

A study on utilization of Pradhan Mantri Bharatiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana in Karnataka

Dr Apoorva E. Patel, Dr Sunil Kumar D.R., Ms. Manjula S.

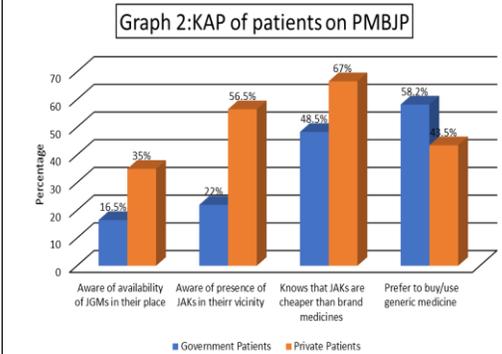
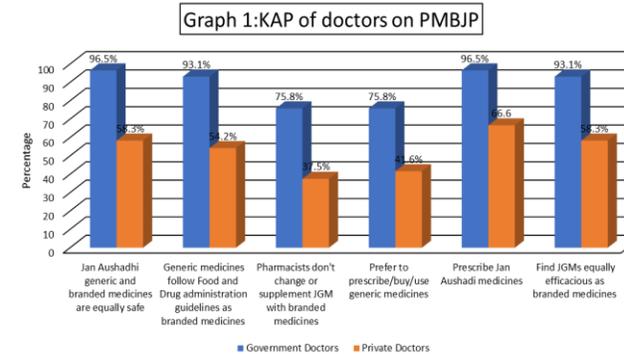
Department of Community Medicine, Akash Institute of Medical Sciences & Research Centre, Devanahalli, Bengaluru Rural District, Karnataka - 562110

Introduction: Pradhan Mantri Bharatiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP) aims to provide quality medicines at affordable prices for all, particularly the poor and disadvantaged, through exclusive outlets- Jan Aushadhi Kendras (JAKs), so as to reduce out-of-pocket expenses in India.

Objectives: 1. To assess utilization of PMBJP by doctors and patients in Bengaluru Urban and Rural districts, Karnataka. 2. To understand Jan aushadhi Generic Medicines (JGMs) prescription preference among doctors. 3. To enlist the constraints faced by stakeholders in utilization of PMBJP.

Methods: A cross sectional study was conducted among consenting 53 doctors and 160 patients, using convenient sampling, from Government and Private hospitals in Bengaluru urban and Rural districts, Karnataka between July to October 2021. Institutional ethical clearance was obtained. Participants fulfilling inclusion criteria, were interviewed using pre- tested questionnaire. Data was analysed using SPSS 24. Chi square test and multivariate logistic regression were applied. $P < 0.05$ was considered statistically significant.

Results: 1. **Utilization of PMBJP:** Out of 53 doctors, 29 were government and remaining 24 private. All the doctors(100%) were aware of PMBJP. Majority of government (82.7%), but only 29% private doctors opined that JGMs and branded medicines are equally efficacious ($p < 0.001$). 82.7% of government and 54% of private doctors use JGMs personally($p = 0.024$). Of the 160 patients interviewed, 91 were government and 69 private. 36.3% of government and 19.2% private patients belonged to either lower middle or lower socio-economic class ($p < 0.01$). Only 11% of govt. and 7.2% of private patients have ever asked about JGMs to their treating doctors. Around 25% of patients find



JGMs as effective as branded medicines, whereas 65% of them are not sure. Around 30.6 % of patients are using JGMs.

2. **JGMs prescription preference among doctors:** 92.5% doctors(96.5% - govt., 87.5% - private) think JAKs should be made available in every hospital for the benefit of the patients. 64.2% doctors(79.3% -govt., 38% - private) think that JGMs are as effective as branded medicines

3. **Constraints faced by stakeholders in the utilization of PMBJP:** Non-availability of JGMs in required combinations, persistence or worsening of symptoms, questionable efficacy and safety profile of JGMs and availability of limited JAKs.

Conclusion: Government doctors are prescribing and utilizing PMBJP better than private practitioners. Strengthening IEC about PMBJP by the government to improve awareness among patients/ consumers ,Sensitization of private doctors to prescribe JGMs, which in turn reduces out of pocket healthcare expenditure significantly, Improved supply chain and quality check mechanisms to ensure adequate stock and safety profile are the need of hour.