

# A perforated network

■ India's current infrastructure can supply only **4%** of the demand for **allied health professionals (AHPs)**.



■ There is a deficit of around **62 lakh** AHPs in India.

■ **India** has only about **8-11** AHPs per **10,000 people**.

■ **The World Health Organisation's (WHO)** recommendation is a minimum of **44**.



## Categories of allied health professions in India:

- Life science
- Trauma and burn care
- Physiotherapy
- Nutrition science
- Ophthalmic sciences
- Health and information management
- Medical laboratory sciences
- Physician associate
- Renal technology
- Occupational therapy
- Surgical and anaesthesia-related technology
- Behavioural health sciences
- Primary, community and other miscellaneous care
- Medical radiology, imaging and therapeutic technology
- Cardiovascular, neuroscience and pulmonary technology

WHO recommendation:  
**3 nurses** per **1,000 people**

India's nurse-to-population ratio:  
**1.96 nurses** per **1,000 people**

Global standard:  
**28 nurses** per **10 physicians**

India:  
**1 nurse** per **10 physicians**

## Number of AHP course seats per million

110-140  
India

170  
United Kingdom

350  
Thailand

## Vacancies across India's health centres vary significantly across states:

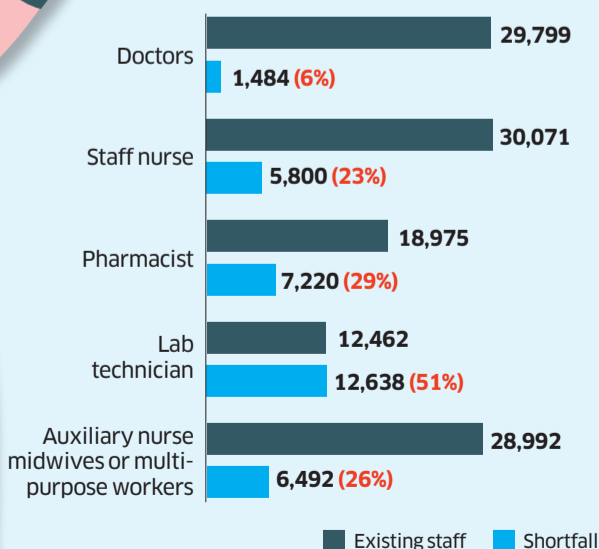
State	PHC			CHC
	Health workers	Health assistants	Nursing staff	Nursing staff
Andhra Pradesh	0	86	212	117
Gujarat	939	915	846	166
Jharkhand	36	615	348	1,261
Karnataka	0	3,065	0	156
Kerala	0	0	0	0
Rajasthan	521	779	1,102	1,321
Tamil Nadu	1,078	1,411	244	707

\*PHC: Primary Health Centre, CHC: Community Health Centre

## Measures to improve allied health services:

- 1 Build college infrastructure.
- 2 Conduct thorough research on existing public sector capacity.
- 3 Identify measures to enhance AHP seats in existing colleges.
- 4 Provide coverage for allied healthcare services in government schemes.
- 5 Strengthen policy measures to ensure fair wages for allied health workers in private sector enterprises.

## The shortage of lab technicians in India's primary health centres is more than 50%



Source: Formalising allied healthcare workforce in India, Boston Consulting Group; Health workforce in India: Why, where and how to invest?, WHO, Public Health Foundation of India.

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