

Dissemination Workshop On the Study entitled

Improving the Health Care Access and Quality in the context of achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC) among Scheduled Tribes: Implementation Research in Karauli District, Rajasthan, India

Implemented by IIHMR, Jaipur Rajasthan; and supported by the Division of Socio-Behavioural, Health Systems and Implementation Research at Indian Council of Medical Research, New Delhi
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The ICMR has conducted implementation research through a National Task Force Project on Improving the Health Care Access and quality in the context of achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC) among Scheduled Tribes at nine different centers in India. One of the sites of the task force project was Karauli district (one of the aspirational district as per the list of NITI Ayog) in Rajasthan, India where the study was implemented by Indian Institute of Health Management Research (IIHMR), in three phases: (i) formative phase, (ii) implementation, and (iii) post implementation assessment for a total period of 2.5 years approximately during 2021-2023. The key objective of the project to develop implementation strategies towards achieving universal health coverage by identifying and addressing the implementation barriers to improving access to health care services of assured quality without suffering financial hardship among tribal population through the existing health care systems. A mixed method approach was used in the formative and post implementation assessment. Based on the formative phase key findings, barriers and challenges were identified, theory of change was worked out, and the implementation strategies were formulated in participation of the key stakeholders. To make Health and Wellness Centers (HWCs) functional, community health officers and medical officers were trained on global mental health assessment tool (GMHAT) to assess and manage persons with mental health problems. The key findings were disseminated in a full-day workshop conducted by IIHMR study team on May 25, 2023 with key stakeholders including representatives of district medical and health services including all levels health functionaries, Government of Rajasthan, department of preventive and social medicine, SMS medical college, local governance, local committees, youth champions, IIHMR, ICMR, University of Manchester, UK, and Rural Mental Health Section of WPA.



The Co-Chair of Rural Mental Health Section of WPA, who is a professor of Global Mental Health Research at University of Manchester has addressed the audience during the opening session, shared his experiences about GMHAT and reiterated that the study has shown the way to make mental health assessment operational at Health and Wellness Centers to play a significant role by using a comprehensive and simple global mental health assessment tool by community health officers and ANMs. ASHAs are already supposed to use PHQ2 as per the guidelines of National Health Mission.