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States considering to replicate AP health sector reform model

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After implementation of the £40-million Health Management Project funded by the Department for International Development (DFID) of the UK, the Andhra Pradesh Model is being considered for replication in other States.

The Secretary, Health, Government of Andhra Pradesh, Dr P.V. Ramesh Kumar, said that the Andhra Pradesh State Health Reform Programme (APSHRP), which was launched in 2007 through DFID funding support, has brought about significant changes in terms of the functioning of the health sector in the State. This covers areas such as human resource management, performance evaluation systems and handling existing physical resources better.

This model, which has helped streamline the functioning of the health care delivery in Andhra Pradesh is now being keenly considered for possible replication in other States, he said.

The State Government and the Health Department are also actively pursuing Rs 1,140-crore financial support under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), which will help sustain the health care project delivery in the State.

Support to other States

Addressing a press conference here today on the sidelines of AP Health Sector Reforms Programme, Dr Ramesh Kumar said the DFID is supporting similar reforms in healthcare for Governments of Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal and Bihar.

Some of the best practices evolved and implemented during the reforms and also some projects taken up are under consideration for replication in other States.

The DFID model

The Director of Family Health International of DFID, Ms Lipika Nanda, said that the key inputs for the health sector reform programme are improved access to quality and responsive services, especially for poor in under-served areas.

The Governance and human resource management of health sector has been strengthened, institutional mechanisms for community participation and accountability has been inculcated into the system.

Significantly, this has also resulted in strengthening the financial management systems.

The reforms have brought about concerted focus on technical assistance and on promoting policy-level changes. The findings of the project are that the access to health service has improved through various public, private partnership approach, introduction of accreditation for Government facilities and rationalising the use of drugs among other issues.