Urban Health in Uttar Pradesh: Challenges and Opportunities

Presented in Workshop on
Maternal, Neonatal and Child Health Scenario in the Slums of Meerut, Uttar Pradesh: Implications for Programme and Policy
14th April’09, New Delhi

By
Dr. Gajraj Prasad
Add. Director, MCH
Directorate of Family Welfare
Government of Uttar Pradesh
Outline

- Growing Urbanization and Urban Poverty in Uttar Pradesh
- Health related Problems among Urban Poor
- Barriers limiting access to MCH care
- Upcoming opportunities in Uttar Pradesh
Growing urbanization and urban poverty in Uttar Pradesh
Growing Urban Poverty in Uttar Pradesh

- Uttar Pradesh, the most populous state of India, is also urbanizing rapidly.
- Urban population of Uttar Pradesh will increase from 4.1 crore\(^1\) in 2008 to 6.7 crore in 2026\(^2\).
- An estimated 1.17 crore comprising 30.6 percent of the state’s urban population is poor\(^3\).
- Uttar Pradesh houses the largest number of urban poor in a single state\(^4\).
- Public Health efforts in UP need to take care of an estimated:
  - 340,000\(^5\) annual pregnancies among urban poor
  - 3.3 lakh\(^6\) annual births among urban poor
  - 11.7 lakh\(^7\) children under-5 among urban poor

1- Projections for 2008 by Technical Group on Population Projections
2- Census, 2001 population, Projections, 2001-26
4- Report on State of Urban Health in Uttar Pradesh, UHRC: 2006
5- Based on NFHS-3 reanalysis by wealth quintiles; UHRC 2008
6- Based on CBR 28.2 for urban poor population in UP and 1.17 crore urban poor population
7- Based on NFHS-3 reanalysis by wealth quintiles; UHRC 2008
Level of Urbanization Across Districts in Uttar Pradesh

Uttar Pradesh
Level of Urbanisation in Different Districts (2001)

- More than 35.0%
- 25.1% - 35.0%
- 15.1% - 25.0%
- Less than 15.0%
### 6 largest Cities in Uttar Pradesh

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kanpur</td>
<td>25.32</td>
<td>34.7</td>
<td>3.67</td>
<td>14.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lucknow</td>
<td>22.07</td>
<td>36.3</td>
<td>1.80</td>
<td>8.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agra</td>
<td>12.60</td>
<td>41.3</td>
<td>1.21</td>
<td>9.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Varanasi</td>
<td>11.00</td>
<td>18.1</td>
<td>1.38</td>
<td>12.54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meerut</td>
<td>10.74</td>
<td>42.5</td>
<td>4.71</td>
<td>43.87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allahabad</td>
<td>9.90</td>
<td>22.8</td>
<td>1.26</td>
<td>12.72</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Health related problems among urban poor
Health Related Problems among Urban Poor

Urban poor suffer much poorer health status and access to healthcare.

- Lower access to institutional deliveries
- Lower coverage of immunization
- Higher infant mortality
- Higher prevalence of child undernutrition
- Higher prevalence of infectious diseases on account of poor living environment
- Lower access to housing, safe water supply & sanitation
Barriers limiting access of urban poor to health care
Barriers Limiting Access of Urban Poor to Health Care

- Illegal status of Urban Poor
  - Large proportion of urban poor live in unlisted slums
  - Constant threat of eviction
  - This compromises their access to basic services (water, sanitation) and to entitlements e.g JSY

- Multi-dimensional vulnerability
  - Irregular employment, struggle for livelihood
  - Denial of entry / access in healthcare institutions
• Sub-optimal primary health care services
  • Uneven distribution of urban primary healthcare centres
  • Vacant Staff positions and low motivation of workers
  • Timings inconvenient to urban poor
  • Weak referral linkages and emphasis on curative care than preventive

• Lack of convergence and programme experience
  • Weak coordination among stakeholders
  • Weak urban health capacity of functionaries
  • Few examples of planned and well-managed urban health programmes to guide and inform ongoing and new programmes

• High cost of private healthcare for the poor
• Weak community demand for health care
  • Poor literacy and lack of awareness about services, schemes and entitlements
  • Poor knowledge about health and hygiene behaviours
  • Poor status of women leading to neglect of women’s health and lack of family support to mother / caregiver
  • Wide prevalence of culturally influences practices that may be harmful to health
Upcoming opportunities in Uttar Pradesh
Upcoming Opportunities in UP

- Government initiatives under RCH-II:
- Spatial Mapping of all Health Facilities and slums of 14 cities initiated
- Review of UH Services in 14 high focus cities
- Baseline study for identification of health indicators in slums of 14 cities
- Uttar Pradesh UH Policy being evolved by State Government
- Initiation of Public Private Partnership as a Pilot in large cities of State
- City Specific Urban Health Planning has been initiated

- Growing interest among international agencies in urban health in UP