



IMPACT ASSESSMENT STUDY – MMU ASSAM

Introduction

A total of 130 MMUs are operated in Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode by HLPPT with funding support from the State Health Society, NHM-Assam. These MMUs are dedicated to make primary & selective secondary healthcare services accessible to the vulnerable and under-served population of Assam. These include facilitating 80 Tea Garden that cater to the healthcare needs of population residing/working in 320 tea gardens and another 50 MMUs for the general population of the state.

Each MMU Team is led by a Medical Officer along with paramedical staff. These MMUs offer comprehensive primary healthcare services package, including the following:

- Primary Healthcare
- Family Planning
- Maternal Healthcare
- Child Healthcare
- Adolescent Healthcare
- Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD) Care
- Communicable Diseases Care
- Behavioral Change Communication (BCC) Services
- Nutritional Remedies
- Diagnostic Services

OBJECTIVES

To assess the overall impact of the MMU intervention in Tea Garden and Non-Tea Garden populations of selected districts of Assam.

Specific Objectives

- To assess the availability and accessibility of services provided by the Mobile Medical Units
- To assess the awareness generated by the staff
- To assess the uptake of diagnostic services offered by the MMUs
- To assess the mother & child healthcare services offered by the MMUs

METHODOLOGY

In order to conduct the study, multi-stage purposive random sampling method has been used for selection of districts; MMU-focused villages and targeted households.

The seven selected districts where the study has been conducted include Cachar, Nagaon, Kamrup Metropolitan, Sonitpur, Jorhat, Dibrugarh and Tinsukia.

Five tea garden and two non-tea garden villages from each district where the MMU services are given have been randomly selected for the survey of households. A total of 30 tea garden focused villages and 15 non-tea garden focused villages have been covered in the study.

A total of 2,250 households in 45 sample villages (approximately 50 Households per village) have been interviewed in the study.

Data Collection Tools: A quantitative questionnaire was developed for MMU Impact Assessment Data collection.

Computer-Aided Personal Interview (CAPI) technique has been used for collection of data in the Assessment Study. The study has used handheld device-based survey where all interviews were assisted by an Android-based mobile phone.

Data Analysis: All statistical analysis has been executed using IBM SPSS Statistics v.22. Data cleaning, collation and analysis of data have been done by a dedicated team of researchers. Descriptive analysis has been conducted, including frequencies and percentages, using SPSS version 22.

KEY FINDINGS

The present study reveals the status of health conditions and the impact of MMU health care service in the state of Assam.

- The study found that a majority of people with illness have visited MMUs for treatment, and a majority of them indicated the MMU to be their first point of contact for primary treatment.
- From the data collected, a clear improvement in the availability and accessibility of health care facilities can be seen. After analyzing the report, a significant improvement in the health standards such as sanitation facilities, institutional birth at public health care

facilities and women's health care status across different districts is also evident.

- About three fourth of patients were satisfied after receiving health care services from MMUs. This includes diagnostic services, medicines, family planning products and medical emergency care services.
- Almost half the women interviewed during the study reported increased confidence in seeking healthcare services from the government after MMU intervention. They also received counselling on menstrual hygiene, anemia, nutrition and family planning.
- The study has also identified the need to cover more villages by the MMU and increase frequency of MMU visits and put greater emphasis on spreading awareness about MMU services among local people.
- In case of work engagement and financial aspect, it was found that a majority of respondents have experienced reduction in absence from work and reduction in transport cost
- Availability of health care services within their reach along with availability of free medicines were identified as key factors contributing towards satisfaction of people for MMU services.
- Through MMU services, additional components like community engagement and strengthening of other health care and family planning programmes have performed better in the most difficult geographical settings, which prior to MMU services, were relatively neglected.