



Mumbai needs 659 dispensaries, reveals NGO report

According to the norms of the Urban Design Plan Formulation and Implementation (UDPFI) by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, one public dispensary should cater to 15,000 people

Published 16 hours ago On July 12, 2022



Mumbai There are only 659 public dispensaries in Mumbai, a severe deficiency that must be remedied immediately.

The western suburbs, according to a study by the non-profit Praja Foundation, are the most severely affected and require at least 315 new public health facilities. The city, which has a slum population of 27%, requires 133 additional dispensaries, while the eastern suburbs, which have a slum population of 51%, require 211 additional dispensaries, according to the report.

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs' Urban Design Plan Formulation and Implementation (UDPFI) stipulates that a public dispensary should serve a maximum of 15,000 people.

In order to relieve the strain on government hospitals, Milind Mhaske, CEO Praja Foundation, says primary healthcare provides a decentralized approach that acts as

the first level of public healthcare services. Health care providers from lower socioeconomic groups have been forced to use private health care or other corporations' tertiary care hospitals because of the lack of public dispensaries.

31 percent of people in the lowest socioeconomic classes use private healthcare, and 76 percent of households spend more than 10 percent of their income on medical expenses, according to a Praja survey in 2019.

Many people have to turn to private healthcare because there is no adequate public option, which drives up their OOP costs and pushes them into poverty, according to Mhaske.

Only 12 of the 187 dispensaries operated by the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) are open for 14 hours a day; one is open for 11 hours, and the remaining 174 are only open for five to seven hours a day. In 2020, 115 dispensaries were open for 14 hours or more, but in 2021, only 12 remained open, according to the Praja report. Additionally, it drew attention to the growing number of positions available in local pharmacies. BMC dispensaries had a 21 percent medical staff shortage and a 35 percent paramedical shortage as of December 2021, according to the report.

Dr. Mangesh Pednekar, Director of Healix Institute of Public Health, said that BMC, which has a wealth of experience managing Covid, should replicate strategies in the overall strengthening of primary healthcare in the city. To control the pandemic, BMC implemented decentralized Covid war rooms in all 24 wards, with real-time ward-specific data management. P3s and civil society and NGO infrastructure have been mobilized to accomplish this. Mumbai's primary healthcare infrastructure must be strengthened and real-time mortality and morbidity data must be maintained."

There is overcrowding in tertiary care centers because of the lack of primary health care, according to Ravi Duggal, a public health researcher and activist. "We have a shortage of dispensaries in our area." One of the things we need to do is bring dispensaries and urban health centers under one roof. According to him, the lack of a good healthcare system has forced many to seek treatment in the private sector.

After reading the Praja report and commenting on it, Dr. Mangal Gomare, BMC's executive health officer, stated that the BMC budget includes \$250 million to fund the project, with another \$150 million earmarked to fund operating expenses. These clinics will be launched on a trial basis with the goal of expanding to 70 by the end of the pilot period.

"It will help alleviate the burden on our hospitals by addressing the health concerns of the urban population more effectively." Patients pay a high price to get the advice of a specialist in the private sector, and finding one in public facilities is difficult. A specialist should be available at all public health facilities so that decentralized patient management can be provided to all of the patients. In order to meet the needs of patients in HBT polyclinics, BMC is looking to collaborate with specialists.

The total number of diabetes cases rose from 26,688 in 2012 to 36,616 in 2021, according to the report. From 2012 to 2021, the number of people with hypertension is expected to rise by 5%, from 28,595 to 30,011.

Link : <https://namastebollywood.in/mumbai-needs-659-dispensaries-reveals-ngo-report/>