Institutional Capacity of Health Care Institutes for Diagnosis and Management of Common Genetic Diseases-a Study from a North Coastal District of Andhra Pradesh, India

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Abstract: In India, genetic disease is a disregarded service element in the community health- protection system. This study aims to gauge the accessibility of services for treating genetic disorders and also to evaluate the practices on deterrence and management services in the district health system. A cross-sectional survey of selected health amenities in the government health sector was conducted from 15 primary health centers (PHC's), 4 community health centers (CHC's), 1 district government hospital (DGH) and 3 referral hospitals (RH's). From these, the existing manpower like 130 medical officers (MO's), 254 supporting staff, 409 nursing staff (NS) and 45 lab technicians (LT's) was examined. From the side of private health institutions, 25 corporate hospitals (CH's), 3 medical colleges (MC's) and 25 diagnostic laboratories (DL's) were selected for the survey and from these, 316 MO's, 995 NS and 254 LT's were also reviewed. The findings show that adequate staff was in place at more than 70% of health centers, but none of the staff have obtained any operative training on genetic disease management. The largest part of the DH's had rudimentary infrastructural and diagnostic facilities. However, the greater part of the CHC's and PHC's had inadequate diagnostic facilities related to genetic disease management. Biochemical, molecular, and cytogenetic services were not available at PHC's and CHC's. DH's, RH's, and all selected medical colleges were found to have offered the basic Biochemical genetics units during the survey. The district health care infrastructure in India has a shortage of basic services to be provided for the genetic disorder. With some policy resolutions and facility strengthening, it is possible to provide advanced services for a genetic disorder in the district health system.

Keywords: district health system, genetic disorder, infrastructural amenities, management practices

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