

**“Enhancing Interprofessional
Collaboration and Learning for
Strengthening Primary Health Care”**

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Title	BATTLING THE PANDEMIC: HOW ‘FEVER CLINICS’ IN INDIA HELPED CONTROL THE SPREAD OF COVID-19
Type	Oral Presentation <i>What can we learn from your Primary Health Care Practice and Experiences?</i>
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Abstract N ^o	TUFH717
Content	<p>Background: With a high population density, India was at a very high risk of the COVID-19 pandemic getting completely out of hand. However, the Union Health Ministry came up with the concept of ‘fever clinics’ in April 2020. These ‘fever clinics’ were an innovation in India’s primary health care system. They were specialized centers focussing on the screening of COVID-19 like symptoms including fever and cough, and guided patients towards testing facilities and treatment if necessary. These clinics were established to prevent hospitals from being overwhelmed by suspected COVID-19 patients. Methods: This paper describes the structure and composition of fever clinics in three major states of India- Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and Maharashtra- that together contribute more than 30% of India’s GDP, and how these fever clinics managed to simplify triage for COVID-19. It also includes a special case study on how fever clinics helped contain the spread of the infection in one of the world’s largest slums- Dharavi in Maharashtra. It also deals with the difficulties faced in the setting up of these fever clinics, including the initial difficulty in providing adequate staff and equipment. Results: The fever clinics managed to simplify triage in patients suffering from fever, and correctly distinguish COVID 19 patients from other infections that produce similar symptoms. Conclusions: The fever clinics were a great success in fulfilling their goals. They can be improved in the future, and similar ‘specialized’ clinics can be used in the setting of other disease outbreaks.</p>