



Health Sector Policy Reform Options Database (HS-PROD)

Sharing innovative solutions to common health management problems



Central
Bureau of
Health
Intelligence
(CBHI)



What is HS-PROD?

HS-PROD is a user friendly, state-of-the-art website which shares information about Indian good practices and innovations in health services management. An instantly accessible library of reform materials, it provides a summary of each option/scheme and links to more detailed source documents. The aim is to share reform know how to tackle common management problems in the health sector. It makes readily available a body of evidences that are so essential to take "the public health system closer to the objective of evidence-based policy-making" as envisaged in the National Health Policy & NRHM. HS-PROD currently contains over 225 entries that are carefully researched, categorised in 16 major health sector areas as given below:

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| (1) Infrastructure and equipment | (10) Access to service and coverage |
| (2) Logistics | (11) Health Financing |
| (3) Financial management systems | (12) Human Resources |
| (4) Monitoring, evaluation and quality control | (13) Community Participation |
| (5) Public/private partnership | (14) Urban Health |
| (6) Management structures and systems | (15) Behavioural Change Communication |
| (7) Social marketing and franchising | (16) First Referral Units |
| (8) Health information systems | (17) Others |
| (9) Intersectoral links | |

Who owns HS-PROD?

Developed as a collaborative initiative between the Government of India (GOI) and the European Commission, HS-PROD now resides with the Central Bureau of Health Intelligence (CBHI), Directorate General of Health Services, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare which was further developed with the technical support of National Institute of Medical Statistics, Indian Council for Medical Research, New Delhi along with European Commission Technical Assistance (ECTA) team.



Who manages HS-PROD?

The overall responsibility of HS-PROD is with CBHI. For this, a PROD Management Group (PMG) with representatives from different departments from the government, development partners, NGO/Private Sector and experts from the fields of Public Health, Economics, Bio Statistics, IT etc has been formed. The group meets quarterly but approves each new entry added to the database on a regular basis.

Why was HS-PROD developed?

Many States face similar problems in the health sector but have no way of sharing their experiences or ideas with each other. They may have heard of successful schemes in other parts of the country but do not know how to get more information on them.

The Internet is an excellent way of promoting Indian reforms, and especially partnerships with the private sector and NGOs, both within India and worldwide.

It is an efficient and low cost means of sustaining and replicating reforms instigated by GOI, development partners and other organizations.

It has valuable potential as a learning resource for health sector reform training events and courses (HS-PROD already forms a part of the professional development course in State Institute of Health & Family Welfare (SIHFW) in Mohali, Punjab.

It fits well with the revised role of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare in a more decentralised context.

It encourages and supports convergence between sectors.

It represents an ideal tool for communicating good practices under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) and Reproductive and Child Health (RCH2) programme.

At the State level, a need has been expressed for such a tool.

What information does HS-PROD contain?

Each HS-PROD entry is described in terms of concise summary, location, duration, advantages, challenges, prerequisites for implementation elsewhere (such as consultation); implementer etc. The aim is to provide up-to-date and accurate information about options or interventions, using a standard format and to organise such options systematically.

Few examples of HS-PROD entries:

Telemedicine at Dr B Barooah Cancer Institute, Assam: Responding to the problem of high number of cancer patients in Assam facing difficulty in accessing treatment, a telemedicine centre linked with the Tata Memorial Hospital & other referral hospitals, like in Sikkim.



Contd...



Primary health care and RCH services in urban slums, Uttar Pradesh: A public-private partnership providing primary health care and reproductive and child health services in eight identified slums of Varanasi City. Providing round-the-clock comprehensive emergency obstetric and newborn care Centres, Tamil Nadu: leading to a drop in maternal mortality rate by 36 percent between 2001 and 2005.

Provision of essential maternal and child health services in Tribal Areas, Rajasthan: In each village a tribal woman working as a health volunteers or Swasthya Sakhis who carry out community based education & distribution and accompany women & children to health centres.

What kind of source documents can be accessed through HS-PROD?

Each entry provides a basic summary of the reform or innovation plus backed by a range of source material for those interested in more detail. The material includes Government Orders, power point presentations, evaluation reports, photographs, video clips, newspaper articles and links to relevant websites. Where the source item is too big for immediate access through a hyperlink, a request can be e-mailed directly to CBHI.

HS-PROD Users & Beneficiaries

HS-PROD users include Central/State/UT/District health and other related authorities including NRHM (Central/State), Governmental/Non governmental organisations in health and related fields, including Research, Education & Training, Regional offices of MOHFW & CBHI, ICMR Institutes, CBHI - Field Survey Units, ECTA state facilitators, Developmental partners (WHO, EC, UNICEF, WB, USAID, etc.), media and individuals.



How do I access HS-PROD?

At www.hsprodindia.nic.in

How do I find what I am looking for in HS-PROD?

HS-PROD entries are listed by the subject areas (16) as explained above. This can also be searched through subject areas search engine. There is also a state wise search facility. A general search engine allows you to search by keywords or by web reference number.

Can an individual add an entry to HS-PROD?

Yes, you can enter your information online through the website (help screens are available) or by sending a word document by email to dircbhi@nb.nic.in. The HS-PROD team will then contact you for further details.

Is HS-PROD limited to Indian best practices and innovations?

The database focuses exclusively on the initiatives in India but details of related international experience are also available on the website.

Does HS-PROD provide links to related websites?

Yes. HS-PROD has a module devoted to links with other national and international websites. The team seeks to maximise such connections while maintaining the focus on India in the database to avoid duplication of content.



Does HS-PROD include clinical good practices?

No, the emphasis is rather on management and organisational issues in the health sector.

How is the information collected?

The HS-PROD team carries out regular field visits to States/UTs to meet various health authorities & national health programme managers. This helps to gain a first hand experience of the ongoing practices. In addition, media, Internet, newspapers, journals and other magazines are a good source. The Regional Offices of CBHI, NIMS and EC conduct field visits in their respective states to capture the initiatives. The resource people are further contacted for more information. However the HS-PROD team does not carry out an independent evaluation of each reform. It demands proof of results (such as evaluation reports) but it is up to the HS-PROD user to make their own judgment as to whether the reform is useful or not.

How often are the entries updated?

The research team updates the HS-PROD as and when new information is gathered. After thorough investigation and review, the entries are uploaded on the website. The research team conducts visits to the site of ongoing or already implemented initiative to update the entries. However each option is dated so the user can see when the information was last revised.



What are the plans for HS-PROD in the future?

A report summarising the entries from the website has also been published during March, 2007 which could be used as a manual. It is also available on the CBHI Website www.cbhidghs.nic.in While HS-PROD has been developed as an operational information tool, it also has great potential as a learning resource for training events and courses in health sector and capacity development. In addition, an E-Discussion group is being developed so that users can discuss the projects online. More visits to the states, which are under represented in the database specifically focusing on subject areas that have few entries, will be conducted. The main objective would be not only to increase the database in terms of the number of entries but also organise sensitisation workshops and network with other relevant stakeholders to encourage the use of the website.