



National Tele-Mental Health Programme

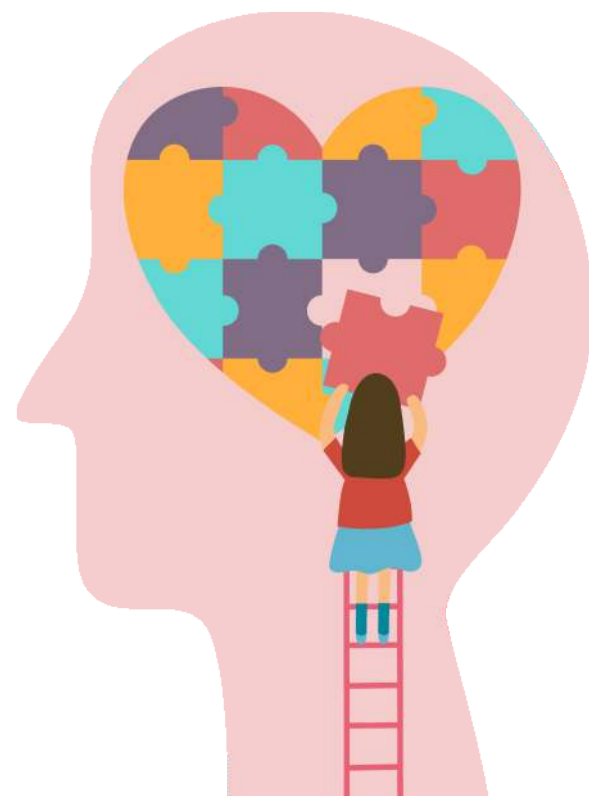
Tele MANAS

AN OVERVIEW



Overview of the National Tele-Mental Health Programme (Tele MANAS)

- There is no health without mental health. Mental health in its broadest sense include mental health promotion, preventing mental illnesses and treatment of mental illnesses. Mental health issues are very common health concerns. Suicide is another important problem related to mental health. These concerns, when translated into numbers in a populated country like India, are quite large.
- Further, many individuals with “minor mental health issues” do not seek help for various reasons, indicating that what be seeing and addressing a small proportion of the burden due to mental health issues.
- Access to mental healthcare is a basic human right of every individual. No individual suffering from mental illness should face discrimination.
- The Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID 19) pandemic added to the burden of mental health problems and had detrimental effect on individuals' ability to ask for mental health assistance. During this period, there was an exponential increase in outreach for mental healthcare through Tele-Mental healthcare services.
- During the COVID 19 Pandemic, the Government of India launched a National Psychosocial Support Helpline to provide psychosocial support during the pandemic, and over 6 lakh individuals reached out to the helpline across the country. Furthermore, several other initiatives by state governments, government institutions, private bodies, and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) have demonstrated the advantages and feasibility of technology-driven mental healthcare, in other words, Tele-Mental Healthcare services. One such step towards continuing the application of tele-mental healthcare services on a larger scale is the National Tele-Mental Health Programme or **Tele MANAS (Tele-Mental Health Assistance and Networking Across States)**.



- In the Union Budget (2022-23), the Government of India announced in February 2022 the establishment of 23 Centres of Excellence of the country, with the National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS), Bengaluru as the apex nodal centre to roll out Tele MANAS.
- India is one of the very few countries in the world to have such a service. Tele MANAS seeks to leverage technology and provide comprehensive mental health services in an integrated fashion including both audio and video based services. Also, if these do not close the loop, efforts will be made to connect the person to in-person services as well. A robust system is set up to monitor and mentor Tele MANAS. Initially, this would run as a fully centrally sponsored scheme where in the Central Govt. will fund the program entirely. After three years, the funding mechanism will be merged with that of the highly successful National Health Mission.





Objectives of Tele MANAS:

- To enhance health service capacity in order to deliver accessible and timely mental health care through a tele-mental health network support system
- To ensure a continuum of services in the community, including tele-mental health counselling.
- To facilitate timely referral for specialist care and follow-up as appropriate.
- To enhance mental healthcare capacity and networking at primary healthcare / health and wellness centres / district / state/ apex institution levels.



Beneficiaries of Tele MANAS:

- Any individual in India with mental health issues
- In addition, grass root healthcare providers/community health providers, i.e., Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs) and community volunteers from the community can reach out on behalf of an individual or individuals in that community with mental health issues



The workforce of Tele MANAS:

Workforce/human resources under Tele MANAS is divided into two tiers based on the level of the services provided (counselling, psychiatric consultation along with pharmacotherapy/ psychotherapy) and the expertise of the workforce. These are described in the flow chart below.



Components of Tele MANAS services:



Counselling:

Counselling gives people the time and space to talk about their problems and explore their tough feelings in a setting that is confidential, dependable, and interruption-free. Counselling alone, is different from psychotherapy by a psychiatrist/clinical psychologist/psychiatric social worker or a psychiatric nurse, which requires special training and expertise and is more structured compared to basic counselling which any individual wishes to help those in distress can carry out.



Online Counselling:

- Online Counselling refers to counselling through online modes connected through the Internet which could be in real-time via audio, video, or asynchronous i.e., via text messages, chat, or emails.
- Through Tier 1 workforce counselling will be provided through the 24/7 helpline, mode of which could be through audio calls and asynchronous modes such as text messages and chats.
- Real-time video counselling/consultations will be primarily carried out by specialists at the state Tele MANAS cell and at Tier 2 level in which you may be required to provide basic information and also be an observant for training and skill enhancement.





Telephone Counselling:

- Telephone Counselling involves providing addressing the concerns of the caller and counselling individuals seeking help directly or through another individual such as ASHA or a family member via the telephone, which could be a landline or mobile phone with or without Internet connectivity.
- Telephone counselling has a unique advantage that an individual in distress can call and access mental healthcare from a trained healthcare provider anywhere, 24 hours a day. Also, it enables some privacy to individuals wherein they can seek help when comfortable and has enough space to ensure confidentiality.



Video Consultations

- Tele MANAS team is constantly working with the e-sanjeevani (free video consultations with medical doctors, an initiative of the Govt. of India) team of the Govt. to link up callers to e-sanjeevani platform, so that there is seamless upgradation of the consultation process
- This integration may take another two more months to materialise



Networking with existing in-person resources for mental health

- Tele MANAS also is striving hard to link up callers to the nearest available in-person mental health facilities. These could be the district hospital, medical colleges, mental health institutes or other tertiary care centres



Capacity Building

- Training, accreditation and mentoring of Tele MANAS counsellors in delivering basic mental health services will be done through standardized and recognized courses.



Research

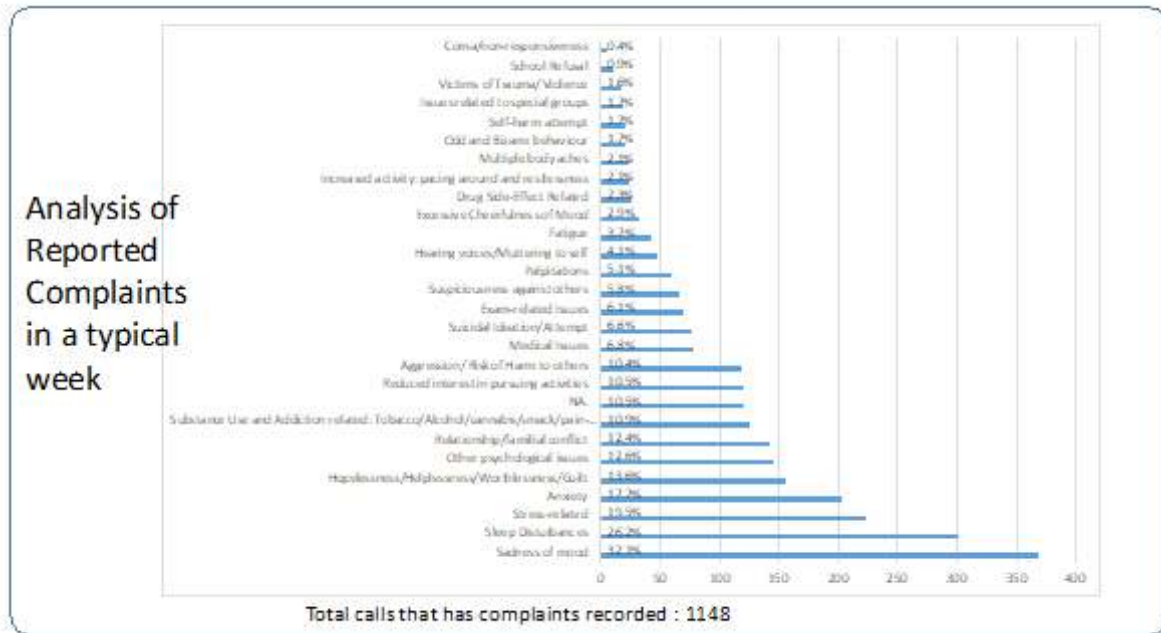
- Implementation research on all relevant aspects including service delivery, caller satisfaction, ease of using technology, outcome assessments etc will be carried out to chalk out future policies



Launch of Tele MANAS and service delivery till date

- Tele MANAS was launched nationwide on 10th October 2022, on the occasion of the World Mental Health Day; till date, Tele MANAS has delivered services to 25,000 callers across the country

Analysis of complaints in a typical week





TeleMANAS Toll Free No. : 1800 8914416