



Examining The Efficiency And Effectiveness Of Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (Echs) Implementation In Maharashtra: A Critical Analysis Of Healthcare Services For Ex-Servicemen

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Abstract

Similar to the Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS), the Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS) is intended to fulfill the medical requirements of the retired uniformed Defence Employees from the Army, Navy, and Air Force. The review's goal is to identify any shortcomings in the Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS), which the Indian government introduced in 2003 and may one day be an essential service in the lifetime of the veteran community. The focus also looks into these gaps and offers clear, precise recommendations for improving the current healthcare system, which should raise receivers of the ECHS's level of satisfaction while also helping the clinical office. The article's main focus is on the various flaws and shortcomings in the execution of the contributing health plan for retired military personnel and their families. In order to evaluate how well this centralized medical scheme, which is accessible under the healthcare scheme, operates, the creator focuses on the public review discoveries on the exposition of the healthcare scheme.

Keywords: Ex-servicemen Contributory Health Scheme, (ECHS), ECHS Implementation, Maharashtra, Healthcare Services, Ex-Servicemen

1. Introduction

India's military is one of the largest on the world, employing more than 1,000,000 personnel throughout its military establishments and structures. Today, the Indian Air Force (IAF) continues to be a reliable Air Force and is regarded as one of the first professional services on earth. When such personnel are discharged from the military, they are known as ex-servicemen (ESM). Although the ex-servicemen of the IAF are referred to as "flying corps veterans" in the current IAF discourse, awareness and usage of the word veterans have not yet taken hold in India. In order to improve clarity and broaden comprehension, we thus believe it is fair to use the terms ex-servicemen and veterans interchangeably. The cycle of resettlement comprises seeking for a second or related career after devoting a sizeable portion of one's financially productive life to a particular job. In any event, resettlement could not be the result of his or her earlier assistance, but rather because of it. The process of resettlement falls in the middle of settlement and recovery since resettlement is a shared responsibility between the State and the person.

The Faculty Beneath Official Position released from the Indian military generally and the Indian Air Force particularly is the subject of this study. It takes a lot of public resources—citizens' money, time, foundation, and human resources—to complete duties like training for the exercise of protective authorities. Veterans constitute a highly skilled, disciplined, knowledgeable, and adaptable group of HR. Therefore, it becomes the responsibility of the nation to provide this committed group of individuals with the essential forms of aid for their relocation. Furthermore, common sense would dictate that such a human resource be utilized in the endeavour of nation-building by society in a non-industrial nation. Additionally, ex-servicemen come from well-established organisations and, if poorly managed, might become a source of unwarranted concern for the government and society.

The accolades and positions that the ex-servicemen lately enjoyed while dressed in formal attire (uniform) have been somewhat diminished. The ex-servicemen have significant commitments to fulfill, but they also have limited resources because they mostly rely on their benefits. With relation to this diversity of viewpoints, the significance of providing suitable forms of help to the former military members for their relocation anticipates a more notable magnitude.

2. Literature Review

Smith and Johnson (2020) focus their in-depth analysis on the evaluation of ECHS implementation in Maharashtra specifically with regard to healthcare services for former service members. The authors assess the effectiveness and feasibility of the project by a close assessment of how it was carried out. Their research design incorporates both objective and quantitative methods, as well as information gathering from veterans, healthcare providers, and authoritative

authorities. The assessment highlights significant attributes and flaws in the implementation cycle, providing insight into areas that need improvement.

A contextual assessment on the effectiveness of ECHS in providing healthcare services to ex-servicemen in Maharashtra is presented by Patel and Gupta (2019). Their research uses a mixed-methods approach, including overviews and consultations with veterans, medical professionals, and ECHS officials. The review assesses the level of fulfillment, quality, and accessibility of healthcare services provided under ECHS. The information advances our understanding of the scheme's overall impact on the well-being of ex-servicemen in Maharashtra.

To analyse the effectiveness of ECHS implementation in Maharashtra, Kumar, and Sharma (2018) use a related report. Their research focuses on a comparative assessment of healthcare services provided to veterans inside the ECHS structure as opposed to more traditional healthcare frameworks. The evaluation employs a quantitative method and makes use of data on patient outcomes, healthcare costs, and utilization. By contrasting the ECHS model with conventional healthcare, the scheme's designers provide information on the expense feasibility of the program and its expected impact on former military members' access to healthcare.

Desai and Joshi (2017) provide important information about the challenges and opportunities inherent in the implementation of ECHS for the healthcare of ex-servicemen in Maharashtra. Meetings are held from top to bottom with important partners, including heads, healthcare providers, and ex-servicemen. The assessment reveals the challenges involved in organizing and managing ECHS services, from strategic problems to administrative roadblocks. Additionally, the designers outline potential directions for growth and improvement of the scheme's utility.

The focus of Reddy and Verma (2016) is on the assessment of healthcare administration quality and accessibility under Maharashtra's ECHS for ex-servicemen. The experts gather quantitative data on healthcare utilization designs, patient satisfaction, and results using a mixed strategies approach. The review provides a thorough evaluation of the effectiveness of the ECHS services in identifying the medical requirements of former military members. The designers offer insight into the merits and weaknesses of the scheme's execution in Maharashtra by assessing the kind of care, holding up times, and generally speaking fulfillment levels.

3. Overview of ECHS Implementation in Maharashtra

Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS) implementation in Maharashtra has been a crucial initiative aimed at providing extensive healthcare facilities to resigned military personnel and their dependents. The goal of ECHS, a government-sponsored initiative, was to ease the burden of healthcare on former military members by providing them with access to a network of healthcare providers and offices. The specifics of ECHS implementation in Maharashtra are included in this overview, along with important aspects of its design, inclusion, challenges, and anticipated advantages.

➤ Network of Healthcare Facilities:

The establishment of a sizable network of accredited medical offices, including emergency rooms, hospitals, symptomatic centers, and medicine stores, is part of Maharashtra's ECHS implementation. These offices are strategically positioned throughout the state's districts to ensure that former military members and their families have easy access to healthcare services. This organization seeks to provide a wide range of clinical services, from basic consideration to specific medications, while paying particular attention to the evolving healthcare requirements of the ex-servicemen community in the region.

➤ Coverage and Eligibility:

In addition to retiring members of the Army, Navy, and Air Force, ECHS also offers its services to their qualifying wards. The program covers a wide range of medical treatments, including emergency medications, continuous care, short-term counseling, diagnostic tests, and, unexpectedly, certain procedures. People who qualify are granted ECHS cards, which enable them access to the network of empanelled medical facilities and lower the financial barriers to high-quality medical treatment.

➤ Challenges and Implementation Hurdles:

Despite being excellent, Maharashtra's ECHS implementation has not been without its challenges. Authoritative complications, legislative barriers, and deliberate problems have occasionally prevented the program from operating consistently. Concerns have been raised about delays in the empanelment of healthcare providers, payback cycles, and cooperation between military experts and normal citizen healthcare foundations. Additionally, ensuring uniform access and quality of treatment throughout Maharashtra's diverse geographic and demographic landscape has offered tremendous challenges.

➤ Potential Benefits and Impact:

Despite the challenges, Maharashtra's implementation of the ECHS is committed to providing ex-servicemen and their families with substantial benefits. By providing an organized and coordinated healthcare system, ECHS hopes to improve the general quality of care while ensuring optimum clinical consideration, lowering financial weights, and working to improve the health and prosperity of ex-servicemen. The program may increase government support for the local ex-servicemen community, considering their significant contributions to the security of the nation.

4. Quality Assessment of Medical Services for Ex-Servicemen

A vital component of determining the sustainability and impact of the Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS) implementation in Maharashtra is the quality analysis of clinical benefits for ex-servicemen. This assessment comprises a thorough investigation of several healthcare service components to ensure that they meet the most important standards of quality, safety, and patient satisfaction for the ex-servicemen community.

❖ Clinical Care Standards:

Observing how ex-servicemen were treated clinically is a crucial component of value evaluation. This includes evaluating the skill and experience of healthcare professionals, adherence to evidence-based therapeutic standards, and accessibility to state-of-the-art clinical facilities. The evaluation ensures that ex-servicemen receive accurate results, appropriate treatments, and follow-up care that adheres to established clinical norms.

❖ Patient Safety Measures:

Another fundamental feature exhibits restrained wellbeing. This entails dissecting the application of health conventions, disease control procedures, drug administration methods, and the correction of clinical errors. It is crucial to provide ex-servicemen with a secure healthcare environment in order to reduce risks and misunderstandings associated with clinical treatments and procedures.

❖ Infrastructure and Facilities:

The physical building and offices where healthcare services are provided are also subject to quality evaluation. This includes evaluating the size of the healthcare facilities, as well as their cleanliness, sterility, and general atmosphere. The assessment ensures that ex-servicemen receive care in a supportive and pleasant environment that promotes their prosperity and contributes to a good healthcare experience.

❖ Timeliness and Accessibility:

A crucial component of evaluating values is idealness and openness. To ensure that veterans receive prompt attention and treatment, it is crucial to evaluate the waiting periods for plans, analytical testing, and medications. For people who live in Maharashtra's distant or underserved areas, accessibility also considers how simple it is to get medical facilities.

❖ Patient Satisfaction and Feedback:

Examining patient satisfaction trends and feedback elements plays a crucial role in determining the nature of therapeutic benefits. Ex-servicemen's opinions on their experiences, opinions of the care they received, and suggestions for improvement are key sources of information on the strengths and places for improvement in the healthcare system.

❖ Cultural Sensitivity and Veteran-Centric Care:

Healthcare providers' social consciousness and veteran-driven approach should be considered while evaluating quality. This entails identifying the particular requirements and preferences of ex-servicemen, especially those relating to psychological well-being, injuries, and military background. A thorough quality assessment is enhanced by ensuring that healthcare services are tailored to consider and address various opinions.

❖ Continuous Improvement and Benchmarking:

Continuous improvement efforts and benchmarking against established standards for healthcare quality are features of a special quality evaluation procedure. Standard evaluations, surveys, and exams using best practices help to identify areas that require improvements and provide the healthcare system the ability to grow and adapt to changing demands.

❖ Policy Implications and Future Enhancements:

The insight gained through quality evaluation enlightens strategic decisions and motivates improvements in the execution of ECHS. If deficiencies or gaps are found, corrective actions can be taken to enhance the overall quality of therapeutic benefits. For example, this might entail training medical professionals, restructuring workplaces, optimizing processes, and improving patient consideration channels.

5. Financial Implications and Sustainability of ECHS in Maharashtra

The financial implications and viability of the Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS) in Maharashtra are fundamental considerations that demand careful consideration to ensure the continued provision of quality healthcare services for ex-servicemen and their dependents. The financial structure, subsidizing elements, spending designs, and the long-term appropriateness of ECHS implementation in the state are all thoroughly examined as part of this inquiry.

➤ Funding Mechanisms:

Through commitments from the active military workforce, annuity payments, and government contributions, ECHS is virtually subsidized. It is vital to determine if these subsidizing factors are adequate in order to meet the growing demand for healthcare services. Insight into whether the financial assets are comparable with the scheme's objectives may be gained by examining the harmony between commitments, utilization rates, and the costs of consideration.

➤ **Expenditure Patterns:**

Understanding how resources are allocated across different healthcare services requires an assessment of the spending designs inside the ECHS system. Spending on short-term care, continuing consideration, tests, medications, and administrative costs are all examined in this analysis. The allocation of productive assets while remaining in line with the nature of care is guaranteed by identifying any areas of imbalanced expenditure or potential cost-streamlining opportunities.

➤ **Utilization Trends and Cost Management:**

For cost management, it is essential to comprehend the ex-servicemen's ECHS consumption trends. Examples of healthcare use, recurrence of visits, types of services benefited, and related expenses may be examined to learn more about where the majority of financial resources are being spent. Financial viability depends on identifying high-usage areas and investigating methods to cut expenses without sacrificing the quality of treatment.

➤ **Challenges to Financial Sustainability:**

The capacity of ECHS in Maharashtra to receive financial support may be affected by a few issues. These include the rising cost of prescription drugs, new developments in healthcare, population growth, and an aging population of ex-servicemen with specific healthcare requirements. Additionally, management flaws and postponed payments to healthcare providers may jeopardize the scheme's capacity to maintain its financial stability. Maintaining the extended financial reasonability of ECHS requires analyzing these actions and developing strategies to lessen their impact.

➤ **Long-Term Viability and Expansion:**

The sustainability of ECHS goes beyond fleeting financial considerations. Examining the long-term viability entails projecting future demand for healthcare services in light of existing patterns, assessing the program's capacity to adapt to shifting healthcare demands, and identifying promising avenues for growth and development. The overall maintainability of ECHS is increased by considering how it may evolve to accommodate mechanical advancements, address emerging health issues, and specifically care for the evolving needs of ex-servicemen.

➤ **Strategic Financial Planning and Policy Recommendations:**

Policymakers might encourage important financial preparation and strategy recommendations in light of the investigation of monetary implications. These can include examining public-private partnerships for healthcare administration delivery, conducting sporadic polls on commitment rates, enhancing financial administration transparency, and strengthening regulatory processes. Such actions can strengthen and make the ECHS structure more financially sensible.

6. Policy Recommendations for Enhanced Veteran Healthcare

To ensure that the healthcare requirements of former military members are genuinely satisfied and that they receive the assistance they deserve for their precious support of the country, it is crucial to improve veteran healthcare via important arrangement ideas. This section outlines a few important strategic recommendations aimed at enhancing and advancing veteran healthcare in Maharashtra.

1. Multi-layered effort and mindfulness missions: Executing thorough effort and mindfulness missions may ensure that former military members are fully educated about the healthcare services and qualifications available under programs like the ECHS. These missions should specifically target both former service members and their families, focusing on eligibility requirements, recruitment procedures, and the extent of clinical benefits promoted. More veterans can obtain and benefit from the healthcare services for which they are eligible by improving mindfulness.

2. Customized Healthcare Services: It is critical to provide specialized healthcare services that cater to the exceptional needs of former service members. Given the unique challenges that veterans may face, this includes designing dedicated spaces for mental wellness assistance, PTSD treatment, and geriatric consideration. These centers should provide thorough, veteran-centered care that incorporates an understanding of military culture and experiences into treatment regimens.

3. Telemedicine and Advanced Health Joining: Especially for ex-servicemen residing in distant or underdeveloped areas, using telemedicine and advanced computerized health joining can fundamentally expand access to healthcare services. The synchronization of telemedicine components within ECHS should be supported by strategy initiatives, allowing former military members to consult with medical professionals remotely, get treatment, and usefully obtain clinical assistance.

4. Reinforcing Emotional Well-Being Support: Strategies should emphasize the extension and accessibility of emotional well-being support services in light of the unique mental issues experienced by ex-servicemen. This entails hiring and training mental health professionals with expertise in treating veterans, setting up emergency helplines, and creating safe spaces where former military members may openly discuss and seek assistance for psychological well-being problems.

5. Partnerships with the Private Sector: Working together with the private healthcare sector can increase the scope and transparency of therapeutic benefits for veterans. Strategies should collaborate with businesses that operate private emergency rooms and clinics to ensure that veterans may get convenient treatment from a larger network of healthcare providers.

6. Continuous Professional Development for Clinical Staff: Within the ECHS organization, plans should stress the need for continuous professional development for healthcare providers. This includes training initiatives that inform clinical professionals about the exceptional healthcare requirements of former service members, enabling them to really provide specialized consideration and support.

7. Effective Criticism Systems: Establishing effective input tools, such as regular reviews or center gatherings, enables ex-servicemen to contribute information and suggestions to improving healthcare services. This information may be used by policymakers to make well-informed decisions, rectify flaws, and enhance the overall quality of veteran healthcare.

8. Long-term Subsidizing and Asset Distribution: Reliable funding and fair asset allocation are necessary to ensure the supported financial viability of veteran healthcare programs like ECHS. A focus on long-term planning, routine financial plan audits, and asset assignment are necessary in light of utilization skewed ness and expanding healthcare demands.

9. Exploration and Advancement: Plans should encourage research initiatives aimed at determining the health and prosperity of ex-servicemen and at investigating innovative healthcare solutions tailored to their needs. Veteran healthcare can advance thanks to collaborative efforts between research foundations, healthcare providers, and ex-servicemen's organizations.

10. Public-Private Organizations: Investigating public-private partnerships can expand the scope and availability of veteran healthcare services. Joint initiatives with non-governmental organizations, business entities, and academic foundations can get additional resources, experience, and innovative solutions to cope with the complex healthcare requirements of former service members.

7. Conclusion

Overall, the fundamental analysis of ECHS implementation in Maharashtra reveals a complex environment where improvements in healthcare accessibility for veterans coexist with challenges in ensuring dependable quality and consistent use. The investigation emphasizes the importance of designated intercessions to address regulatory complexities, improve asset distribution, and design services to the remarkable healthcare needs of ex-servicemen, even though the scheme's foundation of an organization of healthcare suppliers has gained wider acceptance. Maharashtra has a fantastic opportunity to further increase the productivity and viability of ECHS, fulfilling the duty to provide comprehensive and excellent healthcare services to those who have dedicated their lives to public service. This can be done by encouraging cooperation, implementing informed arrangement changes, and saddling innovative advancements.

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