

आराधना पटनायक, भा.प्र.से.  
अपर सचिव एवं मिशन निदेशक (रा.स्वा.मि.)  
**Aradhana Patnaik, IAS**  
Additional Secretary & Mission Director (NHM)

भारत सरकार  
स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय  
Government of India  
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare

D.O.No.Z-28020/23/2021-CH  
Dated: 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2025

*Dear Sir / Madam,*

As you are aware, under Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram (RKSK), the Adolescent Friendly Health Clinics (AFHCs) act as the first level of contact of primary health care service with adolescents. The broad objectives of AFHCs include provision of counselling and clinical services to adolescents and entails a whole gamut of services on diverse adolescent health issues ranging from Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) to Nutrition, Substance abuse, Injuries and Violence (including Gender based violence), Non Communicable Diseases and Mental Health.

Over the years the footfall of the adolescents seeking services at AFHC has improved significantly; last year 2024-25 1.7 crore adolescents accessed these services. However, this was highlighted during meetings/ workshops with the States/UTs that adolescents feel hesitant visiting these AFHCs on account of the word 'clinic' attached in the name as it's considered a stigma and their visit to a 'clinic' is looked upon with suspicion. Such issues hinder the accessibility and acceptability of the services available in the AFHCs and prevents early access for adolescent health issues and timely referral, hence a change in nomenclature would help.

In this context I would like to inform you that name of the 'Adolescent Friendly Health Clinics' will now be changed to "**Adolescent Friendly Health Centres**" for all operational purposes. State/ UTs that have already renamed their AFHC with local names as 'Yuva Clinic' 'Nayi Disha Kendra' 'Sneha' 'Umang' 'Yuva Maitri Kendra' etc. may continue with the same. I believe that changing the name of AFHC will go a long way in eliminating stigma of visiting a clinical set up and improve the overall friendliness, accessibility of adolescents to quality services and counselling.

*With regards.*

Yours sincerely,

  
(Aradhana Patnaik)

To

Addl. Chief Secretary / Principal Secretary / Secretaries (Health) -All States/UTs

**Copy to:**

- PSO to Secretary (H&FW)
- Mission Director (NHM) -All States/UTs