The Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India, and the International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS), Mumbai, organised a one-day Regional Dissemination Workshop on National Family Health Survey (2019-21) at the Hotel Lords Plaza, Ashok Nagar, Jaipur. Nearly 120 participants attended the Workshop, who were mainly health officials from the three state governments, and included other invitees from PRCs (NCT of Delhi and Madhya Pradesh), and representatives from UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO, WASH, IIHMR, NGOs, Media, etc.

The Inaugural session of the Workshop started with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp by the dignitaries of the occasion, followed by Welcome Address from Prof. Chander Shekhar, Coordinator, NFHS-5 for the North-Central Region, on behalf of NFHS-5 team and IIPS. Prof. Chander Shekhar highlighted the main objective of the workshop and finding of NFHS-5. Shri P. Manoj Kumar, Chief Director (Statistics), MoHFW, Govt. of India, gave Introductory Remark and spoke about coverage and content of the NFHS-5.

Prof. K S James, Director, IIPS also welcomed the participants and delivered Keynote Address and emphasizing the important of NFHS-5 findings in policy framing and program evaluation at the district, state and national level. Ms. Anupama Jorwal, IAS, Mission Director NHM (In-charge), Govt. of Rajasthan, delivered the Inaugural Address and underlined the achievements of Govt. of Rajasthan in maternal and child health indicators and expressed her thanks to MoHFW, Govt. of India and IIPS for choosing Rajasthan for the regional workshop. She released the report for all the three states in presence of officials from the respective states.

In the first Technical session, “Importance of NFHS-5 findings for policy marking” especially in the context of Sustainable Development Goals was presented by Shri P. Manoj Kumar, Chief Director (Stats), MoHFW, further Dr. S. Ghosh, Addl. Commissioner, MoHFW, Govt. of India presented key highlights of the state of RMNCH+A in all three states in the region and their districts. Prof. Chander Shekhar talked about issues emerging in the area of Household Environment, Maternal Health, Fertility and Family Planning in the three states. Prof. L.K. Dwivedi presented NFHS-5 findings on Child Health & Nutrition in the region. The last presentation of this session was made by Dr. S. Pedgaongkar on Adult health, NCD’s, Women empowerment & Domestic Violence showing challenges and situation in three states.

Two panels discussion were also organized during the post-lunch. The first one was chaired by Shri Manoj Kumar, Chief Director (Stats) and Dr. Sumita Ghosh where two state level officials from each state were called on dais and asked to speak about the RMNCH+A programmes in view of NFHS-5 results. The second panel was a panel chaired by Dr. Dhirendra Kumar, Professor, IIHMR, Jaipur. This panel consists of Ms. Nidhi Satija, Joint Director (Stats.), MoHFW, Govt. of India, representative UNFPA, Jaipur, representative UNICEF, Jaipur, Local Media Social Activist, Ms. S. Mathur. They have spoken about contemporary issues in population, health and development in the state of Rajasthan in particular and in the region in general. In the Concluding session, each of the state representatives gave brief comments and challenges they faced in implementing the various health programmes, and also seek clarifications on certain data collection processes and definitions used for some indicators. Some concerns of participants are as follows:

- On using NFHS-5 data and other official sources such as HMIS, SRS, etc.
- Unavailability of block level statistics and nutritional data for the age group 6-14 years
- State specific health insurance schemes and benefits should also be captured in next round
- A demand of data user workshop once unit level data is released.

The workshop ended with vote of thanks by Dr. S. Pedgaongkar.