



## Access and Acceptance of Rural Health care Services

### Social Science

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### ABSTRACT

Access is presented here a set of more specific dimensions describing the fit between the patient and the health care system. The specific dimensions are availability, accessibility, accommodation, affordability and acceptability. Analysing health care system within these dimensions can help in identification of gaps and challenges currently faced by India. The health care infrastructure is not able to keep velocity with the demands of the population. India needs to address the issues around of health care aspects to provide access to larger masses. The key objectives of the investigation are to analyse the access to rural health care services and what types of issues and challenges rural community facing and its impact on rural health care system. The study suggests that community people are facing some barriers in accessing health care services due to poor health infrastructures, lack of trained health personnel, distance and transportation.

### KEYWORDS:

Access, Acceptance, Rural Health care, Underprivileged

#### Introduction:

Access to high quality health care services plays a significant role in the accomplishment of health equity and enhancing and improving the health conditions of the population. Access refers to entry into or use of the health care system, while to others it characterises factors influencing entry or use. Access is presented here a set of more specific dimensions describing the fit between the patient and the health care system. The specific dimensions are availability, accessibility, affordability and acceptability (Penchansky R, and Thomas JW, 1981). Analysing health care system within these dimensions can help in identification of gaps and challenges currently faced by India. The health care infrastructure is not able to keep velocity with the demands of the population. An increasing number of people choose private health care facilities over the government ones due to the availability of specialist doctors, diagnostic services and drugs thereby incurring more expenses and increasing the affordability challenge. The Government has taken a few steps in this direction by taking initiatives such as RSBY scheme to improve and enhance health care insurance coverage and mounting availability of cheaper medicines in government health care centres.

India needs to address the issues around of health care factors to provide access to larger masses. Health care delivery systems in India are mainly classified under three categories primary, secondary and tertiary care. All these three levels need to work in a cohesive manner to help delivery of health care in all the four dimensions of access e.g. availability, accessibility, affordability and acceptability.

#### Accessing Health care Services and its Barriers

The access to high quality, equitable and affordable health care service is one of the significant challenges facing the rural and semi-urban population in the country. While looking at the accessibility of health care services, an attempt has been made to highlight the problems pertaining to the role of government in Indian rural health care services. It was observed from various research findings that about 75 per cent of health infrastructure, health personnel, and other health resources are concentrated in urban areas where about 27 per cent of the populations live. To reduce this double burden of diseases, public health need to focus on health promotion and disease prevention and control while taking into consideration the social determinant of health. The focus of public health is to bring about change at the policy level through organized action at social level.

Many studies suggest that low socio-economic status of rural communities affect poor health due to barriers in accessing healthcare services. Lack of information, Education and Communication (IEC) concerning health, which impacts on community people and ability to understand health information and instructions from the doctors and paramedical staff, is also an obstacle in accessing healthcare services. India would need a combination of innovation and regulatory reforms in order to address these challenges. There is an urgent need for the government to work towards strengthening the public health care system in order to make health care available to the masses.

#### Aims and Objectives:

The aim is to analyse issues of community people regarding accessing health care services and to determine the barriers affecting health care access in the community. Accessibility can be analysed in terms of the nearest distance to the facility and second, the accessible distance during health care emergency.

#### Materials and Methods

The present research study relates to the major facet of health care access in selected villages (Adari dehat, Alinagar, Ratsar Kalan and Garwar) of Mau and Ballia district of Uttar Pradesh, India. Stratified simple random sampling technique was used to draw the representative sample. Primary Data about health care services has been collected from 400 households. Keeping in view the aims, objectives and the nature of data required under the study, the questionnaire, interview schedule, case study methods for data collection is used and secondary data collected from various books, journals and websites. The data has been statistically analysed in the form of tables, percentages and statistical methods and techniques were used.

#### Results

The analysis of the study explore the rural health care issues in the country in general and to know the issues and barriers in accessing rural health care services with respect to the government health schemes, infrastructure, manpower and the acceptance level of the different health care facilities in some selected rural areas of Uttar Pradesh, India.

**Table 1 Issues facing by Community in accessing Health care Services**

Items	To greater extent	To some extent	Neutral	To little extent	Not at all	Total
Poor Infrastructural Facilities	53 (13.25)	97 (24)	34 (8.5)	137 (34.25)	80 (20)	400 (100)
Distance from home to Health Centre	90 (22.5)	122 (30.5)	30 (7.5)	100 (25)	58 (14.5)	400 (100)
Overcrowding in the Health Centre	55 (13.75)	115 (28.75)	38 (9.5)	109 (27.25)	83 (20.75)	400 (100)

Source: Filed Survey

(Figure in brackets indicates %)

Health infrastructure plays a key role in sustaining the public health delivery system. There are significant numbers of respondents who claim that health centre not providing high quality of services due to lack of trained paramedical staff, lack of health personnel and no facility of safe drinking water. The Unsatisfactory behaviour of paramedical staff also a barrier in accessing health care services and health centre did not show sincerity in the better treatment of the patients.

It was observed from the field survey that distance is one of the major reasons for not availing public health services. Accessibility is very significant for utilization of healthcare services. Distance from home to the Health Centre had appeared as a key concern of the community. To greater extent 22.5 percent respondent agree that distance matter, to some extent 30.5 percent agree that they had faced distance issue. Distance was a problem even for villages considered to be comparatively near a health facility because of the gap in other services like public transportation facilities.

The table revealed that sampled household of the community also facing overcrowding as a barrier in accessing health care services. To greater extent 13.75 percent, some extent 28.75 per cent and to little extent 27.25 per cent respondents agree that overcrowding hindering in access to health care services.

### Conclusion

The study suggests that community people are facing barriers in accessing health care services due to inadequate infrastructure, lack of trained health staff, lack of paramedical staff, their social status and poor quality hindering access to the health care provided by government by limiting the supply of available service. Furthermore low income and education and lack of awareness particularly disadvantaged and marginalised people facing more health related problems.

To make ensure the achievement of access to health care services there is a need to be strengthening of public health systems, institutions and capacity. Government's responsibility to ensure the delivery of high-quality health care services on equitable, affordable price to all its populace including the deprived and vulnerable population.

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