

Social Awareness and Actions to Neutralize Pneumonia Successfully (SAANS)

December 10, 2019

Source: Ministry of Health & Family Welfare

Recently the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare launched the SAANS campaign to reduce child mortality due to pneumonia.

Child deaths caused by pneumonia

- As per data from the Health Management Information System (HMIS), a digital initiative by National Health Mission, out of 1000 live births in India, 37 children under five die. Of these, 5.3 deaths are caused due to pneumonia.
- As per HMIS data, Madhya Pradesh has the highest number of pneumonia-caused child deaths, followed by Gujarat.

Objectives of the SAANS campaign

- **Target:** Under SAANS, the government is targeting a **reduction in pneumonia-caused deaths by 2025 to less than 3 deaths out of 1000 live births.**
- **Mobilize people:** The health campaign will **mobilise people to protect children from pneumonia and train health personnel** and other stakeholders to provide prioritised treatment to control the disease.
- Dispel myths & notions and trigger behaviour change to take pneumonia seriously and seek care early

Key features

- **Pre-referral dose:** A child suffering from pneumonia can be treated with a **pre-referral dose of antibiotic**

amoxicillin by Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) workers.

- Under SAANS, health and wellness centres can use **pulse oximeter** (device to monitor oxygen saturation) to identify low oxygen levels in the blood of a child, and if required, treat him by the use of oxygen cylinders.
- **A mass awareness campaign** will also be launched about effective solutions for pneumonia prevention such as breastfeeding, and age-appropriate complementary feeding, immunization, good quality air, etc.

Target beneficiaries

- **Primary: All caregivers/mothers/fathers having under 5 children(for community mobilization)**
- **Secondary:** Key opinion leaders such as Gram Panchayat Leaders, Religious Leaders, Local Administration, VHSNC members, Health & ICDS functionaries, Private practitioners etc.