

Janani Suraksha Yojana-Vision to Action

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Abstract

The Government of India in 2005 launched the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) recognizing the need for marked improvements in provision of basic health care services to rural people in the country. It seeks to provide effective, equitable, and affordable quality health care services particularly focusing on the needs of women and children, the poorest and most vulnerable segments of society. In an attempt to make these services available, the Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY) is one of the schemes implemented as part of NRHM with a financial outlay of over Rs. 1,000 crores. It follows a Cash-Conditional Transfer (CCT) mechanism and is a demand-side safe motherhood intervention aimed at promoting institutional deliveries.

The recently conducted Government of India sponsored all-India District-level Household Survey has captured information on institutional deliveries and JSY deliveries and allows for analyzing trends in institutional deliveries between the two successive rounds. Preliminary results from the survey have been declared and the final results are yet to be released. Comparison of preliminary results of 2007-08 with that of 2002-04 indicates that institutional deliveries have increased manifold in the country, specifically in the high-focus states Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Orissa. These trends are in conformity with service statistics data of the government. If the increases witnessed were to continue in a sustained manner and other states were to join the good performing ones, then quality of care could be a priority area of intervention and Public-Private Partnership mechanism through appropriate accreditation system will have to be explored.