

Brief Report on National Oral Health Programme (NOHP) Activities in Lakshadweep

1. Introduction

The **National Oral Health Programme (NOHP)** aims to improve oral health outcomes by providing integrated, comprehensive, and equitable oral healthcare services. In Lakshadweep, the programme was implemented through coordinated efforts of health departments, primary healthcare institutions, and outreach teams, with a focus on prevention, early detection, and treatment.

2. Objectives

- To promote oral health awareness among the population
 - To prevent and control oral diseases
 - To integrate oral healthcare into primary healthcare services
 - To ensure accessibility of basic oral health services across islands
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3. Key Activities Conducted

3.1 Oral Health Awareness Campaigns

- Conducted awareness programmes in schools, community centers, and public institutions
- Observed **World Oral Health Day (20th March)** with campaigns on oral hygiene practices
- Distributed IEC (Information, Education, Communication) materials in local languages

3.2 School Oral Health Programme

- Regular dental screening camps organized in schools across inhabited islands
- Educated students on brushing techniques, diet, and oral hygiene
- Referral services provided for children requiring advanced dental care

3.3 Dental Screening and Treatment Camps

- Conducted dental camps in remote and underserved areas
- Provided free check-ups, basic treatments (scaling, fillings), and referrals
- Special focus on vulnerable groups including elderly and pregnant women

3.4 Capacity Building and Training

- Training sessions conducted for medical officers, health workers, and ASHA workers
- Emphasis on early identification of oral diseases and community-level intervention

3.5 Strengthening of Dental Infrastructure

- Upgradation of dental units in Primary Health Centres (PHCs) and Community Health Centres (CHCs)
 - Supply of essential dental equipment and consumables
 - Improved referral linkage with higher healthcare facilities
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4. Achievements

- Increased awareness of oral hygiene practices among school children and general public
 - Early detection of dental caries, periodontal diseases, and oral lesions
 - Improved accessibility to basic dental services in remote islands
 - Strengthened integration of oral health with general healthcare services
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5. Challenges

- Geographical constraints due to dispersed island locations
 - Limited availability of specialized dental professionals
 - Transportation and logistics issues affecting outreach activities
 - Need for sustained behavioral change in oral hygiene practices
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6. Recommendations

- Enhance mobile dental units for better outreach
 - Increase frequency of school and community screening programmes
 - Strengthen tele-dentistry services for specialist consultations
 - Continuous training of healthcare personnel
 - Intensify community engagement and awareness drives
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7. Conclusion

The implementation of the National Oral Health Programme in Lakshadweep during the financial year 2025–26 has significantly contributed to improving oral health awareness and service delivery. Continued efforts, strategic planning, and community participation are essential to sustain and further enhance oral health outcomes in the region.

