

## **Mohalla Clinic Initiative In Trouble**

'*Mohalla*' clinic- A flagship programme run by AAP is in trouble due to political dispute with BJP

*Mohalla* clinics were started by Delhi govt with an aim to provide free primary health centre facilities to all.

India has a very high out-of-pocket health expenditure, at 89.2 percent, as per a study conducted by the World Health Organisation.

High out-of-pocket expenditure results in lower adherence to prescription. Cost of treatment is also seen as a major contributor to India's growing economic disparity. As per the Draft Health Policy of the government of India, each year 63 million people are pushed into poverty due to healthcare expenditure.

A study conducted by the Planning Commission of India in 2009 showed that 2.9 percent of India's urban poverty is contributed by out-of-pocket expenditure on health. Out-of-pocket expenditure consists of 1.9 percent of Delhi's household expenditure, and its contribution to poverty in the state is 0.5 percent.

The contribution of medical care cost to the economic disparity in other states of India is even more drearier. As per the Planning Commission study, health care cost contributes to 4.6 percent of poverty in Uttar Pradesh, 4.6 percent in Rajasthan, 3.3 percent in Andhra Pradesh and 3.8 percent in Kerala.

No wonder then that the *mohalla* clinics in Delhi, which are now also seen as a measure to narrow down the economic disparity in the capital

It was started to address the shortage of doctors in the city while ensuring the patients do not overboard govt hospitals with illness that could be treated at primary health care facility

Delhi govt have opened more than 1,000 clinics and some states are thinking of replicating it. But, the mohalla clinic initiative could be stalled owing to disparity and road blocks to the expansion plan after lieutenant-Governor Najeeb Jung rejected a proposal to open clinics inside school premises.