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GS-2

An inter agency framework FRESH can be implemented in schools to ramp up health services.

As schools are opened after covid a robust school health mechanism in primary which has been largely neglected by the developing countries. The WHO and World Bank have formulated FRESH approach

FRESH framework

Focuses on assurance of effective school education is based on three core areas and four supporting areas.

Core areas such as water, sanitation and environment, still based health education, school based health education.

Supporting areas - focuses on community participation, student participation and partnership between education and health services.

Revamping health sector

As per NFHS-5 the number of obese children increased from 2.1 to 3.4. A comprehensive preventive, promotive and curative services can bring down malnutrition levels. Health talks and lifestyle sessions can be included.

The health clinics of schools can be supplemented by online physical and mental classes. Private schools should also be included in the Government school health initiative.

Revision of school health programs under Ayushman Bharat is essential.

Way forward

As health is state subject, states onboarding is inevitable for providing essential school health services. Converging new education policy and national health policy can improve health outcomes further.