

# Report of

## Webinar : Strengthening Health Cooperatives

### on 18<sup>th</sup> November 2021



On the occasion of 68<sup>th</sup> All India Cooperative Week, NCUI organized on 18<sup>th</sup> November, 2021 an insightful webinar on "Strengthening Health Cooperatives" on 18<sup>th</sup> November, 2021. The subject of the webinar was in accordance with one of the thematic areas of this year's Cooperative Week celebrations. The importance of this webinar assumed importance after the 2<sup>nd</sup> wave of covid pandemic.

Shri Dileep Sanghani, President, NCUI in his presidential address said that the impact of various health schemes of the government has not reached upto the grass-root levels. Considering this, he said that cooperators can be the only medium through which the benefits of health schemes can reach the poor and down-trodden sections of the society. He further that highlighted the good work of cooperatives in serving the needs of the members and the general masses during covid crisis. In the wake of this, he said that the government should strengthen cooperative healthcare.

Dr. K.T. Chenashappa, Advisor, NCDC in his key-note presentation highlighted the various features of Ayushman Sakhar Scheme of Government of India being implemented by NCDC. Ayushman Scheme is a unique scheme to assist cooperatives play an important role in creation of healthcare infrastructure in the country. This scheme has a comprehensive approach which covers hospitals, healthcare, medical education, nursing education, paramedical education, health insurance and holistic health systems such as AYUSH. Considering a big gap in

accessibility to health in rural areas, he highlighted the vital role of cooperatives in this scheme as they have a strong network in the rural areas. Later, in the discussion, he point out that providing better healthcare services in the rural areas can prevent migration from rural to urban areas. Ms. Vaishali Dhote, President, Shushrusha Citizens Cooperative Hospital said that this unique cooperative hospital, consisting of doctors and citizens as members, has 20,000 members at present. She said that the hospital which has been growing from strength to strength by providing affordable health services, has become an effective bridge between the municipal hospitals and corporate hospitals in Mumbai.

Mr. P. Rajendran, President, N.S. Memorial Cooperative Hospital, Kerala in his presentation said that the turnover of the hospital is 129.50 crores, and its treatment cost is 20% less than the private hospitals. He said that central and state governments should have adequate budgetary provisions for cooperative hospitals, and there should be tax exemption for health cooperatives. He made an important suggestion that NCUI should prepare a 5 years Master Plan and it may also constitute a National Task Force for strengthening cooperative healthcare.

Dr. Bala Saheb Patil, CEO J.J. Cooperative Hospital, Karnataka, said that this hospital in the rural areas has been running successfully, and is serving the needs of rural population. Pointing out towards the problem of funds, he said that the government should provide financial package for strengthening health cooperatives. Highlighting that various health schemes of the government are implemented free of cost by the hospital, he said that in public – private partnership of healthcare, the cooperatives should have an important role.