

Project: Improving Access to Healthcare Through Health Clinics

Abbott India (henceforth, Abbott) launched a CSR program in 2016 to distribute fibroscan machines, free of cost, to clinics and hospitals of India for liver screenings, addressing liver disease as a leading cause of death in India due to lifestyle and diagnosis accessibility issues. The operation and maintenance of the fibroscan machines was taken care of by Abbott through a third-party named Health Care At Home (HCAH). Abbott spent INR 2.42 Crores towards the program in FY 2019-21.

The objective of the third-party assessment undertaken was to 1) ascertain the efficacy of these machines in locations, 2) understand challenges arising from the functioning of the machines, 3) gauge the accessibility of the diagnosis across the patients. As part of this impact assessment, eight clinics/hospitals across India based on the average monthly patients' footfall from a representative mix of Tier-I and Tier-II/Tier-III cities were considered. Two of the eight clinics/hospitals were government- run, while the remaining six were private.

The assessment revealed that the distribution of fibroscan machines has aided last mile accessibility to liver disease diagnosis across beneficiaries from diverse socio-economic strata. The program has particularly benefitted urban poor and rural poor in early detection and continuation of the treatment of liver diseases. Tests worth more than INR 11 Cr were supported as part of the program in a particular year. The evaluation also highlighted that the doctors were highly appreciative of the intervention by Abbott. The report suggests exploring the scope of replacing old machines with newer versions to enable screening of morbidly obese patients. Expansion of program footprint to government hospitals in existing geographies, and PHCs in small towns and villages can be considered to bring a larger section of urban and rural poor under the program ambit.

The Impact Team at Goodera has completed Impact Assessment for 'Improving Access to Healthcare Through Health Clinics' project for Abbott, in the month of January 2023.

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