

Introduction

The National Institute of Health and Family Welfare (NIHFW), was established on 9th March 1977 by the merger of two national level institutions, viz. the National Institute of Health Administration and Education (NIHAE) and the National Institute of Family Planning (NIFP). The NIHFW, an autonomous organization, under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, acts as an ‘apex technical institute’ as well as a ‘think tank’ for the promotion of health and family welfare Programmes in the country.

Mission

- To act as think tank, catalyst & innovator for management of public health and related health & family welfare Programmes by pursuing multiple functions of Education & Training, Research & Evaluation, Consultancy & Advisory services as well as provision of specialized services through inter-disciplinary teams.

Vision

- NIHFW is to be seen as an Institute of global repute in public health & family welfare management.

Objective

To understand the evaluation of some National Health Programmes by the third party.

- Evaluation of National Health Programmes is the systematic evaluation and interpretation of data in order to detect repeating patterns and trends within national healthcare programmes.
- These programmes are often meant to treat specific health conditions or to enhance overall population healthcare delivery.
- Policymakers and healthcare professionals may get useful insights into the success of these programmes, identify areas for improvement, and make educated decisions for future healthcare planning by analyzing trends.

Background

- National health programmes are initiatives implemented by governments to address specific health issues and improve the overall well-being of their populations.
- These programmes often target critical areas such as disease prevention, healthcare accessibility, maternal and child health, communicable, non-communicable & other disease control programme and the management of chronic conditions.
- Progress and performance of the national health strategy need to be tracked. Monitoring, evaluation and review are important, as they provide the basic measurement systems and accountability mechanisms to plan, manage and account for the objectives and targets of the national health strategy. Indicators are required to support programme planning, monitoring, reviews and accountability for the health sector, and for specific programmes.
- Evaluating the effectiveness of these programmes is crucial to determine their impact, identify areas of improvement, and ensure efficient allocation of resources.

Secondary review of evaluation reports of National Health Programmes

Health Program	Objective	Launched Year	Type of evaluation	Evaluation Year	Organisation	States	Target achieved
RNTCP (Revised National Tuberculosis Control Program)	To achieve & maintain a cure rate of at least 85% among newly detected smear positive pulmonary TB cases. To achieve & maintain detection of at least 70% of such cases in the population.	1997	Process, outcome & impact evaluation	2000, 2003, 2006, 2009	ICMR, Chennai	Haryana, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Uttaranchal, Orissa, Bihar & UP	Internal Evaluation helps to take corrective actions. Regular monitoring and inbuilt process evaluations helped the program implementation.
NACP IV (National AIDS Control Program)	To review the policy, strategy, action plan development process of NACP at national, state & district levels	2012	Process evaluation	2020	Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA)	Karnataka, Manipur, UP, Delhi, Maharashtra	In 2019, new HIV infections which has declined by 37%, deaths declined by 66%.
NMHP (National mental health program)	To provide sustainable mental health services to the community and to integrate these services with other services.	1982	Impact evaluation	2015-16	NIMHANS, Bengaluru, MoHFW	Kerala, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Punjab, UP, MP, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Assam, Manipur, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu	The possibility of early detection and treatment of patients within the community has been enhanced in all the districts where the program is being implemented.
NPHCE (National Program for Health Care of the Elderly)	To identify health problems in the elderly and provide appropriate health interventions in the community with a strong referral backup support.	2010-11	Not conducted	Not conducted	Not conducted	Not conducted	Not conducted

Difference between Practical & Theoretical Exposure

Practical Exposure:

- Review of evaluation uncover programme implementation’s strengths, flaws, and gaps, allowing for targeted changes.
- Understanding what works and what doesn't allow programmes to be improved in order to reach disadvantaged communities and handle developing concerns.

Theoretical Exposure:

- Studied about the various programmes related to different diseases how its providing the health facilities to the weaker section of the society.
- It explains the set of policies, interventions, and actions aimed at achieving specific health-related goals or outcomes.

Learnings during internship

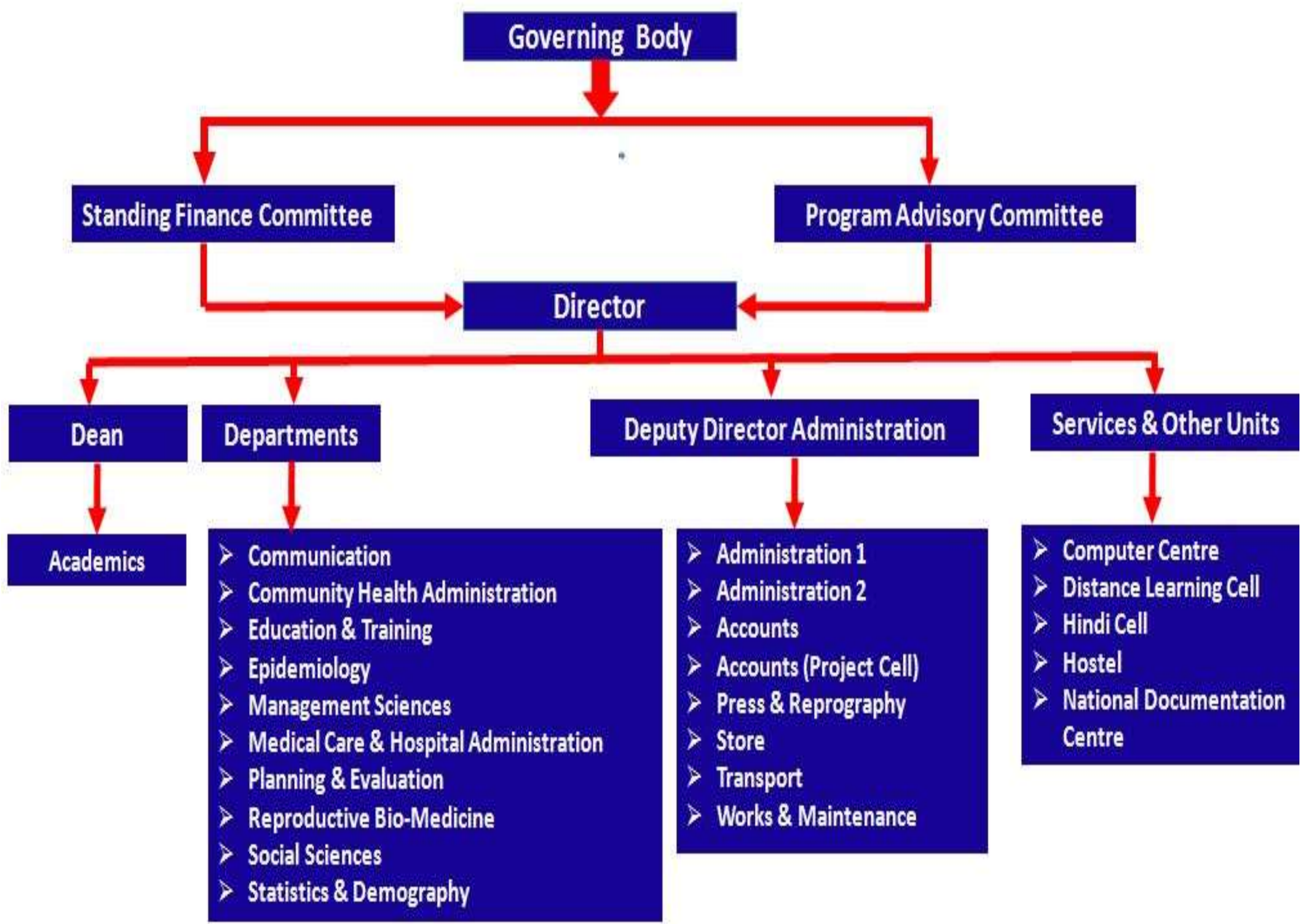
- Learned evaluation methods for national health programmes.
- Identified which programmes are reviewed and at what period afterwards launch.
- Identified NPHCE(National Program for Health Care of the Elderly) has not yet been reviewed.
- About vaccine storage levels in India.

Usefulness of Internship

- Practical application of theoretical knowledge.
- Insights into healthcare policies and their impact.
- Networking opportunities with professionals in the field.
- Exposure to a multidisciplinary work environment.
- Career exploration and growth within the field of public health.



Organization Structure



Functions of Organisation



Strengths

- Training and capacity building programmes for healthcare professionals and policymakers.
- Collaborates with national and international organizations, enhancing reach and access to expertise.

Weaknesses

- Limited infrastructure to meet growing demands of research, training, and evaluation.
- Staffing constraints in recruiting and retaining qualified professionals.

SWOT

Opportunities

- Influence health policy and program development at the national level.
- Growing demand for skilled healthcare professionals, creating opportunities for expanding training programs

Threats

- Funding challenges affecting the scope and scale of research and evaluation projects.
- Competition from other research and academic institutions in the sector.

Suggestions

- Strengthen research and evaluation capabilities.
- Promote continuous professional development.
- More focus on capacity building and training.
- Emphasize a culture of continuous quality improvement.

Challenges faced during internship

- Steep learning curve in adapting to the organization's environment & procedures.
- Challenges in collaborating with diverse team members.
- Getting used to the organisational norms and workplace standards.

Number of vaccine stores in India

Store level	Numbers
GMSD (Govt. Medical Stores Depot)	4
State Vaccine stores	53
Regional Vaccine stores	110
District Vaccine Stores	666
CHC/PHC/UHC/Other Hospitals/Last Cold Chain Point	25,555
Total	26,388