

## **CONTEXT: INTEGRATION OF ORAL HEALTH WITHIN HEALTH CARE SYSTEMS**

### **DENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH CAPACITY BUILDING IN THE INDIAN CONTEXT:**

1. At present after the 2011 census in India, there are 1,48, 366 subcentres, 24049 Primary Health Centres, and 4833 Community Health Centres. Please find supporting document from Ministry.
2. Only a very small percentage of the Primary Health Centres and Community Health Centres in some states of India have a Dental Surgeon appointed to take care of the Oral health of the community.
3. At present, in the field of Dental Public Health or Public Health Dentistry (known as Community Dentistry earlier), there are around 700 trained faculty working in about 300 Dental Institutions across the country. Further there are about 800 Post Graduate students in Public Health Dentistry under training.
4. India does not yet have an official Oral Health Policy implemented centrally though a draft document had been prepared.
5. The budgetary allocation for health in India stands at around 1.5 % which is very less and no clear allocation for oral health is seen.
6. There is no mention of Dental Surgeon recruitment or appointment at the Primary Health Centre level in the Document released from Ministry of Health and Family welfare.
7. Oral health care to children has been included under the treatment for Non Communicable Diseases and limited funds are available for the same.
8. Prioritization for Oral health has to be made all over the country, with a demand for budgetary allocation for oral health at the central government level.
9. The state of Karnataka, in India has made progress with the coming of State Oral health Policy – Phase 1 with 5 features being requested to be implemented under Phase 1: Results have to be seen in the coming years for follow up.

10. Distribution of free fluoridated tooth paste and brush twice-thrice in a year to all primary school children in Government schools of Karnataka.
11. Government should give permission to all the 45 Dental colleges to adopt at least 5 Primary Health Centres. They should also be permitted to install dental chairs/ park mobile dental van units in the premises of these Primary Health Centres to render free oral health care.
12. To appoint a Public Health Dentist in each District Hospital as officer in charge of the district for the oral health care.
13. We requested Government of Karnataka to provide clean defluoridated drinking water in endemic fluorosis areas.
14. Reinforcement of the Laws for Successful Gutkha ( Smokeless tobacco ) ban in Karnataka State.
15. A separate section in the Health Ministry for Oral health needs to be created to draw enough attention and for allocation of suitable financial support for effective implementation of oral health strategies.

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