

**Public Health Facilities and their Role in the Utilization of Selected
Maternal and Child Health Services in Indian States:
Insights from DLHS-RCH, 2002-2004 Data**

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Abstract

Possession of facilities in public health establishments would not only indicate the services available there, but also attracts the public to utilise such facilities in a better manner. With this background, in this paper, an attempt is made to have a glimpse into how adequately the different health centres (First Referral Units, Community Health Centres and Primary Health Centres) are equipped with specific facilities across the states of India. It is also examined that whether such availability of facilities in the PHCs would play any role in influencing the utilisation of maternal and child health services. Data used for this paper is drawn from DLHS-RCH 2 for 20 major states collected during 2002-2004. Spearman's rank correlation analysis has been carried out between the ranks assigned to states based on the facilities available in the PHCs and the magnitude of utilization of maternal and child health care services.

Based on the overall ranks assigned to the facilities (infrastructure, medical staff, paramedical staff, supply and equipment) adequately (at least 60%) in FRUs and CHCs, the states of Karnataka, Kerala, Uttaranchal, Orissa and Uttar Pradesh are at better position, whereas Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, West Bengal and Assam are at the bottom. In the case of such facilities in PHCs (including training) the ranking showed that Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat and Karnataka are at the top in comparison to Chhattisgarh, Orissa, Bihar, West Bengal and Madhya Pradesh, which are in bottom position. The rank correlations between the overall ranks of facilities in PHCs and maternal health services such as full antenatal care, safe delivery assistance, full immunization to 15-35 months children, ANM/HV visit to home, health worker spent enough time with women and satisfaction with the service/advice received by health worker are observed to be positive and highly significant; but limitations do exist.