

- The public health services should be available free of cost.
- Information about the services available should be accessible to community members irrespective of their caste/class/religion/sex. They should be aware about their entitlements from the Public Health System.
- All health services should be gender-sensitive and address an individual's life-cycle needs and requirements.
- Health facilities and services must be scientifically and medically appropriate and of good quality.

Answer the following questions to know whether or not your community's rights to health are protected:

- Is the health service available free of cost to all the community members through the Public Health System?
- Does your ANM visit your village regularly and visit all the area of your community to provide free health services?
- Is the health facility located at a place which can be reached easily?
- Is the health service financially affordable for the majority of the people in the community?
- Is the community aware about all the health services and entitlements that they can avail of from the Public Health System?
- Is the community aware of the maternal benefit schemes like Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY) or any other health schemes being implemented by the government?

If the answers to these questions are "NO", it means that your community's Right to Health is not protected. If your community members have to pay for the health services from the Public Health System, their Right to Health is not protected. As an ASHA, if you do not know the answer to the above mentioned questions, get the information from the community by discussing these matters with them. You are a critical link between the community and the Health Facility. To exercise the community's Right to Health you also need to monitor, identify gaps and articulate their health care needs to the appropriate health care providers. Therefore, you need to be well aware of the health structure, systems and its operational issues and standards.

Different health services are available at various levels. Let us first learn about them. Usually the health services are available at the state, district, cluster and village levels.

Village level

At the village level there is a Sub-Centre. It provides the following health services under various programmes: