-23, NPPCD Programme Budget has been merged with Strengthening National Program Management of NRHM in the Budget Estimates (BE) 2022-23.