

# Financial Security In Education Sector: Introducing Affordable Health Insurance System For Students At The University Of Delhi

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## Abstract

### Vision of the paper:

The vision of this research paper is to provide a comprehensive framework for integrating affordable health insurance programs into the fee structures of colleges under the University of Delhi. By doing so, it aims to enhance the financial and health security of students, ensuring they have access to essential medical services without the burden of significant out-of-pocket expenses. This initiative envisions a holistic approach where health insurance becomes an integral part of the educational ecosystem, promoting a healthier student body that can focus on academic and personal growth without the constant worry of medical costs. By meticulously analyzing existing government schemes, private insurance offerings, and student preferences, this research aims to develop practical recommendations that are both economically viable and widely accepted by the student community. The ultimate goal is to create a sustainable model that can be replicated across other universities in India, thereby setting a precedent for prioritizing student well-being in higher education policy and administration.

## INTRODUCTION:

University healthcare is a critical yet often neglected aspect of student well-being. In the competitive academic environment of Delhi University colleges, ensuring that students have access to quality medical services is essential. This research paper examines the feasibility of incorporating student health insurance policies directly into the fee structure of Delhi University colleges. By evaluating existing student health insurance options, budgetary implications, and potential benefits for both students and the university, this paper seeks to develop a comprehensive proposal for an integrated and accessible healthcare system within the University of Delhi system. Such integration has the potential to enhance student health outcomes, reduce administrative burdens, and promote a more holistic approach to student success.

## BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE:

In today's fast-paced & competitive academic world, student well-being often gets neglected. It's of paramount importance though, for academic success & life quality too. The University of Delhi, one of India's premier educational institutions, faces the challenge of ensuring that its students have access to essential healthcare services without incurring significant financial burdens. This is particularly important given the rising costs of medical care and the financial constraints faced by many students.

Health and financial security are closely intertwined. Unexpected medical bills derail a student's school path, cause stress, absenteeism & even dropouts. Unlike West, since health and medical insurances are not compulsory for individuals in our country, lots of students in India, even at the University of Delhi, lack proper health insurance, which leads to the burden of high medical bills that ultimately affects academics as well as mental health.

Despite the existence of several government health insurance schemes, such as Ayushman Bharat, and private insurance offerings, their reach and effectiveness among university students remain limited. The Ayushman Bharat scheme, launched in 2018, aims to provide universal health coverage and has significantly increased healthcare access for low-income families. However, its implementation among university students has been inconsistent, and awareness

about the scheme is limited. Similarly, private insurance schemes, while offering comprehensive coverage, often come with high premiums and complex claim processes that deter student participation.

Recognizing these problems, this research paper aims to infuse affordable health insurance into the college fees at the University of Delhi. By analyzing existing student health insurance options, budgetary implications, and understanding student preferences, the paper seeks to develop a comprehensive proposal for an integrated and accessible healthcare system within the university.

The integration of health insurance into the college fee structure offers several potential benefits. It ensures that all students, regardless of their financial background, have access to necessary medical services. This can lead to improved health outcomes, reduced absenteeism, and enhanced academic performance. Furthermore, it can alleviate the financial burden on students and their families, fostering a more supportive and stress-free academic environment.

The ultimate goal is to build a model that other Indian universities can use too, showcasing that student well-being in higher education policy is of paramount importance. This comprehensive approach aligns with global best practices in student health insurance, drawing insights from successful models in countries like the USA and France. By doing this, the University of Delhi can lead the way for healthier & more financially secure students which will help the country's academic & social growth.

### **OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:**

- To explore the feasibility of incorporating affordable insurance premiums into the college fee structure.
- To analyze student preferences and willingness to pay for such insurance.
- To provide recommendations based on data-driven insights.
- To predict a revenue model based on certain assumptions.
- To analyze existing schemes in the concerned sector.

### **REVIEW OF EXISTING INSURANCE SCHEMES:**

**Existing Government Schemes:** The Indian government has launched several health insurance schemes, such as Ayushman Bharat, PMSBY, etc., aimed at providing affordable healthcare. However, the reach and effectiveness of these schemes among university students remain limited. This section reviews the current state of these schemes, their benefits, and their limitations.

#### **Ayushman Bharat Scheme:**

Launched in 2018, the Ayushman Bharat scheme is a government-backed initiative aimed at revolutionizing healthcare access in India. It's a two-pronged approach, addressing both preventive and curative aspects. The first pillar, Health and Wellness Centres (HWCs), focuses on strengthening primary healthcare by providing essential services at the community level. The second pillar, Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY), is the world's largest health insurance scheme, offering financial coverage of up to 5 lakh rupees per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization in both public and private empaneled hospitals. This ambitious program strives to bridge the gap in healthcare access, particularly for low-income families, and empower them to seek quality medical treatment without financial burden.

This scheme comes at a zero premium, but the eligible beneficiaries of this scheme only include highly marginalised section of the society, applicable only to SC/ST households, where no adult member between the ages of 16 and 59 earns more than Rs 2.5 lakh per year, where household is landless and primarily dependent on manual labor for income, with a disabled member and no able-bodied adult member, a household with only one room that has a kucha roof and kucha walls, etc. With such conditions, though it aims to cover around 50 crore beneficiaries in urban and rural India, such scheme's outreach cannot cover most of the students that take admissions in the University of Delhi Colleges. Further, even for the beneficiaries, while the scheme covers a wide range of treatments, certain specialized medical services and advanced treatments are not fully covered under this scheme.

#### **Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojna:**

Launched in 2015, the Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojna (PMSBY) is a Government of India initiative aimed at providing affordable accidental death and disability insurance. This low-cost scheme (premium of Rs. 12 annually) leverages existing savings bank accounts for auto-debiting premiums, making it easily accessible to a wide population.

Targeting individuals aged 18-70, PMSBY offers a safety net in case of accidental death (Rs. 2 lakh) or permanent disability (partial/full) caused by an accident (Rs. 1 lakh). With an annual premium of just Rs. 12, the scheme ensures broad accessibility and affordability, making it particularly beneficial for low-income groups and young adults, including college students. By simplifying the enrollment process through linkage with bank accounts, PMSBY has seen widespread adoption, thereby increasing insurance penetration in a country where such coverage is often limited.

Since its launch, PMSBY has seen substantial enrollment across various demographics, including college students, due to its low premium and ease of enrollment. The scheme has also contributed to heightened awareness about the importance of insurance among college students, who are often not the primary target audience for traditional insurance products. Further, by providing coverage for accidental death and disability, PMSBY has enhanced the financial security of insured college students and their families, offering them peace of mind in the face of potential accidents.

However, the biggest drawback of this scheme is that while PMSBY provides essential accident insurance, it does not cover other critical health issues that college students might face, such as illnesses or mental health problems. Also, the claims process under PMSBY can be cumbersome and time-consuming, which may deter students from going in for this policy.

Thus, among the existing government launched schemes, because of eligibility and coverage issues, both PMJAY and PMSBY cannot be implemented for the students of the University of Delhi.

### **PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR INSURANCE COMPANIES' SCHEMES:**

Some of the Public Sector General Insurance Companies in India are the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), New India Assurance Company Limited (NIA), United India Insurance Company Limited (UIL), Oriental Insurance Company Limited (OICL) and National Insurance Company Limited (NICL). This paper studied the existing health insurance plans of all of these companies, including their group insurance policies, and found them to be better in some cases and equally competitive in some other cases when compared to private insurance companies similar, especially group health plans. LIC's Jeevan Arogya, for example, charges a premium of around Rs. 80 p.m. for a cover of around Rs. 3 lakhs per annum. This was the cheapest scheme under the public sector health insurance companies' schemes. Similarly, New India's Mediclaim policy charges a premium of Rs. 150 p.m., National Insurance's Arogya Sanjeevini plan charges a premium of Rs. 190 p.m. and so on. Similarly, various private companies too provide such policies at highly competitive rates. In fact, it was found that due to high competition in this sector, and much more flexibility that private insurance companies can assert, their rates, in terms of per month premium costs, were much cheaper than the public sector insurance companies.

### **CASE STUDY OF HANSRAJ COLLEGE:**

This study conducted a survey among some of the campus colleges of the University of Delhi and found that Hansraj College already has an insurance scheme applicable for their students, wherein they charge the premium amount upfront with the fee amount. The following table shows the comparative calculus that was done by the College before arriving at the final decision on the insurance company provider.

Insured Name	Hansraj College Delhi			
Product	GPA			
Policy Period	From Premium Paid Date			
	Coverage	Coverage (Iffco Tokio)	Chola Ms	Oriental
Sum Insured - Flat 1 Lakh	Yes		✓	✓
Coverage is worldwide and 24 hour basis	Yes		✓	✓
Accidental Death (AD) covered 100% of the sum assured	Yes		✓	✓
Permanent Total Disability (PTD) covered up to 100% of the sum assured	Yes		✓	✓
Permanent Partial Disability (PPD)- 100% of the sum assured	Yes		✓	✓
Medical Expenses Reimbursement - 10% of SI or 40% of admissible claim amount or actuals whichever is lower	Yes		✓	✓
Terrorism covered	Yes		Not Covered	Not Covered
Funeral Expenses	INR 5000/-		Not Covered	Not Covered
Repatriation of Mortal Remains	Covered Upto 3% of Principal Sum or Rs. 6,000/- whichever is less		Not Covered	Not Covered
Ambulance Service	Covered upto INR 1000 or actual whichever is lower		Not Covered	Not Covered
Total Employees		7,188	7,188	7,188
Total Sum Insured		71,88,00,000	71,88,00,000	71,88,00,000
		0.3	0.3	0.34
Net Premium		2,15,640.00	2,15,640.00	2,44,392.00
GST		38,815	38,815	43,991
Total Premium		2,54,455	2,54,455	2,88,383
Total Amount needs to be Paid		2,54,455	2,54,455	2,88,383

Source: Hansraj College, Accounts Section

As can be seen, the College has been providing health and accidental insurance of Rs. 1 lakh cover to its students (7188 in this case: first year admissions in the year 2022-23) with a lump sum premium of Rs. 30 per student charged upfront with the fee paid. This way, a comprehensive health and accidental plan has been provided to the students at a minimal cost, taking advantage of the principle of Economies of Scale.

This study thus attempts to study the feasibility and design one such policy for students across all the colleges of the University. This would aim to provide extensive health insurance coverage, including hospitalization, pre and post-hospitalization expenses and accidental cover, ensuring college students are financially protected against medical emergencies. This policy would thus provide financial protection for college students, reducing out-of-pocket expenses and alleviating the financial burden of unexpected medical costs, besides encouraging preventive healthcare and regular health check-ups, promoting a culture of health consciousness among college students.

## GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE:

While analyzing the existing insurance policies and models within the country, it is imperative to have a basic understanding of how the other countries' universities function in this domain. The case of the universities of the USA and France have been taken for the purpose of analysis of this study.

In the United States of America, the government does not require students to have health insurance, but nearly all universities do. The students' healthcare plans there fall under the domain of what are known as SHIPs, the Student Health Insurance Plans, which is a state health insurance assistance program. For those with limited income and

Characteristic	Total								
	Any health insurance							Uninsured <sup>4</sup>	
	Number	Percent	Margin of error <sup>1</sup> (±)	Private health insurance <sup>2</sup>		Public health insurance <sup>3</sup>			
				Percent	Margin of error <sup>1</sup> (±)	Percent	Margin of error <sup>1</sup> (±)	Percent	Margin of error <sup>1</sup> (±)
<b>2021 Total</b> .....	<b>328,100</b>	<b>91.7</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>66.0</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>35.7</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>8.3</b>	<b>0.2</b>
<b>Race<sup>5</sup> and Hispanic Origin</b>									
White .....	248,800	91.8	0.2	67.8	0.4	35.0	0.3	8.2	0.2
White, not Hispanic .....	194,200	94.8	0.2	73.2	0.4	34.6	0.3	5.2	0.2
Black .....	43,960	91.0	0.6	55.1	1.2	42.7	1.0	9.0	0.6
Asian .....	20,680	93.8	0.7	72.4	1.4	27.4	1.3	6.2	0.7
Hispanic (any race) .....	62,520	81.7	0.6	48.8	0.9	37.0	0.8	18.3	0.6
<b>Age</b>									
Under 65 years .....	271,900	90.2	0.3	69.5	0.4	23.7	0.3	9.8	0.3
Under 19 years <sup>6</sup> .....	77,030	95.0	0.3	61.9	0.6	36.4	0.6	5.0	0.3
19 to 64 years .....	194,900	88.4	0.3	72.5	0.4	18.7	0.3	11.6	0.3
19 to 25 years <sup>7</sup> .....	29,050	85.1	0.6	68.2	0.8	19.2	0.7	14.9	0.6
26 to 34 years .....	40,310	86.5	0.6	70.6	0.8	18.8	0.6	13.5	0.6
35 to 44 years .....	43,190	88.1	0.6	73.6	0.7	17.5	0.6	11.9	0.6
45 to 64 years .....	82,310	90.6	0.4	74.5	0.5	19.1	0.5	9.4	0.4
65 years and older .....	56,190	98.8	0.1	48.7	0.8	93.5	0.3	1.2	0.1

resources, a public health insurance program known as Medicaid is also run.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey and Annual Social and Economic Supplements (CPS ASEC) SHIPs provide affordable health insurance specifically tailored for college students and ensure access to comprehensive healthcare services including preventive care, mental health services, and emergency care.

As can be seen from the above table, according to a 2021 American College Health Association (ACHA) report, only around 5% of students don't have health insurance. As many as three million students are covered by college, university, or other higher-ed institution student health insurance plans (SHIPs). However, the particulars of these student health insurance plans vary by institution, including costs, benefits offered, coverage areas, and how they work. A college or university-sponsored SHIP is the primary insurance source for almost 21% of students. Student plans are provided by 91% of public universities and 77% of private institutions. The average annual cost of a public university student health insurance plan is \$2,924, while a private school health plan averaged \$3,874 annually for undergraduates.

Medicaid, the public health insurance program, offers health coverage at zero cost to the beneficiaries with an aim to promote equity in health insurance among economically disadvantaged students. As of April 2021, approximately 35.5 million children are enrolled in Medicaid. A substantial portion of the enrolled population comprises children and young adults, including low-income students.

France, on the other hand, has made health insurance compulsory for all its citizens, including university and college students. Provided through La Sécurité Sociale (French Social Security), it aims to provide comprehensive health coverage to large populations, including vulnerable and low-income groups, ensuring equitable access to healthcare. The general French Social Security system is open to all students free of charge—once registered, students can request reimbursements of their medical costs, obtain a social security number and order their Carte Vitale health insurance card.

Further, in France, students also opt for complimentary health insurance policy known as "Mutuelle", in order to allow them to be reimbursed their healthcare expenses without any limits. It is a private health insurance facility which

comes at a cost of €20 - €150 per month and is complimentary to Sécurité Sociale. This complimentary Health Insurance (CHI) covers about 96% of the population, helping with co-payments and services poorly covered by Statutory Health Insurance (SHI). For students, CHI is essential for financial accessibility, especially for optical and dental care, which are less covered by SHI.

These case studies thus emphasize the critical role of comprehensive, accessible, and affordable health insurance schemes in enhancing student health and well-being. They also identify key areas for improvement, such as increasing awareness, streamlining implementation processes, and addressing equity issues to ensure that all students can benefit from these programs effectively.

## **DELHI UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' CHOICES FOR A HEALTH INSURANCE POLICY: FINDINGS OF PRIMARY SURVEY AND RECOMMENDATIONS:**

An online survey was designed and data collected through random sampling of 726 respondents that comprised of students of University of Delhi. These were students of all stages and across the spectrum, i.e., undergraduates, postgraduates and Ph.D. students across the university's colleges, departments and centers.

An analysis of the survey revealed that more than 75% of the respondents considered the implementation of health insurance in their college fee structure as very important and desirable. On the question of acceptable premium amount, more than 35% of the respondents favor the premium payment to be upto Rs. 500 annually, while 31.4% of the respondents voted for the premium payment to fall in the range of Rs.500-Rs 1000. Though we expected the level of financial literacy to be low, but it turned out to be dismally low, with more than 70% of the respondents saying that they are not aware of any kind of health insurance schemes, but at the same time, they expressed interest to learn more about such policies and participate in such schemes. Major facilities to be made available under student health insurance policies voted for were outpatient care (73%), hospitalization coverage (67.6%) and mental health services (64.7%).

Recognizing the vital importance of student health and well-being, this research advocates for integrating a comprehensive health insurance scheme into the fee structure of the colleges, departments and centers at the University of Delhi. The proposed model leverages a public-private partnership to provide all students with affordable and extensive healthcare coverage. By combining governmental support with private sector efficiency, this initiative aims to reduce financial barriers to healthcare, encourage preventive care, and cultivate a healthier academic environment. The following sections outline the guidelines of the proposed model, including coverage, policy terms and sustainability strategies.

Guidelines: The proposed model for incorporating insurance coverage among the University Of Delhi students shall be based on the following guidelines:-

- Establish an integrated system for enrollment and premium collection, seamlessly incorporating it into the annual fee payment process. This system should be user-friendly and ensure that every interested student is automatically enrolled unless they opt out due to existing coverage. Additionally, create a comprehensive database to maintain accurate records of enrolled students and their insurance status.
- Launch strategic awareness campaigns to educate students about the insurance scheme. These campaigns should include workshops, informational brochures, and digital communications. Collaborate with student organizations to enhance reach and impact, ensuring students understand the benefits, coverage details, and how to utilize the insurance effectively.
- Implement a streamlined and digitized claim process managed by private insurers in partnership with university health centers. Develop an online portal for claim submissions and status tracking. Ensure that the process is transparent, with clear instructions and minimal paperwork, to facilitate ease of use for students during medical emergencies.
- Establish a robust monitoring and evaluation framework to assess the scheme's performance. Conduct regular student satisfaction surveys, analyze health outcomes, and review financial sustainability. Use this feedback to make necessary adjustments and improvements to the scheme, ensuring it remains responsive to student needs and effective in providing coverage.
- Foster strong collaboration between the university, government bodies, and private insurers. Set up dedicated support services within the university to assist students with enrollment, claims, and any insurance-related queries. Ensure that support staff are well-trained and accessible, providing timely and accurate assistance to students.

## TERMS OF POLICY AND COVERAGE

- All students will be automatically enrolled in the health insurance scheme during the annual fee payment process. Students who have existing health insurance coverage can opt-out by providing proof of their coverage within a specified time frame.
- The policy will cover hospitalization expenses, pre and post-hospitalization care, emergency services, outpatient services, mental health support, and annual preventive health check-ups. A minimum coverage of INR 600,000 per student per annum will be provided.
- The annual insurance premium, estimated between INR 300 to INR 500, will be included in the tuition fee structure. Payment will be collected along with tuition fees, ensuring convenience and compliance.
- Claims will be managed by the partnered private insurance providers through a digitized and user-friendly portal. The process will include clear instructions, minimal paperwork, and timely processing to ensure ease of access for students during medical emergencies.
- The scheme will include a robust monitoring and evaluation framework. Regular feedback from students will be collected through surveys and health outcome assessments to continuously improve the policy. Transparency in policy terms, benefits, and claim processes will be maintained to build trust and ensure effective implementation.

## IMPLEMENTATION ROADMAP

- **Planning Phase:** In integrating health insurance into the fee structure of colleges at the University of Delhi, the planning phase begins with rigorous research and analysis. This entails comprehending market dynamics, assessing student and faculty health needs, and navigating regulatory requirements. Clear objectives are defined, specifying the model's goals such as enhancing healthcare access and student well-being, while success metrics are established to gauge outcomes effectively. Risk assessments are vital to foresee potential challenges in insurance coverage and mitigate them proactively. Resource allocation, encompassing skilled personnel and robust IT systems, is meticulously planned to support seamless insurance administration within college operations. Stakeholder engagement is prioritized to gather diverse perspectives and ensure alignment with institutional objectives. Continuous refinement based on stakeholder feedback and evolving healthcare trends is integral, fostering an adaptable approach to implementing a health insurance model that enhances college affordability and student support.
- **Development Phase:** During the development phase of integrating health insurance into University of Delhi college fees, critical steps include designing tailored insurance plans compliant with regulations and getting the same approved from the statutory bodies of the University, like the Finance Committee and the Executive Council. Regular conferences should be organized for all updates. Partnerships with insurers and healthcare networks are finalized for negotiated rates and streamlined claims processing. Robust IT infrastructure is developed to enable online enrollment and efficient claims management. Training programs ensure staff readiness. Continuous testing optimizes system performance before launch, ensuring a seamless transition and effective support for student and faculty healthcare needs.
- **Launch Phase:** During the launch phase of integrating health insurance into University of Delhi's college fees, key activities include launching awareness campaigns via campus events, posters, emails, and social media. Support services, such as dedicated help desks and hotlines, assist with enrollment inquiries and guide stakeholders through the process. Enrollment begins at the start of the new academic session, with clear timelines communicated for prompt coverage initiation. Online platforms are optimized for user-friendly enrollment, ensuring smooth transitions.
- **Evaluation Phase:** During the evaluation phase of integrating health insurance into University of Delhi's college fees, rigorous monitoring and assessment are crucial. Regular reviews analyze enrollment rates, claims processing efficiency, customer satisfaction, and financial viability. Data analysis identifies trends and improvement opportunities. Insights from enrollment data, claims statistics, and stakeholder feedback inform adjustments to coverage options, premiums, IT systems, and support services. Stakeholder engagement ensures ongoing communication and responsiveness to feedback, fostering an effective healthcare solution for the University of Delhi community.

## CHALLENGES AND LIMITATIONS

Even after so much research and creating an affordable design of the scheme, there are some major challenges that will be faced initially and it's essential to understand the obstacles.

**Awareness and Outreach-** This is one of the major challenges that will be encountered at the launch phase. Despite extensive awareness campaigns, there is still a high probability of unawareness and lack of understanding among students, especially new and international students.

**Enrollment and Opt-Out Complexity-** Timely opt out process for students with existing health coverage is complicated. So, if it's not done by administration in a timely and systematic manner, it will lead to administrative burden and student dissatisfaction.

**Financial Burden on Students-** Even if it is best to try to design affordable health coverage, some students still find it burdensome, especially students who are from economically disadvantaged backgrounds.

**Administrative and Implementation Challenges-** Getting statutory approvals and then coordination between university and insurers can be complex initially. Variation in implementation and bureaucratic hurdles may affect the efficiency and effectiveness of the scheme.

**Coverage Limitations-** Despite the broad coverage, Students with specific health needs may find that the insurance does not fully cover their medical expenses, leading to dissatisfaction.

**Resistance to Change-** There might be resistance from various stakeholders, including students, parents, and university administrators, to integrating health insurance into the fee structure.

**Technological Infrastructure-** Developing and maintaining robust IT infrastructure for online enrollment, claiming coverage, opt out option and data management is crucial. So, there is always the threat of technical glitches, cybersecurity issues and continuous updating and maintenance of data.

**Regulatory and Legal Compliance-** Navigating the regulatory and legal landscape to ensure compliance with health insurance laws and university policies is vital. Any lapse in legal aspects will lead to legal challenges and loss of credibility of the scheme.

## IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS FOR SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION

- Establishment of a dedicated Committee for Student Well Being which would report on a monthly basis directly to the Vice Chancellor Office, University of Delhi on matters related to the above implemented model.
- Implement robust mechanisms to detect and prevent fraudulent claims.
- Extensive campaigns must be done to spread awareness.
- Develop robust IT infrastructure for claim processing of coverage, opt out process for students with existing healthcare coverage and data updating and management.
- Collaboration with the insurers to design an affordable scheme.
- Variation for different category (General, EWS, SC, ST) students can be done.
- Understand legal aspects of coverage vividly.
- Coordination between University and insurers must be smooth and hurdles such as bureaucratic, administrative etc. needs to be mitigated.

## CONCLUSION

The proposed model emphasizes a strategy leveraging the strengths of government health initiatives and private insurance providers to offer extensive coverage, manage claims efficiently, and ensure affordability. By embedding health insurance into the educational ecosystem, students will have access to essential medical services without the burden of significant out-of-pocket expenses. This approach not only promotes a healthier student body but also fosters an environment where academic and personal growth can thrive without the constant worry of medical costs.

The implementation of this model will require strategic awareness campaigns, streamlined enrollment and claims processes, and robust monitoring, evaluation frameworks and collaboration. Financial projections indicate that with a 70% adoption rate, the scheme could generate substantial revenue, ensuring its sustainability and scalability.

Ultimately, this initiative aims to create a replicable model that prioritizes student well-being in higher education policy and administration. By setting a precedent for integrating health insurance into the educational framework, the University of Delhi can lead the way in promoting health and financial security for students, contributing to the nation's academic, social and thus, holistic development.

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<https://stglms.pmjay.gov.in/local/staticpage/view.php?page=aboutpmjay>
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<https://www.cbo.gov/system/files/2023-10/59231-Medicaid.pdf>  
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<https://healthsystemsfacts.org/france/france-health-system-coverage/>
6. For collecting data related to the no. of students in University of Delhi, the following report was visited:  
<https://www.du.ac.in/index.php?page=Annual-Reports>
7. For general information about the importance of the objective of the paper, the following website was visited:  
<https://www.estudentinsurance.com/resources/why-college-student-health-insurance-is-important.php>
8. The following news articles were consulted for some special inputs:  
<https://indianexpress.com/article/trending/trending-in-india/ayushman-bharat-pmjay-check-if-applicable-in-your-state-9419909/>  
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