

The National Rural Health Mission (2005-12) seeks to provide effective health care to rural population throughout the country with special focus on states, which have weak public health indicators and/or weak infrastructure.

The Mission is an articulation of the commitment of the Government to raise public spending on health from 0.9% of GDP to 2–3% of GDP.

It aims to undertake architectural correction of the health system to enable it to effectively handle increased allocations as promised under the National Common Minimum Programme and promote policies that strengthen public health management and service delivery in the country.

It has as its key components provision of a female health activist in each village; a village health plan prepared through a local team headed by the Health and Sanitation Committee of the Panchayat; strengthening of the rural hospital for effective curative care and made measurable and accountable to the community through Indian Public Health Standards