

# **An Economic Study of Awareness and Utilization of Block Primary Health Centres in Madurai District, Tamil Nadu**

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## **Abstract**

Health is considered as the most important thing for a human being. It is a well-known concept that health is wealth. The BHORE committee in 1946 gave the concept of a PHC as a basic health unit, to provide, as close to the people as possible. It is an integrated curative and preventive health care to the rural population with emphasis on preventive and promotive aspects of health care. The present study aims to find out the cost structure for general medical care for the primary health centers in Madurai district. In addition, it is an attempt to know the socio – economic status of the PHC users, their health problems for which they are availing the services, awareness of health care services and satisfaction of the rural people towards various services provided by the primary health centers in Madurai district. The responses have been collected through direct personal interview method and include 150 samples. The major findings were PHCs were spending more on electricity i.e., about Rs.25,000 per month. For laboratories, they were spending up to Rs. 500. The felt need of the people is exhibited and the first rank goes to the reason that PHCs are not functioning in the evening. It is inferred that education of PHC users is independent of their overall opinion. To empower village communities in the PHC context, first the policy makers need to launch the awareness campaigns in each PHCs catchment area.