

Dr Lal PathLabs Ltd CSR initiatives fall majorly under

- *Healthcare and Sanitation*
- *Education and Skill Development*
- *Rural Health*

Changes in lifestyles and behavioral patterns are leading to sharp increase in the prevalence of non-communicable diseases like Diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, stroke and cancer. The burden of non-communicable diseases (NCD) is expected to double to 57% by the year 2020 up from just 29% in 1990. The situation is further aggravated as most States have meager budgets allocated for health resulting in 80% of healthcare delivery currently being provided by the private sector, which is primarily focused on curative care. The financial burden borne by people suffering from NCDs impose large economic burden in the form of lost productivity and foregone economic growth

The burden of Non Communicable Diseases is evident by the following:

- *Expected 4.8 million deaths due to cardiovascular diseases by 2020*
- *Cardiovascular diseases were responsible for 35 percent of all deaths in the age group 35-64 in year 2010.*
- *India is expected to have the largest no of diabetics in the world by year 2025*
- *Booming Burden of Silent killers like High Blood Pressure, Tobacco usage, Obesity*
- *There is an urgent need for awareness, capacity building and community-based programs in order to enhance regional capability for tackling such diseases and set up a replicable model project which could be later scalable with more industry partners.*
- *High Need of Healthcare workers especially allied health.*
 - *On Job training*
 - *Linkage of skilling to industry need for employment*
- *Caring for more than a billion presents enormous challenges and while provision of skilled healthcare providers is an uphill task it also creates an incremental demand for skilled human resources across verticals. As per the recent PHFI report, India has a shortfall of 6 million Allied Health Professionals in the country, wherein specific to the sector of laboratory medicine, India is far behind global standards in terms of availability of laboratory technicians per thousand people (India 0.02; US 2.15).*
- *The Challenges also include*
 - *Poor reach to good quality healthcare facilities in rural areas.*
 - *Low awareness for prevention of lifestyle Diseases*

Our CSR initiatives fall under two main projects outlined below which are designed to encompass collaboration, creativity/innovation, sustainability and scalability.

1. **Screening for Diabetes, Hypertension and Hypercholesterolemia under the NPCDCS at Varanasi District**— *Under this project our company has done free of*

cost screening for 60,000 people at the community health center level over the last one year, providing quality testing and screening for early detection and control of Diabetes and complications related to Hypercholesterolemia.

- a. The project is in collaboration with the Uttar Pradesh state program management unit of the National rural health mission SPMU – NRHM.
- b. It further involves collaboration with another industry partner – Indus Health Pvt Ltd
- c. The project aims to set up a replicable sustainable model to scale up the screening program across different districts and states including future participation of other industry partners and states.

The Broad Objectives of the projects include:

- Screening for Diabetes, Hypertension and Hypercholesterolemia under the NPCDCS (National Program for Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular disease and Stroke)
- Generating awareness about the importance of prevention, educate on importance of early detection, health promotion through advisory on lifestyle changes. Increased early awareness, education, health promotion and Prevention.
- Early detection of Diabetes, Hypercholesterolemia and Hypertension.
- Establishment of an effective model at CHC/PHC level that is scalable and will help early detection of non-communicable diseases and prevention of chronic disease and complications in the state.

Implementation model

- Opportunistic screening in Varanasi district for one lakh population, over a period of two years, aged >30 yrs, for Blood sugar(R) and S. Cholesterol by fully automated testing, BMI and B.P evaluation.
- 3 year MOU signed with the State program management unit (SPMU) of UP National rural health mission and Industry partner - Indus Health Pvt Ltd, and Dr Lal Path Labs Welfare trust for screening at CHC level in district of Varanasi, Etawah and Kannauj.

Challenges faced

- Poor awareness and low penetration of health promotional and educational material
- Low footfall despite free of cost health service
- Incomplete data on follow up of intervention post detection of disease

2. **Education & Skilling**– Under this project an Institute for Laboratory medicine has been set up with affiliation to the NSDC/HCSSC (Healthcare sector skill council) for skilling 12th pass students of Science for Medical laboratory technician and Phlebotomy courses.

- a. *The project is unique as it uses the leading industry expertise to train and skill in alignment with the employment opportunities in the industry.*
- b. *Our company also partnered with SDN – Wadhvani Foundation to develop an online training module to increase outreach of training as well as roll out a standardized high quality training module for phlebotomy technicians.*
- c. *The students are also exposed to the newer relevant training in automation, IT, LIMS, soft skills and communication skills.*
- d. *The courses are chargeable and the fees though discounted ensure buy in of the students who are also benefitted by 50% of their fees being paid back to them as part of mandatory stipendiary internship*
- e. *The above fills the essential requirement of on job skilling while innovatively discounting the fees for the students*

The Broad Objectives of the project are:

- *To increase the penetration of quality diagnostic services and contribute towards the creation of a pool of skilled laboratory technicians and phlebotomists*
- *To ensure market oriented, employment linked training is imparted to the medical lab technicians and phlebotomists*
- *To help bridge the huge gap in requirement of allied health workers in India*

Implementation model

- *Dr Lal PathLabs Welfare Trust has established an institute of laboratory medicine affiliated to the Healthcare sector skill council of India under the NATIONAL SKILL DEVELOPMENT*
- *We aim to leverage our six decades of clinical excellence in laboratory medicine and in house resource pool of experienced pathologists and experienced lab technicians as faculty to impart hands on laboratory training with additional exposure to world class automation and LIMS to ensure market oriented, employment linked training*
- *The institute has partnered with Wadhvani foundation as a technical partner to create e- training modules with video content for phlebotomists to ensure a standardized uniform training content across centers and contribute towards the development of a skilled workforce for healthcare.*
- *The project will be scaled up over the next five years to increase the number of skill centers*

Challenges faced

- *Decreasing percentage of students opting for Science stream in lower middle class strata thus limiting intake opportunities based on the HCSSC and NSDC eligibility criteria*

The following key outputs, outcomes and impact on beneficiaries for these initiatives has been noted.

- *Increased awareness, early detection of risk factors, health education, health promotion and prevention of increasing chronic disease burden*
- *Early detection of Diabetes, Hypercholesterolemia and Hypertension.*
- *Prevention of complications and acute events leading to hospitalization – aiming to reduce health costs over a period of time*
- *Establishment of an effective model at district level that is scalable and will help NPCDCS screening in the state.*

Current project collaborations involve, other industry bodies and fellow corporations as well as the state led programs-

- 1. Indus Health Pvt Ltd,*
- 2. State Govt UP, SPMU-NRHM U.P*
- 3. SDN-Wadhwani Foundation*

Our plan to scale these initiatives by 2020 and further would incorporate -

- 1. Addition of other Industry Partners.*
- 2. Engagement and participation of more State Govts*
- 3. Education :-Additional skilling centers and leveraging e-learning and video training for Skilling.*