**Strengthening Medical & Nursing Education**

NRHM aims at providing effective healthcare to rural population, especially women and children with improved access, quality, accountability and effectiveness of the public health services. To achieve these objectives under NRHM and to resolve the issues of scarce dispersion of skilled healthcare providers in the rural areas, the need to increase generation of human resources has been felt as critical. This need has contributed towards the growth of nursing and medical education in India in the NRHM period.

Over the past seven years, 152 medical colleges have been added with an increase of 23,686 medical seats in total[[1]](#footnote-1). This is an increase of 66.2% and 92.5% in the number of colleges and seats respectively. Across the country, surge in number of colleges in private sector is more than the government colleges. A total of 174 colleges are existing in the government sector with an annual output of 23863 seats for MBBS. In private sector over 207 medical colleges are functioning with an annual intake of 25,405 seats. In terms of geographical distribution, however, the greatest increase is seen more in the high focus -North East states with 120% since 2005, then 80.3% increase in high focus states-Non North East, 60% increase in high focus states-Large & 58.3 % increase in the non-high focus-Small & Union Territories. Although the increase in number of seats is the highest in high focus states-Large, in which since 2005 the increase in the number of seats is 15545 and least in high focus states-North East where the increase in the number of seats is only 585 only.

Besides medical colleges, the increase in the number of nursing colleges is one of the major outcomes[[2]](#footnote-2). The increase in the number of nursing colleges since 2005 has been tremendous, 173% (2854) of the total nursing institutes have been increased all across India. The increase in institutes is the highest in Post Basic BSc nursing i.e., 957 %, followed by MSc Nursing Institutes (636% increase), 287% increase in ANM schools, 211 % increase in BSc nursing schools and 63 % increase in GNM schools. Out of the existing 4500 nursing schools across India, 69% of the nursing schools are private, nearly 16% of them are under the trust management, 4% are government owned and the rest comprises of the Charitable, Missionary and University nursing colleges. In terms of the geographical distribution the percentage increase in the number of institutes is highest among the high focus states-Non North East States with 420% additional colleges, then non high focus states-Large with 130% increase, then is non high focus states-Small & Ut with 68% increase and the least increase in high focus states-North East of 12 %. The increase in all the states has been more in the private sector then in the government sector.

1. *Source: Medical Council of India (last updated August 2013)*  [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. *Source: Nursing Council of India (last updated July 2013)* [↑](#footnote-ref-2)