

Cost-Effectiveness of Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP) and Its Impact on Financial Risk Protection in India
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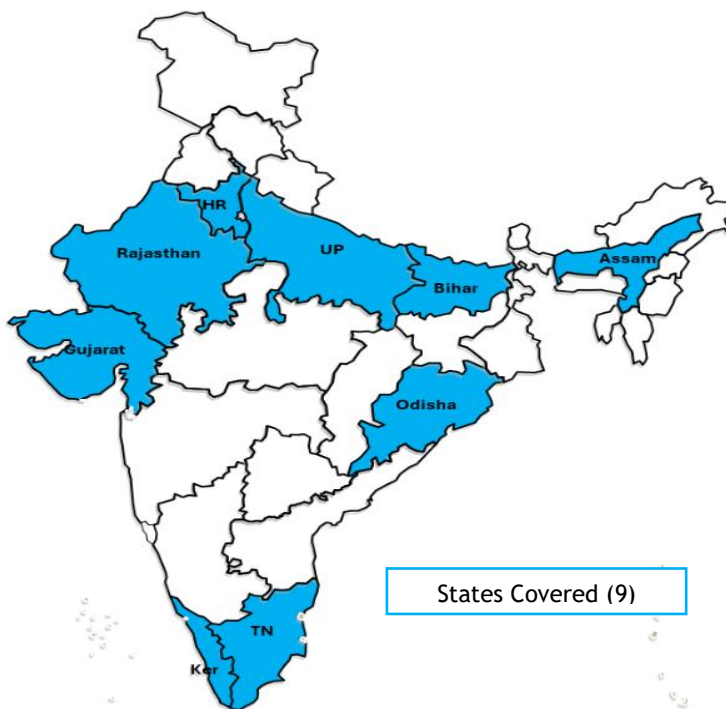
Recommendations:

- Pradhan Mantri Bharatiya Jan Aushadhi Pariyojana is significantly beneficial to the patients in reducing OOP expenditure and improving Financial Risk Protection. However, it is currently relatively much less utilized. It is recommended to make proactive efforts to enhance the awareness, and to expand the footprint of these facilities.
- The Government of India should scale up PMBJP through a phased approach to ensure equitable access across regions.

Background:

- High out-of-pocket expenditure (OOPE) on branded medicines has long been a significant barrier to healthcare access in India, leading to catastrophic health expenditure (CHE) and increased impoverishment among vulnerable populations.
- Launched in 2008, PMBJP aimed to improve access to affordable generic medicines but faced challenges like poor supply chain management, limited drug availability, and low public awareness.
- This study assesses PMBJP’s impact on reducing financial burden on patients due to purchase of medicines.

Methods:



Key Findings:

- Patients who visited PMBJP outlets incurred almost 85% lesser OOP expenditure on medicines compared to those who visited private pharmacies.
- No out-patient department (OPD) or in-patient department (IPD) patients at PMBJP outlets faced catastrophic health expenditure (CHE) or impoverishment due to the purchase of medicines. In contrast, 17% of OPD patients and 21.9% of IPD patients visiting private pharmacies experienced CHE, with 9.4% of OPD patients and 19.8% of IPD patients impoverished.
- Branded imipenem/cilastatin for hospital-acquired pneumonia is not cost-effective in India, with an ICER of ₹19,36,555 per QALY gained.

PICO	Description of the components of PICO
Population	OPD, IPD, and pharmacy patients.
Intervention	Patients purchasing medicines from <i>Jan Aushadhi Kendras</i> .
Comparator	Patients purchasing medicines from private pharmacies.
Outcome	Comparison of out-of-pocket expenditure, catastrophic health expenditure, impoverishment rate, and assessing their determinants.

Results:



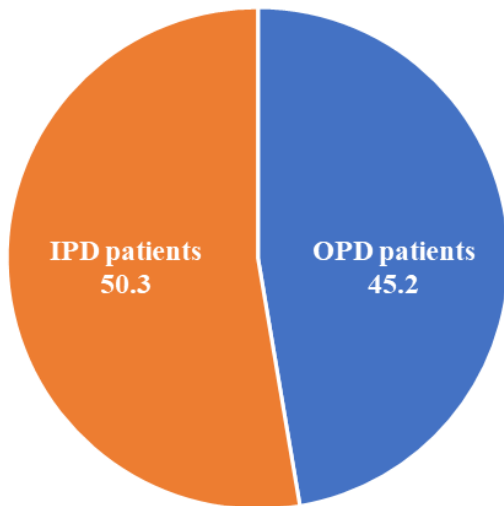
35.9% of OPD patients and 51.7% of IPD patients get their medicines from within the health facility.



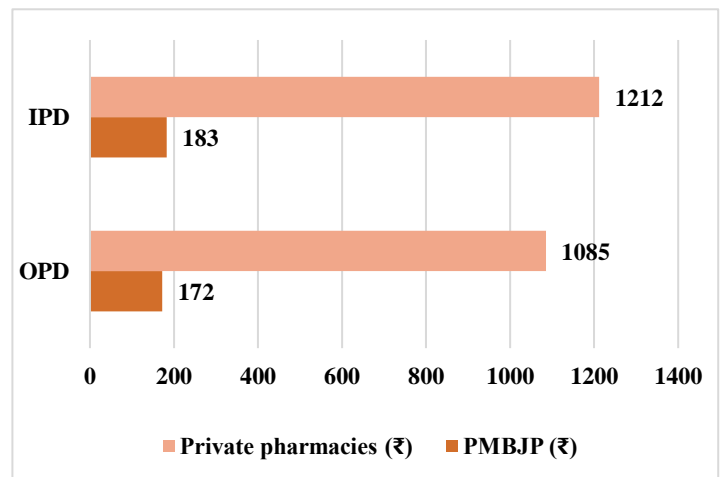
11.6% of OPD patients and 8.7% of IPD patients avail medicines from *Jan Aushadhi Kendras*.



78.7% of OPD patients and 34.9% of IPD patients purchase medicines from private pharmacies.



Awareness regarding PMBJP (%)



OOPE incurred by OPD and IPD patients on medicines (₹)

Type of Facility	OPD Patients	IPD Patients
Jan-Aushadhi	0%	0%
Private	17%	21.9%

Percentage of patients incurring CHE due to medicines

Type of Facility	OPD Patients	IPD Patients
Jan-Aushadhi	0%	0%
Private	9.4%	19.8%

Percentage of patients impoverished due to medicines

Conclusion:

- Patients who visited PMBJP outlets incurred markedly lower OOPE on medicines, with no cases of catastrophic health expenditure or impoverishment, underscoring the scheme's critical role in reducing financial burdens.
- Despite its benefits, low awareness (54.8% of OPD and 49.7% of IPD patients unaware) limits its utilization.