

Bridging the Gap in Tribal Healthcare: The Diploma in Community Health Practice (DCHP) Initiative



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INTRODUCTION

Healthcare accessibility in tribal regions remains a significant challenge, exacerbated by a lack of trained professionals who understand local contexts. The **Diploma in Community Health Practice (DCHP) programme**, designed and implemented by Swasthya Swaraj (SS), aims to create a cadre of skilled healthcare workers from tribal communities to serve their own populations.

INNOVATION

- **DCHP is a context-specific, competency-based training programme** for training 12th-passed educated Tribal Girls as **Community Health Practitioner (CHP)**
- Equips students with primary healthcare skills to serve as first-contact providers.
- Focuses on **practical, hands-on clinical training alongside theoretical learning.**
- Designed to ensure local solutions for local health needs.

METHODOLOGY

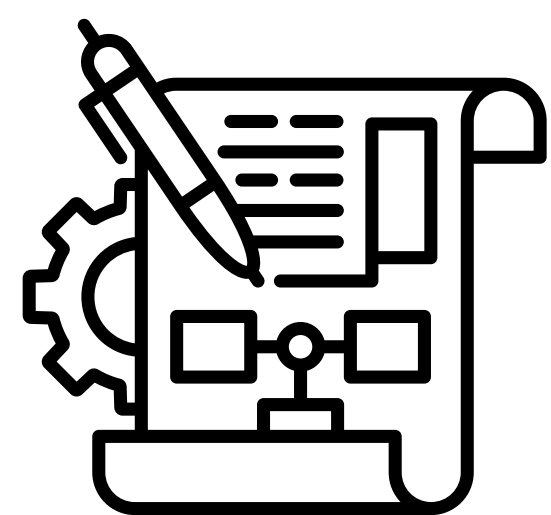
Programme Structure: Two-year full-time residential course + 6-month internship with 100% job placement.

Affiliation: Offered with Centurion University; registered under Odisha State Allied Medical Science Board.

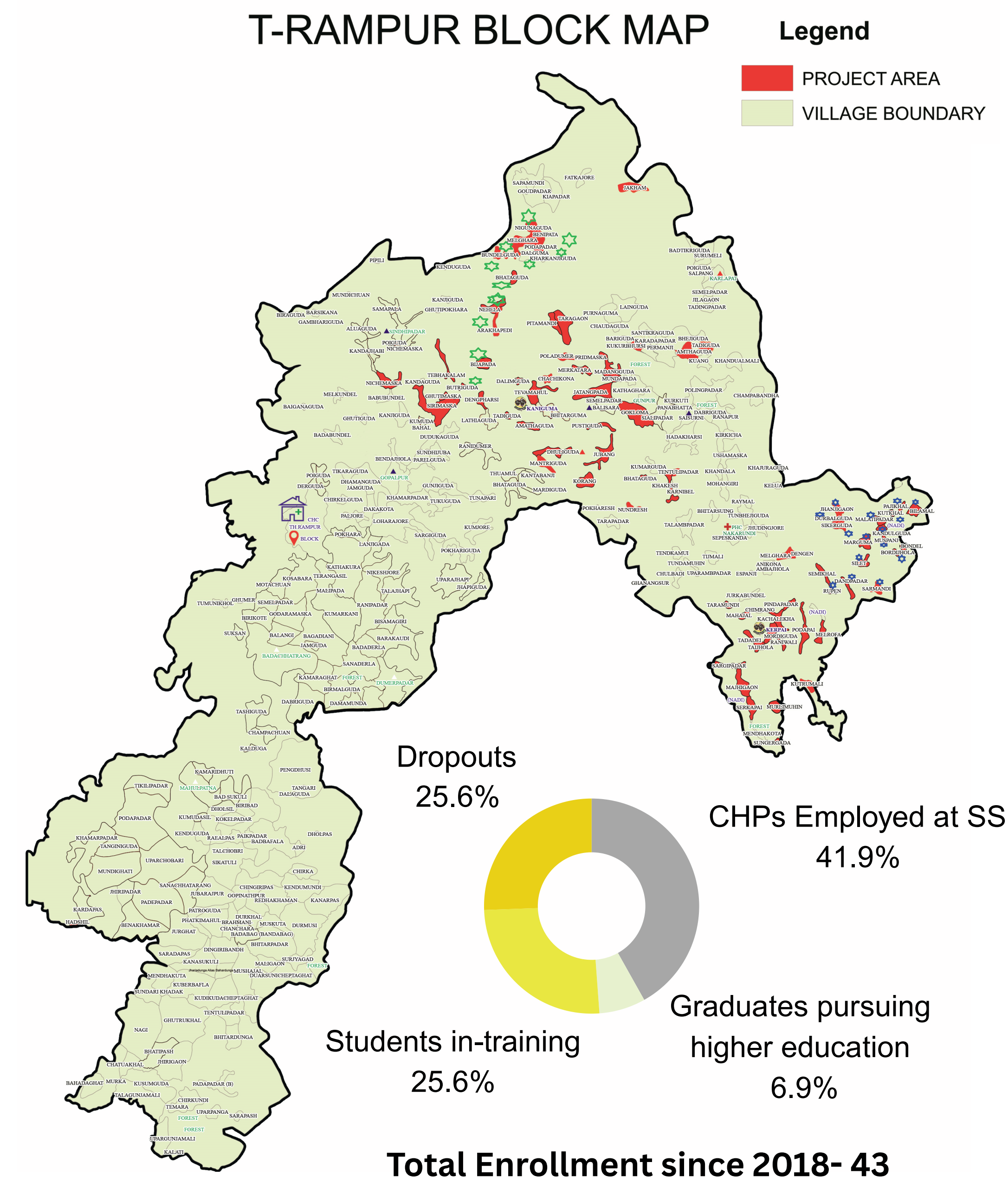
Skill Development: Covers community health, primary care, maternal-child health, infectious diseases, and emergency response.

Training Approach: Competency-based learning with practical exposure in community health centres.

Certification Path: Certified as Ward Technician (Year 1); Community Health Practitioner after course completion.



GEOGRAPHICAL REACH & KEY RESULTS



Competency Development for CHP

- **Clinical Skills:** Diagnosis, treatment, wound care, minor procedures.
- **Maternal & Child Health:** Antenatal Postnatal care, safe deliveries, neonatal & Child care.
- **Public Health & Prevention:** Disease surveillance, health education.
- **Emergency Response:** Trauma care, stabilisation before referrals.
- **Community Health Leadership Skills:** Community mobilisation, Patient advocacy and counselling, navigating health systems.

CHALLENGES & LEARNINGS

- **High Dropout Rate:** Understanding socio-economic barriers affecting retention.
- **Adaptation of Curriculum:** Addressing gaps to enhance practical applicability.
- **Sustainability & Scale:** Examining pathways to expand the programme while maintaining quality.

CONCLUSION

The DCHP programme is a **pioneering model for training local tribal girls as Middle-level healthcare providers in tribal areas.** With continuous evaluation and adaptation, it holds promise for **addressing rural healthcare workforce shortages in a sustainable manner.**

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