Issue
11

Collaborating
for a Healthier Tomorrow:
Progress Through Partnership

Shri Jaxay Shah
Chairperson, QCI

" NABH remains committed to fostering an ecosystem where accreditation and certification becomes a means to drive excellence, not just compliance. "

As we step into the new financial year, I look forward with great optimism to 2025-26, a year that will bring us closer to our shared vision of *Swasth* and *Viksit Bharat*. Quality healthcare is not just a necessity but a fundamental pillar of national progress. Over the past quarters, NABH has made remarkable strides in ensuring that quality healthcare services reach every corner of the country, and I am confident that this journey of transformation will continue with even greater momentum in the coming years. It is with this belief that NABH remains committed to fostering an ecosystem where accreditation and certification becomes a means to drive excellence, not just compliance.

One of the key initiatives in this direction has been the NABH DISHA workshop, a systematic review of objective elements aimed at developing best practices that meet quality standards. With 40 assessors from across the country coming together, this effort is a significant step towards simplifying the accreditation process for the 6th edition, ensuring a more structured, uniform, and actionable approach for healthcare providers. Standardization is not just about setting rules but about creating an ecosystem where "The right process is the mother of quality." Through DISHA, NABH is strengthening its foundation to make accreditation more accessible and

implementable, especially for smaller hospitals that require structured guidance.

Another initiative that fills me with immense pride is the *Gunvatta Yatra*, which has truly embodied the spirit of taking quality to the last mile. In the last quarter alone, NABH has embarked on an extraordinary journey of quality, traversing the length and breadth of the nation—**from the heartlands of Haryana to the coastal shores of Kerala, and from the vibrant landscapes of Gujarat to the farthest frontiers of Manipur**. These 20+ *Gunvatta Yatras* are not just travels; they are a movement, a commitment to ensuring that no hospital—whether in the bustling metros or the remotest corners—remains untouched by the wave of quality healthcare transformation. These yatras have been instrumental in handholding small-scale hospitals, helping them adopt best practices and elevate the quality of healthcare delivery. And this is just the beginning—45+ yatras are already planned for the upcoming quarter, ensuring that no hospital is left behind in this journey towards excellence. **Quality is not a destination; it is an ever-evolving journey, a relentless pursuit of excellence.**

With each step forward, NABH reaffirms its unwavering commitment to making accreditation not just a regulatory milestone but a powerful enabler—one that empowers hospitals. This initiative is a testament to NABH's dedication to ensuring that even the smallest healthcare facilities, the unsung pillars of India's medical ecosystem, are not just included but uplifted in this collective march towards world-class healthcare standards.

To lead the way towards *Swasth Bharat*, it is imperative to bring together all healthcare stakeholders in a collaborative effort. NABH Manthan has played a pivotal role in this regard, providing a platform for meaningful discussions on enhancing the effectiveness and visibility of NABH standards. The first *Manthan*, held in Delhi in February, saw the participation of CEOs from leading hospitals who deliberated on strengthening accreditation frameworks. As the saying goes, **"Medicine cures diseases, but only doctors can cure patients."** True healing goes beyond prescriptions and procedures—it lies in the compassion, trust, and unwavering commitment of those who deliver care. *Manthan* is not just another initiative; it is a clarion call for a deeper transformation—one that embeds patient-centric care at the very core of our healthcare ecosystem. It is about shifting mindsets, fostering accountability, and ensuring that quality is not just a standard to be met but a promise to be upheld. NABH will continue to lead this dialogue, bringing together stakeholders from across the spectrum to not only raise the bar for accreditation but to reimagine the very essence of healthcare in India.

Looking ahead, NABH's vision for quality healthcare in 2024 is clear—expanding outreach to hospitals in Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities, simplifying processes through technology, and fostering continuous learning for assessors and healthcare professionals. NABH will remain steadfast in its commitment to making accreditation a transformative force that enhances trust in India's healthcare system. As we embark on this journey into the new financial year, let us move forward with a shared purpose, ensuring that quality healthcare is not just a benchmark but a reality for every citizen.

Shri Rizwan Koita
Chairperson, NABH

" Together, through shared commitment and sustained partnerships, we contribute meaningfully to the vision of Viksit Bharat @2047 - where healthcare is equitable, safe, and future-ready. "

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to this edition of the NABH Newsletter. This edition's theme captures the essence of what has helped shape many of our initiatives at NABH, through the steady efforts of individuals and institutions working together toward a shared vision and a strong belief in collective progress.

Over the years, NABH has grown not just through its programs and standards, but through the relationships it has built, with hospitals, healthcare professionals, policy institutions, and experts who all believe in the importance of strengthening quality across healthcare delivery. Whether it is the development of new standards or new initiatives like the Mitra and Digital Mitra Program, it is the strength of these partnerships that continues to guide our work.

In this issue, we reflect on how partnerships have led to real meaningful progress, be it in designing standards for hospitals, developing digital platforms to streamline assessments, or training assessors and hospital staff through collaborative learning programs. Each initiative has been made possible through dialogue, participation, and a shared goal of improving patient care. As we look ahead, NABH remains committed to supporting healthcare institutions of all sizes and capacities in their journey towards quality. We continue to value the support and insight of our stakeholders who make this journey possible.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the hospitals, assessors, technical experts, and domain partners who have contributed their time and knowledge. I also acknowledge the dedicated efforts of the NABH Secretariat and QCI team, whose support enables the progress we make together.

Shri Chakravarthy T. Kannan

Secretary General, QCI

"These initiatives collectively reflect QCI's unwavering commitment to making quality healthcare accessible to every citizen - a vision aligned with our Hon'ble Prime Minister's goal of a "Viksit Bharat" by 2047.

Dear All,

It gives me immense pleasure to present the 11th edition of the NABH Newsletter, focused on "Collaborating for a Healthier Tomorrow: Progress through Partnership." This theme reflects our core approach at NABH—making collaboration the foundation of our efforts to transform India's healthcare landscape.

As we pursue our mission to enhance healthcare quality nationwide, we recognize that meaningful progress demands strong partnerships—between providers and regulators, traditional and modern practices, and standard-setters and implementers. Through these collaborations, we're witnessing a quality revolution in Indian healthcare.

The past quarter featured several groundbreaking initiatives demonstrating our commitment to partnership-driven quality enhancement:

- **NABH Disha:** We conducted the **Disha Workshop** in January, this workshop brought experienced assessors to collaborate and review objective elements to finalize standardized policies and frameworks. Through brainstorming, we're creating a standardized, actionable framework for consistently interpreting accreditation standards, ensuring all

stakeholders share a unified understanding of quality parameters.

- **NABH 6th Edition Refresher Course and Assessor Conclave:** We organized comprehensive refresher courses on the 6th Edition Standards, while the Assessor Conclave provided an opportunity to collaborate. It was also a platform for exchanging insights, harmonizing assessment approaches, and strengthening our evaluation framework—ensuring our standards remain relevant, rigorous, and responsive.

- **NABH Yatra:** This outreach initiative, creates awareness around the benefits of accreditation and certifications while taking quality consciousness across India. It has helped us understand regional challenges, showcase success stories, and build partnerships with healthcare providers. The initiative has touched 270+ Pincode and 54 districts in India. To reflect on the geographical diversity of the initiative, **NABH has covered Rewari, Ahmedabad, Rajkot, Kochi, Kolkata, Imphal, Hyderabad, Bengaluru, Mysuru, and Bhavnagar.** We plan to conduct 48 more Yatras in the upcoming quarter. We collaborated with IMA for the NABH yatra.

We plan to collaborate with more national bodies for respective boards and divisions at QCI for large-scale impact and last-mile outreach.

- **NABH Manthan:** True to its name meaning "churning and deep reflection," this initiative serves as a think tank generating innovative ideas through collaborative discussions among experts, practitioners, and policymakers. The first NABH Gunvatta Manthan was organized on February 18, 2025, in New Delhi for accredited hospitals to recognize quality ambassadors, empower CEOs to promote healthcare quality and patient safety and align NABH's mission with the nation's vision for 2027.

These initiatives collectively reflect QCI's unwavering commitment to making quality healthcare accessible to every citizen—a vision aligned with our Hon'ble Prime Minister's goal of a "Viksit Bharat" by 2047. As we progress, we remain steadfast in our belief that Progress through Partnership is the cornerstone of healthcare transformation. By fostering meaningful collaborations across the healthcare ecosystem, we build bridges connecting diverse stakeholders toward our shared vision of a healthier tomorrow.

Dr. Atul Mohan Kochhar
CEO, NABH

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Today, with over 25,000 organizations engaged with us across the country, our reach has extended beyond metrosinto Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities - thanks to the committed support of our partners at every level.

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The healthcare landscape is evolving rapidly, shaped by advances in technology, a growing emphasis on patient-centered care, and an urgent need to build resilient systems that can withstand global health challenges. In this dynamic context, the theme of this edition of the NABH Newsletter "Collaborating for a Healthier Tomorrow: Progress through Partnership"—is both timely and profound.

At NABH, we have always believed that the path to quality healthcare is not a solitary journey. It is one paved with collective commitment, where institutions, professionals, policy-makers, and communities come together to raise the standards of care and ensure equity, safety, and excellence in every patient interaction. Partnerships are the cornerstone of this vision. Whether through formal collaborations or informal networks of shared learning, we have witnessed how synergy between stakeholders creates a multiplier effect—improving outcomes, enhancing patient satisfaction, and strengthening healthcare delivery.

Since its inception in 2006, NABH has championed the cause of quality and accreditation in healthcare. Today, with over 25,000 organizations engaged with us across the country, our reach has extended beyond metros into Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities—thanks to the committed support of our partners at every level.

Hospitals, clinics, blood banks, AYUSH centers, and dental facilities have all played a pivotal role in raising the bar of healthcare excellence, adhering to NABH's rigorous standards that ensure safety, accountability, and continuous improvement.

The strength of collaboration is evident in the initiatives we have launched and nurtured. Our alignment with state and central government health programs, our work with professional associations and healthcare educators, and our continuous engagement with patients and their families have all been instrumental in promoting a culture of quality. We are also privileged to work with international bodies and accreditation councils, enabling mutual recognition and knowledge exchange that benefit Indian healthcare on a global platform.

This newsletter captures several such stories of meaningful partnerships—be it between a tertiary care hospital and a rural health mission to expand access, or between technology providers and healthcare institutions to digitalize quality compliance. These narratives underscore how collaborative efforts can help us overcome resource constraints, bridge gaps in training and infrastructure, and build systems that are more responsive and inclusive.

Looking ahead, NABH remains committed to nurturing such partnerships. We are investing in capacity-building programs, developing simplified accreditation frameworks for smaller organizations, and enhancing digital tools to make our processes more accessible and impactful. We recognize that true progress is achieved not through competition, but through cooperation—and we invite every stakeholder to join us in shaping a healthier, more equitable future for all.

In closing, I extend my gratitude to all our partners—healthcare providers, surveyors, state health authorities, and the dedicated NABH team—for their unrelenting pursuit of quality. Let us continue to stand united in our mission, because together, we can achieve much more.

Jai Hind!

National Accreditation Board for Hospitals & Healthcare Providers

VISION

To be the apex national healthcare accreditation and quality improvement body, functioning at par with global benchmarks.

MISSION

To operate accreditation and allied programs in collaboration with stakeholders focusing on patient safety and quality of healthcare based upon national/ international standards, through process of self and external evaluation.

PATIENT SAFETY & QUALITY OF CARE

NABH

ACCREDITED

VALUES

Credibility:
Provide credible and value addition services

Transparency:
Openness in communication and freedom of information to its stakeholders

Responsiveness:
Willingness to listen and continuously improving service

Innovation:
Incorporating change, creativity, continuous learning and new ideas to improve the services being provided

Articles from NABH Secretariat

Dr. Kashipa Harit

Joint Director, NABH

Public-Private Partnerships: A Roadmap for Digital Health Success

Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) have gained significant momentum in the healthcare sector, particularly in digital health. These collaborations bring together governments, healthcare providers, technology companies, startups, and accreditation bodies such as the National Accreditation Board for Hospitals & Healthcare Providers (NABH) to create innovative solutions for healthcare challenges. Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) leverage resources, expertise, and technology to enhance healthcare accessibility, efficiency, and patient outcomes. By combining the strengths of both public and private entities, digital health initiatives can scale more rapidly and effectively address the growing needs of the healthcare industry.

In many countries, governments face financial and logistical constraints in expanding healthcare infrastructure. Meanwhile, private sector organizations, including technology firms and healthcare service providers, bring innovation and efficiency to the table. The integration of digital tools such as electronic health records (EHR), artificial intelligence (AI), and telemedicine has further strengthened the scope of PPPs, making them a crucial driver of healthcare transformation.

The Role of Public-Private Partnerships in Digital Health

PPPs in digital health focus on multiple aspects, including telemedicine, health information systems, digital health records, and AI-driven diagnostics. The government provides the necessary regulatory framework and financial backing, while private players contribute expertise, technology, and implementation capabilities.

One of the key benefits of PPPs is their ability to scale up solutions efficiently. For example, a government-funded initiative can leverage private-sector expertise to develop and implement AI-driven diagnostic tools, ensuring faster and more accurate disease detection. Additionally, public-private collaborations enable better resource allocation, reducing the burden on public healthcare systems and improving service delivery.

The partnerships are not limited to financial investments; they also involve knowledge sharing, joint research initiatives, and capacity-building programs for healthcare professionals. Through these collaborations, the healthcare industry can bridge the technological gap and ensure equitable access to digital health

solutions, especially in remote and underserved areas.

Startups and Technology Firms Driving Digital Health Innovation

Startups and tech firms play a crucial role in accelerating digital health innovation. Their agility, research-driven approach, and technological expertise enable the development of cutting-edge healthcare solutions. Governments recognize this potential and foster collaboration through PPP models.

Successful initiatives include:

- Aarogya Setu (India): A COVID-19 contact-tracing app developed through a government-private sector partnership using AI and data analytics.

- Telehealth Expansion (USA): Companies like Teladoc and Amwell collaborated with public health agencies to provide virtual healthcare services during the pandemic.

- Estonia's e-Health System: The Estonian government worked with private IT firms to create a nationwide digital health system, ensuring seamless access to EHR, e-prescriptions, and data sharing among healthcare providers.

NABH's Role in Digital Health:

NABH play a vital role in ensuring quality, compliance, and ethical standards in digital healthcare. As digital health records and AI-driven healthcare solutions become mainstream, standardization and regulatory oversight have become essential.

- NABH has introduced Digital Healthcare Accreditation Standards to ensure that

healthcare services adhere to quality, safety, and ethical guidelines.

- The organization collaborates with healthcare providers and technology firms to establish EHR implementation guidelines, promoting interoperability and data security.

- NABH has launched Hospital Information System (HIS) and Electronic Medical Record (EMR) certification programs to ensure that healthcare facilities meet standardized digital health protocols.

NABH's involvement extends beyond accreditation, as it actively collaborates with healthcare professionals, and IT experts to develop best practices for digital healthcare. By ensuring adherence to internationally accepted digital health standards, NABH plays a pivotal role in integrating technology into mainstream healthcare while maintaining quality and security.

The Future of Digital Health through PPPs

Public-private partnerships continue to shape the future of digital health by driving innovation, accessibility, and efficiency. Successful collaborations such as ABDM in India, Estonia's e-Health System, and AI-driven diagnostics in the UK highlight the transformative power of these partnerships.

As digital health evolves, strengthening PPPs will be crucial in building a resilient, inclusive, and high-quality healthcare ecosystem. With continued investment, innovation, and policy support, PPPs will remain a key force in making global healthcare more accessible and technology-driven.

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QUALITY COUNCIL OF INDIA
भारतीय गुणवत्ता परिषद्
QCI · Creating an Ecosystem for Quality

National Accreditation Board for Hospitals and Healthcare Providers
राष्ट्रीय अस्पताल और स्वास्थ्यचर्या–प्रदाता प्रत्यायन बोर्ड

Ms. Neeta Anand

Deputy Director, NABH

Collaborating for a Healthier Tomorrow: Progress Through Partnerships

Taking Quality to the Grassroots: NABH's Allopathic Clinics Accreditation Program"

PROFIT.CO

You Win | We Win | They Win

Coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress, and working together is success

In the complex world of healthcare—where outcomes depend on timely action, skilled professionals, adequate infrastructure, and evolving technology—**collaboration is not just beneficial; it is essential**.

As mentioned by Hellen Keller , "Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much". The rewards and benefits of working together, harnessing each other qualities has always been acknowledged and serve as the base of any growing industry.

In our country, Healthcare challenges such as disease outbreaks, workforce shortages, mismatch in required skills and work, quality disparities, and access barriers require

comprehensive approach. Approaches such as **Collaborative partnerships among healthcare providers, government bodies, professional associations, academia, NGOs, and the private sector** form the backbone of a system capable of addressing these multifaceted issues. India being a developing country is aligning its mission with the global **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**—especially SDG **3: Good Health and Well-being**, and SDG **17: Partnerships for the Goals**.

In the rapidly evolving landscape of healthcare in India, collaboration stands out as a pivotal strategy in driving systemic improvements,

promoting patient safety, and enhancing quality care delivery. One such leading example of impactful collaboration is the concerted efforts made by the **National Accreditation Board for Hospitals and Healthcare Providers (NABH)**.

NABH, with its mission to operate accreditation and allied programs in collaboration with stakeholders, is trying to reach masses and to the grassroots through Allopathic Clinics program which is aimed at smaller clinics having out patient/ day care facility.

The standards focus on achieving patient safety for both smaller and large set ups in the country and aimed at delivering quality healthcare to the last man in the line, addressing the healthcare needs of the masses, and making quality healthcare accessible across every corner of the country. The second edition of Allopathic Clinics standards has been made comprehensive including standards for emerging facilities of Day care, Stand-alone facilities of Dermatology and Dialysis centers.

NABH has had been associated with professional bodies who help in capacity building, providing technical expert in shaping the standards and requirements which are practical and at the same time improving the patient safety. These collaborations have helped in knowledge sharing, meeting experts at one platform, reach to underprivileged areas breaking geographical boundaries. The collaborations help bringing together the experts, areas representative and their expertise to have quality propagating to all through their own selected medium.

A few examples of associations of NABH are - Research Society for Study of diabetes in India (RSSD), Indian Association of Dermatologists, Venerologists and Leprologists (IADVL), Dialysis Service Providers of India (DSPAI), who have helped in bringing clinics towards journey of quality, putting a cut to forgery and thus improving patient safety. The partnerships

To achieve the 2030 Agenda of United Nations, India's healthcare ecosystem needs robust institutions, skilled professionals, and empowered patients—all of which NABH is helping nurture through its multi-sector partnerships. These collaborations promote **capacity building**, **inclusive access to accreditation**, and the **integration of quality standards** at all levels of healthcare delivery—rural to urban, public to private.

A few benefits of Clinics accreditation are

For Patients
- Eliminating **QUACKERY** and ensuring care delivered by **qualified professionals**
- Improve quality of patient care
- Enhance **patient safety and satisfaction**
- Ensure **legal and regulatory compliance**

For Hospitals/ Clinics
- Improved **clinical outcomes**
- Better **operational efficiency**
- **Benchmarking** with global healthcare standards
- Enhanced **hospital reputation and trust**
- Promote staff training and development

STAKEHOLDER BENEFITS

Financial & Operational
- Attracts **medical tourism**
- Reduced **waste and inefficiencies**
- Improved **documentation and record-keeping**

Competitive Edge
- **Recognition** by national and international bodies
- **Differentiates** the hospital in a competitive market
- Greater **trust among stakeholders**

Allopathic Clinics Accreditation Programme 2nd Edition

FREE Online Awareness Sessions: Twice a month for understanding of Program

FREE Toolkit for sample Policies/SOPs/Formats to streamline documentation : **E-Mitra**

WE ARE THERE TO HELP!

FREE Guidebook: Comprehensive interpretation on objective elements

Program On Implementation : Open/Closed (on demand) On Charges e.g. Rs. 1,60,000/- for 40 candidates (Rs. 4,000 per person)

Allopathic Clinics Accreditation Programme 2nd Edition

The standards focus on achieving patient safety for both smaller and large set ups in the country and aimed at delivering quality healthcare to the last man in the line, addressing the healthcare needs of the masses, and making quality healthcare accessible across every corner of the country. The second edition has been made comprehensive including standards for emerging facilities of **Day care**, **Stand-alone facilities of Dermatology** and **Dialysis centers.**

Fees One time for 4 years

Application Fee: **Rs. 5,000 + GST**
Annual Fee: **Rs. 15,000 + GST**

Clinics with **single speciality**

Application Fee: **Rs. 10,000 + GST**
Annual Fee: **Rs. 40,000 + GST**

Clinics with **more than one speciality**

Mr. Thrinadh Raju

Accreditation Officer, NABH

NABH Care Home Accreditation Towards a Healthier Tomorrow

Overview:

NABH (National Accreditation Board for Hospitals and Healthcare Providers) is one of prime accreditation body in India. NABH is a constituent board of Quality Council of India, set up to establish and operate accreditation programme for healthcare organisations. The board is structured to cater to much desired needs of the consumers and to set benchmarks for progress of health industry. The board while being supported by all stakeholders including industry, consumers, government, have full functional autonomy in its operation. NABH functions at the national level with over 25 programs including 12 accreditation, 11 certification and 03 empanelment programs. At the international level, operates 04 accreditation programs. NABH is continuing its journey for creating an ecosystem for quality in healthcare in India. NABH standards focus on safety and quality of the delivery of services by the organisations in the changing healthcare environment. Without being prescriptive, the standards have been developed with the intent of providing information and guiding the organisation in conducting its operations with a focus on patient safety.

NABH started the care home standards that are unique standards of NABH, as these are the first standards in the country which are focusing on the safety aspects at the care home level. The standards are designed keeping in view the suggestions made by various stakeholders.

Expert team members and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) healthcare also being the driving force behind the formation of the standards. Subsequent to the introduction of "The Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior citizens (Amendment bill 2019) in the Lok Sabha, India in December 2019", Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment initiated the formation of rules under this bill in October 2021. NABH standards for care homes will certainly help and encourage the adoption of the bill and the rules under this bill.

Scope of the NABH care home accreditation standards include Senior living facilities /Old age Homes, Assisted Living Facilities, Transition living facilities, Palliative Care Facilities, Specialized Care Facilities like Dementia Care, Hospice Care and Differently Abled Living Facilities.

The Department of Social Justice and Empowerment released memorandum on 17th June 2022 to maintain minimum standards at

senior citizen homes, ultimately the NABH standards for care homes will certainly help implementation. https://socialjustice.gov.in/writereaddata/UploadFile/20801655462991.pdf

What were the key challenges involved?

One of the biggest challenges for senior living communities in India is the lack of awareness and acceptance. In India, the traditional joint family system has been common, where older adults are cared for by their children. Although nuclear families are becoming more common, the belief that children should look after aging parents is still strong. This cultural mindset makes many seniors hesitant to consider senior living communities as an option. As a result, the sector faces a challenge in educating the public about the benefits these communities offer, such as better healthcare, specialized care, and social opportunities.

Cost is another major issue. While some senior living communities offer luxury amenities, their high costs are unaffordable for many families. On the other hand, more affordable options often lack the quality of services and facilities seniors need. Many seniors also have limited retirement savings and rely on their children for financial support. The lack of a strong pension system and social security makes it even harder for seniors to afford these communities.

The infrastructure in many senior living communities is still underdeveloped, especially in smaller towns and cities. Many existing facilities are not designed to meet the specific needs of seniors. For example, they may not have wheelchair access or specialized healthcare services, which makes it difficult for seniors to live comfortably. Seniors who have mobility challenges may also find it hard to access essential services like healthcare, shopping, or recreation.

Another challenge is the lack of clear regulations and policies for senior living communities. Without specific laws, many facilities operate without proper oversight. There are no clear guidelines for the level of healthcare, security, or recreational activities that should be provided. This leads to a wide variation in the quality of services. Legal issues related to property ownership, inheritance, and the rights of elderly individuals also add to the complexity.

Healthcare is a primary concern for seniors, but many senior living communities lack adequate medical care. While some luxury communities have round-the-clock healthcare staff, smaller or more affordable options may not have the resources to handle medical emergencies. Seniors with chronic conditions or special medical needs require consistent care, which is not always available in every facility. This gap in healthcare services can raise concerns about the safety and well-being of seniors in these communities.

https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/life-style/health-fitness/health-news/senior-living-housing-sector-in-india-challenges-that-need-to-be-addressed/articleshow/116001484.cms#:~:text=While%20these%20communities%20offer%20specialized,hindering%20the%20sector's%20full%20potential.
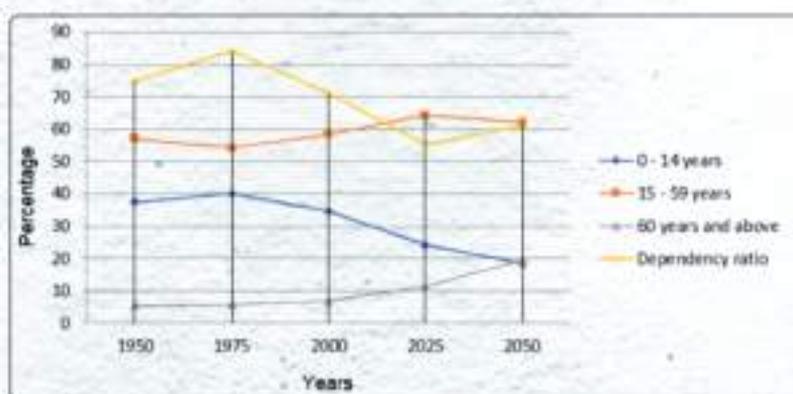

Figure 1A. Population by broad age groups in percentage, India, 1950-2050
Source: United Nations (2019), World Population Prospects, the 2019 Revision, United Nations, New York

Key Findings from the Longitudinal Ageing Study of India (LASI) by NITI Aayog

The Longitudinal Ageing Study of India (LASI) launched in 2016 by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is a full-scale national survey and a seminal study on the status of the ageing population in India. The report has provided several valuable insights into the process and impact of ageing in India. The key highlights of the report are given below.

Dimensions	Key Findings
Health	**Physical Health** • Every fourth Indian over 60 years and every fifth Indian over 45 years reported having poor health • 75% of the elderly have one or more chronic diseases • 40% of the elderly have one or other disabilities • 1 in 4 has some kind of multi-morbidity • Diabetes is more common among senior citizens in urban India • Cancer prevalence is on the rise and is higher in urban India. **Mental Health** • Around 20% of the elderly in India have mental health issues • The prevalence of probable depression among the elderly is ten times higher than the self-reported prevalence of diagnosed depression, implying a greater burden of undiagnosed depression • Almost a third of the elderly population exhibits depressive symptoms **Functional Abilities** • 11% have some form of impairment • 24% of seniors have limitations in activities of daily living • 58% have difficulty stooping, climbing, or kneeling • 43% use an aid or supportive device Access to Healthcare Facilities • 7% experience hospitalization • 60% received OPD care (one year before the LASI survey)
Social	**Demography-specific** • 12% of the total population consists of elderly people and is projected to reach 319 million by 2050, growing at a rate of around 3% per year • The overall sex ratio in the elderly population is 1065 • 58% of the total number elderly are women, out of which 54% are widows • The overall dependency ratio is 62 per 100 working-age population

Dimensions	Key Findings
Social	**Living Pattern–related** • Approximately 28% of the elderly are living with children without a spouse • Overall, 6% live alone, and 09% of women elderly live alone • 7 out of 10 elderly persons reside in rural areas **Diet** • Food insecurity is increasing among India's elderly • Almost 6% of people in India over 45 years ate smaller portions or skipped meals, and 5.3% did not eat, even when they were hungry **Knowledge and Awareness** • Low awareness levels among the elderly regarding welfare provisions available for them. For instance: - 12% are aware of the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act 2007 - 28% aware of any kind of senior concession - 50%, 44%, and 12% are aware of IGNOAPS, IGNWPS, and Annapurna Scheme, respectively - 24% experienced problems in providing documents **Living Conditions and Quality of Life** • 32% of the elderly have low life expectations • At least 5% of India's elderly population reported having experienced abuse which can be physical, sexual, psychological, or financial • Mistreatment is more common among elderly women and those living in rural areas
Financial & Economic	**Work** • Male senior citizens worked at a rate of approximately 50%, while female senior citizens worked at a rate of 22% • When compared to their urban counterparts, a greater proportion of senior citizens in India's villages work

Dimensions	Key Findings
Financial & Economic	**Pension** • 78% of the elderly population without a pension • Access to Healthcare Finance • Only 18% of seniors are covered by Health insurance • Mean Out of Pocket Expenditure in private health facilities is `31,933 (last in-patient visit) • Health-related expense is the most common cause of indebtedness (26%) in urban India  **Cost of Ageing**  • MPCE (monthly per capita consumption expenditure) of a household with at least one elderly is `2,948 compared to households without an elderly member (`3,001) • MPCI (monthly per capita income) of a household with at least one elderly person is lower than households without an elderly member (`3,568 vs. `4,098).
Digital Wellbeing	**Access to mobile phones** • While mobile phone is the most prevalent consumer durable, with nearly 87% of Indian households having access to it, their access, use, and utility for the elderly people is still debatable.

https://www.niti.gov.in/sites/default/files/2024-02/Senior%20Care%20Reforms%20in%20India%20FINAL%20FOR%20WEBSITE_compressed.pdf

Key facts of palliative Care at global level:

• Palliative care improves the quality of life of patients and that of their families who are facing challenges associated with life-threatening illness, whether physical, psychological, social or spiritual. The quality of life of caregivers improves as well.

• Each year, an estimated 56.8 million people, including 25.7 million in the last year of life, need palliative care.

• Worldwide, only about 14% of people who need palliative care currently receive it.

• Unnecessarily restrictive regulations for morphine and other essential controlled palliative medicines deny access to adequate palliative care.

• Adequate national policies, programmes, resources, and training on palliative care among health professionals are urgently needed in order to improve access.

• The global need for palliative care will continue to grow as a result of the ageing of population and the rising burden of noncommunicable diseases and some communicable diseases.

• Early delivery of palliative care reduces unnecessary hospital admissions and the

use of health services.

- Palliative care involves a range of services delivered by a range of professionals that all have equally important roles to play – including physicians, nursing, support workers, paramedics, pharmacists, physiotherapists and volunteers –– in support of the patient and their family.

  https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/palliative-care

How accreditation used to improve the quality of health services at care home level?

There is consistent evidence that shows that accreditation programs improve the process of care provided by healthcare services. https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC3156520/

Its purpose is to help adults live independently in a safe, homelike environment. Levels of available care vary widely, and state licensing often determines the tiers of medical care that can be provided. Care plans for residents are created, overseen, and regularly reviewed by licensed nursing personnel, in accordance with state regulations. Some level of security, personal care, and nursing staff is available around the clock, but the main focus of assisted living is to provide supervision and support of personal care. https://www.achc.org/assisted-living/

As per the WytCote noted that the latest studies show that long-term care accreditation is a risk reduction activity that minimizes the chances of adverse resident outcomes and incrementally enhances a facility's performance. Besides, accreditation improves community confidence, supports staff education and recruitment, and offers a structure for organizing business and care processes. But most importantly, it enables facilities to set themselves apart in the market of more than 15,000 different nursing homes in the US. https://wytcote.com/best-accreditations-for-senior-assisted-living/

Confirming the accreditation and licenses of an elder care agency is a fundamental step before entrusting the care of a loved one to their services. This validation process helps ensure that the elder care services in India meet stringent regulatory standards, which safeguard seniors by providing safe and reliable care. When considering elder care services, it's crucial to verify that the agency has been recognized by legitimate accrediting bodies and holds the necessary government approvals. This not only enhances the credibility of the elder care services but also provides peace of mind that the agency adheres to the highest standards of operational excellence and ethical conduct. Choosing an elder care agency without proper credentials can lead to substandard care and legal complications, which could compromise the well-being of the elderly. Therefore, when hiring private caregivers, one must diligently review their affiliations and certifications. Doing so ensures that the elder care services in India are not only equipped to provide professional care but are also committed to upholding the rights and dignity of the elderly. As the demand for best elder care services in India grows, the importance of these checks cannot be overstated—it is the cornerstone of securing competent and compassionate care for seniors. https://care.samarth.community/blog/long-distance-care-giving/7-things-to-check-when-choosing-elder-care-in-india/

Benefits of NABH care home accreditation:

üAccreditation of Care Home Organisations will stimulate continuous improvement.

üIt will enable the organisations to demonstrate commitment to quality care and resident safety thereby ensures best outcomes.

üIt will raise community confidence in the services provided by the Care Home Organisations as services provided by credentialed medical staff.

üIt will also provide the opportunity to care home units to benchmark with the best.

Accredited status will also provide marketing advantage in competitive health care.

Conclusion

NABH care home accreditation plays a vital role in shaping a healthier future by ensuring the highest standards of care and safety for residents. By implementing standards, accreditation enhances service quality, promotes best practices, and fosters continuous improvement in healthcare delivery. It strengthens staff training, improves infection control, and ensures regulatory compliance, leading to safer and more effective care environments. Additionally, accreditation builds trust among residents, families, and healthcare professionals, creating a foundation for long-term well-being. Ultimately, accredited care homes contribute to a healthier tomorrow by prioritizing excellence, accountability, and resident-centered care.

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Dr. Garima Rahi

Accreditation Officer

The NABH-FOGSI Collaboration-Elevating Quality & Safety in Maternal Healthcare

The Power of Partnerships in Healthcare

In the pursuit of a stronger healthcare ecosystem and enhanced patient safety, collaboration among key stakeholders is indispensable. True progress lies in partnerships, where diverse stakeholders such as governments, medical professionals, and industry leaders work together to enhance healthcare accessibility, quality, and innovation.

Partnerships enable the sharing of knowledge, resources, and expertise, leading to more effective solutions for pressing health challenges. Whether it is the integration of technology in healthcare, advancements in medical research, or the expansion of public health initiatives, collective efforts drive meaningful change. By fostering cooperation across sectors, we can bridge gaps in healthcare disparities, improve patient outcomes, and ensure that quality medical services reach even the most underserved communities.

This aligns strongly with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 17 – Partnerships for the Goals, which emphasizes the need for inclusive, multi-stakeholder collaboration to implement sustainable solutions. As healthcare systems become more complex, SDG 17 serves as a guiding principle, calling for coordinated efforts among government bodies, professional associations, and civil society to ensure equitable and resilient health systems.

Recognizing this, the National Accreditation Board for Hospitals & Healthcare Providers (NABH) and the Federation of Obstetric and Gynaecological Societies of India (FOGSI) have established a transformative collaboration by signing an MoU for the advancing maternal and general healthcare to new milestones. This partnership aims to go beyond maternal standards under Manyata, encompassing all aspects that contribute to quality as per NABH certification standards.

Established in 2005, the National Accreditation Board for Hospitals & Healthcare Providers (NABH), a constituent board of the Quality Council of India, aims to ensure quality and patient safety in healthcare services through its accreditation and certification programs.

Manyata is FOGSI's flagship quality initiative, supporting private healthcare facilities that provide maternal services. The Manyata program was launched in 2017 by FOGSI with the support of MSD for mothers and a consortium of

partners. It has supported over 3000 private facilities across India in their journey towards providing quality maternal services till now.

The Need for Collaboration NABH and FOGSI

Maternal and reproductive healthcare in India faces persistent challenges, including high maternal mortality rates, inconsistent healthcare quality, and disparities in rural-urban healthcare access. Despite significant progress, gaps remain in standardization, infrastructure, and training.

Nearly 30% of all institutional deliveries were documented to be in a private facility in India as per the most recent findings of the National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5). This represents a huge chunk of the healthcare landscape, which is why there is an urgent need to pay more attention to improving standards and ensuring quality in these facilities, for better maternal and child health outcomes.

The Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) in the country has significantly declined from 384 per 100,000 live births in 2000 to 97 in 2020. Despite this progress, continued and focused efforts are essential to achieve the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3.1 target of reducing the MMR to 70 per 100,000 live births.

To address opportunities and challenges not just in maternal healthcare but across all aspects of healthcare facilities, this collaboration will implement joint assessments of Maternity Service Providers (MSPs) by NABH and FOGSI.

Aligned with the 'One Nation, One Standard' vision, it aims to ensure uniform quality and elevate maternal healthcare standards across the country. It also directly supports the national goal of reducing maternal and infant mortality rates.

NABH, the apex body for hospital accreditation, ensures highest quality benchmarks in healthcare organizations and hospitals while FOGSI, through its Manyata certification program, reaches the masses and plays a pivotal role in maternal and reproductive healthcare.

The NABH–FOGSI Collaboration: Objectives

The NABH–FOGSI partnership is rooted in the mission to elevate the quality of maternal and reproductive healthcare. Key objectives of this collaboration include:

- Supporting maternity and reproductive healthcare facilities to ensure they meet and maintain national and international quality standards.

- Implementation of patient safety protocols in line with NABH and Manyata guidelines to enhance maternal and neonatal outcomes.

- Capacity building and training programs for healthcare providers to improve service delivery. This includes continuous education and hand holding, ensuring the adoption of best practices, enhancing clinical competencies, and fostering a patient-centric approach for better healthcare outcomes.

- Strengthen respectful patient care by focusing not only on clinical outcomes but also on patient rights, dignity, and communication in care delivery.

Additionally, the dual Certification by NABH and Manyata significantly enhances the credibility and recognition of such facilities. This helps establish trust while distinguishing them in the highly competitive healthcare marketplace.

Impact So Far

Since its launch, the NABH–FOGSI partnership has played a vital role in enhancing the quality and safety of maternal healthcare. More maternity hospitals and reproductive health centres are now seeking NABH certification, ensuring standardized care going beyond maternal and reproductive healthcare.

This move not only focuses on elevating maternal healthcare but also extends its impact to other areas of healthcare that contribute to the overall well-being of patients. By setting a benchmark for quality across various

healthcare services, the partnership is helping to create a more robust healthcare system that prioritizes safety, hygiene, and effective treatment for all patients. As more healthcare providers align with NABH standards, the initiative is making a broad and lasting impact on the quality of care in both maternal and broader healthcare services.

This collaboration ensures that facilities are assessed on NABH comprehensive set of standards along with Manyata's emphasis on safe deliveries and maternal healthcare.

The Way Forward

Looking ahead, the NABH-FOGSI collaboration aims to broaden its impact by extending certification programs to more facilities, ensuring even the most remote ones are reached. This will be supported by more active outreach initiatives, greater use of technology, and enhanced training programs for these facilities. By continuously adapting to the evolving healthcare needs of the country, NABH and FOGSI are committed to ensuring their efforts remain relevant and impactful in shaping India's healthcare landscape.

Conclusion

The NABH-FOGSI collaboration stands as a testament to the power of partnerships in healthcare transformation. By fostering quality-driven maternal and reproductive healthcare, this alliance is not just raising healthcare standards but also contributing to the broader vision of Viksit Bharat—an India where accessible, safe, and high-quality healthcare is a reality for all.

As healthcare challenges evolve, so must the approaches to addressing them. With ongoing efforts in certification, and training, NABH and FOGSI are paving the way for a unified, safer, and more equitable healthcare system. Through such progressive partnerships, India's healthcare sector is moving toward a future where excellence is not just an aspiration but a standard.

Ms. Isha Sharma

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Global and Indian Case Studies in Community Health, Medical Research, and Digital Health Solutions

Real-world case studies are among the most effective tools for understanding innovations in healthcare. By examining both global and Indian efforts, we can witness how collaborations between governments, private organizations, and research institutions are shaping a healthier future. From grassroots nutrition campaigns to cutting-edge diagnostic technologies and scalable digital platforms, these case studies highlight how impactful initiatives can drive change.

1. Community Health Initiatives

Global Example: Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance

Gavi, a global health collaboration founded in 2000, brings together governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), WHO, UNICEF, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Its objective is to increase children's access to immunizations in low-income countries and respond quickly to outbreaks.

Impact (WHO, 2020):

- Vaccinated over **1 billion children** worldwide.

- Significantly reduced deaths from measles, pneumonia, and polio.

- Lowered child mortality rates across developing nations.

India Example: Quaker's "Bowl of Growth" Campaign

The "Bowl of Growth" initiative, which was started in 2023 by the PepsiCo Foundation in collaboration with Quaker and MAMTA HIMC, focused on undernourishment in young children. In Pune District, Maharashtra, it touched 1,000 malnourished children between the ages of three and five.

Impact (PepsiCo Press Release, July 2024):

- **98%** of children consumed at least three-quarters of the multigrain-based "panjiri."

- **89%** showed improved or stable growth.

- **95.6%** of parents said their children's appetite has improved.

This campaign illustrates how private

enterprises can make a tangible impact by partnering with on-ground organizations to address critical public health issues.

2. Medical Research and Innovation

Global Example: Early Detection of Small for Gestational Age (SGA) Births

SGA infants face higher risks of neonatal complications and mortality. To improve early diagnosis, researchers at **Imperial College London** developed a non-invasive screening method using maternal blood to detect miRNA biomarkers associated with SGA.

Potential Impact:

- Integrates easily with standard prenatal screenings.

- Offers a low-cost, early diagnostic solution.

- Currently seeking partners to scale the platform.

India Example: Hempoin – A Natural Cure for Anaemia

Developed from Opuntia elatior (prickly pear) by a pharmacist in Saurashtra, Hempoin is a natural formulation that helps treat anaemia effectively and affordably.

Impact (Shpero News, 2020):

- Raised **haemoglobin levels by 1.5–2 g/dL** within a month.

- Treated **2,000+ individuals,** with **40%** recovering from anaemia.

- Supported **sustainable farming** and **local income generation** in Gujarat.

- Presented fewer side effects than conventional iron supplements.

This case underscores the value of indigenous knowledge and sustainable practices in modern healthcare innovation.

3. Technology and Digital Health Solutions

Global Example: Apple Heart Study with Stanford University

The **Apple Heart Study,** launched by Apple and Stanford University, explored how wearables can be used for early detection of atrial fibrillation (AFib)—a major cause of stroke.

Impact (Stanford Medicine, 2019):

- Engaged 400,000+ participants, making it the largest AFib screening study.

- 0.5% received irregular heart rhythm notifications.

- Of those notified, 84% were confirmed to have AFib at the time.

- Validated the role of digital tools in preventive healthcare at scale.

India Example: The CoWIN Platform

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the **Government of India** launched **CoWIN (COVID Vaccine Intelligence Network)**—a digital system for managing vaccine registration, tracking, and certification.

Impact (MoHFW, 2022):

- Enabled administration of over 2 billion vaccine doses.

- Ensured streamlined tracking across 700+ districts.

- Reduced vaccine wastage and improved transparency.

- Empowered citizens with digital vaccination certificates for global mobility.

The CoWIN platform showcased how digital infrastructure can power efficient and equitable healthcare delivery during public health crises.

Conclusion

These stories—from villages in India to research labs in London—show us what's possible when people come together with a shared goal: better health for everyone. Whether it's helping kids grow stronger in Maharashtra, spotting heart issues early with a smartwatch, or making sure vaccines reach even the remotest corners of the world, each example is a reminder that real

change happens when compassion meets innovation.

What's most powerful is that none of these efforts worked in isolation. They happened because people—governments, companies, non-profits, researchers, and communities—chose to work together. They listened, learned, and built solutions that fit local needs while drawing on global expertise.

In the end, improving healthcare isn't just about big technology or grand strategies. It's about people helping people. It's about finding smart, inclusive ways to make sure no one is left behind. And these case studies remind us that when we collaborate with heart and purpose, we can build a future where health and well-being are truly within reach for all.

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Public-Private Partnerships in Healthcare:
A Catalyst for Quality, Accessibility and Innovation

Abstract

Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) have emerged as a crucial strategy to bridge the gap between resource limitations and the increasing demand for quality healthcare services. By combining public oversight with private sector efficiency, these partnerships enhance healthcare accessibility, affordability, and service quality. This review examines global PPP models, their impact on healthcare systems, and their relevance to India's evolving healthcare landscape.

Introduction

Healthcare systems worldwide face challenges such as inadequate infrastructure, financial constraints, and disparities in service delivery. PPPs offer a sustainable approach by leveraging the strengths of both sectors to improve healthcare infrastructure, patient care, and resource utilization. This review explores key international PPP models, their effectiveness, and their applicability to India's healthcare system.

Key International Public-Private Partnership Models

1. **The United Kingdom: NHS Private Finance Initiative (PFI): -** The UK's National Health Service (NHS) has implemented the Private Finance Initiative (PFI), where private entities finance, build, and maintain healthcare infrastructure while the government ensures service delivery and quality control. This model has modernized hospital infrastructure and improved efficiency.

    Relevance to India: India faces a pressing need to expand healthcare infrastructure. A PFI-like model could accelerate the development of hospitals, diagnostic centers, and specialty clinics, particularly in underserved regions.

2. **Australia: The Managed Equipment Services (MES) Model: -** Australia's MES model allows private sector participation in supplying, maintaining, and upgrading medical equipment in public hospitals. This ensures that hospitals have access to advanced technology without requiring heavy capital investment.

    Relevance to India: Implementing MES in Indian government hospitals could enhance

diagnostic and treatment capabilities, ensuring timely and high-quality patient care.

3. **South Africa: The Public-Private Hospital Model: -** South Africa has adopted a PPP hospital model where private entities co-manage public hospitals. This has led to improved efficiency, reduced patient waits times, and better resource allocation.

   Relevance to India: India's overcrowded public hospitals could benefit from a similar approach, allowing optimized resource utilization and improved service delivery.

4. **United States: Medicaid Managed Care Partnerships: -** In the U.S., private insurance companies collaborate with state governments to provide healthcare services under Medicaid. These partnerships enhance accessibility and affordability while maintaining quality standards.

   Relevance to India: India could explore similar partnerships for government-funded health insurance schemes like Ayushman Bharat to ensure efficient service delivery and financial sustainability.

Key Public-Private Partnership Models in India

- Ayushman Bharat - Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY): - Ayushman Bharat is India's largest public-private health insurance initiative, providing financial protection to vulnerable populations. Private hospitals collaborate with the government to offer cashless treatment, significantly improving healthcare accessibility.

  Impact: This model bridges gaps in healthcare access for economically weaker sections, especially in rural areas, ensuring that financial constraints do not hinder quality care.

- National Digital Health Mission (NDHM): - NDHM promotes digital health records and telemedicine solutions through private sector participation. This initiative enhances patient data security, interoperability, and overall healthcare efficiency.

Impact: Integrating digital health services reduces paperwork, improves efficiency, and ensures seamless access to medical records across different healthcare providers.

- **Karnataka's Yeshasvini Health Insurance Scheme: -** This state-led initiative involves cooperative societies and private hospitals, providing low-cost healthcare services to farmers and rural populations.

  Impact: This model demonstrates how community-based insurance schemes can effectively cover healthcare costs for marginalized communities, serving as a blueprint for other states.

- **Public-Private Diagnostic Centers: -** Several states, including Maharashtra and Rajasthan, have partnered with private labs to establish diagnostic centers within government hospitals, ensuring access to advanced diagnostic services at subsidized rates.

  Impact: These partnerships enhance early disease detection, reduce diagnostic delays, and improve public healthcare efficiency by leveraging private sector expertise.

Challenges and Opportunities for PPP Implementation in India

While PPPs offer numerous benefits, challenges such as regulatory hurdles, financial sustainability, and quality monitoring must be addressed. Establishing clear policies, robust regulatory frameworks, and accountability measures is crucial. NABH can play a vital role in setting quality benchmarks and ensuring compliance within PPP healthcare projects.

Opportunities for Strengthening PPPs in India

- Standardized Regulatory Framework: Developing a clear policy and legal framework to ensure transparency, quality control, and accountability in PPP projects.

- Incentivizing Private Investment: Offering tax benefits and subsidies to attract more private sector participation in healthcare infrastructure and service delivery.

- Capacity Building and Skill Development: Training healthcare professionals and administrators on best practices for managing PPP healthcare facilities effectively.

- Technology-Driven Partnerships: Encouraging the use of AI, telemedicine, and digital health records to improve efficiency and patient outcomes.

- Focus on Rural Healthcare: Expanding PPP initiatives to underserved rural areas to bridge the urban-rural healthcare divide.

Conclusion

Public-Private Partnerships have the potential to revolutionize India's healthcare sector by improving infrastructure, service delivery, and overall quality of care. Drawing inspiration from successful international models and adapting them to India's needs can help address accessibility and efficiency challenges. To maximize the benefits of PPPs India should establish robust governance frameworks, incentivize private investment and promote technological integration in healthcare services. NABH, as a key quality assurance body, can facilitate the adoption of standardized PPP frameworks, ensuring high-quality patient care and sustainable growth in the healthcare sector.

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United for Health: Building Tomorrow Through Trusted Partnerships

In the ever-evolving landscape of healthcare, one truth remains constant: collaboration is the cornerstone of sustainable progress. As healthcare systems across the world grapple with rising demands, complex disease burdens, and limited resources, the need for synergy among stakeholders becomes paramount. The theme, "Collaborating for a Healthier Tomorrow: Progress through Partnership," encapsulates the ethos of modern healthcare reform — a future that thrives not in silos, but in solidarity.

The Imperative for Collaboration in Healthcare

Healthcare today is no longer confined to the four walls of a hospital. It is a complex ecosystem comprising providers, patients, policymakers, insurers, technology companies, academia, and community organizations. With such a diverse set of actors, the potential for misalignment is high. Yet, when these entities unite under a shared vision — improving health outcomes — the results are transformative.

Global public health emergencies like the COVID-19 pandemic have underscored the importance of partnerships. The rapid development of vaccines, coordinated public health campaigns, and integrated care delivery were made possible because institutions, countries, and sectors collaborated in ways never seen before. The lesson is clear: partnerships are not optional; they are essential.

NABH's Role in Driving Collaborative Excellence

The National Accreditation Board for Hospitals & Healthcare Providers (NABH) stands as a pivotal enabler of quality and safety in Indian healthcare. By providing a rigorous yet adaptable framework for accreditation, NABH fosters a culture of continuous improvement. However, accreditation is not a one-sided process — it requires active engagement from hospitals, diagnostic centers, clinics and more.

Over the years, NABH has demonstrated how effective partnerships between regulators and healthcare institutions can elevate standards. By working closely with healthcare professionals, state health departments, training institutions, and even patients, NABH ensures that its standards are rooted in practical realities while remaining aligned with global best practices.

Key Areas Where Collaboration is Driving Progress

• **Patient-Centered Care**

The shift from provider-centric to patient-centric models is a fundamental transformation in healthcare. Achieving this requires collaboration at every level — between patients and providers, institutions and communities, and regulators and policymakers. When patients are treated as active participants in their care journey, outcomes improve, and trust in the system is strengthened.

NABH's emphasis on informed consent, patient rights, grievance redressal, and transparency has catalysed healthcare providers to listen more actively to patients. In doing so, a new form of partnership emerges — one where patients are not passive recipients but co-creators of health.

• **Public-Private Partnerships (PPP)**

In India's vast and diverse healthcare system, public-private partnerships offer a potent mechanism to bridge infrastructure gaps, expand service reach, and improve efficiency. From urban health missions to rural mobile clinics, PPP models have enabled better access to quality care.

NABH-accredited hospitals often partner with government schemes such as Ayushman Bharat and CGHS, ensuring that beneficiaries receive standardized, safe, and affordable care. Such collaborations not only improve service delivery but also build public confidence in the health system.

• **Capacity Building and Training**

No healthcare reform is sustainable without investing in human resources. Partnerships with academic institutions, professional bodies, and training organizations are vital to developing a skilled and ethical workforce.

NABH has proactively collaborated with nursing councils, medical associations, and educational institutions to conduct training programs, webinars, and certification courses. These initiatives promote a shared understanding of quality benchmarks and empower healthcare workers to deliver excellence consistently.

• **Technology Integration**

Digital health tools — from telemedicine and AI diagnostics to electronic medical records and health apps — have revolutionized healthcare delivery. However, technology's true potential is unlocked only when developers, users, and regulators work together.

By engaging with health-tech startups, IT firms, and data governance bodies, NABH helps ensure that innovation is safe, inclusive, and patient-centered. The Digital Health Standards published by NABH are a testament to how collaboration can shape a future where technology augments, rather than replaces, human care.

• **Community Engagement and Health Promotion**

A healthier tomorrow cannot be achieved without addressing the social determinants of health — education, sanitation, nutrition, and livelihoods. Collaboration with civil society, local self-governments, NGOs, and media becomes crucial in this endeavour.

Many NABH-accredited hospitals have taken commendable steps in this direction, running outreach programs, health camps, and awareness drives. These community-level engagements are the seeds of preventive care, empowering individuals with knowledge and access before illness strikes.

Overcoming Barriers to Partnership

While the benefits of collaboration are well established, building effective partnerships comes with its challenges. Differences in goals, miscommunication, power imbalances, and lack of trust can derail well-intentioned efforts. Therefore, fostering a collaborative spirit requires intentionality — clear governance structures, shared metrics, open dialogue, and mutual respect.

NABH's consultative approach in evolving its standards and feedback mechanisms ensures that stakeholders are not only heard but are active participants in shaping policy. This democratic model of standard-setting

enhances ownership and accelerates implementation.

A Vision for the Future

As we look toward the future, healthcare will become even more interdisciplinary, data-driven, and interconnected. Climate change, antimicrobial resistance, aging populations, and mental health crises present complex challenges that no single institution can tackle alone. The solutions will come from a collective — researchers, clinicians, technologists, citizens, and policymakers — working hand-in-hand.

For NABH, the path ahead lies in deepening existing partnerships and forging new ones — nationally and globally. By embracing diversity, learning from other systems, and staying committed to quality, India can become a beacon of innovative, equitable healthcare.

Conclusion

"Collaborating for a Healthier Tomorrow" is more than a theme — it is a call to action. It reminds us that the future of health is not something we inherit, but something we build — together. Whether it's a doctor listening empathetically to a patient, a policymaker consulting with frontline workers, or an accreditation body evolving with stakeholder input — every act of partnership moves us one step closer to better health for all.

NABH remains committed to this journey, believing that progress is not just measured in metrics and milestones, but in the strength of the partnerships we forge. Let us continue to collaborate, innovate, and strive — for a healthier, safer, and more compassionate tomorrow.

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Strengthening AYUSH Through Collaborations: A Roadmap to Integrative Healthcare

"True healing combines the best of the past and the present—where ancient practices meet modern science to create a healthier tomorrow."

In today's evolving healthcare landscape, integrative medicine is gaining momentum as a powerful approach to patient care. AYUSH, which includes Ayurveda, Yoga, Unani, Siddha, and Homeopathy, offers a holistic approach to health and well-being, while modern medicine provides evidence-based treatments and advanced technology. A well-planned collaboration between these two systems can enhance treatment outcomes, improve accessibility, and bridge the gap between traditional and contemporary healthcare. However, despite AYUSH's rich history and potential, it still faces challenges in terms of acceptance, scientific validation, and infrastructure. Strengthening AYUSH through partnerships with modern medicine can create a more comprehensive healthcare system that utilizes the best of both worlds.

AYUSH comprises five traditional medical systems, each with its unique principles. Ayurveda focuses on natural remedies, herbal treatments, dietary regulations, and lifestyle changes. Yoga emphasizes physical postures, breathing techniques, and meditation to enhance physical and mental well-being. Unani follows the four-humor theory, using herbal medicine and lifestyle modifications. Siddha, an ancient South Indian system, integrates natural remedies with spiritual healing. Homeopathy uses highly diluted substances to stimulate the body's self-healing abilities. Over the past decade, AYUSH has gained widespread recognition, with wellness centers and research initiatives expanding both in India and globally. The World Health Organization (WHO) has also acknowledged the significance of traditional medicine, promoting its integration into mainstream healthcare.

Several successful examples highlight the potential of AYUSH when combined with modern medical practices. At Tata Memorial Hospital, one of India's leading cancer centers, Yoga and Ayurveda are integrated into patient care, providing holistic recovery support alongside chemotherapy and radiation therapy. During the COVID-19 pandemic, AYUSH played a significant role in immunity-building initiatives. The Indian government promoted AYUSH-based home remedies, such as herbal concoctions and yoga, to enhance immunity and overall health. Kerala has successfully combined

Ayurveda with modern wellness practices, attracting global medical tourists seeking alternative therapies for chronic diseases and rejuvenation.

Despite its benefits, AYUSH faces significant barriers. A major challenge is the lack of scientific validation, as many traditional therapies lack large-scale clinical trials to establish their scientific credibility. Additionally, there is skepticism among modern medical professionals due to insufficient evidence-based research, leading to hesitation in endorsing AYUSH. Infrastructure and funding issues also pose challenges, as AYUSH hospitals and research centers require improved facilities and greater financial support to meet the growing demand.

Government and Institutional Initiatives:

The Indian government and private institutions have launched several initiatives to integrate AYUSH with modern healthcare systems. The National AYUSH Mission (NAM) focuses on enhancing AYUSH services through better infrastructure, training programs, and research. The All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) is a premier institute promoting interdisciplinary research and collaboration between Ayurveda and modern medical sciences. The National AYUSH Mission (NAM) is reforming and reshaping the AYUSH education sector in alignment with the National Education Policy of 2020. This initiative seeks to establish a medical education system that offers accessible, high-quality, and affordable education, ensuring the availability of well-trained AYUSH professionals. By advancing equitable and universal healthcare, the mission fosters an inclusive and integrated approach to traditional medicine practices.

The **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** is conducting scientific studies to validate AYUSH treatments, fostering greater acceptance among healthcare practitioners. Additionally, several AIIMS and district hospitals now have dedicated AYUSH wings, offering alternative treatment options to patients.

The Ministry of Ayush, Government of India, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Quality Council of India (QCI), through its

National Accreditation Board for Hospitals & Healthcare Providers (NABH), to implement the NABH Ayush Entry Level Certification (AELC) for Ayush Health & Wellness Centers (AHWCs), now renamed Ayushman Arogya Mandir, and Integrated Ayush hospitals supported under the National Ayush Mission (NAM). This collaboration aims to ensure standardized quality and operational excellence in Ayush facilities, enhancing patient care and promoting trust in these centers across India.

The Role of Technology:

Technology is playing a vital role in bridging the gap between AYUSH and modern medicine. Telemedicine and e-consultations are making traditional medicine more accessible by allowing patients to consult AYUSH practitioners remotely. AI-driven analysis of patient data is helping doctors design personalized treatment plans incorporating both AYUSH and modern therapies. Wearable health technology, such as devices that monitor vital signs, stress levels, and physical activity, can be used alongside AYUSH therapies to track patient progress effectively.

Cross-Disciplinary Education: The Key to Integration

To ensure the seamless integration of AYUSH and modern medicine, cross-disciplinary education is essential. Medical universities are introducing elective courses on AYUSH therapies, while AYUSH practitioners are undergoing training in evidence-based research methodologies. Collaborative workshops and conferences are fostering dialogue between traditional and modern medical experts, ensuring a well-rounded approach to healthcare.

Scientific research is crucial for establishing AYUSH therapies as evidence-based medical options. Collaborative efforts include conducting randomized controlled trials (RCTs) to test the efficacy of Ayurvedic and Homeopathic treatments, establishing research partnerships between AYUSH institutions and medical universities, and developing standardized herbal formulations that meet international pharmaceutical standards.

Pathbreaking Initiatives Unveiled by the Hon'ble PM on 9th Ayurveda Day:

On October 29, 2024, over 150 countries participated in the 9th Ayurveda Day, themed "Ayurveda Innovations for Global Health." Prime Minister Modi inaugurated projects worth ₹12,850 crore, including Phase II of the All India Institute of Ayurveda and Ayush Centres of Excellence. He also launched the 'Desh Ka Prakriti Parikshan Abhiyan' campaign, promoting holistic well-being and preventative healthcare based on Ayurvedic principles.

The **Desh Ka Prakriti Parikshan Abhiyan** is a nationwide health awareness campaign mobilizing 4.7 lakh volunteers. The initiative aims to promote healthier lifestyles and preventive healthcare, leveraging Ayurveda's principles for a more holistic approach to health.

The collaboration between AYUSH and modern medicine presents a transformative opportunity for the healthcare sector. By fostering research, investing in digital health, and promoting public awareness, AYUSH can evolve into a globally recognized, scientifically validated healthcare system. The future of healthcare lies in integration—where traditional wisdom meets modern innovation to provide the best possible patient care.

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Collaborating for a healthier Tomorrow: Progress through partnership

Introduction

India's healthcare system confronts significant challenges primarily driven by a population exceeding 1.4 billion and a public health expenditure limited to 2.1% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP). This constrained investment results in 55% of healthcare costs being met through out-of-pocket payments, precipitating financial distress for approximately 55 million citizens annually (World Economic Forum, 2022). In response to these challenges, collaborative strategies present viable option for improvement. This analysis evaluates two principal models for collaboration: Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) and the integration of allopathic medicine with Ayush systems (Ayurveda, Yoga, Unani, Siddha, and Homeopathy). This article assesses their efficacy, describe, and submits evidence-based recommendations for consideration by the Government of India.

Public-Private Partnerships: Enhancing Healthcare Delivery

Background

The magnitude of India's healthcare demands exceeds the capacity of the public sector alone and require contributions from private entities with financial resources, technological advancements, and operational expertise. Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) constitute a formalized framework designed to address deficiencies in healthcare provision in underserved rural regions where medical infrastructure and personnel remain inadequate.

Evidence of Efficacy

Empirical evidence shows the efficacy of PPPs. The Chiranjeevi Yojana in Gujarat exemplifies this where private sector participation improved maternal and neonatal care, thereby achieving significant reductions in mortality rates (Roehrich et al., 2013). Similarly, Public-Private Mix (PPM) initiatives in tuberculosis management have increased case detection and treatment compliance (Roehrich et al., 2013). During the COVID-19 pandemic, PPPs expedited diagnostic testing and vaccination campaigns and shows adaptability to emergent needs (World Economic Forum, 2022). Financially, these partnerships have mobilized significant capital, with investments reaching $7.7 billion across 25 projects in 2021, a 49% increase from the previous year (World Economic Forum, 2022). The private

sector's dominance which accounts for 70% of healthcare delivery, further affirms its critical role (World Economic Forum, 2022).

Challenges

Despite these advancements, PPPs encounter substantial obstacles. Sustainable financing poses a persistent challenge, as private entities prioritize profitability and often at odds with the public sector's equity objectives (Roehrich et al., 2013). Effective coordination is frequently undermined by mutual distrust and the absence of robust governance mechanisms (Roehrich et al., 2013). Moreover, deficiencies in oversight and accountability mechanisms risk compromising service quality and exposing vulnerable populations to exploitation (Roehrich et al., 2013). These issues necessitate stringent regulatory frameworks to ensure alignment with national health priorities.

Integration of Allopathic and Ayush Systems: Towards Comprehensive Care

Sectoral Growth and Institutional Support

The Ayush sector has experienced exponential growth, with its market valuation rising from $2.85 billion in 2014 to $43.4 billion in 2023 (Business Standard, 2024). This expansion is underpinned by a workforce exceeding 755,780 registered practitioners and operates within 3,844 hospitals and 36,848 dispensaries, complemented by an educational network comprising 886 undergraduate and 251 postgraduate institutions, with annual enrollments of 59,643 and 7,450 students, respectively (Business Standard, 2024). Governmental support has been instrumental with initiatives such as the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) embedding Ayush services within rural primary healthcare facilities (Mudur, 2012). The National Ayush Mission further advances this agenda by funding education, research, and dissemination efforts (Ministry of Ayush, 2025). The Ayushman Bharat initiative's Health and Wellness Centers exemplify a concerted effort to integrate allopathic and Ayush modalities (PIB, 2023).

Advantages of Integration

The confluence of allopathic and Ayush systems offers larger benefits. Ayush's focus on preventive care and lifestyle interventions complements the curative orientation of allopathic medicine which mitigate healthcare expenditure. A 2018 survey indicated that 63% of allopathic practitioners acknowledge the therapeutic potential of Ayush modalities (Journal of Integrative Medicine, 2018). For chronic conditions such as diabetes and arthritis, Ayush interventions have shown efficacy to improve patient outcomes (PMC, 2023). Additionally, the cost-effectiveness of Ayush treatments alleviates financial pressures on patients and increase accessibility.

Barriers to Effective Integration

Nevertheless, integration is impeded by several factors. The absence of uniform standards across Ayush practices complicates quality assurance (IBEF, 2024). Research into Ayush remains underrepresented as it constitutes merely 5% of global health research which limits its evidence base (IBEF, 2024). Legal restrictions preclude Ayush practitioners from prescribing allopathic medications and constrain their scope within integrated frameworks (IMA, 2021). Furthermore, skepticism among allopathic professionals, stemming from insufficient empirical validation, persists as a barrier (Journal of Integrative Medicine, 2018). Overcoming these challenges requires enhanced research investment, standardized protocols, and interprofessional dialogue.

Recommendations for Policy Enhancement

To maximize the efficacy of these collaborative frameworks, the Government of India is urged to adopt the following measures:

1. Refine policies governing PPPs to ensure transparency and accountability and defining clear legal parameters for Ayush practitioners within integrated systems.

2. Increase budgetary allocations for systematic, evidence-based studies of Ayush modalities to substantiate their efficacy and foster acceptance among allopathic practitioners.

3. Incorporate interdisciplinary training within medical curricula to cultivate mutual understanding and cooperation between allopathic and Ayush professionals.

4. Launch awareness initiatives to inform citizens of the merits of integrated healthcare, thereby enhancing uptake and trust.

Conclusion

Collaborative strategies have significant potential to improve India's healthcare system. Public-Private Partnerships have proven important to expand service delivery and attracting investment, while the integration of allopathic and Ayush systems offers a holistic approach to health management. However, challenges including financial sustainability, evidentiary gaps, and regulatory inconsistencies must be systematically addressed. Through targeted policy interventions, the Government of India can cultivate a resilient healthcare framework that harmonizes modern and traditional paradigms and ensure equitable, high-quality care for its populace.

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AI in Healthcare: Transforming Today, Shaping Tomorrow

Imagine walking into a hospital where doctors, nurses, and technology work together seamlessly—where AI anticipates patient needs, speeds up diagnoses, and allows healthcare providers to focus on what truly matters: compassionate care. This is not a vision of the future; it is happening right now. Artificial Intelligence (AI) is no longer a distant dream—it is here, reshaping healthcare in ways once thought impossible. From diagnosing diseases with pinpoint accuracy to assisting doctors in real-time decision-making, AI has evolved from a tool into a trusted partner, revolutionizing how we approach medical care. As technology and medicine converge, we are witnessing a transformation that is making healthcare more efficient, accessible, and patient-centered than ever before.

The Rise of AI in Healthcare

The use of AI in healthcare has grown rapidly in recent years. Investment in AI-driven medical note taking applications surged to $800 million in 2024, nearly doubling from $390 million in 2023. This growth highlights a commitment to using AI to improve efficiency, reduce errors, and allow healthcare professionals to focus more on patient care.

But AI's role extends far beyond streamlining paperwork. Pharmaceutical companies are using AI to analyze vast datasets, accelerating drug discovery and reducing the time and cost required to develop new treatments. Instead of relying on traditional trial-and-error approaches, AI enables scientists to make data-driven predictions, paving the way for groundbreaking medical advancements.

How AI is Changing Patient Care

AI is more than just a helpful assistant—it is becoming a vital part of patient care. Deep learning and neural networks allow AI to analyze medical data with remarkable precision, assisting doctors in diagnosing diseases earlier and more accurately.

For instance, AI-powered **ambient scribing** tools now help doctors by transcribing and summarizing patient interactions in real time, reducing the burden of documentation and allowing them to focus on their patients. Companies like **Abridge** have developed AI-driven scribe technology that records, transcribes, and structures medical conversations, making healthcare professionals' lives easier and reducing burnout.

AI is also making drug discovery faster and more effective. By analyzing billions of molecular interactions, AI can predict which compounds are most likely to succeed in treating diseases.

This technology has already led to the discovery of new antibiotics, offering hope in the fight against drug-resistant bacteria.

Medical imaging is another area where AI is making a profound impact. Deep learning algorithms are helping detect diseases like breast cancer earlier by analyzing mammograms with a level of accuracy that even the human eye might miss. In stroke care, AI can rapidly scan brain images, identifying blockages within seconds and allowing doctors to act quickly, improving patients' chances of recovery.

AI-powered virtual nursing assistants are also becoming a reality, providing 24/7 patient support, medication reminders, and symptom monitoring—especially beneficial for the elderly and those with chronic illnesses. During the COVID-19 pandemic, AI tools like **Qure.ai's qXR** played a crucial role in analyzing chest X-rays and helping doctors triage patients effectively, ensuring timely care.

A Real-World Impact: AI in Stroke Detection

One of the most powerful examples of AI's life-saving potential is its role in stroke detection. In 2023, a U.S. hospital implemented Viz.ai, an AI-driven system that detects strokes in real-time. Traditionally, stroke diagnosis relies on a radiologist's interpretation of CT scans, a process that can take precious minutes—or even hours—in busy emergency rooms. Viz.ai changed this by rapidly analyzing brain scans and identifying a blocked artery within seconds.

Once the blockage was detected, the system immediately alerted the hospital's stroke specialists, fast-tracking the patient for life-saving treatment. This AI-driven approach reduced the time to intervention by over 50%, significantly increasing the patient's chances of recovery. Instead of facing severe long-term complications, the patient was able to receive timely treatment and regain their quality of life.

This case highlights AI's role as more than just an assistant—it is a critical partner in healthcare, helping medical professionals make faster, more informed decisions that save lives.

Overcoming Challenges and Moving Forward

Despite its many benefits, AI in healthcare comes with challenges. Data privacy and security remain top concerns, as AI systems handle sensitive patient information. Ensuring compliance with regulations like HIPAA and GDPR, implementing robust encryption, and continuously monitoring AI systems are essential steps in maintaining trust and security.

Another challenge is algorithm bias. AI models are only as good as the data they are trained on. If datasets lack diversity, AI can produce biased results, leading to disparities in patient care. Addressing this requires healthcare institutions to use diverse training data and regularly audit AI decisions to ensure fairness and accuracy.

High implementation costs can also be a barrier, particularly for smaller healthcare providers. However, strategic investments, partnerships, and phased implementation can help make AI adoption more feasible over time.

Some healthcare professionals worry that AI might replace human roles, but the reality is quite different. AI is designed to support, not replace, doctors and nurses. By handling routine tasks, AI allows healthcare workers to spend more time with their patients, strengthening the human connection that is at the heart of medicine.

A Future Built on Collaboration

The future of AI in healthcare is not about replacing human expertise—it is about enhancing it. By integrating advanced technology with medical knowledge, AI is helping healthcare professionals diagnose more accurately, operate more efficiently, and provide more personalized care. Rather than seeing AI as a substitute for human judgment, we should embrace it as a powerful ally that strengthens the skills of doctors, nurses, and researchers.

From virtual nursing assistants to breakthroughs in diagnostics, AI is shaping a new era of healthcare—one that prioritizes accuracy, efficiency, and accessibility. As we move forward, the synergy between AI and medicine will continue to transform healthcare, making it smarter, faster, and more compassionate. AI is not just an innovation; it is a partner in progress, helping us build a healthier tomorrow for everyone.

NABH Global
Presence and Participations

NABH

Programme on Pharmacovigilance

NABH recently participated in a Workshop-cum-training programme on Pharmacovigilance at Fortis Mohali on 31st January 2025, aimed at NABH-accredited hospitals. During the session, Ms. Varsha Srivastava, Deputy Director - NABH, addressed the audience on the significance of ADR (Adverse Drug Reaction) reporting for NABH accredited hospitals in India.

NABH
Gunvatta Gurukul

NABH-QCI conducted the field visit for Gunvatta Gurukul trainees (Batch 7) at Yashoda Super Specialty Hospitals, Kaushambi, on 1st February 2025. The aim is to provide these students with a unique chance to explore how NABH plays a crucial role in elevating healthcare standards, ensuring Quality Care and Patient Safety across all aspects of hospital operations.

NABH
Unani Day 2025

NABH participated in Unani Day 2025 and the International Conference on Innovation in Unani Medicine for Integrative Health Solutions – A Way Forward, organized by the Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine (CCRUM) and Ministry of Ayush, Government of India on 11-12 February 2025.

NABH

Unani Day Celebrations 2025 & International Conference at Jamia Hamdard

NABH participated in Unani Day Celebrations 2025 & International Conference at Jamia Hamdard on 13th Feb 2025, CEO - NABH highlighted the significance of Unani medicine in holistic healthcare and felicitated Majeedia Hospital for achieving NABH Entry Level Certification, acknowledging their commitment to quality and patient safety.

NABH

Unani Day Celebrations 2025 & International Conference at Vigyan Bhawan

At the Unani Day Celebration 2025 & International Conference held at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, Dr. Kashipa Harit, Joint Director of NABH, shared insights on "Developing Standards for Ayush Hospitals."

The session focused on accreditation's role in enhancing Ayush healthcare's quality and credibility.

The discussion highlighted how structured guidelines contribute to better patient care, efficient hospital operations, and improved trust in AYUSH practices. Standardization plays a vital role in aligning traditional medicine with modern healthcare frameworks, ensuring consistency, safety, and wider acceptance.

NABH

12th International Patient Safety Conference (IPSC) 2025

NABH participated in the 12th International Patient Safety Conference (IPSC) 2025, organized by Apollo Hospitals at Bharat Mandapam on 21-22 February 2025. The event brought together global healthcare leaders to discuss patient safety, quality improvement, and the future of healthcare.

NABH

NextGen at International Patient Safety Conference (IPSC 2025)

Mr. Avinash Pandey, Group Leader – Digital Health, NABH, introduced NABH NextGen: Pioneering Digital Health Standards, marking a new era in healthcare accreditation. Recognizing that integration of digital interventions with Hospital workflows is now essential, and NABH has mapped its quality standards to digital health benchmarks, creating a seamless and efficient accreditation framework. With this initiative, India probably becomes the first country globally to adopt an integrated approach, aligning hospital quality standards with Digital Health Standards, HIS and EMR standards to enhance quality of healthcare delivery.

NABH

International Patient Safety Conference (IPSC 2025)

At the 12th International Patient Safety Conference IPSC 2025, Dr. Kumudita Talwar, Deputy Director, NABH, highlighted the organization's commitment to evolving healthcare standards. She emphasized the Continuum of Care, the Green Checklist for sustainability, and the updated Medical Value Travel MVT Standards, ensuring alignment with global benchmarks. Only few countries have their own accreditation standards, India remains at the forefront, strengthening its position in global healthcare quality and accreditation.

NABH

Young Professionals at International Patient Safety Conference (IPSC 2025)

Transforming Quality and Patient Safety: A Qualitative Exploration of Digital Healthcare through NABH's Perspective by Mr. Uzair Rehmani and Mr. Prateek Gautam, co-authored by Dr. Priyanka Chauhan and Dr Atul Mohan Kochhar, this research paper has been selected for presentation at the 12th International Patient Safety Conference (IPSC).

NABH

Hosted Digital Health Master Class with Apollo Hospitals

Team NABH conducted the NABH Master class on Digital Standard Implementation on 12th International Patient Safety Conference 2025.

NABH

Workshop: National Health Authority (NHA), Koita Foundation (KF), Ernst & Young (EY), System Integrators in Digital Health (SIDH)

NABH actively participated in the NHA **System Integrators in Digital Health (SIDH)** workshop held in Kochi on 31st January 2025 and Bhubaneswar on 7th March 2025.

NABH
Ayurveda Parv

NABH continues to lead the transformation in quality and patient safety across the AYUSH healthcare sector.

Dr. Indu Bala, Deputy Director, NABH, delivered a plenary address on "NABH Accreditation for Ayush Sector" at a national-level Ayurved Parv event held in Mumbai. Organised by the Association of Ayurvedic Practitioners-AAP Mumbai with the support of the Ministry of Ayush, Government of India, the event brought together stakeholders from across the country.

The session underscored the critical role of NABH accreditation and certification programs in institutionalising quality standards within Ayush systems. With over 600 Ayush healthcare organisations accredited or certified, and more than 1400 Ayush Arogya Mandirs certified under the National AYUSH Mission, NABH continues to serve as the benchmark for excellence in Ayush healthcare delivery.

NABH
FOGSI

NABH continues to play a pivotal role in strengthening maternal health services. At the recently held FOGSI South-South Conclave in New Delhi, NABH emphasized the role of accreditation in enhancing the quality of Maternal Care. The discussion focused on integrating evidence-based practices and driving quality improvements across healthcare facilities.

In a focused roundtable on "Manyata: Expanding Quality Maternal Care," Ms. Deepti Mohan, Director - NABH shared insights on embedding quality frameworks within healthcare systems. The dialogue highlighted the importance of public-private collaboration and aligning National Standards with global maternal health priorities

NABH
At FICCI

At the FICCI Medical Value Travel Conference & Awards 2025, Dr. Punam Bajaj, Director - NABH and Dr. Kumudita Talwar, Deputy Director - NABH showcased its commitment to strengthening India's global reputation in healthcare through excellence in accreditation and quality assurance. Our sessions highlighted the pivotal role of NABH standards in building patient trust, driving clinical excellence, and enhancing international credibility for Indian healthcare institutions. By actively engaging with healthcare leaders, policymakers, and global facilitators, NABH reaffirmed its vision to elevate India as a trusted and leading destination for medical value travel. We remain dedicated to empowering healthcare organizations to deliver world-class services and improve patient experiences through continuous quality improvement.

NABH
With Social Vision India

NABH, as part of its CSR initiative, collaborated with Social Vision India to support underprivileged, differently-abled, and other communities. The Secretariat and young professionals donated clothes, footwear, books, and stationery to aid the NGO's outreach.

During their visit to the Charity Mall of Kindness and the division for the differently-abled, the NABH team engaged with staff and residents, gaining meaningful insights into inclusive care. In recognition, NABH received a Certificate of Appreciation, reaffirming its commitment to compassion and social responsibility.

NABH
On World Yoga Day

Team NABH embraced the timeless practice of yoga to promote health, focus, and inner balance. The session was a step toward not just physical fitness, but also mental clarity and emotional resilience.

At NABH, we recognize that quality healthcare begins with a healthy mind and body—starting with ourselves. Taking time out from our busy schedule is a necessity for our well-being. This yoga session was a refreshing reminder of the power of mindful living in our daily routines.

NABH

Gunvatta Yatra with Indian Association of Dermatologists, Venereologists, and Leprologists (IADVL)

The NABH–QCI **Gunvatta Yatra** with **Indian Association of Dermatologists, Venereologists, and Leprologists (IADVL)** marked a significant step in promoting quality and patient safety in **Dermatology** care.

Dr Atul Mohan Kochhar, CEO – NABH, introduced NABH and QCI, emphasizing the necessity of accreditation and quality in strengthening clinical standards, building trust, and preventing unethical practices in healthcare.

Ms. Neeta Anand, Deputy Director – NABH, further detailed the process of accreditation for dermatology clinics, explaining how NABH standards serve as a mark of excellence for adopting structured and safe clinical practices. The session also highlighted NABH's support initiatives such as E-Mitra, training programs, and awareness initiatives, designed to help clinics progress toward standardization and continuous improvement.

NABH

FE Healthcare Summit & Awards 2025

NABH marked its presence at the FE Healthcare Summit & Awards 2025—bringing focus on quality, regulation, and patient-centric care to the national stage.

Dr Atul Mohan Kochhar, CEO, NABH, joined a distinguished panel to discuss "Catalysing the Next Wave of Growth: From Primary Care to Personalized Cure." He shared insights on the critical role of accreditation and regulatory frameworks in strengthening healthcare delivery. He stressed that the next phase of growth must begin with robust Primary Care that ensures inclusivity, accessibility, and affordability for all.

NABH
Disha Workshop

NABH-QCI conducted the **NABH Disha Workshop** on 11th and 12th January, 2025 with the objective of collective deliberation among assessors for systematic review of objective elements, developing standardized and actionable framework for consistent interpretation and simplify and streamline accreditation process.

NABH

Weekly Journal Club Meeting

The NABH has started **Weekly Journal Club Meeting for NABH Secretariat,** marking the beginning of an ongoing initiative aimed at enhancing the academic knowledge and skills of the NABH team.

NABH
Gunvatta Yatra

NABH-QCI driving the Gunvatta Yatra, a nationwide initiative aimed at engaging directly with hospitals and healthcare providers till date NABH has covered **Rewari, Ahmedabad, Rajkot, Kochi, Kolkata, Imphal, Hyderabad, Bengaluru, Mysuru, Bhavnagar.**

NABH
Gunvatta Manthan

The NABH Gunvatta Manthan, was organized on 18th February, 2025 at New Delhi for the accredited Hospitals with the objective to recognize and celebrate the contribution of Quality Ambassadors in the healthcare sector, to engage and empower CEOs in promoting healthcare quality and patient safety within their organizations and to align NABH's mission with the nation's vision for 2027.

Manthan brought together industry leaders and key stakeholders, driving meaningful conversations on overcoming challenges and fostering innovation.

The NABH Gunvatta Manthan - CEOs' Roundtable, held on April 16th, 2025, in Chennai, was an insightful gathering of healthcare leaders and stakeholders. The event successfully facilitated discussions on the challenges of achieving and maintaining NABH accreditation, shared innovative solutions for quality care, and explored the role of technology in streamlining compliance. Participants engaged in meaningful dialogues on fostering a robust assessor ecosystem, empowering healthcare facilities, and building a future-ready healthcare system. This event contributed significantly to shaping the vision of a Viksit Bharat by 2047 through collective efforts in healthcare quality improvement.

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