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### An inter- district analysis of health infrastructure disparities in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir

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#### Abstract

**Aim of the study:** This paper offers a thorough examination of healthcare infrastructure, service delivery and Manpower in major three district hospitals in Ganderbal, Bandipora, and Pulwama districts of Kashmir, India.

**Methodology:** Employing an exploratory methodology, the research utilized a cross-sectional, observational approach to assess the availability of public health services, focusing on physical infrastructure, manpower, supportive and diagnostic services. Data collection adhered to structured instruments based on the Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS) of 2012, with meticulous attention to methodological rigor and ethical considerations.

**Results:** The study revealed significant disparities in healthcare infrastructure and service provision among the examined districts. Variations were observed in bed capacity, infrastructure completion and amenities across hospitals. Diagnostic and laboratory services varied, with Pulwama hospital leading in facilities compared to Ganderbal and Bandipora. Deficiencies in administrative support, epidemic control, and disaster preparedness were noted. Comparison of staff strength across three hospitals according to IPHS-2012 norms. Revealed Ganderbal hospital had 35 doctors (2.86% excess), 47 nurses (49.46% deficient), 18 paramedics (57.14% deficient), and 55 other staff (61.11% excess). Pulwama has 25 doctors (2.94% deficient), 45 nurses (51.61% deficient), 17 paramedics (59.52% deficient), and 45 other staff (150% excess). Bandipora has 25 doctors (13.79% deficient), 40 nurses (16.67% deficient), 28 paramedics (9.68% deficient), and 31 other staff (72.22% excess).

**Conclusion:** Our study highlights significant disparities in healthcare infrastructure, service delivery and manpower across Ganderbal, Bandipora and Pulwama districts hospitals of Kashmir, India. The study further underscores the need for targeted recruitment and workforce planning to address gaps. By leveraging technological interventions to empower nursing staff, the patient care outcomes can be enhanced which will contribute to a healthier and more sustainable healthcare system in the region. This approach not only improves efficiency but also reduces errors and overall healthcare costs, ultimately benefiting both patients and healthcare providers.