



ORGANISATIONAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE SET UP OF HEALTH SYSTEM IN INDIA AT NATIONAL LEVEL

Introduction

An organisation is a coordinated unit consisting of people who function to achieve a common goal or a set of goals. According to Stephen Robbins, 'Organisation is a consciously coordinated social entity with a relatively identifiable boundary that functions on a relatively continuous basis to achieve a common goal or set of goal'. It is the interaction of people in order to achieve goals or objectives which form the basis of an organisations.

India has relatively poor health outcomes, despite having a well-developed administrative system, good technical skills in many fields, and an extensive network of public health institutions for research, training, and diagnostics. This suggests that the health system may be misdirecting its efforts, or be poorly designed.

The official "organs" of the health system at the national level consist of:

3. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
4. The Directorate General of Health Services, and
5. The Central Council of Health and Family Welfare.

Constitutional role of India's Central Ministry of Health

There are 3(three) lists in the Constitution of India. Lists are services or items to be catered to the citizens. The three lists are the Union list, the State list, and the Concurrent List. Only the Central Government is responsible and empowered to pass legislation and make laws on the Union list. In the case of State list, only the State governments are empowered to make laws. And finally, both the Central and State governments share responsibility for making laws in the case of the Concurrent list. However, Union laws are given authority to override state laws for items in the concurrent list.

The health-related provisions in the union list relate to port quarantine, research, and scientific and technical education. The concurrent list includes 'prevention of the extension from one State to another of infectious or contagious diseases or pests', and other issues with wider national ramifications such as food and drugs, family planning, medical education, and vital statistics.

All other public health and environmental sanitation services are supposed to be the exclusive responsibility of states. However, the centre exercises a great deal of



power through fiscal control. Post independence India has had a tradition of centralized planning and policy making and decentralized implementation, and the relative financial strength of the central government which is rooted in constitutional fiscal provisions – has given it a significant leverage to determine the end use of its devolved funds to the states. Thus, although public health is deemed a State subject, health policy development and program design are carried out centrally.

Using its financial and political leverage, the central government can persuade the states to work towards specific health objectives and priorities, and provide the necessary technical support for this. An example of this is rural sanitation (in essence safe disposal of human excreta), which is listed as a 'state' subject but was largely neglected until the central government formulated a Central Rural Sanitation Program in 1984. This led the states to implement rural sanitation schemes.

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW)

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare aims to bring better health conditions in India. The Ministry functions through various organisations, institutions and commissions to fulfil its aim. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is headed by a cabinet-level Health Minister. However, as the Ministry is a part of the executive of the Indian Government, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has three independent departments each headed by a Secretary:

1. The Department of Health (DH),
2. The Department of Family Welfare (DFW), and
3. The Department of Indian Systems of Medicine and Homeopathy (DISMH).

In addition, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has 2(two) additional secretaries (both in DH), 8(eight) joint secretaries and 30 officers of the rank of Director excluding technical advisors.

1. The Department of Health (DH):

The Department of Health broadly deals with public health, medical services, medical education, food and drug standards, professional councils, and international aid and health research. Although not specified in the business rules, the Department of Health traditionally deals with health policy and that of Family Welfare deals with rural health infrastructure. The Department of Indian Systems of Medicine and Homeopathy deals with all matters relating to alternative systems of medicine (i.e., Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani, Homeopathy, Naturopathy and Yoga). The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare which is Department of Health is supported in its work by a vast network of autonomous research and training institutions which are spread all over the country but administratively under the central government. These include the National Institute of Communicable Diseases (Delhi), which was set up as a centre for disease control; the Central Bureau of Health Intelligence (New Delhi), several apex and regional training institutes, and specialized institutions such as the Central Food Laboratory and Central Drugs Laboratory. It also includes the Indian Council of Medical Research which is headquartered in New Delhi and has 6 Regional Medical Research Centres, and over 20 specialized research institutions and laboratories across the country.

Some of the programmes formulated by the Department of Health focus on the following:

1. National Filaria Control Programme.

2. National Leprosy Eradication Programme.
3. National Programme for Control of Blindness.
4. National AIDS Control Programme.
5. National Cancer Control Programme.
6. National Vector-Borne Diseases Control Programme.
7. National Tuberculosis Control Programme.
8. National Mental Health Programme.
9. Universal Immunization Programme

2. The Department of Family Welfare (DFW):

The Department of Family Welfare is primarily responsible for family planning and maternal and child health. The Department of Family Welfare is supported by another network of institutions, and 18 research centres across the country. Besides these, the work of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is supported by institutions run by other bodies, such as the central government's Council of Scientific and Industrial Research which has institutions specialized in drug research and environmental engineering.

3. The Department of Indian Systems of Medicine and Homeopathy (DISMH):

The Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy was created in March 1995. It consist of Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani and Homoeopathy, and therapies such as Yoga and Naturopathy. Earlier these traditional systems of medicine were under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Some of these systems are indigenous and others have over the years become a part of Indian tradition. These are also known as alternative medicine system as different from allopathy.

Functions of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

The functions of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare include:

1. International health relations and administration of quarantine
2. Administration of Central health Institutes
3. Promotion of research through research centre
4. Regulation and development of medical, pharmaceutical, dental and nursing professions
5. Establishment and maintenance of drug standards
6. Census and collection and publication of other statistical data
7. Coordination with states and other ministries for promotion of health
8. Immigration and emigrate
9. Regulation of labour and the working of mines and oil fields
10. Prevention of communicable disease and food adulteration
11. Population control and family planning

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare also gives special facilities to the weaker section so that they are not deprived for lack of money. Being an important part of the Central Government, the department also conduct various educational programme to create mass awareness. The Central Institute of Psychiatry (CIP), the National Institute of Communicable Diseases (NICD) and Homeopathic Pharmacopoeia Laboratory (HPC) are the subordinate offices of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

There are also a number of boards and councils which help in the work of the Ministry. These boards and councils are listed below:

1. National Board of Examinations
2. National Council of Medical Research (ICMR)
3. Central Council for Research in Ayurveda and Siddha (CCRAS)
4. Medical Council of India (MCI)
5. Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine (CCRUM).
6. National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB).
7. Central Council for Research in Homeopathy (CCRH).

Autonomous Bodies

There are also some autonomous bodies which are directly controlled by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. These organisations are:

1. Jawaharlal Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education and Research (JIPMER)
2. Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga (MDNIY)
3. International Institute for Population Science (IIPS)
4. National Institute of Homeopathy (NIH)
5. All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS)
6. National Institute of Ayurveda (NIA)
7. Rastriya Ayurveda Vidyapeeth (RAV)
8. National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS).
9. Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh
10. National Institute of Naturopathy (NIN).
11. North Eastern Indira Gandhi Regional Institute of Health and Medical Sciences (NEIGRIHMS).
12. National Tuberculosis Institute (NTI)
13. Lalaram Swarup Institute of Tuberculosis and Respiratory Diseases.

Organization of Directorate General of Health Services

The Directorate General of Health Services is a technical body under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. The head of the organisation is the Directorate General of Health Services under whom are 4(four) additional Director Generals looking after various health and family welfare activities. The Directorate General of Health Services also renders technical advice on all medical and public health matters and in the implementation of various health schemes. In order to implement the policies and programme of the Ministry in an effective manner, there are three subordinate offices located at various places in the country which function directly under the Ministry. The Ministry is also administratively concerned with 29 autonomous bodies. There are also three public sector undertakings under the administrative control of the Ministry.

It is the principal advisor to the central government in both medical and public health measures. The functions of Directorate General of Health Services are as follows:

1. Administration of international health relations and quarantine of all major airports in country and international airport.
2. Control of drug standards.
3. Management of medical store depots.

4. Administration of post graduate training programmes to different categories of health personal.
5. Administration of certain medical colleges in India.
6. In-charge of medical education.
7. Conducting medical research through Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR).
8. Provide Aids, promotes and coordinates scientific research on human disease.
9. Introduce Central Government Health Schemes.
10. Implement national health programmes.
11. Prepare health education material for creating health awareness through Health Education Bureau.
12. Collect, compile, analyse, evaluate and disseminate of information.
13. Manage the National Medical Library for the advancement of medical sciences.

Organization of Central Council of Health

Union Minister of State as the Vice Chairman heads the Central Council of Health. This institute advises the government on policy matters regarding the provision of remedial, promotive and preventive care, environmental hygiene, nutrition, health education and the promotion of facilities for training and research. The functions of Central Council of health are as follows:

1. To consider and recommend broad outlines of policy related to matters concerning health like environmental hygiene, nutrition and health education.
2. To make proposals for legislation relating to medical and public health matters.
3. To make recommendations to the Central Government regarding distribution of grants-in-aid.

CONCLUSION

Organizational and administrative set up of health system in the country extend from national level to village level. The organisational set up at the national level consists of the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. The Ministry is headed by cabinet level health minister. It has three departments viz: The Department of Health, The Department of Family Welfare, The Department of Indian Systems of Medicine and Homeopathy. Each of these departments is headed by respective secretaries to Government of India. The Department of Health and Family Welfare is supported by a technical wing, the Directorate General of Health Services, headed by Director General of Health Services. The Department of Health broadly deals with public health, medical services, medical education, food and drug standards, professional councils, and international aid and health research. Whereas, the Department of Family Welfare is primarily responsible for family planning and maternal and child health.