

Mumbai needs 858 government clinics, but it only has 199, report reveals –

According to the standard of the National Building Code, Bombay Needs 858 government clinics, shockingly the island city has only 199 government clinics, revealed the “Mumbai Ideal Public Health Manifesto,” released by the Mumbai First initiative with the Praja Foundation on Wednesday, December 22.

Of the 187 public dispensaries, only 15 are operational for 14 hours, while the rest are operational for 5 to 8 hours. It invariably hits the citizens it is made up for. The fact that 44% and 45% of vacancies respectively prevailed in medical and paramedical personnel from 2020, highlights the alarming spectacle of health care management, the manifesto pointed out.

With the BMC Elections fast approaching, political leaders are preparing for their propaganda. With the coronavirus pandemic illustrating the profound impact that the local municipal body is playing in such an unfavorable situation, it is expected that health, in this year’s local elections, will be a major topic of discussion.

During the press conference, Yogesh Mishra, head of research and data at the Praja Foundation, explained that only 20 percent of the health budget is earmarked for primary health care income spending. This involves programs as well as dispensaries within the Municipality of the Greater Mumbai Health Department.

Mishra believes that due to this there are still gaps in the procurement of primary health care in the city. It contrasted with the situation during the COVID-19 pandemic, in which public medical institutions were under the effects of the virus. Despite this, the number of authorized staff accessible in MCGM’s cumulative health facilities represents a 31 percent vacancy through 2020.

Through the manifesto, recommendations were made within the framework of a results-based budget that will allow the development and improvement of access to primary health care in Mumbai, Mishra noted. He added that with the adoption of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals in India in 2015, developments are not positive.

The manifesto mentions that while the SDG target for tuberculosis is 0 cases of tuberculosis per 1 lakh of population, 298 cases of tuberculosis per 1 lakh of population were recorded in 2020. The other goal was to end all epidemics, communicable diseases by 2030. However, in 2020-21, 15,623 cases of malaria, 9,072 dengue fever and 2,941 cases of HIV / AIDS were detected.

Dr Neville Mehta, CEO of Mumbai First, explained the reforms the city needs to undertake. Some of these include real-time maintenance of cause-of-death data. This, according to him, will indicate the measures to be taken for the development and implementation of health programs.

Mehta added that data-driven decisions, effective budget framing and use, adequate allocation of infrastructure and human resources should be emphasized to strengthen the health system.

Additionally, when asked by Mumbai Live how the government should balance the emphasis on the novel coronavirus with other diseases in the future, Mehta said that more infrastructure, facilities and manpower work are imperative. If this happens, he thinks that it will not be necessary to categorize the diseases.

To this, Mishra added that the manifesto highlights an increase in the total number of deaths in Mumbai compared to 2019 in 2020 to 12% excluding COVID-19. While the total number of major diseases recorded has decreased by 29 percent. Therefore, he points out that some precautionary measures should have been taken for the citizens.

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